



Coyote sightings rise /14



Cruise season ends /4



Shelters shattered /12



Wolves land DeGrazia /17

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Thursday, September 14, 2023

DEGRASSI LIVES ON

Stacie Mistysyn and Pat Mastroianni grew up to become Canadian TV icons, and say the Degrassi franchise still resonates today /17



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Stacie Mistysyn played Caitlyn Ryan on the hugely popular Degrassi franchise, and said the show's success was because writers didn't try to talk down to the audience. (Leith Dunick)



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LU honouring area survivors

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The residential school era is gone, but survivors don't want it forgotten, at least not entirely.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum said it's important for all of Canada to remember the atrocities associated with the residential school system, which ripped Indigenous children from their homes and attempted to assimilate them into the Euro-centric culture that dominated the Canadian landscape.

Achneepineskum was one of several guests invited to speak on Thursday at Lakehead University, where school officials raised a national Truth and Reconciliation flag, helping to launch a series of events being held this month at the Thunder Bay campus.

The orange and white flag, designed by residential school survivors, will fly outside the university's main entrance.

"We're very grateful that Lakehead University is doing this. It's a very large campus and many people come from all around the world to this institution," Achneepineskum said. "So, it's very important that they have this initiative because it impacts many people, especially in terms of their reason for coming here, which is to learn.

"Part of that is learning the truth about the Indian residential school and what it represents."

Residential schools were first opened in Canada in the 1870s, during the country's infancy, and carried on for more than a century, the last schools not closing until the 1990s. During this period, young Indigenous children were forced from their homes, and in many cases, abused physically and sexually. They had their language and culture forcefully taken away and their parents had no choice whether or not send their children far from home.

The inter-generational trauma can still be felt today, Achneepineskum said.

"People have to know why we represent the majority of individuals in the correctional facilities and why do we represent higher rates of children in the child-welfare system," she said.

"There has to be an understanding as to why that is, because when individuals have gone through significant trauma, or loss — because we have to remember there were many people that died in these institutions as well — that particular trauma is still impacting our people.



Lakehead's Lorne Clifford and the Truth and Reconciliation flag at a ceremony last Thursday.

Despite that, we have many people who have risen and have great achievements."

Gillian Siddall, the recently installed president of Lakehead University, said it's important to recognize the tragedy of the past and show the importance of Truth and Reconciliation moving forward.

Siddall said universities have a critical role to play in the Truth and Reconciliation process, adding it's incumbent on post-secondary schools to make sure students have the opportunity to learn that history and truth — and then be part of the solution.

It's even important at the largest university in Northwestern Ontario.

"This is an incredibly important location. There are many First Nations in this large geographic area and we want to be inclusive of all of them at the university and come together as often as we can," Siddall said.

"You could feel how impactful this day was for everyone who was here. The words of the Indigenous leaders who were here were powerful and inspiring and as much as they are about reminding us of a very painful past, they are also looking ahead to working together for a much better future."

Other events being held this month include a Tipi Talk on Sept. 12 from noon to 1 p.m. in the Agora Circle, a Fall Harvest Feast on Sept. 16, a Métis 101 workshop on Sept. 21 in the faculty lounge and an ongoing artwork project curated by artist Ryan Poman.

WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Rain	Rain	Rain	Partly Cloudy
Precipitation: 60% HIGH 18 LOW 8	Precipitation: 30% HIGH 20 LOW 9	Precipitation: 40% HIGH 18 LOW 8	Precipitation: 10% HIGH 19 LOW 7

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Cruise season comes to close

By Gary Rinne – TB Source

As the 2023 cruise ship season winds down this week, the man who leads Thunder Bay's effort to capitalize on the growing popularity of Great Lakes cruising is speaking excitedly about next year.

This was the busiest season to date, with a total of 14 ship visits to the port, but Tourism Thunder Bay manager Paul Pepe said that record will be shattered in 2024 when cruise ships dock a total of 24 times.

The 378-passenger *Viking Polaris* arrived Monday morning, and sailed later in the day for Duluth to pick up a new set of passengers before returning to Thunder Bay on Wednesday as it began an extended, 70-day voyage through the Great Lakes and down to South America and Antarctica.

"Wednesday (marked) the final vessel visit of the 2023 season, closing it out. It's been a really busy, good, solid summer for us," Pepe said.

He and the rest of the staff at Tourism Thunder Bay will spend the coming weeks tabulating the economic impact of the cruise ship industry on the city.

Besides the onshore tours, hotel stays and shopping done by over 4,000 visitors, those calculations will include the benefits to local suppliers.

This season, the port hosted ships for three "turnaround" stops, where one group of passengers disembarks and is replaced by a



The *Viking Polaris* arrived in Thunder Bay on Monday and returned on Wednesday for its final sailing of the season.

new group of tourists.

There will also be three turnaround stops next year.

Although the economic impact from turnarounds is more substantial than from day-stops, Pepe noted that every ship arrival brings significant spinoffs to local businesses.

Referring to the *Viking Polaris*, he said "The vessel is still choosing to do a lot of servicing here in the city. They're taking solid and liquid waste off the ship. There's a number of transports that were waiting here at 6 a.m. to

bring supplies to the ship, and food service. That's really rare for a day stop."

The improvements the city has made to the Pool 6 docking facility over the last few years are paying off, Pepe said.

"The fact that it is so convenient, so well laid-out that they're able to marshal several transports at a time there while also running three, four or five buses really speaks volumes."

Pepe said the functional capacity of Pool 6 has won rave reviews from ship operators.

"The captains of a number of the ships have said this is their favourite dock in the entire Great Lakes because of the fact they can stage motor coaches and service vehicles easily."

"It's very park-like down here now. The grass has started to grow in, it has a very park-like feeling, and we have this fender system that allows the vessels to pull alongside with ease without having to scratch up the hulls on the dock."

Pepe said a lot of work has already been done to meet the immediate needs for making Pool 6 an attractive facility, and that "there's talk about what the rest of the property will look like and that will certainly influence, I think, future investments. Those are discussions for the city and other partners to have."

Among the issues he'd like to see addressed next year is the operating hours for some local businesses.

"One of the challenges is that on a Monday and Tuesday, a lot of businesses aren't open. That's an area of feedback that we have to work on, to make sure that businesses that want to take advantage of the cruise business have things that passengers want to see, and can adjust their operating hours to meet that need."

Pepe said he understands that small businesses, in particular, have staffing challenges but "making sure businesses are open on the day vessels are in port is something we're going to continue working on."



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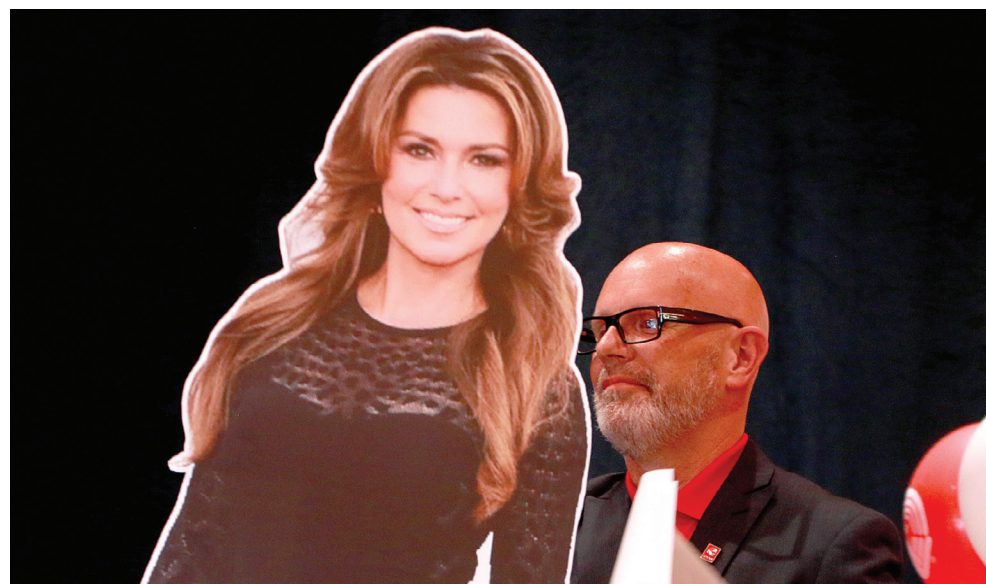
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Albert Brulé, CEO of the United Way of Thunder Bay, launches a raffles to win tickets to a Shania Twain show.

Campaign launches

United Way asks public to help annual fundraising effort

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The United Way of Thunder Bay is preaching local love.

The organization, which funds more than a dozen agencies and 22 different programs throughout the city, on Tuesday launched its annual fundraising campaign, encouraging local business leaders and the general public to donate to the cause.

Once again, the United Way did not publicly disclose their target, a practice they've observed for the past several years.

Albert Brulé, CEO of the United Way of Thunder Bay said the campaign is key to their success, the annual breakfast the signal of the start of the multi-million-dollar drive.

"The goal is to encourage workplaces, businesses, individuals, service clubs, unions, schools and community groups to rally in support of those in need in our community," he said. "We support a variety of vital programs and services through our funded agencies and we rely on the support of the community to meet those needs.

"The needs are ever growing."

Without an organization like the United Way, many of these programs might struggle more, or more alarmingly, cease to exist.

Brulé said tens of thousands of individuals would be affected or impacted, either through the need for shelter or food security and clothing. Programs funded by the United Way also help address the root causes of poverty in the community.

"Much of that work would go unfunded," Brulé said.

"We know the impacts of homelessness. We know the impacts of food insecurity. Those

impacts would be even greater. So, we admire and respect and celebrate the fact that so many workplaces, businesses, individuals and families do step up to make a donation. Every donation counts."

The campaign kicked off with a \$10,000 matching donation from Tbaytel, and in a matter of minutes all \$10,000 had been pledged.

The United Way will also be hosting a number of events, including the return later this month of the plane-pull fundraiser in conjunction with Wasaya Airlines. Novemberurger is also on this year's calendar and on Wednesday, \$1 from each Local Love Cupcake sold at Carol's Cakes will be donated to the campaign.

There is also the Giant Food Drive this weekend, in conjunction with local service clubs, that will see non-perishable goods collected at grocery stores throughout Thunder Bay. And there's a chance to win a pair of tickets and airfare to see Shania Twain in Vancouver, the draw happening on Sept. 29.

Volker Kromm, who heads the Regional Food Distribution Association, said the United Way has been a great partner over the years and support plenty of organizations, like Our Kids Count and Evergreen, a United Neighbourhood, that do great work in the community.

"We support them as well, but they've brought them all to the United Way table and I think by focusing on the Dew Drop Inn and the other feeding programs that are also connected to the United Way, it brings the local love back to the focus as a collaborative engine that we are working on together," Kromm said.

An advertisement for Gateway Casinos Thunder Bay. At the top, it features the Gateway Casinos logo and the text "GATEWAY CASINOS THUNDER BAY". Below this, there are images of playing cards (Ace of Spades and King of Spades) and a slot machine. The main headline reads "FIND YER FORTUNE" in a stylized font, with a treasure chest and a parrot illustration. To the right, it says "WIN YOUR SHARE OF \$24,000". Below that, it states "DRAWS SATURDAYS 4PM & 8PM". Further down, it lists "MONDAYS - WEDNESDAYS WIN UP TO \$1,000 FREE PLAY" and "FACEBOOK TREASURE TRIVIA & HOT SEAT DRAWS". At the bottom, it says "EARN BALLOTS WHILE YOU PLAY MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN". The date "SEPTEMBER 4 - 30" is also visible near the treasure chest.

An advertisement for Getaway Restaurant. The background shows a large, succulent prime rib roast. The text "FOR A LIMITED TIME" is at the top. Below it, "PRIME RIB SATURDAYS" is written in large, bold letters. To the right, it says "ONLY \$16.99 5PM - 10PM" and "8oz PRIME RIB, POTATO, VEGGIE & YORKSHIRE PUDDING". Below that, it says "WHILE QUANTITIES LAST". The Getaway Restaurant logo and "GATEWAY CASINOS THUNDER BAY" are at the bottom right. At the bottom, it states "Must be 19+. Dine in only. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. Pricing does not include taxes and gratuities. Complimentary accepted."

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Tbaytel Gives First Entrance Awards for NOSM University Students

Meet Thunder Bay's Aleksis Penna

By Janine Chiasson

It seems that a passion for medicine can be ignited early. By grade 7, Aleksis Penna was already imagining being a physician. Yet, when the time came to choose what to study after high school, she deliberated. "Should I do a science-related degree to set myself up for medicine?" she asked herself. "What if I change my mind? Or don't get into medical school?" In the end, Aleksis pursued nursing – two degrees – completely ready for a career at graduation.

At the tail end of her Master in Nursing program at University of Toronto, COVID struck. "When the pandemic hit, I wanted to go home to my family and the lifestyle I love in Thunder Bay," Aleksis recounts. She moved home, completed the last of her Masters online, and started fulltime work in the Emergency Department at TBRHSC.

"As I worked with ER physicians, I witnessed the role and scope first-hand and I was really intrigued," Aleksis says. "I realized that my brain was suited for problem-solving, thinking through what a patient might have, and figuring out treatment process." Aleksis knew she would regret not trying, so she followed her dream and simply said, "I'm going to do it. I'm going to apply to medical school."

Most learners who want to study medicine apply to multiple schools to increase their chances of getting in – and many apply multiple times – but Aleksis couldn't imagine going anywhere else. "I was in my mid-20s, I wanted to settle down, and I was convinced that if I was going to do this, I was going to do it here in Thunder Bay," she says. "I only applied to NOSM University and – thank goodness – I got accepted on my first try."



"Tbaytel is on board with the Northern life we live here and really sees the unique needs of people in our region."

Aleksis loves the program and the small class size – just 27. Coming from a nursing background makes things a bit less stressful; things are pretty familiar and she's not starting from scratch. Since one of the big stresses for medical students is financial, NOSM University has been a boon for students from the North, now they have the possibility of staying at or close to home. "It's a big barrier to go to other schools – you have to move at least 1000 kms away and it's a huge financial burden," Aleksis notes. "It can deter people from pursuing medicine altogether."

In addition, Aleksis emphasizes, "research shows that wherever you complete your studies you're more likely to stay, which makes sense, especially given the life stage most students are in – their 20s and 30s mostly – when we're ready to start putting down roots, establish friend groups, and build a community. Geographically, where you are really matters." Students at NOSM University complete three placements and a year-long clerkship in northern communities and it can really tip the scales when deciding where to practice. "Just bringing students to these places gives us first-hand opportunity to witness what life and practice is like in small towns," Aleksis points out.

Recognizing that helping students deal with the financial burden of school is an excellent way to help strengthen healthcare in the North, Tbaytel created a NOSM University Entrance Award that focuses on diversity and merit, and this year presented a \$7,500 award to three first-year students.



Aleksis was one of the (very happy) recipients. When she logged in to check her balance, her account showed zero. "Oh my gosh, that was a happy day," she recounts with joy and relief. "On top of relieving stress and having less accumulating debt, it's a really nice feeling to know that there are organizations like Tbaytel that have set funds aside to help first year students. I feel not only financially supported, but emotionally supported too. Knowing there are people who want to support us makes a huge impact."

As a customer with Tbaytel mobility and internet services, Aleksis helps to support the Tbaytel for Good Program which includes a Community Fund and Community Sponsorship Program among other initiatives. She's particularly impressed with their sustained involvement with Tamarack House – a home-away-from-home for regional patients when they come to Thunder Bay for cancer and other kinds of treatment. "It's good that Tbaytel puts time and energy into establishing partnerships and making commitments to address community needs," Aleksis says. "Tbaytel is on board with the Northern life we live here and really sees the unique needs of people in our region."

Although it's hard to promise, Aleksis plans to stay in the North, likely choosing a specialty after her Doctor of Medicine. No matter what she chooses, it's a sure bet that Northern Ontario needs more graduates like her.

Help Tbaytel Support Medical Learners

NOSM University students and graduates make a difference every day in the health of communities across Northern Ontario. You can make an impact. Learn about ways to give at tbaytel.net/NOSM.

tbaytel for good.stories



EDITORIAL

Time to give

This week, the United Way of Thunder Bay launched its campaign.

Though its target remains internal, the organization fills a crucial need in the community, helping to fund 14 organizations and more than 20 different programs.

Times have been tough for the United Way in recent years.

Last year the organization had to make a last-ditch call in an attempt to hit their goal without having to turn to their partners with an empty hand.

It's not getting any easier for the United Way to raise money.

There's plenty of competition out there for donation dollars, and given the economy, a lot more people are finding themselves in need of the services of the United Way and its funded agencies than ever before.

Giving to the organization can be done in many different ways, including online or through a workplace employee campaign.

Now, more than ever, organizations like the United Way, the Salvation Army and the Regional Food Distribution Association need those who can afford to, to step up and donate what they can. You can make a difference, even with \$5.

Think before building To the editor:

The city wants to shut down rinks that our kids are using to save \$130,000?

Wow let's build a new waterfront laneway with a total cost of \$20 million.

That would be approximately be 100-plus years of rink use, but don't get me wrong.

Take an automated home survey that will indicate potential use and remember our median age is 44 years.

The city is determining the possibility of creating indoor facilities for tennis and soccer.

It's a nice idea, but why not use Innova park for a location. It could be twinned with new multi-use complex - hockey, basketball and an auditorium.

Just remember schoolchildren can only use complex from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. from September to June.

What will the cost be for rentals? Single tennis per hour, doubles, etc.

Can you get teams to book soccer time?

Ken MacKenzie,
Thunder Bay

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



War crimes became a way of life in WWII

This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen by Tadeusz Borowski was published in Poland after the Second World War.

This collection of concentration camp stories shows atrocious war crimes becoming an unremarkable part of a daily routine.

Prisoners eat, work, sleep and fall in love a few yards from where other prisoners are systematically slaughtered. The will to survive overrides compassion, and the line between the normal and the abnormal wavers, then vanishes.

Borowski, a concentration camp victim himself, understood what human beings will do to endure the unendurable. Together, these stories

constitute a masterpiece of world literature and stand as cruel testimony to the level of inhumanity of which man is capable.

Borowski was born in the Soviet Ukraine in 1922 and was imprisoned in Auschwitz and Dachau from 1943 to 1945. On his arm they tattooed the camp serial number 119118. He arrived at Auschwitz just after 'Aryans' had stopped being sent to the gas chambers - except for special cases. From then on only Jews were gassed en masse.

At first he carried telegraph poles.

Then he wound up in the camp hospital with pneumonia. 'A True Story', included in this collection, is indeed true. In the hospital he was

laid on the same straw mattress on which the 'boy with a Bible', Borowski's cellmate at the Warsaw prison, had died of typhoid fever

When Borowski was on his feet again, he was kept at the hospital and given the light work of a night watchman. Then he took a class to become an orderly.

Borowski's fiance was also in Auschwitz and he was able to visit

her in the Spring of 1944 when he was assigned to a group of roofers working in the women's camp. This was the most dreadful time at Auschwitz. The Soviet offensive was approaching and the Germans stepped up the liquidation of the Jews from the occupied lands. In May and June of 1944 more than four hundred thousand Jews from Hungary were gassed and burned.

In the summer of 1944 the inmates at Auschwitz began to be evacuated into the heart of Germany. Borowski found himself first in a camp outside Stuttgart, then in Dachau. On 1 May 1945 that camp was liberated by the U.S. Seventh Army.

In May 1946 he returned to Poland,

where two of his stories, 'This Way to the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen' and 'A Day at Harnem' had already been published to great acclaim. At the beginning of 1948 he became a member of the Communist Party. He wrote stories each week for the Sunday edition of a Warsaw daily newspaper for which he received a government prize.

In the summer of 1949 he was sent to Germany to work in the Press Section at the Polish Military Mission in Berlin. Less than fifteen months after his return to Poland he committed suicide in July 1951. As with so many other former inmates of concentration camps his horrific past had caught up with him.



John Pateman
BOOK BANTER

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Artificial intelligence growing

By JR Shermack - TB Source

A chatbot is a computer program that simulates human conversation and mimics human sentiments in a response to verbal input from an actual human being.

Modern versions use artificial intelligence (AI) to interpret and understand human language and deliver a human sounding response - chatbots can be very believable and convincing.

In response to the growing power of chatbot technology we are inundated with warnings and worse-case scenarios about the perils of empowering our robotic overlords.

It raises the question, how can humanity control its own destiny while attempting to exploit a superior form of intelligence - are we smarter than the smart machines we create?

It would be nice to answer that question for ourselves before it is too late and an artificially intelligent chatbot answers it for us.

The first ever Chatbot was devel-

oped by an MIT professor - it was called Eliza (after Eliza Doolittle) and was designed to simulate and mimic the human voice.

Eliza was unsophisticated and could only reply by reflecting the user's words back to them in a simple question built around a single key word.

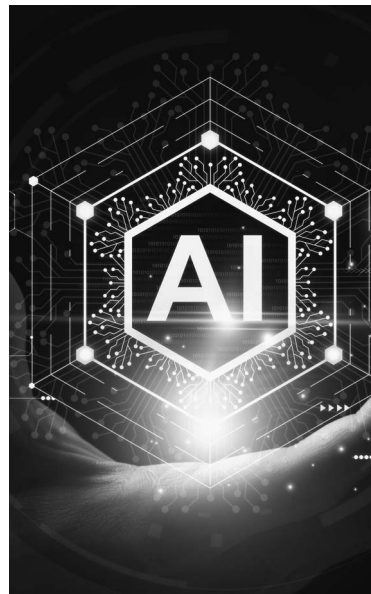
For instance, if you told Eliza that you were unhappy at work the response might be to ask what made you unhappy at work, and so on.

It was rudimentary science but people were still enthralled to be talking to a machine that answered back - not so for Joseph Weizenbaum who first released Eliza in 1966.

Many people developed emotional attachments to the first chatbot in what came to be known as 'the Eliza effect'.

Weizenbaum was so disturbed by the public response that he spent the rest of his life crusading and warning against the perils of computers in society.

I wonder what he would think



Artificial intelligence (AI) on the rise.

about Eliza's distant smartphone cousins Alexa and Siri.

Compare Eliza to the chatbot of today which can respond personally to any human query by drawing on billions of words and

almost unlimited intellectual resources.

With pitch perfect human voices speaking impeccable English (or any other language) and making perfect sense, the chatbot in 2023 commands respect and maintains control.

Artificial intelligence has already invaded our everyday life and it has overcome resistance by making our lives easier, more convenient and less bothersome.

AI enables the smartphones of 6.92 billion users (85.88% of world population) and facilitates social media accounts including the aforementioned digital voice assistants, Alexa and Siri.

Chatbots and AI have already found their way into schools - parents, teachers and administrators struggle for ways to manage the Eliza effect on education.

Tools such as ChatGPT are widely used, either for legitimate educational reasons or as a conduit for cheating, perhaps having ChatGPT write an essay for you in your own words.

Detecting cheaters is becoming more challenging.

Some say this is a threat to learning and academic integrity while others view this technology as a boon having educational potential and merit.

In the meantime most school boards in Canada lack formal policies and procedures to deal with the impact of this technology on curriculum and learning.

As for me, I've always been suspicious of computer technology and now I have something else to fret about.

Just like everyone else, the will of artificial intelligence is already intertwined in my life and continues to make decisions for me, hopefully for my own good.

It may be a false sense of security but we can still hope that humans aren't foolish enough to surrender our free will to a technology that has a higher intellect than our own.

If we do, I guess artificial intelligence is better than no intelligence at all.

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

September 17

Aviation Heritage Centre

The Northwestern Ontario Aviation Heritage Centre, located at 905 E. Victoria Ave., will be open on Sunday, Sept. 17 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and open most Wednesday and Sunday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Centre features displays showcasing local aviation history, a flight simulator, and aviation themed merchandise.

Private and group tours can also be arranged on other week days. NOAHC can be contacted by emailing noahc@tbaytel.net or calling 807-623-3522.

For more information, check the website www.noahc.org or our Facebook page.

September 16-17

The Heritage Centre

Oliver Paipoonge Heritage Park presents Richard Veurink Saturday, September 16. Gates open noon-

4:30pm. Admission \$5-12 years & under FREE! Sunday, September 17 Racers Memorial Celebration at Russ's Garage.

Also visit the Duke Hunt Museum, The Village and the Brill Buses. 475 7424 for more info.

September 16

Wake the Giant

Deadmau5 and X Ambassadors will headline this year's Wake the Giant Music Festival, a one-day celebration designed to showcase and welcome Indigenous students to Thunder Bay.

Also on the bill are Dean Lewis, Ruby Waters, Mattmac, Sagatay, Sara Kae and Thunder Spirit.

Tickets are available at the festival's website, www.wakethegiant.ca.

Gates open at 11:30 a.m. at Marina Park, with the opening ceremonies scheduled for 12 p.m.

Deadmau5, the Canadian electronic dance music icon, is scheduled to take the stage at 10 p.m.



Wake the Giant happens on Saturday.



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Vandals strike again

Two more bus shelters smashed in glass-breaking spree on weekend

By Gary Rinne - TB Source

The cost of vandalism at Thunder Bay Transit shelters is mounting.

Over the weekend, vandals destroyed the glass in two more shelters in the area of River and Madeline streets.

It's just down the street from the 55 Plus Centre where vandals shattered the glass in nearly three dozen windows and doors earlier this summer.

There have been at least 16 other similar incidents involving transit shelters around the city since January.

Transit manager Brad Loroff calls the ongoing vandalism "extremely frustrating." Shelters have multiple panes of glass, and it costs up to \$500 to replace a single pane, but Loroff said the consequences of the malicious damage go beyond money.

"A lot of people rely on bus shelters, so it is a real shame when senseless vandalism like this occurs. It affects neighbours in the area and commuters who take transit regularly," he told TBnewswatch Monday.

Loroff said the transit department continues to look for options to make it harder for vandals to cause damage to shelters.

He said it's also reached out to the Thunder Bay Police Service for assistance and will continue to work with police in their investigations.



This bus shelter along River Street was damaged by a vandalism attack over the weekend.

Fort William Stadium ready for use

By Katie Nicholls - TB Source

Activity at Fort William Stadium is about to ramp up as a multi-million dollar renovation reaches its final stages.

Starting this weekend, minor football will take to the new turf field laid down at the stadium.

There were three major projects happening within the stadium: the field turf has been completed on the field, and the new digital scoreboard is up and almost fully connected. For this weekend's games, the lower part of the board is going to be operational. Crews will be connecting the top half next week before high school football starts for the season.

With three to four cameras placed around the field, there will be "live-action shots" that can be displayed on the board as well



Fort William Stadium was refurbished over the summer.

as space for advertisers.

Internet fibre connections have also been installed, which will allow for live

streaming of certain events.

The third and final upgrade is the track. Until that gets completed, there will only be one point of entry onto the field, said city project lead Brian Shott.

"It will be an open construction site while still being used by the user groups. We have a safety plan in place for ensuring public safety and keeping them in certain areas, keeping the users on the field and making sure nobody goes outside of those boundaries." Shott said on Friday.

Work on the track will continue for at least a month, with the first coat of the new track going down. The specialized crews installing it will return in the spring to put the second layer and top coat on the track.

The track can still be used with just a first coat, says city's supervisor of capital facilities construction Kelvin Jankowski.

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF SYNERGY NORTH CORPORATION

Synergy North Corporation has applied to change its electricity distribution rates.

Learn more. Have your say.

Synergy North Corporation has applied to the Ontario Energy Board to change its electricity distribution rates effective May 1, 2024. If the application is approved as filed, a typical residential customer and a typical general service customer of Synergy North Corporation would see the following change:

Rate Zones	Customer	Monthly Bill Change
Thunder Bay	Residential 750 kWh	\$3.47 increase
	General Service less than 50kW	\$6.19 decrease
Kenora	Residential 750 kWh	\$4.97 decrease
	General Service less than 50kW	\$11.25 increase

Other customers, including businesses, may also be affected.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider Synergy North's application. During this hearing, we will question Synergy North on its case for a rate change. We will also hear questions and arguments from individuals that have registered to participate (called intervenors) in the OEB's hearing. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide what, if any, rate change will be allowed.

Distributors such as Synergy North typically apply for a full review of their rates every five years. Any rate changes for the years in between are made by applying an OEB-approved formula which is tied to inflation and other factors intended to promote efficiency. You may not get notice of future rate changes made by applying the formula.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review Synergy North's application on the OEB's website now
- You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing
- You can become an intervenor. As an intervenor, you can ask questions about Synergy North's application and make arguments on whether the OEB should approve Synergy North's request. Apply by **September 25, 2023** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website

LEARN MORE

These proposed charges relate to Synergy North's distribution services. They make up part of the Delivery line - one of the line items on your bill. Our file number for this case is **EB-2023-0052**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file a letter with your comments or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please select the file number **EB-2023-0052** from the list on the OEB website: www.oeb.ca/notice. You can also phone our Public Information Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

FORM OF HEARING

There are three types of OEB hearings – oral, electronic, and written. Synergy North has applied for a written hearing. The OEB is considering this request. If you have a preference with respect to the format of the hearing, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **September 25, 2023**.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and email address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This rate hearing will be held under section 78 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c.15, Schedule B.



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Firefighters come to Thunder Bay each year to upgrade and enhance their training for emergencies. (Katie Nicholls)

FireCon trains regional crews

By Katie Nicholls - TB Source

Firefighters from across the region came to Thunder Bay to participate in various types of training sessions.

The multi-day event was put on by the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs and features various live training sessions, classroom learning and a trade show for the sector.

Some of the firefighters are attending FireCon for the first time, and others have been to the event multiple times.

Many of the attending firefighters were volunteers and come from smaller communities across the northwest, such as Atikokan, Sioux Lookout, and Marathon, while participants also come from larger municipalities like Kenora and Fort Frances.

Some of the live training includes practicing vehicle extrication scenarios, search and rescue setups, a firefighter survival course and using the mobile live fire training unit. Earlier this week, the provincial government announced they are providing funding for two more mobile units.

The mobile training units have the ability to

create a controlled live fire scenario for firefighters to train in. The trailer unit is set up like a home and has different fire points that are operated from a control room. This gives the rescue teams the closest thing to a live fire without putting civilians at risk, as the controller can instantly turn off the flames and shut down the fires.

Other parts of the training take place at the Thunder Bay Fire Rescue Training Centre. That training includes blacking out trainees' masks to allow them to use their other senses and knowledge to get in and out of a scenario safely.

There is also a small trailer that gives rescue crews the chance to practice being in small spaces. While set up like several connected cupboards, it allows the firefighters to weave in and out of the small spaces with all their gear on and to practice how to manoeuvre best to get in and out safely.

FireCon comes to the city each year to provide updated training and procedures that greatly benefits small regional community firefighters who might not otherwise have a chance to learn in their towns.

FASD AWARENESS MONTH

September is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder awareness month. This FASD Month, wear red shoes and help bring attention to FASD.

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Mayor's Mulligan a big success

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

The 19th annual Mayor's Mulligan golf tournament continued a strong fundraising run Friday as the charitable event prepares to enter its third decade.

The event was expected to raise around \$15,000 for PRO Kids, a charity that helps children from lower-income families access recreational activities including team sports and arts programs.

That fundraising haul makes up a significant chunk of the roughly \$110,000 that PRO Kids spends each year, said coordinator Laura Daniele.

That budget represents only part of the impact the organization has each year, she added.

"Many of our partners do not charge us, but others have to charge us — they all have overhead expenses," she said. "They do cover 50 per cent or a third of the cost of programs, so we have a very nice formula going."

Playing host at the Strathcona Golf Course last Friday, Mayor Ken Boshcoff called the event one important way community members are helping to address some of the most pressing issues facing the city, like poverty and access to recreation for children.

"Because of the need for organizations like PRO Kids, it makes this kind of tournament even more important," he said. "So to see it sold out and see the community support is really invigorating for me."

Daniele said the event had sold out early, with 25 teams of four taking to the course, where they played 18 rounds and took part in activities like a foot golf contest.

The event concludes with a dinner and a silent auction, featuring items like a kayak and a keg from Sleeping Giant Brewery.

Daniele said the chance to take part in a tournament at Strathcona is also part of the draw.

"I think the highlight of this event, other than that it supports PRO Kids, is we have an 18-hole tournament, and that never happens at Strathcona — we have to farm in golf carts for this... It is highlighting our city course."

She added the event seems to be blessed with good weather year after year, with Friday's gorgeous day on the green no exception.

It also offers a chance for attendees to chat with the mayor.

"One-on-one with the mayor is always available, but in an atmosphere like this when you're on a golf course and everybody's having a good sunny day, it's even better," Boshcoff said.



Mayor Ken Boshcoff didn't need a mulligan to hit a soccer ball off the tee last Friday at Strathcona. (Ian Kaufman)

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A fire interruption

Beefcakes Burger Factory's Current River store closed temporarily by fire



Beefcakes Burger Factory burgers will still be available during the closure at their Westfort store.

Well how was everyone else's week? Mine was extraordinary, not in the great way, but certainly not as bad as it could have been. I was reminded this week that in this business no matter what you prepare for, sometimes you're going to get kicked in the teeth by the universe. On Tuesday, Aug. 29 it was business as usual at Beefcakes in Current River, we had a decent lunch rush and we were also working on some stuff for our premade meal freezers.

Over the course of the day, we had noticed the distinct smell of smoke in the building. During forest fire season this isn't uncommon anywhere in Northwestern Ontario.

While the workday pressed on, we also noticed visible smoke in areas. Eventually it was noticed that a small area was "puffing" smoke out of a small hole where some wiring was coming out. At the time we attempted to use a fire extinguisher to no avail.

So, a call was made to the local Thunder Bay Fire Rescue, who arrived very quickly and began to assess the situation.

While everyone waited outside for more information for what seemed like hours but was much more probably about 30 minutes.

The district fire chief found the source. The long and short of it is simple. There is a reason why building codes and standards keep on evolving

and changing. Our building has been around a long time and the wall beside the line over the course of time got hot and cooled repeatedly daily and the heat shielding finally failed and ignited the materials down behind the shield.

It's no ones fault, these things just happen sometimes. Over the course of searching for the source (rhyming) the TBFR had to make two holes in the wall, and they did it as cleanly and efficiently as they possibly could, and I truly appreciate them for that of course.

Our Current River shop is going to be down for a little while, we will make repairs and do some clean up. As I write this insurance companies are working diligently to make a plan

to get us back up and running as soon as they can.

In the meantime, anyone who needs a Beefcakes fix, our Westfort shop at 1408 Brown St. Is open Wednesday to Sunday 11am till 8 pm.

Anyone who follows social media knows that our Westfort shop could use a shot in the arm and I hope anyone who needs a burg will come give it a try.

Thanks everyone for reaching out and making sure my team and I are ok these past few days we truly appreciate it. We will be back better than ever.

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



Derek Lankinen
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CRYPTOGRAM

"WLH EHCW PYQH JUQ WLH EUTX KC Z
 BYKHW SKVT."
 — VZMUDHUV EUVZMZQWH

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

ACROSS

- 1 Towel
- 6 Wife of Saturn
- 9 Cost of living index (abbr.)
- 12 Elemi
- 13 Totem pole
- 14 Own (Scott.)
- 15 Poisonous protein
- 16 Military macaw
- 17 No middle initial (abbr.)
- 18 Skin design
- 20 Child (Fr.)
- 22 Preval on
- 24 "The Jungle Book" python
- 27 Cheer
- 28 Same (Lat.)
- 32 Relieve
- 34 Cribbage term
- 36 Cut
- 37 Twilight
- 39 "Blue Eagle"
- 41 Argentina (abbr.)
- 42 Redeemer
- 44 U.S. mountain
- 47 Smash
- 52 Amer.
- Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- 53 Off-track betting (abbr.)
- 55 "Cloister Hearth" author
- 56 Receipt (abbr.)
- 57 ___ pro nobis
- 58 Confess
- 59 Guido's note (2 words)
- 60 Nat'l Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)
- 61 Forbidden

DOWN

- 1 Protuberance
- 2 Skull protuberances
- 3 Ancient Britain
- 4 Vent
- 5 Fr. artist
- 6 Oxygen (pref.)
- 7 Polynesian garment
- 8 Pose
- 9 First miracle site
- 10 Depict
- 11 Initial (abbr.)
- 19 Son of Judah
- 21 Alarm
- 23 Ceylonese fishing boat
- 24 Cask
- 25 Mulberry of India
- 26 Jap. national park
- 29 Drug Enforcement Admin. (abbr.)
- 30 Handle
- 31 Miles per gallon (abbr.)
- 33 Leisure
- 35 Crest of a hill
- 38 Abandon
- 40 Ark's landing place
- 43 Your (Fr.)
- 44 Rhine tributary
- 45 Sodium chloride
- 46 Farewell, Brit.
- 48 Queen of Sparta
- 49 Elia
- 50 Hatred (Ital.)
- 51 Wahoo fish
- 54 Sheep's cry

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	F	B	S	C	A	B	I	M	A	M
C	E	A	C	H	I	C	N	A	N	O
H	A	B	R	I	D	E	N	I	D	D
E	T	A	M	I	N	E	T	E	N	
	O	M	A		D	A	R	T	L	E
A	E	S	O	P	M	A	B	A	I	L
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Coyote sightings on rise

By Gary Rinne – TB Source

Rising coyote sightings in Thunder Bay's north end are causing some concern, including among users of walking trails behind the former Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital.

Last week, the day before school started, a coyote was spotted pursuing and killing a deer in the yard of St. Margaret School on Clayte Street, several blocks south of the wooded area behind the former LPH.

There have been numerous coyote sightings in other residential neighbourhoods.

"I don't want to be an alarmist, but I really want to have an informed approach. I want people to know what to do if they do see a coyote or even a pack of coyotes," said Len Maki, spokesman for Friends of the LPH Greenspace.

Coyotes pose a potential threat, especially to pets.

"There's always been coyotes around. I've seen them over the years, but you know there's more and more reports, particularly on social media," Maki said.

He said his concern level grew after recent sightings of a coyote near the new playground area at Boulevard Lake.

"We have such great access to nature here in Thunder Bay, particularly around Boulevard, Centennial Park, the LPH trail area and other



Coyotes have been spotted in several areas of the city.

parts of the city too. But unfortunately that access to nature also means nature has access to us."

Brian McLaren, an associate professor in wildlife at Lakehead University, agrees that there have been a lot more encounters recently in the city and, most likely, across the Northwest region.

He said there's no source of information about the number of coyotes, and the best data the province would have would be for the number that are trapped and reported that way.

But he theorizes that the COVID-19 pandemic may have contributed to the coyote population getting larger.

Recent sightings, he said, likely involve juvenile coyotes born during a baby bump.



Thunder Bay is unbeatable when it comes to natural beauty, variety and accessibility to parkland and water.

A fun-filled fall

Autumn is a fantastic time to be outside. After a recent heat wave, pleasant temperatures are settling in and that makes all our favourite outdoor activities even more enjoyable. Soon, we will also be enjoying the changing leaves and that unmistakable crispness in the autumn air.

We are so fortunate to live where we do because each season presents us with new possibilities for outdoor fun and adventure. Our proximity to nature, whether it is in our urban parks and greenspace or the vast wilderness that surrounds us, means we can always get outside for some activity after the workday and we can usually pack a ton of fun into the weekends. With that in mind, here is a list of five close-to-home activities to try this autumn:

Topping my personal list is always going to be fishing. We are situated on the north shore of Lake Superior and both the lake itself and its dozens of tributaries provide some really great fishing opportunities. In addition, there are plenty of inland lakes nearby that offer excellent fishing for walleye, smallmouth bass, northern pike and trout.

Try disc golf. Very similar to traditional golf, the objective of disc golf is to try to complete each hole with the fewest amount of throws. Instead of hitting a ball with clubs, a golf disc is thrown from a tee area towards an elevated metal basket which functions as the "hole". There are four courses in or close to Thunder Bay, including Dragon Hills Golf Course, Birch Point Park at Boulevard Lake, La Verendrye schoolyard and Bayview Golf Course in Pass Lake.

Fall is a great time to try hiking. There are plenty of great spots in the city to hike, but the Cascades Conservation Area might be the best because of the proximity to the cascading waterfalls that give this park its name. The falls are particularly breathtaking after a big rain event.

Whether you prefer a kayak, canoe or stand-up paddleboard, seeing the fall colours reflect off the water makes this a great time to get out for a paddle. Hazelwood Lake is a popular inland lake close to town and Silver Harbour, off Lakeshore Drive, is a great place to access the great Lake Superior on a calm day.

Judging by the number of new riders I am seeing on the Trowbridge Forest mountain bike trails every time I head out, there is no doubt that the trail building efforts of the Blacksheep Mountain Bike Club are paying off. Green level (beginner) trails like Conveyor Belt (from Kinsmen Park) and the Balsam Connector (from Balsam Street) mean riders of all ages and skill levels now have easy access to the Shuniah Mines system. I highly recommend finding your way up to the lookout on the new Mesa Trail in Centennial Park to get an unparalleled view of the Sleeping Giant.

When it comes to outdoor activities and adventures, Thunder Bay is unbeatable due to our natural beauty and the accessibility we have to parkland and water. At this time of year, we are particularly blessed as the temperatures are perfect and the changing leaves offer unrivaled beauty. There just isn't a better time or place to enjoy the outdoors than right here and now.



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THUNDER BAY'S RADIO STATION

Lowbrow funny, but nice scenery

Nia Vardalos returns for another pallid sequel in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3* (SilverCity). Never one for subtlety, Ms Vardalos retains her characteristic artlessness in scripting, compounding her challenges by also serving as director as well as portraying the central character, Toula.

The first wafer-thin *Wedding* (2002) was barely digestible, the Greek overcoming cultural differences to grudgingly accept Toula's 'Anglo' fiancé Ian, (John Corbett) embellished by Vardalos' over-reliance on exclamations of "Opa!!" and many group hugs.

Such is the world of exaggerated, stock comical characters wearing their ethnicity on their collective sleeves, stereotypes pushed to the max, ingratiating themselves through their wackiness, quirks, and goofiness. Being cartoony doesn't necessarily translate into funny with the exception perhaps of Andrea Martin's Aunt Voula, brimming with gross personal disclosures and family axioms.

Certainly, the bar is set considerably lower here. We're not looking for Dickensian depth or Algonquin Roundtable acerbic witticisms. More likely, we anticipate sparkling lowbrow humour along the lines of TV's *Are You Being Served?* crossed with *Hee-Haw*. (Look 'em up!)

This is fine if one is entertained by repeated appearances of a rooster's morning crowing or nosy goats awakening horrified sleepers, or Toula's buffoonish brother Nick (Louis Mandylor) fussily practicing personal hygiene ministrations at the breakfast table.

The flimsy plot here has Toula and family honouring the last wishes of her deceased father, Gus (Michael Constantine) to deliver his personal journal back to his home village on the Greek islands to his childhood buddies.

The family's further nudged along by Toula's mother Maria, (Lainie Kazan) who's showing signs of dementia. Remarkably, Maria's scene gets by as gently amusing, ducking the potential pitfalls of tastelessness and insensitivity over a serious affliction.

There are no references to the journal's content or its sentimental importance, played at face value by Ms. Vardalos' script. No one knows the whereabouts of Gus' pals or whether they're even still alive. All Toula has is an old tattered photograph. Details, details. Who cares? Opa!

Of course, as an excruciatingly tightly knit Greek family, they all have to embark upon



My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3 gets a passing grade.

this quest.

The meandering plot culminates in an unlikely village reunion topped off by—surprise—yet another wedding celebration involving a Greek and a Syrian refugee. ('Xenophobia' has Greek roots, one of the film's limp running gags). Racial and gender complications are blithely set aside, including considerations surrounding a non-binary character. Everybody dance! Opa!

One concedes that families can be crazily close. But Ms Vardalos bounces from quip to quip, undercutting her characters with threadbare sketching only to serve up a soft-boiled gag.

The lovely scenery offers some compensation. However, the first sighting of a beach demands that the family charges off into the water fully clothed as if they've been desert bound for months. The island of Corfu is beautiful.

If one prefers their baklava served with ample dollops of corniness then *MBFGW 3* will whet your appetite.



Marty Mascarini
MOVIE TALK

Farming life explored

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

Residents were invited out to Slate River Valley this weekend to learn a little about the farming industry.

Rural Heritage Days originally started as a plowing match in 1927 that was held at various local farms until the early 2000s when it was moved to Slate River Valley.

Since then, the event has grown into an Ontario Agricultural Fair according to Leo Blekkenhorst, president of the Rural Heritage Agricultural Society, who said that they've added many more events.

"Tractor rodeo and equipment displays, we've got food vendors, a lot of machinery displays that are done using period equipment from the early 20s and up," he said.

"We do thresh demonstrations, binding, grinding the grain so we take it from the field, and we process the grain all the way until its almost flour."

The event was originally run by the farmers competing in the plowing match but is now dependant on volunteers due to the growth it's seen.

"It's just an ongoing volunteer group that's, you know, fathers, kids, grand-kids. And that's just carried on from one year to the next," said Blekkenhorst.



Rural Heritage Days took place last weekend.

"It's an event that's held all over Ontario. And so, there is actually an Ontario plowing association and we are one of these sorts of branches from that, so it's actually quite a big operation, Ontario wide."

Rural Heritage days has become a great opportunity for residents to learn about the farming industry and its history in the area according to Blekkenhorst.

"You can see how the grain is processed and whatnot, how the fields are plowed and so on. There's old equipment, plowing fields and newer equipment," he said.

"So, you have a chance to see how it's done and how the grain and whatnot was processed.

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Stacie Mistysyn, who played Caitlyn, posed for pictures with Degrassi fans last weekend at ThunderCon. (Leith Dunck)

Degrassi has a lasting legacy

Stars of iconic Canadian show visit for ThunderCon

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

When Stacie Mistysyn was eight years old, she filled out a yellow leaflet seeking acting talent for a new television show.

Little did she know that 44 years later she'd be sitting on stage at the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition, along with fellow Canadian TV legend Pat Mastroianni, answering questions about the iconic Degrassi franchise.

Mistysyn and Mastroianni were the star attractions of this year's two-day ThunderCon event, which opened on Saturday, inviting everyone to get their geek on and immerse themselves in the pop-culture world.

"I don't think any of us could have predicted how long the show would be popular. At the time it was a cool job. It was fun. I think we didn't really get a sense of it until we started doing publicity trips, and then we would see the fans in different countries. It was kind of a mind-blowing experience," said the now 52-year-old Mistysyn, who got her start as Lisa Canard in 1979 in the *Kids of Degrassi Street* and became famous playing Caitlyn Ryan, first on *Degrassi Junior High*, then on *Degrassi High* and *Degrassi: The Next Generation*.

It's been an unbelievable ride, said Mastroianni, who played Joey Jeremiah, the fedora wearing class clown on the show that brought teen pregnancy, drug use and eating disorders to the small screen, in an era when those topics were taboo on shows aimed at teens and pre-teens.

"We didn't get into this thinking we were going to become part of Canadian pop culture," he said. "Degrassi was a summer job for many of us and every year that we'd come back for a new season, we were like, 'Wow, we're going to get to do this again?'"

"Then after Degrassi ended, we were like, 'OK, our fun is over and we'll go back to our regular lives and go to university and have families. But the show has this longevity and the fact that the audience keeps coming back to watch the different variations of DeGrassi, from Next Gen to the Next Class, it just means that a show like Degrassi is needed, so each generation has its own version.'"

It was the way the show tackled its topics that allowed it to resonate with its younger



Pat Mastroianni played Joey Jeremiah. (Leith Dunick)

audience - while also making it must-see television for entire families, getting the approval of parents despite the touchy nature of the subject matter.

"We don't talk down to our audience. We allow them to (see) there's a consequence for the decisions you make and it's not like an adult comes in and fixes everything. Young people are not dumb, but they're not experienced. And that, I think, is the reality of life for everybody," Mastroianni said.

"I think they appreciate the honest discussion we created with our series."

The writers didn't sugar-coat anything, Mistysyn added.

"They (also) didn't avoid topics at the time that were taboo to talk about. All these topics, they may be more complicated now with social media, but they're sill at the heart of it, the same basic issues that everybody has to deal with."

ThunderCon co-founder Heather Dickson said they've been trying to get the Degrassi franchise to Thunder Bay for several years, and in 2023, the timing happened to work out.

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Nick DeGrazia spent the past two seasons with the Sudbury Wolves of the Ontario Hockey League. (FILE)

DeGrazia signs with T-Wolves

Former OHLer was at Calgary's rookie camp

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Nick DeGrazia is coming home. The Lakehead Thunderwolves on Wednesday announced the former Sudbury Wolves forward has agreed to play for the team, helping bolster the club's chances of bettering last season's efforts that saw the OUA squad come within a win of a national championship berth.

The 20-year-old, who earned an invite this summer to the Calgary Flames development camp, spent the past two seasons in the Ontario Hockey League, putting up 48 goals and 53 assists in 122 appearances with the Wolves.

"I'm excited to join Lakehead University

as a student-athlete. I'm happy to be in Thunder Bay and I can't wait to play at the Fort William Gardens in front of family and friends," DeGrazia said in a post to the Thunderwolves social media pages.

Lakehead coach Andrew Wilkins, who has had DeGrazia skating in camp, said his new forward will be a big boost to the revitalized program.

"We are super excited to add a player of Nick's calibre to our forward group. Nick plays with a lot of speed and has the ability to attack and make plays all over the ice. He will be a player that steps in and impacts the game in all situations. We are looking forward to helping Nick improve his game," Wilkins said.

Game-changing addition?

When I heard Nick DeGrazia had signed with the Lakehead Thunderwolves, I immediately harkened back to 2002-03.

A year after returning to the OUA, having landed Joel Scherben to captain the ship, they added another former OHLer from Kenora, Jeff Richards.

There's not much of an argument, Scherben and Richards are the two greatest players to don the blue, white and gold in the Thunderwolves era.

It almost feels like *deja vu* all over again.

Last season the Wolves added local Keighen Gerrie, who took the OUA by storm, scoring 15 goals as a rookie, two fewer than Scherban did as a freshman in 2001-02.

In his final season with the Soo Greyhounds, Richards put up 32 goals and 59 points in 59 games. DeGrazia, who attended the Calgary Flames rookie camp this summer, had 25 goals and 50 points in 53 games, numbers that compare favourably to Richards.

Not to put too much pressure on DeGrazia, and certainly the university game has gotten better in 21 years, but is it out of the question to expect similar output?

If so, the 20-year-old could be a game-

changer for the Thunderwolves, a team that surprised the league last season, winning the OUA West and coming within a game of a spot at the national championship.

The T-Wolves losses are minimal. Kyle Auger will be tough to replace, but the team has Canadian Junior Hockey League defenceman of the year Ed McNeill ready to step in. Up front, Stephen Fox, Geoff Dempster and little-used Kishaun Gervais are gone. They combined for nine goals in 51 appearances.

With Griffen Fox, Spencer Blackwell and second-year Josh Van Unen anchoring the top line, and DeGrazia, Gerrie and Olivier Pouliot manning the quasi second line, this will be as deep a Thunderwolves team as we've seen in about a decade, since the

Matt Caria era came to an end.

Your first chance to see DeGrazia and his teammates in action is still four weeks away, when the Waterloo Warriors invade Fort William Gardens on Oct. 13 and Oct. 14.

LU will open regular-season play a week earlier, when they'll get their first real test against the Brock Badgers, a team that finished third in the OUA West at 17-9-1.



Leith Dunick
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North Stars open camp

Team looks to build on last season's trip to the SIJHL championship

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

As a point-producing forward with the North Bay Centennials, Rob DeGagne found himself invited to training camp with the Buffalo Sabres.

Though he never made the National Hockey League, playing one season in the professional ranks with the International Hockey League's Peoria Rivermen, DeGagne said he still remembers the advice given to him and his fellow recruits by one of the greatest coaches in the game as the team kicks off training camp ahead of the 2023-24 campaign.

"Scotty Bowman said do what you do best," said DeGagne, entering his eighth season behind the bench with the Thunder Bay North Stars, his team coming off a season that saw them come within a couple of goals of a Superior International Junior Hockey League championship.

"If you're a goal scorer, don't fight. If you're a fighter, don't think you're a goal scorer, because it takes all kinds to make a team. He said if you had 20 goal scorers on your team you'd never win, because nobody would go in the corner to get the puck.

"Theoretically, he's right. We're looking for them to put forth the work ethic and compete and show their skills a lot."

DeGagne and the North Stars, with about 40 players in camp, are set to kick off exhibition play next Friday and Saturday against the defending SIJHL champion Kam River Fighting Walleye. Thunder Bay has about 15 players under contract for 2023-24, and are using training sessions at Fort William First Nation this week and next to narrow down prospective players to open the season on the North Stars roster.

While he's happy with his team's playoff run last spring, DeGagne said he knows he and his staff have worked to get the team over the hump and back to championship form, looking for its first Bill Salonen Cup since 2019.

"We're just looking for maybe some more depth. We're looking for maybe one more defenceman so some of the guys don't have to log quite as much ice time. And we have to replace a lot of goals, so we have to find some guys to score some goals too," DeGagne said.

The Stars lost two of their top three threats up front, Colby Feist and Nikolas Campbell moving on after aging out of Junior A. Captain Matthew Halushak and forward Dylan Winsor are also in the same boat. The four players combined for 56 goals in 142 games and were keys to Thunder Bay's success throughout the playoff run.



Nolan Desjardins has scored 10 goals in each of the past two seasons with the Thunder Bay North Stars. (Leith Dunick)

Nolan Desjardins, a candidate to take over the North Stars captaincy, said with so many new faces in camp, the next month is going to be key as the team tries to get ahead of its season-opener on the road on Sept. 22 against the Sioux Lookout Bombers.

"It just comes down, really, to getting to know everybody and building that family bond you get over the year with your team. I've found over the years playing with the Stars it's been pretty easy having new guys come in and get the mojo going. We have a great group of guys returning that will put that all together," the third-year veteran said.

One of those new faces is Chase Ellis, a Nova Scotia native who played last season with the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League's Brantford Bandits.

He's happy for a long camp, as he tries to fit into a new team and a new system.

"It's time for the players to kind of meet each other and practice. You can't just put a bunch of random players together and expect to win a game. You have to know each other and know your place," Ellis said.

The Stars home opener at Fort William Gardens is scheduled for Oct. 6 against Dryden.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS & OTHERS

Anyone having a claim against the Estate of MARTIN LOUIS DEVEAU, late of the City of Thunder Bay, District of Thunder Bay who died on the 25th day of September, 2022, is required on or before the 25th day of September, 2023, to file with the undersigned solicitors particulars of their claim duly verified, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to those claims of which Notice shall then have been given.

DATED: August 25, 2023

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Dated at Thunder Bay, Ontario on the 14th day of September 2023. .

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