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Premier Doug Ford meets with Indigenous leaders last Thursday during a one-day tour of Northwestern Ontario.

Ford talks mining

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

Premier Doug Ford looked to highlight provincial investments in Indigenous training initiatives during a whirlwind Northwestern Ontario stop on Thursday.

The premier announced recipients of Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation funding in Greenstone in the morning, before visiting a Matawa training centre and paper and sawmills in Thunder Bay later in the day.

The premier took only two questions from media during his stops in Thunder Bay.

Asked why he has not so far agreed to meet with a group of five Northwestern Ontario First Nations leaders who have flagged urgent concerns about mining activity on their traditional territory, forming the Land Defence Alliance, the premier did not give a direct answer.

"I'm the most accessible premier this province has seen — I give everyone my phone number," he said. "If you have an issue, you come by, you give me a call."

"I always joke around with [Minister of Indigenous Affairs] Greg [Rickford], I said, I should be the Minister of Indigenous Affairs, because I'm getting calls from chiefs literally every single week, almost every single day. So everyone's welcome to come down and pay us a visit and have a chat."

Despite those assurances, Ford did not meet with several Land Defence Alliance chiefs who travelled to Toronto last week hoping to talk with the premier, saying several previous requests for a meeting had been ignored.

The group, comprising Asubpeeschoseewagong, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Wapekeka, Muskrat Dam, and Neskantaga First Nations, rejected an offer from the government to meet instead with Minister of Indigenous Affairs Greg Rickford.

During Ford's visit on Thursday, Marten Falls Chief Bruce Achneepineskum said he agrees the premier should meet directly with those leaders, even if his community sometimes may not share their approach to mining development.

"They're our neighbours and they factor into the overall equation of what happens in our lands," he said. "They're very concerned, and for rightful reasons, that when development happens, there's environmental changes, and there's concerns regarding Aboriginal treaty rights."

Asubpeeschoseewagong Chief Rudy Turtle provided a statement to Dougall Media last Friday.

"The buck stops with Ford and we demand to meet with him face to face. He makes time for developers and mining executives, he should make time for us. It is not too late for Ford to do the right thing, meet with us and commit to respect our right to say 'no' to industry," Turtle said.

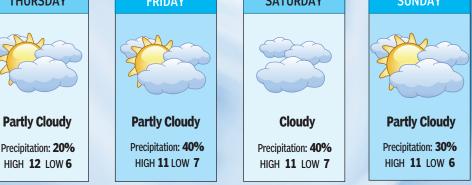
Achneepineskum also welcomed the government's support for Indigenous training initiatives highlighted during Ford's visit.

The premier announced the province had approved a carpentry apprenticeship program at Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment & Training Services, which serves nine Matawa First Nations including Marten Falls.

That will allow up to 90 members of Matawa First Nations to train as carpenters, gaining experience in their home communities.

"In this day and age, First Nations have to be part of the economy, have to be a part of discussions around what happens on the land," said Achneepineskum. "This is all part of that. It's a start. It's important we are involved in all facets of development."



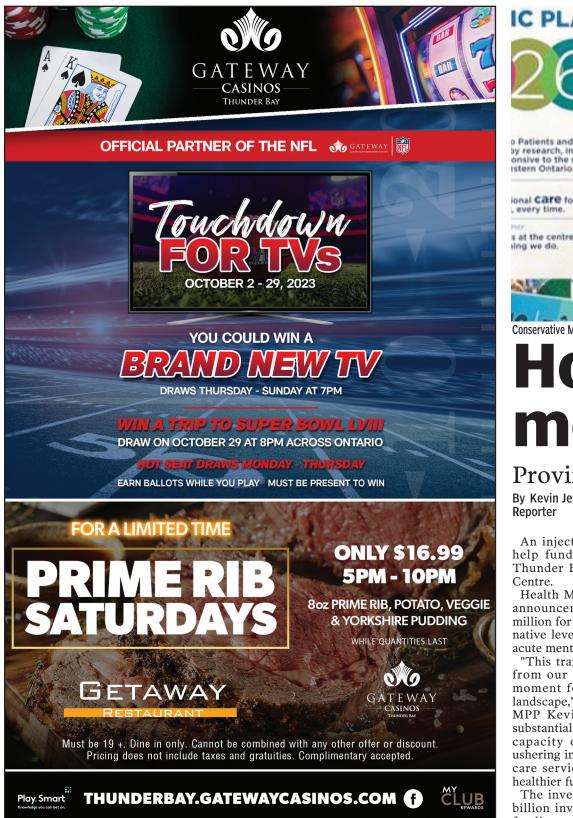






Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay



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Conservative MP Kevin Holland helps announce funding for 34 new hospital beds at Thunder Bay Regional.

Hospital getting money for beds

Province provides \$7.8 million for 34 spots

By Kevin Jeffrey - Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

An injection of provincial dollars will help fund the number of beds at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

Health Minister Sylvia Jones made the announcement Thursday of nearly \$7.8 million for 34 beds aimed to support alternative level of care, transitional beds and acute mental health beds.

"This transformative funding allocation from our government marks a pivotal moment for Thunder Bay's healthcare landscape," stated Thunder Bay-Atikokan MPP Kevin Holland. "It represents a substantial leap forward, enabling a wider capacity of support and undoubtedly ushering in a new era of enhanced healthcare services, promising a brighter and healthier future for our community."

The investment is part of a nearly \$1.2 billion investment this year to continue funding over 3,500 hospital beds across Ontario as part of the Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care.

"Our government continues to make critical investments in our hospitals and health care infrastructure to connect more Ontarians to high-quality convenient care," Jones said. "This investment will ensure communities across the province have the beds they need to deliver high quality health care in their community now, and for years to come."

The announcement comes on the heels of a report released by the provincial Financial Accountability Office (FAO) stating that the government spent \$2.6 billion less than planned in its first quarter, with \$1.2 billion being attributed to decreases in health capital, long-term care home programs, and drug programs.

"Since 2018, our government [has increased] our investment in health care by over \$16 billion," Jones told reporters.

"We are getting shovels in the ground for over 50 new hospital developments that will add more than 3000 new hospital beds in communities across Ontario over the next 10 years. We're growing our healthcare workforce through the largest medical school expansion in Ontario's history, adding undergraduate and residency positions at every medical school in the province, including the Northern Ontario School of Medicine."

The report stated that between April 1 and June 30, the government spent about \$40.2 billion in the first three months of the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Man's family and police make plea for his return

Alexander Lawson was last seen last November

Katie Nicholls - TB Source

Family members and city police are hoping for information from the public that will help them find Joseph Alexander Lawson, nearly a year after the 65-year-old man was last seen.

A news conference was held Thursday morning by Thunder Bay Police Service investigators and Lawson's family members, announcing that a tip line has been established and that rewards have been established for any information that leads to his location.

Commonly known as Alex or AJ, Lawson's last confirmed sighting was on Nov. 27, 2022, in the 200 block of Madeline Street.

Kimberly Lawson was overwhelmed with emotion as she addressed the media about her missing father. She announced that on behalf of Lac Seul First Nation, there would be a \$10,000 reward in addition to the one that police are providing. Both Lawson and his daughter are band members of the First Nation.

"We are approaching a year that he's been missing since his disappearance, and we are asking anybody with information to please come forward and do the right thing," she said.

"Help, help us bring our dad home."

The Thunder Bay Police Services Board has also approved a \$5,000 reward.

Thunder Bay Police Service Det.-Insp. Jeremy Pearson said investigators have been reaching out nationwide to find answers.

"We have had reported sightings that we've been able to follow up with our policing partners essentially as far out as the west coast," Pearson said. "There has been nationwide traction to this story."

Multiple search efforts have been conducted in the past year.

"We utilized drone searches, canine searches, physical searches as well as, of course, doing all of our background investigation into banking information, telephone records, every avenue that we can think to explore we are doing and we'll continue to do so as new information comes forward." said Pearson.

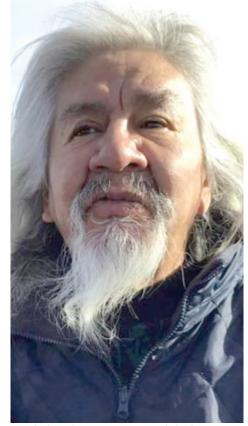
Police have released new video footage of Lawson at the request of the family.

Pearson hopes someone will recognize him or his movements.

"This video is from our last confirmed sighting, and it shows his gait, his manner of movement in the hopes that perhaps seeing him in motion will trigger recognition in someone who may have seen Mr Lawson," he said.

A dedicated tip line has been set up in relation to the missing person case 807-684-1055.

Anyone with information can also contact Thunder Bay Police directly or submit a tip through Crime Stoppers.



Joseph Alexander Lawson, 65, went missing last year.

LU vet program delayed

By Kevin Jeffrey – Local Journalism Initative Reporter

Students will have to wait a year to enrol into the Lakehead University veterinary program.

Last Friday officials confirmed that students will begin classes in the 2025-2026 school year in the Collaborative Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program for Lakehead University and the University of Guelph.

"We are trying to do things as quickly as possible, but of course, a new build like this is going to take some time," said David Barnett, Lakehead's provost and vice president of academic. "We will be looking at a 2025 start for the first cohort; We have discussed this with the government, [so they are aware of it] as well."

School officials also indicated that a governance structure has been established between the post-secondary schools that includes a number of joint-working groups.

In August, the University of Guelph submitted a request for substantive change to their Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, which collaborates with the American Veterinary Medical Association-Council on Education.

Those bodies grant accreditation to university programs designed to educate students to become veterinarians.

Barnett did indicate that the university has enlisted the help of a consultant.

"There are facilities that we don't have currently on our campus, so there will be some sort of a new build," Barnett said.

"But that's the consultant's work really to look at matching those functional requirements. Several of us have been down to Guelph as well to look at what [they have for facilities]. The consultant will be advising us on what that new build might look like, and certainly we will be leveraging spaces here at the university that we can."

The students will engage in the first two years of schooling in Thunder Bay before concluding the four-year program in Guelph. Barnett mentioned that the consultant's

report is due back in the middle of October. In terms of finances, Lakehead University isn't sure what an exact number would look like from them to contribute to launching the school. Barnett said that they would look at donations as well as possible applications through FedNor as well as the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EDITORIAL Media matters

Last week, Premier Doug Ford paid a visit to Northwestern Ontario, including a stop in Thunder Bay.

Unfortunately, Ford all but refused to speak to local media during that visit. The initial invite indicated the premier wouldn't take any questions at all.

Subsequent negotiations with his team led to a grand total of two questions being asked and answered.

While Premier Ford is a busy man, his visits to our region are few and far between.

There are plenty of issues specific to Northwestern Ontario that voters and residents of the area might like to have addressed by the province's top elected official.

Given recent scandals that have plagued his government, most notably the green belt fiasco, it's not surprising that Ford – and other politicians – try to duck the media.

It's not right.

The public deserves answers. Thankfully his Thunder Bay MP, Kevin Holland, has done a pretty good job speaking to local media. It's someone Ford could learn from. If you're doing your job, there's nothing to hide.

Meeting a failure To the editor:

The Thunder Bay Public Library 'community conversation' about safety had a number of fundamental flaws. There was no one on the panel with lived experience of the safety issues in Thunder Bay. They were all chief executives.

Why couldn't we hear from those who are directly impacted by the lack of safety in the city? The non attendance of the mayor made this a non event.

The library was told weeks ago that the mayor couldn't attend on this date so why didn't the library reschedule? When a member of the audience made a racist comment why didn't the library CEO call it out? Instead he let the panel deal with it.

This was not a community conversation. It was a top down elitist event of CEOs talking amongst themselves.

When will the voice of the real people be heard in Thunder Bay?

John Pateman, Thunder Bay (John Pateman is the former TBPL CEO)



Old God's Time weaves past trauma into tale

In Sebastian Barry's new novel, *Old God's Time*' it is the mid-1990s and widower Tom Kettle has been retired from the police for nine months. He spends his days sitting in a wicker chair in a slightly squalid flat annexed to a Victorian castle in Dalkey, smoking cigarillos and looking out to the Irish Sea, bobbing with fishing boats, and an island busy with cormorants.

He is not unhappy, but he is certainly lonely, although he perhaps hasn't let himself understand that. That loneliness is clear in the eagerness with which he greets the unexpected appearance of two former colleagues in Dublin who have come to ask for his help with a case they're working on.

Two things become clear very quickly: one is Tom's overpowering and unspent love, not only

for his dead wife, June, but for most of humanity.

The other is his unreliability as a witness: grief-stricken, and a survivor of more than one disaster, not everything he experiences or remembers can really have taken place.

Barry skilfully leads

the reader gently and slowly into Tom's imaginative world, a place of great humour as well as great

sadness. It is hard to unravel what Tom has experienced, and this is entirely consistent with the effects of trauma on memory.

Both he and June were raised in Catholic institutions, and that both were survivors of childhood sexual abuse; although what Tom recalls consists of fragments, the sheer scale of his inexhaustible pity for his wife and for all hurt children tells the clear story of his own

damage. The depth and strength of his bond with June, and their fierce,

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restorative love for their own two children, was born of that darkness, a riposte to it that proves, eventually and heartbreakingly, not to be up to the task.

Tom passes, as many did, from one institution to another and joins the British army, which sends him to Malaya and forces him to kill, not once but scores of times, a moral injury from which he has not recovered.

More trauma arrives in the 1970s in the shape of a bomb attack in Dublin; one of the first on a scene of carnage, he trembles afterwards for a week. Later in his career he is awarded a medal for bravery after taking a bullet aimed at a young woman, an act he clearly sees as reparative in some way.

The more time we spend inside the wayward, bruised yet playful mind of this gentle and funny man, the more we realise he's endured – and the more miraculous it seems that he's not quite broken yet.

As his former colleagues continue their investigation into a priest long suspected of abuse they begin to uncover troubling evidence that could lead to the loss of even the small measure of safety that Tom has managed to amass for himself.

And yet, even knowing that, he is driven to help them – by his grief, by his guilt and by his own moral code.

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Microbes come to the rescue

By JR Shermack

In 2001 a group of Japanese scientists were rummaging through a garbage dump when they noticed a slimy film on plastic bottles, toys and other discarded refuse.

What they discovered in that dump had never been seen before – the slime on the bottles contained a microbe, Ideonella sakaiensis that appeared to be eating the plastic.

It was a curious discovery but certainly not earthshaking at a time when the term 'microplastics' had not yet been coined and we were just on the verge of realizing its implications.

Accordingly, it was not considered a topic of great interest and the results of preliminary tests on the plastic eating bacteria were not broadly published.

Research continued, time passed and in 20 years since that discovery humans have generated billion of tonnes of plastic waste and add hundreds of millions more each year.

Microscopic nano particles are now found in every environment on Earth and have invaded thousands of species, including the internal organs of humans.

Now we are woefully aware of microplastics - when news of Ideonella sakaiensis was finally released in 2016 the world was paying attention to this glimpse of salvation.

Hopeful optimists soon began to predict a remedy to our plastic woes while the scientific community got busy working in partnership with the microbe community.

Even though plastic-eating bacteria are being bio-engineered to improve efficiency any real solution is years away, but we may dodge this bullet thanks to a serendipitous find at the dump.

I can't believe that technology is about to bail us out again – we are repeat offenders and judging from our environmental record we have yet to learn our lesson.

And now when we least deserve another chance and at a time when we have nowhere else to turn, microbes come to the rescue with a technological miracle.

The human species has a lot going for it when you consider our high intellect (allegedly), our ability to use tools to build things and our capacity to employ advanced technology.

But sometimes it seems we are too smart for our own good and we got ourselves in trouble through over-reliance on fossil fuels, a high carbon footprint and global warming.

As our atmosphere becomes infused with greenhouse gasses the excess heat and



Plastic waste is plaguing the Earth's oceans. (iStock)

moisture fuels extreme weather events and we are powerless against the forces of nature.

Humans have an uncanny ability to pull back from the brink of disaster -this isn't the first time we have used an environmental ally from the microbe community.

PERSPECTIVE

The field of Bioremediation uses living organisms like bacteria, fungi and algae to remove pollutants and toxins from our natural environment.

We have developed the technology to alter, manipulate and engineer microbes at the genetic level to do our bidding, to eat discarded plastic, oil spills and a thousand other pollutants.

It is a win-win situation – bacteria such as Ideonella sakaiensis get all they can eat and the human species Homo sapiens gets its mess cleaned up.

And on a somewhat recreational note microbes are also essential ingredients for the fermented foods we enjoy such as bread, cheese, wine and beer.

Is there nothing those microbes can't do?

As for me, I am thankful for plastic-eating bacteria but I am tired of relying on technology to bail out the human race every time we get into an environmental jam.

I feel like we're getting away with something and we will continue living on the brink as long as technology has our back.

I guess a false sense of security is better than no security at all – I'm beginning to doubt my own skepticism.

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

October 14

Rumble to Remember Canadian Elite Wrestling returns to the DaVinci Centre on Saturday night, featuring The Mountie in an over-thetop rope rumble main event.

Tickets are \$24 to \$29, and are available at Comix Plus Music Exchange, Good To Go Lotto inside the Walmart on Memorial Avenue and at 807 Cards on Park Avenue.

Tickets are also available at the door. Doors open at 6 p.m. for VIP Priority Access ticketholders and 6:30 p.m. for general admission. The bell rings at 7 p.m.

October 13-14

Thunderwolves Hockey

After coming up with just a single point on the road last weekend, the Lakehead Thunderwolves men's hockey team will be looking to find their way into the win column on Friday and Saturday night against the Waterloo Warriors.

The series marks the 2023-24 home opener for the T-Wolves, a team that came within a win of a national championship berth last season.

Game time is 7 p.m. both nights, at Fort William Gardens.

October 21-22

Psychic Fair

Want to know what might be in your future? Jared Hynnes and the Mystic Veil Psychics will be holding a psychic fair on Oct. 21 and Oct. 22 at the Ramada Airline Hotel, in Salon D.

All readings are \$60 and admission is free. There will be raffle prizes to be won, \$2 per ticket or three for \$5.

The fair will be held from noon until 9 p.m. each day.

October 22

Church Fundraiser

St. Andrew's Parish invites you on a culinary tour with their "Tastes of the World" Fundraising Dinner on Sunday, Oct. 22nd at 5:30 p.m. in Saunders Hall. A take-out option will also be available from 3 to 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 and available at the Church Office, 292 Red River Road, Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information call 807 345-5202 or check out their events page at standrewrc.ca. Proceeds from this event will go toward the cost of installing a new boiler in the church.

October 12

Nerd Nite

Nerd Nite returns Thursday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Sleeping Giant Brewing Company! This event is free, or pay what you can.

It's A 19+ casual gathering with speakers that present something they're passionate about – from the science of Pokemon, to wine somalier secrets, to the mysteries of the Great Lakes, we've had speakers talk about anything and everything they nerd out about.



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

7

How Ontario's energy mix is transforming right now

To achieve net zero, most of Ontario's physical energy infrastructure needs to be expanded and upgraded. And we need to do it at unprecedented speed.

Ontario is on the brink of its most important transformation since the postwar era. Achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 presents an enormous challenge but also an exciting opportunity to create a sustainable future for all. The good news is that electric and natural gas systems are already working together to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and meet the energy needs of Ontarians.

We're collaborating with partners to increase electrification of building

heat, personal and light-duty vehicles; we're greening the gas supply with renewable natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen; and powering industry with hydrogen and natural gas, combined with carbon capture. This collaborative approach can help Ontario reach its climate targets at a lower cost while achieving greater energy system resiliency.

Much more still needs to be done, but we're optimistic about a clean energy future.

Transformation in action



Net Zero 2050: Path to Success

Transportation

Energy sources Transition to renewables.

A mix of solar, wind, hydrogen and renewable natural gas for clean and reliable energy. Electrification Compressed and of light-duty renewable natural vehicles. gas and hydrogen for hard-to-electrify

heavy transport.

Switch to lower-emission sources.

Building heating and cooling Adopt high-eficiency technologies.

Energy conservation, heat pumps, hybrid heating, geothermal, district energy and green fuels for clean and reliable heat.



Energy conservation, hydrogen and carbon capture for processes that can't easily be electrified.



Ontario's first carbon-negative bus

Transportation currently represents the largest* source of RNG emissions in Ontario. In Hamilton, residents are enjoying a cleaner commute on a bus powered by (RNG). Produced from organic waste, such as food scraps, farm waste and wastewater, carbon-neutral RNG is used to fuel transit, light-duty fleets and refuse trucks – offering an immediate path to net zero. The bus diverts 450 tonnes of organic waste from landfill annually and uses RNG from StormFisher's biogas facility in London, Ontario.



Visit **enbridgegas.com/sustainability** to learn more about key innovations that are reducing emissions while keeping energy reliable and affordable.

* Canada Energy Regulator – Ontario's 2019 emission sources. © 2023 Enbridge Gas Inc. All rights reserved. ENB 1527 08/2023



Finding shells to shoot with has become an adventure following the pandemic. (Supplied photo)

Ammo scarcity

Keith Ailey

the GOOD LIFE

Anyone who hunts small game with a .410 gauge shotgun has likely discovered by now that finding shells for it is a near impossible task.

The .410 size is the smallest caliber of the popular shotguns, with a bore width of just a hair over 1cm. This means a tight firing pattern with far less chance of getting pellets in the breast compared to the popular 12-gauge. Besides the tiny shells it uses, this gun is also incredibly light, making it ideal for hunters who prefer to hike or bike long distances on remote trails and abandoned logging roads.

Last weekend, I used up my final shells to harvest dinner on Saturday afternoon and because there is no stock available at local

stores, I had to put a call out on Facebook for some help. Several people suggested I just buy a different gun. But I love my .410 way too much. It is a classic Remmington, single-shot breakaction model, so if I encounter multiple birds, things get interesting. Besides its perfect size, weight, and the sporting qualities it offers, this firearm also holds sentimental value as it belonged to

my late father. There is no way I am replacing it.

On Sunday, I had to hunt with my .22 caliber rifle. Compared to a shotgun, the .22 sounds like a cap gun when it fires. It has no recoil or kickback, and it fires a single tiny bullet instead of a wad of buckshot.

I had not fired that .22 in twenty five years and when I did, it was only for target practice. However, desperate times call for desperate measures. So, that little rifle was called up to the big leagues for an important hunt on Sunday where I was hoping to add some wild birds to the Thanksgiving dinner menu.

On the hunt, the first problem I discovered with the .22 was the fact that there was no way to fasten the strap I use to harness the gun. This is a major issue as I need a way to carry it while hunting off my bike. The second difficulty was that I was unfamiliar with the .22's sights and not exactly confident in my ability to hit a tiny target at long range with it.

Ultimately, the .22 performed well enough to help me harvest a limit of grouse, but my multi-decade streak of never missing a bird (with my .410) came to an end.

Truthfully, it was fun and challenging to try a different gun, but the lack of a way to attach the harness meant that the .22 was not a long-term solution to the .410 ammo shortage.

Luckily, that desperate Facebook post generated some solutions, and by Monday morning several friends had shared their valuable stash of shells.

As well, I now had some advice on an online ammo store in Alberta that purportedly had .410 shells in stock.

Some internet research revealed that .410 shells have been in high demand and short supply since the fall of 2020. Theories range from ammo hoarding to pandemic-related manufacturing issues.

Whatever the case, once I am able to restock, I'll make sure I don't enter another hunting season unprepared.



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Thanksgiving in garden and bush

Ah, Saturday afternoon in the veggie garden, my hands in real, rich dirt. Well, it was peat moss in a bag. We were putting the root crops in bins to store over the winter.

10 LIFE

But, before that escapade, I was in our woods reclaiming fallen jack pine trees still sound enough to burn in our fireplace.

This past Thanksgiving Saturday was a beautiful day with sun and wind

at the farm. My wife, Laura, had to go to Blake Hall in Neebing township as she was one of the volunteers cooking turkey and root crop veg for a Thanksgiving supper later that night. Laura works for Neebing township. When she was gone, I decided to grab the chainsaw and drive the quad and cart along our trails to see what wood I could salvage

for a "crackle, crackle" fire in our living room fireplace.

I didn't have to venture far into the woods before I saw two, good-size trees that had fallen but were not lying on the ground. Not lying on the ground meant the wood stood a good chance of being dry.

It was early afternoon when I played

THUNDER BAY'S RADIO STATION

the wood back to Casa Jones where we have been bucking, splitting, and stacking winter firewood (birch). I fired up the splitter and set about making fireplace wood. Some of the jack pine pieces I'd cut at the bottom of the tree weren't quite as dry as those towards the top, but I was sure that they'd burn if helped out by the dry, top pieces. While I didn't have Laura to

Fred Jones RURAL ROOTS

retrieve no matter where we are or what we are doing.

We could be in the vegetable garden labouring over beds pulling up carrots, beets, parsnips, et al, and Sophie keeps dropping her ball at my feet that requires me to toss out of the garden like she did later Saturday afternoon.

help me, I did have companion-

ship - Sophie, our black lab.

Sophie, being a pure black lab

retriever, likes to endlessly

lumberjack. Sawing was easy and the only

tiny hardship was pulling the branches

away from the trunk, a job with which

Laura usually assists. I bucked, carried,

stashed in the cart, and when done, drove

We tried securing the garden gates, but

she always manages to find a way in. Anyway, back in the bush, while I was bucking the fallen trees, Sophie was demanding I toss her ball. "Not a chance, Sophie. I am busy," I declared. Well, a couple of times I tossed the ball deep into the woods in the hopes that she would have to go and search and that would give me a breather as I gathered the bucked pieces and carried them to the waiting cart.

It was on one of those hauling trips (trying not to trip on hidden tag alder branches) that I suddenly stopped.

What leaves remaining on the poplar trees were being tousled by the wind; and the spruce branches were 'singing' as well.

The sun was threading its rays through the branches overhead and then a scudding cloud would elect to cover Ol' Sol but only for a few seconds. I stood entranced with a sudden epiphany: here I was, in the woods, doing a chore that I love, black pup dashing around.

A moment of bliss flooded my being. "Wow! Look Fred where you are. Look what you are able to do!" I gave heartfelt thanks for being alive and living where we do. So there.

Laura returned and we set about in the

garden layering peat moss in large Tupperware bins, then a layer of carrots, then more peat moss followed by more carrots, etc., etc., until the bin was full. We did the same with beets and parsnips and then motored them to the barn to be stored in our tack room that is allowed to keep cool during the winter.

As Laura would dig the various beds, she kept on finding 'rogue' potatoes she didn't know were still in the ground. "These I planted last year but obviously I didn't get them all," she noted. It turned out that there were a couple of beds in which Laura had planted other veggies but upon excavating revealed potatoes missed during last year's harvesting.

So, Saturday evening we drove to Blake Hall and amid wonderful neighbours and some gorgeous live background music supplied on guitar, clarinet, and the occasional vocal by a beautiful 'chanteuse', played by two gents both named Mark (didn't catch their last names and with my on-going Swiss cheese memory, I forgot the name of the lassie wot crooned to us), we dug into a sumptuous Thanksgiving supper.

So, when I gave thanks this Thanksgiving, I wasn't kidding. I meant it.

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California ups fast-food wage

We all saw the news a couple weeks back, California's Gov. Gavin Newsom signed historic legislation in late September making the minimum wage for fast food workers \$20 an hour.

The move follows hundreds of strikes over the past couple of years, as fast-food workers and labour unions pushed for better wages and working conditions. The increase is significant- the state's fast-food workers are currently paid a minimum of \$16.60 per hour, or just over \$34,000 per year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"California is home to more than 500,000 fast-food workers who - for decades have been fighting for higher wages and better working conditions," Newsom said in a statement. "Today, we take one step closer to fairer wages, safer and healthier working conditions, and better training by giving hardworking fast-food workers a stronger voice and seat at the table."

The legislation, named AB 1228, marks an agreement between labour and business sectors.

With labour unions promising to retract their bid to hold fast-food corporations accountable for franchisee misconduct, in return for the increase in wage.

Fast-food restaurants with 60 or more locations across the state will be forced to automatically adopt the new minimum wage. Eateries that produce and offer their own bread, such as large-scale bakeries and Panera Bread, are exempt from the wage.

The relationship between minimum wage and inflation has long been a topic of debate among economists and policymakers both in the United States and here at home.

In the United States, there is renewed push to raise their minimum wage to \$15 an hour while here in Ontario, minimum wage is set to increase again this month. Advocates argue that a higher minimum wage can boost

consumer spending, drive economic growth, and reduce income inequality. Critics, however, warn of potential job losses, especially among small businesses, and the aforementioned inflationary concerns.

There is no right, one-size-fits-all answer to the minimum-wage question. Everyone



In-N-Out Burger may be subject to a new minimum wage.

deserves to make a living wage.

Derek Lankinen

The breakdown of such is open to interpretation in hospitality, tipped employees typically always make a living wage because of their increased income, so long as the business is busy and efficient, and the

owner isn't a lowlife scumbag. Believe it or not, this holy trinity is fairly hard to find in one whole operation. Not impossible, but difficult.

Its no secret that the higher wages people need to pay, the more cost will be levied down onto their products they sell. This is just basic trickle-down Here's Cooking at You Kid economics. The more stuff costs, the more its going to cost.

Striking a balance between the two doesn't seem to be likely ... in my lifetime at least.

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.

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By Gary Rinne – TB Source

One of the most successful ongoing hospital fundraising campaigns in Canada not only continues to thrive, but appears to be on pace for a record-setting finish to the year.

Through the end of September, the monthly 50/50 draw operated by the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation generated more revenue than it did through all 12 months of 2022.

Although tickets for the October draw only went on sale 10 days earlier, by Monday the jackpot had already reached \$694,000. Last October's grand prize was \$519,532.

The early increase in ticket sales this month could reflect the fact that bonus numbers have been reintroduced, and that early bird prize money has gone up from the usual \$25,000 to \$35,000.

"Aside from last Christmas, this is **GLENN CRAIG** the fastest that our jackpot has ever grown, and we're blown away by the

level of support," health sciences foundation president and CEO Glenn Craig said in an interview.

He believes the publicity created by the \$2.5 million jackpot in the draw last December is still paying dividends.

"It goes back to last Christmas. We got a lot of attention, not only from Thunder Bay, but across the province and across all of Northern Ontario, not just Northwestern Ontario. And I think it's just been building and building, and as some [fundraising] programs may be declining, they are seeing the larger and larger jackpot. So it's like that snowball that keeps rolling down the hill and seems to get larger every month."

> Proceeds from the 50/50 go toward the purchase of new hospital equipment in Northwestern Ontario.

"People want to support hospitals. They want to feel like they're doing some real good with their support," Craig commented, "but I think people also want to win a big prize."

Thunder Bay residents are by far the largest purchasers of tickets, but the 50/50 also attracts interest in communities such as Fort Frances, Dryden, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Timmins.

The top 20 communities for Thunder Bay 50/50 ticket sales are all in Northern Ontario.

This year's draw has already brought in more than \$6.4 million more than it did in the first 10 months of 2022, before the split.



legacygivingthunderbay.com

So-so story bogs down The Creator An indifferent array of cinematic selections during the holiday long weekend resulted in an equally indifferent coin toss selection. The Creator (SilverCity) won out.

Given the growing controversy over ChatGPT and the paranoia surrounding Artificial Intelligence, The Creator seems poised to capitalize on such relevant currency. While there is much detail in the sumptuous CGI visuals and imaginative production design, one wishes that the filmmakers might have invested a little more time on The Creator's script.

The story begins in 2065. The US is at war with all AI machines after LA was nuked some time previously, ostensibly by the machines.

Many "AIs" have subsequently taken refuge in New Asia (with inhabitants and landscape recalling Viet Nam and its attendant dark baggage.)

The AI beings can be identified in profile, where spinning gears support their humanoid faces.

Josh (John David Washington) is an exspecial forces soldier who lost his parents in the blast, and bears a cybernetic arm and leg as a consequence.

He is expecting his first child with his wife Maya (Gemma Chan) who is sympathetic to the machines. Josh has been working undercover, essentially spying. His loyalties are torn. Then tragedy

ensues. Josh is devastated.

Sometime later he's recruited by the truculent Colonel Howell (Allison Janney) to use his undercover knowledge to seek out the AI lab and destroy a secret weapon called Alpha O that the U.S. military believes is a threat to all humankind.

Josh tracks down the weapon, only it's in the form of a six-yearold AI child (Madeline Yuna

Voyles) he nicknames "Alphie." Alphie has the potential of controlling all technology remotely, she's to learn about the repercussions of her powers.

Due to the loss of his own unborn child, Josh can't bring himself to eliminate Alphie. Josh's failure prompts Howell and Co to hunt them down.

A protracted chase ensues. Howell is supported by a giant hovering aerial base named NOMAD that has omniscient tracking and destructive powers (begging the question why they needed Josh in the first place).



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John David Washington and Madeline Yuna Voyles.

And there's the rub with "The Creator." One marvels at the impressive

visionary design, but nagging plot points keep popping up.

Director Gareth Edwards ("Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," "Godzilla") and co-writer Chris Weitz derive inspiration from films like Apocalypse Now, Avatar and Blade Runner. Though these films fire up the movie's dazzling visuals, the storytelling is far less detailed.

Washington and Voyles have tangible chemistry. Little Voyles exudes a 'special being' aura.

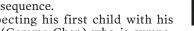
They provide the emotional investment. But oddly at a crucial moment, Alphie's powers are curiously stymied just to heighten the melodrama.

Part of the actors and writers' strikes has been arguments over the use of AI. It's interesting the stance the movie takes.

There is much to admire in The Creator production-wise but similarly much potential goes unrealized. It's like a Thanksgiving dinner minus the main course.

Marty Mascarin

MOVIE TALK



Visit TBnewswatch.com Thursday, October 12, 2023

Time for Jays shake-up

It's time for wholesale changes on the Toronto Blue Javs.

It has to start with upstairs.

Manager John Schneider and the front office tandem of president Mark Shapiro and general manager Ross Atkins have to go, though both will return.

Schneider simply for listening to whomever told him to lift starter Jose Berrios, whose command was masterful through three innings, in Game 2 of the Jays wild-card series against the Minnesota Twins.

I was at the game and Toronto fans (and there were lots of them), were stunned when Schneider took the ball from Berrios and called in lefty Yusei Kikuchi.

Schneider struggled to get consistency out of his lineup all year long, and wasn't able to get into the heads of his talented, but sometimes reckless, young stars and convince them to stop making stupid mistakes.

Bo Bichette was thrown out at the plate in Game 1, when he had no business being anywhere but anchored on third base.

Vladimir Guerrero was picked off at second, with George Springer at third and Bo Bichette salivating over a coming 3-2 pitch and a chance to turn the Blue Jays fortunes around in what proved to be a 2-0 loss and the Jays being swept out of the wild-card round.

So much for bigger bases. Atkins and Shapiro are the architects of the team, and while they managed to win 89

games and earn a spot in MLB's postseason, it's a team that struggled against the rest of the American League East, going 21-31, the Baltimore Orioles winning 10 of 13 meetings between the two teams.

The Jays are supposed to be the Orioles, the team with all the young stars on the rise.

Instead, they'll spend the offseason

Yusei Kikuchi warms up prior to last Wednesday's wild-card Game 2 in Minneapolis. (Leiht Dunick) wondering if it can be fixed from within or if it's time to blow the whole thing up. I, for one, wouldn't trust Atkins and Shapiro to be the ones to make those

decisions. Yes, they brought in George Springer

> and Kevin Gausman, but this is also the duo that got fleeced sending future allstar Gabriel Moreno and outfielder Lourdes Gurriel to Arizona in return for slick-fielding, weak-hitting outfielder Daulton Varsho. They should have sold

high on the human doubleplay, Alejandro Kirk, and kept Moreno. And Gurriel

put up a better season out-homering Varsho and getting on base at a .309 clip, 24 points higher than the man for whom he was dealt.

They also sent Teoscar Hernandez to Seattle for reliever Eric Swanson, who was really good, but relievers are a dime a dozen.

The Jays struggled in clutch situations,

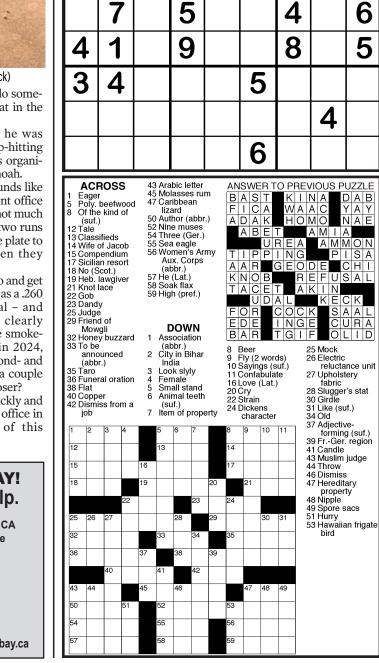
and while the team did need to do something, they never replaced his bat in the lineup, and it was noticeable.

Kevin Kiermaier did all that he was asked and more, but he's a slap-hitting singles hitter. No one in the Jays organization could figure out Alek Manoah.

Defence is important, but it sounds like the analytics guys in the Jays front office overplayed their hands. There's not much point holding the opposition to two runs if you don't have the horses at the plate to come up with clutch hits when they count.

Is it time to cut bait on Guerrero and get what you can before he's pegged as a .260 hitter with 25-homer potential - and leaves as a free agent as he's clearly angling to do? Or do you try the smokeand-mirrors approach again in 2024, knowing you'll likely need a second- and third-baseman, a centre-fielder, a couple of starters and possibly a new closer?

Jays ownership needs to act quickly and decisively, clearing out the front office in a hurry to make the most of this offseason.



GAMES/SPORTS 13

"NBA FLRN MOFK NK UPWKU ANB SBKU TBM JBBX MB UKK ANPM NOU TKOQNIBZ

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CRYPTOGRAM

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14 SPORTS Kelly returning to Border Cats

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

After guiding the Thunder Bay Border Cats within a whisker of the first-half playoffs, manager J.M. Kelly will have a second shot to get the team back to the Northwoods League postseason.

The team on Thursday announced the 27year-old Kelly will be back in the dugout

for a second season, after a 27-41 debut campaign that marked the team's return to action after three seasons on the sidelines.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my summer in Thunder Bay," Kelly said.

"The organization treated me and the coaches and players very well and the fans were so enthusiastic and supportive. We have some unfinished business heading into 2024 and the roster is shaping

up nicely, especially the fact we now have some returning players to draw from,"

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added Kelly.

Under the first-year skipper, the Cats went 17-15 in the opening half, narrowly missing grabbing the Great Plains East Division's first playoff spot.

It's that success that convinced Border Cats president David Valente to bring Kelly back.

"We're excited to have J.M. return," Valente said in a release issued by the team.

> "He is an extremely hard worker on and off the field and it's certainly a bonus having continuity in our managerial position as we head into the 2024 season."

> Kelly is the fifth manager since 2003 to return to the Cats for a second season.

Other multi-year managers include Mike Steed, Mitch Dunn, Danny Benedetti and Mitch Feller.

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Kelly is currently the head coach of the East Central Falcons in Missouri.



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Westgate's Evan Wilson tries to haul down Hammarskjold's Gerald Marshall last Friday. (Leith Dunick)

Vikings sail on

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The Hammarskjold Vikings spent most of the fourth quarter pinned deep in their own zone, clinging to a seven-point lead.

Their opponent, the Westgate Tigers, were relentless in their attack, but couldn't find the end zone for a second time thanks to the Vikings punishing defence, and Hammarskjold (3-0-1) held on to double them up 14-7 on Friday night, avoiding taking their first loss of the senior high school football season.

The game, played in blustery pre-winter conditions at Fort William Stadium, didn't offer much in the way of offence, the two sides limited by the wind and rain that pelted the field and made passing the ball a challenge for most of the contest.

It took a quarter-and-a-half for either offence to put together a significant scoring drive.

And it was the Tigers (2-2-0) who struck first, after forcing the Vikings to a three-andout, taking possession at the Hammarskjold 49 following a 20-yard punt.

Running back Hudson Gerry set the stage for the score, grinding out a 17-yard run that dropped the ball on the Hammarskjold fiveyard-line. Two rushes later he found the end zone, from four yards out.

The Vikings stalled out on their next possession, but a fumble by Westgate's Eddy Dryhorub gave them the ball back on the Tigers 26, leading to quarterback Taylor Main's one-yard keeper up the middle with 2.5 seconds left, evening the score 7-7.

"I've got veteran guys in front of me, guys I trust with my life with one yard to go," Main said. "I looked to our sideline and we called a timeout. I said I want to keep it up the middle, I know we're going to get in. I felt lots of pressure coming in, but the guys got it done in the trenches."

The Tigers took possession to start the third, but turned the ball over on downs, giving the Vikings the ball on the Westgate side of the field.

Owen Renn rushed twice for nine yards, setting up a third-and-one on the Westgate 43. The Vikings turned to Daniel Kapush, who got the one yard to move the sticks – and 41 more – landing the ball on the Tigers one.

Once again Hammarskjold turned to Main, who went up the middle for what proved to be the game-winning touchdown and the final scoring play of the evening.

Westgate's best chances to even the contest came late in the third and early in the fourth.

It was Zach Pedlow who came up big on both plays, stuffing Dryhorub on the first scoring try and slamming Lance Basalyga short on the second.

The Vikings took over on their five-yardline, but Kai Aldridge promptly fumbled the ball after catching a pass from Main, giving Westgate the ball back on the Hammarskjold 12.

The short field didn't prove advantageous.

Quarterback Mitchell Papineau threw three straight incompletions and the ball went back to the Vikings. They punted the ball back three plays later, the Tigers getting it at the Hammarskjold 20.

Papineau got the ball twice to Andrew Romeo, but on a third-and-one from the Hammarskjold nine, Dyrhorub was turned back.



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