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Agarwal's pay docked 30 days

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Thunder Bay city councillor Rajni Agarwal has been docked 30 days' pay after the city's integrity commissioner found she violated council's code of conduct.

Council voted to impose the penalty in a sometimes-tense meeting Monday, based on a finding by the integrity commissioner that Agarwal violated the code during a dispute with residents over the summer.

Agarwal's behaviour in the incident included giving residents the middle finger and claiming to represent the city, after she objected to those residents temporarily parking a trailer over a sidewalk while conducting grading work on their property.

The incident occurred on Beverly Street, near her real estate office, on June 13.

Principles Integrity, the firm that provides integrity commissioner services to the city, launched an investigation after receiving a complaint the following day.

Their report found Agarwal's "confrontational and harassing" behaviour toward the residents during the incident violated rule nine of the code of conduct.

The rule states that councillors are "held to a higher standard of behaviour... and accordingly their behaviour should be exemplary."

The report also charges that Agarwal improperly used her status as a city councillor to seek a city bylaw and police response to the dispute, calling that "an egregious abuse of authority."

Jeff Abrams and Janice Atwood of Principles Integrity told council Agarwal's lack of contrition over the incident was one factor in the substantial pay suspension they recommended.

Council is not bound to follow the integrity commissioner's recommendations. Its options ranged from declining to impose a penalty, to issuing a reprimand, to a maximum penalty of 90 day's pay.

The 30-day pay suspension council approved is expected to cost Agarwal well over \$3,000.

Agarwal repeated criticisms of the report Monday, alleging it included "incorrect statements" and saying it underplayed her concerns that the sidewalk blockage was a safety threat, after claiming she saw a senior with a walker move onto the roadway to get around it.

The first-term councillor has declined multiple requests for an interview to answer questions about the incident.

She shared pictures with Dougall Media that



At-large Coun. Rajni Agarwal on Monday night.

appear to show a trailer blocking the sidewalk and a pedestrian with a walker on the side of Beverly Street on June 13.

Agarwal for the first time publicly apologized on Monday, saying she had been wrong to gesture with the middle finger.

At the same time, however, she also appeared to double down on defenses of her behaviour and defiance of the integrity commissioner's conclusions.

"I stand by my actions there, because that woman was in danger," she said. "Going downhill on Beverly Street, which is a very busy road, she could have been hurt, and I would never have lived with myself. And I hope people here at council would have done the same."

Abrams and Atwood said their investigation concluded there was no safety threat, saying someone was available to move the vehicle if needed, and suggesting the senior was known to walk on the roadway habitually and was not doing so due to the blockage.





They also pushed back forcefully on Agarwal's criticisms of their report.

Atwood noted it had taken Agarwal over two months after being made aware of the complaint to even acknowledge the middle finger gesture had "possibly occurred."

A move to reduce Agarwal's penalty to two weeks' pay, proposed by Coun. Trevor Giertuga, failed on a 5-5 tie.

Giertuga later cast the only vote against imposing the 30-day pay suspension recommended by the firm Principles Integrity.

WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			
Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Precipitation: 0% HIGH -6 LOW -12	Precipitation: 0% HIGH -2 LOW -7	Precipitation: 0% HIGH 1 LOW -4	Precipitation: 0% HIGH 0 LOW -9

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City delays turf facility project

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

City council's years-long search for a way forward on a proposed indoor turf sports complex took another turn Monday, as councillors approved steps that could make it challenging to begin a build in 2024.

The facility's largest potential user group, Soccer Northwest Ontario (SNO), expressed incredulity and frustration at the move.

Steps council approved Monday, including ordering further consultation with users that SNO called redundant, will delay the project by three to five months, city staff estimated.

That means the city likely could not launch a procurement process calling for bids from the private sector until the second half of 2024.

Coun. Shelby Ch'ng expressed frustration with the prospect of further delays.

SNO president Michael Veneziale echoed that point, saying after years of indecision and false starts by council on the project, many users are fed up.

"Our user groups have absolutely no faith in this process anymore," he said.

Council rejected administration's recommended financing plan for a facility next to the Community Auditorium, which would have



The city is considering a site adjacent to the Community Auditorium for an indoor turf complex. (Ian Kaufman)

set a roadmap to pay for a \$44.5-million facility.

That figure comes from a Class C estimate

for the build next to the Auditorium, prepared by consultant Hanscomb Ltd. and considered accurate within 15 to 20 per cent.

It's based on a hangar-like steel-sided design proposed by SNO, upgraded to meet city building standards and the LEED Silver environmental standard at council's direction - a compromise that falls short of the city's net-zero climate goals.

Instead, council approved a motion from Coun. Mark Bentz to cap construction costs for the project at \$30 million, not including some site investigation and design costs.

Veneziale said he supports capping the build price around \$30 million, a benchmark he believes the private sector can meet if given the leeway to do so.

He has publicly questioned the estimate presented by administration, and joined several councillors in zeroing in on the city's inclusion of nearly \$13 million in "allowances."

Those allowances include room for inflation through 2025, assuming the build won't start until then, as well as a 10 per cent allowance to cover "design and pricing unknowns" with a Class C estimate, and a further construction allowance "based on the complexity of the project."

Those come on top of what Hanscomb pegged as a \$27.7-million base building cost, and \$3.2 million in site and ancillary work.

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Police hold the scene on Arundel Street following the 2019 death of 41-year-old Nazareth Kwandibens. (FILE)

Man gets eight years in killing

Johnathan McKay sentenced in 2019 death

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

The family of 41-year-old Nazareth Kwandibens say no sentence imposed on the man responsible for his death will ease the grief and pain that they all feel, but there is hope it will prevent another family from being the victim of such violence.

"No words or actions can change the way I feel. Nazareth is gone. Today and for the rest of my life I am mourning the loss of my father," Nazareth Kwandibens' daughter, Jesse-Anne, told the court. "A sentence will not bring Nazareth back but it will keep you from committing something heinous like this again."

Jesse-Anne Kwandibens was one of several family members of Nazareth to share victim impact statements to the court during a sentencing hearing for 45-year-old Johnathan McKay before Justice Bruce Fitzpatrick on Monday.

During a hearing in March, McKay, originally from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, pleaded not guilty to the original charge of second-degree murder

but guilty to the lesser included charge of manslaughter.

A sentencing hearing was scheduled to take place in June, but it was pushed back after McKay no longer wanted to be represented by his previous lawyer, saying it was not his choice.

According to the agreed statement of facts, McKay beat Nazareth Kwandibens over the course of several hours inside his own residence on the 300 block of Arundel Street on Nov. 13, 2019.

The assault began after McKay believed a woman he had been romantically involved with had cheated on him with Nazareth. At the time of the assault McKay was under the influence of alcohol and crack cocaine.

Nazareth suffered numerous blunt force injuries to his head, face, neck, and torso and the cause of death was determined to be acute subdermal hematoma from a blunt force head injury.

McKay was arrested by the Thunder Bay Police Service and initially charged with second-degree murder and forcible confinement.

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Three-year-old Kirin Rae hangs an ornament on Dilico's Christmas Wish tree at Goods & Co. Market. (Leith Dunick)

Christmas Wish helping children

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

For the past 14 years, Christmas has been a little bit brighter for thousands of children thanks to the Dilico Christmas Wish Campaign.

Now entering Year No. 15, the annual program provides empty red shopping bags, with gift suggestions personalized to individual youngsters, and asks the public to fill them with gifts and other essential items like clothing and toothpaste.

It's made a huge difference, said Blythe Haynen, assistant director of communications at Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.

"A lot of children's wishes come true, just because of the generosity in this community. Some kids that may not be looking for something under the Christmas tree are because Dilico Christmas Wish campaign exists and we have such a generous community that fills those bags with the most amazing gifts for kids," Haynen said on Thursday, launching the 2023 campaign at Goods & Co Market.

It's the personalization that makes the Christmas Wish campaign unique in Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario, she added.

"Every single bag is designed for a child who has been profiled by our workers at Dilico. They've reached out to them, gotten sizes, what they're looking for, for Christmas, so it's all very special, on the tag," Haynen said.

"You can sign out these Christmas Wish

bags at Goods & Co., Starbucks, Bay Village Coffee, Waxed, our Dilico locations, or see us at some of our Christmas Wish booths around town."

Haynen said in addition to the presents, they suggest participants put in extras, like a warm piece of clothing or socks or a sweater, a book and maybe a toy to go along with the wish.

"It takes a lot of work. Our workers have been busy connecting with the kids and asking them what their wishes are to make it special. I think it goes a long way when they get what they've asked for. It's so special to see when a kid has asked for something, that they get that exact wish," Haynen said.

"I know it means a lot to the kids to know somebody out in the community has thought of them and put in some thought and effort to go out and get them their wish."

This year, to mark the 15th anniversary, a special ornament has been created by Nor'wester Designs, with the proceeds being used to help fill more Christmas Wish bags.

Dilico has also issued a special challenge to the business community, asking each participating business to commit to filling 15 bags or more. Westland Insurance was the first business to accept the challenge.

Christmas Wish bags must be returned by Dec. 4 in order to prepare them for delivery to children in Thunder Bay and several First Nations communities.

EDITORIAL

Council code

Elected officials have a code of conduct that requires them to act appropriately at all times.

Playing the 'do you know who I am' game gets old fast, regardless of what your station of life might be.

It's equally as bad for a politician to try to pull a stunt like that as it might be an emergency room doctor looking for special treatment.

While it's understandable that it will take first-term councillors some time to come to terms with the nuances of the job, sometimes common sense has to prevail.

Being a city councillor comes with a hefty responsibility, and an even heavier expectation from the public that they stay above the fray.

Councillors are told from the start not to use their standings for personal benefit, and elected officials should never threaten to use their position in an attempt to get their way, by threatening to phone police, etc., to try to intimidate someone into doing something.

It takes a strong person to serve council, and we applaud anyone who takes up the challenge. But they must remember it's a privilege for them to serve and not a means for them to exercise their privilege.

Stop the turf facility plan To the editor:

I was born at night just not last night!

In the recent press release our mayor shared that there seems to be an intent to give every nickel of the federal government's housing accelerator fund to the Developers who already were set to profit from this needed housing boom.

This reminds me of the wind turbine fiasco where promises were made with no authority to make them. It is, yet unproven, that we may get \$46 million from the Accelerator fund but, consider this real math.

At the lowest suggested incentive of \$20,000 per unit, not the maximum of \$30,000, for 2100 units that is \$42 million dollars. \$20,000 by 2,100 equals \$42 million.

Is it any wonder the developers are singing the praises of the once in a generation Ponzi Scheme.

It is stated quite clearly that we are in a quagmire of a self-induced infrastructure deficit, of over \$30 million.

Self-induced because our

Donald Street leadership continually proposes and gets behind Effigies to Stupidity and so far, has promised and wasted \$14 million in just 12 years with absolutely nothing to show for any of it.

Logic will show that this illogical planning from the Citizen Owned Corporation that not only has created this existing deficit but knows it must be added to in order to support the new builds and rebuilds to satisfy the needed housing.

A conservative estimate, using our city-wide method of grabbing numbers out of the air, would yield a minimum of \$10 million to \$20 million in added infrastructure costs.

That then puts our infrastructure gap at \$40 million to \$50 million with no plan to reduce it in the near future or at anytime before the end of the next ice age. And the Provincial \$1.8 million won't even pay for the meeting lunches.

But there is the suggestion to continuing a debenture payment, a loan even when closed, in perpetuity just like paying off your car but the bank keeps taking the money, in other words

breaching the contract.

Now we know that growth leads to increased returns but, when you are starting so deep in a, self induced, hole this generational win will be causing suffering for multi-generations to come.

So now subtract \$42 million from a Potential \$46 million and you are left with \$4 million.

Our council, past and present, has thrown twice that away on chasing the TBCEC project during a time of much better financial options and lower inflation but, has nothing but egg on our faces to show for it.

I won't even touch the indoor turf farce which is simply an ongoing failure based on a denial of history.

Do I suggest that we not support those putting their finances forward to build the units we need. But remember it's called real estate speculation for a reason not real estate surety.

Do I suggest that we should not consider these already profit-driven entities, who would not be in the game if they did not see dollar signs at the end.

They have a place within a realistic, well thought out plan better

suited to support the owners of the city now and in the future.

Call it greed if you want, I see it purely as seizing an opportunity when you are negotiating with an organization out of touch with reality.

Strong Mayor Powers, well if what I see so far in this example then absolutely the council majority was, with out question, right to reject the request.

And now it is time for this council to stand up to this completely illogical, and fiscally irresponsible, plan and bring forward a motion to use council's Super Majority power to reject this plan Categorically and without Reservation.

Makes me wonder why our Strong Mayor has not held one single town hall with the community to explain why he felt it necessary to request such powers when some communities are rejecting it.

Or in retrospect maybe not.

Vern Seymour,
Thunder Bay

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Macias details growing up North Korean

Black Girl from Pyongyang: in search of my identity by Monica Macias is an evocative memoir of a remarkable childhood, and the true story of a West African girl's upbringing in North Korea.

In 1979, seven-year-old Monica Macias was sent by her father Francisco, the first post-colonial President of Equatorial Guinea, to the beautiful, unfamiliar surroundings of North Korea, to be educated under the guardianship of his ally Kim Il Sung. Within months, her father was executed in a coup; her mother became unreachable. She and her siblings would have to make a life in Pyongyang. At military boarding school, Monica learned to

mix with local children, speak fluent Korean and handle weapons on training exercises.

This is a remarkable book, not just because of Monica's personal story, but because it presents a positive picture of North Korea, its Communist system and leaders, which goes totally against the western bourgeois image of this progressive and much misunderstood country.

When Monica travels to the West she is constantly approached by journalists and documentary makers who want to 'tell

her story'. But what she soon discovers is they want to use her to tell their own versions of the truth.

She talks to many North Koreans who 'defected' to the South and finds the vast majority of them left their home country - for economic rather than political reasons. When they arrived in the South they quickly became disillusioned with its capitalist system and wanted to return to the North: 'In recent years an increasing number of defectors had been returning to the North. "Send me back to the North", one

defector stated in a documentary of the same title made by Newstapa, an independent South Korean government news agency'.

Newstapa also reported that a North Korean 'defector' organization in South Korea misused a South Korean government subsidy while disseminating fake news about the North Korean government.

The key factors encouraging such 'defectors' to return were a lack of income-generating opportunities in the South, discrimination and public suspicion of them.

'Defectors' Kim Ryon Hee and Kwon Chol Nam have said they regret their decision to travel to the South, as reported in the *Guardian*:

'Forever strangers: the North Korean defectors who want to go back'. Since being arrested in a dispute over wage discrimination with his boss, Kwon said his 'will to go back to the North has never changed. In the North, no one treated me like that. When I arrived in South Korea I was told I would be treated equally but that was bullshit'.

South Korea hosts about 30,000 North Korean 'defectors' and about half of them report facing similar discrimination. Yet many fear speaking up publicly to raise awareness of their situation. But Monica is not afraid to speak up loudly and clearly in support of North Korea and its Communist system.



John Pateman
BOOK BANTER

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Canada's iconic national bird

By JR Shermack - For TB Source

Canada's national gaggle is alive and well. Anyone who spends time outside and enjoys autumn in Thunder Bay will often be distracted by a distinctive honking noise off in the distance.

If you look up toward the sky you can see chevron flights of Canada geese flying high and plowing their way southward in search of greener pastures.

Of course the pastures they leave behind aren't as green as they once were - turf may be completely destroyed or rendered unusable by layers of gooey, green/black goose poop.

Local residents are familiar with these deposits in and around city parks, playgrounds and on beaches and golf courses, not to mention the bottoms of sneakers and walking shoes.

This is the legacy of an estimated seven million Canada geese that currently inhabit North America, reaching unprecedented numbers even in areas where they were once unknown.

Flocks have been relocated to Europe and New Zealand where they also do very well.

However, their success as a species has led to some direct confrontations with another

even more successful species, humans.

The geese don't mean us any harm, they just like sharing our space - they are tolerated but our lifestyles clash in certain areas.

These large birds can be a significant hazard to aircraft during takeoff and landing and most airports take measures to scare the geese away.

Aggressive pairs of Canada geese will actively defend their nests and can cause injuries to small children and pets.

These large herbivores can denude grassy areas and other landscaped spaces while leaving an unsightly mess in their wake - walk at your own risk.

Whenever any species becomes a nuisance to humans it usually doesn't end well for that species but the Canada goose is holding its own.

For one thing, they are protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act which safeguards them from harm by humans - but not all harm because they are also game birds.

Over 500,000 Canada geese are taken by Canadian bird hunters each year and yet the gaggle continues to thrive - they are also hunted by foxes, bobcats, coyotes and other predators.

We might as well admit it, we can't beat them so we need to find a way to keep them



Canada geese are plentiful in Thunder Bay. (FILE)

off the lawn.

Thunder Bay has an active goose control program that involves the use of dogs to harass and chase the geese away from

popular recreational areas.

Airports often use sound cannons, pyrotechnics and other means to deter the geese and keep the airways clear of hazards.

And now a local innovator has developed another way to chase the geese away with an electronic device called, appropriately enough, the Goose Chaser.

It is a battery-powered box that generates the sound of vicious, barking dogs along with the honking of geese in distress - if I were a goose I would steer clear.

It is promoted as a highly efficient user-friendly way to repel geese without doing them any harm - nobody wants to hurt them but they can be difficult to live with.

Every year about this time vast flocks get the urge for going and they take flight to escape the coming winter frost, seeking warmer weather elsewhere.

Even though it bears our country's name and its numbers are huge the iconic Canada goose is not our national bird - that honor goes to the grey jay or 'whiskey jack'.

Nevertheless, Canada geese are easily recognizable by sight, sound and droppings - we reluctantly allow them to live among us while trying our best to drive them away.

We seem to have struck an uneasy balance with our national gaggle.

what's happening
in and around...

The Bay

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Please include details about the event, including any cost

Nov. 24-25

Thunderwolves Basketball

The Thunderwolves men's and women's teams are both coming off a pair of losses in the nation's capital and will be looking to get back into the win column on Friday and Saturday night against Windsor and Western.

Game time both nights is 6 p.m. for the women and 8 p.m. for the men.

Tickets are available online or at the door.

Nov. 24-25

Thunderwolves Hockey

Ontario University Athletics has switched things up this year and scheduled teams from the West to play teams from the East.

That means visits this weekend by the No. 8 UQTR Patriots and the unranked, but powerful McGill Redbirds.

UQTR brings a strong 10-4-1 record to the Gardens on Friday night, while

McGill sits at 8-3-1 and promises to present an equally tough challenge for a Thunderwolves team who split last weekend on the road, beating York before being beaten 8-2 by Concordia.

Game time is 7 p.m. each night, with tickets available at the Gardens Box Office, online and in person.

Nov. 25

Glorious Sons concert

Following the release of their brand-new single "Mercy Mercy" two-time JUNO Award-winning rock band The Glorious Sons have announced the Glory Tour, which kicked off two months ago with dates across North America.

The Glory Tour will feature special guests The Blue Stones.

The Thunder Bay Community Auditorium show starts at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Tickets are available by visiting Ticketmaster.ca.

Nov. 29

Barra MacNeils Christmas

The Barra MacNeils - An East Coast Christmas is a musical potpourri of traditional MacNeil family favourites gleaned from Christmas ceilidhs, midnight masses and the general festive frolic that accompanies each holiday season.

With their captivating vocals, distinctive harmonies and extraordinary musicianship, The Barra MacNeils inject new life and energy into the sights and sounds of Christmas...one moment a rousing chorus, then a hauntingly beautiful Gaelic ballad, the next a flurry of foot-stomping instrumentals, which of course pulls one then another into a step-dancing revelry.

For a delightful seasonal celebration, don't miss An East Coast Christmas with the Barra MacNeils!

Tickets are available by visiting Ticketmaster.ca.



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



Salvation Army sets \$260K goal

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Gary Ferguson is confident the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign will hit its ambitious \$260,000 target.

The money, he added, is crucial for the organization to continue doing what they do, helping house the homeless and feed hundreds more who might go without a healthy meal.

"It is an ambitious goal, but the community has always supported us in the work that we've done," Ferguson said on Thursday, launching this year's campaign, which wraps up on Dec. 23.

"I'm very confident we'll be able to meet that goal or come very close."

It's the Salvation Army's biggest campaign of the year, Ferguson added, noting the money helps fund year-round programming that is helping to make an impact on some of the city's biggest social problems.

"The money that we raise in this campaign will be used 365 days a year, helping individuals. Some of it will go to transitional housing, supportive housing, shelter. It goes toward our food bank. And we also use it for our soup van, which many people see out in the community," Ferguson said.



Salvation Army Journey to Life executive director Gary Ferguson (left) and Mayor Ken Boshcoff. (Leith Dunick)

Thunder Bay Mayor Ken Boshcoff said organizations like the Salvation Army are key to helping combat some of the biggest issues facing the city, including homelessness and poverty.

"This is the new front line," Boshcoff said. "People who really need help, need help in situations that most of society isn't familiar with — where you're freezing cold, you're really hungry, you have some problem with

intoxicants of some form and just a place to rest your head becomes a fundamental human search."

Kettles will be out at businesses throughout the community, including local Walmart stores, Intercity Shopping Centre, the Real Canadian Superstore, Grandview Mall and, starting on Dec. 1, LCBO locations on Arthur Street, Dawson Road and the Thunder Centre.

No donation is too big or too small, Ferguson said.

"If somebody says they only have 25 cents, 25 cents will buy a cup of soup that I'm able to give somebody in the soup van," Ferguson said. "So, every dime, every quarter, every nickel, every dollar counts."

Kettle locations will once again be equipped with tap devices, allowing those who don't normally carry cash to make donations of \$5, \$10 and \$20, and new this year are table-top tap devices that will collect \$5 donations with the tap of a bank card.

They'll be located at Thunder Bay A&W locations, select Circle K stores and both Beefcakes Burger Factory restaurants.

Ferguson said the Salvation Army is still looking for kettle volunteers. Anyone interested can phone 807-345-6492.

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A late fall, early winter fire is always a way to warm up as the cold weather settles in.

Getting fired up

Firewood is an essential part of our outdoor experiences. We use it to heat the camp, to fuel the sauna, to cook the shore lunch and to keep the bonfire burning late into the evening. Having a supply of clean, dry wood on hand is essential, and autumn is the best time to restock the inventory. I like to use my chainsaw to cut up logs into sixteen-inch lengths and then stack them where they can dry out for a year or two. When I need to refill the wood box for the upcoming winter, I will then split these logs into firewood. Waiting for the logs to dry through a couple winters makes splitting them with an axe easy work. If you were in a rush to dry out some green wood, it would be wise to use a log-splitter and to remove the bark so it could dry quicker.

When choosing firewood, selecting the right type can make a noticeable difference, especially when you are using it indoors. At our camp, we often use spruce for campfires, but we only use birch and black ash that has been well-seasoned (allowed to completely dry out) to provide heat inside the camp to keep us comfortable through the winter.

Of these two types of trees, birch is easily the most popular choice in this area because it is plentiful, and it provides the perfect burn. A fireplace filled with seasoned birch will provide a lot of heat for an extended amount of

time, with little smoke and no popping. It gets bonus marks for the pleasant aroma it provides and the fact that it leaves behind little ash and residue. For a sublime burning experience, you can never go wrong by choosing birch.

Black ash is rarer, but this dense hardwood burns clean, long, and almost as hot as birch. This makes it a great choice for that final load you put into the fireplace before retiring for the night. By closing off the damper, black ash will provide a prolonged burn and consistent heat for many hours. Sometimes the coals will still be glowing the next morning.

Meanwhile, spruce is a popular choice for the outdoor firepit because it is so abundant here in Northwestern Ontario. This lower quality firewood is easy to source, or economical if you are buying it, but it can take up to two years to be adequately seasoned and ready to burn. Spruce will provide a moderate amount of heat and burn time, but it is important to understand that it is a low-density wood, so expect a moderate amount of smoke and some significant crackling and popping. These qualities are obviously unwanted indoors, but they can be very desirable when sitting around a summer bonfire.

Selecting the right type of firewood for burning indoors and out can make all the difference in keeping us warm, comfortable and happy as we sit by the fire.



Keith Ailey
the GOOD LIFE

Finishing winter wood

It was "hell-bent-for-leather", as the saying goes as son, Doug and I spent Saturday and Sunday trying to buck, split, and stack the rest of the winter wood. Almost did it too.

Well, there are four large logs left to carve into splittable sizes and get stacked in yet another row.

When those remaining logs are converted to boiler-size pieces, we will have 10 rows of birch. Doug did almost all of the chain sawing while I did almost all of the splitting and stacking. Who did the rest? My wife, Laura, was anxious to get the job done and would go out in the dark to continue splitting.

There is an outside light by Casa Jones that allowed her to split the bucked pieces to her heart's content. But Sunday Laura and daughter Beth 'exhausted' stage right to fly away on a vacation. That left me and Doug.

Laura, Beth and Doug all have day jobs so it is only in the evenings or the weekends when chores like tackling the firewood get done by them. I cut quite a few logs and got the pieces split but there were several cords left to do.

We had worked on the wood when it first arrived way back in the spring. But then in June I had a serious cooperation fixing a pronounced hernia wot had grown after my emergency appendix operation the previous year. I didn't wait long enough before trying to heft an eighty-pound dog food pail.

That effort started the hernia to grow and after a wonderful five-day canoe trip with Doug in Quetico, center flipping the canoe on each portage just sped up the growing hernia. Silly me. At any rate, the hernia operation disqualified me from any arduous task like lifting anything over ten pounds. I wasn't even allowed in the barn to muck out horse stalls for at least two months. But eventually enough time had passed that I thought I could contribute.

Of course I wear a special hernia belt anytime I do any physical task to prevent a recurrence of the hernia. The surgeon (wonderful Dr. Mapezo) told me that it would take a year to heal and to be very careful which I hope I am. So, when there are particularly hefty pieces of bucked birch, I leave it to Doug to place them on the splitter.

Because we began the winter wood preparation in the spring, that wood, bucked, split, and stacked, is now dry enough to use in our wood boiler. But the wood we have been processing this past week is for next year.

It is too wet and will require several months to dry. I counted five cords of usable firewood with another five cords stacked for next winter.



Having wood for the winter fire is a must in Northern Ontario. (Bastian Weltjen)

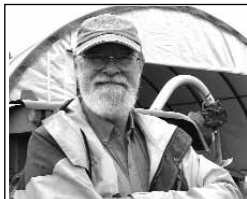
When the night skies are clear the stars shine brightly. I see that the moon is waxing. The full moon is this coming Monday that we will see if the sky is cloud-free (hope, hope).

The November full moon is called the Beaver Moon (I read in our township newsletter). It is when the beaver are getting ready to bed down in their lodges for the winter. It was apparently also a good time for trappers of beaver pelts.

I walk with our pouches to our beaver pond that contains an immense lodge but I'm not sure that it is inhabited. This pond empties into another pond

That definitely has the bucked tooth tenants. That lodge rivals the one in our upper pond in terms of size. There is a third pond south of the middle one but since the massive dam broke several years ago, we see no repairs being done and no evidence of a lodge.

In fact, the middle pond dwellers have made a new dam twixt their pond and the lower one. So it goes.



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"DUTO UJIOYDOL UJ UTQSZIUJC
ZNSYOXIOY PNDY LZMJ ZJ DUTO
MHYDOL UJ LUYHQQSZIUJC ZW ZDKOSY."
— HNDKZS NJAJZMJ

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ACROSS

- Dravidian language
- Antiballistic Missile (abbr.)
- Dial
- Down with (Fr., 2 words)
- Presidential nickname
- Love (Sp.)
- 100 centessimi
- Absolute (abbr.)
- Song (Ger.)
- Scales (pref.)
- Wrestle
- Deductive reasoning (2 words)
- Pouch
- Belonging to (suf.)
- Eise (2 words)
- Adjective-forming (suf.)
- Bachelor of Fine Arts (abbr.)
- U.S. mountain
- Indies island
- Sluggish's stat
- River or sea bottom
- Peppery sauce
- Utterly
- Bent
- Indian red powder
- Jewish scholar
- Flavor
- Ancient church platform
- Edible root
- Occupational Safety and Health Admin. (abbr.)
- Russ. inland sea
- Nat'l
- Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)
- Small Eur. codfish

DOWN

- Soft mineral

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

WOMB PAR ACDC
ABIA OTOT GOAL
VERBALLY OGRE
EDE CLEAR IBO
ORA LOOT
COMFORT IRADE
OLEO DAR ETAL
BEGIN MEGAERA
ALEA FID
DMV PROUD AID
AEON ASSEMBLE
MALA CHA ACLU
ALTE AAL ASST

- Brief death notice
- Defy
- Hindu prayer position
- Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- Better Business Bureau (abbr.)
- Sad: music
- Misrepresent
- Friends (Fr.)
- Cavity (suf.)
- Mother of Brunhilde
- Uncluse
- Tell legend site
- Mortar mixer
- Below (Lat.)
- Err
- Singleton
- Cavalry (abbr.)
- Grab
- Bravo (Sp.)
- Spread to dry
- Word by word
- Away (pref.)
- Indian timber tree
- Amazon tributary
- Eng. poet
- Ship's deck
- Para-aminobenzoic acid
- Above (Ger.)
- Fissure
- Dodecanese island
- Lover of Narcissus
- Endearment
- First-rate
- Sheep's cry

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61					62					63



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Pickle ketchup Heinz's latest

As I have a tendency to do, I'm going to be a little more forthcoming than I probably should be. One of my guiltiest of pleasures is seeing what kind of ridiculous food pairings the major food manufacturers are coming out with now.

Walking down the cookie aisle at the grocery store and seeing what new flavours of Oreos those psychos at Mr. Christie are working on is a blast to me. During college, I lived with friends for a short time in East York.

Anyone who hasn't been to that part of GTA, the Canadian headquarters of Mr. Christie are there. On a good day, when the wind was just right, the entire area would smell of freshly baked cookies. It was a blessing and a curse, see as it was wonderful.

They also had a small outlet store on sight. Where mislabelled and otherwise unsellable products were left for a discount.

As well, there were some of the new products the company was working on available to purchase and try. As a self professed fat kid, this here was truly heaven.

The rise in these specialty/seasonal flavours isn't hard to figure out. All brands require a hook or a gimmick to maintain their supremacy and market share. Reese Peanut Butter cups (widely regarded as one the worlds' most perfect creations) isn't immune to this.

Just this year, you can find peanut butter cups with Reese puffs, Reese's Pieces and even potato chips inside them. Reese even broke the internet this week by announcing they were crossing enemy lines and mixing their peanut butter with caramel to combine the "three most powerful forces" in the candy world.

I think any Canadian that walks down the Pop Tart aisle of a grocery store in the U.S., probably whispers "what the heck" to themselves about an average of three times as I think there are 100 different ones.

Not to be outdone however, this same week, the crazy folks at Heinz announced a limited edition pickle flavoured ketchup.

National Pickle Day is Nov. 14 in the USA and pickle flavoured products was a top trend for 2023.



Mountain Dew and Heinz love mixing things up.

According to Heinz, pickles and ketchup have been an iconic pairing for 150 years and this collab only makes sense. Pickle and Ketchup combinations have garnered over nine-million views via TikTok.

Different combinations of flavours are nothing new to the soft drink game. I think there's literally about 7,000 versions of Mountain Dew now.

Which is a whole nother level, and obviously in Canada we never get to see half of the ridiculous combinations that genuinely exist.

Whether you enjoy trying these things, or just wanna laugh out of morbid curiosity it seems like these insane combos are here to stay. I for one am all for it, and I'm waiting for those

candied bacon Oreos.

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

Here's Cooking at You Kid



Thousands of people turned out last Saturday for the annual Santa Claus Parade. (Matt Vis)

Parade a hit

By Matt Vis - TB Source

The middle of November this year might not yet feel like a winter wonderland in Thunder Bay, but for organizers and participants of the annual Rotary Santa Claus Parade, that was just fine.

Thousands of people lined Memorial Avenue on a cool but pleasant Saturday morning for the 31st version of the yearly kickoff to the holiday season, taking in the festively decorated floats and waiting to catch a glimpse of Santa Claus.

Parade chair Dawn Sebesta said this year's event was wonderful.

"We couldn't have asked for better weather. It was just perfect," she said.

"For me, it just makes you want to keep doing this every year. When you have a day like this, weather like this, and you see all the people and how much they're enjoying it because they're not sitting there freezing, it just makes it 100 per cent better."

The pandemic forced a two-year hiatus for the parade, which returned last year but was greeted with frigid temperatures and blowing snow that wouldn't have been out of place at the North Pole.

A packed parade showed the community's excitement for the event and

the beginning of the Christmas season.

"I think it's a really important tradition and I would hate to see the parade go by the wayside and not happen anymore," Sebesta said. "I think it really does kick off the season. Santa comes here, and then Santa is at Intercity right after that. For me especially, it just starts the holiday season."

Ed Collins, who dressed up as the Grinch for the second year in a row, said he enjoyed bringing Christmas joy to the crowds.

"I love it. I love watching the kids. I love watching the adults. I love watching the elders — the glee in their eyes and their smiles," he said. "That's why I do it."

Sebesta said this year's parade had 57 registered floats.

"I saw the entries as they were coming in and the variety of what we had — all the way from the Grinch to the Frozen float — there were all different kinds of really different floats. We had marchers in the parade. We had fire trucks. There was a lot of variety and different things for the families to see along the route."

Audrey Horne, who got to take part in the parade alongside Brielle Thompson, said it was awesome to see all the people along the route.



The Grinch is always a hit with the crowd at the annual Santa Claus Parade. (Matt Vis)

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So-so prequel

When contemplating, *Hunger Games: the Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*, SilverCity) one sets aside the gnawing cynical question, “Do we really need a “Hunger Games” prequel nearly a decade after the last entry? Can you say, “money grab?”

The answer is obviously rhetorical, but if fans spent mucho pennies to see how Annikin Skywalker evolved into Darth Vader, could equal time be given toward the *Hunger Games*’ resident villain, President Snow, impactful thanks to Donald Sutherland’s chilling portrayal?

We return to the dystopian nation of Panem, 64 years before challenges by legendary Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence). Young Coriolanus Snow (Tom Blyth) is opportunistic and snobby but far from the dastardly president he’s destined to become.

Though his father was co-creator of the Games, Coriolanus’ family (female cousin and grandm’am) has fallen on hard times. By serving as cold-blooded mentor in the 10th edition of the Games, overseeing lowly District 12 tribute Lucy Gray Baird (Rachel Zegler), Coriolanus hopes to win the cash prize to restore his family.

But the Games’ overseers Dr. Volumnia Gaul (Viola Davis) and Dean Casca Highbottom (Peter Dinklage) have placed greater value on emotional spectacle rather than simple survival. This is exemplified by the smarmy TV emcee, Lucretius Flickerman, (Jason Schwartzman) facile and callous with a curly mustache, distracted by making his dinner reservations.

Subsequently, Lucy Gray’s musician-ship—folksy singing and guitar playing—would certainly boost ratings with the young rebellious populace. Initially aloof, Coriolanus is swayed himself after Lucy saves his life during a rebel attack. He cheats to ensure her survival. This murderous resourcefulness impresses Gaul, but not so Highbottom, his father’s partner.

Coriolanus gets a bitter first-hand taste of the capitol’s treachery when the financial ‘plinth’ is sidelined.

This business comprises two of the film’s three chapters, dealing with Snow’s backstory and the Games’ grisly combat. Blyth acquits himself well enough, but Coriolanus’ characterization is under-served along with Gaul and Highbottom. There is little expansion on the Games and their influence on a disaffected



Rachel Ziegler plays Lucy Gray Baird and Tom Blyth is Coriolanus Snow in the latest *Hunger Games* release.

populace. Similarly, there is scant emotional investment in our doomed bloodied combatants, even Lucy Gray, whose best strategy is hiding. Combat is confined to the bombed out arena. Low-tech lifeline drones comically crash.

The last chapter set in District 12 is more compelling with Coriolanus functioning as a ‘peace keeper’ navigating the Nazi-like regime where fear, paranoia and betrayal define life in Panem. Betrayals slowly harden Snow’s character. His (under-written) love for Lucy is at odds with saving his family at the capitol, his sole redeeming quality. This conflict is not fully explored.

There is some nuance where Coriolanus and Lucy take refuge in the woods. A little incriminating slip touches off palpable tension between the two, resulting in the film’s most suspenseful scene.

Ultimately, this is a serviceable entry that does little to advance or denigrate the *Hunger Games* brand.

Further exploration into Coriolanus Snow’s compromised soul, however, should be unnecessary.



Marty Mascarini
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Christmas Carol still a top draw

By Linda Maehans - TB Source

No better way for this community to experience a classic tale of human redemption, one that should ring true all year and not just as another Yuletide season approaches. Our long-lived and beloved amateur theatre troupe Cambrian Players, nearing their three-quarter century mark, are set to bring us Dickens' timeless ghost story and salvation of a miserly money-lender named Ebenezer Scrooge. You've heard of him; perhaps even met him. Well, this time Cambrian presents Canadian playwright James Hutchison's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol: Every Man Has The Power To Do Good*.

Rich with a full exposé of Victorian society in the 1800s; and oh, those costumes, those accents, mannerisms and details of a long-gone era. Let's time-travel back there and be glad for it. No ma'am. There'll be no bah! humbug! for us. No sir.

Caden Lear is new to Cambrian Players; yet in this large cast of 25 he seems an ideal fit for the stage, and for this story.

"I heard great things about Cambrian Players, so I auditioned, got my part. It's super exciting. Yes I'm here by chance, but also because something somewhere, possibly a ghost," Caden smiles, "convinced me this is my time to jump in."

Hold's up

When asked about the relevancy of *A Christmas Carol* today, Caden doesn't hesitate.

"The themes that hit home, for me, are ones to do with people who are cold toward the season, cold in general, not wanting to share. To share what we have in the little time we have to share it. If you're stuck, maybe bitter, or if in too old-fashioned of ways, you're going to miss what the season has to offer, all the good stuff, the fun. That aim hasn't changed. And so why shouldn't it ring true, now. It does."

Veteran Cambrian Player Thomas McDonald is once again in his director's chair for what he describes, from all the scripts he's read, as the warmest telling of *A Christmas Carol*.

Warm?

Are we expected to feel warmly toward Scrooge? Toward his ghosts? Not me, thought this "old-fashioned stuck", breaking into my own smile. McDonald mentions how this production emphasizes



Gabe Ferrazzo (left) and Caden Lear star in Magnus Theatre's production of *A Christmas Carol: Every Man Has The Power To Do Good*. (Thomas McDonald photos)

the value of good (male) role models; say, someone like a Fezziwig who, initially anyway, made a difference in young Ebenezer's life. Yes, one person can make a difference.

"With this production you are going to see it all, a universal story now evolved. I think for many people *A Christmas Carol* is such an integral part of their holiday. Seeing it live, with our huge cast, all the colour, period costumes, a beautiful set, lovely props, music...all in one place...I am certain it will give audiences that rush of Christmas feeling that they're hoping for, that real spirit of Christmas arrived. The truth of it. About family; about people, about community."

Welcoming venue

McDonald added Cambrian Players' new focus will be on inclusivity; including making improvements to their home on Spring Street.

Join them for a wonderful experience from Nov.29 to Dec.2; Sunday Dec.3 matinee-and-tea; again Dec. 6-9; tickets on Eventbrite; Thursday Nov.30 is "pay what you can at the door".

Come in and get warm!



feature Gabe Ferrazzo and Jarin Brown (left) in *A Christmas Carol: Every Man Has The Power to Do Good*.



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Lambeau visit a must for NFL fans

As a Minnesota Vikings fan, the Green Bay Packers are arch-enemy No. 1.

Still, I couldn't resist marching into Lambeau last weekend to watch the Los Angeles Chargers take on the hometown favourites.

The Packers game day experience is second to none. Everywhere you turn, there are tailgaters cooking up brats and sipping (chugging) Milwaukee's finest.

The field itself has a Wrigley-type feel too it. You instantly know you're in a place with a lot of history.

The stadium is old – though not as old as Fort William Gardens, opening in September 1957.

Seven of the Packers 13 championships have come since then, the most recent in 2010, with Aaron Rodgers at the helm.

We sat in the 300-level, on metal benches that must be really uncomfortable when the temperature dips below freezing (and not really all that comfortable above zero either).



Leith Dunick
SPORTS SHORTS



Fans of the Green Bay Packers go all out for game day at Lambeau Field, cheering their team on. (Leith Dunick)

Cheeseheads are everywhere and the team's ring of honour boasts some of the greatest in the National Football League's history, including Bart Starr, Brett Favre, Vince Lombardi, Jim Taylor, Don Hutson and Ray Nitschke.

The Packers pulled out the 20-16 win for their

fans too, Jordan Love leading a late fourth-quarter drive, connecting with Romeo Doubs for the 24-yard go-ahead touchdown.

My buddy, Richard, and I, left as soon as they took the lead, trying to beat the crowd to the arena parking lot and make a hasty exit so we could get back to Chicago's United Center,

where the Blackhawks and Buffalo Sabres were playing.

We made it with about four minutes left in the first period, which given Chicago traffic, wasn't too bad. We went to see Connor Bedard and he didn't disappoint, picking up a pretty assist on the Hawks second goal. He looked solid all night and I can't wait to see what the future's got in store.

There were five former No. 1 overall picks on the ice on Sunday: Bedard, Taylor Hall, Rasmus Dahlin, Owen Power and Erik Johnson.

I'm sure that's happened before, given Edmonton's run of No. 1 picks a few years ago, a list that included Hall, but it was still pretty cool to see.

Also cool was the number of Patrick Sharp jerseys in the crowd. Saw more than a handful at the game, a sign that the three-time Stanley Cup champion is still beloved in the Windy City.

That, and the price of jerseys is ridiculous, so the average fan has to make due. Case in point, me, who wore my really old \$10 Nate Burleson Vikings jersey on Sunday, a definite jersey foul, as the Action Network's Darren Rovell would say, but I gotta support my team.

Maybe Santa will bring me a new Justin Jefferson jersey for Christmas. Hint, hint.



LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY THUNDERWOLVES

2023-2024 SEASON

SEASON SCHEDULE

BASKETBALL & VOLLEYBALL

MEN AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NOV 10 & 11TH vs. YORK LIONS

NOV 24TH vs. WESTERN MUSTANGS

NOV 25TH vs. WINDSOR LANCERS

JAN 5TH vs. LAURENTIAN VOYAGEURS

JAN 6TH vs. NIPISSING LAKERS

JAN 26 & 27TH vs. BROCK BADGERS

FEB 9TH vs. QUEEN'S GAELS

FEB 10TH vs. ONTARIO TECH RIDGEBACKS

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

NOV 17 & 18TH vs. TORONTO VARSITY BLUES

JAN 12 & 13TH vs. TMU BOLD

JAN 19 & 20TH vs. NIPISSING LAKERS

FEB 2 & 3RD vs. QUEEN'S GAELS

FEB 16 & 17TH vs. RMC PALADINS

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LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY THUNDERWOLVES

2023-2024 SEASON

SEASON SCHEDULE

HOCKEY

OCT 13 & 14TH

WATERLOO WARRIORS

OCT 21ST

ONTARIO TECH RIDGEBACKS

NOV 3 & 4TH

WESTERN MUSTANGS

NOV 24TH

UQTR PATRIOTES

NOV 25TH

MCGILL RED BIRDS

JAN 5TH

QUEEN'S GAELS

JAN 6TH

RMC PALADINS

JAN 12 & 13TH

WILFRED LAURIER

GOLDEN HAWKS

FEB 2 & 3RD

WINDSOR LANCERS

FEB 9TH

NIPISSING LAKERS

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03. Mobile Homes
04. Lots / Acreage
05. Condos
06. Cottages
07. Commercial
08. Investment Property
09. Out of Town
10. Real Estate Wanted

38. Snowmobiles
39. Parts & Repairs
YARD SALES
40. Current River
41. Northward
42. South
43. Westfort
44. Rural

MISC.,NOTICES, TENDERS
45. Auctions
46. Health
47. Travel
48. Financial
49. Lost & Found
50. Personal
51. Notices
52. Tenders

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thunder Bay's Source reserves the right to classify ads under appropriate headings and to set rates therefore and to determine page locations.

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

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

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

18. STORAGE/SPACE
Westfort GARAGE STALL available for STORAGE only. Concrete floor, no heat. Minimum 5 months, \$75.00/month, cash prepayment. Call 807-623-2164.

23. MISC. FOR SALE
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30. MISC. WANTED
Wanted, Firearms, Rifles, Shotguns, Cannons, Military items, single items or entire estates, I have proper permits to purchase. Call 807-627-4764

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

63. COMING EVENTS
Thunder Bay Potters Guild 49th Annual Christmas Pottery Sale. Nov 18th 2023, 10-4pm, at Goods&co (251 Red River Road).

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ENIGMA SOLUTION: "Time invested in improving ourselves cuts down on time wasted in disapproving of others."
— Author Unknown

LEGAL NOTICES
NOTICE TO CREDITORS & OTHERS
Anyone having a claim against the Estate of GRANT WILLIAM SIMMONS, late of the City of Thunder Bay, District of Thunder Bay who died on the 16th day of October, 2023, is required on or before the 18th day of December, 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: November 16, 2023

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