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Thursday, December 7, 2023

LIGHT BRIGHT



Parade of Lights proves to be a huge hit, an annual tradition loved by all /3

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Crowds lined the parade route last Saturday night to check out more than 100 floats that took part in the always popular Parade of Lights. (Matt Vis)



About 100 floats were entered in last Saturday's annual Parade of Lights. (Matt Vis)

Parade of Lights draws thousands

By Matt Vis - TB Source

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Thunder Bay.

With a little bit of snow on the ground, and temperatures just below the freezing point, thousands of local residents lined the route of the Parade of Lights on Saturday night to continue a long-time local tradition.

Parade chair Greg Stephenson said more than 125 floats registered, with the total number of vehicles likely around 140.

"It's an awesome turnout," he said. "It's marvellous the job that they do. We're really excited."

"It's the people that put the work into the trucks and the people who come out to watch," Stephenson said. "We wouldn't have a parade if it wasn't for them."

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the parade in 2020 and while it was able to go ahead in each of past two years,

Stephenson believes that disruption and the excitement people have for the event demonstrate its importance.

"People come out whether it's warm or cold. We were blessed [Saturday] because of the weather," he said. "We're glad we're able to do it."

Stephenson said the parade, which is sponsored by the Thunder Bay Police Association, takes a large group of volunteers to pull off.

"We have officers who donate their time to do the traffic duty — we couldn't do it without them," Stephenson said. "We have civilians and the charities involved to supply walkers that walk along the route."

The parade serves as a fundraiser for four local charities — George Jeffrey Children's Foundation, the Thunder Bay chapter of Special Olympics Ontario, Autism Ontario, and the Thunder Bay Therapeutic Riding Association — and last year raised just over \$45,000.

WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Precipitation: 10% HIGH 10 LOW 10	Precipitation: 10% HIGH 10 LOW 10	Precipitation: 10% HIGH 10 LOW 10	Precipitation: 10% HIGH 10 LOW 10

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Thunder Bay has targeted 2,100 new housing starts in just three years.

City hires pair to help housing

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

A city council that's previously focused on cutting municipal staff made an exception Monday, approving two new temporary positions meant to support Thunder Bay's highly ambitious housing goals.

Council voted by a strong margin to move ahead immediately with the hires, over objections from a minority that the decision should wait for budget time in February.

Instead, Coun. Rajni Agarwal won the day with her argument that the city couldn't afford to lose months on the step, after targeting a staggering 2,100 new housing builds over the next three years.

Reaching that goal will require an infusion of tens of millions of federal dollars, not to mention the ability and willingness of builders to achieve a pace of housing development unseen in Thunder Bay's modern history.

Council's decision will see the city move forward immediately with hiring an affordable housing navigator and a housing accelerator coordinator within the city's development services division.

The affordable housing navigator would assist non-profit groups to "find a pathway to successful projects," director of development services Joel DePeuter told council.

The housing accelerator coordinator, meanwhile, would develop and oversee the

incentive programs included in the city's application for \$45 million through the federal Housing Accelerator Fund.

The incentive programs envisioned by the city are expected to offer developers subsidies of \$20,000 or more per unit, with higher amounts for types of housing governments want to encourage, like affordable units and infill developments.

The resolution approved Monday, put forward by Agarwal, sets aside up to \$200,000 a year through the end of 2026 to support the positions, drawn from the city's land development account. The account would be reimbursed if the city is successful in receiving new provincial and federal housing incentive funding.

"I am not one to spend a lot of extra money, but the money is a front-end investment to be replenished... a temporary bridge for what we need to get done," Agarwal reasoned.

The navigator position was included as an action item in the city's Housing Accelerator Fund application, on which it's still awaiting word.

While those federal dollars may or may not come through, Coun. Kasey Etrene pointed out the city will receive an estimated \$600,000 from the province's Building Faster Fund after beating its housing target this year.

That amount is roughly equivalent to what the two new positions will cost the city over three years, she noted.

Lamont guilty in art-fraud case

By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

One of the eight accused in the Norval Morrisseau art fraud ring, which has been called one of the largest art frauds in history, has pleaded guilty to two charges.

Gary Lamont, 61, appeared before Justice Bonnie Warkentin in a Thunder Bay courtroom on Monday where he pleaded guilty to one count of forgery and one count of defrauding the public above \$5,000.

The facts and sentencing submissions will be heard at a second hearing scheduled for Dec. 14, where the remaining charges against Lamont are expected to be withdrawn.

Lamont was first charged in March 2023 along with seven co-accused including: Benjamin Morrisseau, 53, David John Voss, 51, Diane Marie Champagne, 63, Linda Tkachyk, 59, all from Thunder Bay, as well as Jeffrey Cowan, 47, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, James White, 81, of Essa Township, and David Bremner, 75, of Locust Hill.

The charges follow a joint three-year investigation by the Thunder Bay Police Service and the Ontario Provincial Police into fraudulent art works claimed to have been done by Norval Morrisseau.



Gary Lamont is one of eight people charged in the Norval Morrisseau art-fraud ring. (FILE)

Morrisseau, also known as Copper Thunderbird, was a prominent Indigenous artist originally from Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek First Nation and famous for

founding the Woodlands School of art. Morrisseau gained international fame for his works and passed away in 2007 at the age of 75.

As part of the police investigation, more than 1,000 fraudulent works of art were seized and it is believed between 4,500 and 6,000 were created by interconnected criminal rings between 2002 and 2019.

Some of the works sold for tens of thousands of dollars. The fraudulent works were also the subject of the documentary *There are No Fakes*.

Following the conclusion of the investigation and the arrests, investigators called it one of the largest art fraud rings in world history.

The Crown informed the court that it will be seeking a forfeiture order of the seized paintings and victims will be advised of their right to seek relief from the forfeiture.

Victims will also be provided with an opportunity to submit victim impact statements, including the potential submission of a community victim impact statement prepared by elders.

Lamont has previously pleaded guilty to five counts of sexual assault from incidents that took place between 1993 and 2007, involving male victims between the ages of 17 and 24 years old, and was arrested on a new charge in 2022, which remains before the courts.

“A building is just a building, it takes the people inside to make it a home. He thought of this as his home.”

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EDITORIAL

Housing crisis

Canada faces plenty of challenges, including a pair of big ones in climate change and the economy.

The biggest challenge of them all might be the housing shortage.

According to a Canada Mortgage and Housing Report, about 22 million housing units will be needed by 2030 in order to make housing affordable.

That means builders will need to construct 3.5 million more housing units than planned.

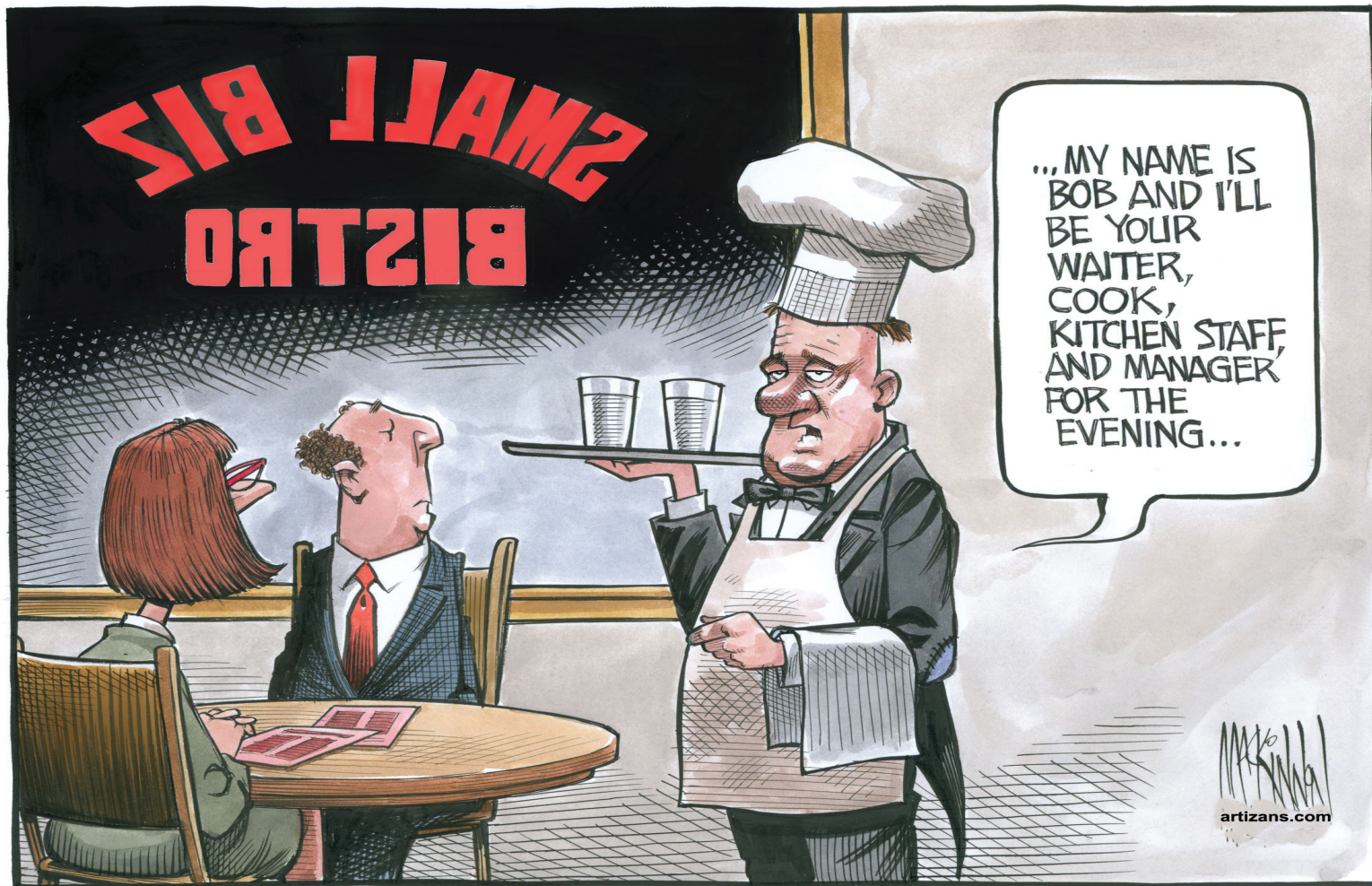
Ottawa, provincial governments and local city and town councils have to find a way to make it happen.

The average house price in Ontario in October was \$855,990, which is slightly lower than it was in 2022, but still far out of reach for most young people.

To buy a home in Canada, one needs at least five per cent of the purchase price for a downpayment.

With a minimum downpayment, and a five-year fixed rate of 5.24 per cent, that's about \$4,868 monthly. That's a big ask for the average family. Even in Thunder Bay, with an average price of \$325,000, it's \$1,848.

The average rent is \$1,100 in the city. That eats up a third of a minimum-wage salary, before taxes. It's a crisis. Housing and shelter are a right, not a privilege.



Marquis de Sade's work challenges the state

The Crimes of Love by the Marquis de Sade show another side to this infamous novelist who was made notorious by such classic works as *Juliette*, *One Hundred and Twenty Days of Sodom* and *Justine*.

Casually dismissed as a sadist (a term that was derived from his name) and cheap pornographer, there are in fact many layers to this complex Marquis.

He was writing at the time of the French Revolution and spent many years in jail which gave him the opportunity to build a considerable body of work.

His writing is both deeply revolutionary and seditious as it challenges the very pillars upon which the French state rests - from the authority of the church to the great wealth of its aristocratic

landowners.

Whereas Robespierre sought to change society by cutting off the heads of its ruling elite, Sade went further by challenging and undermining its dominant ideology.

Instead of using the guillotine, his weapon of choice in the class struggle was the power of human sexuality. As such, he was a precursor to D.H. Lawrence who did something similar in England in the early twentieth century.

'Senneval, you see in me your sister, the girl you seduced at Nancy, the woman who murdered your son, the wife of your own father and the ignoble creature who sent your mother to the gallows...' Who but the Marquis de Sade would write, not of

the pain, tragedy, and joy of love but of its crimes?

He turns the world upside down in his pursuit of vice, not for its own sake, but as a counterpoint to virtue. As he points out, you cannot have one without the other - for one to succeed the other must fail.

Murder, seduction, and incest are among the cruel rewards for selfless love in his stories; tragedy, despair, and death the inevitable outcome. Sade's villains will stop at nothing to satisfy their depraved passions, and they in turn suffer under the thrall of love.

This new selection includes 'An Essay on Novels', Sade's penetrating survey of the novelist's art. He dismisses his contemporary novelists who only write about virtue because, as he points out, they do not reflect the concrete conditions of the real world.

Sade's tales move in time and space and reveal that the crimes of love are eternal and universal. He insists that more is involved than the banal truth that love can bring both joy and regret.

By divorcing 'love' from sentiment and redefining it as lust, he shows that the good and the bad are equally doomed, for to be human is to be a victim.

Sade did not merely break with literary practice by showing 'virtue crushed by vice'. He reconnected with tragedy, as Racine had understood it.

Psychologically astute, and defiantly unconventional, these stories show Sade at his best. A skilled and artful storyteller, he is also an intellectual who asks questions about society, about ourselves, and about life, for which we have yet to find the answers.



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Foxes, henhouse and COP 28

By JR Shermack - For TB Source

Air conditioners will be running full blast in Dubai for two weeks as global decision makers gather together to save the planet, again, at COP28.

If you think climate change is being discussed at the highest levels of government and industry you are right, but if you think those discussions are helpful, that is another question.

When people are asked how they feel about COP28 some say "Huh?" like they don't know what you're talking about and those who do know ask, "Why should I even care?"

COP stands for Conference of the Parties, referring to the 154 countries that signed the original UN agreement on Climate Change in 1992.

Starting in 1995, COP1 took place in Berlin to assess progress in dealing with climate change and to develop protocols and binding greenhouse gas limits.

It was intended to address global emissions and protect the lives and livelihoods of those living on the frontline of climate change.

COP3 in Japan produced the Kyoto Protocol which outlined reductions for major industrialized countries - U.S. congress never ratified

the treaty and it was later explicitly rejected.

Besides being overruled by the world's biggest polluter there were problems with Kyoto's scope and effectiveness - the first year it went into effect, pollution rose 44%.

The Paris Agreement, adopted by 196 nations in 2015, has since been subject to mixed reviews partly because there was no way to enforce agreed-to goals and targets.

Promises were made but not always kept and what seemed like firm commitments were just suggested optional guidelines - each successive conference reviewed the shortcomings.

In view of this checkered record of accomplishments it is easy to be skeptical about COP28 now taking place in Dubai, average temperature of 29.9 degrees Celsius.

It is expected to attract over 70,000 air conditioned delegates, including heads of state and world leaders, to negotiate and contemplate the future of climate change.

The controversial president of this year's conference is Sultan al-Jaber, an engineer, businessman and politician from the United Arab Emirates.

He chairs a national oil company that pumped 2.7 million barrels of oil every day in 2021 and has plans to double that production by 2027 - he seems like a questionable choice.



Fossil fuel use doesn't appear to to in decline yet.

He denies reports of plans to use the presidency as an opportunity to secure lucrative oil and gas deals with 15 different nations during the conference.

If I were a suspicious person this would look a little fishy to me.

Scientists and politicians have criticized his

appointment - well-known activist Greta Thunberg called it "completely ridiculous" and puts the entire UN climate process into question.

Justin Trudeau won't be attending for Canada and neither will Joe Biden of the U.S. or Xi Jinping of China in a show of 'Why should I care?' solidarity from the world's biggest polluters.

A recent audit of Canada's carbon reduction plan revealed that due to "overly optimistic assumptions" our current trajectory will miss the target and stricter measures are needed.

Canada is ranked 11th in the world for total greenhouse gas emissions and has the second highest emission rate per capita among those eleven countries.

Environment Canada has vaguely reassured concerned Canadians that they can feel reasonably confident that the government is making reductions as opposed to increases.

If that doesn't give you a false sense of security, nothing will.

As for me, I continue to care about climate change but I remain skeptical about the prospects for COP 28, 29, 30, 31, ... and so on.

When it comes to fossil fuels and climate change it looks like the foxes are firmly in control of the henhouse.

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

December 8-9

SIJHL Hockey

The standings are all bunched up and two of the league's best will look to set themselves apart on Friday and Saturday night at the Norwest Arena.

The Kam River Fighting Walleye will welcome the Dryden Ice Dogs to their barn, with games scheduled for 7:45 p.m. each night.

There may be no better hockey atmosphere in the Thunder Bay area, so don't miss out.

December 6

BoneyM Concert

BoneyM has sold more than 100 million records worldwide and is known for international hits including *Daddy Cool*, *Sunny*, *Rasputin*, and *Rivers of Babylon*.

If you told Boney M star Liz Mitchell that her 1978 hit *Rasputin* would become an internet sensation in 2022, she would never have believed you.

Almost nine million fans have created

TikTok dance videos to the song - and they have been viewed an amazing 22 billion times.

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.ca.

The show starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.

December 8-10

Bluey's Big Play

When Dad feels like a little bit of Sunday afternoon time out, Bluey and Bingo have other plans.

Join them as they pull out all of the games and cleverness at their disposal to get Dad off that bean bag.

Bluey's Big Play is a brand-new theatrical adaptation of the Emmy award-winning children's television series, with an original story by Bluey creator Joe Brumm, and new music by Bluey composer, Joff Bush.

Join the Heelers in their first live theatre show made just for you, featuring brilliantly created puppets, this is Bluey as you've never seen it

before, brought to real life.

The show will run five times, from Friday to Sunday at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.

Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.ca.

December 11

Serena Ryder Concert

Join Serena Ryder in celebrating both cherished and contemporary Christmas classics at the Community Auditorium.

Serena has performed at Christmas time before, but never has she performed *this* kind of Christmas show.

Serena is re-discovering the magic of the holidays by unpacking their roots. Where did Santa Claus come from? What pagan mythology birthed some of the most widely known and long standing traditions of Christmas culture? Serena has been fascinated with these very questions and is bringing to light some musical magic in their wake. This unique show filled with mythmas is fun for the whole family!

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Thunder Bay - Rainy River

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“They all seemed to want to be a part of her care circle; her guardians. It was just like an extended family.”

Frank Family of Past Client

Frank Zanatta's experience with the Care Group began when his mother moved into Bethammi Nursing Home, but soon he learned from personal experience just how important the organization can be to people of any age.

“When your loved one moves into long-term care, you just don't know what to expect, what I would have to do, what they were going to do,” he recalls.

With Frank busy in his career, his spouse took on much of the initial visiting and care, “and thank goodness she did. But then we were able to realize that everything is good... mom's being taken care of. She's having fun, she's having that social interaction. It was home for her. They became like family to my mom.”

“You don't know how important it is to you, being able to sleep at night and understand that mom is okay.”

Frank was particularly appreciative of the Care Group's care and compassion when his mother was nearing the end of her life. “That's when they even took it up a notch. They moved my mom to a private room and all the staff came in, gave me a hug. It takes a special type of person to be able to do that. It was an experience that allowed me to move on.”

Then came a surprise and an experience with another special group of St. Joseph's Care Group staff. “It was

nine months after retirement that I had a stroke. My rehabilitation was at St. Joseph's Hospital, they take a lot of time and effort and expertise with rehabilitation. They helped me get back to a place where I could function again.”

Once he was better, Frank wanted to give back for all the care and got in touch with the St. Joseph's Foundation.

“I asked, ‘how can I help?’ I was invited to become a Director and it just progressed from that to being on the Executive and now being the Chair of the Foundation's Board.”

The Board will sometimes tour facilities. “I always ask, ‘how many more of these (pieces of equipment) do you need?’ And lots of times the staff will say, ‘we always have a need for new and additional equipment which is keeping up with technology.’”

“When my mom was in Bethammi, they didn't have enough of the hoier lifts to safely lift her out of her bed. We saw the need to ensure the safety of both clients and the staff when doing transfers. I am happy to see that each year additional hoier lifts are installed and available.”

Frank says the more he got involved, the more he learned that many people don't know what and how much the Care Group does.

“You don't know how important it is to you, being able to sleep at night and understand that mom is okay.”

“Then you tell them, ‘well, I'm a stroke survivor.’ Oh yeah, they understand. ‘You go there for physiotherapy... or maybe your parents have to go into long-term care, but it's so much more.’”

“Once the community knows and understands all that the Care Group does in and for our community, I think then they'll really understand the scope of everything and the amount of people that they touch, and the amount of funding that they need.”

Frank says that if he could say anything to people who are reading this it's to “reach out and do something... it would be to give of your time or to donate and support their need for equipment and care. It doesn't necessarily have to be with the Care Group, there are a lot of groups out there that need volunteers.”

“If everybody can help with one small part, it makes it a lot easier for the people who are doing the heavy lifting.”

Finally, it's important to thank those people. “We always thank them after but sometimes we forget to thank them before. It's a tough job.”

St. Joseph's Foundation is honoured to share the “Caring Moments” stories from our clients and their families. Each story tells their personal experience with the care and compassion provided by the staff of St. Joseph's Care Group. Become a part of the Caring Moments program and share your gift of gratitude through your personal story or by making a donation in appreciation of the care your family received.

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Canada

Rogue fungus threatens bananas

Bananas are among the most important food crops on the planet.

They come from a family of plants called *Musa* that are native to Southeast Asia and grown in many of the warmer areas of the world.

Bananas are a healthy source of fiber, potassium, vitamin B6, vitamin C, and various antioxidants and phytonutrients. To say bananas are a popular fruit would be an understatement: worldwide, over 100 billion are consumed each year. Surprisingly, nine times out of 10, the variety being consumed is the Cavendish banana.

There is a good reason why, one is due to its resistance to banana-killing diseases, and the other is its long shelf life. Whenever someone mentions bananas, that's the one they're more than likely thinking about. Sadly, that may change.

According to Business Insider, there's a fungal disease called "Panama Disease (*Fusarium wilt*) tropical race 4" on the loose that can potentially make Cavendish bananas extinct.

The infection begins in the plant's roots,

before spreading and preventing the plant from absorbing water and performing photosynthesis, which ultimately kills the plant.

This wouldn't be the first time a rogue fungus has caused a banana variety to go extinct. The (Gros Michel) strain of Bananas was the main export banana in the first half of the last century.

It was infected by a predecessor to the Panama Disease, and between 1876 and 1950 the strain of Banana were completely destroyed.

The Gros Michel bananas were then replaced by the Cavendish, the main banana consumed globally today.

The Panama Disease isn't new either, it was discovered infecting a Cavendish crop in 1997 near Darwin, Australia. It spread to Queensland by 2015, which is Australia's largest banana producer.

A large purge of banana crops was successful in containing the disease at that time and the banana crops partially recovered.

Since then, it has spread to India and



Derek Lankinen
Here's Cooking at You Kid



About 100 billion bananas are eaten worldwide each year.

China, the world's largest producers of bananas. It has also spread to the Middle East and Africa and very recently was found in South America.

Some plant pathologists are more opti-

mistic about the future of Cavendish, though, citing that Panama Disease moves slowly which will allow time to prevent the worst.

In response, scientists around the world are working on a Cavendish species that are resistant to the fungi. This raises many moral and ethical questions about science interfering with the global food supply chain.

Some believe the answer is having variety in the marketplace.

The more diversity, the less susceptibility to diseases. For example, Apples have long been diversified, which has benefited their availability. Beyond offering variety, it also lowers the risk of disease throughout the entire crop. The issue with this is that other varieties are harder to cultivate and to be honest, the north American market tends to be resistance to change.

I don't know if many people would replace their old standby banana with something that looks a little different.

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.

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Worth the cost

Fishing is a simple activity that can quickly become very expensive.

Consider the vast array of specialized fishing gear available to the modern angler. There is premium gear, budget options, and everything between the two extremes. With so much different angling equipment out there, it would be helpful to know where it is wise to splurge on top tier equipment, and where you can save a few bucks.

While having the most expensive boat, snowmobile, and fishing rod collection can make the fishing experience decidedly better, these big-ticket items still do not guarantee that we will actually catch more fish. Conversely, choosing to spend a tiny bit more money on a few little things can be well worth the investment.

What I am talking about here is quality hooks and premium fishing line.

Unfortunately, these items are often the first place where a novice angler will select the budget option over a more expensive, premium choice.

But investing in good hooks and quality line will unequivocally result in more fish landed.

Regardless of the fish species you are after, premium hooks are going to put more fish in the boat.

Compared to everything else in our sport, a pack of hooks, even the best ones, is exceptionally cheap.

Since they are the point of contact with the fish, the importance of that tiny little hook cannot be overstated. Strong, sharp, and corrosion-resistant hooks by top brands are made with quality carbon steel that has been chemically sharpened.

In contrast to budget-brand hooks, these will have fine cutting edges that hold their sharp

point considerably longer. Additionally, the carbon steel will not bend easily when you battle with a trophy fish.

In addition to better quality hooks, fishing line is going to be one of the best ways to increase angling success.

The best lines we can fill our reels with are strong, sensitive, more abrasion-resistant, and less prone to twisting and kinking than the budget options. All these qualities make the fishing experience much more enjoyable, and investing in some good line might just make the difference to help ensure the big one doesn't get away.

Besides top-quality hooks and line, the one thing I will never fish without is the connec-

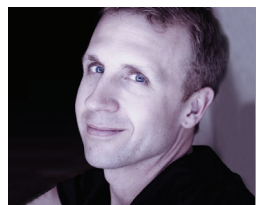


Quality line and hooks will put more fish in the boat.

tion between the two: fluorocarbon leader line.

Eighteen inches of fluoro between the main line and the bait is the easiest way to increase the number of fish you can fool into biting. Fluorocarbon is not only strong and tough, but it virtually disappears underwater, making it an easy upgrade to your fishing game.

When it comes to catching more fish, the small things can add up to make a big difference. Knowing where it pays to spend a bit more money can be a big advantage for the angler looking to find a bit of an edge.



Keith Ailey
the GOOD LIFE

Nominate someone you know to RECEIVE FREE HEARING AIDS!

If you know someone who could use **FREE** hearing aids this Christmas, let us know who they are and why they deserve them by e-mail at info@soundhearingclinic.ca, or sending us a letter to the address below.

Applications are accepted from now until December 16th, 2023. The recipient must have an aidable hearing loss, to be determined by complimentary hearing test. No purchase necessary. See clinic for further details.

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Thunder Bay, ON
807-935-8785

An illustration of a pair of hearing aids in a gift box, surrounded by confetti and a Christmas tree.

ST. JOSEPH'S FOUNDATION OF THUNDER BAY

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**\$1,000 DRAWN DAILY
DECEMBER 1-31, 2023**

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Tickets Qualify for All Draws!

DECEMBER 1st EARLY BIRD WINNER!
Doreen Charban - Ticket #0142 - \$5,000

TICKET SALES CLOSED

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GRAND PRIZE
DRAW**
DECEMBER 31, 2023

IN SUPPORT OF SUPPORTED BY

WINNER HOTLINE
807-768-4440

All draws at St. Joseph's Heritage, 63 Carrie Street at 4:00 pm. Tickets for all draws must be purchased by 4:00 pm one day prior to the draw date. Last day to purchase tickets is November 30th, 2023. Winner announced at 4:45 pm on 915 Club. Proceeds to St. Joseph's Foundation of Thunder Bay. Winner notified immediately after each draw. Tickets cannot be purchased by, for, or on behalf of, persons under the age of 18. 2,000 tickets printed. Printed by Lakehead Printing. Design by Generator. Licence No. H861359

Black trucks and no lights

I drive a lot. I drive either of the two routes that lead to the city. Most days, I drive my daughter, Beth, to her work and then at the end of her day, I pick her up. Beth doesn't yet drive.

The preferred route to her place of employment is Hwy 595 through our village, down Mile Hill, and to the junction of highways 595 and 588.

I turn right and head to Stanley, cross the bridge over the Kam River, and then up the hill to 11/17.

Again, turn right and drive to the office where Beth works. At the end of her shift, we do the same route in reverse.

Most of the time after dropping her off at her work, I just head back home.

Occasionally I head to town if there is an important errand to do.

A couple times a week I am in town in the afternoon and so drive from town to fetch her and then on home.

There, you have it.

So far, the main roads have been clear of snow or ice. Our rural road was covered

with snow until recently but a couple of days with the temperature above zero, the snow melted.

Rural roads get savaged by the amount of vehicle traffic.

Most drivers are commuting to town for their jobs. The dirt roads get churned up a lot that requires our township roads chap to haul out the big grader and grade the bumps and few potholes smooth.

We've had two serious snowstorms thus far this winter. The first storm brought heavy, wet, and very slick snow.

Driving Beth to work on the Monday, we saw a vehicle on Hwy 588 down in a ditch probably having either taken the corner too fast or not yet having winter tires on that car.

There was an OPP vehicle with flashing lights by the side of the road and yellow police tape no doubt having just been wrapped around the ditched car.

The tape would be proof that the police were aware of the unfortunate driver's accident.

The car was still there at the end of the day but the next morning we noticed it gone. Good.

Hope the driver was OK and not too much damage to the vehicle.

Almost all of the newer vehicles have "day lights" that automatically turn on when you turn on the engine.

But there have been many times when I see vehicles, mostly trucks, without their day lights on.

It bothers me, especially at dusk, when by law, all drivers are supposed to have their lights on a half-hour before dusk and a half-hour after daybreak.

I have developed my own conspiracy theory: Why is it that almost all - 99 per cent - of vehicles without their headlights on are black and trucks?

Why black?

Is it de rigueur that if you own a black truck you must not turn on your headlights?

Just sayin'.

But the scariest thing while driving is when someone is impatient and tailgates. I've had that happen on the 588 highway as I'm driving Beth home.

"If I were forced to stop right now, that

guy in behind would rear end us," I announce.

Thank goodness I've never had to suddenly stop like when a deer steps out onto the road and I have to brake really fast.

At night if I'm driving, I keep an eye on the hydro/telephone lines because you usually can see light moving along the wire and that means shortly thereafter an oncoming vehicle will appear.

If the oncoming driver is "with it", they dim their high beams as do I.

But then there are the new cars/trucks that have halogen lights.

Blinding, they are even if the driver dims the lights.

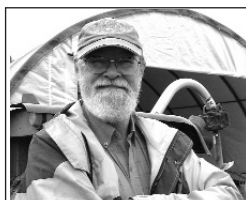
That is when you start looking askew towards the soft shoulder to avoid the glare and hope that you don't drive off the road into a ditch.

So far, so good.

I saw a note on Facebook written by someone not happy with oncoming vehicles that sport halogen lights:

"OK, so with your halogen lights you can see 33 miles in front of you but you're blinding the rest of us!"

Yup.



Fred Jones
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RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Bring your natural Christmas tree to one of the many Christmas tree collection sites, where it will be chipped and then added to the compost pile at the City's landfill site.

USE REUSABLE ITEMS WHEN ENTERTAINING

Rather than disposable items, use reusable dishes, glassware, silverware and napkins.

REDUCE YOUR FOOD WASTE

Meal plan to avoid overbuying during the festive season and freeze leftover cooked meats and vegetables to use another day.

GIVE EXPERIENCE OR CONSUMABLE GIFTS

Instead of traditional gifts, consider giving experiences like cooking classes or concert tickets, or consumable gifts like locally sourced gourmet foods or handmade products.

For more information, visit:

ThunderBay.ca/WasteReduction



Moody and captivating

We downshift once again to the small screen for recently released candidates that had limited theatrical exposure (not in Thunder Bay) before reverting to streaming platforms.

One such title is *The Killer* (Netflix) starring Michael Fassbender, someone we've been missing on-screen lately apparently due to his fascination with car racing.

In this stylish thriller, Fassbender plays a nameless assassin. He's on a job, watching the building across from him in a plain unadorned room. His interior monologue exudes his mindset: terse, Zen-like, and methodical.

The stakeout stretches into multi-day. He practices yoga and bodyweight exercises. He meditates. Protein comes from a McDonald's burger. He blends in with his surroundings like a jungle cat stalking its prey. Common sunglasses and ball caps hide his face from omniscient technology. His 'German tourist' wardrobe, rented vehicles, and other implements are run-of-the mill. He flies coach.

The silencer rifle with a telescopic sight aside, everything about him is nondescript. There is no James Bondian fantasy gear here. No unwanted attention. The life is pretty drab. But for the very first time, the job goes wrong. The retribution for failure is swift and menacing.

Though he has accumulated enough resources to disappear forever and elude his transgressors, he ignores his own mantra: "Never improvise. Anticipate. Stick to the plan." Instead, he coolly embarks upon a path of obsessive, methodical defense and revenge to eliminate the



Michael Fassbender hasn't done a lot of movies lately, but returns as a nameless assassin in *The Killer*.

threat. Therein lies the tension. Will this prove his undoing?

He rationalizes his ruthlessness. With thousands born everyday, the loss of a couple souls is a 'drop in the bucket.' He reveals little about the targets he's retaliating against, heightening the suspense, especially when one encounter proves messy and brutal.

The story is based on a French graphic novel which may explain its existential sensibility. Director David Fincher (*Seven*, *The Social Network*) complements the spare mood with shadowy cinematography by Erik Messerschmidt and a sinuous soundtrack by Trent Raznor and Atticus

Ross, literally punctuated by ironic use of rock tunes by The Smiths. Dialogue is mostly spare, save perfunctory exchanges with travel agents.

Fincher and screenwriter Andrew Kevin Walker make this character

compelling, even though his mercilessness is unsettling. There is no melodramatic sway. There are no new insights into the assassin mystique, other than the all-seeing technology he dodges also enables him to live a life distinct from the "normies." The fascination lies with how he goes about his humdrum routines and marshalling his counter-offensive resources.

There is also deadpan humour, especially with his numerous aliases and pop culture swipes: "Good luck with Wordle," he mutters internally observing one 'normie.'. He orders from Amazon like Wile E. Coyote orders from Acme.

Fassbender is intimidating, captivating, dead-eyed cool. Tilda Swinton skillfully fences against him in a restaurant. Solid support comes from Charles Parnell, Arliss Howard and Kerry O'Malley.

The pay-off may not totally satisfy, but Fincher gives a familiar genre an engrossing, atmospheric interpretation with *The Killer*.



Marty Mascarini
MOVIE TALK

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Enigma cryptograms are created from quotations and proverbs from around the world. Each letter stands for another letter. Hint: "X" = "N"

"WTRPKO UJ XJG UKBTMPG YO OJ HYRP
 STGP GKPTW IJOOKOOTJX, DO GJWHKXG
 YO STGP GKPTW BJOO."

- UTRL MWKMWJV

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ACROSS

- 1 Never (Ger.)
- 4 Brother of Seth
- 8 Javanese carriage
- 12 Scot. alder tree
- 13 Ten (pref.)
- 14 Bedouin headband cord
- 15 Before common era (abbr.)
- 16 Presto (2 words)
- 18 Incursion
- 20 Storm
- 21 Black
- 23 Son of Judah
- 25 Down with (Fr., 2 words)
- 26 Hard igneous rock
- 27 As written in music
- 30 Whit
- 31 Dismay
- 32 Shak. contraction
- 33 Wrath
- 34 Reduce
- 35 King of the Huns
- 36 Quote
- 37 Floral leaf
- 38 "Dies _____"
- 40 Young salmon
- 41 Quack
- 44 Adjective-forming (suf.)
- 47 Arabic (abbr.)
- 48 Euphemistic oath
- 49 Tooth cover
- 50 Child (pref.)
- 51 Large (pref.)
- 52 Belonging to (suf.)

DOWN

- 1 Capture
- 2 Internat'l Red Cross (abbr.)
- 3 Weaken
- 4 Administration (abbr.)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ASK STALBS
 ILEA TAT TRET
 CATAPULT DOLE
 AET IDEAL CLE
 EKE PEBA
 DECLINE VOTRE
 AROA TUR GEAR
 PARTY REPULSE
 DEAL LOS
 RHE PATEN OAR
 DALE SEAEAGLE
 ASIA ELS GAOL
 HAN REE AME

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- 5 Bauble
- 6 Electrocardiogram (abbr.)
- 7 Indo-Chin. language
- 8 Hindu month
- 9 Kept up
- 10 Challenge
- 11 Hoary
- 17 Derrick
- 19 Bronze money
- 21 Islamic month
- 22 Indian red powder
- 23 Chicago airport
- 24 Winged victory
- 26 Question starter
- 27 Rate (2 words)
- 28 Web
- 29 Indigo dye
- 31 Long speech
- 35 Eastern church chalice veil
- 36 Carbon (pref.)
- 37 Afr. cattle breed
- 38 Your (Ger.)
- 39 S Afr. Boer assembly
- 40 Throe
- 41 Civil Air Patrol (abbr.)
- 42 Admiral (abbr.)
- 43 To (Scot.)
- 45 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- 46 Licensed practical nurse (abbr.)



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AND BAR!

DRAW DATE:
MONDAY
DECEMBER 18TH

NFL officials going rogue

Is it just me, or is the officiating in the National Football League getting decidedly worse this season?

Case in point, the Kansas City Chiefs Sunday night game in Green Bay.

The Chiefs, down by eight and in desperate need of a final-minute touchdown (and two-point conversion) to send the game to overtime, turned to Patrick Mahomes.

The future hall of famer heaved up a deep pass to receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling, who was mugged by Green Bay cornerback Carrington Valentine before the ball arrived.

Maybe it was a make-up call for an unnecessary roughness call on the Packers Jonathan Owens, who slammed into Mahomes, who was still in bounds and looking to pick up a first down on the ground, the call giving the Chiefs a free 15 yards.

Earlier this year, New York Giants fans were incensed when, with seconds left and Buffalo up by five, quarterback fired an endzone pass to tight end Darren Waller, who was mauled by Bills corner Taron Johnson.

No call was made on the play, Buffalo eked out a narrow win and my survivor pool entry stayed alive, alas only through Week 11.

In Week 7, the Cleveland Browns got a game-winning touchdown made possible in part by a questionable pass interference call on a ball that appeared to be uncatchable.

NFL officials are supposed to be the best in the business.

New York is watching every play. Maybe they should start overruling the on-field officials?

There needs to be a mechanism in place for coaches to challenge penalty calls at critical times of the game. They can challenge a spot, they can challenge a catch, but they can't argue whether or not a penalty is deserved or not.

The NFL's competition committee needs to work out a system that would allow penalty challenges, over and above the two challenges coaches currently have in their pockets – three if they're successful on their first challenge.

These were all awful calls.

While I'm no conspiracy theorist, with the prevalence of gambling these days – try watching a game without getting the odds splashed on the screen at every available

chance – a cynic might wonder if something untoward is going on.

□□□

Lakehead's men's and women's basketball team, and the men's hockey team limped into the Christmas break.

The women managed a weekend split on the road against the Toronto Varsity Blues, but the men lost both games in the provincial capital last weekend and have dropped six straight to sit at 2-8 as the season hits the midway point. The men's hockey team, which looked so good beating McGill at home two weekends ago, were edged on Friday night by the Toronto Metropolitan

Bold, who humbled LU 7-0 in Saturday's rematch.

The hockey team is 8-8-1, not great defensively and lacks the consistency it showed last season, when the T-Wolves went on to win the division and were within one win of a national championship berth.

□□□

Admittedly, I don't watch a lot of college football. But I find it

hard to believe 13-0 Florida State won't be in the college football playoff. Instead, Alabama, Michigan, Washington and Texas will compete for the title. The injury to star quarterback Jordan Travis isn't a reason to keep the Seminoles out.

□□□

As I write this, still no word on where superstar Shohei Ohtani will land, but the Toronto Blue Jays appear to still be hot and heavy in the mix for the reigning American League most valuable player.

They're also reportedly in the mix to swing a deal for a one-year rental on Juan Soto.

While I suspect Ohtani is going to remain in Los Angeles, either with the Dodgers or Angels, and Soto is likelier to be dealt to the New York Yankees, a team with a deeper farm system, it's nice to see the Blue Jays taking serious runs at two of the biggest names in the game.

Their window to win is closing. Vladimir Guerrero and Bo Bichette can become free agents after the 2025 season. George Springer is starting to show his age. And they've got the pitching to potentially win it all right now.

Personally, I'd love them to sign Cody Bellinger to play centre, if all else fails.



Leith Dunick
SPORTS SHORTS



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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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

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11. Houses
12. Apartments
13. Rooms
14. Room & Board
15. Shared Accommodations
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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

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31. Cars | 32. Trucks
33. Vans
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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

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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.

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30. MISC. WANTED
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53. GENERAL SERVICES
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TREE REMOVAL SERVICES. In town/rural, snow no problem, ++experience, Man-lift, backhoe services, insured, and seniors' discounts! Very reasonable rates, free estimates. Call Jacques (Jack) 345-4363

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Or Call Us At 807.768.4440




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RAVEN	ONAN								
ABAS	WHIN	STA							
BIT	SHAKE	TEEN							
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PEDO	MEGA	TEAN							

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9	3	2	8	1	6	4	5	7

ENIGMA SOLUTION: "Riches do not delight us so much with their possession, as torment us with their loss."
— Dick Gregory

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