#### TBDHU TOTAL ELIGIBLE PEOPLE VACCINATED (1 DOSE): 109,301 (76.1%) TOTAL DOSES: 168,876



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

# Narching for children

Hundreds dressed in orange descend on Marina Park for a Cancel Canada Day rally /3



WALKING FOR JUSTICE: Marchers asked Canadians to consider not celebrating the country's birthday this year, after hundreds of bodies found at residential school sites.





**INSIDE** Homicide Arrest



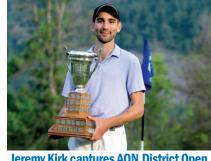
A 31-year-old has been charged in death of 16-year-old boy / 5

TOMORROW HAS COME



Chris Pratt does his best to save timetravelling sci-fi battle flick / 12

**SECOND TIME WINNER** 



Jeremy Kirk captures AON District Open with one-shot victory / 14

For your daily news visit www.tbnewswatch.com

ADVERTISING FEATURE ~ JULY 2021



# Behind the Business

Here is your opportunity to tell Thunder Bay all about what's NEW with your business.

# **Used vehicles help Adult & Teen Challenge**

Donating a vehicle to Thunder Bay's Adult and Teen Challenge, whether it runs or not, can go a long way to help those struggling with addictions get back on track.

The faith-based organization will either auction or privately sell vehicles that may need minor mechanical and detailing work."

Occasionally Adult and Teen Challenge puts a donated vehicle to use within the organization as part of its fleet for use at the Teen Challenge Centre for student appointments, donation picks ups and other daily errands.

Your vehicle benefits the Teen Challenge charities in a two-fold



## **DONATE YOUR VEHICLE** HELP PROVIDE FREEDOM FROM ADDICTION

## RUNNING OR NOT YOUR DONATION HELPS

**345-2277** donate online at www.teenchallenge.tc way," said Robby Ahuja, Northwestern Ontario Adult and Teen Challenge's chief development officer.

"By the valuable vocational experience the students gain and with the proceeds raised from the processed vehicles going back into our recovery and awareness programs."

The condition of the vehicle isn't a factor. If it runs, vehicle owners can drop it off either phoning ahead or filling out an online donation form and getting a release to sign.

"We either have vehicles repaired and sell them saftied, sell them as is or scrap them. We have a lot at 415 May Street North where the students in our program learn vehicle detailing as part of our work experience program," Ahuja said.

"To donate a vehicle, you can either call 345-2277 or visit us online at www.teenchallenge.tc. We offer free pickup and a fair market value tax receipt, with a minimum receipt of \$440," Ahuja said.

It's not just cars and trucks, he added.

"We'll take boats, campers, motorcycles and sleds," Ahuja said. The Adult and Teen Challenge program has a proven track record of success.

Harish, a Thunder Bay resident, said before he entered the program he was using and dealing drugs.

"I was a violent person and did things that landed me in jail. I believed I was coming to the end of myself with the only options being death by drugs, violence or spending the rest of my life in jail. But God had a different plan," he said.

"During my last time in jail I committed the next year to ATC because of the love of my family and Robby Ahuja. Getting to know Jesus has changed my life. Slowly but surely he is growing inside me. I sing and I dance because He lives in my heart. Now I have love and forgiveness and am committed for life."

The organization also runs a thrift store in Thunder Bay, located at 107 Johnson Avenue. It's open Monday to Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Phone 286-7888 for more information.



Harish is a Thunder Bay Adult & Teen Challenge success story.

#### LOCALNEWS



STAND TALL: Hundreds marched from Waverly Park to Marina Park last Saturday to stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples.

# **Canada Day cancelled**

#### Rally reflects on treatment of Indigenous peoples THUNDER BAY "It's really hard for me to see people celebrating By Leith Dunick - TB Source

call for change echoed through a sea of orange Athat marched through Thunder Bay's downtown north core on Thursday, a Cancel Canada Day rally supplanting the usual cascade of red and white and fireworks that usher in the country's July 1 birthday each year.

The march, which saw about 450 people take part, was organized as a replacement for Canada Day festivities, in the wake of the discovery of hundreds of bodies of Indigenous children discovered recently in unmarked graves at residential schools across the nation.

It's not the time to celebrate a country with such a history of mistreatment and abuse of First Nations peoples, said artist Michel Dumont, an organizer of Thursday's rally.

"More people understand that this year might not be the year to celebrate with such a fervent patriotism. Right now is a time for reflection," Dumont said.

"What's fascinating to see is Canada Day celebrations are more muted and toned down, if not completely cancelled. I'm quite pleased to see all the orange shirts today. It's wonderful to see the ally-ship and the support."

Cynthia Nault carried a drum and help put together the Anti-Canada rally, one of dozens held across the country on Thursday.

Nault said Canada's foundation was built on the oppression, displacement and land theft of Indigenous peoples and it's time for the citizenry to take time to reflect on just what that's meant to her people and the pain and trauma that's been caused throughout the generations, including the residential school era, which is still impacting First Nations communities and people to this very day.

that," she said. "It's really hard for me to see people having picnics and fireworks, especially when so many people are grieving, (particularly) right now with all the recoveries that are happening all across Turtle Island."

Last month Canadians were shocked to learn about the discovery of 215 bodies on the grounds of a former residential school in Kamloops, B.C.

This week ground penetrating radar detected 751 bodies buried at a former residential school in Saskatchewan. Another 182 bodies were then discovered on Ktunaxa Nation territory in British Columbia.

Nault said it's important for people to listen and learn about their country's past. It's the only way to find a path forward that includes everyone.

"I think that Canada as a nation and Canadians have to do some serious work and decide going forward how they want to live with First Nations people. First Nation's people have been here longer than Canada and our relationship as peoples used to be a lot better," she said.

"I'd like to see us getting back to that type of relationship where we live together."

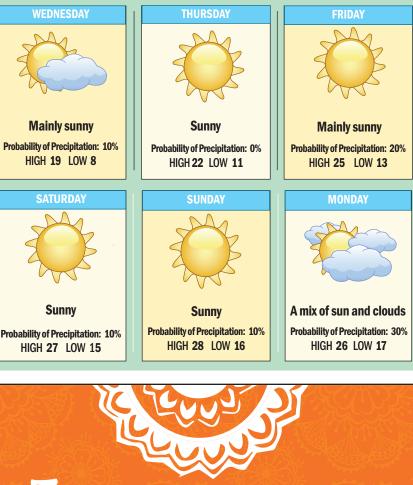
It's sad that it took the discovery of the buried bodies to start opening the country's eyes. Nault, an optimist, is hopeful it will finally spur the change that's needed.

"I certainly hope that it is (the turning point). I like to be optimistic. I don't know how many people are actually waking up to the reality of what's going on, but I do hope that it's most people," Nault said.

"Going forward I'd like to see Canadians respecting the wishes of Indigenous peoples."

Thunder Bay was one of dozens of communities in Canada that cancelled planned Canada Day celebrations out of respect for the country's Indigenous population.

## Weather Forecast





#### July 17 3-7 pm, CLE Grounds

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"More people undersand that this year might not be the year to celebrate with such a fervent patriotism."

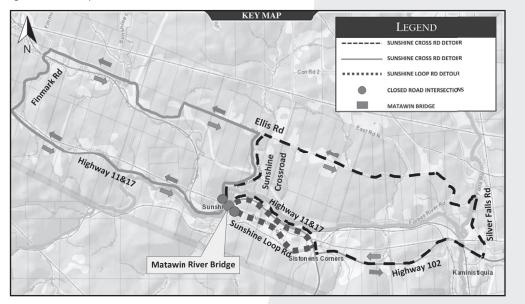
MICHEL DUMONT

#### **STEP-DOWN NOTICE**

## Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment for the Rehabilitation of the Matawin River Bridge, Highway 11/17, Sunshine

#### THE PROJECT

The **Ministry of Transportation (MTO) Northwestern Region** has retained the services of **Planmac Engineering Inc.** C/O **TSI Inc.** to complete the Preliminary Design and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for the rehabilitation of the Matawin River Bridge. A Key Map of the bridge location is provided below.



Bridge works will include rehabilitation of the structure, repair to the bridge deck and soffit, abutments and wingwalls, barrier walls and sidewalk, and removal and replacement of the existing expansion joints and pavement. The project is currently listed in the Northern Highways Program with a target completion date of fall 2022 pending environmental approvals, regional priorities, and available funding.

Highway 11/17 traffic will not be detoured onto any local roads during construction. Temporary traffic signals will be used on Highway 11/17 during construction to maintain a single, alternating lane of traffic across the Matawin River Bridge. Local traffic will utilize the detour routes noted below.

#### **ROAD CLOSURES**

To accommodate construction, closure of two (2) direct accesses to Highway 11/17 will be required at Sunshine Loop Road and Sunshine Crossroad for up to two (2) months over the construction season. Detour routes to accommodate **local traffic** due to the access closures are provided in the Key Map above. Traffic volumes along these detour routes are not anticipated to increase given **highway traffic will not be detoured**.

#### THE PROCESS

This study has followed the *Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000) for a Group 'B' project. Based on the information collected during the study process, it has been determined that the project will not result in any significant adverse environmental effects. In accordance with the EA process, it is proposed that this project be stepped down from a Group 'B' to a Group 'C' project. If this project is stepped down from a Group 'B' to a Group 'C' project, a Transportation Environmental Study Report will not be prepared and no future public notices will be provided.

You have the opportunity to request that this project remains a Group 'B' project. Should you wish to make this request, please contact one of the Project Team members below by **August 9, 2021**. If there are no outstanding concerns by this date, the project will be stepped down to a Group 'C' project.

#### COMMENTS

If you wish to obtain additional information or provide comments, please contact one of the Project Team members listed below:

Mr. Ramin Rameshni, P. Eng. Project Manager, TSI Inc. 30 Bayberry Crescent, Toronto, ON M2K 1T8 tel: 647-236-4791 toll free: 1-877-705-2039 e-mail: ramin.rameshni@tsigroup.ca Patrick Van Belleghem, EIT MTO Project Manager 615 South James Street, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6P6 tel: 807-631-7649 toll free: 1-800-465-5034 e-mail: Patrick.VanBelleghem@ontario.ca

For communication support or to request project material in an alternate format, please contact one of the Project Team members listed above. Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.



## TB Life IN BRIEF Heat

# wave records

The heat dome that moved into Northwestern Ontario on the weekend broke temperature records in Thunder Bay and several other locations in the region.

Environment Canada recorded a high of 34.3 C at Thunder Bay Airport on Saturday, surpassing the previous record established in 2012.

Pickle Lake and Geraldton also established new maximums for Saturday, with highs of 35.2 C and 33.6 C respectively.

At Red Lake, the existing record of 32.7

C for July 3 was tied.

More records may be threatened across the region on Monday, but a dramatic cooling will quickly take place Tuesday, with Thunder Bay projected to reach only 19 C.

Temperatures are expected to rebound to the mid-20s by the weekend.

Environment Canada's outlook through mid-July suggests above-normal temperatures and drier-than-normal conditions in Northwestern Ontario.

June was considerably warmer than normal in Thunder Bay, with a monthly mean temperature of 17 C, three degrees higher than the long-term average.

#### Walk-in vaccinations

Monday marked the arrival of walk-in clinics at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit's vaccination sites at the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition Grounds.

Under guidance from the province, anyone 12 and older will be able to receive a first or second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine without a pre-booked appointment.

To accommodate the added numbers, additional walk-in spots are being put in place and the health unit will use space at both the Coliseum and Heritage buildings.

Slots will be available six days a week during the morning, afternoon and early evening. Anyone seeking a walk-in appointment are invited to visit the clinic during specified hours, but depending on how many people show up, they might have to wait in a line until they are admitted into the clinic. Health unit officials warn because of the potential wait, walk-ins might not be the best option for everyone.

Those with pre-booked appointments will be seen at the time specified when the appointment was booked. The number of walk in appointments available daily will be based on vaccine supply and the number of pre-booked appointments.

# Man charged in 16-year-old's murder

#### **COURT** By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

The suspect facing charges in the city's second homicide of 2021 made his first court appearance last Wednesday.

Dustin Denis Moffatt, 31, of Thunder Bay has been charged with seconddegree murder, aggravated assault, and breach of probation.

Moffatt was arrested last Tuesday morning following an altercation on the city's south side near Gore Street West and James Street South.

The Thunder Bay Police Service responded to the area at approximately 12:20 a.m. on Tuesday after receiving reports of a disturbance.

Upon arrival, officers learned of an altercation between two teenage males and an adult male. A 16-year-old male and 17-year-old male were injured and transported to hospital.

The 16-year-old male, Kody Furioso, died as a result of his injuries while the

other male remains in hospital with serious injuries. As of Tuesday, police were unable to say if his injuries were considered life threatening.

Police located Moffatt in the area later Tuesday morning and he was arrested on unrelated outstanding warrants. The investigation into the altercation revealed Moffatt was the adult involved and he was charged with second-degree murder and aggravated assault.

Moffatt appeared via video in a Thunder Bay Courtroom on Wednesday morning and was remanded into custody. His next court appearance will be July 15.

Moffatt was previously charged last summer with assault from an incident that occurred in July at Waverley Park when a man was found unconscious.

Further investigation following that incident revealed Moffatt was also involved in an armed robbery of an LCBO on the city's north side and he was also charged with robbery using a restricted or prohibited weapon.



REST IN PEACE: A memorial to slain teenager Kody Furioso has been erected under an overpass on James Street.



## **Editorial**

## Cancelling Canada

The cancelling of Canada Day for one summer was the least Canadians could do in light of the atrocities that have been committed against the country's Inidgenous people.

Donning an orange shirt and actually listening to the stories of the horrors of the residential school system from the very people who were ripped out of their homes and sent away to assimilate into another culture is not really much of a sacrifice.

Not having a fireworks display at the waterfront, or painting one's face red and white is not the end of the world.

Yes, it's OK to be proud of one's country. But that pride must come with the knowledge that things weren't right in the past, they're still not right today and they'll never be right until all of us take the issue seriously.

When our forefathers couldn't get rid of the Aboriginal people, they simply rigged the deck.

And then stopped caring.

Ninety-two First Nations are on boilwater advisories, at least two since the 1990s. This is unacceptable, but aside from shallow promises at the hands of successive federal governments, nothing is done.

Education, health care, mental health, employment, addiction – all are critically underfunded or ignored by outsiders in most First Nations communities.

#### CONTACT US:

87 North Hill Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7A 5V6 Ph: 807-346-2600

Editor: Leith Dunick 346-2650 ldunick@dougallmedia.com

Reporter: Doug Diaczuk 346-2622 ddiaczuk@dougallmedia.com

Reporter: Ian Kaufman 346-3558 ikaufman@dougallmedia.com

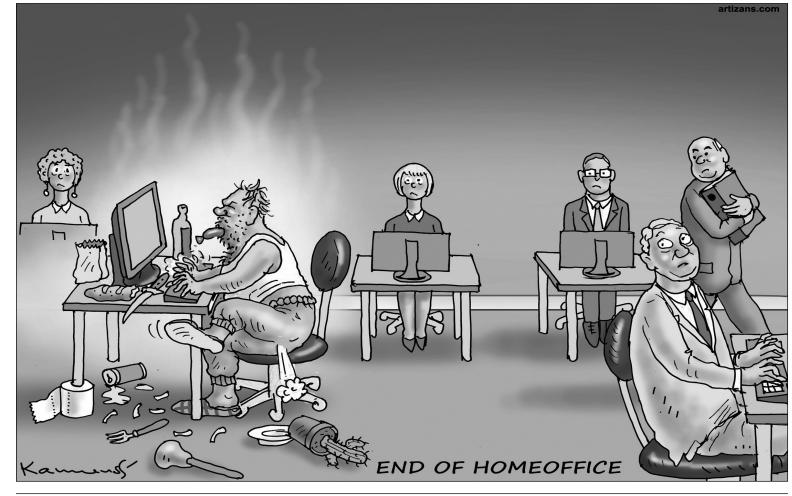
> Sales Manager: Kathy Harris 346-2510 kharris@dougallmedia.com

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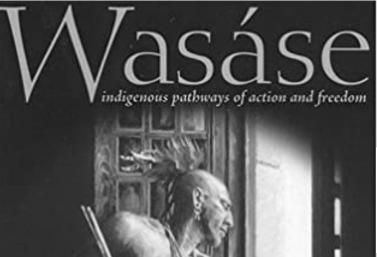
# **Exploring colonialism's roots**

JOHN PATEMAN BOOK BANTER

n *Prison of Grass: Canada from the native point of view*, Howard Adams destroys many common myths about the peaceful takeover of Canada by whites. The truth, as the Indigenous Peoples saw it, was for the most part far different: a racist and rapacious land grab by a society inferior in many ways to what it supplanted.

Adams' thesis is convincing for its ring of personal truth and its meticulous research. The racism of the first colonizers, the atrocities committed by white troops after the Battle of Batoche, the occasional attempts of journalists to tell eastern Canada what was happening out west in 1885, the shocked report of the British House of Commons detailing Hudson's Bay Company scandals – all these are here in Howard Adams' carefully researched words.

Jocelyn Cheechoo points out in Lighting the Eighth Fire: the liberation, resurgence and protection of Indigenous Nations edited by Leanne Simpson, that 'As Indigenous Nations find their voices,



RIVETING: Taiaiake Alfred's book researches those who have transcended colonialism.

assert their freedoms, and begin their resurgence, they may find it necessary to enter into alliances with other interest and support groups in order to advance their agendas.

There are many challenges and rewards for Indigenous communities working with allies. I have had the opportunity to work alongside several non-Indigenous organizations and individuals on health and resource development issues. During most of these experiences there was a difference in how we perceived the issues.

It was difficult to explain to our non-Indigenous partners the importance of our Aboriginal Rights, Treaty Rights, and our Inherent Right to the land. We framed issues about the land differently, and therefore saw strategies and resolutions differently as well. I have seen allies come close to understanding our perspective only by spending months with the people in Indigenous communities and on Indigenous territories. This experience allowed them to understand the cultural context of the environment and the colonial context in which we are forced to live.'

Taiaiake Alfred explains in *Wasáse: Indigenous pathways of action and freedom*, that the word Wasáse is the Kanienkeha (Mohawk) word for the ancient war dance ceremony of unity, strength, and commitment to action:

"This book traces the journey of those Indigenous people who have found a way to transcend the colonial identities which are the legacy of our history and live as Onkwehonwe, original people. It is dialogue and reflection on the process of transcending colonialism in a personal and collective sense: making meaningful change in our lives and transforming society by recreating our personalities, regenerating our cultures, and surging against forces that keep us bound to our colonial past."

The world is in motion, things are constantly undergoing processes of transformation, and the essence of life and being is movement. This holistic view leads to an implicit assumption that everything is inter-related.

"Politics is the force that channels social, cultural, and economic powers and makes them imminent in our lives. Abstaining from politics is like turning your back on a beast when it is angry and intent on ripping your guts out."

## **Perspective**

# **Satellites in the sky**

## It's becoming less expensive to send stuff into space

#### **OPINION** By J.R. Shermack **Special to TB Source**

Anyone who spends time enjoying the great outdoors in great outdoors Northwestern Ontario is familiar with the stars and other objects lighting up the night sky.

We often find ourselves camping under the stars, looking up after dark to see if anything unusual is happening or if something interesting is passing by overhead.

Stargazing is a favorite pastime among those who are still awake when the campfire finally dies down and is replaced by the cosmic wonder of a brightly starlit sky.

The sight of the planets, the stars, the Milky Way and some random meteorites streaking by should be enough to keep us entertained, impressed and inspired.

#### **Fleeting glimpse**

But there is one more spectacle we watch for and it steals the show whenever it appears and then quickly traces a speedy course past us and out of sight.

We occasionally catch a glimpse of something moving very quickly up there, a small point of light speeding straight across the sky from one horizon to the other.

It is always easy to identify the relentless passage of man-made satellites crossing the sky.

As long as I can remember I have been watching for those hi-speed flickers of light among the stars -

development brought

about by the CNR.

man-made satellites in low Earth orbit reflecting sunlight as they pass. Many can still remember the excitement when Sputnik 1 became the first artificial satellite to be successfully launched into Earth orbit by the Soviets in 1957.

This was the ground breaking flight that launched the international space race - Sputnik soon fell back to Earth but it led the way for other spacecraft that followed.

Since that time thousands of additional satellites from more than 40 countries have been launched and thousands more will soon be "Earth could crowding the cosmos soon be overhead.

As of April, 2021 there blanketed by were 7,389 individual tens of satellites in space around thousands of our planet, many new actively working in satellites .... " communication, obsernavigation, science and technology.

Others are now inactive pieces of orbiting space junk and many more have burnt up while re-entering the atmosphere or returned to the earth in the form of falling space debris.

vation.

But there is still a lot of hardware floating around up there to the delight and amusement of casual Earth-bound observers looking up after dark.

If the sky is clear you shouldn't have to wait more than 15 minutes until one of the many orbiting satellites comes into view.

Several hundred satellites can be

spotted from Earth with the unaided eye, typically those large enough (20 feet or more) and low enough (100-400 miles) to reflect sunlight. The International Space Station (ISS) is the biggest and brightest man-made object orbiting our planet, sometimes appearing to

outshine the planet Venus. It circles the planet at over 15,000 miles per hour (five miles per second) at an average altitude of about 250 miles and its huge solar panels make it highly visible from the ground.

If conditions are right the

ISS can be seen from anywhere in the world, including Thunder Bay at certain times during the year - sky watchers can check the ISS tracking site online.

#### More lights

Meanwhile, our view from the surface of the planet is about to change dramati-

cally as commercial developments in space make it easier and cheaper to launch satellites.

Earth could soon be blanketed by tens of thousands of new satellites shining and dancing among the 9,000 stationary stars, cluttering up the night sky.

It won't be long before the cosmos will appear to be alive and crawling with choreographed movement - a sky full of man-made satellites dancing among the stars. The view from the campsite will

never be the same.

### IN COMMEMORATION OF THE ONE HUNDRED TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLOOD RED POPPY AS A SYMBOL OF REMEMBERANCE TO WAR VETERANS AND THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR FREEDOM AND TRUTH DURING WORLD WAR ONE. MADAME GUERIN, THE POPPY LADY OF FRANCE FIRST PROPOSED. THAT A POPPY DAY BE HELD IN CANADA AT A NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE GREAT WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION DURING THEIR MEETING AT THE PRINCE ARTHUR HOTEL PORT ARTHUR, ONTARIO 4 " JULY, 1921. THE FIRST POPPY CAMPAIGN HELD IN CANADA, 11" NOVEMBER, 1921 PORT ARTHUR BRANCH No. 5. MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO COMMAND. ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION. 4 " JULY, 2021 WEFOR

**POPPY PLAQUE** 

MILESTONE: This past Sunday, members of the Royal Canadian Legion in Thunder Bay unveiled a plaque at the Prince Arthur Hotel, marking the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance. It was first decided on July 4, 1921 at the hotel in Port Arthur.

#### HOW TO WRITE US:

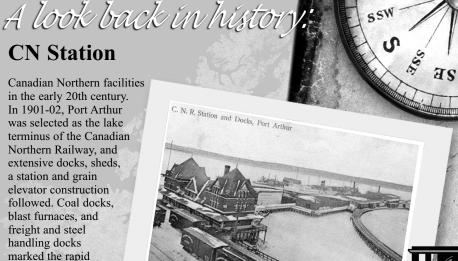
etters to the editor are most welcome. Those kept to 350 words or less have priority.

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# **Cycling clubs take cautious approach**



High vaccination numbers in our region have resulted in dwindling numbers of COVID19 cases and this is allowing both businesses and organizations to cautiously begin reopening. Benefiting from a natural abundance of clean, fresh air and plenty of room for physical distancing, outdoor activities were among the first to get the green light to resume operation.

Even though the number of fully vaccinated individuals in our region is growing quickly, enhanced safety protocols have been put into place by local organizations like our cycling clubs.

This is especially important because, with all the new people who have discovered outdoor sports during the pandemic, participation numbers are expected to rise quickly as local events ramp up over the next few weeks.

While it might be tough to find a descent bike during the current global shortage, Thunder Bay's two cycling clubs are gearing up for a condensed



ON COURSE: Jeremy McBride takes part in a recent time trial put on by the Thunder Bay Cycling Club, the first event of 2021.

season with plenty of safe and fun events for their members.

The Ontario Cycling Association recently announced that racing can finally start up again in Ontario under their Progressive Return to Cycling policy.

The key to a safe re-opening is enhanced safety protocols, including limited group sizes and distancing. Locally, the Thunder Bay Cycling Club kicked off the 2021 season with an Individual Time Trial last week.

To ensure participants had plenty of space, each rider began their individual

effort against the clock a full minute apart. Seventeen future events, including some small group road races, have already been added to their growing schedule available at www.tbaycc.ca

Meanwhile, Thunder Bay's Blacksheep Mountain Bike Club kicked things off recently with a series of social rides and a skills clinic.

Their popular Wednesday night races also resume this week with staggered starts featuring small groups of four riders each.

The volunteer-run club has made some significant improvements to their singletrack trails in the Trowbridge Forrest and their members are excited to finally get to race on them again.

The full calendar of events, including skills clinics, trail-building days, races, women's rides, and a brand new 8-hour endurance event is available at www.blacksheepmtb.com.

It is undeniable that cycling is a wonderful individual activity that has kept countless numbers of people happy and healthy during the global pandemic.

Yet, with the social aspect being reintroduced through our local clubs, we now have the opportunity to ramp up the enjoyment by becoming part of the amazing cycling community in Thunder Bay.



#### LOCALNEWS

# Haying in a heatwave was hot, hot, hot



his past weekend we indulged in a bit of nostalgia: we went haying. My wife, Laura, was on the telephone with a friend who lives on a farm in Neebing township. The friend let it be known that she and her husband were haying on Saturday and "would we like to get some hay as well?"

We would have to bring our trailer and as the husband baled, we'd pick the bales up off the field. They now only have one horse so they don't require hundreds and hundreds of hales

Laura said "sure". But it was a Murphy kind of day -

plus 35 degrees Celsius by mid-afternoon. You don't bale hay first thing in the morning because you want it dry therefore you wait until the dew has dried up.

We managed to ensnare our son, Doug and his friend Josh to drive out from town and join us in the having torture...er...I mean adventure.

#### Ready to roll

Having filled a cooler with ice water, and having attached the hay trailer, we took off, the four of us in our truck with the air conditioning on full blast!

It is a long drive to the friends' farm but as we arrived, they had just finished unloading their hay wagon and were headed back to finish baling the field.

When we arrived at the field, we saw that the friend was busy baling. I drove the truck and trailer onto the field and we set about throwing bales onto the trailer.

There is a bit of an art to mowing (stacking) the hay which neither Laura nor I had done for many years.

Few farmers bale small, square, hay bales preferring either large squares or big round bales.

Round bales are what we've been feeding our horses for many years, especially since we closed the riding business in 2012. We will still rely on those rounds to keep the 'home fires burning' in the equine's bellies. But it is messy.

So, getting a hundred small squares is a treat for us since each flake of hay is easier to feed when the horses are in their stalls with next to no mess; and boy, did the horses "go nuts" when Laura threw the newly baled hay into their stalls.

Laura told me that it takes three hundred small squares to feed one horse for the winter so having a couple of hundred total is just a treat for "them hosses".

Back to the field: hot, very hot. I would drive and then climb out of the air-conditioned truck to help throw bales onto the trailer. Eventually I swapped jobs with Laura who took over the driving while Doug and Josh threw bales up to me as I mowed the hay.

We had to pause to drink lots of water.

Doug actually poured a bottle of water on Josh and on himself to cool off. The air conditioning in the truck was roaring.

#### Packed up

When we had all the hay on the trailer and the extra bales stacked in the box of the truck, we tied it all down and departed. I drove very slowly all the way home as there were many hills and turns.

So, a bit of nostalgia. Definitely would not want to have to fill our barn with a couple of thousand small hay

I think that it would do me in. Back when we ran the horse riding business, our hay supplier would bale a field usually in the evening and we'd drive to it with a crew consisting of employees and even parents of riding students willing to slog it out on the field to pick it all up.

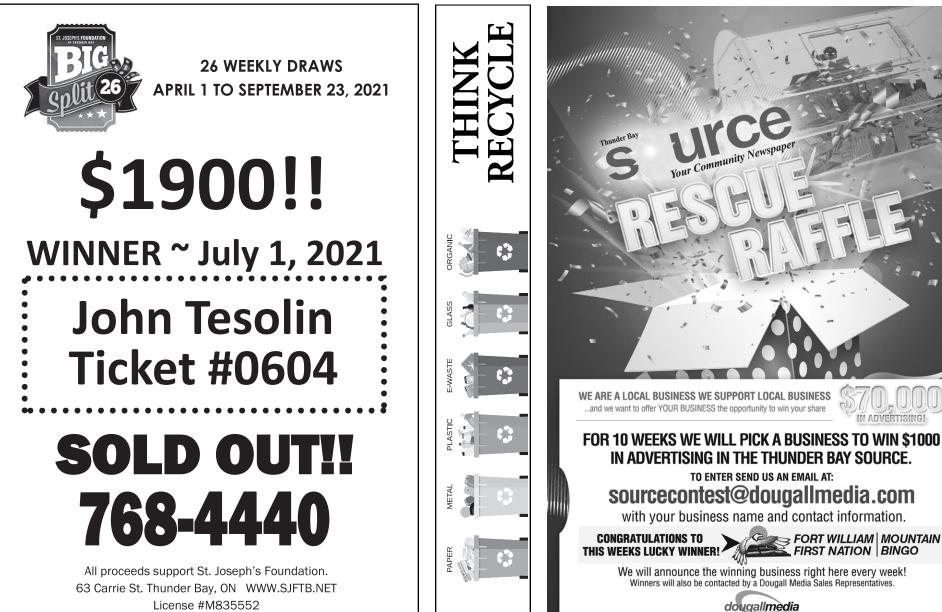
We might make as many as three trips back and forth.

We packed the barn with 3500 small square bales stacked in the Annex right up beyond the rafters.

That amount was enough to feed the large herd we owned. Now, there are five horses in our barn. And as I mentioned, we hadn't been on the field having for many years.

Ah, but the smell of freshly baled hay is heaven-scent (as it were). But I am grateful that the deed is only for nostalgia's sake and not for all the hay required especially when Murphy shows up with a heatwave.

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## IN THE bay arts entertainment culture

# **Recycled sci-fi with a heart**

The Tomorrow War (Amazon Prime) is another entry in the sci-fi timetravel sub-genre. Given how it brazenly cribs bits from many of its predecessors, any of the film's few original ideas are smothered within its own copycat mode.

The movie begins in 2022. Soldiers from 30 years in the future pop up out of nowhere in the midst of a globally televised international soccer match to address the world, declaring that the human race is in peril thanks to an invasion of creepy-crawly killer aliens called 'white spikes,' who have severely decimated the Earth's population.

The situation is so dire that this group needs to recruit both ex-soldiers and civilians from the past regardless of ability to stem the tide against this murderous horde.

#### Soldier ready

Chris Pratt (*Jurassic World*) is a high school science teacher, married with a wife (Betty Gilpin, *GLOW*) and precocious daughter, Muri (Ryan Kiera Armstrong) who proves to be a suitable conscripted candidate given his Special Forces background. Some of his fellow recruits (Sam Richardson, Mary Lynn Rajskub) are lacking in that regard, providing sporadic comic relief.

Pratt and company barely get a scintilla of basic training before an emergency whisks them off for their time-controlled seven-day tour of duty in the future (30% chance of survival), where they are immediately confronted by the nasties, replete with stinger tails. Much machine gun blasting, alien shrieking and squishing, and thrashing of humans ensues.



Waterfront will be back, but different.



BACK AND FORTH: The Tomorrow War takes Chris Pratt and a band of fighters 30 years to the future where war is waging.

Time travel epics are a challenge to pull off well and "Tomorrow" navigates a shaky course. The movie features numerous elements lifted from "Aliens," "Starship Troopers," "Predator" etc but these familiar pieces combine for a derivative, rather unconvincing story.

The plot provides more questions than answers. How do countries that have stockpiled enough firepower to blow up the Earth several times over fail to vanquish a seemingly primitive foe? Why is it left to one of Pratt's young students to theorize the creatures' origins versus a learned scientist? How do disclosures in the future affect behaviour of those returning to the past?

The script does touch upon how the realities of military service and the plight of the movie's current generation contemplating a virtually non-existent future. A climate change theme is also tossed in providing contemporary relevance.

Yvonne Strahovski (*The Handmaid's Tale*) as the no-nonsense colonel from the future and J.K. Simmons ("Zach Snyder's Justice League") as Pratt's estranged dad are a welcome presence. They also struggle to overcome Zach Dean's dubious dialogue.

Director Chris McKay generates

enough popcorn gulping action sequences to hopscotch over the plot's speed bumps. A dose of the self-aware satirical edge of his previous film, *The Lego Batman Movie* could have helped.

#### Does the job

Pratt has emerged as an action star and he acquits himself well enough here but it's the relationship with his daughter that gives the film just enough emotional investment for us to want to see how the darn thing plays out.

*The Tomorrow War* can be forgiven (barely) for having more heart than brains.

### Hybrid Live on the Waterfront returns

MUSIC By Gary Rinne – TB Source

Thunder Bay's popular Live on the Waterfront concert series will be presented with a hybrid approach this summer.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, last year's program was a virtual one. Its success was recognized with an achievement award from Festival Events Ontario.

This year, the city's culture and events team is pivoting again by offering participants three different wants to take in the entertainment – from your device, at Boomer's Drive-in in Murillo, or in person.

COVID restrictions will limit the inperson attendance to 25, with no individual able to book more than two tickets.

The live performances will be filmed from the top floor of the downtown waterfront parkade, and will be broadcast for viewing on electronic devices or at the drive-in.

"With the restrictions in place around social gatherings, events, and programming, we've had to adapt," said Cultural Development & Events Supervisor Louisa Costanzo.

"We are excited for the opportunity to celebrate local talent this summer, and

the hybrid event brings us a little closer to the in-person events we long for."

Live on the Waterfront - Parkade Sessions will take place on four Wednesdays: July 14, July 28, Aug. 11 and Aug. 25, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The lineup includes the awardwinning Shy-Anne Hovorka, Sean Skiez, CBC Searchlight finalists Lockyer Boys, and Sunday Wilde among others.

Advance tickets for the in-person and drive-in options may be booked starting later this week, free of charge, at www.thunderbay.ca/events

At Boomer's, a complimentary movie will be screened after the show.

# **Christmas in July goes a little overboard**

Relation and the second second

They call it the "new summer tradition."

I call it "what-are-you-nuts?" crazy. While I'm sprawled on my couch, hiding from the ever-rising humidex outside with a fan blowing nearby to offset my lack of air conditioning, Canada's W Network is showing couples wrapped in sweaters and blankets drinking cocoa in front of a

roaring fire.

And I ask, "Why?"

#### Short window

In Canada, we have approximately three months where people don't complain about the cold.



I can say this with confidence having been accosted in the community just to hear people's "good-natured" ribbing over last night's weather forecast for 20 years.

Hey, at least they're not throwing things at me like Nicholas Cage in *The Weather Man*.

Unless it's sunny and a balmy 24 Celsius, most people aren't happy. It's

either too hot, too humid, or too cold. Yes, even in the summer.

Of course, in the winter, it's worse. Regardless of what the normal temperature is on a particular day, people will complain. Loudly. It's just in their nature.

But now, as of June 21, summer has begun.

And it's a hot one. Environment Canada has already issued heat warnings on multiple days throughout the country and it's only the beginning of July.

My nightly weather forecasts regularly include words like humidex, sweltering, sticky, UV Index, and sunscreen.

Does that mean fickle TV viewers suddenly want to see snow? Is this an example of always wanting what you don't have?

Tall people want to be short. Petites

want a few more inches.

I think most of us are fine with waiting three or four more months before facing falling flurries in our recreation time.

However, that's not really what these movies are about.

The growing number of holiday made-for-TV films fill a desperate need for emotional warmth, kindness, and connection.

Usually, that occurs during December when people notice they're alone while others are celebrating together.

But last year, COVID hit. So forget waiting until December, we've already experienced over a year of separation.

We've been working from home and avoiding social gatherings with friends.

So perhaps experiencing a little

human connection – even if it's on a television screen – isn't a bad idea.

Of course, that could be done with the hundreds of other non-snowrelated romance flicks in the Hallmark stable ... where that sweaty, halfdressed guy shovels the hay and does his chores before leaping onto his stallion and sorry, where was I?

#### Is it necessary?

It's nice that the W Network wants to bring joy and love to its viewers this summer.

But Christmas in July?

Thanks, I'll skip any connection to snow until I'm forced to unpack my shovel, scraper, de-icer, hats, mitts, scarves, hand-warmers, boots, and parkas.

The closest I want to come to ice and snow right now is when I stick my head in my freezer to cool off.

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# **Kirk captures AON District Open title**

#### GULF By Leith Dunick – TB Source

**B**ack-to-back-to-back birdies on the back nine Sunday delivered Jeremy Kirk a second AON District Open golf title.

The 24-year-old outlasted firstround co-leader Jamie DePiero, who was tied for the lead when he stepped to the 18th tee, only to leave his approach short, three-putt from the lower level of the two-tier green and settle for bogey to fall a shot back of Kirk's one-under, 143 total.

Kirk was a shot back entering the final round of the 36-hole event, after firing a one-over 73 on Saturday under sweltering conditions at Whitewater Golf Course.

"I made a few putts on the back nine. My caddy gave me a few good reads and I was fortunate enough that they went in," Kirk said.

His comeback began on the 12th, the first of three straight birdies that ultimately decided the tournament, which concluded at Fort William Country Club.

"I made a long one on 14, a doublebreaker up the hill and it was right in the middle – a good thing," Kirk said.

Kirk's only other local major came three years ago, a District Open win that earned him a spot in the final Staal Foundation Open, a Mackenzie Tour-PGA Tour Canada event played at Whitewater from 2014 to 2018. The second was even sweeter, he said.

"This one's a little bit better. We had a lot of the local pros back in town this year and it feels good to come out on top."

One of those pros, Evan DeGrazia, who has status on this year's revamped Mackenzie Tour, finished fifth with a five-over 149 total, three shots behind third-place finisher Evan Littlefield, one of four firstround co-leaders, and two behind fourth-place Casey Niemi, who wound up with a three-over 147 score.

Another former touring pro, Walter Keating Jr., equalled DeGrazia's 149, matching his second-round score of one-over 73. Jack Moro also finished at 149, overcoming Saturday's heat to fire an even-par 72.

For Kirk, the pressure of a one-shot win is what he lives for on the golf course.

"I love the tight matches. It's sort of what keeps me going," he said.

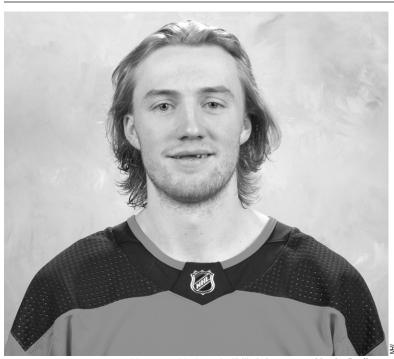
For DePiero, it was a disappointing finish.

"I hit a good shot coming in, just another two feet it would have been on the upper level. Putting from the lower tier is tough to judge the speed and I just hit it a little too hard and three-putted," he said.

The next local major, the Strathcona Invitational, will be played on the August long weekend.



NAILBITER: Jeremy Kirk shot a two-under 70 on Sunday at Fort William Country Club to win the AON District Open by one shot.



STAYING PUT: New Jersey's Mackenzie Blackwood will likely be protected by the Devils.

## **Kraken not eyeing locals**



n two week's time, the Seattle Kraken will officially have it's roster.

The NHL's newest team on July 21 will attempt to replicate the success story that's been the Vegas Golden Knights, another expansion team that made it all the way to the Stanley Cup final in season No. 1.

There's a good chance at least one Thunder Bay player, St. Louis defenceman, will be up for grabs in the draft, though it's likely the scrappy defenceman, under contract for one more season, will stay put with the 2019 Stanley Cup champions.

Goaltender Matt Murray, acquired by Ottawa last summer with much fanfare, could be left exposed, but it's unlikely the Kraken will snatch up the Thunder Bay native, given both his play of late and his \$6.25-million cap hit.

Then again, maybe GM Ron Francis sees something in the former two-time Cup champion, much like Vegas saw in Marc-Andre Fleury, the most recent Vezina Trophy winner.

At least two local players aren't going anywhere. Goaltender Mackenzie Blackwood will undoubtedly be the Devils lone protected goaltender, while Carolina isn't about to expose their captain, Jordan Staal, who also has a nomovement clause in his contract.

Staal's older brothers, Eric and Marc, will both be free agents this summer, and could possibly latch on with the Kraken, though it seems doubtful the team would want to invest in a pair of mid-30-year-olds on the downside of their careers.

I suspect Eric will give retirement a long look in the offseason, clearly losing a step in 2020-21.

It's too bad he won't go out a champion, if he does call it a career. Marc Staal will likely find a home

somewhere.

I'm not sure where Carter Hutton's future lies. The Buffalo goaltender was injured and missed the last couple months of the regular season.

With plenty of goaltending options available to the Kraken, Hutton will have to fight for a back-up role somewhere, or perhaps give Europe a try.

My best guess is no local player will be calling Seattle home in 2021-22, but I guess we'll see what happens. For your daily news visit www.tbnewswatch.com



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