

2019

YEAR IN REVIEW

OUR TOP 10 STORIES EACH MONTH, PLUS TOP NEWS AND SPORTS STORIES

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol.17 No. 1

INSIDE SHOTS FIRED



Attempted murder charge laid in shooting /2

SKYWALKER RISES



Fans flock to latest, and final, Star Wars film /21

CUP CRAZY



Bortuzzo, Blues Cup win top sports story of year /22

Decade for the ages

From the 2012 flood, to increased gang activity to the event-centre chase, the 2010s were memorable /5



UNDER WATER: Road washouts were a common sight in May 2012 when a torrent of rain led to flooding throughout the Thunder Bay area, including a water treatment plant failure.

BOXING WEEK SALE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 TO SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

tbaytel.net/boxingweek

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Weather Forecast

THURSDAY



Scattered flurries

Probability of Precipitation: 70%
HIGH -3 LOW -5

FRIDAY



Mainly sunny

Probability of Precipitation: 20%
HIGH -3 LOW -6

SATURDAY



Light snow

Probability of Precipitation: 70%
HIGH -3 LOW -7

SUNDAY



A mix of sun and clouds

Probability of Precipitation: 30%
HIGH -6 LOW -15

MONDAY



Mainly sunny

Probability of Precipitation: 30%
HIGH -14 LOW -9

TUESDAY



A few flurries

Probability of Precipitation: 40%
HIGH -16 LOW -18

LOCAL NEWS



SHOOTING: Thunder Bay Police on Dec. 22 investigate an incident involving a firearm at a north-side pet store.

Attempted murder charge laid after reports of gun shots fired

CRIME

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

A Thunder Bay man has been charged with attempted murder following an altercation that shut down a north end pet store on Dec. 22.

Police responded to several reports of gun shots just after noon in the 300s block of Queen Street. Officers found a 33-year-old man who appeared to be the victim of a recent assault, and had sought help inside Pet-Tastic at the intersection

of Queen and High streets.

While a firearm was discharged during the altercation, Police clarified, last Monday that his injuries appear to have been the result of a stabbing, and not a gunshot wound. The victim is currently in stable condition.

Jonah Yellowhead, 25, was apprehended in the area shortly afterwards, following a foot chase. On Sunday, police announced the Thunder Bay man had been charged with attempted murder

using a firearm, probation order non-compliance, and several weapons counts.

Yellowhead appeared in bail court Sunday and was remanded into custody, with a future appearance date of Dec. 24. Police say the accused and victim were well-known to each other.

The incident led to the closure of the pet store on Saturday, as forensic officers gathered evidence. Police say no officers or members of the public were harmed.



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LOCAL NEWS



GUN USE GROWING: Police investigate at a Dease Street residence, where a shooting allegedly took place.

Top 10 stories of 2019

Rise of gang violence and use of guns dominates headlines

YEAR IN REVIEW

By Lelth Dunick – TB Source

1 The increase in crimes involving guns and the associated gang violence came to a head in 2019, as the battle for the city's lucrative drug business raged on. Several homicides were attributed to the epidemic, and shootings and gun-involved crime became routine in a city where until recently, firearms were rarely a factor. Gangs from southern Ontario have set up trap houses, and as quickly as one is taken down and those involved are arrested, another one takes its place in another area of Thunder Bay. Police and the city have pleaded with the province for help to combat the issue, mostly falling on deaf ears until recently.

2 The plight of Bombardier's more than 1,000 employees darkened in 2019, when the company announced it would lay off up to 550 workers as transit contracts in southern Ontario began to run out. Premier Doug Ford has met with company officials and employees and promised to help. Late in the year Bombardier announced refurbishment work would lead to the callback of up to 80 laid-off employees in April 2020.

3 Former mayor Keith Hobbs left office in 2018, but was still making headlines a year later as an extortion trial involving him, his wife Marisa and Mary Voss, landed in a Thunder Bay courtroom. The trio was accused of attempting to extort the purchase of a house from a victim, whose identity is protected by a publication ban. A verdict is expected in February.

4 Students and staff at Hammarskjöld High School endured months of uncertainty after a series of threats forced board officials to close the school on multiple occasions. Two suspects, an 18-year-old female and a 14-year-old male, were eventually arrested and the threats came to an end.

5 After six years of uncertainty, the James Street Swing Bridge saga finally came to an end in 2019, after the

Supreme Court ruled CN had to live up to the terms of a 1906 agreement that called on the railway to maintain the bridge to vehicular traffic in perpetuity. Refurbishment work began almost immediately and the bridge, which closed in October 2013, reopened to vehicle traffic in November.

6 Former city councillor Larry Hebert made headlines for all the wrong reasons when he was arrested in November and charged with attempted murder. Police alleged Hebert attacked and threatened a female at a Vickers Street residence. The 72-year-old remains in custody at the Thunder Bay District Jail.

7 A controversial plan to build a 55-unit transitional housing facility on Junot Street raised the ire of many in the neighbourhood, worried that it would add to the drug problem that has already invaded a nearby public housing development. Coun. Albert Aiello, who runs the adjacent Thunder Bay Boys and Girls Club, was also vocal in his opposition.

8 Thunder Bay Police, acting on a damning report from the Office of the Independent Police Review Director, announced they would re-open investigations into the deaths of nine Indigenous people, after the report indicated the cases were closed far too quickly.

9 The fate of Dease Pool was decided in December, when city council voted in favour of spending more than a quarter-of-a-million dollars to demolish the aging facility. The city did not open the south-side pool in 2019 and said it would cost more than a million to bring the facility back up to a usable status.

10 Liberal Patty Hajdu was easily re-elected in Thunder Bay-Superior North in the October federal election and was returned to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's cabinet, this time as minister of health. In Thunder Bay-Rainy River, first-time Liberal candidate Marcus Powlowski held off former city councillor Linda Rydholm, running for the Conservatives, to capture a seat in the House of Commons.



In Memoriam



Michael Robert Caron
October 25, 1968 - January 3, 2019

*Forever remembered, love and missed
Close in our hearts, you will always stay*

Mom and Dad, Christine and Joshua, Grant, Jackie and Daniel



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION WEEK

Monday, January 27 - Friday, January 31, 2020

We are excited to offer full-time (full-day, every day) learning for our Junior (Year One) and Senior (Year Two) Kindergarten students in all Lakehead Public Schools. Children who will be 4 on or before December 31st, 2020 are invited to attend Junior Kindergarten (Kindergarten Year One) in September. We are proud to welcome you to our family!

Kindergarten Information Session
Monday, January 27 | 7:00 PM
Valhalla Inn

You are invited to explore the world of Kindergarten, discover the learning adventure that awaits your child, and take a moment to enjoy the expo of community early learning partners.

Kindergarten Open House
Thursday, January 30 | 6:30-7:30 PM
All Schools

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 Lakehead Public Schools

register.lakeheadschoools.ca

LOCAL NEWS

Bringing home a new puppy this holiday season

They say that one should never get a puppy at Christmas time. It would be too hard on the puppy with kids mauling the wee darling. But our kids are grown. We adopted a puppy last Sunday from the Humane Society. An impulsive move, that.

We'd been thinking about getting a second dog since two of the three we had got their "wings" and had now gone through the Pearly Gates. That left us with Baxter who was still young when the other two had left us. Baxter is now going on seven and though we were sure that adopting a male dog might not be the best for Peace, Order and Good Government in Casa Jones, we thought that Baxter would more readily accept a female. But we were not in a rush.

Then my wife, Laura, received a phone call from a friend in whom Laura must have confided that maybe someday we would get a second dog. "There's the cutest female puppy at the Humane Society, part of a litter that were born there. They had rescued the mum and



FRED JONES
RURAL ROOTS

she was very pregnant. Don't know what breed but you might want to check it out," our fiend said.

Well, Sunday we went shopping to get ready for Christmas. "Let's just stop by the Humane Society when we drive into town and take a look," Laura suggested. So, we did. We checked out all the dogs available for adoption. Being a softie, I wanted to bring them all home but they were male and we thought that Baxter and another male might not work. Then we saw the puppy: absolutely tiny, only six weeks old and, of course, very, very cute. She has a black head with a white snout and stripe beginning between her eyes. Her body is all white but for two,

large, black, oval spots on her back.

We were permitted to hold the wee creature. Tiny, as I said, and just nuzzled into both my and Laura's arms. Then we left to go and do the shopping which included treats and food for Baxter and daughter Beth's cat, Cleo. But when we climbed back into the car, Laura announced that she wanted to go back to the Humane Society right away. "But what about the grocery shopping?" I asked. "We can do that tomorrow," Laura answered. I should have known what was cooking. We arrived and asked if the puppy was still there and were told that she was. Could we see her again, we asked? We could we were told. Again, we were led to where they were keeping her that turned out to be where she and the other pups had been born. The little thing was pretty tired after being handled by quite a few interested people.

"I really like her," Laura confessed, "she is so cute and she qualifies as a female." "Okay, I like her too. Let's go see if we can adopt her," I said.

Turns out you have to make out an application that is very thorough, asking questions about what setting the adopted dog will be entering. Laura showed them a picture of our farm and of Baxter telling them that he had also come from the Humane Society. There were a couple of applications ahead of us that they'd have to sort through. Oh. Oh well. But then suddenly the person at the front desk said that we could adopt her. Really? Wow! Apparently while we were holding the pup, there was a conference among the caretakers and, of all the applicants, they liked the way we handled the pup and the environment in which she would be living.

But puppy was only six weeks old and already she'd been spayed. The fee included the adoption and the spaying fee. We paid; they gave us a couple of days-worth of puppy feed; and off we went. Puppy at first, wasn't happy to be hauled away from what was familiar. But when she arrived and after a couple of tentative investigations of her new

home, she relaxed a bit, at least, until Baxter showed up. Initially he was in shock: what the...? What have you brought into the house? It took the rest of the day and night for Baxter to accept her. He growled at her but only warning her to keep her distance.

Christmas Eve Day I saw a wonderful change come over Baxter: he wanted to play with puppy. And each day has been getting better. Boxing Day we went into the barn to feed the horses. We had been bringing puppy outside since it was unusually warm. What's this? Snow? Now she was inside the barn checking it out. At one point I was forking hay into the horses' stalls and Baxter started playing with puppy. Whew! It is going to be alright. She is fast though. It is like having a canine pinball in the house. Of course, she is teething, chewing on everything with her tiny piranha teeth. And her name? Lilli or Lilly...after "Lilliputian" from Johnathan Swift's "Gulliver's Travels" since she is so tiny...for now.

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LOCAL NEWS

The 2010s was a turbulent decade

YEAR IN REVIEW

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

It was a turbulent decade in Thunder Bay, with violence and accusations of racism dominating the headlines for much of the 10-year period.

Here's our look back at 10 of the most newsworthy stories between 2010 and 2019.

1In May 2012 the perfect storm hit sections of the city, flooding sections of Thunder Bay's east end and parts of the Northwood ward. In the former's case, the failure of the Atlantic Avenue sewage treatment plan allegedly led to raw waste back flowing into people's basements, leading to a class action lawsuit that has yet to be resolved more than seven years later. The City of Thunder Bay has also filed suit against the Ontario Municipal Insurance Exchange, looking for \$30 million to offset the cost of the repairs to the sewage treatment plan.

2Thunder Bay Police and the Thunder Bay Police Services Board both came under fire, accused of fostering systemic racism within their midst. The Office of the Independent Police Review Director issued a report, authored by Gerry McNeilly, that said police on an unacceptable high number of occasions failed to treat or protect the deceased and their family because the deceased was Indigenous. Meanwhile, a report issued by the Ontario Civilian Police Commission by Sen. Murray Sinclair accused the board of systemic racism, which led to its members being temporarily stripped of their powers while they underwent sensitivity training. The board later apologized.

3Gang violence became a regular occurrence in Thunder Bay as the decade wore on, with organized crime from southern Ontario flooding the city trying to capture their share of the lucrative drug trade throughout the region. The city was routinely one of the most violent in the country and regularly earned the dubious title of murder capital of Canada. There were 63 homicides in the city between 2010 and 2019, three times as many as there were between 2000 and 2009.

4The James Street Swing Bridge caught fire in 2013 and its owner, CN, closed it to vehicular traffic for more than six years as the company fought the City of Thunder Bay in court, maintaining it didn't have to live up to the terms of a 1906 agreement requiring the railway to keep the bridge open to traffic in perpetuity. The city estimates it spent more than \$2 million in legal fees to win the fight. The closure had a major impact on nearby Fort William First Nation, who lost an access point to the city and plenty of business. The bridge, which reopened to train traffic in days, finally reopened to vehicles in November 2019.

5It's not often in Ontario that a former mayor and his wife go on trial for extortion, but in Thunder Bay, it seems, anything is possible. Keith Hobbs, who stormed into office in 2010 to start the decade, promising to rid the city of its growing criminal element, instead found himself in legal hot water as his second term came to a close in 2018. Hobbs, his wife Marisa, and their acquaintance, Mary Voss, were on trial in 2019, trying to clear their names after being

charged with extortion of an unnamed victim, accused of trying to force him to buy Voss a \$429,000 house. A verdict is expected in early 2020.

6The chase for a sparkling new event and convention centre dominated the headlines for much of the decade, led by then mayor Keith Hobbs and then city manager Tim Commisso. The facility came with a \$114-million price tag and led to a lengthy debate on whether it was needed or not and where it should be located. At one point the Winnipeg Jets organization, a partner in the plan, suggested it would be willing to relocate their American Hockey League team to the new facility. The project ultimately failed when senior levels of government refused to fund construction.

7The Seven Youth Inquest spurred the city into action to combat racism and find ways to welcome Indigenous youth into the community. A total of 144 recommendations were made following the inquest, which was spurred by the deaths of seven youth who came to Thunder Bay to further their education between 2000 and 2011, culminating with the death of teenager Jordan Wabasse. The city and many of its institutions have worked hard to implement the vast majority of the recommendations.

8The Ring of Fire brought much promise to the region as the decade began, but 10 years later little progress has been made bringing the multi-billion-dollar mining project in Ontario's Far North much closer to reality. Successive governments promised to make it happen, with then mining minister Michael Gravelle promising \$1 billion in provincial support for the project – subject to matching dollars from Ottawa. Premier Doug Ford later tore up the regional framework in attempt to jump start the project after years of stalling.

9Adam Capay, charged with first-degree murder in the 2012 stabbing death of fellow inmate Sheldon Quisses, spent more than four years in solitary confinement for up to 23 hours a day at the overcrowded Thunder Bay District Jail. It led to the charges being stayed in early 2019, after a judge ruled his rights had been violated under the Charter of Rights and freedoms. Capay, deemed a threat to himself and other prisoners, was forced to live in a plexiglass cell with lights on 24 hours a day. The province has since promised to replace the jail, but no timeline has been put in place.

10Parents and students were up in arms in 2016 after Lakehead Public Schools announced a plan to close a number of schools in its north side renewal plan. The plan called for Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute to be reinvented as an elementary school, which would lead to the closure of St. James, C.D Howe and Vance Chapman public schools. High school students from Superior, which opened in 2009, would then transfer to Hammarskjold. Trustees ultimately nixed the plan. On the south side, there was less combativeness, which led to the closure of Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute, along with a plan to shutter Agnew H. Johnston and Edgewater Park public schools and merge students into a new school now under construction on the former Churchill grounds. Churchill students were sent to Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute as a result.



UNDER WATER: An east end resident bails water from a home after a sewage line back-up flooded homes.



NO FUNDING: The chase for an event centre was controversial and ultimately the project was shelved.

FILE

SUBMITTED/FILE

Editorial

EDITORIAL

Look ahead to the 2020s

The Roaring Twenties have returned. But what's in store for Thunder Bay over the next decade?

The previous decade, which technically doesn't end until the end of the year, brought turmoil and violence to the city, along with uncertainty for many of its workers.

First and foremost on the minds of everyone has to be an improvement in relations with the city's growing Indigenous population.

Racism is something we must leave in the past, if this city is ever going to thrive.

The issue of guns and gang violence must be addressed, and soon, before it gets even more out of hand.

Police must be given the resources to combat the issue and rid the city of the scourge that has ruined so many lives in Thunder Bay.

The Bombardier question also weighs heavily as we get set to enter a new decade. While the company managed to thrive in the 2010s, as the decade came to a close, Bombardier laid off about 550 workers, as contracts ran out.

The city and the CEDC must work with the company to help them survive, or figure out a way to transition the local economy in a meaningful way to ensure it doesn't become a ghost town.

There's a lot of uncertainty entering the 2020s, but Thunder Bay has overcome obstacles in its first 50 years of life, and will continue to do so down the road.

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

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

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Canada: \$95.00, U.S. \$170.00 (HST included)

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Relay for Life success

To the editor:

Last year, new data released by the Canadian Cancer Society showed that around 63 per cent of Canadians diagnosed with cancer will survive at least five years after their diagnosis compared to 55 per cent in the early 1990s. This unprecedented improvement wouldn't be possible without incredible advancements made in cancer research to improve diagnosis, treatment and care for people living with and beyond cancer.

This holiday season as you gather at office parties and reunite with family and friends, you have the power to influence the lives of those around you – lives of those close to you or in your community who've been impacted by cancer. I invite you to sign up for your local Canadian Cancer Society Relay For Life event to show those with cancer they're not alone.

Relay For Life is an inspiring event that unites communities across Canada to show the people we love that life is bigger than their diagnosis. It celebrates those living with cancer, provides hope to those moving past it, and remembers and honours those we've lost to the disease.

Our vision to create a world where no one fears cancer is only achievable if we work with people united by the same goals. Together, we have made significant progress but there's still so much more to be done, and we need your help. With the support of hundreds of thousands of Canadians across the country, we are a force-for-life in the face of cancer.

Join us at Relay For Life in Thunder Bay on June 6, 2020 and help us prove that together we are bigger than cancer. Register today at relayforlife.ca

*The Canadian Cancer Society
Relay For Life team*

Christmas in Canada

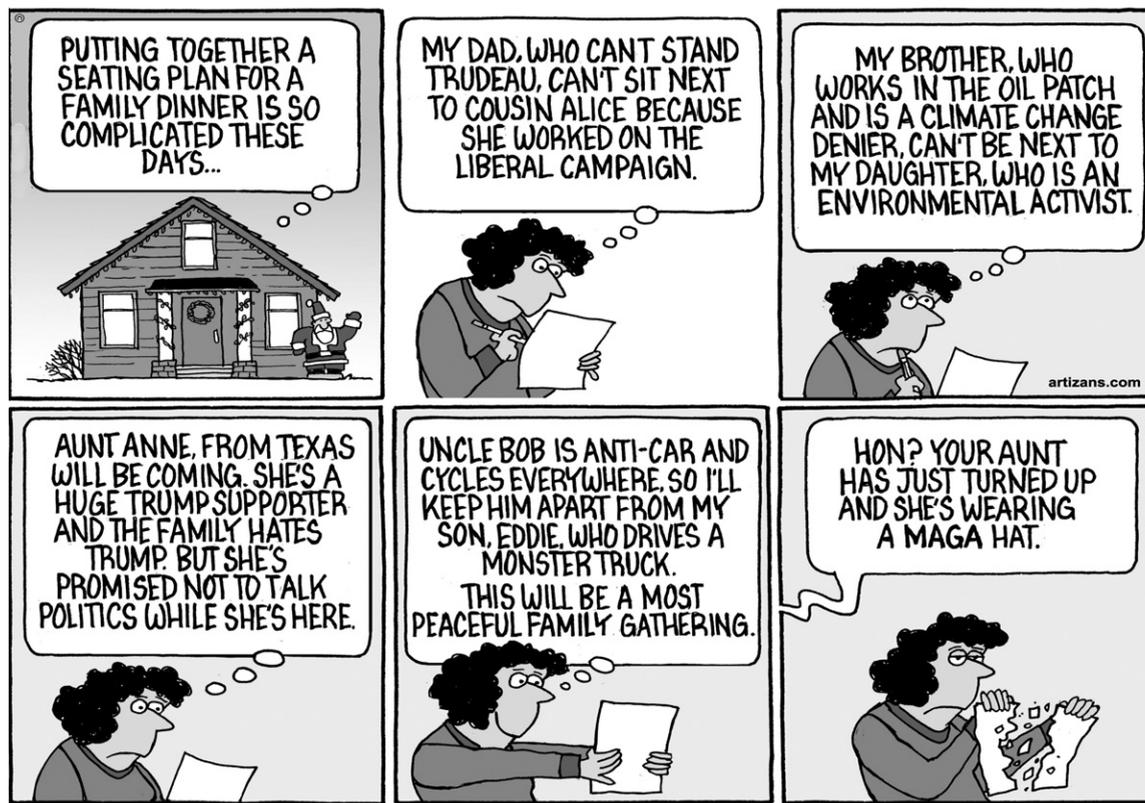
To the editor:

I had never celebrated Christmas before coming to Canada and had no idea about what Santa really did or what he is.

It's very nice to see people in Thunder Bay always love to share their Christmas happiness with others and always try to make others festive season great and enjoyable! Happy to see this kind thing here and thank you everyone.

This is my best Christmas year so far and better than last year. Last year it was totally new country for me and had no friends and felt more alone in the holiday, but a kind friend of mine did invite me last year, and I finally got the chance to celebrate and see how Canadian families celebrate Christmas. There are many newcomers like me

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



who has no place to go for Christmas or holiday and that's why the idea of celebrating together holiday welcome home gathering came and thanks for your kind support!

The best part for me this Christmas was to giving Christmas cards to our seniors and I will try to continue this and do try to meet more seniors and give them hugs next year. The best gift I got this Christmas was all the friends I have made here in last one year who have supported me, inspired and brought out the best in me and helped to bring a better version of me!

I wish you all Merry Christmas!

You have a great one and thank you Thunder Bay for always having Christmas spirit of giving away and sharing love with everyone.

*Abu Hena Mostofa Kamal,
Thunder Bay*

Feds take LGBTQ seriously

To the editor:

Thunder Pride Association welcomes the mandate letters for Canada's Minister of Health, Patty Hajdu, Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth, Bardish Chagger, and Minister of Justice and Attorney General, David Lametti.

Thunder Pride Association was thrilled to see the federal government's continued support and utmost concern for Canada's LGBTQ2S+ community by elevating to a full ministerial mandate within the new ministry of Diversity, Inclusion and Youth. In the previous Parliament, a secretariat on LGBTQ2S+

issues was created within the Privy Council Office. Former MP Randy Boissonnault was named the Prime Minister's Special Advisor on LGBTQ2 Issues to head this secretariat in the previous Parliament.

Immediately following the election this fall, Thunder Pride Association wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau to encourage the government to ensure that this role continued to be a defined, appropriately-resourced, and suitably represented role in the government. While much was accomplished for LGBTQ2S+ people in the previous Parliament that all Canadians can be proud of, there is more work to do to secure equal opportunity, safety, and full equity and inclusion for LGBTQ2S+ people and their families – especially for trans people, Indigenous two-spirit people, LGBTQ2S+ youth in rural and remote communities.

The minister's mandate letters reflects a number of priorities which advance the inclusion, safety, and well-being of LGBTQ2S+ people. We are particularly relieved to see this government's commitment amend the Criminal Code to ban the harmful and appalling practice of so-called 'conversion therapy'. We are also very supportive of the mandate to Minister Hajdu to work to finally end the gay/bi men's blood ban once and for all. We encourage her to work with the Canadian Blood Services to move quickly to eliminate the three-month waiting period as soon as possible.

We still see important issues like unrestricted access to preventative sexual health medication – notably PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) and making

affordable HIV/AIDS medication, Trans Health and support, international assistance for LGBTQ2S+ people lacking from mandate letters. We still have a lot of work to do to ensure equity and inclusion for LGBTQ2S+ people globally.

The mandate letters also includes several other commitments in support LGBTQ2S issues like:

Continue the work of the Secretariat and Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Youth in promoting LGBTQ2 equality, protecting LGBTQ2S rights, and addressing discrimination against LGBTQ2S communities. Providing additional investments to LGBTQ2S organizations to hire staff, expand services, and reach more people (this includes hotlines and other support services for LGBTQ2S communities, including those that provide sexual health information) like that of Thunder Pride Association.

To consult civil society representatives of LGBTQ2S communities to lay the groundwork for an LGBTQ2S action plan that would guide the work of the federal government on issues important to LGBTQ2S Canadians.

As we move forward we are ready to work with the Trudeau government to move forward LGBTQ2S issues and projects that will foster and build capacity, improved health access, eliminating once and for all "Conversion Therapy" practices in our country and ensure that community has an equal and fair chance to succeed.

*Jason Veltri
Chair – Thunder Pride Association*

Perspective

Ask the Money Lady

How to keep costs down during the holiday season



**CHRISTINE
IBBOTSON**
MONEY LADY

I always find it difficult over the holidays to keep the costs down. Have you got any tips for making it through Christmas without spending too much? Thanks, Francis
Great question Francis!

Everyone feels the financial pinch over the holiday season and most tend to buy on credit and then try to deal with the bills in January. I know it can be extremely hard to stick to a budget so here are some money saving tips to keep in mind this holiday season!

It is best to make a list, determine a budget for each gift and stick to it. If you can't find a gift for your price point – then opt for gift cards so that they can be used after Christmas in all the retail sales. Why not consider “teaming-up” and go in on gifts with others to limit costs and maintain your budget. Set expectations with family so that everyone plans to spend specific amounts on gift giving.

You could also choose to have an adult name picking or secret Santa. Don't forget the Dollar Store, they are great for Christmas stocking stuffers, wrappings, cards, and decorations. Who says you have to spend a lot to get into the Holiday

Spirit!

Make sure you delegate the dishes or have a potluck dinner to reduce the cost of a large family meal.

Everyone has a specialty that they could bring if asked and it is up to the Hostess to coordinate the meal and tell people what to bring. Don't forget to tell your guests to also bring their own alcohol. If you are hosting the event at your home, you shouldn't be expected to foot the bill for all the drinks. Instead have a Christmas Punch and let everyone BYOB.

Consider buying gifts really early or too late. When you buy early you can take advantage of store sales and discounts, but don't fall into the trap of buying more and going over your budget.

When you buy really late – everything in the stores is already marked down in anticipation for the Boxing Week Sales. I have always done my Christmas shopping on the 24th and got amazing deals.

Why not consider buying everything on-line.

You won't get tempted to buy more when shopping at the mall, and it is super easy to stick to a budget. If traipsing through one store after another and standing in long line-ups is not for you, why not remove the stress and have everything delivered to your door. It's like your own little valet service.

Another idea could be to give the

gift now and have it keep giving all year round. A magazine subscription or wine club membership are great gift ideas for a hard to buy family member. The payments can be spread out over the year and make it easier on the wallet during the month of December. Ordering tickets to a play, ballet or opera are also great ways to give a gift now with the added anticipation of a future intimate outing.

Be generous and gracious this season.

Homemade cookies and gifts, a thoughtful Christmas message in a hand made card, or a letter of devotion and love, can be cherished more than any store bought item. Be kind to one another, watch your manners, forget the grudges and enjoy your family. Remember, happiness isn't defined by how much you spend, it is what you do, how much you love, how caring and supportive you are, and above all your true compassion for others.

*Best wishes,
Money Lady*

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author of *How to Retire Debt Free and Wealthy*. Chris is a Canadian Financial Planner, Chartered Investment Manager, Insurance Broker, Commercial & Residential Mortgage Broker, Estate Planner and Taxation Expert, with over 25 years in Canadian Banking. Follow her on Facebook & Instagram.

If you have a money question, please email me on my website at: www.askthemoneylady.ca

FUN DAYS IN WINTER



BUBBLES MADE OF ICE Morgan Sand, 11, enjoys the city's first Winter FunDay of the season last Sunday. For a complete schedule of events this season visit the city of Thunder Bay website.

JAY KAUFMAN

A look back in history:

Algoma Hotel

The Algoma Hotel on South Cumberland Street was built in 1886 to accommodate the influx of people seeking to prosper from the local mining and railway boom. In 1894 proprietor E.J. Rochon undertook extensive repairs to the structure making it one of the town's best hotels. Today, the hotel is occupied in part by Crocks.



HOW TO WRITE US:

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

The Thunder Bay Source reserves the right to edit submissions for content and clarity. All attempts will be made to preserve the core argument of the author.

Address them to:
Thunder Bay Source
87 North Hill Street,
Thunder Bay, ON P7A 5V6

Email: ldunick@dougallmedia.com

Visit our website: www.tbnewswatch.com

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

your VOICE

Did you go out shopping for Boxing Day deals?

VOICE YOUR OPINION ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER MOST.

VISIT www.tbnewswatch.com TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND VIEWS ABOUT OUR WEEKLY POLL QUESTION.

TOTAL VOTES: 337

YES
14.8%

NO
85.1%

JANUARY

*A Year
in Review...*



RELEASED: Adam Capay (right) served four years in solitary confinement.

Capay charges stayed

1 First-degree murder charges against Adam Capay were stayed. Capay, who was to stand trial for his alleged role in the 2012 stabbing death of a fellow inmate, garnered national attention after it was learned he was held in solitary confinement for up to 23 hours a day for more than four years. In March he was re-arrested and charged with sexual assault.

2 The Thunder Bay Police Services Board finally acknowledged systemic racism exists within its walls and in the Thunder Bay Police Service during a reconciliation circle. The move followed a report by Senator Murray Sinclair that was ordered by the Ontario Civilian Police Commission.

3 A body was found dumped on Highway 527 and police quickly ruled it was a homicide. But it took the Ontario Provincial Police until March, after post-mortem examinations took place in Toronto, to identify the victim as 21-year-old Samatar Warsame, of the Greater Toronto Area. No arrests have yet been made in the case.

4 Thunder Bay Hydro is no more. Early in the new year the publicly owned utility merged with Kenora Hydro to create Synergy North. The City of Thunder Bay owns 90 per cent of the new company, which saved the two utilities a combined \$900,000 annually, according to projections.

5 Porter Airlines announced it planned to open an aircraft maintenance base in Thunder Bay, a decision that was expected to lead to 18 jobs. The airline already had 24 employees working in the city and company president Robert Deluce said the city is a

significant destination for the airline, adding it's a very busy hub.

6 Police Chief Sylvie Hauth made a big ask of city council, requesting an additional \$1 million be added to the 2019 police operating budget to help address eight of the 44 recommendations made by the Office of the Independent Police Review Director. The police budget at the time was \$41.8 million

7 The city opted in to brick-and-mortar cannabis shops, permanently binding Thunder Bay to allowing pot shops to set up. It began a months-long process by the province to find a qualified applicant to run the city's only store. As of December, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario had denied the first three successful applicants and is waiting on the fourth, which would result in a store set up on Memorial Avenue.

8 Regen Med launched the country's first cortical bone powder program to provide material to aid in reconstructive surgery. The tissue bank got a \$700,000 grant from FedNor to harvest the material, the dense outer surface of the bone.

9 The city's proposed budget starts with a 3.25 per cent gross tax levy increase, in part to cover \$900,000 in additional costs to the Thunder Bay Police Services Board. The proposed levy, the money collected from all municipal taxpayers, was \$6.2 million higher than it was set in 2018, a \$195.9 million total. Council settled at 2.29 per cent.

10 Flooding at Fort William Historical Park led officials at the provincial park to cancel the 2019 winter carnival. An ice jam on the Kaministiquia River was to blame, leading to water filling the basement of the Grand Hall.

NEW YEAR GOALS

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HERE IS HOW:

- 1** **Rethink** | Think about waste before you buy. Avoid 'disposable' products.
- 2** **Refuse** | Say no to plastic bags in stores – bring your own instead.
- 3** **Reduce** | Take reusable containers and bags for lunches
- 4** **Reuse** | Charitable organizations and thrift shops are happy to take reusable items you no longer need
- 5** **Repair** | Be handy! Fix those items instead of replacing them
- 6** **Recycle** | Recycle everything you can.

For more information on reducing waste, please visit: thunderbay.ca/recycling

*A Year
in Review...*

FEBRUARY

Body dumped on Mission Island

1 Police confirmed a body dumped on Mission Island was the victim of a homicide. Police later identified the victim as 40-year-old Lee Chiodo. David Hui, 47, and 27-year-olds Marshall Hardy-Fox and Musab Khamis Saboon were arrested and charged with first-degree murder and kidnapping.

2 Hammarskjöld High School was placed on lockdown after an anonymous tip was received about a weapon at the north side school. It wouldn't be the last time the school was shut down because of an anonymous threat. Several more incidents took place, disrupting the school for days on end. Eventually an 18-year-old female and a 14-year-old male were arrested and the threats stopped.

3 A 29-year-old security guard working at a Memorial Avenue Shoppers Drug Mart location was charged with assault after police responded to a report of theft at the store. Police said upon arrival they learned of an alleged assault by the suspect against a youth. A video of the incident was widely circulated on social media.

4 The controversial pro-pipeline United We Roll convoy made its way through Thunder Bay on its way to Ottawa to protest the carbon tax and support the oil and gas industry. A small crowd of supporters turned out to support the group, which numbered about 200 trucks and vehicles in total. The convoy drew criticism for opposing the United Nations global compact on migration, which many saw as racist.

5 Independent Police Review Director Gerry McNeilly announced he was pleased the Thunder Bay Police Service

was taking the recommendations his report made to address issues of systemic racism. McNeilly said he was glad to see acknowledgements and apologies made and called on Indigenous leaders and communities to work in partnership with Thunder Bay Police.

6 Protestors gave then Finance Minister Vic Fedeli a cold reception when he arrived in Thunder Bay for a budget consultation session at the Finlandia Hall. Protesters were angry at the cancellation of the basic income pilot program and an overhaul of the OSAP program.

7 A Red Lake, Ont. woman was injured in what was believed to be a wolf attack and had to be taken to hospital for treatment of serious leg and back injuries. The woman was walking her dog near the Red Lake Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital when a large black animal rushed them from the woods.

8 The Bear Clan pulled the plug on its Thunder Bay chapter, after posting a message suggesting it had been falsely accused of inciting division. The co-founder of the organization said members of the Thunder Bay chapter lost the right to use their name and logo.

9 Thunder Bay-Atikokan NDP MPP Judith Monteith-Farrell criticized the planned closure of the city's child advocacy office, a victim of more provincial government cuts. Monteith-Farrell said it left children in the Northwest with nowhere to turn.

10 Air Canada announced it was axing its Thunder Bay to Winnipeg route, leaving travellers with fewer choices to head westward without first flying to Ontario's capital first.



FIRST MURDER: Police investigate a body found on Mission Island.



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MARCH

A Year in Review..



PAYS VISIT: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks about skilled trades.

CN loses bridge appeal

1 The Supreme Court dismissed CN's James Street Swing Bridge appeal, paving the way for the span to reopen later in the year after being closed to vehicular traffic for six years after a 2013 fire. A three-judge panel found the continuing closure breached a 1906 agreement between the Grand Trunk Railway and the former Town of Fort William.

2 A County Fair death was investigated as a homicide, after Tanya Andy, 27, was found unresponsive on a bicycle path by a passerby. Ashley Mary Potson, 32, and Patrick James Menson, 29, were charged with second-degree murder. It was the first of three murders in the city in March. Police arrested 22-year-old Nathaniel Austin Wesley in the killing of 58-year-old Claude Justin Kishiqueb near a North Cumberland Street business. On March 29, police discovered a body in the area of Hildale and Melbourne roads, and later identified the victim as 21-year-old Robenson Saint-Jean of Ottawa. Thunder Bay's Jeffrey D.R. Miller, 41, was charged with second-degree murder.

3 Former murder suspect Adam Capay, who spent nearly four years in solitary confinement before being released from custody, was charged with sexual assault with a weapon and returned to jail. The 26-year-old Lac Seul First Nation man was arrested on March 5 in Sioux Lookout.

4 Shaldon Wabason was sentenced to one day in custody, in addition to seven years already served, after pleading guilty to criminal negligence causing death in the 2011 killing of Robert Topping.



SHALDON WABASSON

5 The city decided to put Thunder Bay Fire Rescue under the microscope, announcing they intended to hire a consultant to conduct an operational review and develop a new strategic plan, while finding cost-containment opportunities. The department's current budget is slightly less than \$30 million annually.

6 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau paid a pre-election visit to the city, holding a two-hour town-hall style meeting at Lakehead University, where he took 17 questions from the audience, ranging from the environment and education to the economy.

7 The city decided to focus its indoor soccer efforts on securing funding for a permanent facility, with a cost estimate of \$30 million. A temporary facility would have cost between \$5.7 million and \$8.9 million.

8 A town-hall meeting was held to allow parents and family members of children with autism to speak out and voice their concerns about cuts to provincial autism services. Parents in attendance said their children deserved the same opportunities as everyone else and the province's new plan was not nearly enough to cover the costs of the necessary therapies.

9 Staff at the Thunder Bay District Jail raised the alarm about overcrowding at the aging facility, saying there were 198 inmates in custody in a building meant to house no more than 147. It led to increased tensions and more assaults, according to Mike Lundy, the co-chair of the provincial health and safety committee for corrections workers.

10 Criminal charges were withdrawn in a fatal Trillium Way fire. The alleged suspect was first charged with criminal negligence causing death and criminal negligence causing bodily harm in October 2018. Kyle Stoney, 30, died in the fire.



Michael Gravelle, MPP
Thunder Bay-Superior North

Wishing everyone in Thunder Bay - Superior North a happy and prosperous new year!

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Have a joyous New Year!

Judith Monteith-Farrell
MPP Thunder Bay—Atikokan



*A Year
in Review...*

APRIL

Hammar skjold threat arrests made

1 After multiple closures throughout the month, police finally made arrests in an ongoing series of threats made against Hammar skjold High School. Emilie Jade Pakrashi, 18, and a 14-year-old boy who cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, were taken into custody in the case, which paralyzed the school community for months. Both face charges of public mischief.

2 Thunder Bay Mayor Bill Mauro made a plea to both the provincial and federal governments to come to the table to help with the city's growing gang problem. Thunder Bay in recent years has become fertile turf for a lucrative drug trade and Mauro said if senior levels of government can't help, the city might have to cut services elsewhere to reallocate resources to do it themselves.

3 The Conservative government made it official and committed to replace the overcrowded Thunder Bay District Jail, first promised by the previous Liberal government. The new 325-bed facility will replace the 147-bed jail and also combines the Thunder Bay Correctional Centre.

4 A 52-year-old man, Andrew Ayre, died of his injuries and police treated his death as a homicide. Police responded on April 25 to an incident on the corner of Victoria Avenue and North Street, where they found a man in distress on the sidewalk. David Vernon Gergorovich, 32, and Jason Raven, 23, face second-degree murder and robbery charges.

5 Hundreds of students walked out of class to protest Premier Doug Ford's cuts and changes to the education system. Class-

size increases and mandatory e-learning courses, the banning of cell phones in classroom and the new math and sex-education curricula were among the issues students were fighting against.

6 The Thunder Bay Police Services Board regained its right to vote after completing governance and cultural sensitivity training. It had been taken away from the board for about four months, following the release of Senator Murray Sinclair's Ontario Provincial Police Commission report that found the board failed to address the concerns of the Indigenous community.

7 Peter Collins was re-elected to a third consecutive term as chief of Fort William First Nation. Collins defeated challenger Bonnie Pelletier to win the election, saying the next four years could provide a challenging road ahead.

8 About 250 evacuees from Kashechewan First Nation arrived in Thunder Bay after flooding concerns in their community, located on the James Bay coast. The reserve has been prone to flooding nearly every spring due to the break-up of ice on the Albany River.

9 City council heard a zoning bylaw request that, if approved, would nearly triple the size of a supportive housing complex for youth on Junot Avenue

10 The demolition of the former Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute began, the tear-down making way for a new elementary school to take over the Northwood site. The school had been open for 52 years and was slated for closure because of dwindling enrolment.



T00 OFTEN: Police were a regular sight at Hammar skjold High School.

Happy New Year!
Wishing you all
the best in 2020.

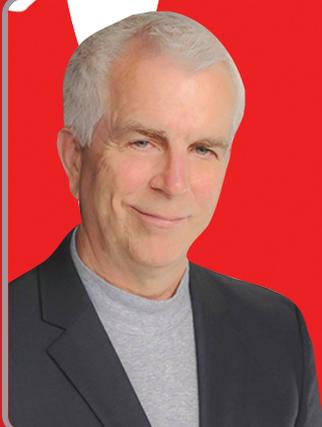


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Marcus Powlowski, MP

Thunder Bay-Rainy River

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2020!

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MAY*A Year
in Review...*

Tragic fire kills 5 people in KI First Nation

1 A fatal fire in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First nation claimed the lives of five people, including four children. Community members said they were in utter disbelief at the tragedy, which drew condolences from across the country.

2 Mayor Bill Mauro came under fire for comments he made at a town-hall meeting, at which he said it drove him crazy to have to fight back against the perception of the community across the country, fed in part by reports issued by the Office of the Independent Review Director and the Ontario Civilian Police Commission. Fort William First Nation Chief Peter Collins called on Mauro to resign his seat on the police services board, stating the mayor clearly didn't understand the issues of racism or the importance of the recommendations made in the two reports.

3 Company and union officials made their case to Ontario Premier Doug Ford, an attempt to stop or minimize lay-offs at Thunder Bay's struggling Bombardier plant. Workers were facing the end of two contracts by the end of the year. At the time the plant employed 1,100 people, making it the largest private-sector employer in the city.

4 Thunder Bay police, along with OPP, Nishnawbe Aski Police Service and the Anishinabek Police Service revealed their ongoing Project Disruption had resulted in the seizure of \$1.5 million worth of drugs, \$750,000 in cash



TRAGEDY: Five people, including four youth, were killed in a fire at a Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation home.

and 13 firearms over a six-month span. . A total of 431 charges were laid as a result.

5 The sight of television crews on Red River Road, the Terry Fox Lookout and other popular locations throughout the city sent fans of The Amazing Race Canada into a tizzy as the popular show filmed segments for its upcoming season in and around the city. Contestants also visited Thunder Oak Cheese Farm and flew

drones provided by Lakehead University.

6 The long-awaited Delta Hotel on the Thunder Bay waterfront finally opened after years of delays. The \$35-million hotel has 149 rooms and features a spectacular view of the Sleeping Giant. Rooms range from \$179 a night to \$489 a night.

7 Lawyer Chris Watkins had his provisional license suspension extended by the Law

Society of Canada. Watkins was accused of repeatedly not attending court on behalf of his clients, failing to adequately communicate with his clients and failing to provide the court with requested documents.

8 Nishnawbe Aski Nation leaders expressed dismay after the Conservative Education Minister Lisa Thompson touted her party's new First Nations, Metis and Inuit studies curriculum at Westgate Collegiate, saying they were not consulted about the contents of the curriculum. Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler was not happy about not having input and denied meeting with Thompson about the curriculum.

9 The federal Competition Bureau ruled there was no collusion involved in gas pricing in Northwestern Ontario, after launching a probe last December at the behest of Kenora-Rainy River MPP Greg Rickford. Field interviews were conducted at 50 gas stations in Thunder Bay, Dryden, Fort Frances and Kenora and no evidence of anticompetitive agreements between wholesale or retail gasoline markets were found.

10 The discovery of a suspicious white powder led to the closure of a section of Red River Road as emergency crews attempted to determine its nature. The substance was found inside a bank, but was ultimately deemed to be non-hazardous.



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*A Year
in Review...*

JUNE

Police to reinvestigate Indigenous deaths

1 Thunder Bay Police laid out the framework for re-investigating nine sudden death cases involving Indigenous people. The move stemmed from recommendations made in the Office of the Independent Police Review Director's report on systemic racism in the department. The sudden deaths being reinvestigated include Christine Gliddy, Shania Bob, Marie Spence, Aaron Loon, Sarah Moonias, as well as four cases involved in the Seven Youth Inquest – Jethro Anderson, Curran Strang, Kyle Morrisseau, and Jordan Wabasse.

2 Neighbours, including Albert Aiello of the Thunder Bay Boys and Girls Club, expressed opposition to the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services proposed 58-bed transitional residence on Junot Avenue, citing an increase in gang-related violence, including a standoff and a shooting, as temptations that shouldn't be readily available for those trying to kick addictions.

3 The legacy of the St. Joseph's Residential School was etched in stone when a marble monument recognizing the school on the grounds at Pope John Paul II School was unveiled. At least six Indigenous children died while attending St. Joseph's, which operated at the site for more than 50 years before being demolished in 1966.

4 The region lost one of its biggest champions with the death of former MP John Rafferty, who was only 66. Rafferty, a former CKPR broadcaster, served in the House of Commons for the NDP from 2008 to 2015.

5 Council voted to reject a proposed bylaw that would have implemented the designated truck route, leaving the plan in limbo.

Council had approved the route, forcing trucks to remain on Highway 11/17 instead of Dawson Road or Arthur Street West, in January. The issue returned to council late in the year.

6 The province opened the door for 36 new bi-level cars to be built at Bombardier, sending a mandate letter to Metrolinx. At the same time, the timeline to compete an existing order of 63 cars was extended. It wasn't a great year at the plant, with hundreds of layoffs announced, but this was a glimmer of hope for some employees.

7 Police raided a Pearl Street apartment and seized a quantity of crack cocaine, morphine and oxycodone, resulting in the arrest of 10 people. Police say they suspected Toronto-area gang members had been using multiple units within the apartment building for drug trafficking purposes.

8 A Hartland Street fire trapped an international student and left them in critical condition. The residence was home to between six and 10 international students and led fire officials to reinforce the importance of landlords ensuring their properties are equipped with working smoke alarms.

9 An OPP officer suffered serious injuries in a Golf Links Road crash that also sent a 75-year-old male driver to hospital for treatment. The injured officer was a passenger in an unmarked OPP vehicle. The SIU invoked its mandate in the case.

10 The annual Thunder Pride Parade was once again a hit, drawing out hundreds of people to celebrate inclusion and diversity. Organizers celebrated the fact the LGBTIQAP+ community no longer had to hide, as they marched down Algoma Street to a block party on Bay Street.



SPEAKING OUT: Coun. Brian McKinnon speaks to a packed house at the Junot Street transitional housing open house.

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JULY*A Year
in Review..*

Bombardier facing layoffs

1 Bombardier workers got the bad news they had feared, when the international conglomerate announced it was laying off 550 local employees as contracts began to run out later in the year. The company called a town-hall meeting at their Thunder Bay plant to give them the bad news. The layoffs represent about half the company's 1,100 strong workforce.

2 One person was killed after a fire swept through the kitchen of a Bethune Street residence. Firefighters arrived on scene at about 3:30 a.m. The body of the 34-year-old male victim was located in an adjacent bedroom. Police later ruled the fire as an arson and said they were investigating it as a sudden death.

3 Thunder Bay earned the country's second highest score on Canada's national violent crime severity index. It was the eighth straight year the city finished in the top three nationwide, notching 159.7 score. Only Winnipeg, at 161.4, fared worse.

4 First-degree murder charges against four men wanted in the 2016 disappearance and suspected murder of Justin Duncan were stayed. The Crown has one year to decide whether or not to bring the charges back and move forward with the prosecution. Duncan, a known gang member, was last seen in Thunder Bay. His body was never found during the investigation.

5 A teen was arrested and charged in conjunction with a pair of suspected arsons after fires broke out at residences on Queen and Hartland Street. Sam Varghese was taken into custody in Niagara Falls, Ont. and charged with seven counts of

forcible confinement and arson. The second fire left one resident critically injured as a result.

6 Canada Day celebration brought thousands out to Fort William Historical Park and Prince Arthur's landing. The country celebrated its 152nd birthday with plenty of music and food, cultural fun and of course, the always popular fireworks display that lit up the Thunder Bay sky when the sun disappeared for the night.

7 Tickets for the 2019 Thunder Bay Blues Festival didn't last long, not with the likes of Bryan Adams topping the bill. Marina Park was filled to the brim with 21,000 music fans over the three-day run, Adams was joined by legends like Burton Cummings, Tom Cochrane, 54-40 and Johnny Reid.

8 The federal government formalized with 24 First Nations communities to connect 17 of them to the Ontario power grid by 2023. Then Minister of Indigenous Services Seamus O'Regan made the announcement in Fort William First Nation, taking the \$1.6-billion plan one step closer to reality.

9 Thunder Bay residents were on high alert as reports swirled that two British Columbia murder suspects might be travelling in Northwestern Ontario. OPP urged the public not to approach Kam McLeod or Bryer Schmegelsky. Their bodies were later found in Manitoba.

10 Hockey fans were shocked to learn former Nashville Predators captain Greg Johnson had died in Michigan. Johnson, who started his NHL career with the Detroit Red Wings, spent seven seasons with Nashville, retiring in 2006. His death was later ruled a suicide.



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*A Year
in Review...*

AUGUST

Boat crash injures six

1 Six people were lucky to be alive after a boat crashed into a harbour break wall late at night. All six were injured and three were left in serious condition – though Thunder Bay Fire Rescue Chief John Hay said it could have been much worse. The boat’s owner, Gary Wenzel, a former Thunder Bay North Stars coach, is facing 10 charges in the incident, including five counts of impaired operation causing bodily harm and five counts of dangerous operation causing bodily harm.

2 The province announced it was tearing up the Ring of Fire Framework and inviting individual First Nations to negotiate on their own behalf. Mines Minister Greg Rickford said he wanted to work with willing First Nations partners who wanted to move at the speed of business to make progress in the lucrative mining project.

3 Nazareth Nelson was sentenced to 18 years in prison for manslaughter for his role in the 2017 beating death of Burth Isaac Wood, and three more for attacking two other people with a baseball bat at a Syndicate Avenue home.

4 Ryan Hughes was named deputy police chief. Hughes, a detective inspector with the Thunder Bay Police Service’s investigations branch, brings 21 years of policing experience to the role. He took over the role from Don Lewis, who was serving in an interim capacity after former deputy chief Sylvie Hauth was named chief.

5 Three people were left homeless after a fire swept through a Simpson Street structure. The Thunder Bay Red Cross reported an elderly individual and two adults were staying at two

apartment units inside the building.

6 Lakehead University hired a new dean of law, a permanent replacement for Angeqlique Eaglewoman, who resigned in 2018 citing systemic racism and discrimination at the Thunder Bay school. Jula Hughes was most recently a professor of law at the University of New Brunswick. She took over the post on Oct. 1.

7 Evergreen, a United Neighbourhood founder Linda Bruins announced the grassroots organization was in trouble, thanks to funding cuts announced by Ontario’s Conservative government. Bruins said without the funds, they would likely have to close their doors. She planned to turn to the city for help.

8 Thunder Bay’s cannabis store operator was announced. The Alcohol and Gaming Corporation initially granted the licence to Gerald Harrison, who planned to open up a store at a former Mac’s location at 1802 Victoria Ave. East. However, the applicant failed to get his paperwork in on time. The province has since turned down two successive applicants and is waiting on a fourth.

9 As many as 55,000 from throughout Northwestern Ontario flocked to the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition grounds for the annual five-day fair. From carnival-like food to music, games and rides, there was a little something for everyone at the CLE.

10 Rib Fest made the move from the downtown north core to the CLE grounds and didn’t skip a beat, with thousands heading to the popular event to take in the latest the ribbers, both local and from afar, had to offer.



HIT BREAKWALL: Gary Wenzel faces multiple charges after a boat crash.

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SEPTEMBER

*A Year
in Review...*

Bushby pleads not guilty

1 Brayden Bushby pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder in the 2017 death of Indigenous woman Barbara Kentner. Kentner died months after being struck by a trailer hitch thrown at her and her sister as they walked together in the Cameron Street area. Bushby also pleaded not guilty to a charge of aggravated assault.

2 A second-degree murder charge was laid against 43-year-old Neil Howard Neshinapaise, a man with a long and violent criminal history, in the 2018 death of Amelia Corrie Sainnawap. Police did not say what led them to make the arrest more than a year after the murder took place.

3 The officer at the centre of a viral video, seen allegedly slapping an Indigenous teen, was charged with two counts of unlawful or unnecessary exercise. The teen was on a gurney at the time and the officer can be heard saying, "that's enough," and "you do not spit on me."

4 The Wake the Giant Music Festival drew plenty of attention to the plight of Indigenous teens who come to Thunder Bay to complete high school studies, the culminating effort of a campaign designed to foster inclusiveness and harmony in the city. Coleman Hell, Wolf Saga, Metric and July Talk were among the acts on the bill, which drew 4,000 to Marina Park.

5 Oliver Paipoonge's Albert Kozlowski was found guilty of sexual assault and sexual interference for raping a girl on numerous occasions when she was between the age of seven and 13. The 67-year-old was first charged in 2017 and the offences took place between October 2008 and December 2014.

6 The federal election campaign officially got under way on Sept. 11, with six candidates seeking the Thunder Bay-Superior North seat held by Liberal Patty Hajdu and five more looking to replace outgoing Liberal MP Don Rusnak in Thunder Bay-Rainy River. Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau and the NDP's Jagmeet Singh were the only party heads to visit the city during the campaign.

7 The city's safe-injection site got funding certainty from the province, which had initially paused the program's opening after being elected in June 2018. Once opened, the site received several short-term extensions, but the ongoing base funding model removes the uncertainty of the program. Later in the year NorWest Community Health Centre CEO Juanita Lawson announced a new name, Path525, and an extension of hours to include Saturday.

8 An issue in the refurbishment work on the refrigeration system at the aging Fort William Gardens led to a one-week delay in the opening of the facility and the cancellation of the Lakehead Thunderwolves' first two non-conference games.

9 The Community Clothing Assistance announced it was in desperate need of a new roof and put out a fundraising call to collect the \$138,000 needed to cover the cost of the repair.

10 Hundreds attended a local climate-change strike, including students from schools across the city. Science, not silence, was one of their rallying cries, as they looked to convince politicians to listen to young people's voices. The rallies were inspired by Swedish teen Greta Thunberg.



ON TRIAL SOON: Brayden Bushby faces second-degree murder charges.



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*A Year
in Review...*

OCTOBER

Hajdu, Powlowski capture fed seats

1 Incumbent MP and cabinet minister Patty Hajdu easily won re-election in Thunder Bay-Superior North, handily knocking off Conservative hopeful Frank Pullia and the NDP's Anna Betty Achneepineskum, a former deputy chief with Nishnawbe Aski Nation. In Thunder Bay-Rainy River, rookie candidate Marcus Powlowski held the seat for the Liberals, edging Conservative Linda Rydholm. Hajdu was later returned to cabinet as minister of health.

2 Coun. Brian Hamilton expressed frustration after yet another shooting in his ward, this time at a residence at the corner of Dease and McKenzie streets. A male victim from southern Ontario was shot and taken to hospital for treatment. Hamilton said the city needs to find the help police need to end the scourge of gangs and violence in Thunder Bay. Two suspects were arrested separately later in the month.

3 The city's integrity commissioner found McKellar Coun. Brian Hamilton in conflict of interest over his vote on the designated truck route. Coun. Trevor Giertuga raised concerns about Hamilton, regarding his participation in the June 17 vote, saying it breached the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act because of Hamilton's pecuniary interests.

4 Ontario Premier Doug Ford paid a visit to the city and promised \$30 million for broadband access to five Matawa First Nation communities.

5 A 49-year-old woman in a wheelchair was struck and killed on Memorial Avenue, leading to charges against a 29-year-old motorist. Renee Jennie Graves was charged with dangerous operation causing death and two counts of breach of probation.

6 A human appendage was found in Marina Park, leading police to hold the scene for more than a day while they looked for a person in distress. A passerby notified police after finding the appendage.

7 The opening of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery was pushed back from 2021 to either 2022 or 2023, mainly because of delays in the province's environmental assessment process. Contaminated soil from decades of industrial use requires remediation.

8 A planned soccer bubble off Golf Links Road hit a snag when zoning regulations were uncovered requiring developers to first build a planned hotel for the site. Developer Robert Zanette was behind the project, which would have seen two 90- by 150-foot soccer fields constructed at the site. City council later in the month approved \$1.5 million to proceed with a study for its own \$30-million indoor soccer facility.

9 The threat of a strike by 55,000 Ontario school staff was averted less than a day before Canadian Union of Public Service Employees were schedule to hit the picket line. About 150 Lakehead Public Schools administration staff, special education assistants, cafeteria and maintenance workers and custodians would have been affected locally.

10 Marshall's created a stir in the local retail world, opening its doors at Intercity Shopping Centre after months of anticipation. The retailer took over a portion of the space vacated when Sears Canada went out of business nationwide. The good news was short-lived at the mall, as later in the year Lowe's announced it was closing its Thunder Bay store.



RETURNED: Liberal Patty Hajdu won re-election in a minority government.



**Mario Tegola,
Owner of Re/Max
First Choice Realty,
together with 10 of our
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James Carlson



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Dan Baca



Northern Hearts

Joe Mosindy

NOVEMBER*A Year
in Review...*

Hobbs, Voss extortion trial begins

1 The extortion trial of former mayor Keith Hobbs, his wife Marisa and Mary Voss began at the Thunder Bay Courthouse. The trio were accused of trying to force the alleged victim, who cannot be named because of a publication ban, to buy a house for Voss after a failed relationship came to an end.

2 After more than six years and countless legal battles that led all the way to the Supreme Court, the James Street Swing Bridge finally reopened to vehicular traffic. The bridge was closed to traffic in October 2013 after a fire damaged the span, and the railway fought the City of Thunder Bay in court, saying they should not have to live up to the terms of a 1906 deal in which its predecessor promised to keep the bridge operational in perpetuity.

3 Layoffs at the local Bombardier plant began, with 200 put out of work in the first wave. Up to 550 people are expected to be laid off when all is said and done, as contracts for rail cars destined for southern Ontario run out. Later in the month an action centre was set up for displaced workers and their families.

4 Former city councillor Larry Hebert was arrested and charged with attempted murder after an incident at a Vickers Street house. Hebert, 72, is alleged to have attacked and threatened an individual inside the home, who then fled to a neighbour's to call police. Hebert remains in custody.

5 A fire lit up the night sky on Simpson Street, destroying a cabinet-making business as well as the Hells Angels club-

house. It also led Peter Panetta to make the tough decision to close the adjacent Underground Gym, after a burst water pipe flooded the building's basement.

6 Johnathon Mark McKay, 40, was arrested and charged with second-degree murder in a homicide at an Arundel Street address. The victim was 41-year-old Nazareth Andrew Kwandibens.

7 Traffic was disrupted and rerouted for several weeks after an over-height vehicle struck a railway overpass on Highway 61 south of the airport. Several days later OPP said they had identified the vehicle in question and charges were pending.

8 Garnet Loon pleaded guilty to manslaughter for his role in the 2017 death of Robert Lloyd Gray in a double homicide at a Carl Avenue home. Kory Lee Campbell, 22, was the other victim. Earlier in the year Kailee Loon pleaded guilty to assault in the case. A second count of manslaughter against Garnet Loon was withdrawn.

9 Nearly 200 evacuees from Bearskin Lake First Nation were transported to Thunder Bay after flood waters inundated their remote, fly-in community. Another 200 were sent to Sioux Lookout after an ice jam led to high water levels.

10 The discovery of a white, powdery substance led to the evacuation of the Canada Post mail sorting facility on Alloy Drive. After several hours, firefighters determined the substance was non-toxic and employees were allowed to return to work.



ON TRIAL: Keith and Marisa Hobbs enter the courthouse in November.



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DECEMBER

A Year in Review...



OSSTF members strike

1 Public high school teachers and education workers walked off the job twice to pressure the provincial government to come back to the bargaining table. The decision forced all Lakehead Public Schools and Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board facilities to close on both days.

2 The evidence portion of the extortion trial of Thunder Bay mayor Keith Hobbs, his wife Marisa and Mary Voss wrapped up at the Thunder Bay Courthouse. A total of 13 witnesses were called to testify. Closing submissions took place later in the month and a verdict is expected in the new year.

3 Consultants hired by the city pointed out a dozen areas they'd like to take a deeper dive into during Phase 2 of Thunder Bay's first service and program review in 20 years. Roads, parks, child care and the Sister Cities program, as well as human resources, are among the areas council is being asked to give the go-ahead to look at a little more closely to find potential efficiencies.

4 Consultants conducting a review of Thunder Bay Fire Rescue to create a new strategic fire master plan made several recommendations, most notably to close the Vickers Street fire hall. The consultants said upgrades to the fire department's headquarters would cost upward of \$1 million. An alternative would be to consolidate Vickers Street and Water Street stations into one fire hall near the Thunder Bay Police Service station.

5 Former Fort William First Nation Chief Georjann Morriseau was elected as the new chair of the Thunder Bay Police Services Board after former chair Celina Reitberger informed the

board she did not wish to stand as a nominee. Morriseau joined the board in January and said she looks forward to helping it achieve its priorities in the coming year. Mayor Bill Mauro was also in the running for the position.

6 Much to the dismay of a vocal group of supporters, council decided to spend \$260,000 to demolish the century-old Dease Pool and repurpose the site as park area, rather than spending millions to rebuild the pool to modern standards.

7 The Thunder Bay Art Gallery was the beneficiary of a pair of large donations, helping them inch closer to their \$3.5-million capital campaign to construct a new facility on the city's waterfront. Jake Black, an artist and educator, pledged \$800,000 over the next four years.

8 Police investigated an assault at a local pet store that led to the arrest of a 33-year-old man and left a 25-year-old man in hospital with undisclosed injuries. Police were responding to reports of a firearm being discharged in the area.

9 Emergency crews responded to a fire at the Thunder Bay District Jail, after four inmates allegedly set a mattress alight following a weekend lockdown at the aging, overcrowded facility.

10 Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre announced its CEO, Jean Bartkowiak, plans to step down in January 2021. A search for his replacement will begin in the spring, the goal to have the new hire in place to create a seamless transition. Bartkowiak assumed the role in December 2015 and helped implement the hospital's latest strategic plan.



OFF THE JOB: Staff at Superior Collegiate march on a picket line.

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KEITHAILEY

VENTURING OUT THIS SEASON: The holiday season can be a great time to head out to the lake.

Christmas is a great time to be at the lake



**KEITH
AILEY**

THE GOOD LIFE

our hybrid SUV down our road, past where the plow had stopped and right up to the back door of the cabin. These winter trips to camp can involve a lot of shoveling and some shuttling of our bags down the road, but not this time.

The surprisingly easy access to camp was just the beginning of a wonderful few days away from the hectic Christmas build-up back home. Off-grid and out of cell phone range, we have the rare opportunity to completely relax and recharge at the cabin. Sleeping in, taking the time to savor some good coffee, making Finnish pancakes with real maple syrup, reading in front of the fireplace, playing old-fashioned board games, and enjoying the view of the sun rising across the frozen lake are the perfect way to get the whole family into the Christmas spirit. However, we never can sit around for too long and by noon we decided to embark on another adventure.

Using our park permit, we accessed the Sleeping Giant Provincial Park campground from the main entrance and made the

short walk to the start of the groomed trail. The Giant boasts over 60km of ski trails, but with the marginal snow that had fallen before the holidays, only about twelve kilometers were ready to use. However the conditions were good and the grooming was really impressive considering how little snow there was to work with. On our out-and-back trip we managed to log 25km at a comfortable pace. By the time we hit the furthest section of trail on the north side of Marie Louise Lake, we noticed those who had skied before us had all turned around and we were fortunate enough to get to make some first tracks. Well, first tracks if we don't count the deer, fox and ruffed grouse who all left their marks too.

We followed up the ski with a drive down the avenue at Silver Islet and a hot sauna back at camp just as the sun started to descend in the sky. Fully rested, refreshed and recharged, we were again ready to head back to the city and back to reality.

Sunrise at the Ailey camp on Christmas Eve day.

While the unseasonably warm weather we had this Christmas threatened to wipe out the minimal snow we had received, it also allowed us to spend all our free time outside, enjoying the good life in the great outdoors. With mild temperatures making a comeback in late December, many outdoors-loving people took full advantage and came out of hibernation to ski, skate, hike and play before the next wave of frigid weather threatened to force us back inside.

For my family, spending part of our Christmas at the lake has become a modern tradition. This Christmas season, we made our first trip out since we finished stocking firewood way back in early November. With just a few inches of snow, we had no issue driving

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LEITH DUNICK

FINAL TIME: Dozens of fans turned out on Dec. 19 at SilverCity Cinemas to catch the opening showing of *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*.

Riding into galactic sunset



**MARTY
MASCARINI**

MOVIE TALK

Director/screenwriter JJ Abrams has taken on the daunting task of winding up the Star Wars saga with *The Rise of Skywalker* and, odd quibbles aside, he, along with co-screenwriter Chris Terrio, has managed to chart a safe, navigable course through a galaxy far, far away.

The opening on-screen 'crawl' sets up the plot, starting with the portentous: "Death speaks!" This obvious clue to what will unfold provides convenient mechanisms to reference old characters and plot elements. (Psst! The dead don't always stay dead!)

Let's just say that an old nemesis returns, prompting an inter-planetary search to retrieve a Sith way-finder. A mythic dagger is also discovered. Both result in laser-blazing, quick-silver chases. And oh, there's a spy in the New Order! Meanwhile, Rey (Daisy Ridley) struggles with her connection to Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) through a transference linkage that is actually



CHEWBACCA

quite effective, leaving the rest of her over-matched Resistance colleagues to battle the First Order on their own.

Almost-but-not-quite everyone in the Star Wars pantheon gets to make a final bow, a tick-the-box tidiness at the expense of some current and new characters. For instance, new entity, Zorlil Bliss, (Keri Russell, *The Americans*) remains maddeningly unrecognizable within her helmet, save for batting the eyes. She could have been played by anybody.

Abrams strives mightily to keep the film fan-friendly, galvanizing the senses with eye-popping action and special effects while juggling plot lines and striving to retain the

flavour and themes that support the series' dime-store mythology (ie bloodlines serve as determination of destiny etc). No mean feat, this.

There are a few fake-out plot twists and curve-ball surprises that add briefly-endured but not overly traumatizing dark moments.

Fans will savour the requisite formulaic components as the plot recycles the usual suspects (ie menacing dark-caped villains, shoot 'em up Stormtroopers, disposable evil generals, planet-destroying rays, the Dark Side vs. the Force, over-done climactic battle sequences

etc.) However, the epic light sabre duels with Rey are actually quite impressive here.

The saga is somewhat James Bondian in its formulaic tendencies and this has been similarly realized with varying degrees of success.

Forego the corny, juvenile dialogue "We gotta show 'em that we're not afraid!" (Great strategy!) and "We have to stick together!" (No, really?)

Bits of comic relief at least refrain from the tendency of being cloyingly cute, save the silly bickering between Poe (Oscar Isaac) and Finn (John Boyega). The 'droids, (C3PO, R2-D2, BB-8 and newbie, D-O), get to have their moments. Driver and especially determined Ridley, with her glaring, steely-eyed resolve, credibly handle the real heavy lifting.

Purists who amazingly manage to retain plot points from the previous films (Skywalker evidently repudiates much of the previous entry, *The Last Jedi*) are crying foul. This is indicative of how the saga has evolved more as a patchwork rather than a well-orchestrated whole with a steadfast, consistent vision.

All in all, though, there's enough in *The Rise of Skywalker* to tantalize if not fully satiate one's cinematic appetite.

Meanwhile, the audience applauds while credits roll. Cue John Williams' thrilling score as the saga rides into the galactic sunset. Yippee!

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Sports

local sports news | information | coverage

Bortuzzo tops 2019 in sports

YEAR IN REVIEW

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Every year I put together this list, and for the past decade or so, I've been doing it in collaboration with Randy Scheffee, the sports anchor across the hallway at Thunder Bay Television, getting his feedback to make sure I didn't miss anything major. He always did the same for me.

Sadly, as most of you know by now, Randy passed away last month.

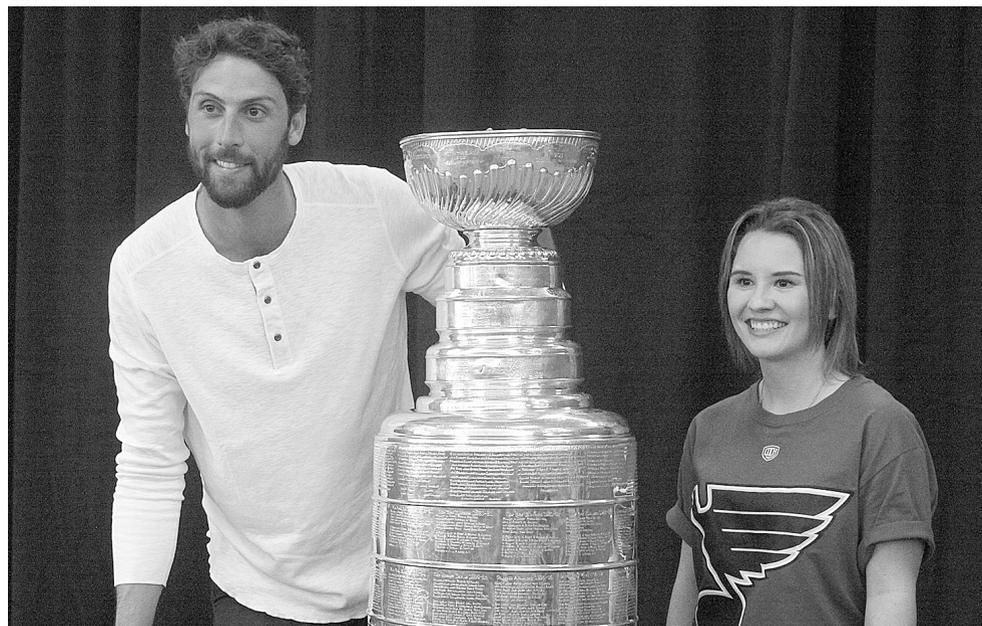
So this year's top 10 list is dedicated to you, Randy.

1 Robert Bortuzzo became the latest in a long line of Thunder Bay NHLers to bring the Stanley Cup back to his hometown. Bortuzzo had a pair of playoff goals to help propel the St. Louis Blues to their first NHL championship and then brought the Cup home in August for a celebration with fans, family and friends. He later visited the White House and U.S. President Donald Trump with the team.

2 The Thunder Bay Kings hosted the national major midget championship at Fort William Gardens. The Telus Cup brought plenty of hockey to Thunder Bay, including former NHLer Felix Potvin, coach of the runner-up Cantonniers de Magog. Joseph Martino scored in double overtime to deliver the win for the Toronto Young Nationals. Kings alumni Nicholas DeGrazia was recently named to Team East at the World Junior A Challenge.

3 The Thunder Bay North Stars completed one of the most dominating Superior International Junior Hockey League seasons by capturing their first Bill Salonen Cup with a six-game win over the Red Lake Miners. Led by Keighan Gerrie, Kyle Auger and Ryan Mignault, the No. 2-ranked North Stars were swept out of the Dudley Hewitt Cup.

4 The Lakehead Thunderwolves men's basketball team returned to the national top 10 for the first time since the Scott Morrison era ended in 2013. Under the guidance of third-year coach Ryan Thomson and powered by the stellar play of fifth-year guard Isaiah Traylor and shot-blocking wizard Lock Lam, the Wolves will enter 2020 at 9-3, ranked sixth in Canada.



FIRST CUP WIN: Robert Bortuzzo poses with the Stanley Cup and Cassandra Mulawshyn, a long-time fan.

5 Bahamian import Leashja Grant was named OUA player of the year for a second straight season and helped lead the Thunderwolves women's basketball team to a 20-4 record and a spot in the OUA semifinal. Grant led the OUA in scoring and rebounding.

6 Curler Krista McCarville returned to the Scotties Tournament of Hearts playoffs, finishing 8-3 in round robin play. But the Thunder Bay skip's run ended in the 3-4 Page Playoffs in Sydney, N.S., where the team of McCarville, Sarah Potts, Jen Gates and Kendra Lilly were edged 6-3 by Ontario rival Rachel Homan, who went on to lose the final 8-7 to Alberta's Chelsea Carey.

7 A season that began with much promise under new ownership didn't exactly translate into wins on the field for the Thunder Bay Border Cats. The Cats combined to finish 24-47 under manager Eric Vazquez, the second-worst record in the Northwoods League. The team hired former manager Mike Steed to return to skip the team in 2020. Former Border Cat Ryan Court made his major

league debut with the Seattle Mariners, hitting his first MLB homerun on Aug. 9 against Tampa Bay's Emilo Pagan.

8 The Thunder Bay Chill struggled at times to score and wound up settling for third place in the newly named United Soccer League 2's Heartland Division standings, finishing with a 6-6-2 record to miss the playoffs for a second straight summer. Marco Kuemmerle led the team with four goals.

9 The Westgate Tigers stunned the high school football world by knocking off the St. Ignatius Falcons in the senior final to win their first title in six years. The Westgate defence picked off Falcons QB Jordan Maki four times and went on to an 18-0 triumph. They'd go on to win the Simcoe Bowl 28-13 over Barrie's St. Joan of Arc CHS.

10 Wrestler Marco Palermo took home a gold medal at the USports wrestling championship and captured a second straight male athlete of the year award for Lakehead University. Later in the year he travelled overseas to take part in the world championship in Hungary.

This year's hall-of-fame ballot is kind of thin

By now, the ballots for this year's Baseball Hall of Fame have all been submitted and all that's left is the counting.

I don't have a ballot, but it's always fun to fill one out anyway.

This year, of the new candidates, there's only one sure-fire hall-of-famer, and that's former New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter.

He checks all the boxes, including 3,000 hits, so he's a no-brainer.

Canadian Larry Walker would also be on my list. He gets criticized for



LEITH DUNICK
SPORTS SHOTS

playing in Colorado, but his numbers on the road are Cooperstown-worthy. He's also in his final year of eligibility.

Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens were hall-of-famers before they got tangled up in the steroid mess, and I

don't know who used and who didn't, so I have to include them.

There's a lot of great talent on this year's list, including first-timers Jason Giambi, Rafael Furcal and Bobby Abreu, but none of them make the grade in my opinion.

I'd toss a vote Todd Helton's way. He's got a peak WAR of 46.5, fourth highest of any eligible player, and 2,500 hits and 369 home runs is enough for me.

Curt Schilling can wait. He's got a couple more years left. I think you

know why.

Andruw Jones just didn't have the longevity, even if he was the best defensive centrefielder yet to play.

Manny Ramirez was caught twice cheating and Sammy Sosa needed help to become an all-time great slugger.

I'm not necessarily a small-hall guy, but also don't think it should be the hall of very good.

If I'm a betting man, I say Jeter and Walker will get the call, joining veterans' choice Ted Simmons.

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For Sale PlayStation 3 with 225 games. Excellent condition. \$325. Call Ray on cell: 708-4846

For Sale: 2 Shermag Glider Rockers with stools. Burgundy colour. Asking \$125 for the set. Call 577-6399.

30. MISC. WANTED

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\$CASH\$

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53. GENERAL SERVICES

#1-A SNOW BLOWING SERVICES, Dump Runs, apartment clean-ups etc. Odd jobs, all kinds of general services. Frank 628-5919 or 767-0995

#A1 SNOW BLOWING DRIVEWAYS, Dump runs! Phone Brian 474-8870 or 768-9849 Anytime!

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67. OBITUARIES



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