

Thunder Bay

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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*INSIDE THIS WEEK*

### SUIT FILED



Former mayor, wife suing for \$12.5 million following extortion trial /3

### WHAT THE FOX?



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### BYE BYE BYE



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# It's trick or treat time

Thunder Bay District Health unit says it's OK for kids to hit the streets in search of Halloween candy on Saturday, as long as everyone takes the proper precautions to ensure safety /2



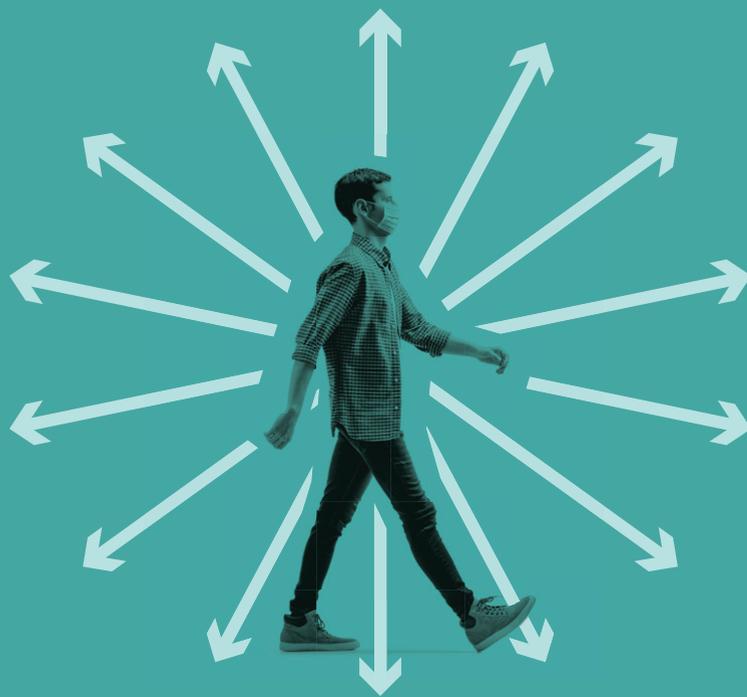
STEADY FLOW: Spirit Halloween has been busy this year, despite fears surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

FILE

LOCAL NEWS

# The solution to COVID-19 starts with keeping your distance.

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FREAKS COME OUT AT NIGHT: A display at Spirit Halloween's Arthur Street location.

## Trick-or-treating a go on Saturday

**THUNDER BAY**  
By Leith Dunick – TB Source

**D**r. Janet DeMille says trick-or-treating should be a relatively safe activity in the Thunder Bay area.

However, the medical officer of health at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit last Wednesday said would-be ghouls and goblins should take plenty of precautions before heading out on Halloween night, starting with mask wearing and social distancing.

“First of all, if somebody has any symptoms, they should not go out for Halloween. They should not go out trick-or-treating. They should not hand out treats. That’s really important,” she said. “It’s really going out within households, so a family can go out together and go from door to door.

“Maintain distance from other people who are out. Don’t congregate on somebody’s doorstep while you’re waiting for treats to be handed out. Don’t linger, avoid touching the handrail or the doorbell, because those would be high touch.”

DeMille also suggested that those who are handing out the chips and candy do so in a way that maintains the two-metre distance.

“Whether you have a table and you put the treats on the table and the kids sort of pick them up, or I’ve heard about some creative ways, a slide that you can slide (the candy) down to maintain that distance,” she said.

While not ruling out traveling from neighbourhood to neighbourhood to trick or treat, DeMille said the safest option would be to stick as close to home as possible on Halloween night.

“There are certainly some popular neigh-

bourhoods, but there’s a risk that they’ll be too crowded,” DeMille said.

“So we would encourage people to stay within their neighbourhood and maybe avoid going to those more popular neighbourhoods or driving to some of those neighbourhoods that are more popular for their trick or treating.”

Areas like Parkdale and River Terrace annually see hundreds of children each year. Dr. David Williams, the chief medical officer of health for Ontario, earlier this week also discouraged people from leaving their own neighbourhoods to trick or treat, while discouraging it in four of the hardest hit areas of the province.

It’s a little unrealistic in parts of Thunder Bay.

“If you do go, maintain the basic rules,” DeMille said.

DeMille said the odds of an outbreak associated with the annual candy grab are slim.

“Honestly, going up somebody’s doorstep and receiving treats, an interaction that may take 30 seconds at most, when people are wearing a mask, is not enough to transmit the virus. I wouldn’t anticipate an outbreak,” she said.

“Where I’m more concerned when it comes to Halloween, I would much rather people be outside than people be inside. I’m a bit concerned people might be doing some fun activities inside their home, where if somebody has COVID it would be much more likely to spread.”

DeMille reminded the public that hosting indoor gatherings of more than 10 people is against the law. Anyone caught hosting a gathering above that limit can be fined \$10,000 and attendees can face fines of \$750 apiece.

**“If you do go, maintain the basic rules.”**  
**Dr. Janet DeMille**

LOCAL NEWS

# Former mayor, wife seeking \$12.5 in suit

**COURT**

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Former Thunder Bay mayor Keith Hobbs has filed a statement of claim seeking nearly \$11 million in damages resulting from a high-profile trial that unsuccessfully accused him and his wife, Marisa, of extortion.

His wife is seeking more than \$1.5 million. The couple, who say their lives have been ruined by the case, are going after a multitude of organizations and individuals, including the alleged victim in the extortion case.

The Hobbsses, who filed a notice of action of their statement of claim on Sept. 17 and filed the claim four weeks later at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in Toronto, list the Ontario Provincial Police, the Thunder Bay Police Services Board, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Attorney General of Canada among the defendants.

Also on the list of defendants are retired OPP Det.-Supt. Dave Traux, OPP Det.-Insp. Martin Graham, OPP Sgt-Maj. Paula Milne, Thunder Bay Police Const. Chris Carlucci, Det. Jason Anderson, Const. Jae Elvish and Const. Jeff Elvish, Det. Staff-Sgt. Sue Kaucharik and RCMP Consts. Mike Rozic and Darryl Waruk.

The suit also names Craig Loverin and Heili Kijanen, both Crown witnesses in the extortion trial, which wrapped up last February with a not-guilty verdict.

Both Hobbs and his wife are seeking \$500,000 apiece for false arrest, malicious prosecution, negligent investigation, intentional infliction of mental suffering, defamation, assault and battery.

Keith Hobbs asks for special damages of \$10 million, aggravated and punitive damages totalling \$300,000 and \$75,000 for damages under the Family Law Act.

Marisa Hobbs is suing for special damages of \$500,000, \$100,000 for violations of her rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, \$50,000 for breaches of the Ontario Human Rights Code and \$300,000 for aggravated and punitive damages.

In the 32-page statement of claim, Hobbs, a former police officer who was elected to two terms as Thunder Bay's mayor, in 2010 and 2014, said he had an exemplary public service reputation.

The suit accuses the alleged extortion victim, whose name may be protected by a publication ban, of presenting police with a false narrative surrounding the involvement of the Hobbsses, who tried to arrange for the victim to buy a house for a third woman, also acquitted of extortion charges last February.

The plaintiffs allege that the man fabricated the original charges after they convinced a woman, known as Jane Doe in the suit, to go to police alleging he had assaulted her, leading to his 2016 arrest. Marisa Hobbs later told police she had been sexually assaulted by the man.

The Hobbsses accuse the alleged extortion victim of enlisting Kijanen and Loverin to assist him and manipulated police into arresting the plaintiffs for extortion, alleging it was done to damage their reputations.

The suit alleges the OPP investigation pre-determined the Hobbsses were guilty and sought out facts to support false conclusions. It also accuses the Thunder Bay Police of providing rumours and false statements that prejudiced the OPP investigation.

Det. Anderson is accused of making defamatory state-



**TWO TERMS:** Keith Hobbs was mayor from 2010 to 2018.

**THE DEFENDANTS**

- Ontario Provincial Police
- Thunder Bay Police Service
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- The Attorney General of Canada
- OPP Sgt.-Maj. Paula Milne; OPP Det.-Supt. Dave Traux (retired); OPP Det.-Insp. Martin Graham
- TBPS Det.-Const. Chris Carlucci; TBPS Det. Jason Anderson; TBPS Const. Jae Elvish; TBPS Const. Jeff Elvish; TBPS Det.-Staff-Sgt. Sue Kaucharik
- RCMP Const. Mike Rozic; RCMP Const. Darryl Waruk.
- Alleged extortion victim
- Craig Loverin, Heili Kijanen

ments against Marisa Hobbs, allegedly calling her a "high-end call girl."

Keith Hobbs said he lost \$500,000 from being unable to run for a third four-year term as Thunder Bay mayor in 2018 after being charged. He says he lost \$30,000 annually after he was removed from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation board of directors. Their legal fees were in excess of \$500,000.

The former mayor says he lost out on a pair of \$312,000 commissions for his role in setting up a cannabis cultivation business on Fort William First Nation and another with the Metis Nation of Ontario. He says he was approached by investment dealers in New York and lost out on potential six per cent commission on further deals worth more than \$20 million.

The couple say their reputations have been irreparably damaged with friends and extended family, adding their home was repeatedly vandalized for more than a year and that they will be forced to leave Thunder Bay and change their names.

The charges have also negatively affected their credit rating, causing loans to be called due, and bank and credit accounts have been terminated by several banks.

None of the accusations have been proven in court.

# Weather Forecast

<p><b>WEDNESDAY</b></p> <p><b>Mixed precipitation</b> Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH 5 LOW -3</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY</b></p> <p><b>Rain</b> Probability of Precipitation: 80% HIGH 3 LOW 0</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY</b></p> <p><b>Scattered flurries</b> Probability of Precipitation: 60% HIGH 4 LOW -6</p>
<p><b>SATURDAY</b></p> <p><b>Mainly sunny</b> Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH 1 LOW -7</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY</b></p> <p><b>A few flurries</b> Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH 1 LOW -6</p>	<p><b>MONDAY</b></p> <p><b>A mix of sun and clouds</b> Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 1 LOW -8</p>



MARISA HOBBS

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### ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

EDS BURI SCAM  
POL EAST OEUF  
INA ERIE MNAS  
CIVIC MEMO  
SHES DEBIT  
HAHA YUOD IBO  
EKE SANDY TAW  
EUR USGA PENS  
LACES ELBE  
ULAN EAGER  
GALL OUSE UME  
CREE USER AMP  
BOSN SEWS MYO

YDWORLUFRAETFYE  
NTJSECNIRPXBLKV  
SYADDAGNIYSPDL  
YLEVISSERGORPDEA  
GLSDAUUCSXBRIKCS  
SETARTENEPTYSCE  
BBJFGVSHDSNRHA  
TRJFERINGOISOOTN  
NUNNERVESWDERRD  
IUSTTIEEHTCHUES  
UHNTIAWDPSSCTTSR  
QEPCCRETSMAETPP  
SODEKOVERUMFLLL  
DETSETEMPLATEB  
MTGJDEOFDPNVZZL

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2	7	8	6	3	1	9	5	4
6	9	1	4	5	2	8	3	7
3	1	7	5	4	6	2	8	9
8	6	9	2	7	3	5	4	1
5	4	2	1	8	9	3	7	6

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "We must beware of needless innovations, especially when guided by logic." - Sir Winston Churchill

## LOCAL NEWS

# Election law changes concerning

### City council to call on province to engage in consultation before passing new law

**CITY HALL**  
By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

**T**hunder Bay's city council is expressing concerns over a lack of consultation on changes to Ontario's municipal election laws proposed by the Ford government.

Bill 218, currently in second reading at Queen's Park, is largely intended to protect corporations, individuals, and other entities from legal liability over COVID-19.

However, it also contains clauses that would remove the option for ranked ballots in municipal elections and extend nomination deadlines into mid-September, both reversals of changes made under the previous government.

No Ontario municipalities had been consulted before the bill was tabled, as far as city clerk Krista Power was aware, while the news had taken both her and city manager Norm Gale by surprise.

Mayor Bill Mauro was restrained in his criticism of the provincial government, but said such significant changes would usually involve discussion with those affected.

"The province has the authority to do this, but generally when you see an item like this come forward, you would expect there would have been some consultation with municipalities," he said.

Previous modifications to Ontario's Municipal Elections Act had involved significant work in advance with municipalities, Power confirmed.

On Monday, city council voted unanimously to call on the province to engage in consultation before passing changes, by sending a letter to Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Municipal Affairs Steve Clarke.

While the ranked ballot reversal has drawn more publicity, Power said moving the nomination deadline seven weeks closer to the election, scheduled for Oct. 24, 2022, would have a more immediate impact in Thunder Bay.



**OUT OF THE LOOP:** Current River Coun. Andrew Foulds says the city should have been consulted on voting changes.

The change would be logistically challenging and likely drive up election costs, Power told councillors, though it was too early to tell by how much.

With its mixed ward and at-large model and four separate school boards, the city prints 35 separate ballots for its elections, requiring a great deal of coordination by city staff, she said.

Having to complete that work in just over a month could necessitate hiring additional staff and raise costs, she believes.

While Thunder Bay had not been actively considering a move to ranked ballots, Power said the possibility would at least have been examined as part of the election readiness report prepared by her office in advance of each election.

A motion passed in September to re-examine council size and composition also could have seen the possibility examined more seriously,

A report from the clerk's office presented Monday stated the preferential system has been shown to increase voter satisfaction and promote diversity.

Thunder Bay's previous city council rejected a public outreach process on ranked ballots in 2016 on a 6-4 vote.

London had been the sole Ontario city to implement ranked ballots in 2018, while more than 63 per cent of Kingston voters supported the move in a referendum the same year (though the results proved non-binding due to low turnout, its city council is considering the change for 2022).

Coun. Andrew Foulds said while ranked balloting may be controversial, all councillors should be united in condemning the lack of consultation.

"That's what we're really angry about, is that they didn't talk to us," he said.

## Fall Leaf & Yard Waste Collection



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LOCAL NEWS

# Salvation Army building torn down

Demolition comes as Journey to Life Centre opens next door

**THUNDER BAY**  
By TB Source staff

After serving as an emergency shelter for nearly half a century, the former Salvation Army men's shelter on North Cumberland Street has been torn down.

A demolition crew with an excavator made short work Monday of knocking down the walls of the two-storey red brick building which was originally built as a hotel in the 1960s.

Gary Ferguson, executive director of the Salvation Army in Thunder Bay, says seeing its destruction brought out some mixed emotions for staff and clients.

"It's been a building that's provided for the needs of the community for many

years, it's been a focal point since 1971. So to see it come down, there's mixed feelings," Ferguson said.

He noted that some staff members have worked in it for over 30 years, and some of its thousands of clients have used its services for 24 years.

But Ferguson quickly added that its replacement, the \$15.5 million Journey to Life Centre next door, is a "beautiful" facility which will serve everyone better.

The staff, he said, deserves credit for being able to provide the services they did out of an obsolete building for so long.

"It was retrofitted. It wasn't designed for what it did but it served its purpose. The new building is phenomenal. It has the space. It has all the resources the clients need...we're moving ahead to a new journey."

Once the debris from the old structure is removed, the site will be used for parking and for the Salvation Army's Field of Greens.



ERA AT AN END: The Salvation Army building on Cumberland Street was in use for the past 50 years and came down on Monday.

THUNDER BAY TELEVISION



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# Editorial

## EDITORIAL

# The world is watching

In a few short days, the United States election will be upon us.

And days later, campaigning for 2024 will begin.

America is certainly at a crossroads. On the one hand, they've got a populist president who promised to drain the swamp, only to dive right in himself, making money hand-over-foot on the U.S. taxpayer.

On the other, there's a Democratic candidate, Joe Biden, who is promising to govern for all, not just one side of the aisle.

Quite frankly, democracy is at stake. The Republicans have repeatedly shown they are willing to do anything and everything to stay in power, from gerrymandering districts, to slowing down the postal service to take the edge off mail-in balloting.

They've changed the rules mid-stream to appoint Supreme Court justices, and with the help of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, have packed lower courts with young, right-wing judges.

Next Tuesday's result could irreparably change the relationship between our two countries. Biden is the overwhelming favourite of Canadians, according to most polls, and the one we see as being best suited to start repairing the international relations damage sowed by President Donald Trump. If he wins again, all bets are off.



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# Is it worth going on my own?

**H**i Christine: I just started my career, but I've been feeling like maybe working for a big corporation wasn't the right choice for me. At the same time, I'm also scared about going out on my own and becoming an entrepreneur. I've read so many statistics about how most entrepreneurs fail within the first year. Do you think it is worth it?

— Sally

**G**reat question Sally – one that a lot of people are pondering now that life has changed due to COVID. Entrepreneurs these days are like “hard core Navy SEALs,” they just never give up! But there are some differences between genders, according to Industry Canada.

Women entrepreneurs tend to focus more on long-term relationships when building and designing their businesses to ultimately grow over time. Men on the other hand, have a propensity for rapid growth and the preparation for a future sale of the business. They tend to look for a means to generate future

opportunities and measure their success more so on monetary gains.

Women however, according to Industry Canada, want to be business owners to create more freedom and flexibility, more family time, and they tend to have a higher degree of confidence about multi-tasking and managing every aspect of the business; much more than their same aged male counterparts.

While we realize, self-employment is not for everyone, and certainly not for the faint of heart, Canada needs our entrepreneurs.

They help drive the economy by creating future products, services and jobs.

If you are a seasoned business owner or like Sally, thinking of creating a life change to become a new entrepreneur, it is a good idea to establish an annual business plan which clearly outlines how your business will function and grow. Most entrepreneurs use their savings to start their business, but now is the time to consider other various ways of sourcing capital.

Commercial lending rates, just like residential mortgage rates, are at an all-time low. It will be

important for you to find a good financial partner within your commercial bank.

Someone that has experience and can provide a formal written financial plan to include both business and personal assets so you can see the full picture of how to build your business, your wealth and your future well-being.

Don't be afraid to demand a higher level of service.

You want a comprehensive approach, regular contact, and good banking services and products for your personal and business needs. You're working hard at building a business, so get the banks to work hard to get your business!

Good Luck and Best Wishes,  
Money Lady



**CHRISTINE  
IBBOTSON**  
MONEY LADY

**Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author of the best-selling book “How to Retire Debt Free & Wealthy” and a new book Don't Panic – How to Manage your Finances and Financial Anxieties During and After the Coronavirus” available at all bookstores across Canada. If you have a money question, please email on website: [www.askthemoneylady.ca](http://www.askthemoneylady.ca)**

# Perspective

# Mask wearing an act of kindness

Social distancing also a great way to keep everyone safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

## OPINION

By J.R. Shermack  
Special to TB Source

For concerned citizens across Canada and elsewhere around the world the awareness and importance of public health has never been greater.

The health and well-being of all Canadians is the result of some remarkable achievements in public health including sanitation, antibiotics and clean drinking water.

Not only that, we can now successfully prevent and control the spread of many deadly diseases both at home and abroad through effective vaccination programs.

Anxious families everywhere eagerly anticipate the next major milestone in public health when researchers around the world successfully develop an effective COVID-19 vaccine.

When that day arrives we might finally get the upper hand against the virus but until then we can still safeguard the health of our loved ones by doing two things.

As the pandemic continues to spread, our best protection is still social distancing and the wearing of face masks – simple measures that are proven effective.

Our local community might be considered an example of how physical distancing and the conscientious use of face masks continue to keep us safe.

Right now I don't go out much, but I feel comfortable running errands



**FACING FACTS:** The Thunder Bay public has embraced mask wearing since the health unit made them mandatory in public spaces.

around town thanks to the thoughtful efforts of my fellow-citizens wearing masks.

Who are these masked heroes?

I don't know their names and I can't recognize their faces behind the masks, but I am grateful for their thoughtful and courteous gestures.

These simple acts of kindness make it possible for Thunder Bay families to remain healthy and strong while waiting for an effective vaccine, hopefully next year.

This approach is endorsed by science and medical professionals and in the early days of the pandemic the majority of Canadians were willing to comply.

Unfortunately, a vocal minority of "anti-maskers" ignored the recommended safeguards, demanding the right to be irresponsible and refusing to wear face masks.

Governments were accused of overstepping their bounds while demonstrators exercised their freedom

at reckless rallies by unmasking and willfully spreading the virus.

The results of this negligent behavior are exactly as predicted and the spiking number of new cases is evidence of a second, even more problematic wave of infection.

Many hot spots across the country are facing a record high surge of cases and dealing with increased pressure on health care.

This is very troubling behavior that not only undermines the efforts of

public health professionals, but also foreshadows additional challenges to come.

This irritatingly vocal minority is evidence of an underlying, misguided skepticism of science and medical professionals and a distrust of public health messaging.

Fortunately, most Canadians still demonstrate good sense and compassion for others by masking and distancing while hopefully and patiently waiting for a vaccine.

Unfortunately as we get closer to an effective vaccine anti-maskers are being joined by anti-vaxxers who promote irrational conspiracy theories and oppose vaccination.

There is no evidence or scientific facts to back them up and in fact, the overall good health of Canadians is largely due to the effective use of vaccines.

Canadian children are routinely vaccinated to successfully prevent serious illness or death due to infection from potentially deadly diseases.

And yet, some still cling to the notion of a contrived conspiracy to forcefully inject us with life-saving vaccines against our will (vaccinations are voluntary, not mandatory).

As for me, I continue to run errands from behind a face mask or at a distance of six feet or more and I will gladly roll up my sleeve when the vaccine is available.

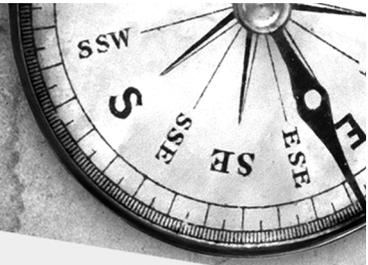
I believe the science and trust public health measures to keep me and my loved ones healthy and safe from infection.

What say you?

## A look back in history:

### McKellar Park

McKellar Park (now the location of McKellar Park School) was the city of Fort William's major playground for many decades. The arena on the right was later demolished and replaced by a post office and the Fort William Gardens. That's Vickers Street in the foreground.



### 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](mailto:ldunick@dougallmedia.com)  
Visit our website: [www.tbnewswatch.com](http://www.tbnewswatch.com)

### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

# your VOICE

VOICE YOUR OPINION ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER MOST.  
VISIT [www.tbnewswatch.com](http://www.tbnewswatch.com)  
TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND VIEWS ABOUT OUR WEEKLY POLL QUESTION.

If rapid testing is available at the border, would you be OK with most restrictions being lifted on international travelers?

<b>TOTAL VOTES: 754</b>		
<input type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
17.77%	79.71%	2.52%

# TB Life

people | health | home | food | leisure

## Shoebox campaign starting

**THUNDER BAY**  
By TB Source staff

The organizers of the Operation Christmas Child shoebox campaign are inviting Thunder Bay and area residents to gather items that will be delivered to needy children around the world.

The annual charity drive is an initiative of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief organization that works in more than 100 countries.

Last year, Canadians filled more than 490,000 shoeboxes for children in West Africa and Central America.

Individuals, families, churches, businesses, sports teams and community groups are being urged to gather toys, school supplies and hygiene items, plus

personal notes and photos, along with \$10 per box to cover shipping and other costs.

"These simple gifts are a tangible way to remind children that they are not alone or forgotten," said program director Randy Crosson, in a release issued last week.

Nov. 16 to Nov. 22 has been designated as national shoebox collection week.

Shoebboxes or clear plastic boxes are to be packed and delivered that week to collection centres across the country, including the Summit Church at 515 North Syndicate Ave.

Samaritan's Purse says it also works to provide safe water, vocational skills and agricultural supplies and training to families in the developing world.



CHANGING SEASON: Summer cycling season is giving way this time of year to skiing and other winter outdoor activities.

## It's transition time

For many people, the transition season between the warm weather of early autumn and the winter activities that come in December is a tough time to enjoy the outdoors. Busy work schedules, colder temperatures and rapidly fading daylight all contribute to a lack of motivation to enjoy some time in the great outdoors.

### Finding the motivation

I find if I can make a plan with family or friends to get outside, I never regret the decision.

There is still plenty to do this time of year. For example, despite the cold and wet weather that hit us last week we still managed to get outside and enjoy something each day.

We commuted to work by bike on Monday and then coached our school's cross country running team at Kamview on Tuesday.

Wednesday was a highlight as the whole family took the short drive up to Lappe Nordic Centre to take advantage of the extra snow they always receive to enjoy our first ski of the season.

This past Thursday we did a group night ride in Shuniah Mines and it was so enjoyable that I had to do another one solo on Friday evening once I arrived at camp. Saturday was once again filled with a fantastic fishing adventure, and as I write this on Sunday morning, I am preparing to take my daughter skiing once again this afternoon.

### Ultimate transition activity

While skiing in October feels awesome, conditions are not yet ideal and rock skis are still a necessity. Fishing is still great, but repeatedly handling and releasing fish in the frigid water can be tough on the hands after a few hours in sub-zero temperatures.

Yet, when it comes to night riding, this is absolutely the

very best time of year to charge up the lights and hit the trails on a mountain bike or fat bike.

The bugs are long gone, the temperatures are not too bad when you're pedaling, and the trails are usually dry or frozen so there is a lot less mud to clean off the bike. However, it is the early sunsets that make late fall night riding so great.

There is no need to wait past 7pm to dive into the darkness and experience all the excitement of riding single track after the sun sets.

### A new thrill

Riding at night is a completely different experience from what we are used to, and that is what makes it such a thrill. Your vision is confined to the small area illuminated by the lights on your helmet and handlebars as the trails take on a whole new look and feel.

With heightened senses you are startled when a grouse flushes off the trail just in front of you.

Then you hear a porcupine up in a tree above you. Or maybe it is a bear, you consider looking up but can't take your eyes off the trail for fear of crashing and you really don't want to know anyway.

Though you have ridden these trails a hundred times, the experience feels brand new in the darkness and the shadows.

Sometimes, as your mind wanders and you lose focus, you wonder exactly where you are in the Shuniah Mines labyrinth.

You're not even sure if you're moving fast or slow through the trails but you can't stop smiling the whole time.

Sure, the toes are a bit cold, but that doesn't change the fact that life is good, and there are still plenty of good reasons to get outside, even in this transition season.

## THE GREAT Pumpkin Compost Collection

Collection bins will be in place from November 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>

When you think of Hallowe'en, all sorts of fun and spooky things come to mind: trick or treating, creative costumes, and Jack-o-Lanterns of course! When the Hallowe'en fun is done, remember to put Jack in the Box, not in the trash! Since the collection began in 1995, nearly 400 metric tonnes of pumpkins have been diverted from the landfill to the municipal composting facility. Remember to remove all candles and other non-compostable items prior to placing pumpkins into the bins!

### DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

- North Side: County Fair Plaza, Dawson Road
- Intercity: Intercity Shopping Centre Overflow Lot, Fort William Road
- South Side: Westfort Playfield, Neebing Avenue

This program is sponsored by the City of Thunder Bay and delivered by EcoSuperior Environmental Programs.



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# Winter looks like its here to stay



**FRED JONES**  
RURAL ROOTS

Well, it seems like it is here to stay. Winter. At least by the weekend the snow was still lying on the ground. Ratz!

On the weekend the temperature had dipped to minus ten, the coldest mornings so far. Once again, I had to consult my wife, Laura, whose memory is far better than mine.

“Yes, these temperatures don’t usually come until November, not in October,” she said.

### Happened before

I’m sure that there are folks out there who recall many Octobers that were similarly frosted.

Laura informed me that the

following week the thermometer is supposed to rise into the plus, single digits that might result in a melt or partial melt.

Then with that smile that she can muster, a conspiratorial grin, she enthused that perhaps that meant more time for gardening! “Er...you’re kidding, right?”

Well, sort of. Sunday afternoon she entered my library carrying a huge armload of kale that she’d just harvested from the veggie garden. “Look!” she announced excitedly, “This is from outside the greenhouse. The deer missed this bunch.”

The dogs were getting cabin fever. Though comfortably ensconced in my easy chair with a good book, I relented, especially after the puppy (now one year old by the time you read this missive!) kept bringing me her rope with which she loves to play Tug-of-War.

Endlessly. So, time to don the boots and winter jacket and head out

on our trails for a tromp.

I say “tromp” because with my heavy winter boots that I have to wear if I want my feet to be warm and dry, I don’t walk; I tromp. Besides, there was four inches of snow on the ground even in the bush.

So, I tromp in winter (which it is now). So does our aging pooch Baxter, going on eight if he isn’t already and overweight (my fault).

He moves at a steady pace in front occasionally stopping to make sure that I am still following.

Lily, the-now-one-year-old speed demon dashes hither and yon.

She is part terrier, so she barks a lot at anything that moves or that she thinks is out there moving.

Nightly, she scares off the deer that are regular customers at what remains of our vegetable garden (and, according to Laura, The Gardener, also at the flower garden devouring bulbs).

On the ‘tromp’ I had with the pooches on Friday one moment Lily was with us, the next I’d hear her barking in the distance, seemingly a long way off.

I worry that she may encounter a coyote or wolf and that would be the end of her.

Baxter continued plodding in front and then suddenly a white streak would charge out of the bush. Lily is white with black spots both large and small. And she is very fast.

I found the going a tad tough. When the ground is snow-free, walking is easier.

Note that I didn’t write “easy”. There are some drawbacks to aging and for me, balance is central (along with a sometimes-faulty memory).

When there is a covering of snow, add to the balance issue, the slipping in the snow on some now-covered rock or piece of wood - great fun.

My initial plan of traversing most

of the trails, all eight kms of it, to tucker out the dogs; but after an hour got reduced to half that measure.

I was getting tuckered. The snow came and then began to melt.

### Freeze-thaw cycle

And then the melt would freeze. Coming back from the barn after saying goodnight to the horses (involves throwing them late-night hay), I mentioned to Laura that it is far easier to walk on either dry ground or snow; but this treading the ice business is treacherous. She agreed.

There we were, taking short, tentative steps until reaching the entrance to our ‘hoosie’ with life and limb preserved.

So, c’mon!

Either melt completely or give us another dump of snow so that we have a base for firm footing, please.

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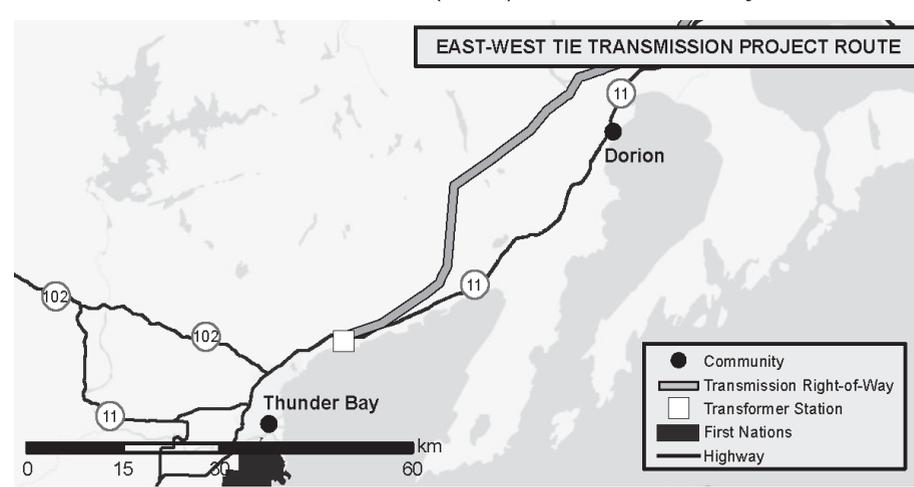
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**PUBLIC BURN NOTICE**

As a means of ensuring that all interested communities are kept informed, Valard Construction will be conducting controlled slash pile burning during the period of **November 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021** for the clearing of the East-West Tie (EWT) Transmission Project.



**EAST-WEST TIE TRANSMISSION PROJECT ROUTE**

Legend:  
 ● Community  
 — Transmission Right-of-Way  
 □ Transformer Station  
 ■ First Nations  
 — Highway

The areas where the burning activity will occur are east of Thunder Bay and north of Dorion within the approved right-of-way of the EWT Transmission Project.

For information regarding this project please visit [www.NextBridge.ca](http://www.NextBridge.ca)

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TB Life

# Housing tied to one's income tenant-ready

THUNDER BAY

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

**E**ight low- to modest-income families will soon have an affordable place to call home.

Last Friday, the Matawa Non-Profit Housing Corporation and the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board unveiled a pair of Coady Avenue four-plex homes, which will be assigned through an application process, with monthly rent geared to their income.

Robinson Meshake, who chairs the Matawa Non-Profit Housing Corporation board, said the two new units will have a huge impact on the families who are chosen to live there.

“It’s very important we provide these rent-geared homes to families who are struggling to meet daily rental requirements,” Meshake said.

Meshake said providing affordable homes helps people get back on their feet and allows them to spend their meagre means on necessities like food and clothing.

It also provides stability in their lives, rather than facing uncertainty looking for a place to crash on a daily, weekly or monthly basis, and potentially helps to reduce the number of homeless people in Thunder Bay.

“They won’t have to fear where they’re going to sleep or how long they’re going to be living at a relative’s place or couch-surfing,” Meshake said.

“There’s always going to be a struggle as people relocate to the city.”

Matawa Non-Profit Housing Corporation operates a total of 44 units throughout Thunder Bay, the first 12 of which came online in



READY TO GO: Robinson Meshake (left) and Bill Bradica cut a ceremonial ribbon.

1996.

Bill Bradica, chief administrative officer at the TBDSSAB, said it’s important to provide affordable housing to allow people to find self-sufficiency.

Not having to worry about where to live takes a huge concern out of the day-to-day lives of residents, who will be chosen through an application process.

“It will be a big change for people who may have been in precarious housing situations previously and not able to afford a full-market rent. To be able to move into an affordable environment where the rent is geared to

their income, rather than having to pay full market rent we believe will make a big difference and allow people to use more of their money toward basics, like food,” Bradica said.

The eight units are part of the TBDSSAB’s recommended 32 units detailed in its 10-year Under One Roof Housing and Homelessness plan, scheduled to be completed by 2024. Much of the cost for the affordable housing units is being borne by the TBDSSAB.

The average wait time for a new unit is about 9.5 months, one of the lowest in Ontario.



TWITTER

CANADA BOUND: A fox is handed a declaration form by a Canada Border Services Agency worker.

# Fox on the run

Border agents have fun with animal seeking entry

PIGEON RIVER

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

**C**anada’s border with the United States has been closed to non-essential crossings since mid-March, but at least one eager traveler took his chances earlier this week.

Canada Border Services Agency staff on Thursday posted a picture of a staff member handing a declaration form to a fox, the animal’s front paws perched up against the building’s wall beneath the window.

Staff decided to have a little fun with the

picture.

“Pigeon River welcomed a special visitor seeking entry for essential reasons. Even wildlife knows to make a full declaration when entering #Canada,” the agency posted to its @CBSANOR Twitter account.

Foxes are a regular sight at the Northern Ontario border crossing, often patrolling the line of cars in search of treats.

The federal government earlier this week announced it was extending the agreement with the United States to keep the land border closed to non-essential traffic until at least Nov. 21.

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# IN THE bay

arts | entertainment | culture



AMAZON PRIME

REVISITED: Sacha Baron Cohen first brought Borat to the big screen in 2006. The character returns again in 2020.

## A scattershot satire

It was 14 years ago when Sacha Baron Cohen made a splash with his pseudo-journalist Borat, the clueless, Groucho-mustachioed “geek-foreigner” from Kazakhstan, armed with a wrong-headed cultural compass, a maladroit association with the English language (“nyah-ice”), a predilection for dubious beachwear and a fondness for doing a joyous traditional jig.

Cohen duped well-known and unknowns alike in a faux documentary. Borat functioned as Cohen’s alter-ego, flaunting political correctness, riding that fine line between satire and tastelessness, a taunting jester for the Bush administration.

Given the looming American election, Cohen is again attempting to strike while the iron is hot taking shots at the Trump administration with another mouthful-entitled sequel, *Borat Subsequent Moviefilm: Delivery of Prodigious Bribe to American Regime for Make Benefit Once Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*.

(Amazon Prime)

Thanks to his first “moviefilm,” Borat Sagdiyev made Kazakhstan a global laughing stock and thus has been serving hard prison labor, ridiculed and physically tormented by his countrymen.

This is until Borat’s summoned by Kazakhstan’s premier for a secret mission. Feeling snubbed by McDonald Trump who has become pals with all other brutish world leaders but him, Premier Nazarbayev wants Borat to deliver a present to Trump by way of Vice-President Mike Pence.

This present ultimately takes the form of Borat’s stowaway 15-year-old daughter, Tutar, (Maria Bakalova), who’s nothing more than chattel to her father, but she is overjoyed at the prospect of being a Melania-princess. He must succeed or die.

Once stateside, Borat must first go to lengths to disguise himself as everyone recognizes him (after a 14 year absence from America?) This quickly becomes a distracting, laboured gag.

There are numerous cringe-inducing encounters including a visit at a pro-life crisis pregnancy centre. Chauvinistic gags abound about incest and female bodily functions. Tutar gets makeover tips from a bimbo Instagram influencer. They somehow crash a debutante ball and wind up doing a graphic Kazakh fertility dance.

Borat takes virus refuge with some science-denying, Democrat-blaming good ol’ boys.

They also crash an actual Republican gathering held in February with Borat disguised as Trump to join Pence, but they quickly get the boot. Unruffled Pence then makes his own jaw-

dropping pronouncements on the state of the COVID virus.

This leads them to change their strategy to pursue Trump advisor Rudy Giuliani instead.

Tutar gets a feminist awakening courtesy of a Black baby-sitter and oddly helpful ladies at a Republican luncheon. Now chafing at being a gift, Tutar still feels she must complete the mission to save her father and makes her own self-sacrificing moves on Giuliani posing as a reporter. This results in an icky scene in a hotel bedroom.

Unfortunately, this all sounds more fun than it is. Even though Obama and Trudeau get their lumps too, the script could have used sharpening.

*Moviefilm* results in a few scattershot hits and some guilt-inducing offensive lobs offset by many lower-than-lowbrow gags and plotting that blunt the film’s edge.

Next time, Cohen could try using fewer cooks in the screenwriting kitchen.



MARTY MASCARINI  
MOVIE TALK

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- 2 **Support Local Shops** that offer delivery or curbside pick up services.
- 3 **Order Pick Up or Delivery** from your favourite local Thunder Bay restaurants.
- 4 **Buy Branded Merchandise** (a mug, cozy hoodie, etc.) from your favourite local businesses.
- 5 **Shop at Neighbourhood Stores** instead of ordering from large online retailers.

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THIS HALLOWEEN

## IN THE BAY

# Home where it's colourful quaint

## ART

By Linda Maehans – TB Source

No, we don't live in the Maritimes, nor beside the ocean tides.

Yet, here in the Lakehead by Superior's boundless waters I'd say we have much in common and should feel right at home as we regard the straightforward colourful charm of one Maritime painter's world.

Step into the world of Maud Lewis, newly arrived at Thunder Bay Art Gallery, and quietly indulge yourself with a lightness of mood and spirit I bet you might've been missing of late and didn't even know it. Let Maud tug you back into a simpler place and time that feels so very welcome, perhaps even necessary, to all of us these days.

This remarkable woman painted her world each and every day of her life as she viewed it from a one-room cabin in Digby County, Nova Scotia. Where she didn't have running water, or electricity. Nor a particularly loving husband, we're told. But home-sweet-home for Maud Lewis was clearly a place where people visited one another on special afternoons by motorcar in summertime, by horse-and-sleigh in winter. Her depictions of animals, workers on the homestead, include oxen, cows, and cats: we

can't but smile. Seems even the gulls in the sky knew to stay awhile, ignore any harsh weather that occasionally might be blowing in from the sea. Heck, there's not a lick of inclement weather in sight. Not in Maud Lewis' world.

More than 130 paintings comprise such a world; held-in-time by frames I don't imagine she could herself afford. In the smaller middle gallery we are enchanted by a few that began as Christmas cards; and in the larger gallery several tall panels strike a different chord in this viewer: even the colours she's applied to these are different from the rest of her scenes. Window shutters. For weather. Makes sense.

"She had a pretty challenging life", explains the Education Coordinator at the gallery. Denise Smith glances over to a large "photo" of the artist, standing in front of her "home". The blown-up image depicts someone whose downward gaze reminds me of an imp, standing before her home, all energy alive.

"She was born with juvenile-arthritis. It was something that affected her throughout her life. Yes, she had many challenges and adversity.

Yet she still painted, every day."

Maud Lewis is up until Jan. 3. Go see.



SUBMITTED

FELINE FUN: Maud Lewis' exhibit, including Three Black Cats is on display at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery until Jan. 3

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IN THE BAY

# The kind of television we need now

Let's be honest. 2020 as a whole, has not been what most of us had hoped when we counted down the seconds and grabbed the first available lips on December 31.

COVID came to stay and killed its hosts. Riots and civil unrest exploded. We lost RBG, John Lewis, Carl Reiner, Kobe Bryant, and even "I Am Woman" singer Helen Reddy. A near record-breaking numbers of hurricanes hit North America. We discovered that working for Ellen DeGeneres isn't all it's cracked up to be. And that was while many were losing income and personal freedoms for the sake of public health and safety.

It's getting hard to find the "bright side." It's getting even harder to remember what's important in life. And while television should be able to do so, that kind of optimism doesn't always lead to big ratings – or multiple seasons



– making it difficult to find my happy place.

So I've made a list of shows worth watching – or in some cases, re-watching – to lift our spirits, make us laugh, and see the good in the world.

**Eli Stone** (2008-2010). A soul-less corporate lawyer suddenly has strange visions and believes them to be messages from God which lead him to make



**NEW LIFE:** The cast of the rebooted CBS series, *One Day at a Time*.

extreme changes in his life.

**Quantum Leap** (1989-1993) A man travels through time to live as someone else and possibly right a few wrongs. It's a wonderful reminder to put ourselves in other people's shoes. And Scott Bakula

is truly swoon-worthy.

**Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt** (2015-2019) After being kidnapped and held in a bunker for 15 years before being rescued, Kimmy experiences the world in wide-eyed wonder.

**Drop Dead Diva** (2009-2014) A superficial model dies before she should have. So the angel responsible puts her back in someone else's body – that of an over-worked, full-figured attorney who fights for the underdog.

**Parks and Rec** (2009-2015) Leslie Knope just wants to make her town a better place – but bureaucracy doesn't make it easy.

**Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist** (2020-) A woman can hear the innermost desires of others in the form of songs. So she decides to help them whether they like it or not.

**Schitt's Creek** (2015-2020) The Rose family is forced to live in the tiny town

of Schitt's Creek after losing their fortune. It just won a closet full of Emmys.

**Grace & Frankie** (2015-) Two frenemies (Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda!) discover their husbands are in love – with each other. Instead of wallowing, the women team up to move forward.

**Modern Family** (2009-2020) Let's celebrate all the different kinds of love that make a family.

**Black-ish** (2014-) It's a more modern and honest take on The Cosby Show without the weird sweaters or the potential for future scandal.

**Happy Endings** (2011-2013) In this short-lived comedy, the writers improved on all the flaws of Friends and moved it to Chicago.

**One Day at a Time** (2017-) A divorced Latina family struggles together. I loved the original, but frankly, this reboot is better.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Education Specialist (abbr.)
  - 4 Talipot palm
  - 8 Fraud
  - 12 Poland (abbr.)
  - 13 Eastbound
  - 14 Egg (Fr.)
  - 15 Feminine (suf.)
  - 16 New York canal
  - 17 Member of the National Academy of Sciences (abbr.)
  - 18 City (pert. to)
  - 20 Note
  - 22 Pronoun contraction
  - 25 Charge a sum
  - 28 Laugh
  - 31 Pronoun contraction
  - 33 African native
  - 34 Obtain laboriously
  - 35 Gritty
  - 36 Fancy marble
  - 37 Europe (abbr.)
  - 38 United States
- DOWN**
- 1 Grand
  - 2 Ceylonese fishing boat
  - 3 Serb
  - 4 Hardwood tree

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	A	T	B	O	N	E	S	U	E	T	
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O	Y	E	R	S	E	X	I	T	K	G	
S	E	C	Y	S	E	P	S	E	S	E	

- 5 United Arab Republic (abbr.)
- 6 Hindu sage
- 7 Account entry
- 8 WWI battle
- 9 Recluse
- 10 American Unitarian Assn. (abbr.)
- 11 Modern Fiction Studies (abbr.)
- 19 Isaiah (abbr.)
- 21 Move round and round
- 23 Unfledged hawk
- 24 Dream (Fr.)
- 26 Dayak people
- 27 Pulls
- 28 Cad (slang)
- 29 Polynesian god
- 30 Myth. strong man
- 32 Hereditary property
- 35 Ruined Iranian city
- 39 Edible seed
- 41 Girl's name
- 43 Brews
- 45 Us (Fr.)
- 47 Pac. island
- 48 Television award
- 49 Repossess (slang)
- 50 Grand Cross of the Bath (abbr.)
- 51 Orinoco tributary
- 53 Application
- 54 Stitch

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## WORD SEARCH

Y	D	W	O	R	L	U	F	R	A	E	T	F	Y	E
N	T	J	S	E	C	N	I	R	P	X	B	L	K	V
S	Y	A	D	D	A	G	N	I	Y	P	S	P	D	L
Y	L	E	V	I	S	S	E	R	G	O	R	P	E	A
G	L	S	D	A	U	Q	S	X	B	R	I	C	K	S
S	E	T	A	R	T	E	N	E	P	T	Y	C	S	C
B	B	J	F	G	V	S	H	D	S	L	R	H	A	E
T	R	J	E	E	R	I	N	G	J	S	O	O	T	N
N	U	N	N	E	R	V	E	S	W	O	E	R	R	D
I	S	T	T	T	E	E	H	I	T	C	H	D	E	S
U	H	T	I	A	W	D	P	S	S	C	T	T	S	R
Q	E	P	C	C	R	E	T	S	M	A	E	T	T	P
S	D	D	E	K	O	V	E	R	U	M	F	L	L	P
D	E	T	S	E	T	E	M	P	L	A	T	E	E	B
M	T	G	J	D	E	O	F	D	P	N	V	Z	Z	L

- Ascends
- Assessed
- Belly
- Bricks
- Brushed
- Chord
- Devise
- Elects
- Entices
- Explorer
- Export
- Fines
- Hitch
- Jeering
- Meted
- Penetrates
- Plums
- Princes
- Progressively
- Raider
- Revoked
- Rewrote
- Rowdy
- Salve
- Setters
- Seventh
- Shoots
- Spying
- Squads
- Squint
- Swipe
- Tacked
- Tasked
- Teamster
- Tearful
- Template
- Tested
- Theory
- Trestle
- Unnerves

## Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

					5		1	
					4		9	
	3			1		4		
4			7	9				
	7			3	1		5	
6		1	4			8		
							8	
8						5		1
	4					3		6

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## ENIGMA CRYPTOGRAM

“CL ZHTY J LCSFL MW KLLEALT T  
PKKMBSYPMKT, LTNLGP SAAR CULK  
XHPELE JR AMXPG.”

– TPF CPKTYMK GUHFGUPAA  
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# Sports

local sports news | information | coverage

## McCarville, Potts torn on bye

### CURLING

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

**K**rista McCarville and Sarah Potts are torn.

On the one hand, an automatic berth into the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts would be fantastic. But on the other hand, it would also leave them wondering if they'd really earned their place in the event, which is technically still scheduled to be held in February at Fort William Gardens, but widely expected to be held inside a bubble at a yet-to-be-determined location.

Earlier this month the Northern Ontario Curling Association said it is considering anointing Team McCarville, which also includes Ashley Sippala and Sudbury's Kendra Lilly, as the 2021 champions, should it be determined holding play-downs isn't safe.

#### Not alone

The free pass into the national championship would also mean defending Northern Ontario men's champion Brad Jacobs of Sault Ste. Marie would get an automatic berth at the Tim Horton Brier.

"Because we haven't had a competition since the last one, they still are our Northern Ontario champions," NOCA executive director Bobby Ray told the Canadian Press recently from North Bay, Ont.

"If there's an event that calls for those people to come forward and



LEITH DUNICK

**GETTING READY:** Sarah Potts sweeps last Wednesday in Major League of Curling play.

represent our territory, that's the way we've thought about it."

McCarville, with eight trips to the Scotties, including a silver-medal performance in 2016, said they'd accept the berth if it was offered, but it certainly wouldn't feel quite right.

Next year's Northern Ontario Scotties were scheduled to be contested in Kenora, Ont., but it's looking more and more unlikely at this point, in part because travel into

and out of the region is gently frowned upon during the pandemic.

"I don't really know what I want to see happen," McCarville said. "It's awesome if we got the bye to the Scotties, but again, thinking forward, we don't know how many games we're even going to get if we do go to the Scotties."

"That might be our first competitive game, which is quite scary, to be honest."

One advantage that could level the playing field somewhat is ice time. Curlers in some other provinces and jurisdictions have yet to get onto the ice. Team McCarville is getting regular competition against the best Thunder Bay has to offer, including downing Al Hackner 7-1 in Major League of Curling play last Wednesday.

"A lot of people don't have ice or events and can't play, especially people in the hot spots," Potts said. "So I think we're lucky just to have ice and get out there. We don't know what the season's going to hold. We don't know any more than anyone else does. We're going to get out on the ice and practice and hopefully there's a Scotties and that we're playing in it."

#### Good and bad

Like McCarville, she sees both sides of being handed a bye and skipping a provincial play-down.

"Obviously it's better than not being the team, but at the same time, you're right. But really, we were thinking that would be our preparation to get ready for the Scotties and we wouldn't have that," Potts said.

"But our team does well going into competition with less games than everybody else and other teams are going to be in the same boat, really. There's not much we can control about that."

"We just kind of have to practice as much as we can."

## Parade of injuries hamper NFL season



**LEITH DUNICK**  
SPORTS SHORTS

I can't get over the injuries in the National Football League this season.

Odell Beckham Jr. is the latest, the Cleveland Browns receiver going down this past Sunday with a season-ending knee injury.

It just never stops.

Saquon Barkley, Beckham's former teammate with the New York Giants, was lost for the rest of 2020 early in the season. Cleveland's Nick Chubb

followed suit a few weeks later.

A knee sprain has sidelined Carolina back Christian McCaffrey for several weeks.

Receivers Julio Jones and Michael Thomas, who also likes to dust it up a bit with teammates, have been absent at times. Denver's Courtland Sutton won't play again this year.

The Chargers Austin Ekeler, a poor-man's McCaffrey, is sidelined with a hamstring injury.

Cincinnati's Joe Mixon is out with a foot injury.

Eagles tight end Zach Ertz is out four-to-six weeks. Teammate DeSean Jackson returned from the injured list, only to find himself sidelined again after one game.

Dalvin Cook and Aaron Jones both

missed their team's last games too. Jones' Green Bay teammate, receiver Davante Adams, missed two weeks before returning on Sunday.

And Arizona back Kenyan Drake went down on Sunday night with an ankle injury.

I'm not sure what's to blame. Some of the injuries have to be the result of no pre-season, but others are run-of-the-mill football-related ones. They happen. It just doesn't seem like so many big names go down all at once. Maybe that's a case of recency bias.

As a fantasy football fanatic, I've spent the first seven weeks trying to navigate through most of these injuries, with all but Jones on at least one team or another.

I've also been trying to think ahead,

stashing guys I think might be the next guy up should one of the first-round studs go down.

At various times I've bought into Josh Kelley in Los Angeles, Chase Edmonds in Arizona, Tre'Quan Smith in New Orleans and Alexander Mattison in Minnesota.

Realistically, at this point it's all you can do.

If you've got a roster spot, either handcuff your own guy, like I did with Cook and Mattison, or snag someone else's back-up and try to make a trade should their star go down.

Then again, you might need a guy like Edmonds or Mattison, who disappointed mightily when Cook went down, for yourself.

sports NEWS

# SIJHL holds out hope for season start

League would like to start playing Nov. 14

**SIJHL**  
By Leith Dunick -TB Source

The Superior International Junior Hockey League is still targeting a Nov. 14 start date.

However, league commissioner Darrin Nicholas says it's still too soon to know what exactly it will look like, adding the date is merely a placeholder until more clarity is put in place from public health officials and Hockey Northwestern Ontario.

The biggest issue facing any start-up is the regulations surrounding 50-player cohorts. Nicholas, who met with league owners on Tuesday

night, said they've asked officials if there is any possibility of resetting the cohorts if enough time passes between games.

"The real limitation to our season is if we can get a cohort increase to 125. That would allow the five Canadian teams to participate amongst each other," Nicholas said. "The other ask is if there is a way we can reset the cohort."

"We have drafted a bit of a tentative schedule where we could have a team play four times against another team – play back-to-back weekends four times, take a weekend off. That would allow us 13 days in between competition. Is that enough to reset if there are no symptoms or complications, could we now join another cohort?"

The move would leave the two American teams, the Thief River Falls Norskies and the Wisconsin

Lumberjacks, on the outside looking in, at least to start the season. The Canadian border remains closed to land travel to and from the United States for most, and mandatory quarantine periods are in place to visit north of the border.

"They're still holding. We want them to play, we want to give them every opportunity to participate. It's not like we're a 24-team league and losing two teams is not going to make much of an impact. It's a pretty big difference from seven to five teams. They're certainly eager to play, but they're very realistic as well."

Nicholas said there's a possibility they start the season with the five Canadian teams and then bring in the American clubs when conditions allow for it and maybe base the playoff race on points percentage instead of just points, given that all teams may not play an equal number of games.

There would be a minimum number of games played required, he added.

"We're evaluating how do we determine regular-season standings based on that, if there's an uneven number of games played."

Four of the five Canadian teams have already started skating, with the Red Lake Miners expected to open camp next week.

That's a good sign, Nicholas said, with a little more than three weeks left until the tentative start to the SIJHL season.

He's confident competition is right around the corner.

"I think we'll see some games, one way or the other, whether it's regular-season games or some exhibitions as we wait for the status of the cohorts."

Nicholas said they are also keeping a close eye on the negotiations between the Ontario Hockey League and the province, which could pave the way for Junior A leagues to resume play too.



LEITH DUNICK

**LOOKING AHEAD:** SIJHL commissioner Darrin Nicholas says the league has mapped out scenarios to start play.

**"I think we'll see some games, one way or the other..."**  
DARRIN NICHOLAS



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67. In Memoriam  
68. Death/Funerals

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All Persons having claims against the Estate of Antonio Baztarrica, late of Thunder Bay, ON, deceased, who died on or about May 22, 2016, are hereby notified to send particulars of the same to the undersigned on or before November 19, 2020, after which date the estate will be distributed, with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice and the undersigned will not then be liable to any person of whose claims they shall not then have notice. Dated at Thunder Bay, Ontario on the 16th day of October, 2020.

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**ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES ARE ON PAGE 4.**

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