

2020

# YEAR IN REVIEW

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

Thunder Bay

# source



WWW.TBNEWSWATCH.COM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

## ICE WARNING

Harbour and river ice conditions in the port are dangerous. No unauthorized person shall be on the ice.



THE SUPERIOR WAY WEST

Canada

Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol.18 No. 1

### INSIDE ER GOES VIRTUAL



Online sessions now available at hospital /2

### BUDGET PROPOSAL



City suggests 2% hike /3

### HANG-TENT



Winter camping is a great way to play outdoors /20

### TOP 10 SPORTS



A look back at 2020 /22

# First baby of 2021 a girl

Rylee Evelyn Beda arrived a little earlier than planned, but was a welcome addition to her family on New Year's Day /4



2021. FIRST: Ashley and Kevin Beda last Friday welcomed Rylee Evelyn to the world, the first baby born in the city this year.

SUBMITTED

## Notice of Completion

### Class Environmental Assessment for the Thunder Bay Commercial Vehicle Inspection Facility, Highway 11/17, 8 km East of Highway 527

#### STUDY OVERVIEW

The **Ministry of Transportation, Ontario (MTO)** retained **Dillon Consulting Limited** to complete the Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for a new Commercial Vehicle Inspection Facility (CVIF) located along Highway 11/17 in the Municipality of Shuniah. The need for a new facility is based on a province-wide strategy to support improved commercial driver and vehicle safety.

The project includes a new CVIF and ramps to and from the facility, on the north side of Highway 11/17. The CVIF will also include a building for MTO staff and a new truck lay-by facility (i.e., parking/inspection area for trucks) on the south side of Highway 11/17, opposite from the CVIF. The undertaking includes a new utility service corridor from Lakeshore Drive north to the new CVIF to provide electricity and telecommunications.

The Detail Design builds on a Transportation Environmental Study Report completed in 2013, and a Design and Construction Report (DCR) also prepared in 2013 for the exit and entrance ramps which are already constructed.

Construction of the new CVIF and truck lay-by facility will be staged to maintain at least one lane of traffic in each direction on Highway 11/17 at all times. Construction is expected to commence in 2021 and be completed in 2023, subject to provincial priorities, funding and approvals.

#### CONSULTATION AND COMMENTS

The study was completed following the *Class EA for Provincial Transportation Facilities (2000)* as a Group 'B' project. The development of the approved Detail Design and Class EA is documented in a DCR. The DCR covers the design of the project and environmental mitigation measures and monitoring provisions that have been incorporated into the construction Contract. The report will be available for review between **January 7, 2021** and **February 8, 2021** at the project website: [www.TB-CVIF.ca](http://www.TB-CVIF.ca)

Locations to review a paper copy of the DCR will not be provided. Members of the public without internet access who wish to review the DCR may contact one of the project team members listed below to discuss review options.

Interested persons may provide written comments to our project team between **January 7, 2021** and **February 8, 2021**. All comments and concerns should be sent directly to:

#### **Nick Verdon, E.I.T., Consultant Project Manager**

Dillon Consulting Limited  
130 Dufferin Avenue, Suite 1400, London, ON N6A 5R2  
tel: 1-888-345-5668, Ext. 1245  
e-mail: [TB-CVIF@dillon.ca](mailto:TB-CVIF@dillon.ca)

#### **Michael Jakovcic, P.Eng., MTO Sr. Project Engineer**

Ministry of Transportation, Northwestern Region  
615 James Street South, 3rd Floor, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6P6  
tel: 1-800-465-5034  
e-mail: [Michael.Jakovcic@ontario.ca](mailto:Michael.Jakovcic@ontario.ca)

In addition, a request may be made to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for an order requiring a higher level of study (i.e. requiring an individual/comprehensive EA approval before being able to proceed), or that conditions be imposed (e.g. require further studies), only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. Requests on other grounds will not be considered. Requests should include the requester contact information and full name for the ministry.

Requests should specify what kind of order is being requested (request for additional conditions or a request for an individual/comprehensive EA), how an order may prevent, mitigate or remedy those potential adverse impacts, and any information in support of the statements in the request. This will ensure that the ministry is able to efficiently begin reviewing the request.

The request should be sent in writing or by e-mail to:

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
e-mail: [minister.mecpc@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecpc@ontario.ca)

and

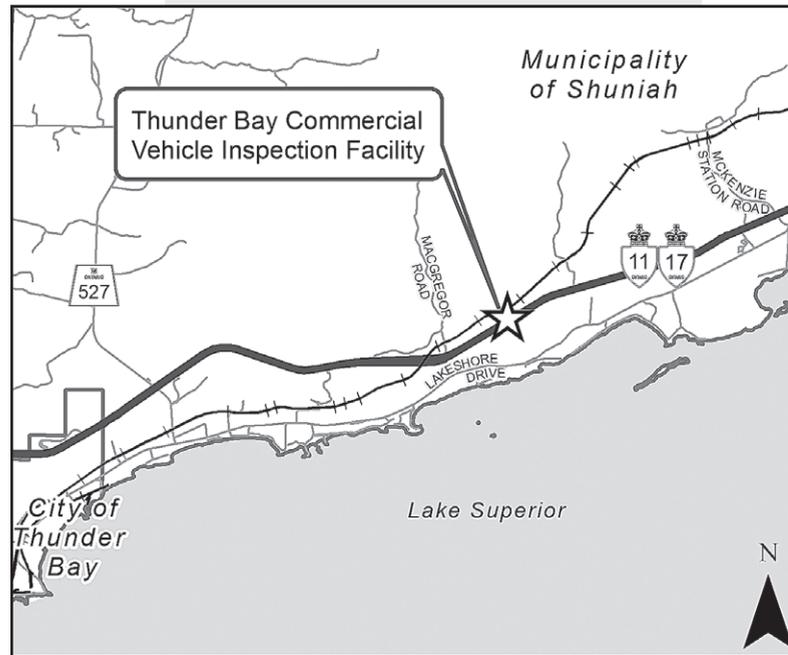
Director, Environmental Assessment Branch  
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
135 St. Clair Ave. W. 1st Floor  
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5  
e-mail: [EABDirector@ontario.ca](mailto:EABDirector@ontario.ca)

Requests should also be sent to the MTO by mail or by email.

If there are no outstanding concerns after **February 8, 2021**, and subject to receiving all other required approvals, the project will be considered to have met the requirements of the Class EA and may proceed to the construction phase.

This Notice issued **January 7, 2021**.

Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please contact one of the project team members listed above.



## LOCAL NEWS

# ER going online for qualified patients

## HEALTH

By Leith Dunick –TB Source

**A**s the COVID-19 pandemic continues, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is launching a new virtual emergency department.

The program, which could treat up to 30 patients per day, will offer same-day virtual assessments with physicians for people who are older than 17, have a non-life-threatening medical issue and either don't have a primary care provider or timely access to one.

It could keep up to 420 patients per month out of the emergency department.

"The virtual ED program provides patients with safe, quality emergency care from the comfort of their homes," said Dr. Bradley Jacobson, chief of emergency/trauma medicine at the hospital, in a release issued on Monday.

"Virtual assessments are a convenient and accessible care option for patients who qualify, especially at-risk patients who wish to avoid a trip to the hospital and time spent in a waiting room during the COVID-19 pandemic."

### Blocked off

Each appointment will be scheduled for 15 minutes, with time allowed to connect with a patient's device, review their details, perform the assessment and determine any potential next steps. Patients could be referred to community programs, specialists, diagnostic imaging procedures or lab work upon discharge.

Prescriptions may also be provided.

"We're excited about the positive benefits this program will have for our Emergency Department and for our patients and their families," said Lisa Beck, director of trauma, pre-hospital programs, emergency, critical care and nurse-led outreach Team at TBRHSC.

"In addition to the convenience of care from the comfort of people's homes, diverting unnecessary visits to our ED will result in increased overall capacity and reduced wait times for those who still need to attend in person."

Same-day appointments, which will take place through a secure video chat, will be booked between noon and 6 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis to those who are eligible, at [www.tbrhsc.net/VirtualED](http://www.tbrhsc.net/VirtualED).

To take part, patients need a computer or smart phone with video, a quiet space and internet access.

# LOCAL NEWS



**FINANCIAL PLAN:** City treasurer Linda Evans on Tuesday present Thunder Bay's proposed 2021 budget.

## Budget up 2 per cent

City plans to spend \$4.3 million more than it did in 2020

### CITY HALL

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The City of Thunder Bay plans to spend about \$4.3 million more in 2021 than it did last year.

The city on Tuesday released a milestone-crossing \$203.7-million budget, which represents a 2.15 per cent increase to the tax levy, before growth is factored in. After growth, the increase to the levy is \$4 million, or two per cent.

City manager Norm Gale said they've taken considerations from the recently completed program and services review into consideration, adding they were directed by city council to come in at a two per cent net increase, while not cutting services to the public.

The increase doesn't include COVID-19 expenses, estimated to be \$8.7 million. The city has \$4.2 million held over from funding supplied by senior levels of government and have proposed to draw the remaining \$4.5 million from its stabilization reserve fund.

Gale said the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 has turned the budget process to even more of a juggling act than usual.

"Certainly budgeting is not an exact science and we do a lot of projections every year. Those projections are spot on. Sometimes we over-project. Sometimes we under-project and we accommodate that throughout the year," Gale said, noting they have not factored the current province-wide lockdown status into the current budget proposal.

"It's not unusual. What is unusual this year is COVID-19. We are projecting \$8.7 million of COVID-19 costs for this year. That's based on the current state and what we think might happen in 2021. What actually does happen ... of course remains to be seen. Like we did in 2020, we will adjust as we go."

COVID-19 is expected to have a \$6.8-million impact on operations, a \$1.2 million impact on transit and a \$700,000 impact on the landfill.

COVID drivers include \$2.1 million related to lost revenues and screening costs, lost casino revenues of \$1.2 million and an increase of child-care costs of \$1.2 million.

The non-COVID portion of the proposed budget includes \$18.9 million for roads and roads related projects, \$5.4 million for fleet and equipment replacement, \$5 million for parks, including the Conservatory greenhouse, \$1.6 million for police services, \$4.1 million for transit improvements and \$3.7 million for renewal of facilities.

Gale said budgeting is a difficult process each and every year and being asked to come in at a two per cent hike was tough.

**"Certainly budgeting is not an exact science..."**  
NORM GALE

"Our costs increase more than our revenue every single year. So every year is challenging to come in at a modest increase, while maintaining the same service levels and increasing capital spending at the same time," Gale said. "In this regard we're no different than any other public-sector entities or even the private sector."

City treasurer Linda Evans said the city had to look at its operating side to find many of the cost-saving measures needed to meet council's demands.

"We identified about a million dollars. We reduced salaries and benefits, primarily related to historical vacancies or hiring gap savings. The last two years we've had this identified at year end and have put that into the budget," Evans said. "We've also been able to identify some reductions in salaries related to the fire plan that was just announced, some changes that they're making and other decreases related to our LED electricity costs."

The city has had to hire 38 temporary workers to meet COVID-19 needs at various facilities, jobs that will come off the books when COVID-19 ends.

A tax levy is the amount of money that needs to be raised from property tax payers to fund municipal services and capital projects.

The hike percentage does not necessarily represent the increase taxpayers will see added to their 2021 tax bills.

# Weather Forecast

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 <p><b>Scattered flurries</b> Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH -3 LOW -9</p>	 <p><b>A mix of sun and clouds</b> Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH -1 LOW -6</p>	 <p><b>Scattered flurries</b> Probability of Precipitation: 60% HIGH 0 LOW -8</p>
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
 <p><b>Mainly sunny</b> Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH -6 LOW -8</p>	 <p><b>Cloudy with sunny breaks</b> Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH -1 LOW -3</p>	 <p><b>Scattered flurries</b> Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH 1 LOW -7</p>

LEITH DUNICK

**NEED A REASON TO SWITCH?**

**Ranked #1 for most reliable Mobility network**



Ready to switch?

Visit the Tbaytel Store or an Authorized Tbaytel Dealer  
Call Customer Care 807-623-4400 or 1-800-264-9501

[tbaytel.net](https://www.tbaytel.net)

**tbaytel**

"Ranked #1 for most reliable Mobility network" is based on a survey of Northern Ontario telecom customers by the market insights firm Maru/Matchbox.

## LOCAL NEWS

# City's first baby of 2021 is a girl

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

The city's first baby of 2021 is a girl. Rylee Evelyn Beda was born at 2:04 a.m. on Friday to parents Ashley and Kevin Beda at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. Rylee is the couple's second child, joining big brother Nicholas, who was born two-and-a-half years ago.

Baby and mother are doing fine and expected to head home from hospital last Saturday.

Ashley Beda said having a baby during a pandemic wasn't that out of the ordinary.

"Not much different, except that my husband could only stay for a limited time after she was born. He works at the hospital, so we knew what to expect. I felt confident and the nurses were great."

The couple was not originally expecting to have the new year's baby.

"My due date was Jan. 11, so it's funny it happened this way," Ashley Beda said.



**BABY NEW YEAR:** Rylee Evelyn Beda was born at 2:04 a.m. on New Year's Day at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, to mother Ashley and father Kevin.

SUBMITTED



**AUTO PARTS**  
Find your NAPA store at [napacanada.com](http://napacanada.com)

**SEASONS GREETINGS  
AND THANK YOU TO  
ALL OUR CUSTOMERS.  
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR  
YOUR PATRONAGE.**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**1194 DAWSON ROAD (807)767-7779  
660 BALMORAL ST. (807)622-7779  
[www.napacanada.com](http://www.napacanada.com)**

**LOOKING  
TO  
BUY OR  
SELL?**

**CHECK THE  
Classifieds**

**ON-LINE**  
on  
[tbnewswatch](http://tbnewswatch.com)

**DELIVERED  
FREE!  
TO YOUR  
DOOR**

**40,000  
HOMES**

Thunder Bay  
**source**  
Your Community Newspaper

**CALL  
TODAY  
346-2600**



**BE THEIR  
SECRET SANTA**

*Supporting those who are alone at Christmas*



*Help provide gifts and a visit  
**THIS CHRISTMAS TO CLIENTS OF  
ST. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP**  
who will be alone  
this Holiday Season*

*St. Joseph's Foundation,  
together with the support of our community,  
hopes to remind our clients that  
someone is thinking of them  
during this time of year.*

Donations gratefully accepted at  
**St. Joseph's Foundation,  
63 Carrie Street,  
or online at [www.sjftb.net/santa](http://www.sjftb.net/santa)  
or call the office at 768 4404.  
CRA 119183267 RR0001**

  
St. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP

  
ST. JOSEPH'S FOUNDATION  
OF THUNDER BAY

## LOCAL NEWS

# Topsy-turvy 2020 in 10 stories

## YEAR IN REVIEW

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

**T**here's no question 2020 will go down in infamy. It was a tumultuous year, to say the least.

A pandemic swept the world, killing more than 1.8 million people around the world. The killing of George Floyd brought Black Lives Matter to the global forefront, with protests spilling into the streets of Minneapolis and across the planet.

Wildfires threatened to destroy Australia, heightening the climate change concern, and the U.S. election, pitting incumbent Republican Donald Trump against lifetime politician Joe Biden of the Democrats, is still being contested by Trump, despite losing by seven million votes.

It was also one of the most fascinating news years in recent history here in Thunder Bay, the headlines dominated, of course, by COVID-19.

But there were plenty of other stories that drew national and international attention.

Here's our top 10 of 2020, as chosen by editor, Leith Dunick.

**1** Clearly COVID-19 was the dominant story. At year's end, there were 585 confirmed cases of the coronavirus, and sadly, 21 people and counting have died as a result, the majority linked to an outbreak at Southbridge Roseview nursing home. The city's first case was documented on March 27. By then the city was in lock-down, most businesses either closed or reduced to curbside delivery. Some would never reopen. The pandemic made household names of Dr. Janet DeMille and Dr. Stewart Kennedy, made heroes of front-line workers, brought mandatory mask orders and sent students online in search of an education. There is hope. On Dec. 22 the first Pfizer vaccines were administered at Thunder Bay Regional, though the city ended the year on a provincially mandated two-week shut-down.

**2** Mayor Keith Hobbs was a polarizing figure while serving for two terms, but he and his wife, Marisa, were acquitted in February of charges of extortion, having been accused by a plaintiff of attempting to force him to buy a home for a third defendant in the case. The Hobbs' later filed suit against just about everyone involved with the case, including the plaintiff and police, for upward of \$15 million. That case is still pending.

**3** Though too late to save her life, Barbara Kentner finally got justice more than three years after her death, which the court ruled was hastened as a result of a trailer hitch thrown from a passing car that hit her while out walking with her sister in January 2017. Kentner died in July of that year and in early December, Brayden Bushby was found guilty of manslaughter in the case. He'd originally been charged with attempted murder. He also pleaded guilty to aggravated assault.

**4** A Black Lives Matter rally drew about 2,000 people to Marina Park for a peaceful, but forceful, protest in the wake of the death of George Floyd. Organizer Pitia Modi said it meant a lot to the city's growing Black community to see so much support and call for change.

**5** Through it all, Thunder Bay likely retained its dubious title as the murder capital of Canada. Eight people were killed at the hands of others in 2020, including a 11-year-old on New Year's Day and 14-year-old Kayleigh Ivall, whose body was found in the woods near Boulevard Lake. Austin



**JUSTICE DELIVERED: Barbara Kentner's killer, Brayden Bushby, was found guilty of manslaughter.**

Robinson, Rae Towegishig, Adrian Drysdale, Paul Vivier, Lydia Jacob and Christopher Meeseetawagesic were also murdered, according to police.

**6** Pinhole leaks in water pipes led to a \$250-million lawsuit being filed against the City of Thunder Bay, which was accused of causing the problem when it added sodium hydroxide to the municipal water supply to prevent lead poisoning. St. Joseph's Care Group launched a separate \$350,000 lawsuit, with hundreds of homeowners saying they were left on the hook for thousands of dollars in costly repairs.

**7** Fans of Finnish cultural heritage (and pancakes) were shocked to learn the Finlandia Association had filed for liquidation after a bank called in the organization's mortgage on the Finnish Labour Temple, threatening the future of the Hoito Restaurant. The building was eventually sold to a developer, who plans to turn the hall into apartments.

The fate of the Hoito remains in the air.

**8** A fire at the Thunder Bay courthouse has thrown a curve into an already difficult year on the justice front. The building, which opened in 2014, was closed after the electrical fire, forcing trials to satellite locations, including the Valhalla Inn and the former Superior Court of Justice on Camelot Street, now a trendy downtown hotel.

**9** A series of rotating strikes, affecting all local school boards, finally came to an end with agreements signed with the provincial government. Teachers and education workers were fighting for smaller class sizes and more favourable hiring policies, among other issues.

**10** Former city councillor Larry Hebert was found guilty of assault with a weapon and uttering threats, after initially being charged with attempted murder following a November 2019 incident. The 73-year-old was given a 12-month conditional sentence.

## lose weight, get healthy, feel great



Make the decision to lose weight, improve your health, and regain your energy. Our program gives you the tools for long-lasting results as well as:

- entire process is doctor supervised
- one-on-one personal evaluations.
- no drugs, surgery or injections.
- no shakes or pre-packaged food

**Lose 20-30 pounds  
in 6 weeks!**

call us:

**343-7932**  
to receive a  
**FREE CONSULTATION**  
and find out more



DOCTOR SUPERVISED  
**CHIROTIN**  
WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM



**THUNDER BAY  
WELLNESS CENTRE**

Chiropractic, Laser Therapy, Weight Loss

For more information  
check out

[www.thunderbaywellness.com](http://www.thunderbaywellness.com)

## Did You Know That...



Your professionally  
designed  
**TBSOURCE**  
advertisement also  
appears online?

See for yourself at  
[www.tbnewswatch.com](http://www.tbnewswatch.com)  
(Follow the Business  
Directory links).

# Editorial

## EDITORIAL

# Not time for travel

As the Tragically Hip once famously sang, "It's the start of another new year."

For most of us, it couldn't have come at a better time. We're all so done with 2020 and the bad news it seemingly brought us day after day and month after month.

And yet, politicians across the country continue to listen instead to the Go Gos and took vacations and showed their utter selfishness and disdain for those of us who continue to do the right thing.

Several politicians and their aides were revealed to have travelled to far-off destinations over the holidays.

NDP MP Nikki Ashton was stripped of her critics roles after traveling to Greece to visit her sick grandmother. Former Ontario finance minister Rod Phillips lost his portfolio after a trip to tropical St. Barts.

Thankfully our own MPPs and MPs had the sense to stay home during the holidays.

It's absolutely unexcusable that anyone in public office thought it was a good idea to leave the country.

Yes, we all want things to return to normal as soon as possible. But that's not now. We're far from normal, with record case numbers across the country.

Politicians, do your part and set the example we expect of you. Why should the average citizen stay home if those who set the rules won't follow them?

### CONTACT US:

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

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

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

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

Reporter: Karen Edwards 346-2591  
kedwards@dougallmedia.com

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

**Advertising Policy:** Ad adjustment for error is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad where the error occurred.  
**Member of:** Canadian Community Newspaper Association & Ontario Community Newspaper Association. Thunder Bay Source is published every Thursday by T.Bay Post Inc. © Copyright No. 343384.

Thunder Bay Source is a member of the National Newsmedia Council, which is an independent organization established to deal with acceptable journalistic practises and ethical behaviour.

If you have concerns about editorial content, please contact [ldunick@dougallmedia.com](mailto:ldunick@dougallmedia.com). If you are not satisfied with the response and wish to file a formal complaint, visit the website [mediacouncil.ca](http://mediacouncil.ca) or, for additional information, call toll-free at 1-844-877-1163.



# Winter arrives for Christmas

Well, O'I Man Winter delivered. We had a white Christmas. Boy, did we ever!

We did have snow on the ground out here on the farm but we could see patches of green and lots of stubble. Now, no more green and a lot of stubble is covered as well.

What we received is perfect for snowshoeing too. But, before having fun making trails through the new snow, I had some snow-clearing to do. Actually, I had a lot.

The easiest method for clearing snow on the farm is with my ancient tractor, Big Red, and a seven-foot snowblower attached to Red's rear. But I had delayed the attachment task as it is always (for me) onerous.

What was available for the snow removal job was the bucket and the blade on the back of the tractor. O'I Man Winter had delivered more than forecast to the tune of about 30 to 40 centimetres, but with it, sudden freezing temperatures.

Immediately after the storm, I had to get the driveway and in front of the barn doors snow-free. I had to don several layers of clothing since Red doesn't possess a protective cab.

It is me and the elements while moving back and forth grabbing buckets of snow and dumping it away from the driveway and yard with gusting wind blowing swirls of snow obscuring my vision. Took me close to two hours and that was just on the east side of the barn

The west side is what we call the "Yard" that contains the shavings shed and the lane to Mt. Crumpet where I dump the stall leavings, the manure. Because the day was frigid with the blasting wind. I saved snow-clearing the Yard until the next day.

Meanwhile after I'd had a chance to get back inside Casa Jones and warm up a bit, I re-emerged with my wife, Laura, to tackle the attaching of the snow blower onto the tractor.

As I mentioned, for me attaching the snow blower is onerous. Inevitably the air turns colour above my head as frustration

mounts.

It took over a half hour due to me forgetting some of the procedure but we did manage to secure it and I even did a test-blow to make sure the blower was working. However, the light was fading rapidly and so I left the snow-clearing of the Yard for the next day.

But what the big snow had offered was excellent snowshoeing conditions. At last, we had sufficient snow-cover for a good tromp that would be the first of this winter. The day before the storm, I had taken pooches for a walk on our trails and handily traversed in my winter boots with the snow often barely above my ankles.

After the snow dump, not a chance. Great!

Saturday afternoon we hauled out our snowshoes, strapped them on in the midst of two very excited dogs, and set off behind the house.

Tough going for quite a stretch as we traversed the

open field behind Casa Jones but we knew that the return tromp would be easy as the trail would be packed.

When you reach the back bush, you have a choice of direction in which to go: to the left you can enter the red pines, a large stand of great soaring trees planted back in the 1960s; to the right you follow a riding trail through what once was a field but now grown in with various species of conifer.

We chose neither. Laura wanted to head straight into a grove of mature spruce that with all the snow still on the branches was right out of a fairy tale.

Through the trees we slowly ploughed, Laura breaking off dead branches that would smack us in the face.

We often stopped and listened: it was so still and quiet in the woods. The pine branches, even the trunks were covered in snow.

We eventually made a circle and retraced our steps back to Casa Jones for a well-earned (so we thought) mug of hot chocolate. Sunday, we headed back out on snowshoes and extended the packed trail. The plan is to eventually have an extensive network of snowshoe trails upon which to walk.

So, the snow, not much appreciated by many who have to shovel, is considered a blessing for us. We get to walk on snowshoes, get exercise, and tromp through a true winter wonderland.

And if we get another big dump courtesy of O'I Man Winter, Red and I are ready and the snowshoes are just by the front door. And by the way, Happy New Year!



**FRED JONES**

RURAL ROOTS

# Perspective

## Getting it correct

The start of a new year gives us a chance to do it right

### OPINION

By J.R. Shermack  
Special to TB Source

Happy New Year used to be a tired, old cliché, an automatic response to family and friends at the stroke of midnight when the future lay before us and we wish each other well.

But as we reflect on the troubling events of last year and look forward to 2021 that well-worn greeting suddenly becomes more heartfelt and takes on a new urgency.

We finally made it through December - hopefully everything will be alright and this will be the year that science triumphs over adversity, good health prevails over disease.

We want loved ones to be safe, we long for social interaction and we are cautiously optimistic that our wishes for a Happy New Year will come true.

### We know what works

With the advantage of experience and hindsight to guide us we now know what works and what makes things worse and there is no excuse for unsafe behaviour.

This is true globally, nationally and locally - we have the tools, the knowledge and the ability to ensure success over the virus and widespread public support will quicken the process.

Sadly, that broad support has been lacking as vacationers, party-

animals and irresponsible social butterflies continue to ignore public health advisories.

Even more disturbing is the recent revelation that federal and provincial public officials are ignoring the rules with their selfish, irresponsible and dangerous behavior.

Elected representatives cautioned us to avoid all non-essential travel and then turned around, booked their own non-essential flights and went viral all around the world.

When they were found out they admitted to serious errors in judgement but that was just a cop-out.

What we have here is a deliberate and dangerous disregard for public health, a tragic failure of leadership and a blatant misuse of power and privilege.

We have seen in our local communities how the reckless acts of a few individuals can have tragic, far-reaching consequences - we expect more from our political leaders.

It is foolish to request public compliance with proven public health measures when we are being misled by bad examples at the top.

The damage is done - the offending members should have the courage to resign their undeserved seats and barring that, they should be voted out of office in the next election.

There is a valuable lesson to be learned here.

Happily, the days are getting longer now and we have just

passed a symbolic milestone by ushering in a brand new year.

What better time to make a new start, only this time let's get it right.

But the New Year is not a do-over.

There are no mulligans when life takes a bad turn although we now have an opportunity to learn from, instead of repeating past mistakes.

We have already gained some important insights from our difficult, sad and lonely journey.

### Closer relationships

We have learned the importance of personal relationships with family and friends and this ordeal may have even strengthened our social bonds.

We have a new understanding of how to protect the personal health and wellness of loved ones and the consequences of bad choices we make.

And notwithstanding the irresponsible behavior of a few oblivious individuals, we also know the possibilities that arise from the good choices made by millions more.

The hopes, wishes and resolutions of all Canadians should reflect the valuable lessons learned since the pandemic began.

If you have wished anybody a Happy New Year you owe it to them, and to yourself, to make that wish come true in 2021.

This year let's all hope for the best and then do our best to make it so.

### JOY TO THE WORLD

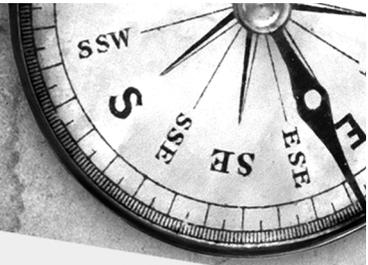


**HAPPY NOTE:** Residents of an apartment complex on Grenville Avenue awoke on Sunday morning to a cheerful message tramped into the snow at a ballfield across Cumberland Street.

BRETT COWIE/SUBMITTED

## A look back in history: Port Arthur Harbour 1885

Port Arthur's harbour in the mid 1880s. In the 1870s Fred Jones, postmaster and avid fisher, procured the money to establish a bell on the waterfront. It was used as a fog signal for many years until the Port Arthur Storm Signal Station was established and a Marconi wireless apparatus installed.



### 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.

Should Canada have sooner implemented mandatory negative COVID-19 test requirements to enter the country?

<b>TOTAL VOTES: 929</b>		
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>YES</b>	<input type="radio"/> <b>NO</b>	<input type="radio"/> <b>DON'T KNOW</b>
<b>92.9%</b>	<b>6.14%</b>	<b>0.97%</b>

# JANUARY

*A Year  
in Review...*

## Eleven-year-old killed on New Year's Day

**1** A 34-year-old Thunder Bay woman was charged with second-degree murder and aggravated assault in the death of her 11-year-old son on New Year's Day at a Victoria Avenue West residence. Courtney Marie Labelle was remanded into custody after police arrived on scene a little after 7 a.m. on the first day of the year. A 59-year-old man was also injured in the incident.

**2** Four days after police announced they were investigating an aggravated assault at a Syndicate Avenue North residence, police said it was now being looked at as a homicide after 18-year-old Austin Robinson died in hospital of his injuries. Cody Echum, 19, and a 14-year-old youth were arrested and charged with first-degree murder in the case.

**3** Teachers held a series of rotating strikes throughout the month as their battle with the province and Education Minister Stephen Lecce heightened.

**4** Twenty-five years after it was sealed, Lieutenant Gov. Elizabeth Dowdeswell helped city officials open a time capsule to kick off Thunder Bay's 50th anniversary following the amalgamation of Port Arthur and Fort William. A letter from then MP Joe Comuzzi and a bib from the 1995 World Nordic Games were among the artifacts found within.

**5** Three people were killed in a collision between two transports just west of Siston's Corners along Highway 11/17. All three were pronounced



**HOMICIDE:** Thunder Bay Police hold the scene at a Victoria Avenue residence where a Jan. 1 murder took place.

dead on the scene and the highway was closed for about 15 hours while the investigation was completed by the OPP's highway safety division and traffic collision investigators.

Thunder Bay's Kenneth MacDonald was among the victims.

**6** The reinvestigation into nine sudden deaths involving Indigenous victims got under way, a recommendation of the Office of the Independent Police Review Director, which was made in a damning report a year earlier. The reinvestigations were delayed due to COVID-19.

**7** Hundreds attended a Saturday afternoon vigil to honour the victims of Ukrainian Airlines Flight PS752, which was mistakenly shot out of the air over Tehran by the Iranian military. All 176 people aboard were killed, including 57 Canadians. The action came amid growing tensions between Iran and the United States after the Americans killed Iranian Gen. Qasem Suleimani on Jan. 3.

**8** Lowe's, which arrived in the city with much fanfare in 2016, announced it was closing its Thunder Bay store on Jan. 26, five days earlier than initially planned. The company has closed dozens of locations across North America in recent years. Intercity Shopping Centre has yet to replace them as an anchor tenant.

**9** Health Minister Patty Hajdu said the risk of the coronavirus was low, after the first case of the deadly disease arrived in Ontario late in the month. At the time Hajdu said Canadians shouldn't be overly concerned about the virus, though within six weeks the messaging had changed dramatically.

**10** Chief librarian John Patemen, as well as the union representing library workers, spoke out against suggestions the city close a branch to help keep the proposed budget increase lower than initially projected. The library board was seeking a one per cent increase to its \$6.16-million budget. The libraries were closed for two hours in protest later in the month.

## FOR YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION, COMMIT TO REDUCING WASTE.

**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](http://thunderbay.ca/recycling)**

# NEW YEAR GOALS

THUNDER BAY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

RE-VISION  
WASTE

CITY OF  
**Thunder Bay**  
*Superior by Nature*

SOLID WASTE &  
RECYCLING SERVICES



# FEBRUARY

## Hobbs, wife found not guilty in court after extortion trial

**1** Former Thunder Bay Mayor Keith Hobbs, his wife Marissa, and Mary Voss were found not guilty of extortion after a lengthy trial. Justice Fletcher Dawson said he was not convinced of the guilt of the three accused, who were charged after the unnamed victim said the trio tried to force him to buy a \$429,000 house for Voss. The credibility of witnesses on both sides was also questioned by the judge in the case. The Hobbs' later sued the alleged victim for \$12.5 million.

**2** A trio of Thunder Bay city councillors were found to have not violated the Conflict of Interest Act. McKellar Coun. Brian Hamilton was exonerated for voting on the contentious designated truck route bylaw, while Couns. Brian McKinnon and Albert Aiello were not in conflict after speaking out against an Indigenous transitional housing complex on Junot Street. Aiello is the executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Thunder Bay, located adjacent to the proposed site of the facility.

**3** City officials say they were caught off guard by the discovery of pinhole leaks in household water pipes across Thunder Bay.

The city decided to stop the use of sodium hydroxide in the water distribution system, saying it could be connected to the leaks. The city offered to deliver water pitchers and filters to affected homes then promised a limited number of rebates or loans to those needing lead pipes replaced.

**4** A lack of headline-worthy talent forced organizers to cancel the Thunder Bay Blues Festival, a month before the live music industry came crashing to a halt. The news came on the heels of the festival selling out in record time the past two summers, with the likes of Bryan Adams, Sara McLachlan and Sheryl Crow on the bill.

**5** Thunder Bay Public Library staff challenged assurances by city council that a capital budget cut of \$50,000 would not affect core services, including the purchase of books and other materials. The move reversed a January vote and led to the closure of the library for a few hours while staff prepared to speak to council.

**6** A solidarity march in support of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs, who

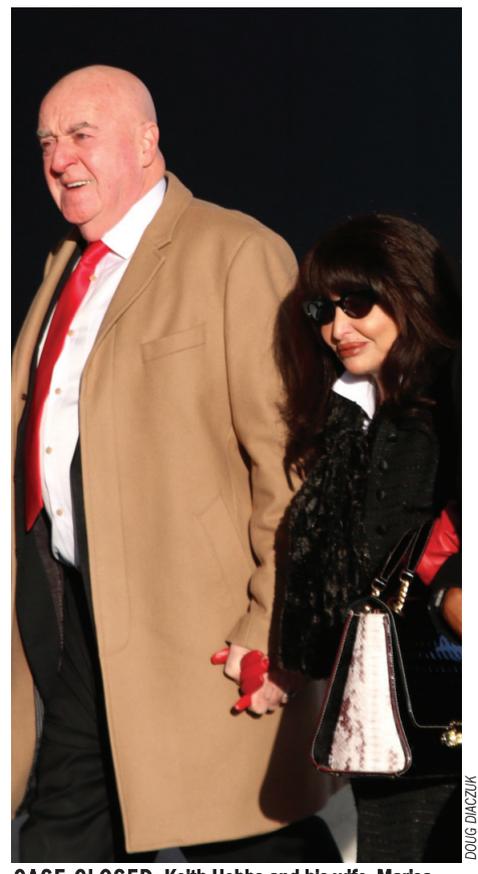
opposed construction of a natural gas pipeline through their traditional territory in north-western British Columbia, led to the closure of a section of the downtown north core for a couple of hours.

**7** Senator Lynn Beyak was suspended from the Red Chamber for a second time, after she failed to properly apologize to Canada's Indigenous people for allowing racist letters to be posted to her official website.

**8** Charles Casmey was sentenced to 12.5 years in prison for the stabbing of Joseph Pruyss Sr., an incident that took place on Feb. 26, 2018 at a MacLaughlin Street residence. A 25-year-old woman was also injured and found inside the home.

**9** Health Minister Patty Hajdu said the risk of the coronavirus to Canadians remained low, despite the growing number of cases in China.

**10** A plane carrying eight, including members of Team Northern Ontario's Krista McCarville curling team, crashed while taking off at the Dryden Airport. Coach Rick Lang suffered injuries to his hand.



**CASE CLOSED:** Keith Hobbs and his wife, Marisa, were accused of trying to extort money from an alleged victim to pay for a house for another woman.

# Happy Holidays

Throughout this time, it is important that we support one another and our community.

Wishing all our customers a happy and healthy holiday season!



**MARCH***A Year  
in Review..*

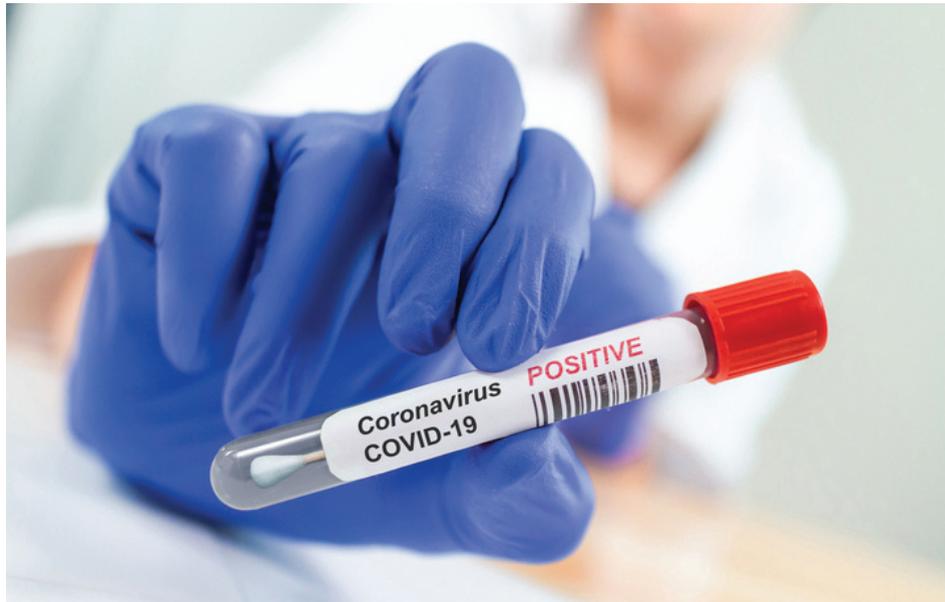
# COVID-19 makes way to Thunder Bay

**1** COVID-19 became a reality in Thunder Bay when the province announced it would close all publicly funded schools for two weeks after March Break. Students wouldn't return to physical classrooms until September. Lakehead University and Confederation College quickly followed suit, shifting to online learning models. The Thunder Bay Community Auditorium announced it was cancelling all shows until further notice. Later in the month the Thunder Bay Public Library announced it was closing its doors. Local sports teams also shut down for the season, as did Fort William Historical Park, churches and the casino. The province later declared a state of emergency and announced that non-essential businesses would be forced to close indefinitely. The border with the United States was closed and has yet to reopen.

**2** The City of Thunder Bay decided to close many of its facilities because of COVID-19, including the Canada Games Complex, the 55-Plus Centre, laying off about 800 staff as a result of diminished services.

**3** Reacting to the arrival of COVID-19 in Ontario, the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences centre rolled out its pandemic plan, which included new screening measures, restricted visitation and the establishment of a COVID-19 assessment centre and incident management team.

**4** The region's first COVID-19 case was discovered in Fort Frances, a woman who contracted



**VIRAL ARRIVAL:** After weeks of anticipation, COVID-19 finally became a reality in the city in March.

the virus during overseas travel. The public was told there was no risk of transmission. The city's first case came several weeks later, a man in his 60s who traveled from Florida.

**5** Fire crews spent the night battling a blaze at the former Odd Fellows Hall on May Street. The

abandoned building was empty at the time of the fire, which also led to the evacuation of nearby Shelter House because of smoke. In November 2019 the Thunder Bay District Health Unit had ordered the building be vacated due to unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

**6** The city's first brick-and-mortar cannabis shop opened in Thunder Bay, nearly a year-and-a-half after pot was legalized in Canada. Tokyo Smoke, located on Memorial Avenue, opened to a line of eager customers. The delay was a result of government red tape, after the Ford government decided to limit the number of the cannabis stores in the province following the decision to privatize.

**7** A pair of murders took place in March. Brianna Lynn Netemegestic, 20, and a 15-year-old youth were charged with second-degree murder in the death of Rae Towegishig at a Picton Avenue residence. Three weeks later two 19-year-olds, Trayvon Stewart and Terrell Williams, were charged with first-degree murder in the death of Adrian Kadeem Drysdale at a North May Street address.

**8** The Ontario Catholic School Teachers' Association reached a tentative deal with the province that ended a series of rotating strikes.

**9** An unusual sight on the Thunder Bay waterfront drew hundreds of onlookers. Blue ice formed on the shoreline and filled local social media feeds for several days.

**10** Consultants recommended the city spend \$52 million to build a new police headquarters, which they said was \$12 million less than it would cost to bring the current Balmoral Street station up to current and future operational needs.



**Michael Gravelle, MPP**

*Wishing Everyone in Thunder Bay Superior-North a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2021. Stay Safe and Healthy.*

179 S. Algoma St., Thunder Bay Ontario P7B 3C1

T: (807) 345-3647 / 1-888-516-5555 / [Mgravelle.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:Mgravelle.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)



[Michael.Gravelle.35 /](https://www.facebook.com/Michael.Gravelle.35/)



[@Michael.Gravelle](https://twitter.com/@Michael.Gravelle)

**Have a joyous New Year!**

**Judith Monteith-Farrell**  
MPP Thunder Bay—Atikokan



409 George St., Thunder Bay P7E 5Y9 ☎ 807-622-1920 | Toll free 1-833-673-4129 ✉ [JMonteith-Farrell-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:JMonteith-Farrell-co@ndp.on.ca)

*A Year  
in Review...*

**APRIL**

# Tragedy strikes as teen's body found

**1** The body of 14-year-old Kayleigh Ivall was found in a wooded area near Boulevard Lake, a tragic ending to a search after the teen was reported missing. A 14-year-old girl, who cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder in the killing. Twenty-one-year-old Jarrett Sainawap was arrested the following day and also charged with first-degree murder.

**2** Fort William First Nation moved toward a full lockdown, restricting access to residential areas in order to limit the spread of COVID-19. The move eventually led to the temporary closure of gas bars and other businesses on the reserve. Residents were required to show identification and proof of residency before being allowed to return home after leaving the community.

**3** Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre announced it was opening a dedicated COVID-19 unit on the hospital's third floor as a way to keep COVID-positive patients secluded and less likely to spread the virus to others. The unit was capable of hosting 36 patients, but never had more than a handful at any given time and closed in the summer.

**4** A murder suspect escaped from the Thunder Bay District Jail. Kareem Zedan, 22, of Pickering, Ont. was arrested in late March and charged with first-degree murder related to a double homicide in Brantford, Ont. It was deemed the



**GONE TOO SOON:** A memorial for 14-year-old Kayleigh Ivall was erected outside her Arundel Street home.

accused was released in error. He was re-arrested and charged with identity fraud and escaping lawful custody.

**5** An outbreak of COVID-19 was declared at Lac des Iles Mine, where employees were told they must remain on site for more than a week.

More than 20 employees, including the region's first COVID-19-related death, tested positive.

**6** The Thunder Bay District Health Unit announced it was setting up a COVID-19 hotline for people to report concerns about businesses or individuals that might be putting the public

at risk from the virus.

**7** The City of Thunder Bay announced it was laying off one-third of its workforce, representing about 800 employees. Many of the workers were part time or casual. City officials said the move was made after the municipality shut down a number of services and facilities because of COVID-19.

**8** Ontario Provincial Police announced they were searching for a missing South Gillies woman, Alyssa Turnbull, who was last seen in Nipigon. Her disappearance has sparked plenty of OPP activity in the North Shore community, but the missing woman has yet to be found.

**9** The Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation reached a tentative deal with the province, putting an end to months of rotating strikes. Union leaders called the province's approach to education dangerous and were fighting larger class sizes and fewer course selections being offered.

**10** Kasper Transportation announced it was suspending all bus service in the region because of plummeting ridership. The company, which was founded in 2015, eventually returned to service later in the year. When it launched, it took over a number of routes abandoned by Greyhound, including twice-daily routes from Thunder Bay to Winnipeg.

## Marcus Powlowski, MP

Thunder Bay–Rainy River

*Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2021!*

Constituency Office

905 Victoria Ave. E., 2nd Floor Thunder Bay, ON P7C 1B3  
 Marcus.Powlowski@parl.gc.ca • (807) 625-1160



THE HONOURABLE  
**PATTY HAJDU**

Member of Parliament

*Wishing you a safe  
 and happy New Year!*

📞 807-766-2090

✉️ [Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca)

**MAY***A Year  
in Review...*

# Finlandia Association files to liquidate

**1** Faced with mounting financial difficulties and a mortgage that had been called in by RBC, the Finlandia Association announced it was voting to liquidate the corporation, which ultimately led to the historic Hoito facility, which includes the world-famous Hoito Restaurant, being sold to a developer, Brad McKinnon. He took possession in November and plans a residential component and restaurant at the site.

**2** The Snowbirds brought Operation Inspiration to the skies of Thunder Bay, part of their cross-country tour to salute frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thousands turned skyward to watch from one end of the city to the other. Sadly, the tour came to a tragic less than a week later in Kamloops, B.C., when Capt. Jennifer Casey was killed shortly after takeoff.

**3** Bombardier announced its Thunder Bay plant had secured a contract to build 28 BiLevel cars for U.S. companies, a deal worth about US\$108 million. The cars, once completed, will be delivered to the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority in Seattle.

**4** After six weeks of lockdowns, the province announced it would allow some

seasonal businesses, including garden centres and nurseries, to reopen for business. Meanwhile both local MPPs stressed they didn't want Northwestern Ontario to reopen ahead of the rest of the province, saying it should be done across the board. More businesses were allowed to reopen as the month progressed.

**5** The city announced it was projecting a \$5-million loss by the end of the month because of the pandemic. The bulk of the deficit came in the form of lost revenues from transit, recreation facilities, parking, child care, casino payments and more. The city also expected to spend an extra \$1.4 million, largely on labour and personal protective equipment.

**6** Students and parents learned on May 19 that schools in Ontario would remain closed for the remainder of the academic year. The province had left open the possibility of returning to the classroom, but decided it was too risky without the proper COVID-19 protocols in place.

**7** A shooting tied to the city's growing drug trade left a man with serious gunshot wounds. Police arrested 32-year-old Terry

Pelto. The accused faces charges including attempted murder. Later in the month Jacob Wattie was also charged with attempted murder.

**8** Organizers of the annual Canadian Lakehead Exhibition were left with little choice but to cancel the popular summer fair when Manitoba-based Select Shows and Canuck Amusement announced they would not be hitting the road with their rides in 2020. The CLE was the first of several local events to cancel, a list that included both the Hymers and Murillo fall fairs.

**9** Lac Des Iles Mine got the go-ahead to reopen after being struck by a COVID-19 outbreak that affected 25 employees. The reopening was done in three phases and the mine was back up and running fully by May 26.

**10** Justice Patrick Smith, who was publicly rebuked in 2018 by the Canadian Judicial Council for taking on the interim deanship at Lakehead University's Bora Laskin School of Law, was completely cleared of any wrongdoing by the Federal Court of Canada.



**FOR SALE:** The Finnish Labour Temple was put on the market after the building's mortgage was called.



TRUST THE  
**PROFESSIONALS**  
SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1937



Are you paying **TOO MUCH** for

**24HR  
SERVICE**

**GAS?**

Stop throwing your money away and change your old inefficient Furnace to an Armstrong Furnace



The Professional's Choice



It "MITE" be time... **WINTER  
SPECIAL**  
**duct  
cleaning**

...give us a call

Receive a **FREE** Dryer vent cleaning with purchase of a duct cleaning



**CLOW DARLING LIMITED**  
**623-7485**

24 hour Emergency Service  
[www.clowdarling.com](http://www.clowdarling.com)

**CLOW DARLING LIMITED • 623-7485 • [www.clowdarling.com](http://www.clowdarling.com)**

*A Year  
in Review...*

**JUNE**

# Black Lives Matter draws thousands

**1** Thousands of people descended on Waverly Park to march in solidarity with Black Lives Matter following in the footsteps of protests around the world that erupted in the aftermath of the killing of Black man George Floyd by a Minnesota police officer.

**2** Thunder Bay entered Stage 2 of the province's reopening plan early in the month as the Ontario government relented and took regional approach in its bid for normalcy. Outdoor dining at restaurants and bars and hair salons all got the green light to open their doors to the public again, which social gathering were increased to 10 people.

**3** A doctor at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre was diagnosed with COVID-19. The physician, known as a locum, has a residence in eastern Ontario and was believed to have picked up the virus while home with family. He returned to Thunder Bay and the hospital, where officials said there was low risk to patients and staff. Contact tracing and tests were conducted for more than 100 staff and a number of patients. A subsequent test proved negative.

**4** Thunder Bay Police put out an appeal for information surrounding a murder at a north-side hotel. Police said the death of 29-year-old Paul Vivier of British Columbia had drug overtones. A 36-year-old man, Denis Terry Bernard, was arrested and later charged with second-degree murder. A 19-



**UNITED AS ONE:** Black Lives Matter activists protested the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers.

year-old, Seandi Clarke Noel, and a 16-year-old male were also charged with second-degree murder.

**5** A 21-year-old woman, Lyrina Jacob, was arrested and is facing second-degree murder charges after Lydia Rose Jacob, 47, was killed at a Dawson

Street apartment complex. It was the seventh murder of 2020, matching the city's total from all of 2019.

**6** High school students celebrated graduations a little differently in 2020. Teachers and staff at

Lakehead Public Schools orchestrated drive-by graduations, visiting students outside their homes to present their diplomas. Students at Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board schools took part in drive-through graduations, a socially distanced chance to pick up their diplomas.

**7** The death of an inmate at the Thunder Bay District Jail sparked an investigation, which automatically means bringing in the province's chief coroner to look into the incident.

**8** A consultant's report recommending the closure of the Centennial Botanical Conservatory and the sale of Port Arthur Stadium was met with mixed reaction. The program and services review also suggested selling municipal golf courses and removing staff from city beaches, among the 45 recommendations.

**9** A correctional officer at the Thunder Bay District Jail was charged with breach of trust and drug trafficking. Andy Jason Saindon, 38, was also charged with possession of cocaine and possession of MDMA for the purpose of trafficking, as well as possession of tobacco and cannabis for the purpose of selling.

**10** A pair of 19-year-old suspects wanted in a March homicide in Thunder Bay were arrested in Toronto and Timmins and charged in the killing of Adrian Kadeem Drysdale. Police said the two accused left the city almost immediately.

## Support Local. Here are ways you can help.

**1**

**Buy Gift Certificates** to all your favourite restaurants, salons & shops to use in the future.

**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.

**tbnewswatch.com**

# JULY

## A Year in Review..

# City finally gets OK to enter Stage 3

**1** The province officially allowed Thunder Bay to enter Stage 3 of its reopening plan, which permitted 99 per cent of businesses to reopen their doors – with restrictions in place to protect against COVID-19. The move paved the way for indoor dining in restaurants and the reopening of gyms, movie theatres, casinos and recreational facilities.

**2** A mandatory mask policy was introduced in Thunder Bay as a result of entering into Stage 3. Medical officer of health Dr. Janet DeMille said she had resisted such an order, but with fears of a dreaded second wave of COVID-19 on the horizon, said she was left with little choice. Masks were required in indoor public settings, with some exceptions for medical or age-related reasons.

**3** Ontario students, including those in Thunder Bay, were informed they could return to the classroom in September, with strict guidelines in place. In addition to social distancing measures, staff and all students in Grades 4 to 12 were required to wear masks. The move left local school boards scrambling to comply with the rules and set up an online option for students who did not want to return to in-person learning.

**4** The Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce waded into the debate surrounding a proposed multi-million-dollar indoor turf facility. The chamber wanted more information about the business plan, operating revenues and expenses and the impact to the city and to taxpayers.



**NEW COVID RULES:** Face masks in indoor public spaces became mandatory in Thunder Bay in July.

**5** Thunder Bay-Superior North MP and Health Minister Patty Hajdu caught flack for taking flights home on a private government plane during the pandemic. Hajdu said she flew home four times and spent 13 days in Thunder Bay working on con-

stituency issues. It was noted that other members of Parliament also used the service, including members of the official Opposition.

**6** Canada Day had a very different feel to it in 2020, with most of the city-run activities

moved on line. The piece de resistance, the fireworks display, was also cancelled. However all was not lost. Fort William First Nation put on a fireworks show of its own atop Mount McKay and said it could be a precursor of an even larger display in 2021.

**7** The good news kept coming for Bombardier, who landed an 11-car deal with North Country Transit District in San Diego. The contract is worth US\$43 million and could lead to as many as 27 more cars being purchased by the southern California transit authority. However, the Toronto Transit Commission later in July said it might consider delaying its next purchase.

**8** City officials found themselves in hot water over a name. The city wound up issuing an apology for naming their 50th anniversary mascot Thunder, which some said was an affront to Indigenous people's sacred Thunderbird.

**9** For the first time since the pandemic arrived in the city, Thunder Bay had no known cases of COVID-19. At the time there had been just 93 cases in the district. Later in the month, Thunder Bay Regional closed its dedicated COVID-19 unit, citing a lack of need.

**10** A Thunder Bay foursome, including Sandy Thomas, Garry Linger, Lawrence Fletcher and Ryan Mazurski, collected a \$1-million Lotto 6/49 prize. The ticket was purchased at South Neebing Variety on Highway 61.

## Verticals N' Visions

448 N. MAY STREET



Hunter Douglas

REQUEST A CONSULTATION - Call 623-4223 [verticalsnvisions.ca](http://verticalsnvisions.ca)

## rfda

REGIONAL  
FOOD  
DISTRIBUTION  
ASSOCIATION

570 Syndicate Ave. S. Thunder Bay, ON  
Tel: 807-622-7440  
email: [rfdacentre@tbaytel.net](mailto:rfdacentre@tbaytel.net)

*Help Those Who Need It Most*

**WE PROVIDE FOOD  
TO FOOD BANKS.**



### DONATIONS

Donate Money - You will receive a tax receipt for every donation of \$20 or more. online at: [www.CanadaHelps.org](http://www.CanadaHelps.org)  
- OR -

Drop off or send a cheque to the RFDA at  
570 South Syndicate Ave, Thunder Bay P7E 1E7  
- OR -

Donate to the United Way of Thunder Bay and indicate that the donation is for the RFDA.

**10 MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:** 1. Canned fish or meat ie: tuna, salmon, turkey or ham, etc. 2. Mac and cheese, ie: Kraft Dinner, 3. Canned Vegetables, 4. Canned Fruit, 5. Pork and Beans, 6. Peanut Butter, 7. Pasta, 8. Pasta Sauce, 9. Cereal, 10. Canned Soup

**PLEASE SHARE WHAT YOU CAN SPARE OF THESE  
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS.**

*A Year  
in Review...*

**AUGUST**

# School boards present classroom plan

**1** Local school boards announced the results of a survey they had conducted and found about one in 10 students had opted out of returning to a physical classroom, instead choosing a virtual option. The survey showed 82 per cent of public school students would choose in-class learning, while 77 per cent of Catholic board students wanted to be back in the classroom. The boards later announced a half-day model for high schools, with students in class in the morning and at home online in the afternoon.

**2** Thunder Bay Police investigated the city's eighth homicide of 2020, after the body of Christopher David Meeseetawagesic was found in the 400 block of Main Street. Natalie Moonias, 31, and Kenneth Moonias, 29, were each charged with second-degree murder.

**3** McIntyre Coun. Albert Aiello was found to be in conflict of interest after voting on city funding matters during the budget deliberations earlier in the year. Aiello is the executive director of the Thunder Bay Boys and Girls Club and voted to reduce funding to the Thunder Bay Public Library to add money to the Community, Youth and Cultural Fund, from which his organization draws funding.

**4** Evacuees from a massive fire in the Red Lake area began arriving in Thunder Bay. The province arranged for a series of flights to remove most of the community of 4,100. More than 400 people were expected to arrive in the city as the fire threatened their home community.

**5** A call to delay a controversial indoor turf facility failed, as council narrowly approved moving ahead with the \$30-million project, which could cost taxpayers more than \$40 million when interest payments are factored in. Council approved the decision by a 7-6 vote count.

**6** Crosswalks representing the LGBTQ and transgender communities were installed at parallel intersections at Bay and Algoma streets, but had to have more colour laid down after complaints were received about their appearance. The crosswalks are a major step forward for LGBTQ and transgender communities say organizers behind the effort. Another crosswalk was later installed next to city hall.

**7** Rib Fest, usually one of the largest events of the summer, moved to a drive-through format in 2020 and proved to be a huge success, drawing thousands to sample the wares of visiting southern Ontario ribbers, not to mention Thunder Bay's own Silver Birch Restaurant.

**8** A group of protestors fighting police violence said they weren't giving up on a threat to plant a forest of trees in support of victims outside Thunder Bay Police Service headquarters. But they agreed to meet with police officials to discuss the issue before digging into the ground.

**9** The Canadian Lakehead Exhibition was not able to go ahead in 2020, but the organization did celebrate its 130th anniversary with a drive-in concert and fireworks show.

**10** Thunder Bay-Rainy River MP Marcus Powlowski signed his name to a letter advocating for the federal government to relax restriction and permit challenge trials to help find a COVID-19 vaccine in more rapid fashion. Powlowski and several fellow MPs argued the benefits far outweighed any risks.



NEW RULES: A student at St. Vincent School dons a mask in class.

J'étudie en français,  
**I AM BILINGUAL!**

**SESSION D'INFORMATION EN LIGNE  
VIRTUAL INFORMATION MEETING**

**EN FRANÇAIS**

mercredi 13 janvier | 18 h 30

**IN ENGLISH**

Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> | 6:30 pm

**RSVP : [fs@csdcab.on.ca](mailto:fs@csdcab.on.ca)**

Pour recevoir votre lien de connexion  
To receive your connection link

**École catholique Franco-Supérieur**

807 344-1169

**SEPTEMBER***A Year  
in Review...*

# Second wave arrives after quiet summer

**1** Medical officer of health Dr. Janet DeMille delivered the news everyone was dreading, confirming that a second wave of COVID-19 was upon us. However, at the time she said there was no need to tighten restrictions in the district, with case numbers still low in the area.

**2** Brayden Bushby, charged with second-degree murder in the 2017 death of Barbara Kentner, learned he would instead face charges of manslaughter when his trial got under way in September. The lowered charge drew the ire of justice advocates and Kentner's family and friends. Kentner died after a trailer hitch thrown from a moving vehicle struck her.

**3** Students, teachers, education workers and other staff returned to the classroom after being forced to study and work from home since mid-March, when COVID-19 arrived in Ontario, shutting down schools province-wide. It only took a couple of weeks before the first school-related case was reported, at Ecole Gron Morgan.

**4** Superior North EMS announced a series of drive-through test sites to help clear a backlog of nearly 700 students looking to return to school after showing signs of COVID-19. Eventually a testing site was opened at Confederation College and the province downgraded the need for testing for certain symptoms, not requiring anyone showing a single symptom to need a test.



**COVID ON THE RISE: Thunder Bay District Health Unit medical officer of health Dr. Janet DeMille.**

**5** Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre chose former vice-president Rhonda Crocker-Ellacott to replace outgoing president and CEO Jean Bartkowiak. Crocker-Ellacott most recently served as president of the North West and North East Local Health Integration Networks.

**6** COVID-19 fears left the local school bus consortium scrambling to find enough drivers to get students to and from school. Early in the school year Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay announced it would be cancelling a dozen routes until further notice. Cancellations have routinely

occurred over the course of the pre-Christmas school year, when drivers call in sick or are otherwise unable to work that day.

**7** Ontario Northland announced it was expanding bus service in Northwestern Ontario, a move that did not sit well with at least one other transportation company. Ontario Northland said it was expanding its service to and from Thunder Bay to Winnipeg from two days a week to six, with new stops in Emo, Fort Frances and Atikokan. Kasper Transportation's CEO called the decision highly unfair.

**8** Like many events that managed to forge onward in 2020, the Festival of India and Festival of Colours managed to give it a go over the Labour Day weekend, moving from its traditional Marina Park site to the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition.

**9** The city's newest school opened on time, just in time for the new school year to begin. Ecole Elsie MacGill Public School threw open its doors, welcoming students from the former Agnew H. Johnston and Edgewater public schools to the new facility, located on the former grounds of the now-demolished Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute.

**10** Lawyer Daniel Matson learned his licence to practice law had been revoked, following a hearing by a law society panel that alleged he'd mislead clients about cases and fabricated court orders.

LEITH DUNICK

**LANGEN  
GLASS**

248 SECORD ST, THUNDER BAY

PHONE: 345 6424

E-mail: [langen@tbaytel.net](mailto:langen@tbaytel.net)**FREE ESTIMATES**

**SUPPLY AND INSTALL  
WINDOWS, DOORS  
SHOWERS, RAILINGS  
STORM DOORS  
CUT GLASS FOR TABLETOPS  
AND PICTURE FRAMES  
BUILD AND REPAIR SCREENS**

Seymour  
Windows

Vitro Glass

All Glass Parts

CRLaurence

Novatech

ODL

Trimlite

**tbnewswatch.com****Real Estate | Listings** ▶

Looking for a new home?

Visit us online!

[tbnewswatch.com/realestate](http://tbnewswatch.com/realestate)

*A Year  
in Review...*

**OCTOBER**

# Hobbs and wife launch defamation suit

**1** Former Thunder Bay mayor Keith Hobbs and his wife Marisa, acquitted in February of extortion charges, filed multi-million dollar lawsuits for a variety of damages related to the case. The ex-mayor is seeking \$10.75 million, while his wife is looking for \$1.525 million. The Hobbses alleged police and several witnesses, including their alleged victim defamed them. They also said they were victims of malicious prosecution.

**2** An electrical fire at the Thunder Bay Courthouse left the south-side facility scrambling to find venues to hold trials and conduct other routine business. As a result of the fire, the province set up temporary courtrooms at the Valhalla Inn and at the former north-side courthouse, which has since been turned into a hotel.

**3** Justice for Barbara billboards sprung up in two locations in Thunder Bay, with hash tags for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, no more stolen sisters, Indigenous lives matter and the tagline, "We stand with the Kentner family." The billboards were an apparent reaction to the charges against Barbara Kentner's accused killer, Bryaden Bushby, being dropped from second-degree murder to manslaughter.

**4** City council finally decided the fate of the four-decade-old Victoriaville Centre. In a unanimous vote, council chose to proceed with the demolition of the money-losing mall, which was built in 1980 and lost hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.



**ELECTRICAL FIRE:** A Thunder Bay Fire Rescue crew exits the Thunder Bay Courthouse after putting out a fire.

The plan is to restore Victoria Avenue to its pre-mall look, with the possible addition of a community square and market area.

**5** Hundreds of evacuees from Neskantaga First Nation temporarily relocated to Thunder Bay after community leadership announced an unknown

sheen was observed in the First Nation's water system. Neskantaga has been under a boil-water advisory for 25 years. Chief Chris Moonias called the situation dehumanizing and later announced hydrocarbons had been found in the community water supply.

**6** Residents on Walsh Street said they were stunned to learn Hydro One was going to remove, not trim, dozens of mature trees that lined the south-side neighbourhood.

**7** The Salvation Army's Journey to Life Centre construction was completed, allowing residents to move into the Cumberland Street facility. The new centre replaced the organization's outdated building, which they began using in 1970. The old building was demolished after the move-in to make room for parking and a community garden.

**8** Rallies were held across the province, including in Thunder Bay, urging Premier Doug Ford to make changes to long-term care in the wake of a pandemic that has killed nearly 2,000 lives, including four in the city. Rally-goers were requesting more personal service workers be hired to provide at least four hours of care per resident.

**9** After months of searching, Underground Gym founder Peter Panetta announced he'd found a new location and launched a public campaign looking to raise the \$90,000 purchase price. The original Underground Gym, located on Simpson Street, was closed after a nearby fire and dangerous conditions inside the dilapidated building.

**10** Trick-or-treaters were asked to stick to their own neighbourhoods and to observe social distancing and other COVID-19 guidelines while out and about on Halloween. Many residents relied on the honour system.



*Season's Greetings  
and  
Thank you  
to our customers,  
we are grateful for  
your patronage.*

*Best Wishes for a  
Happy New Year.*

**983-3449**  
3075 Alice Ave.  
off Government Rd.

Factory Trained, Fully Licensed,  
Master Certified, Serving  
Northwestern Ontario over 40 years



**BREAK FREE FROM DEBT TODAY**  
We listen, we care and we can help.



**Jayson Stoppel, CPA, CA**  
Licensed insolvency trustee

**BDO**

1095 Barton Street  
807-625-4424  
WEBSITE: [debtsolutions-thunderbay.ca](http://debtsolutions-thunderbay.ca)



**Start the  
Conversation**

[www.legacygivingthunderbay.com](http://www.legacygivingthunderbay.com)



# NOVEMBER

*A Year  
in Review...*

## COVID-19 surges lead to multiple seniors' deaths

**1** The reality of COVID-19 hit home hard, as case numbers soared past 300 and death tolls rose from one to four, thanks in part to an outbreak at the Southbridge Roseview long-term care facility. Close contacts related to an employee at the Adult and Teen Challenge and another related to the pickleball community are believed to have begun the surge. Both were related to travel to Winnipeg. Thunder Bay was moved into the Yellow-Protect phase as a result.

**2** After years of waiting, the Brayden Bushby trial began. Charged with manslaughter, it is alleged that Bushby in January 2017 threw a trailer hitch from a moving vehicle that struck 34-year-old Barbara Kentner. She later died from her injuries. Court heard a police statement from the victim before she died.

**3** A \$350-million lawsuit against the City of Thunder Bay was launched as plaintiffs looked to have repair costs covered from pinhole leaks found in residential and commercial copper water pipes. The plaintiffs allege the city caused the problem by adding sodium hydroxide to the water supply in an effort to prevent lead poisoning. The city has issued no comment to date.

**4** Fort William First Nation reported its first COVID-19 case, leading to the return of checkpoints outside the residential area of the community and other restrictions including the closure of the community centre and Fort William First Nation Arena.

**5** Remembrance Day took on a bit of a different tone in 2020, with ceremonies scaled back in size and scope. The indoor ceremony at Fort William Gardens was replaced with a much smaller event outside

of city hall, while only about 100 people were present for the Waverly Park event. The ceremony atop Mount McKay was limited to just a few people too.

**6** Health Minister Patty Hajdu outlined a possible COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan after two companies announced they had seen highly promising results during their trial phase. Hajdu said the vulnerable and frontline workers would lead the queue, followed by the general population.

**7** Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre left the temporary trailers behind, moving into a permanent COVID-19 testing facility inside the hospital's medical building. The move was made in part to avoid having people wait outside in winter weather for a test.

**8** Greg Hankkio, who had filled the role in an acting capacity for more than a year, was named Thunder Bay Fire Rescue's new chief, replacing the departed John Hay. The city has yet to provide insight into why it parted ways with the former chief.

**9** The city announced it will put forth a bid to host the 2024 Ontario Winter Games, after council unanimously approved the move. The city would have to spend at least \$250,000 if successful. They were last hosted in Thunder Bay in 1974.

**10** McKellar ward Coun. Brian Hamilton announced he planned to take a leave of absence from council to deal with personal matters. Hamilton, elected in 2018, is permitted to take up to three months leave without penalty under the Municipal Act.



**ANGRY OWNERS:** Members of the Leaky Pipes Club gather at city hall.

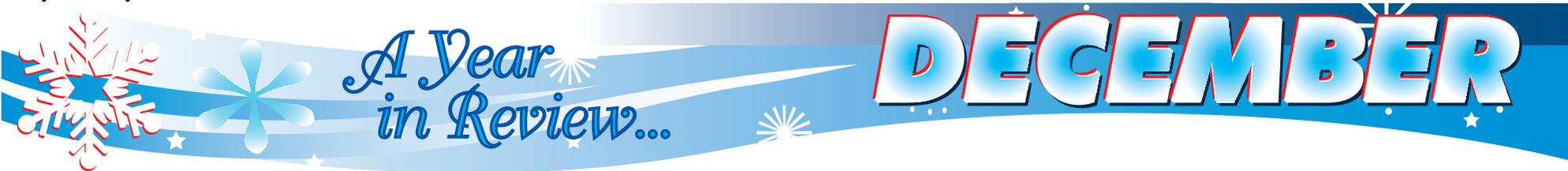
**TUNE IN TO!**

**The Morning Show with  
Danny & Laura!**

**Every Weekday!**

**91.5  
CKPR**

**THUNDER BAY'S  
BEST MUSIC**



# Lockdown, vaccine arrival help close out 2020

**1** Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario were placed into a two-week lockdown status, as COVID-19 cases spiked throughout the province. Ontario Premier Doug Ford did give the north a slight reprieve, only setting a 14-day shut down in this part of the province, compared to a full 28 days in southern Ontario.

**2** The light at the end of the tunnel started to show itself late in the month, when Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine finally arrived at Thunder Bay Regional, the hospital chosen as the designated distribution site for the vaccine. Sean Bolton, a personal support worker, was the first person in the region to receive his shot.

**3** Brayden Bushby was found guilty of manslaughter in the 2017 death of Barbara Kentner. Bushby threw a trailer hitch at Kentner and her sister, who were out walking, striking her in the abdomen. The judge ruled the assault, which ruptured Kentner's small intestine, played a role in her death. She died in July 2017, more than five months after the incident. Bushby is expected to be sentenced in February.

**4** Former city councillor Larry Hebert had his day in court and was given a 12-month sentence for assault with a weapon and uttering threats following a 2019 disturbance call. Hebert, who served from 2006 to 2018, was originally charged with attempted murder. He must not contact the victim and has to abide by



**MILESTONE: Personal support worker Sean Bolton receives the city's first Pfizer COVID-19 shot on Dec. 22.**

curfews, attend counselling and is not allowed to consume alcohol or drugs.

**5** Evacuees from Neskantaga First Nation began returning home to their community, weeks after contaminants were found in the remote community's water supply. Neskantaga

residents have been under a boil-water advisory for a quarter of a century. About 200 residents were displaced after a state of emergency was declared.

**6** Ashley Potson pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the 2019 fatal beating of 37-year-old

Tanya Andy. She will be sentenced in March. Charges against her co-accused, Patrick Menson, were withdrawn.

**7** Demolition work finally began on the former Oddfellows Hall, which was severely damaged in March when a fire swept through the vacant May Street building. The city had to arranged for the tear-down after the building's owner did not abide by a demolition order. The owner, a numbered company from Markham, Ont., is facing charges under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act.

**8** A group of self-described Satanists asked the city to consider removing a nativity scene erected annually in Connaught Square, across from St. Andrew's Church. The Knights of Columbus have put the nativity on display for more than six decades, but the four signers of a letter to council said public spaces should be kept free of religion.

**9** Ski hill operators lobbied the province for permission to reopen during the lockdown, saying they were singled out for closure when other outdoor activities, including rinks and cross-country ski facilities, were permitted to remain open.

**10** A Thunder Bay couple were left bewildered and upset after a No More Lockdowns sign was planted in front of their McAuliffe Crescent home.

## ST. JOSEPH'S FOUNDATION OF THUNDER BAY - Grand a Day Draw Winners 2020



*Congratulations to all our Winners!*

**THANK YOU** for all your support and making this year's Grand a Day a **SELL OUT!!**



Lottery Licence #M835526

Date	Winner	Ticket #
<b>Daily Winners of \$1,000 each</b>		
December 1	Sherri + Allen Barron	1144
December 2	Valerie Bell	0265
December 3	Jim Cava	1444
December 4	Dan Stacinski	0160
December 5	Jo-Anne Seabrook	0902
December 6	Kim Murray	1187
December 7	Ernest Spyrka	0375
December 8	Dave + Lisa Fedoruk	0716
December 9	Ev MacGray	1078
December 10	Melissa Parisien	1111
December 11	Heather White	0962
December 12	Donna Bacvar	1412
December 13	Elaine McKinnon	1480
December 14	Constance Akis	0681
December 15	Armando Ferrise	0261
December 16	Ralph Erickson	1039
December 17	Tracey Cambly	0174
December 18	Arnold O'Keefe	1193
December 19	Roxanne Prystay	0271
December 20	Susan Auld	0868
December 21	Rosetta Commisso	1099
December 22	Wilhemina Delinsky	0707
December 23	Joan Kinisky	0883
December 24	Elaine Begin	0179
December 25	Evan + Mary Ann Newman	0633
December 26	Valerie Hurst	0032
December 27	Len Carr	1162
December 28	Terri McKirdy	0980
December 29	Constantino D'Angelo	1667
December 30	Cindy Erickson	0436
December 31	Anthony Russo	0449
<b>Grand Prize Winner of \$10,000!</b>		
December 31	Joanne Hergott	1690

Date	Winner	Ticket #
<b>Early Bird Winners of \$1000 each</b>		
November 6	Mary Ferris	1274
November 13	Faith Crichton	1362
November 20	Suzanne McMahon	0915
November 27	Joyce Mannila	0082
<b>Early Bird Winner of \$5000</b>		
November 30	Maria Austin	1606

# TB Life

people | health | home | food | leisure

## Winter camping great outdoor fun



**KEITH  
AILEY**

THE GOOD LIFE



MARTIN KAISER

**THE HEAT IS ON:** Keeping tents warm is an important part of winter camping.

While most of us associate camping trips with warm summer weather, some hardy Canadians extend their season right through the winter months.

Typically, the May long weekend marks the start of outdoor camping season and most people have put their gear into storage before most campgrounds close in mid-October.

However, on a mild winter like this one, winter camping can be a great way to enjoy the winter months.

### Sounds like a great time

I am fascinated by the idea of winter camping, but admittedly, my family and I spend our winter breaks in the relative comfort of our camp (cottage) with all its amenities.

For this reason, I reached out to Martin Kaiser, a Thunder Bay resident who has been doing some cool winter camping

trips recently.

He was happy to offer some insight.

Kaiser first experienced winter camping as a teen with the Boy Scouts, and as a year-round outdoorsman who

enjoys hiking, fishing, and canoe tripping, he says he appreciates how winter camping, even in familiar places, can be a whole new kind of outdoor experience.

For Kaiser, making camp and sleeping in a tent are just a small part of the fun as he combines the experience with a lot of ice fishing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and photography.

Kaiser enjoys camping both on Crown land, accessed by snowmobile, and in provincial parks, accessed either by snowshoes or cross-country skis.

Many provincial parks, including Quetico and Sleeping Giant are open for camping year-round and Kaiser advises that “with some parks you can book backcountry sites on-line in the winter, with others you need to use the self-serve kiosk when you arrive at the park for backcountry or campground sites.

It is good to call ahead and speak to the staff to confirm what options are available and what access is like.

The one thing you won’t have to worry about is competition for sites, as you’ll often find yourself the only person camping in a park in the winter.”

When I asked Martin about the challenges one might expect, he suggested that being able to stay comfortably warm and dry while being active in different weather conditions is essential.

Understanding what clothing to bring

and how to layer it is crucial for this.

Of course, heating the tent to extend that comfort into the evenings is equally important.

Depending on the temperatures, Kaiser can sometimes get by with a small camping stove but he recently invested in a canvas tent which he heats with a wood stove that can also be used to cook on.

### The old-fashioned way

However, he chooses to cook over an open campfire whenever conditions allow.

Kaiser prefers to go on multi-day trips as it allows him to explore further areas and travel deeper into the wilderness.

Whether he is on a solo trip, with his dog, or with friends, Kaiser finds that a clear, star-filled sky at night and a cold, crisp morning are always highlights and he appreciates how beautiful and peaceful our northern landscape is under a blanket of pristine snow.

Seeing his winter camping photos has me thinking that perhaps I need to leave the comfort of our camp and experience a solo trip into the interior of Sleeping Giant Park some time soon.

## Palm Springs a trippy, time-warp comedy

Recovering from gorging on various traditional Christmas cinematic confections, one now seeks appealing current movie fare.

One such candidate is the comedy, *Palm Springs*, (Amazon Prime) with Andy Samberg and Cristin Miliotti as two strangers who find themselves trapped in a time loop inspired by “Groundhog Day,” where they awake to experience a replay of the same day over and over again.

The day in question is a sun-baked desert destination wedding where Samberg’s Nyles is a boyfriend of the ditsy bridesmaid and Miliotti’s Sarah is the aloof older sister-of-the-bride.

We find Samberg already long adjusted to daily loafing in the pool, swilling beer and playing wisecre to those he encounters.

He’s foggy on how long he’s been a time warp resident, content to be comfortably cocooned in a dreamscape where most actions have no consequences.

So what if he’s sexually incompatible with his cream-puffy younger girlfriend, whom he discovers is having fun elsewhere? A comical

array of unlikely willing partners relieves his needs.

The situation, as explained by Samberg, involves the influence of a mysterious nearby desert cave that serves as some kind of time portal, dooming one to a daily replay, exerting its own quirky metaphysical laws.

Miliotti makes the mistake of following Samberg into the cave and is rattled to find herself stuck in the daily *Twilight Zone* weirdness.

Though far from original, *Palm Springs* boasts its own sprightly script, flippant dialogue and amusing visual style.

Like its predecessor, *Palm Springs* hilariously tweaks cultural norms.

Whereas Bill Murray’s jaded big-time weatherman smirked at the innocent folksiness of the small town event where he’s stuck, Samberg, decked out in a loud, rumpled beach T-shirt, openly mocks the plastic pageantry of nuptials featuring the requisite goofy dancing, saccharine speeches, cheap wine, and nerdy guests.

Miliotti eventually buys in as she and Samberg resort to various diversions to amuse themselves.

They make for a charismatic match, with plenty of serve and volley in their dialogue.

Samberg’s the wise guy who won’t grow up while Miliotti’s the n’er do well daughter, an emotionally detached divorcee, whom the family frets about.

Events predictably but amusingly conspire to draw these two closer together only to set up the big conflicting choice, whether to safely stay or bravely break out of the dead-end nuttiness, ultimately threatening their nascent romance.

It’s tricky buying into this kind of tenuous premise, as one finds inconsistencies in the oddball metaphysical universe. For instance, Samberg has difficulty remembering his own occupation, but readily recognizes a perfume mist used by a previous girlfriend.

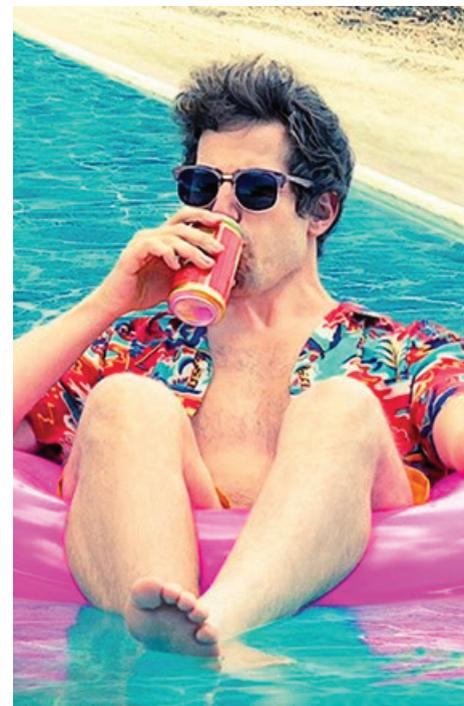
However, there are abundant verbal quips, visual diversions, and the appeal of the leads that one tends to overlook trifles in the script. Welcome support comes from J.K. Simmons as Samberg’s fellow druggie-turned-aggressor, Jana Friedman as the deadpan bartender, Dale Dickey as a crusty female barfly, and Peter Gallagher as the clueless dad.

For our peculiar, isolationist times, *Palm Springs* makes for an appropriate fit.



**MARTY  
MASCARINI**

MOVIE TALK



AMAZON PRIME

**LOOPED IN:** Andy Samberg stars in *Palm Springs*.

# Call me unimpressed with new sit-com

**C**all Me Kat is a new sitcom produced by *The Big Bang Theory*'s Mayim Bialik and Jim Parsons. It's a take-off on a British sitcom and centres around a woman who chucked it all to open a cat café. It's no *Big Bang Theory*.

Sitcoms are more often than not, a hotbed of extreme characters you'd never meet in the real world. Sure, we like to say our friend is just like Seinfeld's Kramer or our co-worker is a Phoebe Buffay clone. But really, these people rarely exist.

That's why we like to watch them on the occasional sitcom. Unfortunately, *Call Me Kat* has but one somewhat outlandish character: Kat, who regularly breaks the fourth wall and talks directly to the audience.

It's a little odd, but so did *House of Cards*' Frank Underwood and even *Saved By the Bell*'s Zack Morris. So what exactly has Kat done that is so



"out there"?

She quit her successful career teaching math to start her own business. (Big deal.) At 39, she's single and quite alright with it. (Say it isn't so!) And in the first episode, she kicked her ex-crush in the face and brought her gay, 65-year-old, 4'11" employee as her "boyfriend" to a wedding. (Haven't we all?)

So if Kat is our wild child for the

show, audiences will be disappointed. She's definitely no Amy Farrah-Fowler, but she is relaxed and totally relatable.

I was more shocked by Swoosie Kurtz as her mother. The scene-stealing icon has always had impeccable comedic timing.

She's just fun to watch. Usually. At 75, her surgically-lifted face isn't fooling anyone despite her forehead being stretched so tight and wide she looks like a hydrocephalic puppy with an expanding head and shrinking body.

Plus her character is written like a stereotypical society ol' bitty. That's not the Swoosie audiences know and love.

Meanwhile, Cheyenne Jackson is pretty to look at as Kat's former high school crush. And we've got two black characters hovering in the background waiting for something to do. But thus far, it's all about Kat.

In the pilot, she discusses how difficult it is to be single at a wedding where

you've got no one to share private chats, dirty jokes, or the occasional chicken dance. So why should Kat only be allowed to bring a "plus one" if it's a serious boyfriend? (Yes, that was the bride's rule.)

Watching, I had to wonder: Are these the little nuggets of life lessons we'll get each week amid the various felines and song-and-dance routines? And yes, according to previews, there will be regular song-and-dance.

So expect more people getting accidentally kicked in the face. (As a former dancer with a chipped tooth, I can tell you that it happens.)

I'm going to give *Call Me Kat* another chance. It had its moments. And I honestly like Kat for her complete lack of lunacy.

But the show needs more from its supporting cast. After all, even *The Big Bang Theory* would have sputtered out without its ensemble.



**NOT PURR-FECT:** Mayim Bialik plays the lead in the new show *Call Me Kat*.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

- 1 Garnishment
- 5 This one (Lat.)
- 9 "Blue Eagle"
- 12 Sayings (suf.)
- 13 Bait
- 14 Avena
- 15 Autumn pear
- 16 Byron poem
- 17 Slugger's stat
- 18 54 (Rom. numeral)
- 20 Vomiting
- 22 Own (Scott.)
- 25 Defense (abbr.)
- 27 Pub fare
- 28 Electric unit
- 29 Aural
- 31 Of the kind of (suf.)
- 34 Slip
- 35 Dirge
- 37 Literary collection
- 38 Plexus
- 40 Galilee town
- 41 Liquid crystal

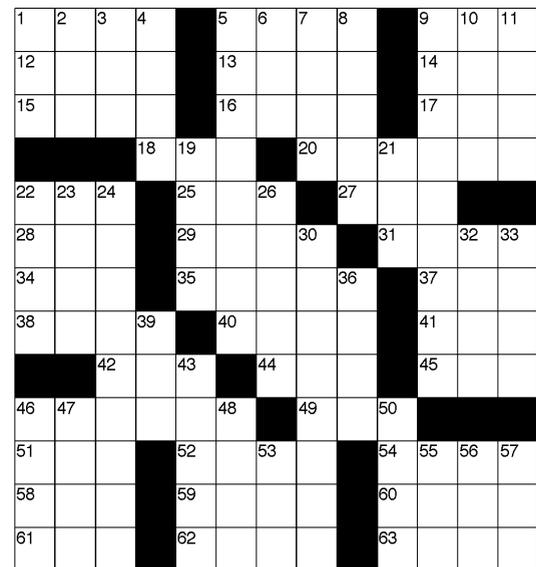
### DOWN

- 1 Freedom, briefly
- 2 Honey-eater bird

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

XMAS VIM PAWL  
 MARK ALI ABIA  
 AGNI NEA GENE  
 SHAFI OCELOT  
 FORMULA  
 NOW AAA ENNUI  
 URIM BCE TALL  
 BEGET LES BAA  
 NACELLE  
 SEPTET RABAT  
 AMOI EIN DAZE  
 BINO NAB ELUL  
 ATTN OLE MLLE

- 3 Essential being
- 4 Sodium chloride
- 5 Swiss
- 6 King of Judah
- 7 To be (Fr.)
- 8 Largest mollusk
- 9 Saga (2 words)
- 10 Atomic physicists
- 11 Himalayan monkshood
- 19 Effigy
- 21 Guido's note (2 words)
- 22 American (abbr.)
- 23 Your (Ger.)
- 24 Polaris (2 words)
- 26 Last
- 30 Opposite
- 32 Included (abbr.)
- 33 Arabian judge
- 36 Javanese carriage
- 39 Hesitation sounds
- 43 Alas (Fr.)
- 46 Wampum
- 47 Skin eruption
- 48 S.A. rodent
- 50 Apiece
- 53 Ten (pref.)
- 55 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- 56 Jewish scholar
- 57 Ostrichlike bird



## WORD SEARCH

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

- Acids
- Argue
- Arraying
- Ashes
- Belie
- Birch
- Boring
- Burner
- Cable
- Canal
- Cleaved
- Crouches
- Disused
- Drizzles
- Eczema
- Essay
- Franc
- Hauls
- Holdups
- Instead
- Nests
- Noble
- Noiselessly
- Organ
- Parsec
- Prime
- Rabid
- Raised
- Rumble
- Scaly
- Seams
- Selves
- Sherry
- Snubs
- Stunk
- Tabby
- Tamed
- Unsay
- Unset
- Vista

## Sudoku

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

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

DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆

## ENIGMA™ CRYPTOGRAM

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

"T VLQ'H EZ TH' QXYXC UXH  
 LVVZOMGTKNXE LQUHNTQF: 'T BTGG  
 HCU' NLK LVVZOMGTKNXE BZQEXCK."  
 — FXXCFX M. APCQNLO

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "The truest mark of being born with great qualities, is being born without envy." — La Rochefoucauld

## Buying or Selling?



### CLICK ON US.

The **tbSOURCE** Classifieds are ONLINE, so it's easier than ever to find exactly what you're looking for.  
 visit [tbnewswatch.com](http://tbnewswatch.com)

**tbnewswatch.com**  
 your community. your voice. your news



ᓂᓂᓂᓂ ᓂᓂᓂᓂ ᓂᓂᓂᓂ ᓂᓂᓂᓂ  
**Tikinagan**  
 Child & Family Services

ᓂᓂᓂᓂ ᓂᓂᓂᓂ ᓂᓂᓂᓂ ᓂᓂᓂᓂ  
 "Everyone working together to raise our children."

Visit [Tikinagan.org](http://Tikinagan.org)   
 Services 24/7 1-800-465-3624



# Sports

local sports news | information | coverage

## A year like no other

A look back at Thunder Bay's top local sports stories of 2020

### YEAR IN REVIEW

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

It was a year like no other in sports. The moment the NBA decided to start cancelling games, and then shut down its season, it was clear the sports world was going to come to a crashing halt.

Of course, it didn't take long for it to affect the local sports scene, with the Superior International Junior Hockey League, the Superior Secondary Schools Athletic Association and other local sports organizations putting a pause on their seasons.

Looking back, COVID wasn't the only story of the year, but it was the dominant one.

That said, here's our top 10 sports stories of 2020.

**1** COVID -19 cancellations dominated the sports calendar. The SIJHL was forced to shut its season down just before the playoffs were set to roll. High school sports disappeared, returning briefly in the fall for cross country and golf. The Thunder Bay Border Cats and Thunder Bay Chill lost their seasons as did the Lakehead Thunderwolves, first pushed back to January, before the OUA shut the entire sports calendar down.

**2** In the before times, a very successful Special Olympics Canada Winter Games was held at a variety of venues in Thunder Bay, bringing athletes from around the country to the city to showcase their skill at skiing, figure skating, snow-shoeing, floor hockey, bowling, speed skating and curling.

**3** It was the year of the trade for Thunder Bay NHLers. Eric Staal said he was shocked to learn he'd been dealt to the Buffalo Sabres. Soon afterward his brother Marc was sent to Detroit by the New York Rangers, the only team he'd known in his 13-year NHL career. The biggest deal of them all was probably goaltender Matt Murray, a two-time Stanley Cup winner, being traded to the rebuilding Ottawa Senators, where he later inked a four-year deal.

**4** The Scotties Tournament of Hearts was supposed to come to Thunder Bay in February 2021, but the pandemic threw a wrench into those plans. However with the news of a Calgary bubble came good news



**DOWNHILL RUN:** Carson Smith Jr. skis in the Canada Special Olympics Games.

for the local organizing committee, who stuck to their guns and in December learned they had earned the right to host the 2022 national women's curling championship. Team McCarville, involved in a plane crash in Dryden on their way home from the 2020 Scotties, later turned down a chance to represent the region at the 2021 event.

**5** It was a big year for the SIJHL on a number of fronts. The league parted ways with commissioner Bryan Graham, installing a familiar face in Darrin Nicholas to lead the seven-team circuit going forward. The SIJHL welcomed a second Thunder Bay-area franchise, the Kam River Fighting Walleye, and with the approval of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, managed to start the 2020-21 season in late November.

**6** Lakehead University's men's basketball team was poised for a return to nationals for the first time since the Scott Morrison era, but their season of hope came to a crashing halt in the first round of the playoffs, a 68-64 home-court loss to the

Laurier Golden Hawks.

**7** It was a banner year for golfer Evan DeGrazia, who captured the Mallon's Play it Again Sports Better Ball Tournament with his father, the Keg District Open and, most importantly, earned conditional status on the McKenzie Tour-PGA Tour Canada for 2021.

**8** The Lakehead Thunderwolves men's hockey team rebounded to make the playoffs after missing in 2019, but could not advance past the second round, falling to Ryerson in overtime in Game 2 of their series.

**9** The St. Ignatius Falcons continued their hard-court dominance in high school basketball, Ethan Willmore's 26-point effort powering them to a 78-45 win over St. Patrick in the boy's final.

**10** The Thunder Bay Chill inked a two-year deal to host indoor soccer on the secondary arena at the Tournament Centre while they await the outcome of the push to bring an indoor turf facility to Chapples Park.



**THUNDER BAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
 Paul Haas  
 Music Director

## BRAND NEW YEAR SAME GREAT SOUND

January 22

6:30 p.m. - Northern Winter

8:30 p.m. - Bonjour Paris

February 12

6:30 p.m. - Fishing in the Bayou

8:30 p.m. - Tropical Oasis

Streamed live at [tbsoc.ca/tbsoc-live-concerts](http://tbsoc.ca/tbsoc-live-concerts)







ᑎᑭᑦᑭᑦ ᑕᑕᑦᑭᑦ ᑭᑦ ᑎᑭᑦᑭᑦ ᑕᑕᑦᑭᑦ

# Tikinagan

Child & Family Services

# Make A Difference

## Become A Foster Parent in Thunder Bay with Tikinagan

Our goal is to provide a safe and nurturing home for children who need a place to stay.

We need caring Indigenous Foster Parents, who support the Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin Tikinagan service model, to care for children and youth in the Thunder Bay district.

Tikinagan provides ongoing support and will work with you every step of the way to ensure a family setting where the child can grow and thrive.



Learn more at [tikinagan.org](http://tikinagan.org) or call 1-800-465-3624



ᑕᑕᑦ ᑕᑕᑦᑭᑦ ᑕᑕᑦᑭᑦ | Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin | Everyone working together to raise our children.