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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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## INSIDE THIS WEEK

### SECOND COVID DEATH



Elderly patient in hospital's intensive care unit succumbs to the virus /4

### TO BUILD OR NOT TO BUILD



Councillors express concern at price tag for a new police station /6

### TARGET LOCKED



Salvation Army sets \$220,000 kettle campaign goal for 2020 /5

### SLIP SLIDIN' AWAY



Thunder Bay's Stephanie Drost looks for Olympic bobsleigh spot /14

Thunder Bay District status is  
**PROTECT**

# Status change

Thunder Bay moves from green to yellow on province's COVID-19 response chart /3



CODE YELLOW: The Thunder Bay District Health Unit has announced dozens of new cases of COVID-19 over the past week, bringing the city to its highest number to date.

# The COVID-19 pandemic in Canada is serious.

Continue to practise all public health measures:



Follow local guidelines for gatherings



Maintain physical distancing



Wash your hands



Wear a mask



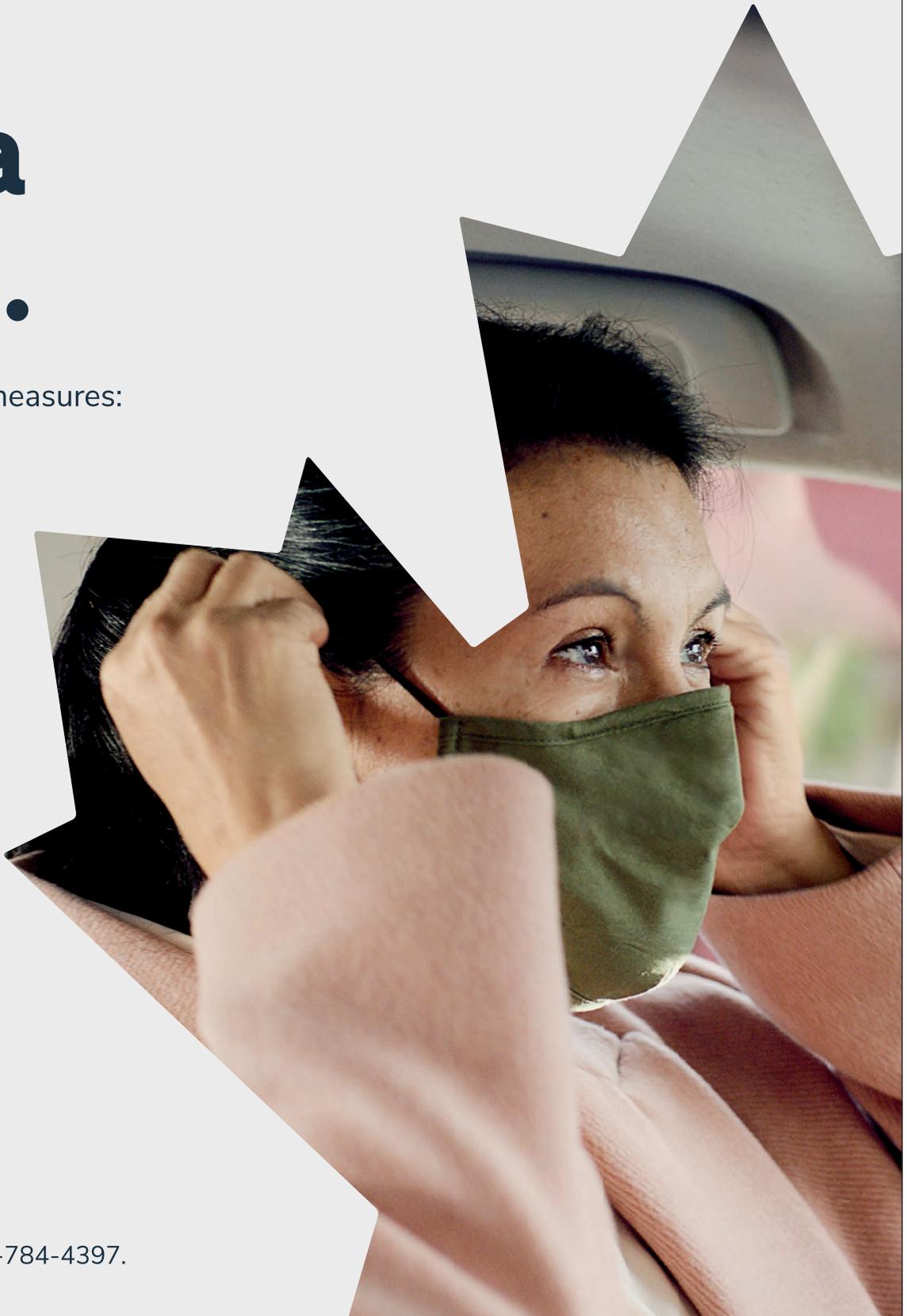
Stay home if you have symptoms, even mild ones



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LOCAL NEWS

# City moves to Yellow

Cases continue to rise in Thunder Bay

**HEALTH**  
By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit will be moving to the next threshold in the province's COVID-19 Response Framework after a recent spike in cases.

The announcement was made last Friday by Minister of Health Christine Elliott during the daily media briefing at Queen's Park. The move to Yellow will take effect on Monday, Nov. 23.

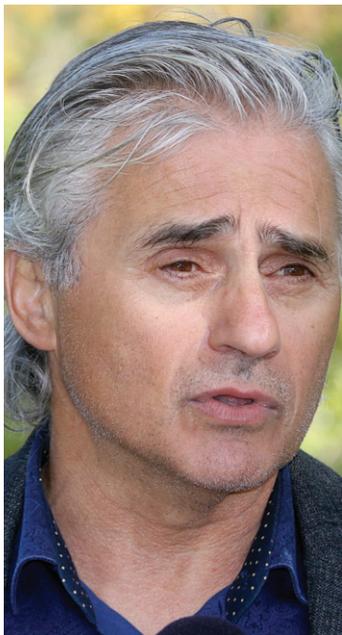
The Yellow, or protect measure, includes enhanced targeted enforcement, fines, and enhanced education to limit the spread of COVID-19 and apply public health measures in high-risk areas.

Cases in Ontario continue to rise, with more than 1,400 cases reported on Friday. There were seven new cases reported by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, bringing the total number of cases to 207 since the pandemic began and 90 new cases in the last 15 days.

**Not alone**

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit joins Public Health Sudbury and Districts as the only public health units in Northern Ontario to move out of the Green, or prevent classification and into Yellow.

"We have clearly entered the second wave of this pandemic, and we must do absolutely everything we can to protect and support the



LEITH DUNICKY/FILE

**APPROVES: Mayor Bill Mauro said the move to yellow is not unexpected.**

lives of the most vulnerable citizens in our community including our seniors, people with compromised immune systems and respiratory ailments," said Mayor Bill Mauro in a statement following the announcement.

"It is important that we all follow this direction from the public health professionals. The spread of a second wave is very real, and we need to act now and get ahead of any possible increased transmission."

Thunder Bay District Health Unit medical officer of health, Dr. Janet DeMille, said while the city has seen

an increase in cases, including two outbreaks, the recent weeks have shown how quickly COVID-19 can spread.

"It is important that we all take the necessary measures to control the spread of COVID-19 in our communities," she said. "Moving into the "yellow" category means that certain businesses, such as restaurants, bars, and fitness facilities, for example, will adopt enhanced measures to reduce spread of the virus in those in those facilities."

**Small changes**

Changes to city-run facilities include reservations being required for activities previously served as drop-in at recreational centres, programs and classes at community centres will be limited to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors, alcohol can only be served between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m., and a limit of six people are permitted to sit together. At the Canada Games Complex, anyone entering the facility is required to pre-book time and squash players are advised to wear masks and goggles.

Visitation to city run long-term care facilities is restricted to only essential visitors and window visits or virtual visits are recommended. The health unit is also recommending all long-term care facilities restrict non-essential visitation.

Several other health units throughout the province also moved into higher thresholds, while Toronto Public Health and Peel Regional Public Health Unit have moved into lockdown.

# Weather Forecast

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p><b>A mix of sun and clouds</b> Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH 1 LOW -2</p>	<p><b>A mix of sun and clouds</b> Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 3 LOW -3</p>	<p><b>Mainly sunny</b> Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 1 LOW -2</p>
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
<p><b>A mix of sun &amp; clouds</b> Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH 4 LOW -1</p>	<p><b>A mix of sun &amp; clouds</b> Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 2 LOW -9</p>	<p><b>Mainly sunny</b> Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH -7 LOW -10</p>

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LOCAL NEWS

# Second COVID-19 patient has died

Elderly victim was being treated in ICU

**HEALTH**  
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

COVID-19 has claimed the life of a second person in the Thunder Bay District.

Dr. Stewart Kennedy, who heads Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre's virus response team, on Tuesday confirmed that an elderly patient died on Monday night in the hospital's intensive care unit.

"Unfortunately one of our COVID-19 patients passed away last evening and certainly our condolences go out to the family and friends of this individual," Kennedy said.

For privacy reasons, Kennedy could not specify any other details about the patient, whose death came seven

months after the district's first COVID-19 death, a man in his 50s who worked at Lac des Iles Mine.

Kennedy did confirm it was the virus that led to the death.

"The patient was a senior and, of course, as you know, most seniors have medical conditions. Not all, but the patient did die of COVID-19."

The hospital still has two COVID-19-positive patients admitted to the facility, and Kennedy said administration has discussed the potential reopening of the COVID-19 isolation unit on the hospital's third floor.

Kennedy said current regulations dictate the unit should be reopened when there are six or more COVID-19 cases admitted to the hospital, but they've relooked at the policy and will allow the situation in the community and throughout Northwestern Ontario to dictate the decision.

As of Tuesday morning, 82 of the

district's 247 COVID-19 cases are considered active. Fourteen of those cases were announced on Tuesday.

"Because of this recent outbreak in the community, we met this morning and we are changing those triggers. We don't have an exact amount. Six is still our goal, but if we feel there are going to be a lot of transfers from outside, (in the region), we'll open it a little bit sooner," Kennedy said.

"It will take us about 48 hours to get things moving again. We started some initial plans to do it right now, but no immediate deadline is in place."

At present, the hospital is at 84 per cent capacity.

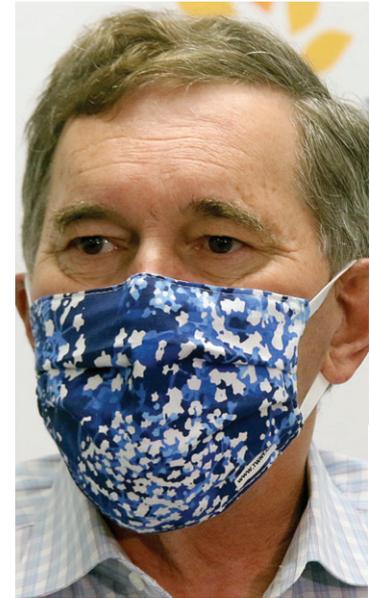
Kennedy said administration has also tightened travel restrictions for staff, requiring them to self-isolate if they leave Northwestern Ontario, while discouraging travel within the region. Previously the travel allowance extended through all of

Northern Ontario.

Asked if, when a vaccine becomes available, it will be mandatory for staff, Kennedy said that would be a decision for the provincial government to make, but added there are steps the hospital can take to punish those who refuse, starting with stopping benefit payments for medical care.

Kennedy also clarified that staff members who were diagnosed with the virus were diagnosed in late October and early November, and that there was no spread within the hospital community as the cases were caught early due to screening protocols.

He urged residents of Thunder Bay to take the virus seriously and stay home whenever possible, to not travel unnecessarily and take appropriate safety precautions when out and about.



LEITH DUNICK

**SECOND DEATH: Dr. Stewart Kennedy says another COVID-19 patient has died.**

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# LOCAL NEWS

# Salvation Army sets \$220K goal for 2020 kettle drive

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

The Salvation Army has set an ambitious \$220,000 goal for its annual Kettle Campaign in Thunder Bay.

Gary Ferguson, executive director of the organization's Journey to Life Centre, said the need in the community has not lessened with the arrival of the pandemic. If anything, it's grown.

He's hopeful residents of the city will continue to support the drive, which helps fund a variety of programming throughout the year, including a nightly soup van.

"The goal is extremely important to keep the essential programs we are doing in the community, as you see, the beautiful new facility that we have, the shelter that we provide, the soup van, the breakfast program and all the other outreach that we actually do," Ferguson said, adding they also provide a walk-up food bank.

### Won't be easy

Given the situation, Ferguson said he knows it could be tough, for a variety of reasons, to reach this year's goal, which matches their 2019 target.

"It's always been something that we have considered," Ferguson said on Thursday, launching this year's campaign.

"But we have faith that the community is a very giving community and they realize the very charitable work the Salvation Army does and we're hoping



READY TO GO: The Salvation Army's Gary Ferguson (left) and Mayor Bill Mauro launch the campaign.

they'll come through again."

Like most organizations, this year's campaign will have a slightly different look.

Volunteers will be out in full force at locations around the city, including Intercity Shopping Centre, Superstore and Walmart, but will step back to a safe distance when someone steps up to donate. They'll also sanitize the clear, plastic kettles between donations, to avoid any potential spread of COVID-19.

With the potential lockdown of stores looming once again as cases rise in Thunder Bay, Ferguson said they've also got an online option for those who choose to stay at home or aren't comfortable donating in person.

### Donating is easy

To donate, visit [www.FillTheKettle.com](http://www.FillTheKettle.com). Volunteers are still needed to collect donations around the city and anyone interested should phone 345-6492.

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# Editorial

## EDITORIAL

### Staying the blazes home

It's time to consider a Northwestern Ontario bubble.

For the most part, the travel restrictions put in place in Atlantic Canada have worked, the recent spike in COVID-19 cases on the east coast notwithstanding.

Our region has done fairly well, but it's clear our recent surge in cases are travel related, with ties to Manitoba.

Our neighbours to the west have all but locked down again, but there are no restrictions on travellers crossing back and forth across the border.

On Monday the Thunder Bay District Health Unit issued an advisory, asking people to voluntarily self-quarantine for 14 days if you travel to hot spots for non-essential reasons.

It's a toothless request.

The province, in conjunction with local health units, needs to put in place official, legal requirements for anyone travelling into and out of Northwestern Ontario, or Northern Ontario as a whole, if you will, to have to self-quarantine up on entry or re-entry, under the punishment of a hefty fine for not following the rules.

Otherwise, what's to stop Manitobans who can't shop at home from deciding a trip to Thunder Bay or Kenora is a good idea?

Asking people nicely isn't going to work. With Christmas on the horizon, we are facing a potential post-holiday surge that may bring us closer to our own lockdown. And that will really hurt.

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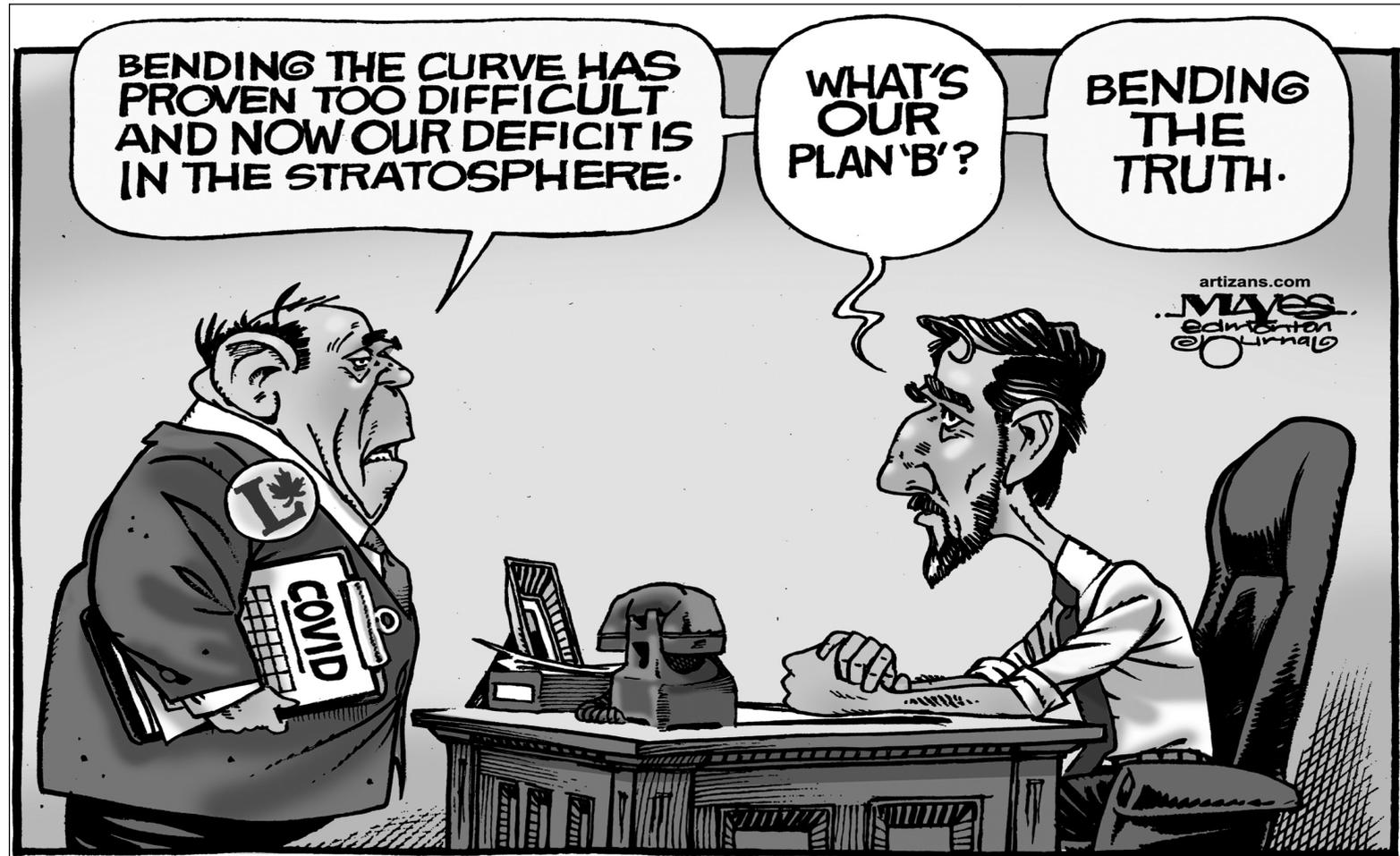
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## Council cool on new police HQ

### CITY HALL

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

Thunder Bay city councillors continue to question the wisdom of building a new police station at an estimated cost of about \$52 million.

Consultants retained by the Thunder Bay Police Services Board renewed their recommendation to replace the force's current Balmoral Street headquarters with a much larger facility at a new location while presenting to city council Monday.

Consultant John Stephenson with Form Studio Architects reiterated the necessity of that investment Monday, telling councillors the current station was nearing end of life and far too small for TBPS's current and future needs.

Alternatives to the new building, including renovating the existing station, supplementing it with smaller, satellite offices, or putting off the new build were all found to be even more costly for the city in the long run.

Several city councillors struggled to accept that conclusion when consultants behind the report presented updated recommendations Monday, however.

Coun. Aldo Ruberto continued to press his belief that the police service should have a greater presence in the city's downtown cores, saying it would be sure



**NEW HOME?:** A consultant recommends replacing Thunder Bay Police's headquarters.

to reduce crime.

"The fact that it's on Balmoral, in the middle of nowhere, is great for the building – you've got a lot of land, nice roads to get into it," he said. "But it has no impact in terms of the area – there's no crime in that area, pretty well."

Councillors' desire to see the possibility of satellite offices in the downtown cores examined more seriously resulted

in consultants returning Monday with an updated report, after initially considering only a new station or a renovation at Balmoral, estimated to cost \$64 million.

However, Stephenson told councillors there was little evidence that locating police stations in downtown areas had any significant effect on crime.

Over a 25-year period, the consultants' report found alternatives including satel-

lite offices would be at least \$26 million more expensive than their recommended option of building a larger headquarters at a new site.

Coun. Mark Bentz questioned the sustainability of the suggestion, arguing the city should consider investing in other strategies to address crime that might prove more cost-effective in the long run.

"A \$50 million expenditure for the city is significant – we would have to debenture all of that, and there'd be a significant tax increase."

The new recommendation will be considered by the Thunder Bay Police Services Board in December. A formal recommendation from the board is expected to come back to city council not long afterward.

Two councillors, Shelby Ch'ng and Cody Fraser, questioned whether the city was obliged to fund the new station.

"When \$50 million comes to the table in 2022 or 2023, can we just say no?" asked Fraser, while noting he had not necessarily taken a position on the expenditure.

"The past few budgets, what I've learned is, when the police service comes to us with their budget, essentially, it's the budget. We have no leeway or pull at all – the chief presents the budget, we accept the budget."

# Perspective

# Staying connected

COVID-19 can only keep us apart in a physical way

**OPINION**

By J.R. Shermack  
Special to TB Source

The pandemic is keeping us apart from loved ones, but there are other ways to cope, connect and keep in touch.

During a crisis it is especially important to take comfort from all the good times we've had and to look for the positive things happening all around us every day.

Keeping Canadians apart from each other is a necessary inconvenience that must be endured but the indomitable Canadian spirit can easily soar six feet or more.

We can't hang out together but we can still reach out to one another even if it is from a distance.

Christmas this year will be a poignant affair and a nostalgic one too as we fondly remember and reminisce about family and friends, so near and yet so far away.

**Have to look back**

These cherished memories will sustain us during the holidays but over the coming winter months we will need to look elsewhere for inspiration and hope.

There are plenty of reasons to be stressed out these days but it is gratifying to see how simple acts of kindness, good will, good sense and good humor can ease the pressure.

I witnessed an example of this the other day while I was waiting in

line to enter a bulk store to purchase some holiday baking supplies.

Christmas 2020 may be low key and a little melancholy but holiday treats will be baked and eaten with gusto to help ease the hardship and spread good cheer.

So I was standing outside with four or five others in a line about 30 feet long while we waited our turn to shop (the store capacity was strictly limited).

As with any group of Canadians it didn't take long for the friendly banter to start, first about the weather, then about waiting in line (nobody seemed to mind) and then the wisecracks started.

It soon became clear that there were some comedians in the line that day and before long the one-liners were flying and we all had a few good-natured yuks.

We forgot all about our troubles for 10 minutes or so and everyone appeared to be relaxed and happy – I could see it in their eyes, even at six feet away and behind a mask.

It was comforting to be part of that impromptu conversation and it struck me that in spite of all the restrictions we can still connect and support each other in many ways.

If you look for signs of encouragement you will find them everywhere as Canadians use

friendly gestures and greetings to express themselves.

A wave from a passing driver, a friendly "hello" from a neighbor, a nod and a smile from someone walking by – we need these personal connections more than ever.

Our family is determined not to be part of the problem and we remain vigilant and conscientious as a second wave of COVID-19 crashes around us.

Unfortunately cavalier attitudes and irresponsible behavior have fueled the pandemic in hot spots across the country.

**Happens in a heartbeat**

Even in our own relatively safe community we have seen how quickly one infection can cause a dramatic increase in active cases – COVID does not play favorites.

We stay home mostly and are very selective about which businesses in the community we patronize – when we do venture out it is good to see everyone, even at a distance.

We thrive on the waves, the nods, the smiles and the classic Canadian twinkle we often see in the eyes above the mask.

If we all continue to wave, nod, smile and twinkle, this winter will be much easier to endure for everyone.

Share the good will, lighten the load.

**"We stay home mostly and are very selective about which businesses in the community we patronize."**

**SNOW ANGELS**



**CAN YOU HELP?:** Age Friendly Thunder Bay is looking for volunteers willing to shovel a pathway from a senior's front door to the sidewalk to help them be able to leave their homes in winter.

LEITH DUNICK

**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.

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**THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:**

**your VOICE**

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Visit [www.tbnewswatch.com](http://www.tbnewswatch.com) TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND VIEWS ABOUT OUR WEEKLY POLL QUESTION.

Should the first two weeks following Christmas break be online only in schools, due to COVID-19 concerns?

**TOTAL VOTES: 725**

**YES** 60.83%    **NO** 32.83%    **DON'T KNOW** 6.34%

*A look back in history:*

**Farm Tractors**

Just before the First World War, the International Harvester Company of Fort William assembled tractors for sale to prairie farmers. Here a full trainload heads west from its plant on the Kam River. Production ended when war began in 1914.



# TB Life

people | health | home | food | leisure

## Prep gear now to be ready for spring



**KEITH AILEY**

THE GOOD LIFE

While I have optimistically kept a few rods at the ready in case we experienced another warming trend, I now concede that the water is freezing over and it is finally time to put the open-water fishing gear into storage for the winter. Simple measures like replacing old line and cleaning our reels can go a long way in making sure our fishing gear lasts for a long time and doesn't fail us when we are fighting a trophy fish.

### Rods and reels

Caring for fishing rods is pretty simple. I like to store them indoors but before I hang them up, I will check the line guides for damage and the wrap ferrules (where two pieces of rod connect) for cracks. I have one rod that needs to have all the guides

replaced this winter but most often repairs will just be required on a broken tip top guide or on the big guide close to the handle that has likely been gouged by a hook.

Many anglers like to take their reels apart to clean before reapplying grease and oil to the moving parts.

Sometimes this process will reveal a broken spring or gear but usually there will just be some gunk or sand that needs to be cleaned out.

If a reel is not performing well, lubrication of moving parts with some reel oil will help get things moving smoothly again.

### Line

Examine monofilament and braided lines for wear or fraying, especially the first few hundred meters. Replace any line that has seen a lot of sun or is more than a couple seasons old. This is the cheapest insurance you could ever buy to help you land that fish of a lifetime.

For fly lines, it is recommended to remove the line from the reel to clean before storing in loose coils.



**ORGANIZED:** Putting your rods and reels away properly makes easy work in the spring.

Fly lines have memory and by storing them in loose coils they are less likely to kink and tangle in the spring.

However, I admit that after a quick cleaning, I put mine right back on the reel and have yet to have an issue.

### Waders and PFDs

If you use waders, check them for leaks. Most leaks are easy to find, but pinhole leaks can be challenging. One way to find a pinhole leak is to go into a dark place, turn on a flashlight, and put the flashlight inside your waders.

Light will pop out of the pinhole. Circle the hole with a Sharpie and patch with a waterproof adhesive like Aquaseal. Let dry, and hang waders in a cool, dry place.

Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) should be cleaned with soap and water and then dried to reduce the chance of mildew. Store them out of direct sunlight and away from heat sources, as these can degrade the fabric and reduce their effectiveness. For inflatable PFDs, consult the owner's manual and check the indicator (if equipped) to see if the CO2 cartridge needs replacing.

Taking a few simple precautions now can help us avoid potential problems in the spring. Once our summer equipment is in storage we can then pull out the ice fishing gear and see if we remembered to store that properly when we put it away last March.

I've already discovered that I didn't charge the battery on my flasher. I wonder what other surprises I'll discover when I pull out the short rods.



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# Dilico's Christmas Wish campaign gets virtual option in 2020

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

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care's annual Christmas Wish campaign will look a little different in 2020.

With COVID-19 an ongoing concern, organizers of the program, which provides gifts to children who might otherwise go without, are offering an online option for those wishing to take part, as well as an option to buy the gifts and drop them off.

In the previous 11 years donors were matched with a child, given a list of suggested gift items and a red bag to collect the presents in. A limited number of red bags will be available this year, but organizers are encouraging the public to use one of the other two options.

"As with everything in 2020, things are constantly changing. This season with the pandemic the Christmas Wish Campaign is going to look a little different to ensure everyone's safety," says Darcia Borg, executive director at

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.

Donation levels include \$50 and \$100 for the online option, with Dilico elves doing the shopping and filling the bags.

Those who choose to do the shopping themselves can sign up at [www.dilico.com/christmaswish](http://www.dilico.com/christmaswish) to request a Christmas Wish profile. An email will follow with the details of the child they're sponsoring, including age and interests.

"Times have changed but the need has not. Dilico Anishinabek Family Care

remains committed to support families and children this holiday season. We understand that Christmas can be a really stressful time for families, especially this year. We are calling on the community to help make this holiday season brighter for children on Christmas morning," says John Dixon, Director of Child Welfare, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.

The program is already off to a good start, with Redwood Park Church announcing it has committed to filling 175 bags. It's their fifth year taking part.

"Dilico hopes to see the tradition continue on for many. These wish bags bring so much joy to children in our community.

"Let's help our families end the year on a brighter note and make hundreds of Christmas wishes come true. I think we all need to embrace that Christmas spirit right now and give a message of hope," Borg said.

The deadline to register is Dec. 5 and gifts or bags must be filled and returned by Dec. 7.

## INSPECTION

### MNRF-Approved Forest Management Plan Inspection Dryden 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)**, **Dryden Forest Management Company Ltd.** and the Dryden Local Citizens' Advisory Committee (LCAC) would like to advise you that the 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the **Dryden Forest** has been approved by the MNRF Regional Director and is available for inspection.

#### The Planning Process

The FMP takes approximately three years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public and First Nation and Métis community involvement are provided. The fourth opportunity (**Stage Four**) for this FMP occurred on July 29, 2020 – September 28, 2020 when the public was invited to review and comment on the draft FMP.

This '**Stage Five**' notice is to advise you that the MNRF-approved FMP, including the supplementary documentation, and FMP summary are available electronically for inspection for the 10-year duration of the FMP through the office of the sustainable forest licensee and on the on the Natural Resources Information Portal at <https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online>.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange a remote meeting with MNRF staff at the Dryden MNRF district or area office to discuss the approved FMP.

For further information, please contact:

**DJ Armit, R.P.F.**  
Management Forester  
MNRF Dryden District Office  
479 Government Street, Floor 2  
P.O. Box 730  
Dryden, ON P8N 2Z4  
tel: 807-223-7526  
e-mail: [dj.armit@ontario.ca](mailto:dj.armit@ontario.ca)

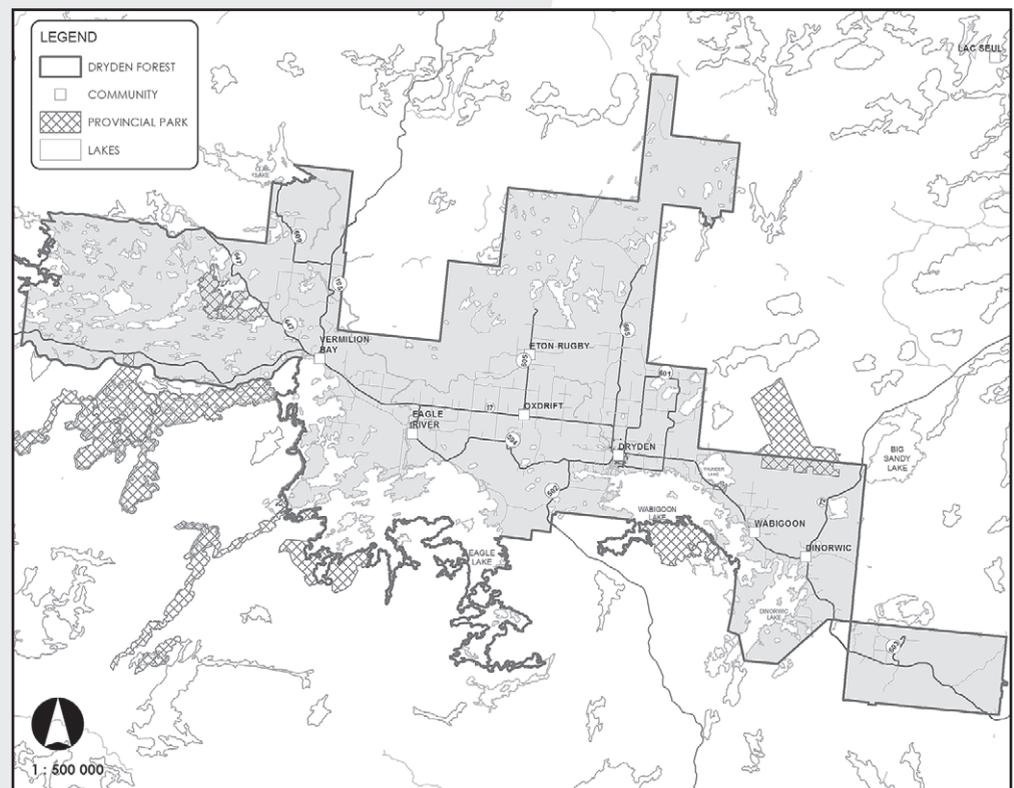
**Steve Young, R.P.F.**  
General Manager  
Dryden Forest Management Co. Ltd.  
28A Earl Avenue  
Dryden, ON P8N 1X5  
tel: 807-223-7216 ext. 1  
cell: 807-220-5591  
e-mail: [steve@drydenforest.ca](mailto:steve@drydenforest.ca)

**Paul Heayn**  
Dryden LCAC Representative  
c/o MNRF Dryden District Office  
479 Government Street, Floor 2  
P.O. Box 730  
Dryden, ON P8N 2Z4

The approved FMP will be available for the 10-year period of the FMP at the same locations listed above.

#### Stay Involved

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit:



<https://www.ontario.ca/document/participate-forest-management-ontario/how-get-involved-forest-management>

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the *Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020* approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994*. Any personal information you provide (home and/or e-mail address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/or the sustainable forest licensee Dryden Forest Management Company Ltd. to contact you regarding comments submitted. Your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used by the MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Trevor Davis at 807-223-7522.

Renseignements en français : Derek Johnson, F.P.I. au 807 223-7556.

# Time to start getting ready for winter



**FRED JONES**  
RURAL ROOTS

They were calling for snow - again. All this later stretch of Autumn beginning in October we've received several snowfalls only to have them melt and then freeze on the ground. But since December is just around the corner, we thought we should spend this past weekend shoring and cleaning up all the loose ends.

I have written before about how I tend to emulate the philosophy of the racoon from one of my favourite comic strips, the late, great Walt Kelly's "Pogo" who likes to announce that "Nothing is as urgent today that won't be more urgent tomorrow". Yup, put it off until the last minute Farmer Fred.

My late friend and mentor, Arthur Black used to say that I was the grasshopper in Aesop's fable of the Ant & the Grasshopper.

Saturday, son, Doug, arrived from town where he now dwelleth to help affix five corrugated plastic panels onto the roof of the house greenhouse. Said roof only had a six mil plastic that would collapse under the weight of the winter snow if we didn't put something solid on top. T'was with a great sigh of relief for Laura, The Gardener (and my wife) that her 'greenhoosie' was now secure.

### Snow on the horizon

On Sunday, Laura, announced that snow was in the forecast and why not get all that wood stacked and under cover? Good point. I had retrieved a couple of juicy dead spruce and balsam trees the wind had conveniently knocked down across our riding/walking trails.

I had bucked the trees and delivered

the pieces by the bucketful to the splitter in our wood yard as I now like to call it.

I even got the energy to start up the splitter and split all of it that made quite a pile. But did I then stack and cover it so that it would remain dry? I did not. Thus, a recent dump of heavy, wet, white stuff covered it all. And then before I could muster the energy to stack, the thermometer climbed and we had rain one day. ("Then what happened, Fred?")

Why the snow covering the pieces of pine froze. Great.

Fortunately, we had a couple of very warm days for this time of year and most of the snow melted such that I could pile the pieces into a wheelbarrow, cart to the door of our screen porch, and carry to stack inside the porch where it would be dry and easy to fetch when I wanted to have a roaring fire in the fireplace.

I had to scrape off some frozen ice and snow but the annoyance level

wasn't too high. Interesting to me was to discover that in the salvaged balsam trees there were two from different parts of the trail.

One had dry wood and the pieces were light; the other was not so dry and the pieces were heavier which meant that they wouldn't burn as well. So, the wet ones got stacked outside and then tarped. Meanwhile, Laura was busy fetching gardening tools and soil buckets that had been left out.

### Tractor time

What next on the "urgenter" list? The east paddock entrances had become pockmarked by horses' hooves when the ground was wet. Then the pock marks froze making walking for both humans and equines difficult.

Solution? Sunday afternoon Laura and two of our regular borders brought in their mounts, thus freeing the paddocks for FFTG (Farmer Fred Tractor Guy) to fire up Big Red, my

ancient machine and using the bucket, scrape the paddock surfaces to cleave off the bumps and level the ground. A bonus to the levelling process was the mucking of horse poop that had accumulated.

While I was engaged in the scraping project, the heavens had opened and a light but insistent snowfall was taking place.

It was OK when I had my back to the wind but when I turned Red around as I had to do many times, the driving snow almost blinded me.

But after an hour of back-and-forth scraping and levelling, I figured that the paddocks were scraped enough and that I had breathed in enough diesel fumes. Well, almost.

Then Red to bed and me into Casa Jones for a hot chocolate, my rocking chair, and a roaring blaze in the fireplace. We didn't receive much snow at all but just you wait, Farmer Fred, just you wait.

Bring it on Ol' Man Winter.

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# IN THE bay

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## Sophia Loren's star still shines bright

Netflix's *The Life Ahead* overcomes its considerable obstacles

One approaches Sophia Loren's return to film in *The Life Ahead* (Netflix) with some reticence. Firstly, is the film worthy of Ms. Loren's stature, and secondly, does she avoid the trap endemic of many screen veterans in the sunset of their careers who tend to overplay just to prove that they still have the chops?

We'll address the second question first. Ms. Loren demonstrates that she's still a pro and exudes confidence in her own instincts and those of her director and son, Edorado Ponti, to exercise credible restraint. As for the first question, *The Life Ahead* manages to overcome its considerable speed bumps to wring out some touching humanity in a film that



MARTY  
MASCARINI  
MOVIE TALK

may be intended as the 86-year-old star's heartfelt swansong.

The movie is based on the Romain Gary novel, *The Life Before Us*, previously rendered cinematically with Simone Signoret in 1977's *Madame Rosa*. Here, the setting has been switched from Paris to a seaside town in Italy.

### Helps sex workers

Loren plays Rosa, an ex-prostitute and Holocaust survivor who serves as caretaker for other girls in the sex-work business.

Rosa's a world-weary, motherly gruff, who's grappling with life's creeping infirmities.

As a favour to her friend and physician, Dr. Coen, Rosa reluctantly agrees to oversee Momo (Ibrahima Gueye), a 12-year-old Senegalese orphan.

Momo is full of snarl and snark, instantly butting heads with Rosa and the young charges currently under her

wing. Dr. Coen feels that Momo will benefit more readily with Rosa than being doomed within the bureaucratic purgatory of Social Services.

### Gruff exterior

Momo also growls at Rosa's friends, a shop keeper who gives him minor employment and some life coaching, and a transgender call girl, whose daughter has been under Rosa's care.

Instead, Momo thinks he's found acceptance and financial independence working for a local low-level drug dealer.

There are a few elements that work against this formulaic rendering of fractured souls bonding.

Firstly, the film is shot primarily in English, to appeal to a wider audience, sadly robbing the movie of flavourful authenticity.

Young Gueye's Momo sounds more like a cynical-beyond-his-years Philly street kid particularly in voice over narration. Secondly, the script serves up incident and character revelations rather plainly and obviously, flattening the

dramatic texture.

Lastly, an attempt at magic realism is also unconvincing.

Still, there are compensations.

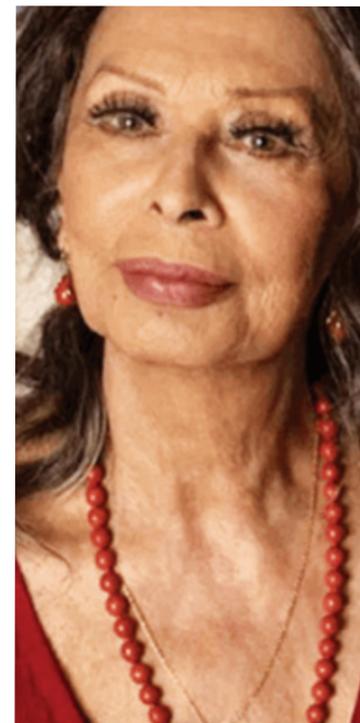
Director Ponti imbues his scenes with moving though restrained humanity, made visually appealing through soft-glow lighting and set design.

Young Gueye manages to overcome his largely unlikeable character to convey the neediness of a wounded boy where the ongoing threat and sting of abandonment of any kind prompts him to bitterly retreat from whatever tentative connections he makes.

As for the Grand Dame of international cinema, Ms. Loren generously allows her young co-star to take centre stage.

Loren's interactions with Gueye are compassionate but tough, keeping the story's predictability and sentimentality (mostly) at bay.

As one of the last surviving linkages with classic cinema, Ms. Loren manages to nobly celebrate her distinguished past and still vital present in *The Life Ahead*.



SOPHIA LOREN: Stars in *The Life Ahead*

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# How to solve TV's COVID conundrum

Over the last month as TV shows slowly began premiering their new seasons, the big question was "How would they incorporate the current pandemic into their storylines?"

Some, like *The Good Doctor*, started as most in the medical profession did: with little information and a deadly learning curve. Meanwhile, others like *Grey's Anatomy* and its spin-off *Station 19*, dove in with their characters fully engaged in the midst of the first spring wave: overwhelmed, exhausted, and still learning. *Chicago Med* and its fellow franchises, *Fire* and *PD*, began their new season in our current state: split between protocols and everyday life.

Those were their first episodes. Ironically, by the second, many characters were often heard speculating that it would "all be over" in a couple of weeks. A month at most.

Remember those days? Ah, the inno-



cence of us all.

But while I found it interesting to see how they kept their storylines real and honoured front-line workers, I'm not sure I wanted to see it. I don't watch television for its realism. At the end of the day, I want to escape reality. Frankly, 2020's reality sucks.

And I'm not alone in that sentiment. That's why most comedies skipped the



**TIME WARP: The Good Doctor has skipped ahead to post-COVID times.**

pandemic altogether and went with an escapist attitude. *Bob Hearts Abishola*, *The Neighborhood*, and *Mom* (to name a few) ignored the masked-covered crowds. However, in some cases, they kept the social unrest and Black Lives Matter movement as a springboard for

new storylines.

Other dramas took a different route. *NCIS* stayed in a comforting, oh-those-were-the-days, pre-COVID past. The premiere took an alternate viewpoint of an episode from last season and Episode 2 went decades back in time. Meanwhile, *NCIS: Los Angeles* jumped ahead post-pandemic – oh good, we all survived – but with the effects still fresh in the characters' minds.

Somehow, I don't see any cross-overs between those franchises any time soon. Unless time travel becomes an option.

Straddling both worlds, *The Good Doctor* decided that two COVID episodes were enough. So the writers also did a time jump in the third episode to what they hoped to be a better, safer, and probably vaccinated world. Ironically, I've found this change almost more difficult to watch considering the current rising wave of cases and deaths

in the real world.

So what's the best route? Ignore? Where will the shows that ignored the epidemic go next year? How do you continue to ignore something that has changed every possible aspect of human life?

Accept? For those shows that incorporate it, will audiences who are already complaining of COVID-fatigue also turn away from shows that don't allow them to escape it?

Imagine? If the world doesn't exit this pandemic the way some writers have hoped, will the shows that move on past COVID in their idealistic storylines have to pull a Dallas-Bobby-Ewing-in-the-shower-it-was-all-just-a-dream trick on their viewers?

Still, I commend the writers on managing a very difficult TV season. But just like the rest of this year, I'm hoping for something better in 2021.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

- 1 Gun the engine
- 4 Cornmeal
- 8 Heddles of a loom
- 12 Orb
- 13 Canned luncheon meat
- 14 Us dam
- 15 Transgress
- 16 Sorrel (2 words)
- 18 Swift
- 20 Sap
- 21 Mulberry of India
- 23 Wampum
- 27 Growing by a riverbank
- 32 Take on cargo
- 33 Mother of Hezekiah
- 34 Having aridity
- 36 Pack down
- 37 Young animal
- 39 Cuban dance
- 41 Genuflect
- 43 Exclamation

### DOWN

- 1 Shoal
- 2 Jaguarundi's color phase
- 3 Protean
- 4 Manuscripts (abbr.)
- 5 Footless
- 6 Lizard (suf.)
- 7 W. Indian hog plum
- 8 Dogwood
- 9 Amer.

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

I	S	T	F	A	L	L	T	A	N	G
C	A	R	I	L	E	A	A	R	O	A
S	T	I	L	E	T	T	O	H	E	R
F	A	L	A	R	I	S	E	E		
M	I	L	E	C	O	A	T			
A	L	I	T	P	A	R	T	I	C	L
A	I	N	B	E	N	C	H	R	A	G
M	A	G	N	O	L	I	A	M	E	D
		A	L	T	O	M	E	T	E	R
T	A	N	G	O	S	E	G	O		
A	C	E	A	A	T	A	L	A	N	T
E	R	I	N	T	I	M	E	N	A	S
L	E	N	A	C	R	E	E	B	N	

- Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- 25 Jewish month
- 26 Eelworm
- 27 Need
- 28 Dayak people
- 29 Indian ground salt
- 30 Altar constellation
- 31 Freedom, briefly
- 35 Civil Aeronautics Board (abbr.)
- 38 Afr. desert fox
- 40 Nose (pref.)
- 42 Fuel
- 45 Physician (pref.)
- 46 Fr. month
- 47 FDR's coin
- 49 Down with (Fr., 2 words)
- 50 Boot
- 51 Harem room
- 52 Prison sentence
- 53 Love (Lat.)
- 54 Malay gibbon

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18			19	20						
	21	22		23		24	25	26		
27	28			29	30	31	32			
33			34			35	36			
37			38	39		40				
41			42			43				
	44	45	46	47	48	49	50			
51	52	53				54	55			
56			57			58				
59			60			61				

## WORD SEARCH

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

- Became
- Blunt
- Colic
- Courts
- Cuing
- Dirty
- Discriminatory
- Enable
- Frozen
- Gaunt
- Horrid
- Huffy
- Ideas
- Inked
- Lately
- Leeks
- Lonely
- Mauls
- Nippy
- Pends
- Pickup
- Putts
- Ripened
- Rummy
- Scarfs
- Scientists
- Shopped
- Snide
- Snoozes
- Soars
- Sprawl
- Stout
- Sturdy
- Talker
- Thump
- Uncle
- Unify
- Years
- Yolks
- Zenith

## Sudoku

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

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

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"F S F Z K L Q F B C P C M C J Z X W Z Q X L I F  
C P H Z F C X C P B F D V F C P F P."

— G F Z F R K O L V V J F Z

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he reads." — Ralph Waldo Emerson

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# Sports

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## Slumping teams find win column

**CURLING**  
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Coming off a loss last week and his playoff hopes already starting to fade, Mike McCarville needed a big win to stay in contention in the Tbaytel Major League of Curling standings.

He only needed four ends to get it. On a night when masks became mandatory, the Thunder Bay skip made a delicate hit-and-stick through traffic for a triple in the second end on Wednesday night at the Kakabeka Curling Club to jump in front of Mike Desilets squad 3-1. He put away the match in the third with a steal of four to claim a convincing 7-1 victory.

"We've been in a little slump. It's good," said McCarville, who struggled to a 1-4 start to the season.

"There was a lot of curl out there today, so I think we just picked up on that quicker. Where we were getting by the guards, they were crashing on the guards and that was the difference. It resulted in a couple of big ends for us."

### Change in approach

By scoring three early, it forced Team Desilets (2-3) to play aggressive and take risks going forward, which worked out to McCarville's advantage.

"That's what you have to do in curling. If you're down a bunch of points you have to take a bunch of gambles. The gambles didn't pay off this time for them, but that's the way to play the game."

Team Desilets got one back in the fourth, but down 7-2, conceded after four ends.

It didn't take Mike Pozihun much



LEITH DUNICK

**BIG WIN:** Mike Pozihun downed Trevor Bonot 7-1 to improve to 2-2 this season.

longer to end his match, a 7-1 triumph over Trevor Bonot, who in his previous two matches knocked off the last two remaining undefeated teams.

It was all Pozihun on Wednesday night.

He had a chance for a draw for four in the opening end, but came up short and settled for three. It was all he would really need.

Forcing Bonot to take risks of his own to get back in the match, Pozihun stole a single in the third, two more in the fourth and ended the match with a final steal of one in the fifth to up his record to 2-3.

"We got a little lucky in the first. Both

teams missed quite a few shots. But we got a couple of breaks. We actually had a draw for four and we came up just short, but we were fortunate," Pozihun said.

Like McCarville, the veteran skip was just glad to be back in the win column.

"They're a good team. Anytime you're playing Trevor he's going to pull something out of his hat," Pozihun said.

Bonot came close in the fifth.

With three of Pozihun's stones buried in the rings, he attempted an angle raise off one of the nine guards circling the house, but the shot just missed, rolling too far to give Pozihun a steal of two and a 6-1 lead.

### STANDINGS

Team	W	L
Dylan Johnston	4	2
Frank Morissette	4	1
Krista McCarville	4	1
Al Hackner	4	2
Bryan Burgess	4	2
Jonathan Vellinga	3	2
Trevor Bonot	3	3
Gary Weiss	3	3
Ben Mikkelsen	3	3
Mike Desilets	2	3
Mike Pozihun	2	3
Mike McCarville	2	4
Britney Malette	0	5
Dallas Burgess	0	5

Two sheets to his left, Bryan Burgess knocked Al Hackner out of a tie for top spot, scoring deuces in the first and third ends to go up 4-2 and putting it away with a triple in the fifth en route to a 7-4 triumph.

Burgess said his team has been a little streaky this season, opening with a pair of wins before dropping two in a row – only to come back and win his last two matches.

"We made a couple of shots today and the team came out to play," said Burgess.

"Anytime you play Hackner you want to have your best game and I think tonight we did."

### Off the slide

In the night's only other match, Ben Mikkelsen snapped a three-game slide, scoring once in the seventh to even his match with Gary Weiss, then stealing another point in the eighth to claim a 6-5 win.

## Rob Murphy rewarded for decades of coaching

I had a chance last week to sit down with one of the unsung heroes of our local sporting community.

Rob Murphy, who spent more than 30 years dedicated to high school sports in Thunder Bay as well as out in the region, was honoured by Superior Secondary School Athletics with the Ontario Federations of Secondary School Athletics' Pete Beach Award.

He was a jack-of-all-trades during his career, coaching football, hockey, volleyball, basketball and just about any sport put in front of him.

"I just loved doing it," he said. "Working with those kids and working with all the adults around them, gives you a different perspective of the students. They really want to be there and really appreciate the time you put in," he said.

Murphy said he started his career in 1985 in Red Lake.

"When you go to a small town and you're the athletic director, you coach pretty well everything and you ref everything," he said.

He returned home, working at Westgate, Hammarskjold, Churchill

and Port Arthur Collegiate Institute, eventually heading to Ignace for a year before coming back to Thunder Bay to work at Fort William Collegiate, then was at St. Patrick and St. Ignatius. He also helped SSSAA officials stage a number of OFSSA championships.

He's happiest knowing the impact he had on his students.

"You meet kids on the street and you talk to them and it's crazy how much you've affected them over the years," he said. "That really stands out."

High school sports don't run without people like Rob Murphy helping make it happen. Congrats for an honour well deserved.



**LEITH DUNICK**  
SPORTS SHORTS



**WELL-EARNED:** Rob Murphy was named the 2020 Pete Beach Award winner.



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# Drost eyeing an Olympic berth

Local athlete earns a spot on Canada's bobsleigh squad

**CALGARY**  
By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Self-described adrenaline junkie Stephanie Drost has never been afraid of a challenge.

Four years ago she made local history, becoming one of the first two female firefighters hired by Thunder Bay Fire Rescue.

These days she's got the Olympics in her cross-hairs.

Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton earlier this month named Drost one of seven athletes in the hunt to push three former brake women, who have jumped into the pilot seat, as they push toward a spot at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2022.

Drost said she's wanted to try out the sport for about a year, inspired by a

suggestion from her mother, who realized her daughter was missing out on the competitive side of sports, cross-country skiing in particular.

"So I trained hard and basically came out to Calgary and did a tryout. Things kind of led to the next, and here we are," said the 27-year-old, reached online in Alberta.

She said she was surprised to learn at the time that tryouts were open to the general public, where they put participants through a series of physical tests, measuring the results.

A neophyte in a sport that has delivered nine Canadian medals since 1964, Drost admitted the butterflies were fluttering during her earliest days of training, especially when she finally got to the bobsleigh track.

"Definitely the first time in a sled was a little nerve-wracking. It's like nothing I've ever experienced before. But I love it. Every time you get to the bottom you just want to go back up and

do it all over again," she said.

"There's definitely some fear going through my head when you're standing at the top because crashes do happen. But I think having all of my teammates around me who had done this for longer than me and having their experience telling me it's not as bad as it looks when you crash. But when you're going down you reach speeds of up to 145 kilometres-per-hour. So you're going pretty fast and there's a lot of gravitational force that you feel. That's probably the most exhilarating, but also the most frightening part."

Drost has taken an unpaid leave from Thunder Bay Fire Rescue. When she left she figured it might be for a few days. Instead she's been gone for several months, with Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton preferring to keep athletes in a bubble of sorts,

with COVID-19 cases surging across the country.

For now, Drost said she'll be training for the next year, which involves doing about three runs a day, going every other day.

The pinnacle would be securing an Olympic berth.

"That's definitely a goal of mine, and if not 2022, then 2026," she said.

Drost said she has taken part in selection races, but has yet to take part in any international-level competition. The team was set to travel to Latvia to start the World Cup circuit, but has pushed back travel into the new year.

"We'll see what happens. We'll either compete on the North American circuit or we can go overseas and go to Germany and compete in the World Cup," Drost said.



STEPHANIE DROST

## Minor hockey cohorts face virus pausing

### HOCKEY

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

A pair of minor hockey cohorts have been put on pause after it was learned several players may be considered close contacts of someone with COVID-19.

The under 18 Fort William Hurricanes, Neebing Hawks and Thunder Bay Elks will be put on hold until further notice, according to a release issued by the Thunder Bay Minor Hockey Association.

The under 15 AA North End Flames, Norwest Stars and South End Rangers are also on hold until further notice.

Games Monday night between the U18A Thunder Bay Elks and Fort William Hurricanes, and Tuesday night between the U15AA South End Rangers and Norwest Stars were officially postponed.

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03. Mobile Homes  
04. Lots / Acreage  
05. Condos For Sale  
06. Cottages  
07. Commercial for Sale  
08. Investment Property  
09. Out of Town  
10. Real Estate Wanted
- FOR RENT**  
11. Houses  
12. Apartments  
13. Rooms  
14. Room & Board  
15. Shared Accommodations  
16. Cottages  
17. Commercial  
18. Storage/Space  
19. Wanted  
20. Condos  
21. Miscellaneous

- MERCHANDISE**  
22. Bargain corner  
23. Misc. For Sale  
24. Antiques  
25. Music  
26. Office Equip.  
27. Machinery  
28. Pets & Livestock  
29. Food  
30. Misc. Wanted

- VEHICLES FOR SALE**  
31. Cars  
32. Trucks  
33. Vans  
34. Motorcycles/ATV's  
35. Campers/Trailers  
36. Motor Homes  
37. Marine Equip.  
38. Snowmobiles  
39. Parts & Repairs

- YARD SALES**  
40. Current River  
41. Northward  
42. Southward  
43. Westfort  
44. Rural

- MISCELLANEOUS, NOTICES, TENDERS**  
45. Auctions  
46. Health  
47. Travel  
48. Financial  
49. Lost & Found  
50. Personal  
51. Notices  
52. Tenders

- BUSINESS & SERVICES**  
53. General Services  
54. Home Improvements  
55. Bus. Opportunities  
56. Training Courses

- EMPLOYMENT**  
57. Help Wanted  
58. Careers  
59. Child Care  
60. Health Care  
61. Employment Wanted  
62. Students For Hire
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
63. Coming Events  
64. Craft & Flea Markets  
65. Happy Ads  
66. Cards of Thanks  
67. In Memoriam  
68. Death/Funerals

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**57. LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS**  
In the Estate of  
**Susan Mary Kowalchuk**

All Persons having claims against the Estate of Susan Mary Kowalchuk, late of Thunder Bay, ON, deceased, who died on or about October 9, 2020, are hereby notified to send particulars of the same to the undersigned on or before December 17, 2020, after which date the estate will be distributed, with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice and the undersigned will not then be liable to any person of whose claims they shall not then have notice.  
Dated at Thunder Bay, Ontario on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.

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EYE	SPAM	OAHE
ERR	SOURGRASS	
FAST	DRAIN	
AAL	SEWAN	
LITTORAL	LADE	
ABI	XERIC	RAM
CALF	HABANERA	
KNEEL	BAH	
NOMAD	SOAK	
ORANGE	OIL	UBI
DAME	DUMA	SAC
APOC	ITER	ESK

**70. PUZZLE ANSWERS**

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5	4	9	7	8	2	3	6	1
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1	8	6	3	2	7	5	9	4
4	5	2	6	1	9	7	3	8
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PREVIOUS SOLUTION:  
"Everyone has a fair turn to be as great as he pleases."  
- Jeremy Collier



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