

Thunder Bay

# source



WWW.TBNEWSWATCH.COM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol.18 No. 3

## Waiting to open

Underground Gym desperate to start offering programming, caught up in regulations /3



READY TO GO: The Underground Gym's founder, Peter Panetta, says he's basically ready to reopen the doors at his new facility, but is facing government obstacles.

FILE

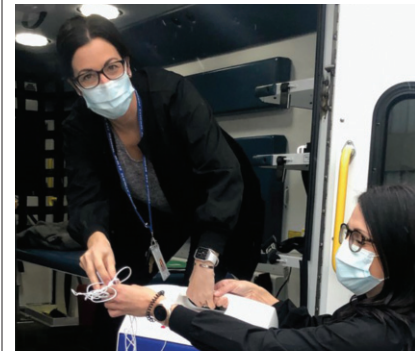
Be a #DrivenDriver



**LIFETIME LIMITED  
POWERTRAIN  
WARRANTY**  
on all Driven Certified Vehicles

SEE BACK PAGE AD FOR THIS WEEK'S  
FEATURED VEHICLES

### INSIDE VACCINES MOBILIZED



Pfizer vaccines being brought to  
long-term care residents /9

### TAKE HEED



Medical officer of health asks public to  
take lockdown guidelines seriously /5

### PAY TO PLAY



City budgets \$700,000 for Centennial  
Park playground upgrade /8

### PAUSE AND EFFECT



Superior International Junior Hockey  
League stuck in COVID delay /13



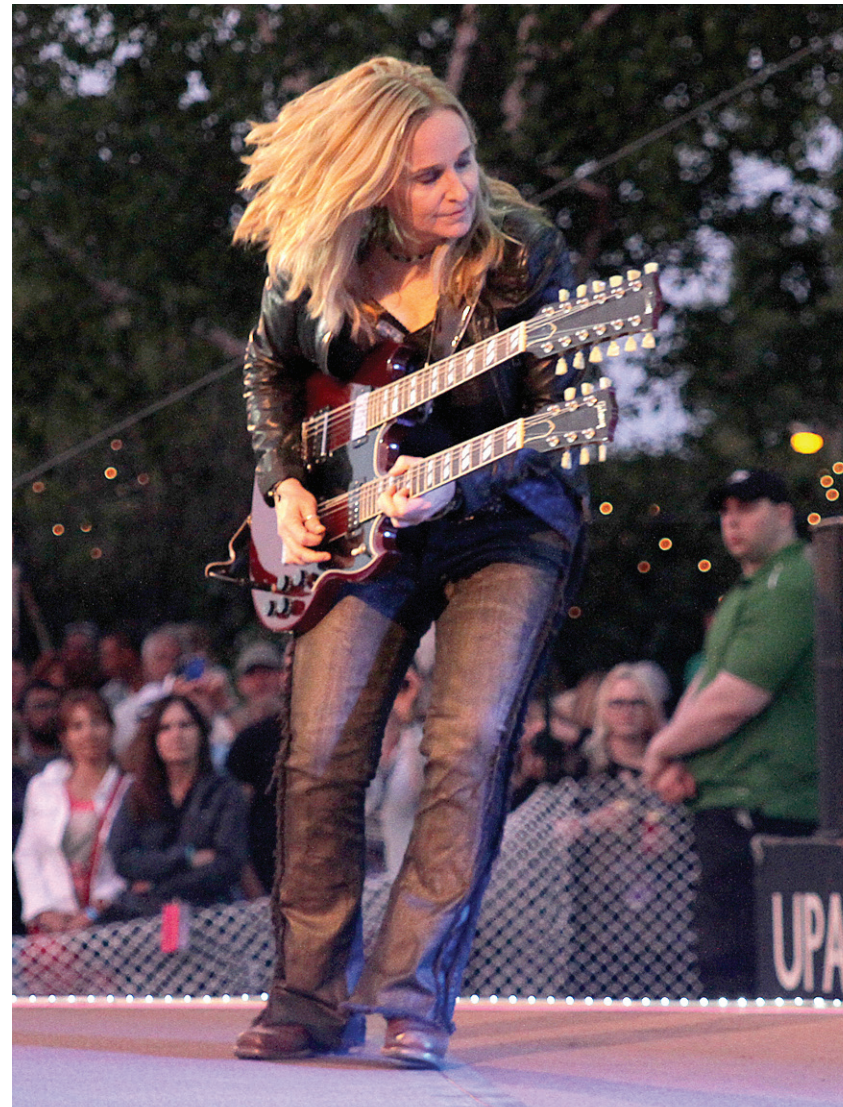
**Stop the  
Spread  
COVID-19**  
can be deadly.  
Stay home.  
Stay strong.  
Save lives.



Visit [ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://ontario.ca/coronavirus)

Paid for by the Government of Ontario

Ontario 



FILE  
**WON'T BE HOME SOON:** Melissa Etheridge performs at the Thunder Bay Blues Festival in 2014.

# Blues Festival gets less and less likely

Most acts looking at 2022 dates, no 2021

## MUSIC

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

**O**rganizers haven't completely ruled out holding a Thunder Bay Blues Festival in 2021, but it's increasingly looking like 2022 might be a better option if the popular summer festival is to return.

Trevor Hurtig, manager of marketing at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium, said at this point most musical acts aren't looking too feverishly at 2021 dates.

"Yes, the industry is stuck at a standstill for the most part. There are a number of acts pencilling in dates for 2022 at the Auditorium. However, they are becoming increasingly less interested in 2021 dates, or talking about a festival date right now," Hurtig said.

"Blues Festival remains something that

we wouldn't rule out, but the further we get into 2021 without having those public gathering numbers increase, the less likely it is that anything would be happening for the Festival in 2021."

Hurtig said at this point, their first priority is to reopen the Auditorium, when it's safe to do so, and then start looking at Blues Festival options. "Until it becomes safe to significantly raise those public gathering numbers (both inside and outside), this industry is by and large stuck on pause," he said.

The Thunder Bay Blues Festival was cancelled for 2020 prior to the pandemic, organizers stating at the time they simply couldn't land enough quality acts to make it worthwhile.

A return in 2021 had not been ruled out when the decision was made.

**"Yes, the industry is stuck at a standstill for the most part."**  
**TREVOR HURTIG**



## LOCAL NEWS



NEIGHBOURHOOD NEED: Peter Panetta says he can make the case for the Underground Gym as an essential service.

# Red tape delays Underground Gym

**THUNDER BAY**  
By Gary Rinne –TB Source

Peter Panetta is getting anxious to open the doors of his new Underground Gym location to the youths who he says desperately need it.

The Victoria Avenue location replaces the Simpson Street site that was closed over a year ago due to structural issues.

After securing the two-storey facility in November, Panetta hoped to have the Underground Gym in operation before Christmas.

Regulatory requirements, however, have dashed that overly optimistic aspiration.

It's left Panetta worrying about the well-being of some of his clients.

"Since the closure in November 2019, I've had five separate deaths...suicides, overdoses. This is a huge issue," Panetta said in an interview Monday.

He believes the gym provides essential services for young people, especially those experiencing mental health issues.

"I deal with this on a daily basis at the Underground Gym, and have been for years. This is not like any other place. This is a family. These are kids who have been with me for years and years," Panetta said. "There's vulnerable teens, right now. I consistently have to see that nothing happens to them."

He's frustrated over the amount of time it's taking to get the approvals required to open the gym.

"The first restrictions were the city, with their building permit requirements. To me, it was a bit excessive...having an architect there doing drawings, and on and on and on."

A city official told *Thunder Bay Source* the city is prepared to do what it can to expedite the process, but

regulations require a change-of-use permit application.

That's because the building was formerly used as office space, and will now serve a purpose similar to a community centre, where people will assemble.

The Ontario Building Code mandates an application that includes architectural drawings.

To date, the application has not been filed, but Panetta says he's getting some help with the paperwork from a local firm.

"The impression I get is that they [the city] want to accommodate as best as they can. That's a good thing. I'm hoping the drawings can be done this week."

Panetta said that, once the approvals are received, the main floor of the two-storey building "Is all set. It's ready to go. We are so lucky to have this building."

Under Ontario's current COVID-19 restrictions, gyms are closed.

But Panetta believes he can make the case that the important services it provides as a youth centre put the Underground Gym on a level similar to that of other nearby facilities that provide shelter to at-risk people.

He said he is also confident he can operate while meeting any COVID-19 protocols, such as social distancing, that may be laid down by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

"There's enough space. There's 5,000 square feet there...I will accommodate whatever they require. I just need to get the vulnerable youth in there. I don't need the children that just need to bounce around on play things, and stuff like that. That's not important."







Panetta first opened the Underground Gym 22 years ago.

Once its new location is fully operational, it will duplicate programming that was offered at the Simpson Street site, including a youth centre, kitchen, boxing ring, gym area, wrestling, tutoring, music and art.

**Since the closure in November 2019, I've had five separate deaths..."**

**PETER PANETTA**

## Weather Forecast

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 <p><b>Scattered flurries</b></p> <p>Probability of Precipitation: 40%</p> <p>HIGH -3 LOW -3</p>	 <p><b>Cloudy with Sunny breaks</b></p> <p>Probability of Precipitation: 30%</p> <p>HIGH -3 LOW -18</p>	 <p><b>Mainly sunny</b></p> <p>Probability of Precipitation: 20%</p> <p>HIGH -14 LOW -22</p>
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
 <p><b>A mix of sun and clouds</b></p> <p>Probability of Precipitation: 30%</p> <p>HIGH -11 LOW -12</p>	 <p><b>Cloudy with Sunny breaks</b></p> <p>Probability of Precipitation: 30%</p> <p>HIGH -6 LOW -13</p>	 <p><b>Sunny</b></p> <p>Probability of Precipitation: 10%</p> <p>HIGH -7 LOW -15</p>



NEED A REASON TO SWITCH?

**Ranked #1 for providing excellent customer support**



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 providing excellent customer support" is based on a survey of Northern Ontario telecom customers by the market insights firm Maru/Matchbox.



## LOCAL NEWS

# MPPs question ski hill closure decision

Decision makes no sense, says Gravelle, Monteith-Farrell

## THUNDER BAY

By Doug Dlaczuk – TB Source

The province-wide lockdown has left many businesses with closed doors or limitations, but ski hill operators in the north are feeling left out in the cold as Ontario is the only province to limit the activity.

Northern Ontario MPPs are reaching out to the provincial government to provide justification for the decision to keep Northern Ontario ski hills empty.

### Doesn't make sense

"What we were hearing from skiers and resort owners was they couldn't understand the decision to keep our ski hills closed across Northwestern Ontario when across Canada that



FAMILY FUN: Evelyn and Tom Aaltomaa ski at Loch Lomond in 2017.

decision wasn't made," said NDP Thunder Bay-Atikokan MPP Judith Monteith-Farrell.

"I want to provide my support to the

ski resort operators and the people who are looking for stress relief and skiing is a big part of that in Northwestern Ontario.

Monteith-Farrell sent a letter to Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Cultural Industries Lisa McLeod asking for the specific public health advice that led to the decision.

Thunder Bay-Superior North MPP Michael Gravelle agrees that ski hills should be permitted to open.

"The ski hills should be allowed to operate during the lockdown period. The fact is the ski hills put in incredibly strict COVID-19 protocols," he said. "This has been devastating for the ski industry. If the lockdown goes beyond Feb. 11, I don't know what will happen."

Gravelle said he has received many letters and phone calls from constituents who want to know why the ski hills were forced to shutdown.

"I think families want to be out and skiing in a safe manner," he said. "I think all ski hills in the province can abide by the strict COVID-19 protocols. I think this is something that

can be determined province wide."

A statement from McLeod's office sent to *Thunder Bay Source* said the decision to impose the province-wide lockdown was made based on advice from the chief medical officer of health and health experts.

### Looking at everything

"Minister MacLeod continues to work closely with our sectors and hosted a meeting late December, with ski hill stakeholders, where she committed to establishing a working group with officials and industry experts to facilitate a safe return post lockdown," the statement reads.

"All the measures being undertaken by the government are designed to limit the risk of transmission, reduce mobility between different regions of the province for non-essential activities, and position Ontario to reopen with an improved and more stable health system and public health system."

Up to

# \$49,400

can be won....

ST. JOSEPH'S FOUNDATION OF THUNDER BAY

## BIG Split 26

A NEW SPIN ON 50/50!

26 DRAWS IN 2021!  
WIN UP TO \$1,900  
EACH DRAW!

Licence #M835552

768-4400

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE

# \$52.00

DRAWS START APRIL 1, 2021

LOOKING  
TO  
BUY OR  
SELL?

CHECK THE  
*Classifieds*

ON-LINE  
on  
tbnewswatch

DELIVERED  
FREE!  
TO YOUR  
DOOR

40,000  
HOMES

Thunder Bay  
**source**  
Your Community Newspaper

CALL  
TODAY  
346-2600

# VIRTUAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Urgent care from the  
comfort of home

The Virtual Emergency Department (ED) offers same-day virtual appointments with emergency department physicians to patients living in Thunder Bay and the surrounding area who are older than 17 years of age with non-life-threatening medical issues.

Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

[www.tbrhsc.net/VirtualED](http://www.tbrhsc.net/VirtualED)



## LOCAL NEWS

# Take precautions seriously: DeMille

## Stay-at-home order made to keep virus from spreading

### HEALTH

By Doug Dlaczuk – TB Source

The state of emergency and stay at home order implemented by the province need to be taken seriously says the medical officer of health for the Thunder Bay district because the region is just as vulnerable as the rest of the province.

"I think we are vulnerable," said Dr. Janet DeMille, medical officer of health with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

"We have seen cases across the north increase and outbreaks and other situations happen. Certainly there is a concern of how much worse it would get if we didn't have these measures in place and it's hard to predict that."

### Put in place

The new measures were announced last Tuesday as new COVID-19 modeling shows the health care system in Ontario could be overwhelmed by early February if cases continue to climb at the same rate.

DeMille said the new measures reflect the situation the province is in and while the majority of cases are in Southern Ontario, Northern Ontario is seeing



STILL IN PERIL: Dr. Janet DeMille says the District of Thunder Bay is vulnerable.

outbreaks as well.

As of Monday there were 736 total cases, 75 active cases and 26 deaths in Thunder Bay. "It's one thing to consider the GTA, which is a densely populated area, but I was seeing case numbers increase in areas that were more similar

to our area," DeMille said. "More rural, more spread out, and their numbers were going up as well and I knew that could impact us here."

And even though the province has been under lockdown for nearly three weeks, cases have continued to climb.

### COVID STATISTICS\*

COVID-19 totals in the District of Thunder Bay, since March 27, 2020.

- **CASES:** 756
- **ACTIVE:** 92
- **RESOLVED:** 631
- **DEATHS:** 26
- **THUNDER BAY:** 666
- **DISTRICT:** 59
- **FIRST NATIONS:** 31

\*As of Tuesday

"In the whole north that's what happened," DeMille said. "We were at a low on Jan. 1 in terms of the number of cases and we have significantly increased since then. I think that's important to look at. Even though we had that lockdown and it was a short period of time our numbers are still going up."

When asked what further measures can be taken if the lockdown and stay at home order do not result in fewer cases, DeMille said it's not a matter of finding stricter measures, but rather taking the ones in place now more seriously.

"The measures that have been put in place are fairly significant and I could imagine if everybody follows the guidance and follows the rules and everyone having ownership and doing their part in this, I really believe we can stabilize our numbers and have them reduced," she said.

"I just want to encourage everybody to

take this seriously. These kinds of lockdowns create a lot of hardships for people, for families, for health care systems, for businesses. Let's all do the right thing going forward so this does improve in our area so we can get the numbers down and control them so we can open up again and we can do more."

### Confusion

The stay-at-home order and what constitutes leaving home for an essential reason has been a little unclear and DeMille said more detailed regulations will be coming from the province soon.

But she added the new measures put in place are meant to limit the number of interactions people have with others in order to break the chain of transmission.

"If everybody is doing that, I would anticipate the curve flatten and start to go down like it did before," she said.

The lockdown will remain in effect for the 28-day state of emergency. Thunder Bay Mayor Bill Mauro said if the district starts to see a significant decline in the number of cases, he would consider advocating to the province to lift the lockdown in the region.

DeMille said she will have to see what happens both here and in the rest of the province before moving forward with recommending lifting any of the measures.

"We don't want to be opening up and other places still closed because we know people will travel into this area," she said.

**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)



**Delamination?**  
**Slide-Out Leaking?**

Soft Spots on your RV's Roof, Walls, Floors?  
Come See Us – Your Rebuild Specialists!

Specializing in Rubber Roof & Filon Lamination, Floor & Wall Rebuilds  
• Complete Undercarriage Work • Repairs to RV Furnaces, Fridges,  
HWH & Convertors. • TSSA Licensed for LP Servicing.

**OPEN YEAR ROUND for Service & Parts.**  
**RV Service You Can Trust!**

Factory Trained, Fully Licensed,  
Master Certified, Serving  
Northwestern Ontario over 46 years

**983-3449**

3075 Alice Ave.  
off Government Rd.

**Start the Conversation**  
[www.legacygivingthunderbay.com](http://www.legacygivingthunderbay.com)

**Legacy Giving**  
*Thunder Bay*



# Editorial

## EDITORIAL

# Order has few teeth

Last week, we called for the lockdowns to come to an end on Jan. 23.

In the interim, the province announced an Ontario-wide stay-at-home order.

While we still believe a regional approach, given our remoteness and distance from southern Ontario, is feasible, we also understand what Premier Doug Ford is trying to accomplish.

Unfortunately, the ambiguity surrounding the stay-at-home orders give it no teeth.

You have to stay at home, except to exercise, get groceries, go to essential jobs or medical appointments, or take care of family members in need.

It's up to police to hand out fines to people disobeying the rules, which will remain in place until at least Feb. 11. But they are limited in scope and resources.

There's no real travel restrictions in place. Essential stores in malls are allowed to remain open, by appointment. Curbside pickup at stores is still allowed.

Ford says it's up to the people to decide what is essential. Wishy-washy at best.

Closing the borders to other provinces would be a start. Only allow those with a legitimate reason to travel to or through Ontario. A Northwestern Ontario bubble would be reasonably easy to set up. Residents who leave and return, and anyone entering NWO should quarantine for two weeks if not travelling directly through. If you want to get serious about this, then get serious about this.

### CONTACT US:

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

Editor: Leith Dunick 346-2650  
[ldunick@dougallmedia.com](mailto:ldunick@dougallmedia.com)

Reporter: Doug Diaczuk 346-2622  
[ddiaczuk@dougallmedia.com](mailto:ddiaczuk@dougallmedia.com)

Reporter: Ian Kaufman 346-3558  
[ikaufman@dougallmedia.com](mailto:ikaufman@dougallmedia.com)

Reporter: Karen Edwards 346-2591  
[kedwards@dougallmedia.com](mailto:kedwards@dougallmedia.com)

Sales Manager:  
Kathy Harris 346-2510  
[kharris@dougallmedia.com](mailto: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.



## Cut city spending

To the editor:

Concerns about the high taxes in Thunder Bay are shared by many who are also having trouble keeping up to the city's escalating property taxes and high water rates.

Why are our taxes so high? Why are they the second highest in the province?

We believe the city's inability to control spending and unusually high staffing levels are contributing factors.

The corporation of the city of Thunder Bay has 452 employees on the sunshine list with these salaries totalling over \$54 million. Per capita these are at the top of the list for highest in the province.

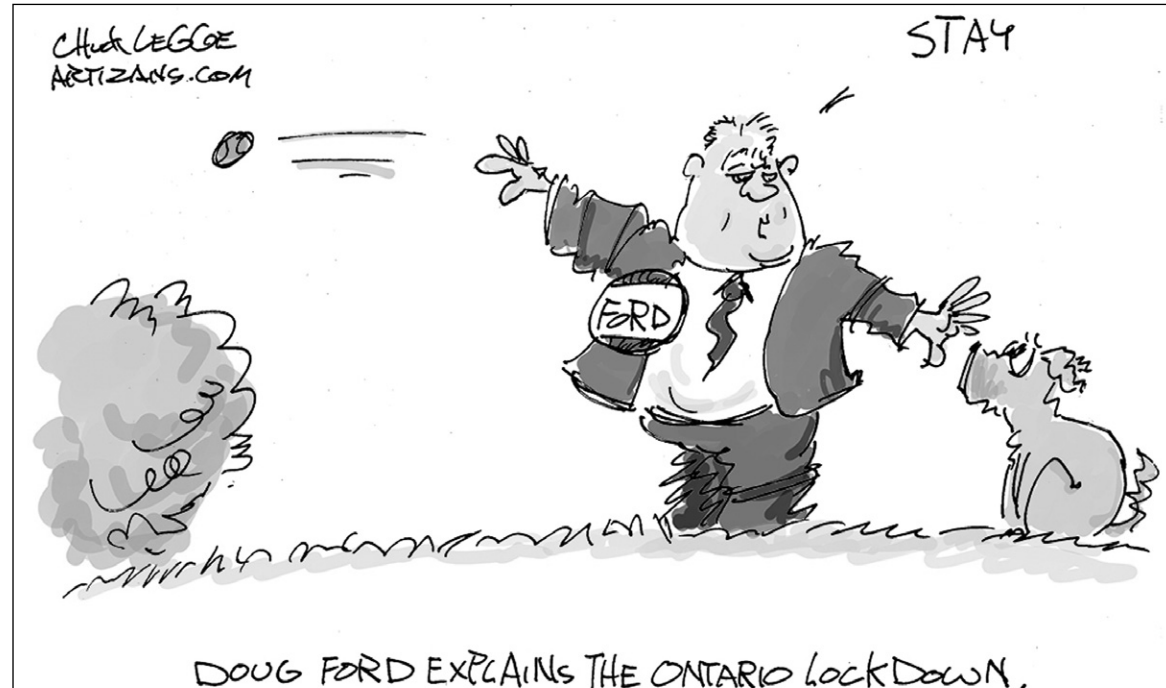
Kingston, with a similar population has 208 listed on the sunshine list with these salaries totalling about \$25 million.

St. Catharines with a slightly higher population has 173 on the sunshine list with these salaries totalling about \$22 million.

The City of Thunder Bay's ever growing number of city employees (2800) is also overwhelming and not sustainable.

The city is looking for over an additional \$4 million more this year from city taxpayers and in the same breath want the taxpayers to be on the hook for a \$37-million indoor turf facility.

The city has yet to budget for the



demolition of Victoriaville (over \$10 million) and also has a \$5-million commitment to the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

The increase this year should be zero. Management salaries need to be frozen or reduced, there needs to be a hiring freeze and many management jobs need to be eliminated through attrition.

The fire department has suggested they can eliminate eight positions over the next couple of years through attrition which will save the city over a million dollars a year.

Administration needs to take the same approach and look for savings within. Trying to squeeze more money out of the already beleaguered taxpayers is shameful especially when

taxpayers know full well there are millions of dollars of savings to be had simply by streamlining the operations within city hall.

I would ask all taxpayers to give public feedback on the budget. This can be done online at [www.tbnewswatch.com](http://www.tbnewswatch.com) until Feb. 4.

Ray Smith  
Thunder Bay

# Southbridge explains response

## OP-ED

By Joanne Lent – Special to TB Source

Stress, frustration, anxiety. There is no doubt that COVID has caused our community a tremendous amount of worry over the past year, and nowhere has that been felt more acutely than in long-term care homes across the province.

And Southbridge Roseview has been no exception. We have mourned the loss of cherished residents.

And our staff have worked around the clock providing care to residents, forgoing time and holidays with their own families to look after others.

We've said it before, but it bears repeating again: we are so appreciative of all that they do.

Their dedication is unmatched, and the messages of support from our families and community have kept their spirits high and morale strong.

Which is why it concerns us greatly when we hear speculation or suggestions that our home and its staff have not been doing enough to fight this outbreak.

While we have acknowledged there have been challenges, including staffing in the early days of the outbreak, we have worked diligently to increase these numbers.

We have built and fortified relationships with local healthcare partners like the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU),

NorWest CHC, the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), which sent us IPAC Extenders, Thunder Bay Regional, which sent us registered nurses, and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, which sent us a physician to support our existing doctor.

We have two epidemiologists supporting the home, with one on-site, and an Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Specialist in the home multiple days a week conducting audits of our protocols.

Overall, we've onboarded more than 55 personal support workers (PSWs) to supplement our staffing levels, and more than 20 registered nurses.

We have two physicians and a nurse practitioner on site, and as a result, our home has some of the highest levels of medical support in the province, and our staffing ratios greatly exceed our pre-outbreak levels.

And while we didn't have an outbreak during the first wave, we watched other homes, and learned from their experiences on how to prepare for an outbreak.

We have and continue to provide staff with education on proper personal protective equipment (PPE) use, provided them with masks for their own personal use while in the community, and maintained a good supply of PPE at all times.

We have IPAC champions in every area of our home on every shift, conducting on-the-floor audits to identify potential non-compliance with our policies and take immediate corrective action.

And we've worked hard to ensure our family partners have the most up-to-date information at all times.

Not a day has gone by that we haven't made phone calls, sent emails or updated our website.

And for the most part, the response from families has been overwhelmingly positive.

They've shared their appreciation for the care and help that their loved one receives.

Likewise, we've worked hard to keep our local representatives updated, providing our MPP, MP and Mayor with frequent updates, in addition to the daily calls we have with TBDHU, the LHIN, the Ministry of Long-Term Care and Thunder Bay Regional.

There is no doubt about it—this has been a difficult time for everyone, and we are deeply sorry that our families have had to go through this experience.

And while we know that everyone is under pressure, we have seen the power that patience, kindness and support can have in fighting this virus.

The beloved children's entertainer Mr. Rogers once said that when you see something scary, to look for the helpers, and we hope that our message today helps illuminate them for our community.

They are there, working behind-the-scenes to make a difference.

And it is thanks to their efforts that today, we have no active cases of COVID among our residents.

**Joanne Lent is the executive director of Southbridge Roseview.**



## Perspective

# Looking ahead to post-COVID times

Most people looking forward to doing regular things or having closer contact with family and friends

### OPINION

By J.R. Shermack  
Special to TB Source

After 2020 many COVID-weary Canadians were eager to put that troubling and turbulent year behind them, hoping for better times in the months ahead.

But before most of us roll up our sleeves for the vaccine we still face the grim reality of a very challenging winter, spring and summer in 2021.

Nevertheless, a growing number of arms are being vaccinated and if projections are correct anybody who wants it can be jabbed before the end of the year.

Once our "herd immunity" is finally achieved restrictions will be gradually lifted as we learn how to adjust to the new normal, whatever that is.

Hope springs eternal and for those with a positive attitude it is tempting to look ahead in anticipation of what happens once the pandemic wanes.

By the time we feel safe and comfortable again some former habits and social behavior will have changed and some will be reclaimed but nobody knows for sure.

### Old saying

Your guess is as good as mine because as homespun philosopher Yogi Berra once observed, "It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future."

It's hard to argue with that simple logic but that hasn't stopped us from speculating about life after COVID.

And now after almost a year of living with fear and uncertainty the Angus Reid Institute has asked Canadians what they expect when this ordeal finally



**SWEET MUSIC:** Only 13 per cent of people are anxious to get back to watching live music, like Sass Jordan at Blues Fest in 2018.

ends.

The survey says we want to live without a constant feeling of dread, we long for unlimited access to loved ones and we need to get out of town for a while.

Most of those polled just want to do regular stuff without fear or stress (44

per cent), have closer physical contact (43 per cent) and travel (42 per cent).

At the bottom of the list are going to concerts (13 per cent), fitness classes, movies/theatre and parties (all 11 per cent) and live sporting events (10 per cent).

It looks like most Canadians are not

party animals or avid sports fans or this could mean we are suspicious of crowds, especially if liquor is being served.

Of course all the numbers are open to interpretation because as Yogi (and Doris Day) astutely pointed out, the future is not ours to see.

But we can still think about the future we envision for ourselves, an era when safely vaccinated communities can return to some semblance of the good old days.

Differing sensitivities are revealed across different regions the country.

British Columbia is home to Canada's most prolific huggers and 51 per cent of them look forward to resuming their snuggle bunny behavior.

Manitobans are excited about getting together again with the older people in their lives after a lengthy separation due to an extreme lockdown.

### Doing their own thing

In Atlantic Canada 60 per cent of residents just want to get back to joyfully doing their usual chores and errands and remaining the most down-to-earth of all Canadians.

Bucking the national trend Quebecers are most eager to party or go for dinner and drinks at a restaurant.

We are all looking forward to something once the pandemic is over, fear subsides and the future is bright.

Fear is the strongest of all human emotions except for one – hope always conquers fear and the wishful thinking of hopeful Canadians is a powerful motivator.

As for me, I yearn to see smiles and relieved expressions on maskless faces that will confirm that we have finally overcome the burden of this nasty virus.

It makes me smile just to think it could be, that those days will come.

Who really knows what lies ahead but in the meantime let's consider the sage advice of Yogi Berra one more time – "The future ain't what it used to be."

## A look back in history:

### FW Girls Pipe Band

Inspired by senior groups such as the Macgillivray Pipe Band and the Pipes and Drums of Thunder Bay, girls' pipe bands formed in both Fort William and Port Arthur. Here, in 1954, members of the Fort William Girls' Pipe Band are giving a presentation to George Macgillivray, founder of the Macgillivray pipe band.



### 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

Did you think COVID-19 would be this bad when you first heard about it last year?

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.

**TOTAL VOTES: 854**

☒ **YES** 36.89% ☐ **NO** 60.42% ☐ **DON'T KNOW** 2.69%



## LOCAL NEWS

# Centennial playground could cost \$700K

**THUNDER BAY**  
By Gary Rinne – TB Source

The City of Thunder Bay is looking for a contractor to redevelop the playground area at Centennial Park.

The parks and open spaces section has budgeted \$700,000 for the project.

In keeping with the park's history and setting, wood will be a major component of the new playground, but the city is telling bidders to think beyond the original design.

The city began removing the park's original playground equipment last summer because it had deteriorated.

It contained wooden horses, two forts with wooden weapons of war, two treehouses, a maze, benches, swings and a log for log burling.

The playground was one of the last remaining ones of its type in the city.

After feedback from the public showed respondents favoured the look and feel of wood structures, the city decided the replacement project

should follow the primary theme of Woodland/Outdoor Adventure.

In its request for proposals, the city says it wants to maximize year-round use of the equipment for all ages, not just children.

"The design and activity is to include the potential for all ages and abilities to engage, interact and participate in activities, as well as providing inclusive and accessible facilities for all children and caregivers," the RFP states.

It also says the city intends to make the park area more functional and active for a wide range of community users.

"This may include improvements to support programming and infrastructure for special events and the provision for shade in summer and sheltered microclimate in other seasons."

The city hopes to award the contract by mid-February, and aims to have the work completed by Oct. 31 of this year.



**RENEWAL:** Playground equipment at Centennial Park was removed last fall, with plans to build a new playground in place.

**TUNE IN TO !**  
**The Morning Show with**  
**Danny & Laura!**  
**Every Weekday!**

**91.5**  
**CKPR**  
**THUNDER BAY'S**  
**BEST MUSIC**



# TB Life

people | health | home | food | leisure

## Hospital takes vaccines to LTC homes

### HEALTH

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

**C**OVID-19 vaccinations of residents at long-term care facilities in Thunder Bay has begun.

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit, in partnership with Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, on Friday announced they've been given the go-ahead to administer doses of the Pfizer vaccines off-site at long-term care homes.

#### Limited movement

Until now it could only be given out locally at the hospital.

"Making the vaccine available to our community is our focus and priority," said Dr. Rhonda Crocker-Ellacott, president and CEO at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, in a joint release issued by the health unit and hospital.



**ON THE MOVE:** Hospital staff get set to deliver vaccines to long-term care facilities.

"The shift to providing vaccines at long-term care homes is a complex and collaborative process between partners

who share a common goal of vaccinating as many people, as soon as possible. I am proud that, to date, we

have administered over 1,100 doses in our community."

Staff at long-term care facilities were among the first to be vaccinated in Northwestern Ontario, following an outbreak at Southbridge Roseview nursing home which has led to the deaths of 21 residents of the north-side facility.

The ability to bring vaccines to the community's most vulnerable is a big step forward, said TBDHU medical officer of health Dr. Janet DeMille.

"This is an exciting time. With the vaccine here in our area and the ability to move it around, we are entering a new phase in our battle against this virus," DeMille said.

"Protecting long-term care homes is a very important first priority. This is another encouraging milestone in our COVID-19 response."

The news comes hours after it was announced there will be a delay in

shipment of the Pfizer vaccine to Canada, the company saying it is temporarily pausing some of its production lines at its production facility in Belgium.

#### Wider rollout coming

This next phase of delivery will focus on Thunder Bay homes, but planning is underway to deliver the vaccine to long-term care facilities outside of the city into district communities, and to expand the rollout into other vulnerable settings, including retirement homes and other congregate homes housing seniors.

The goal is to have all residents, staff and essential caregivers at long-term care facilities vaccinated by mid-February.

The health unit is actively working on a broader roll-out for the entire district, including First Nations communities.

## Snowshoeing easy to master



**KEITH AILEY**

THE GOOD LIFE

**S**nowshoeing might be the most universally accessible winter activity there is.

Unlike skiing, skating, and snowboarding, there is no need to master special techniques with snowshoes, and there is not a large financial investment required.

The best part is that, even if you have never tried snowshoeing, you could start today, have fun immediately, and make the most of this mild winter we are enjoying.

Right now, there are many people in Thunder Bay looking for a way to get outside for some activity and adventure.

#### New activity

One of those individuals is Michael McNally, who usually spends his winters playing hockey, but decided to pivot and try something different this season due to the global pandemic.

Mike had not been on snowshoes for 20 years but decided to head down to Wilderness Supply and purchase some

new snowshoes to help keep him active and happy throughout this winter.

I chatted with him last Sunday, just as he was about to head out to explore the trails around Hazelwood Conservation Area, and he was happy to share some advice for others looking to try snowshoeing this winter.

McNally highlighted the versatility of modern snowshoes, noting that getting off-trail in the deep snow is a real workout while the many designated trails around Thunder Bay are perfect for families or anyone looking for a more leisurely experience.

He recommends buying from one of our local outdoor shops to tap into their expert advice and make sure you get just the right shoes for you.

Once you have your new snowshoes, he would point you in the direction of Kamview Nordic Centre for some spectacular views from the Lookout Trail as well as the Demonstration Trail at Kingfisher Lake Outdoor Education Centre for its solitude and natural beauty.

McNally has also explored the Trowbridge Forrest, and he has plans to visit the trails of Mink Mountain, Loch Lomond and Mount Baldy soon.

For many people, the most appealing aspect of snowshoeing is the pure simplicity of it.

Other than the snowshoes, very little is required. Some warm and breathable clothing will ensure comfort and, if you desire, a pair of poles can be added to help with deep snow, climbing and descending hills while also initiating a more complete full-body workout.

Snowshoeing is not just an affordable and enjoyable way to get some fresh air and keep fit through the winter months.

#### Getting to know each other

The experience of walking through the woods or across a lake can give a couple friends time to talk and families a chance to bond while they get their exercise together.

The best snowshoeing occurs after a fresh snowfall and there are so many snowshoe opportunities in the Thunder Bay area that you could visit a different destination every weekend until the snow melts in the spring.

Some areas have nominal trail fees or a small parking fee, while others are completely free.

Popular destinations include Loch Lomond Ski Area, Mount Baldy Ski Area, Kamview Nordic Centre, Lappe Nordic Centre, Kingfisher Lake Outdoor Education Centre, Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area, Kinsmen Park (Trowbridge), Mills Block Conservation Area and the 25th Sideroad Tree Farm.



**AN AFTERNOON WALK:** Snowshoers break trail across Hazelwood Lake.

TONYA MUCHANO

# Province says no breakwall removal

## THUNDER BAY

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

**P**lans to improve water quality at Chippewa Park have taken a blow, after the province rejected a \$1 million funding application to support the removal of its breakwall.

Friends of Chippewa Park spokesperson Iain Angus broke news of the rejection to city councillors at a budget meeting last Thursday, even while outlining significant progress on other planned improvements at the park.

Removing the breakwall would improve water circulation at the main public beach, which has often been closed in recent years due to high E. coli bacteria counts.

A wooden boardwalk on the breakwall has already been closed by the city after it was damaged in a severe 2019 storm.

The Friends group had been left with the impression the project would receive full funding from Ontario's Ministry of



**STAYING UP:** The Chippewa Park breakwall boardwalk was damaged in a 2019 storm.

Environment, Conservation and Parks, Angus said. The ministry provided \$75,000 for engineering design work last year.

Angus believes a loosening of provincial environmental standards could be to blame for the reversal.

In 2018, the province changed its

standard for E. coli at public beaches, allowing up to 200 E. coli per 100 millilitres – twice the previous limit.

“To quote the ministry, ‘The monitoring of beach quality indicates beach water quality now meets the established criteria,’ so they were not prepared to fund it,” Angus told councillors Thursday.

“Just so you are clear, there has been no change to the quality of water in the bay – only that the province has raised the threshold.”

Even under the weaker standard, public health data indicates the beach would have been closed over 30 times since 2008.

The group would continue working with the ministry and looking for other sources of funding, Angus said, but added he was “not optimistic.”

While the Friends group often assists with funding applications and other volunteer work, responsibility for the city-owned park, including the break-

wall, sits with the municipal government.

Several city councillors have expressed hesitance to continue investing in the park, citing an unresolved land claim with Fort William First Nation, and perceived decline in public interest.

The group had better news to share on other fronts, as it prepares major plans and improvements ahead of Chippewa Park's 100th anniversary this year.

Four workers hired over the summer through the Ontario Job Creation Partnership (OJCP) program have repaired, power washed, and re-stained seven cabins at the park, and will help restore its carousel, build furniture, and refinish floors going forward.

The volunteer group is also hard at work preparing celebrations for the park's 100th anniversary, which it hopes will culminate in a free five-day festival from July 29 to Aug. 2.

## 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**

## Gardening in January?

Warmer weather mean anything's possible this year

**T**he smell grew more pungent as I climbed the stairs from our basement, an earthy aroma. Actually, it stank. What could it be?

“I’m baking dirt,” came the reply. Baking dirt? Why? “Baking the dirt that I will mix with potting soil gets rid of any parasites. It sterilizes the dirt,” replied The Gardener, my wife, Laura. But what had prompted her to bake dirt so early in the year. It would be folly to begin planting now, wouldn’t it? There was a big sigh and then admission that perhaps (such a rare instance) that I was correct.

What had prompted this sudden urge to get things growing was the arrival of two packages in the mail containing seeds. The first package contained ‘heritage seeds’, seeds from veggies grown long ago.

I remember back in my days in radio of trooping to Old Fort William to interview the farmer who was trying to establish a vegetable garden using heritage seeds, the kind that would have fed the Partners back in 1815. The gardener was Chris Norman and he had to first scour the library at the fort for any record of what was grown and then scour seed sources for where he could procure the seeds.

During the heyday of the fur trade out of Fort William, the seeds had been brought all the way from Montreal to the fort during those fur trading years. Chris was quite successful in figuring out what was grown and eventually a ‘heritage’ veggie garden was established.

Laura’s interest in heritage seeds dates back about three years. She told me that it was our daughter, Beth, who was volunteering at the local spring seed swap at our community hall. Someone had brought heritage seeds for inspection and sale. Laura was intrigued and bought some. She planted them in due course and they flourished. Can’t recall what types of veggies they were.



**FRED JONES**  
RURAL ROOTS

Laura said that what she does first to get ready for the gardening season is check out what seeds she has left, then peruse the seed catalogues, then head to the annual seed swap to see what is available, and then she orders from the catalogues what she doesn’t have or what she’d like to try new. But COVID has got in the way. No seed swap this year. So, Laura ordered her seeds in December and that is why they arrived a good month early. She said that she didn’t want to be caught short.

Last summer, Laura and son, Doug, built a greenhouse attached to the back door of our basement. In addition to trays of potted veggie plants, she grew potatoes, kale, peppers, et al in large, tupperware bins.

A couple of the bins were brought into the basement that still had living plants like kale. Last week, I noticed several sliced potatoes on the kitchen counter, each slice sporting some sprouts. The next day they were

gone. “What happened to those sliced spuds?” I asked. “I planted them in the tupperware bins downstairs,” she replied, “just to see if they would grow. No sense in throwing them out in the compost.” “And...?” I enquired. “We now have many little shoots growing. The planting was successful. I will have to rig up a grow light to help them out,” she answered.

Good heavens! Spuds ready to eat by the end of what? February? March? Unheard of.

I guess the urge to plant is very powerful. And why not?

Soon enough The Gardener will have her hands deep in dirt in her mixing pan on the dining room table, filling wee styrofoam cups, and planting all kinds of seeds. Usually, it is my job to label the cups. Then the view out the living room picture windows will be totally obscured by shelves festooned with a jungle of green growing things.

But baking dirt in mid-January? So, it begins.



# IN THE bay

arts | entertainment | culture

## Midnight Sky falls out of orbit



**MARTY MASCARÍN**  
MOVIE TALK

In the post-holiday lockdown abyss, we are catching up with some leftovers overlooked from the Christmas period including *The Midnight Sky*. (Netflix)

Here, George Clooney assumes roles of director, co-producer and star in a post-apocalyptic sci-fi drama set in the uncomfortably too-near-future.

Clooney plays Augustine Lofthouse, a revered astronomer in declining health who chooses to solely man an Arctic observatory while Earth is reeling from a deadly but unclear cataclysmic event so devastating that it's sending his human brethren fleeing into space.

With a combination of self-administered blood transfusions and drugs for his undisclosed ailment, Clooney's staving off his own dark future.

### Not alone

However, upon the discovery of a mute little girl (Caolinn Springall) who's been left behind, Augustine decides to pack up and head to another base with a more powerful communications antenna to locate her rightful parents.

Augustine also needs to warn the spacecraft *Aether*, returning from a deep space mission to K-23, a habitable moon Augustine himself discovered decades ago, circling Jupiter.

Trouble is that the vessel's crew, including David Oyelowo, Felicity Jones, Kyle Chandler, Demián Bichir and Tiffany Boone, is completely unaware of Earth's devastation as all



**SPACED OUT:** George Clooney (right) and Caolinn Springall star in Netflix's *Midnight Sky*, an adaptation of the book *Good Morning Midnight*.

communication centres have gone dead.

The storyline is then spliced into two, as we follow Augustine and little Iris (her name deduced by Augustine studying her colouring book) as they

face perilous challenges during their journey to the communications base and *Aether*'s crew, themselves suddenly under siege from meteor showers.

*Midnight Sky* comes off as George

Clooney's own personal environmental red alert to us all.

Inspired by the Lily Brooks-Dalton's novel, *Good Morning, Midnight*, the movie pointedly suggests our time is

growing short, reinforcing ongoing scientific warnings that we are teetering on the brink.

While Clooney veers from fanciful space adventure as seen in his previous sci-fi film, *Gravity*, he borrows an action sequence from that movie and sifts snippets from other sci-fi epics.

The story starts off grippingly enough, as Clooney establishes a hushed mood of threat, using Augustine's hi-tech global maps to wordlessly reveal the extent of encroaching horrific devastation.

### Looks great

The film's atmosphere is further embellished by sparse dialogue, stylish set design and dazzling special effects, including an impressively staged space walk.

Clooney himself is convincing, having lost 20 pounds for the role, sporting a bushy beard, making his dark eyes look all the more baleful.

However, the story's momentum slows up, no thanks to flashbacks concerning Augustine's tattered romantic past that only serves to tie into a plot twist which ultimately doesn't make much sense. Other dubious plot bits include a crash into frigid waters that somehow fails to induce hypothermia.

A bit of predictability also impinges on the *Aether*'s crew. One knows that a moment of unguarded nonchalance is going to be disrupted by something very, very bad.

By film's end, Clooney gives us a sliver of optimism that somehow resourceful humankind will find a way, an inclination that rings as wishful as *Aether*'s crew charting a return course for salvation back to A-23.

# tbnewswatch.com

## Real Estate | Listings

Looking for a new home?

Visit us online!

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



# Is a Sex and the City reboot necessary?

**W**ord is spreading that HBO is reviving *Sex and the City* almost 20 years after the series ended.

Under its new title, *And Just Like That*, the show will include its former stars Sarah Jessica Parker, Cynthia Nixon and Kristin Davis. But no Kim Cattrall, a.k.a. Samantha Jones.

The Canadian actress has long said she would never return to the role and many media outlets have cited a rift between Cattrall and Sarah Jessica Parker.

And now everyone's getting in on the debate of how to handle her absence. Do they re-cast the role? Do they find a new fourth girlfriend? Do they just focus on the three?

But to quote the famous Carrie Bradshaw, "I can't help but wonder" ... do we really need another *Sex and the City* at all?

The series launched in 1998 when the stars ranged from 32 to 42 years old. Safe sex was discussed with humour and



women were empowered by these strong characters. *SATC* gave the modern woman – who wasn't sure she wanted a home in the suburbs and two-point-four kids but still dreamed of a happy ending – a voice.

Life was challenging and frustrating, and sexual relationships were just another challenge to be managed.

It also glamorized New York life at a time when jobs were aplenty and oppor-

tunity was always knocking. Oh, how things have changed.

After the show ended, all four ladies returned for a happily-ever-after movie in which Carrie got married, Charlotte had a baby, Miranda got marital therapy, and Samantha re-gained her independence. It tied a nice bow on the stories.

Unfortunately, buoyed by their success, producers tried a second movie in 2010. This time, tired of dealing with the pressures of life, the ladies took a break in the ultra-rich atmosphere of Abu Dhabi. Because, isn't that where everyone goes for a holiday?

Amid the financial fall-out of 2008 in which families were losing their jobs and their homes, the tone-deaf film was panned. It was clear, their time had passed.

So what makes producers think that TV audiences in 2021 (battling COVID, trying to pay their bills amid shutdowns, standing in food bank lines, and

worrying that a civil war is going to break out) want to see three fifty-some-things in designer duds discuss their vaginas?

Sure, dating has changed. With social distancing, getting close to anyone on any level is a challenge. And a lot of what *SATC* focused on wasn't the orgasm, but the connection between people.

So perhaps there is room for something new here. But as an admittedly huge fan of the original series, I again "can't help but wonder" who's interested in hearing from three white, wealthy, married, fifty-something ladies on the subject?

Unless, that is, the writers are planning on breaking up the happy endings that Carrie, Charlotte, Miranda and Samantha had finally achieved. And that would be so much worse for their fans.

Sometimes it's better to close the book altogether. Besides, TV already had its *Golden Girls*.



**RETURNING?:** Sarah Jessica Parker.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

- 1 Royal treasury
  - 5 Month abbr.
  - 8 7th incarnation of Vishnu
  - 12 Young Men's Hebrew Assn. (abbr.)
  - 13 Burmese knife
  - 14 Ireland
  - 15 Malay sarong
  - 16 Three (Ital.)
  - 17 Sexually united (pref.)
  - 18 Enamel (Fr.)
  - 20 Motor aphasia
  - 22 Surgeon's instrument
  - 25 Warp yarn
  - 28 Drug
  - Enforcement Admin. (abbr.)
  - 29 Wife of Mohammed
  - 33 With
  - 35 Corp. for Public Broadcasting
- DOWN**
- 1 Bag net
  - 2 Muslim holy man
  - 3 Branch of Muslim
  - 4 Dog
  - 5 Banned pesticide
  - 6 Lug
  - 7 Base
  - 8 Finery
  - 9 Russ. inland
  - 10 "La Boheme" heroine
  - 11 Wild ox
  - 19 Liquid crystal display (abbr.)
  - 21 Meadow
  - 23 Atomic Energy Commission (abbr.)
  - 24 Let up
  - 25 Amer. Standard Version (abbr.)
  - 26 Stinging insect
  - 27 Prohibit
  - 30 Signed (abbr.)
  - 31 Habakkuk (abbr.)
  - 32 Utterly
  - 34 Ram (2 words)
  - 36 Formal dance (Fr.)
  - 39 Held a session
  - 41 45 (Rom. numeral)
  - 44 Wild rubber
  - 45 Same (Lat.)
  - 46 Semitic deity
  - 47 Egypt. skink
  - 48 Substantial
  - 50 Triangular insert
  - 51 Alone (Lat.)
  - 52 Apiece
  - 55 Amer. Ballet Theatre (abbr.)
  - 56 Trouble

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

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				62			63			

## WORD SEARCH

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

Aback	Epileptic	Overprint	Socks
Baled	Faint	Pends	Swayed
Byways	Forethought	Peony	Taken
Cargo	Grammatically	Phases	Tense
Cascade	Guilt	Prude	Tings
Cognosceurs	Ivies	Pudgy	Tooth
Cropps	Kennel	Scalp	Visas
Dispensations	Lettuce	Scary	Yells
Elbows	Nears	Scenic	Yeses
Emerald	Nosed	Snarls	Yokes

## Sudoku

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

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

DIFFICULTY: ★★★★★

## ENIGMA™ CRYPTOGRAM

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

"RKGT QYBF VBKYHD IF GHD RKGT  
QYBF VBUMOB IF GOB TYHP ZGTTBOF  
WMZAGOB TM RKGT QYBF RYTKYH  
IF." – GITKMO IHJHMRH  
PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "The biggest shortage of all is the shortage of common sense." – Author Unknown



### 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://visit.tbnewswatch.com)



## 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  
**CHIROTHIN**  
WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM



**THUNDER BAY  
WELLNESS CENTRE**

Chiropractic, Laser Therapy, Weight Loss

For more information  
check out

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

# Sports

local sports news | information | coverage



LEITH DUNICK/FILE

**PLAYING THE WAITING GAME:** Kam River's Hayden Cattani (right) tries to chase down Thunder Bay's Matthew Halushak in a November 2020 game at the Norwest Arena.

## SIJHL puts pause on season

League commissioner says they hope to play, but are starting to move on to 2021-22

**SIJHL**

By Leith Dunick -TB Source

**S**uperior International Junior Hockey League commissioner Darrin Nicholas says it will probably take a miracle to crown a champion in 2020-21.

Nicholas said while he remains hopeful teams will be able to get back onto the ice when the current Ontario-wide state-of-emergency expires on Feb. 11, league and team officials have agreed to not put any more effort into schedule-making until they get concrete approval to move ahead.

Under the state of emergency, rinks in Thunder Bay remain closed and games and team practices are not permitted.

Nicholas met with team owners virtually on Thursday night to discuss the path forward.

"What the solution was we'll just pause the whole thing right now,

resume looking at getting back into the season again when conditions persist," he said on Friday.

SIJHL teams, with the exception of the two American teams, were able to play in November, with the regular season getting under way in time to play eight games before the Christmas break. The plan was to bring teams back in mid-January and restart the season from there, the goal to have a 20-game regular season.

The league invited the Kenora Thistles and Thunder Bay Kings midget teams to help round out a schedule and ensure teams weren't sitting for a month at a time, knowing a two-week reset period was required before switching opponents.

However, on Boxing Day, Premier Doug Ford instituted a province-wide

lockdown, which was initially supposed to last two weeks in Northwestern Ontario, but was extended until Jan. 23. The stay-at-home order supersedes that order.

"What we've decided is we're not going to invest anything further into planning until the conditions suggest it's viable to get our guys back on the ice," Nicholas said.

While the league hasn't publicly announced a drop-dead point to resume, Nicholas said all teams are in agreement that a meaningful regular season is necessary to hold playoffs. Twenty games may no longer be possible, with the SIJHL adamant it wants to wrap things up by April 30, and Nicholas isn't sure what the final number might be.

"We threw around options of an

unbalanced schedule, where we might switch opponents less, which would mean we wouldn't see other teams in the league," Nicholas said. "More games against the same teams, that wasn't really an option that got a lot of traction. There wasn't a really big appetite to drag this into May and June, so we said it's got to be done by April 30.

"The amount of options that are available to allow us to get going are shrinking, for sure."

Nicholas said in all likelihood the league would also need a concession from public health officials to expand their cohorts to allow more teams to play each other without the mandated two-week break.

Nicholas said if the season does not resume next month – it would likely require some lag time to allow players to quarantine and get back into game shape – he's confident all seven teams will be back in the fold in 2021-22.

**"The amount  
of options  
that are  
available to  
allow us to  
get going are  
shrinking, for  
sure."**

DARRIN NICHOLAS

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).



## sports NEWS

# Wolves add guard

## BASKETBALL

By Leith Dunlick –TB Source

**A**lexia Giroux is the first recruit to commit to the Lakehead Thunderwolves women's basketball team for 2021-22.

The 5-foot-9 Terrebonne, Que. guard spent three years playing for CEGEP Édouard-Montpetit in Longueuil, Que. and said the Thunder Bay school just seemed like the perfect environment for her to accomplish her dream of playing basketball at the university level.

### Felt right

"I chose Lakehead because I felt welcome as soon as I spoke with coach Jon Kreiner, I liked his energy and I was really comfortable talking to him. I was very amazed by what Lakehead University had to offer to their students." Giroux said in a release.

"Also, after I had a few conversations with some of the players of the team, I knew I would fit perfectly

with the girls which was really important for me. I'm super excited about next year and I know Lakehead will help me become the best version of myself."

Giroux brings a championship mentality to the Thunderwolves, winning two league championships in high school, where she led her team in scoring for five seasons and captured the team most valuable player award in her final four years.

She's also a well-rounded athlete, winning a soccer championship in Spain in 2014 and several horse-back riding competitions.

Kreiner called her the perfect first commitment.

"Over the last few seasons we lost a plethora of shooting, and Alexia instantly helps fill that void. She is a deadly shooter with an elite release. She has good size for a shooting guard and she has a very good basketball IQ."

Not only is she good with the ball, Kreiner said, but she'll also help keep the opposition at bay too.

"Alexia is a very aggressive defender and sees the floor well at both ends. She has played for a program that competes in the CCAA against tremendous players and has been very well coached in both high school and CEGEP," Kreiner said.

"I absolutely love her demeanour and she exudes confidence in her leadership abilities. She wants to win and is willing to speak her mind to get the most of her teammates."

### Loves the sport

Her current coach called Giroux a dedicated and passionate athlete.

"She came in three years ago with the goal of playing university ball and she worked her tail off through ups and downs to get there. She's been a role model for the younger players coming in by her work ethic and I hope she brings that with her," said Jeff Claude Francois, in a release issued by Lakehead athletics.



SUBMITTED

**EXPERIENCED:** Alexia Giroux has spent the past three seasons at Edouard-Montpetit in Quebec.

# Bills, Packers looking good

**L**ast Friday, before I headed home for the weekend, I quickly typed in a headline for this column: Chiefs, Packers destined to meet.

I was pretty sure regardless of how the divisional games played out, Kansas City and Green Bay were going to be hosting the AFC and NFC championships. One thing I wasn't anticipating was Patrick Mahomes' injury.

The NFL's best quarterback went down in a heap in Sunday's 22-17 win over the Cleveland Browns, and his status is up in the air for this weekend as of Monday, when this column was penned.

The news out of Kansas City sounds promising, but the NFL has strict concussion protocols in place these days, and Mahomes will need everything to go right or else it will be journeyman Chad Henne lining up under centre.

For the purposes of this column, I'm assuming Mahomes will find a way to play.

**Buffalo vs. Kansas City:** Taking a look at the numbers, these teams are virtually identical. On offence, the Chiefs threw for 5,005 yards and 40 touchdowns, the Bills, behind emerging superstar Josh Allen, for 4,786 yards and 40 touchdowns. The Chiefs ran for 1,799 yards and 13 touchdowns, the Bills for 1,723 yards and 16 touchdowns – eight courtesy of Allen's nimble legs.

They both have Tier 1 top receivers, the Chiefs with speedster Tyreek Hill, the Bills with the resurgent Stefan Diggs, who led the NFL in catches (127) and yards (1,535). Hill, however, nearly doubled him in touchdown catches.

Defensively, the Bills (13-3) gave up 375 points, the Chiefs 362. They were 53 yards apart. The Chiefs (14-2) were 6-2 at Arrowhead Stadium, where they'll play the AFC championship.

The Chiefs are definitely the more banged up team, especially on offence. Mahomes' status is the key. If he plays, and I suspect he will, the defending Super Bowl champs will be in the mix. The Chiefs could also see the return of

rookie running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire, while the Bills are still looking for ways to replace the injured Zack Moss.

On a side note, the Bills/Chiefs matchup is a rematch of the 1993-94 AFC championship, when the Bills were led by Jim Kelly and the Chiefs by some guy named Joe Montana. It was also the first NFL game I saw live, the Bills taking it thanks to three Thurman Thomas rushing TDs. I think they'll do it again. I'm going with my gut. **Prediction: Buffalo 27, Kansas City 21.**

**Tampa Bay vs. Green Bay:** If only there was a hook to sell this game. Seriously, though, is anyone really all that surprised that Tom Brady has led a team back to the final four, for the 14th time in his hall-of-fame career? His Tampa Bay Buccaneers (11-5) haven't looked like the top team in the NFC for most of the season, but the ageless Brady has the team clicking when it counts, thanks in part to the quadruple downfield threat of Antonio Brown, Mike Evans, Chris Godwin and his former New

England go-to, tight end Rob Gronkowski.

Aaron Rodgers, on the other hand, is probably the favourite to capture the NFL's most valuable player award, dominating after an off-season in which Green Bay shocked the experts by drafting his future replacement. There is no better combo than Rodgers and Davante Adams, who caught a league-high 18 touchdowns, despite missing two full games.

Rodgers threw an NFL best 48 touchdowns, eight more than Brady, in 84 fewer passing attempts. Brady knows how to win the big game, while Rodgers is 1-4 as a starter in five previous NFC championship appearances, but Rodgers might be a tad more motivated this time around.

The Bucs have been formidable against the run this season, allowing just 10 TDs. But they're more vulnerable through the air, giving up 29 TDs to Green Bay's 23, which plays into the Packers strength. Ultimately, I think it's what will keep Brady out of his 10th Super Bowl. **Prediction: Green Bay 24, Tampa Bay 17.**



**LEITH DUNICK**  
SPORTS SHORTS

## Make your Word Ads come alive with a picture!

**Call Today!**  
**346-2600**

Thunder Bay

**source**  
Your Community Newspaper

**We are now offering the opportunity for ALL CLASSIFIED WORD AD CATEGORIES to have A PICTURE INCLUDED! COST? Same as a HAPPY AD!**

**\$19.99 + 40 Words** HST EXTRA  
**Each Consecutive Week will be Half Price!**

**DEADLINE: Classified Word Ads: MONDAY @ 4:00p.m.**

THE SAYING IS ...  
*A PICTURE IS WORTH  
A THOUSAND WORDS!*

**FOR SALE**

**T-SHIRTS**  
Any colour

**BUY TODAY**  
**000-0000**



# tbClassifieds

PHONE **346-2600**

EMAIL **classifieds@dougallmedia.com**

**AD RATES**  
Up to 20 words **\$999**  
**ADDITIONAL INSERTIONS 1/2 PRICE\***  
Additional words 25c.  
\*Must be run in consecutive weeks. No additions to ads. Does not apply to Bargain Corner ads.  
**No refunds on cancellations.**

**BARGAIN CORNER**  
15 words max. for items under \$500.  
Must contain price.  
**ONLY \$480**  
Plus HST

**DEADLINE**  
Classified Word Ads:  
**MONDAY @ 4:00p.m.**  
Display & Photo Ads:  
**MONDAY @ Noon**  
**SHOP ON-LINE** at <https://shop.dougallmedia.com/>  
**OR CALL US AT 346-2600**  
(Leave us a message if we do not answer, and we will return your call).  
*Our office is temporarily closed to the public due to COVID-19.*  
**Telephone Hours:**  
Mon.- Fri. 8:30a.m.- 5:00p.m.

## 30. MISC. WANTED

Wanted to buy - CD+G player and Karaoke machine (not blue tooth), call 475-0995.

**WANTED**  
**\$ TOP DOLLAR PAID \$**  
For Scrap Vehicles  
**DAN'S EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE**  
**767-3818**

**\$CASH\$**  
On the spot for your scrap cars, trucks, vans and SUV's. Same day pick-up with CASH.  
**Call Marcel**  
**624-7242 or 626-0161**

## 46. HEALTH

**BEAT VIRUSES NOW. CANADIAN DISCOVERY.** Strong Immune System does it. Medical Patent Health Canada Approved. 20 years research at McGill "U" Information — 807-475-9371

**HAVE YOU BEEN HURT AT WORK?** Have you been involved with the Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB; Workers' Compensation)? Your experiences could help us improve services for Thunder Bay and District injured and ill workers involved in the WSIB claims process. Participants will receive compensation for their time. To enroll or for more information, please contact: **Email: [wcstudy.psych@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:wcstudy.psych@lakeheadu.ca) Phone: (807) 343-8563**

Sore Joints or Muscles? Try Bud Rub. Available at Kelly's Nutrition Centre and online at [bcbudrub.com/hemp-care](http://bcbudrub.com/hemp-care). Made with all organically sourced ingredients and made in Canada.

## 53. GENERAL SERVICES

#1-A Dump runs, anything pick up; city-wide services, odd jobs, general services, snowblowing, call Frank 628-5919

**CHRISTINA'S HOME AND GARDEN.** Residential & Commercial! Landscaping, grass cutting, lawn maintenance, planting, dividing, weeding, edging, container gardening, patio stone/interlocking stone pathways, hedge/tree/shrub trimming and shaping. Call 621-1505

**SELLING PRIVATELY?**  
Looking to Sell your Home? Advertise Here!

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
**CALL US 346-2600**

## 54. HOME IMPROVEMENTS

**RENOVATIONS:** We're Carpenters and Renovators! Kitchens, baths, basements, etc.... Call 252-9114

## 55. LEGAL NOTICES

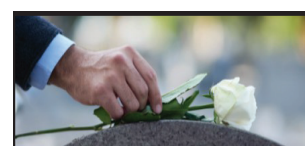
### NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS In the Estate of BRIAN LESLIE JOSEPH PRICE

All Persons having claims against the Estate of BRIAN LESLIE JOSEPH PRICE, late of Thunder Bay, ON, deceased, who died on or about July 6, 2020, or in the business known as EAGLE BAITES, are hereby notified to send particulars of the same to the undersigned on or before February 4, 2021, 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 4th day of January, 2021.

**JOHN PRICE, CHRISTOPHER PRICE & MICHAEL PRICE, ESTATE TRUSTEES**  
c/o ERICKSONS LLP  
ATTN: RYAN VENN  
Barristers and Solicitors  
291 South Court Street  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2Y1



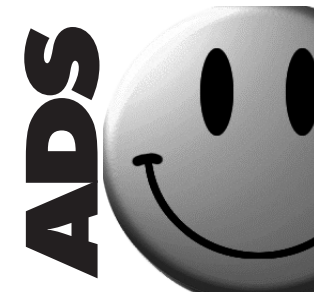
## 68. DEATH/FUNERALS



**A Gift In Remembrance**  
[www.sjftb.net/memorial](http://www.sjftb.net/memorial)  
**768-4411**



## 71. INFORMATION



Let us deliver your special announcement to over 40,000 people!

**ONLY \$1999**  
plus tax

Includes photo and up to 40 words. (additional words 25¢)



**Engagements, Anniversaries, Birthdays, etc...**  
More exposure at less cost!



**Call 346-2600**

**SAVE MONEY WITH tbSOURCE CLASSIFIEDS**  
second or additional insertions are only **HALF PRICE!**

## 72. HERE'S MY CARD

**IT'S A NEW YEAR!....LET US HELP YOU WITH A NEW LOOK!**  
• CARPET • WALLPAPER • DECOR  
• BLINDS • CARPET • FLOORING • WALLPAPER • DECOR • MARINE COATINGS  
• BLINDS • PAINT • FLOORING  
**Dulux Paints Decorating Centre**  
Locally owned & operated to serve you better  
784 Memorial Ave. (Next to McDonalds)



## Good Reasons to Recycle

Recycling saves energy **Recycling uses less space in landfills** Recycling saves trees **Recycling helps climate change** Recycling reduces pollution **Recycling saves money** Recycling creates jobs.

## 73. PUZZLE ANSWERS

## 73. PUZZLE ANSWERS

### ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

FISC DEC RAMA  
YMHA DAH ERIN  
KAIN TRE GAMO  
EMAIL ALALIA  
SCALPEL  
ABB DEA AISHA  
SEAR CPB AGAL  
VENUS SAX DBL  
NACELLE  
BARITE VAGUE  
ADEN AAA DONA  
ADAT RBI ERUC  
LALO ATL MESH

EFOISPENSATIONS  
DTAKENELNGDDEL  
UTNIRPREVOVLDU  
RYLLACIAMMARGF  
PEDCLOCLERCRGPO  
PZENNGSESEUSR  
SHLONTAPXMLE  
ECARGOECUTTELRT  
IXBSRINCKZXJAH  
VXQMESCHSUFBNO  
ISYASSRZOEYAWS  
SLKCELBOWSNIDG  
ABACRUALADESONH  
SRSPOROCESSENET  
YGAENSSJZYGDUNP

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

**PREVIOUS SOLUTION:**  
"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." - Author Unknown

Thunder Bay's Source reserves the right to classify ads under appropriate headings and to set rates therefore and to determine page locations.

Thunder Bay's Source reserves the right to revise, edit, classify or reject any advertisement and to retain any answers directed to the Box Reply Service, and to repay the Customer the sum paid for the advertisement and box rental.

Box replies on "Hold" instructions not picked up within 10 days of expiry of an advertisement will be destroyed unless mailing instructions are received. Those answering Box Numbers are requested not to send originals of documents to avoid loss.

All claims of errors in advertisements must be received by the Publisher within 3 days after the first publication. No refund if ad is cancelled before expiry date.

Thunder Bay's Source reserves the right to increase prices with 30 days written notice.



# Be a #DrivenDriver



**DrivenCarsCanada.ca**

## LIFETIME LIMITED POWERTRAIN WARRANTY

on all Driven Certified Vehicles



**Rogue S AWD**  
2018 Nissan

Thunder Bay

27,693KM | Stock #:2438TA

**\$20,949\*\***



**Golf 1.4 TSI  
Comfortline**  
2019 Volkswagen

Thunder Bay  
Previous Daily Rental

53,017KM | Stock #:2455TR

**\$19,566\*\***



**Focus SE**  
2014 Ford

Thunder Bay

88,492KM | Stock #:2436TA

**\$8,980\*\***



WE ARE OPEN BY APPOINTMENT, CALL TODAY!

**589 11th Ave 699-5000**