

Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol.18 No. 5



DESERVE FAIR SHARE: Warren Parke says he takes offence to anyone, including the prime minister, saying veterans are asking for more than the country can give.



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Feb. 5 - Nov. 30, 2021. Be entered for a chance to WIN 100,000 AIR MILES<sup>®</sup> Reward Miles!\*



City to ask province to loosen restrictions for small business /3

**SNOW LEVELS FALL** 



Only 5.1 millimetres of the white stuff fell in Thunder Bay in January /4

CHILL OUT



Soccer team won't play in USL2 for a second straight summer /13

### INSPECTION

### MNRF-Approved Forest Management Plan Inspection Black Spruce Forest 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Resolute FP Canada Inc. and the Black Spruce Forest Local Citizens' Committee (LCC) would like to advise you that the 2021–2031 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Black Spruce 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 September 14, 2020 to November 13, 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 Natural Resources Information Portal https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange a remote meeting with MNRF staff with the Thunder Bay District to discuss the approved FMP.

For further information, please contact:

### Robin Kuzyk, R.P.F.

MNRF Thunder Bay District Office 435 James Street South Suite Boo1 Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7 tel: 807-709-1959 e-mail: robin.kuzyk@ontario.ca Niall Scarr, R.P.F. Resolute FP Canada Inc. 2001 Neebing Avenue Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S3 tel: 807-473-2843 e-mail: niall.scarr@resolutefp.com Jim Cassan LLC Representative c/o MNRF Thunder Bay District Office 435 James Street South Suite B001

Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7 Tel: 807-475-1471

Ontario 🕅

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/participate-forest-

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 email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/or the sustainable forest licensee Resolute FP Canada Inc. 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 Alyson Dupuis at 807-475-1512.

Renseignements en français : Robin Kuzyk, F.P.I., au courriel : robin.kuzyk@ontario.ca ou tél : 807 709-1959.



### LOCALNEWS IN BRIEF Courthouse reopening

The Thunder Bay Courthouse is expected to reopen by mid-February, according to a spokesperson with the Ministry of the Attorney General.

The courthouse has been closed since a fire broke out in the main electrical room on the building's seventh floor on Oct. 4, 2020. The fire caused water damage to part of the building.

"The Thunder Bay Courthouse at 125 Brodie St. N. remains closed while repairs are conducted," Brian Gray, a spokesperson with the ministry said in an emailed statement.

"Significant progress is being made to return to normal operations and the ministry intends to reopen the courthouse in mid-February," Gray adds.

In the interim, the Superior Court of Justice continues to operate out of a temporary space at the Courthouse Hotel on Camelot Street. The Ontario Court of Justice continues to operate at the Valhalla Inn.

Both courts continue to operate remotely. – Karen Edwards, Local Journalism Initiative reporter

### Murder charge laid

A Manitouwadge man has been charged with first degree murder after police responded to a disturbance at a residence in the township Saturday.

Officers found a male with life-threatening injuries after responding to a complaint of a disturbance at a Flicker Street home, the OPP said Sunday.

The victim, since identified as Wayne Allen, 18, was transported by Superior North EMS to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Jesse Allen, 38, was arrested at the scene and has been remanded into custody with an initial court date of Feb. 16. The elder Allen is believed to be the brother of the victim.

The case is being investigated by the OPP's North West Region Crime Unit, under the direction of the force's Criminal Investigation Branch. The Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario is also engaged, OPP said.

Anyone with information regarding the investigation is urged to contact OPP online or at 1-800-222-8477.

### 50/50 draw grows

The Thunder Bay 50/50 draw continues to grow exponentially.

As of Tuesday morning the grand prize in the draw, which will benefit the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation, had topped \$360,000.

Tickets are available online only at www.thuderbay5050.ca. Ticket buyers must be in Ontario at the time of purchase. The draw will be held on Feb. 26. LOCALNEWS



DISPARITY: Large retailers, like Superstore, are permitted to sell non-essential items during Ontario's lockdown period.

# **City seeks to level lockdown statutes**

### Mayor says all non-essential sales should be treated equally

health

measures

and

restrictions

on busines

are not one

size fits all."

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

The City of Thunder Bay is formally asking the province to reconsider lockdown policies, over concerns they create an uneven playing field between big business and independent retailers.

On Monday, city council unanimously passed a M motion put forward by Mayor Bill Mauro calling on (A the Ford government to revise the rules to treat non-essential sales the same way at large and small retailers **"Public**"

and small retailers. Mauro's motion was based on a similar ask from the Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM), formerly known as LUMCO, which represents the mayors of Ontaria's 261

sents the mayors of Ontario's 26 largest municipalities, including Thunder Bay. It's chiefly aimed at curtailing an unfair advantage for big box stores able to remain open to sell both essential and non-essential

items. "An example would be where a large retailer is considered exact in the

is considered essential [because] they can sell groceries, but they can also sell a lot of other things

because they're open," Mauro explained Monday. "Their ability to do that places a small business that's... limited to curbside or delivery at a disadvantage."

Coun. Andrew Foulds praised local businesses for

their creativity and innovation in adapting during the pandemic, but said provincial rules made it impossible to fairly compete.

"When you have an unequal playing field, it's difficult now matter how creative and innovative you are." A copy of the resolution will be sent to Premier Doug Ford, ministers for finance and small business, local MPPs, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), among other groups.

It also calls for a re-examination of capacity limits when lockdown is lifted. Mauro argued capacity limits for restaurants and other businesses should be set by square footage, not by a hard cap.

A restaurant five times larger than its competitor shouldn't have the same capacity limits, Mauro argued.

Lastly, the resolution asks the province to partner with municipalities to pilot "unique/additional parameters and programs" that recognize local variations.

BILL MAURO "Public health measures and restrictions on business are not one size fits all, and need to ings be varied based on local public health conditions, day, demographics, and geographic scale," Mauro said.

Councillor Shelby Ch'ng declared a conflict of interest over the matter, as a local business owner, while Coun. Brian Hamilton was not present for the vote.

### Weather Forecast





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### LOCALNEWS



LIMITED SNOW: Local homeowners have had to do a lot less snow shovelling this winter.

# **Snowfall's lower than usual in Thunder Bay**

In January, only 5.1 mm landed in city

### WEATHER By Gary Rinne – TB Source

The winter of 2020-2021 in Northwestern Ontario is proving to be out of the ordinary in more than one respect.

With winter almost half over, Environment Canada says temperatures and snowfall are both tracking well outside normal ranges.

Meteorologist Gerald Cheng says in January there was "a huge deficit" in precipitation, with only 5.1 millimetres of water created by the snow that fell at Thunder Bay Airport.

The normal precipitation total for the month is 31.3 millimetres of water from melted snow.

At the end of the month, there was only 16 centimetres of snow on the ground, less than half the normal snow depth of 34 centimetres at this time of year.

Despite a cold snap in the latter part of January, it was also considerably warmer on average than historic readings.

The average temperature of -9.2 C puts January 2021 in the top four of the mildest-ever at the Lakehead.

It was more than 5.5 degrees above normal, and only a couple of degrees colder than the record set in January 1944. Cheng noted that the northwest is currently back into a mild spell, but warned that's not going to last much longer.

"Winter took a holiday for much of January, but that's not going to be the case in February," he said.

"We might see some fluctuations, but be prepared for cold weather. It's coming back for sure."

The forecast for the end of the week shows temperatures falling back to normal ranges by Friday, and dropping considerably below normal on the weekend.

The historic average is about -7 C, but the maximum on both days will only reach around -15 C.



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### 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.

www.tbrhsc.net/VirtualED



### LOCALNEWS

# Tourism head cool to city name sign

#### CITY HALL By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

The controversial letter sign proposed for Thunder Bay's waterfront took a blow Monday as the city's tourism manager came out against it, citing industry feedback.

Paul Pepe, the manager of Tourism Thunder Bay, made the comments while presenting the agency's annual review to city council on Monday, after Coun. Peng You asked for his opinion as a tourism professional.

"The feeling of the industry that's given me feedback is... it's something that [would be] nice when our tourism economy is thriving, but right now we should be focusing our investments on initiatives that can stimulate quick recovery and quick relief," Pepe said.

Pepe outlined hundreds of millions of dollars in estimated losses to the region's tourism and accommodation sectors during his presentation, saying full recovery could take years.

Councillors have spent hours in debate over the sign, initially endorsing it on a 7-6 vote in September, authorizing the use of \$100,000 in Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) dollars, before reversing course in October,



SIGN OF THE TIMES: A Thunder Bay sign has been proposed for the city's waterfront.

punting the decision to the 2021 budget process, which is ongoing. Proponents argued the project could help draw cross-country travellers off the highway and into the downtown, and would be a general boon for the city's brand. Similar signs have proven popular elsewhere, with Toronto's estimated to be the second most photographed location in the city, after the CN Tower. However, other councillors balked at its rough budget of \$150,000, arguing the city was struggling to maintain existing attractions like the conservatory, even before the financial pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pepe's remarks drew criticism from Coun. Shelby Ch'ng, who has championed the sign as chair of the city's 50th anniversary committee, which put it forward as a legacy project to mark the milestone.

Ch'ng expressed clear frustration at the amount of criticism the project had faced, and disappointment that concerns had not been expressed directly to her.

"I'm a little confused about your comments," she responded to Pepe, "considering last April you were very enthusiastic about the sign, which prompted me to put a motion forward to council."

"Fast forward to today, you're no longer enthusiastic about the sign, [and] you didn't talk to me about that."

Pepe noted the situation for local operators had become more grim since April. That meant MAT tax dollars – earned through a four per cent surcharge on short-term stays in the city, and meant to promote tourism efforts – should be focused on short-term relief efforts, he said.

That could include propping up events and festivals as local businesses – usually major sponsors – limit spending, he said. Organizers can apply for MAT funds to cover up to 25 per cent of costs.

"I think for a lot of small businesses that are existing on government liquidity

"I'm a little

confused

about your

comments..."

SHELBY CH'NG

and labour programs, and just eking by – they don't really see how [the sign] would benefit the return of the tourism sector," Pepe said.

However, Pepe emphasized he supported the sign in principle, saying it could be a valuable addition to the waterfront.

"It's a value-added attraction for people that are down there – there's certainly an earned media value, it's Instagrammable," he said. "But

right now, there are incredibly pressing economic issues facing the sector."

A final decision on funding for the sign is set to be made during the city's 2021 budget process, which concludes Feb. 8.

# Journey through our 50 years

Join in at www.thunderbay.ca/50

Watch the 50th Celebration Video

Learn about Amalgamation

**Relive our City's Memorable Moments** 

**Listen to engaging Superior Stories** 





### ONE CITY. FIFTY YEARS.

### **Editorial**

### **EDITORIAL**

### **Travel must** be paused

t's about time the federal government started taking action to halt travel into and out of Canada.

Sadly, they didn't go far enough.

By convincing airlines to stop routes between Canada and the Caribbean and Mexico, along with mandatory testing at passenger expense upon return to the country, the Trudeau government will curb most vacationers from heading to sunnier locations.

The new rules certainly do nothing for the well-heeled, who might not be too concerned about forking out a few thousand dollars if it means they can still lounge on a beach in Barbados.

The country needs to put a halt to all non-essential international travel, including, and especially, to and from the United States.

We love our American neighbours, but anyone who wants a jaunt to a more tropical climate can simply book a flight to the U.S. and make a connection there to head to Cancun or Antigua, should they so desire.

Or they can simply alter their destination of choice and books a flight to Arizona or Florida, neither of which are exactly doing well on the COVID-19 front these days.

The current travel restrictions are a start, but they're a far cry from what's actually needed - and what should have been in place all along.

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### How about a plebiscite?

To the editor: Recently I was informed by a city official that this issue would be brought forward to council this Monday Feb 1.

Now I am informed this decision probably won't take place until March.

I asked if the decision had anything to do with the public's strong opposition to this project. The answer I was given was no.

It might be interesting if the news media ran some polls to see just what kind of support this proposed indoor turf facility has now and if a plebiscite should be required on projects of this magnitude.

> Ray Smith, Thunder Bay

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## **RESPs** investment in education

### Accounts can be used to stash away up to \$50,000 per child for their future education needs contributions are subject to a penalty of one per

You can make contributions to the plan for up to

31 years and it can remain open for up to 36 years.

**•** ould you tell me about RESPs. My mother Guard you los open one for our son who is only two.

I always recommend having a Family RESP plan

versus individual plans because it has so much more

The investment is larger and has the ability to

receive higher returns; funds in the plan do not have

to be shared equally among beneficiaries; and it provides the most flexibility for future withdrawals.

Your mother could also consider having a Family

RESP for all of her grandchildren to use for educa-

There are a few key components of a RESP that

There are no limits to the number of plans you can

establish or on the number of beneficiaries you want

to have; however, the limit on lifetime contributions

for any one beneficiary is \$50,000 and any over

children or grandchildren.

for post-secondary education.

flexibility.

tion.

you must be aware of.

Thanks, Bianca

If the beneficiary is disabled you can contribute for reat question Bianca. For those who don't 35 years and it will remain open for 40 years. Gknow, a RESP is a registered education savings There is a basic CESG, (Canada Education plan designed to provide a tax-deferred savings Savings Grant) for beneficiaries of the plan under investment with direct government assistance to the age of 18, (special rules apply for children over help you reach education savings goals for your 16).

The Canadian government will add 20 per cent annually to the first \$2,500 contributed, a \$500 bonus every year.

cent per month.

CHRISTINE

MONEY LADY

IBBOTSON

The maximum CESG over the life of the plan is \$7,200 per beneficiary.

The benefit to a family plan is that when you are planning to allocate the funds among the bene-

ficiaries, you will not be restricted on withdrawals and can direct more to a child whose education expenses may be higher. Let's look at how it works for withdrawing from your plan.

Almost all Canadian universities and colleges qualify for a RESP including some outside of Canada, (CRA will be able to provide a complete qualifying list).

A part-time student can access up to \$2,500 for each 13-week semester and a full-time student can access up to \$5,000 during the first 13 weeks of initial enrolment, with no limit thereafter.

The funds withdrawn are taxable upon the beneficiary, resulting in little to no tax payable because they are a student.

So, what if you did all this and your beneficiary

does not pursue an education after high school? Well, you can transfer up to \$50,000 of the plan's earnings to your RRSP provided you have the contribution room.

The initial contributions you made into the plan would have no tax consequences since you contributed with tax paid dollars, however the CESG funds paid into the plan must be returned to the government.

Interest or investment growth earned on the grant money do not have to be paid back to the government.

It is advisable to discuss this with your financial advisor or you can check on the Canadian government website at: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdls/tpcs /resp-reee/menue-eng.html.

Why not show your children or grandchildren you are invested in their future. Whether it be a basic separate savings account or a specific RESP, you should always lead by example and encourage your children to have a committed future-focused plan. Encourage them to save their earnings or cash gifts from family to add to the plan and start showing them how to get their money working to maximize opportunities for their future.

> Good luck and best wishes, Money Lady

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



### **Perspective**

Stick to essential activities only

Travelling and hanging out partying in large groups do not meet the standard of necessary fun

#### **OPINION** By J.R. Shermack **Special to TB Source**

here seems to be some confusion these days about the meaning of 'essential".

Right from the start of the pandemic we were advised to avoid non-essential activities like large social gatherings, shopping in crowded stores and especially air travel.

If only we knew then what we know now perhaps the "advice" would have been more assertive and the public response more urgent.

At the time Canadians seemed eager to help control the spread of COVID 19 and they took the warnings of doctors and scientists under advisement.

Each of us was responsible for our own decisions and choices about public health and safety and many sacrifices were made by families across the country.

Community safety measures were followed, although sometimes reluctantly, and by and large we looked out for one another and kept loved ones safe.

#### Always one group

But one segment of the population has always displayed a cavalier indifference to the pandemic and a somewhat questionable idea of what is essential.

They respond with large numbers in close contact at bars and house parties, with frenzied panic buying and hoarding and by feeling entitled to international vacations.

In their view each of these activities is 'essential" but I really don't think that word means what they think it means.



NO-FLY ZONES Flights from Canada to southern, tropical destinations like Mexico and the Caribbean are grounded until April 30.

Just because you really, really, really want to do something, that doesn't make it an essential activity.

It doesn't matter how much you miss it or how much you enjoy doing it or how long since you've last done it – that doesn't make it essential either.

Nor does it make any difference how spoiled or privileged you are when your behavior puts others at risk and endangers the lives of vulnerable people. Irresponsible behavior often has very serious consequences and just calling it "essential" is not a valid excuse.

This message was falling on the deaf ears of Canadian jet-setters and vacationers until recent travel restrictions made them sit up and sigh with one big collective, "Huh?"

One minute they were sipping cool

beverages in the sun and then, suddenly, their relaxing getaway turned into a major hassle.

Now vacationers nervously clutch their passports as new rules for non-essential international travel are announced by the Federal Government.

They are also scrambling for flights back to Canada before tighter restrictions make it more inconvenient and expen-

#### sive to return home.

Travellers can't say they were taken by surprise - repeated warnings by health and government officials predicted the exact scenario that is now unfolding.

Canadian air service to Mexico and Caribbean destinations is cancelled until Aril 30 - many partially tanned vacationers are packing up and heading back to Canada.

#### Not allowed

International flights will land only in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal - returning travellers must have a COVID 19 PCR test at the airport when they arrive.

They will wait nervously for the results in quarantine at a designated hotel for up to three days at their own expense, which will cost them \$2000 or more.

Those testing negative can complete their two-week isolation at home while a positive result means increased surveillance and enforcement at a designated facility.

Until now we have been counting on the good sense and compassion of our fellow Canadians to keep us safe and healthy but our good faith has been betraved.

In a survey late last year 25% of those with travel plans for 2021 said they would answer screening questions untruthfully if necessary for their return to Canada.

That discouraging behavior could lead to even tighter travel restrictions in the weeks ahead.

In the midst of this pandemic staying home continues to be the best example of an essential activity.

**Port Arthur Post Office 1925** 

This handsome building at the corner of Court Street and Red River Road was Port Arthur's main post office from 1892, when it was built, until it was torn down in 1955 to make way for a Kresge's store. For years it stood as one of the city's most handsome buildings and a cornerstone of downtown Port Arthur.



### **HOW TO WRITE US:**

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

The Thunder Bay Source reserves the right to edit submissions for content and clarity. All attempts will be made to preserve the core argument of the author. Address them to: **Thunder Bay Source** 87 North Hill Street, Thunder Bay, ON P7A 5V6

Email: ldunick@dougallmedia.com Visit our website: www.tbnewswatch.com



Do you agree with Canada banning flights to and from tropical destinations like the Caribbean and Mexico? VOICE YOUR OPINION ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER MOST.

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# TBLIFE people health home food leisure



# **Canadian trek supports vets**

THUNDER BAY By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

A Kelowna , B.C. man's cross-country A trek to call attention to what he calls the neglect of veterans and First Nations passed through Thunder Bay over the weekend.

Warren Parke, who also goes by The Old Man online, has been walking with a large, 40-pound wooden cross since mid-December, when he left Kelowna.

The dramatic gesture is a culmination of his frustration with the federal government and desire to drive positive change, he said Sunday as he visited the Terry Fox monument just east of the city.

"There are just certain things that are being neglected, I feel," he said. "If the powers that be aren't going to do their job, I feel it's up to us as Canadians to do it ourselves."

He specifically highlighted inadequate services for veterans and the Trudeau government's failure to resolve drinking water issues for First Nations.

"I had come to the end of my rope when I was working on a First Nations Reserve which had no drinkable water," he writes on his gofundme page. "I couldn't even brush my teeth without buying a bottle of water."

The walk has raised nearly \$9,000 through gofundme and donations he's received in person along the route. He plans to end the walk in Ottawa, he said, disbursing the proceeds to organizations dealing with issues including veterans, First Nations, mental health, autism, and cancer.

A small group of supporters showed up at the Terry Fox monument Sunday to see him off, drawn by passion for the causes he supports, admiration for his



MUST STOP: Warren Parke visits the Terry Fox monument last Sunday.

feat of endurance, or a shared dislike of the Trudeau government.

One woman who identified herself as Ava had hosted Parke while he rested for three nights in Thunder Bay. A former massage therapist, she wanted to offer support after hearing about his journey on social media.

Parke has sustained multiple injuries over the course of his walk, he reported, including a dislocated shoulder and injured foot, which was in a brace as he set off Sunday.

"His body was a little bit of a wreck," when he arrived, Ava said.

However, she had no doubt he could make it to Ottawa.

"What he has is the power of his mind, and he's very determined," she said.





1095 Barton Street 807-625-4424 WEBSITE: debtsolutions-thunderbay.ca

# **Howling wolves part of country sounds**



One of the joys of living in the country are the sounds as well as the sights one gets to hear daily. During the winter, one hears and sees quite different things like the flock of birds at the feeder who in summer, have fled north; or the myriad of animal tracks not seen in summer unless you are an expert tracker which I am not.

We hear the raven year round because our pair live here throughout all seasons. It is now February and the ravens should be nesting soon, laying their eggs, and hatching small squawkers. So, their various croaks, raggedy caws, blurbs and bleeps I can count on all the time. As the season changes, hedging its bets about on-coming spring, both the chickadees and blue jays change their calls. We still have the pine grosbeaks a-plenty and pine siskins at the feeder.

They flock to the crab apple trees, then assail the bird seed on the ground, in the suspended feeder, and on the picnic table where I spread it out.

The pandemic has made it necessary for us to remain at home a lot more. Only essential grocery or medical trips requiring drives to and fro. I remember not having to drive to town for two weeks, but when I did, I couldn't believe how noisy the city could be.

It reminds me when Laura and I were visiting my sister in Toronto many years ago. She lived in an apartment complex in the centre of the city and all night we heard the constant wail of sirens.

In the morning, when we mentioned

this to my sister, she responded with "I didn't notice."

Well, that peace can be shattered by a couple of things: firing up Big Red, my ancient tractor when I either have to move hay or snow blow.

Or, on the rare occasion, I must inflate a tire on some wheeled device. The roar of the air compressor really should require ear protection that I usually forget to wear because I am in a hurry to get the job done.

Then there is the barking of our newest canine family member. Lily exits Casa Jones and leaps off the front stoop to tear around towards where we dump the compost. Why? To scare off any deer who have crept close to nosh. It is a bit concerning in the middle of the night when it is pitch black. I worry that any passing coyote or wolf will gladly make Lily a snack. There were two nights when Laura dealt with Lily's need to go pee in the wee hours.

She heard wolves and saw Lily was afraid and confused since their howling came from two directions. Eventually Laura was successful in getting our small-but-vital pooch back into the safety of our 'hoosie'. For a couple of nights I opted to put Lily on a leash.

The other regular sound or, I should say, caterwaul is between our two dogs. The big guy, Baxter, is besieged by the Scrump (Lily) who is merciless in attacking his ruff around his neck.

We think that he actually loves the attention, but the arias that range from high-pitched squeals to basso-profundo bellows accompanied by the occasional low growl from the attacker is hilarious unless you are trying to talk to each other. Sunday morning Laura and I were in the barn and both dogs were there too. But Lily got bored and elected to

but Lify got bored and elected to torment Baxter who kept on trying to escape while making his vocalizations. Laura was attempting to tell me something and I had to shout "What?" to which she had to shout back. No, we weren't fighting, we were just trying to hear each other.

And while in town the sound of traffic is ever-present, the passage of a vehicle along our road makes one take notice due to its irregularity. If someone actually drives onto our property our canine early-warning system sounds the alarm and we know that someone has arrived.

So, never a dull moment living rurally. Walks in the woods with my wife often entail her asking if I can hear that bird. Often I can't. I wear hearing aids. I recall the song: "There were birds in the trees but I never, ever heard them; no I never heard them at all... (because I'm deaf?). When I do hear them, it is a blessing.



GOOD WORKOUT: The ice track at Dragon Hills Golf Course is about one kilometre in length.

### Ice track opens

#### THUNDER BAY By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

Thunder Bay residents have some new recreation options, after the Dragon Hills golf course opened its gates for a range of winter activities.

Michael Komar has thought about launching an ice track at his course just north of the city on Onion Lake Road for years, he said. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, he started getting more requests to accommodate winter sports.

Last Friday, the course welcomed the first skater on its winding, kilometre-long ice track, while also opening up kilometres of trails for walking, snowshoeing, and crosscountry skiing.

The response has been emphatic, with hundreds showing up over the first two days, Komar reported.

"Everybody seems to be just excited to do something – there's not much to do anymore," he said Saturday.

The track took weeks of work with a heavy truck, and will be maintained with a zamboni.

Steve Samec, who came to check out the track with his son Parker, said there's nothing like it in the area.

"It's about time someone in town took a venture like this on," he said.

For nine-year-old Gracie Marano, the track offered a chance to have a different kind of fun on the ice after her hockey season was cut short.

"I'm enjoying it a lot," she said. "Since I can't go play hockey, I get to come here and just have fun."

Dragon Hills plans to open between 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Friday to Sunday, though Komar said those hours could expand depending on demand. Entrance is \$10 a person, or \$20 for a family.

Snacks and refreshments are available for sale on site.

Komar said he'll likely continue the initiative in future years.

"You know, we don't do anything all winter anyway," he said. "We can hopefully run this until March or April and have the golf course open right after that – we'll have a full season."

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### **TBLife** Herring a fun wintertime angling catch



isco, Tullibee, blue fin, or freshwater Cherring: whatever you want to call them, these small and slender relatives of the lake whitefish are a fun target for ice anglers

When the smelt populations in Lake Superior started to decline in the 1980s, herring in the lake really began to thrive. Now, their abundant numbers can mean fast and furious waves of action for hardwater anglers.

Maxing out at about sixteen inches and two pounds, Superior's freshwater herring use their tiny mouths to feed primarily on plankton and insects. Those tiny mouths often result in a lot of "bumps" on your bait before a herring can finally inhale it. In Superior's clear waters, an angler will often feel a bump



NOTHING FISHY HERE: Keith Alley catches a Lake Superior herring.

on their line before peering down the hole to see the characteristic blue backs of a bunch of herring circling their lure. Twitching the bait will get a herring's attention, and, like most fish, they love a free-falling lure. Often, they won't make a true attempt to eat a bait until it is held still.

A little jiggle may be necessary to entice them if they start to lose interest.

Sometimes it will seem the fish is just curious and will simply not commit to taking your offering.

Yet, they will usually follow a wellplayed lure right up to the hole, taking several stabs at it before finally being hooked. If you are seeing herring but not getting any hook-ups, chances are your bait is too large. In this case, downsizing your lure is a good remedy.

Fishing for herring can often be "feast or famine," so it is wise not to waste opportunities.

While it may be tempting to reel in and switch baits while the fish are right below, they are known to disappear during even the fastest lure changes.

This is because these fish are nomads. Cruising along in schools, they are not inclined to stop and chase your bait up and down all day. Having a second rod rigged and ready with a smaller lure will greatly increase the odds of success.

Once herring have moved through an area, it could be a while before the next flash that can speed things up and lure in some fish.

However, while you are waiting for the next school of herring to come into range, it often pays to work the entire water column. You may be rewarded with the occasional lake trout, steelhead or whitefish, but herring have a tendency to occupy different depths at different times.

Keeping within their preferred temperature range, they can be found anywhere from the very bottom to just inches below the ice's surface.

Lake Superior Herring feature delicate meat that is high in Omega-3s, and they taste just fine baked or fried but many people like to smoke them.

If you are heading out on the big lake, please remember that Superior's ice conditions are a lot more volatile than those of an inland lake. With the effects of climate change wreaking havoc on our weather systems, wearing a floater suit and checking the ice conditions with a spud or auger is now more essential



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For the past 55 years 91.5 CKPR and the Port Arthur Rotary Club of Thunder Bay have joined forces in a fundraising effort to make our community a better place to live. This year is no different and on Monday, February 15th. 91.5 CKPR donates all its commercial time to raise money enabling the Rotarians to continue to make significant contributions to many worthwhile projects right here in our own community.

### IN THE bay arts entertainment culture

# The White Tiger welcome winter movie

**O**<sup>n</sup> the surface, The White Tiger (Netflix) is an inverse of Slum Dog Millionaire. Both films are set in India, with a protagonist dreaming of bettering his lowly lot in life. But the similarities end there.

Whereas Slum Dog is suffused with

romantic idealism and a hero innocent of heart, *Tiger* is awash in cynicism, where the protagonist has to navigate between two Indias, one of "darkness"

(lower caste) and "lightness" (upper caste.) This amounts to innocence lost, among other sobering truths.

#### Wants more

We follow young Balram (Adarsh Gourav), a humble but ambitious villager yearning to crawl out from under the thumb of his domineering grandmother to seek opportunity in the big city of Bangalore. He manages to wriggle his way into the ranks of a well-off political family, becoming a driver for Ashok (Rajkummar Rao) and his wife, Pinky (Priyanka Chopra-Jonas), quickly usurping another

long-time servant to become number one driver. Having spent time in America, Pinky

and Ashok reflect more liberal views, discouraging Balram's obsequious tendencies, often butting heads with Ashok's commanding father and espe-

MARTY

MASCARIN

MOVIE TALK

cially Ashok's abrasive, abusive brother Mukesh, who favours swatting the servants.

Despite his modest achievement, Balram must still learn the

ways of the world. He witnesses the family's amoral ways, literally buying the favour of the ruling government.

Balram also faces challenges from within his own class, the other streetwise drivers who mock his naïveté, a 'Country Mouse," who knows nothing of the Internet, Facebook and computers.

And back home, his granny looks to appropriate as much of Balram's wages as she can.

Ashok and Pinky represent India's "lightness" to Balram, who's only too happy to become their "indispensable" servant, out of an ingrained genera-



AMBITIOUS: Adarsh Gourav plays Balram, a young hungry villager, in The White Tiger

tional inclination. However, Balram soon discovers that the couple can be as ruthless as the rest of Ashok's family.

A moment of irresponsible indulgence by Pinky and Ashok compromises Balram, who suddenly finds himself in desperate straits, betrayed by his masters who are only too quick to leave him hanging out to dry.

Employing dark, hard lessons learned along the way, Balram resolves to become a master of his own, realizing 'the white tiger" positive label once bestowed upon him by an education inspector at his elementary school, only to be denied by Balram's granny and her repressive traditional methods.

#### Stark realizations

Over time, Balram's ingratiating, sunny smile gives way to the stoic expression of a calculating entrepreneur, managing India's eternal contradictions, to be "straight and crooked, mocking and believing, sly and sincere."

The White Tiger is based on a 2008 prize-winning, best-selling book by Aravind Adiga. What makes "Tiger" immensely entertaining and eyeopening is its sardonic viewpoint, effectively expressed in first person narrative by Balram.

Director Ramin Bahrani adroitly matches the author's view with witty visual punch lines, combining for an engaging satirical tone, especially in "Tiger's" first half. Adarsh Gourav as Balram is terrific, as is the rest of the cast. The Hindi-rap soundtrack also adds to *Tiger*'s bite.

The White Tiger is a welcome winter entertainment.





### IN THE **BAY Canadian TV gaining foothold in U.S.**

When I was a kid in Northwestern Ontario, television was made up of American shows, kid-friendly TV Ontario programming, The National's Knolton Nash and The Beachcombers.

At least, that's what it seemed like. While Canadians loved their American television, Americans didn't seem to know there was television above the 49th parallel.

Fast forward a decade (OK, a few decades) and a global pandemic, and Canadian television is looking pretty good to our American neighbours.

#### Early success

We quietly got our foot in the door with the Degrassi franchise. Who knew a bunch of awkward teenagers would become a cult favourite south of the border? Even Hollywood director, Kevin Smith was a self-confessed devout fan

Then in recent years, the occasional



Hollywood writers' strike had the American networks looking for alternative programming during summer months or to fill holes. Consequently, Flashpoint got a brief second chance on American TV. Rookie Blue aired for a couple of seasons long after it became a hit in Canada.

And some networks even tried working with Canadian production companies, leading to the CBS/Global co-production



POPULAR: Schitt's Creek became a streaming sensation during the pandemic.

of Ransom which ran for three seasons. Of course, such partnerships haven't always been a raging success. So far, they've been few and far between. But the Emmy awards bestowed on the Canuck hit Schitt's Creek in 2020 has

**WORD SEARCH** 

certainly opened the door to other Canadian gems that were, until now, ignored outside our borders.

In the past year, CBC productions have shown up on the CW in the form of Burden of Truth and Coroner. NBC purchased Nurses, Transplant, and Departure. And even Fox is planning to air legal drama Diggstown this winter.

So Canadian television is now moving into American homes whether they like it or not. And finally, American viewers will get a look at Canadian life.

They will discover that no, we aren't covered in fur. (Yes, a Minnesotan actually once said that.) Or drive snowmobiles to work every day – just during major snowstorms or in very northern towns. And we don't have strange accents. Except for Maritimers and most of us can't understand them either.

But I do worry that some American viewers might be a little misled about Canadian life by these programs. Burden

**O** . . . | . . . .

of Proof and Coroner are strangely dark and somewhat twisted. Most Canadians only get that way after too many beers.

Nurses might give the impression that our hospitals are full of ill-equipped. untrained staff who only have one or two patients during their shift.

#### Stereotypyed?

Alternatively, Schitt's Creek will have them thinking we all live in small towns and are slightly unhinged.

Of course, everyone knows it's just television. But given the growing acceptance of conspiracies and the ridiculous these days, it may not be a totally outlandish concern.

Perhaps a disclaimer should accompany some of these new shows before being presented to American viewers: "The following program contains scenes and storvlines that are fictional and should not be confused with real life. Viewer common sense is required."

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pleasures, costs nothing, and conveys much." - Erastus Wiman

# Sports news information coverage Chill opting out of 2021 campaign

Uncertainty surrounding the border the reason given for soccer club deciding not to play again in 2021 SOCCER Colistro said. "It gave us a different type

### By Leith Dunick - TB Source

he Thunder Bay Chill are opting out of the 2021 United Soccer League 2 campaign. It's the second straight year the team has sat out.

Team president and owner Tony Colistro on Tuesday said last year was tough, but the reality the team won't be suiting up at Chapples Park this coming summer makes the decision really start to hit home hard.

"It is what it is," a slightly dejected Colistro said. "Everybody's facing challenges. Obviously our USL team is an important element of our team. We're happy we can still operate our youth programs, based on whatever the protocols are.

"We'll continue to work hard at that and hopefully we'll be able to get back in 2022.

Colistro said the ongoing border closure and the uncertainty surrounding the ability to bring players into Canada were the deciding factors. They'd hoped to see some progress on both fronts, but with the league wanting to move forward with a schedule, the decision couldn't wait any longer.

Colistro said the plan is to put a championship caliber team on the field in 2022, building on the franchise's storied past that includes a Premier Development League title in and trips to



the league final in 2010, 2013 and 2017. "Time will tell. We've definitely built the opportunity to attract some very good players here. We still get lots of interest from players. We still communicate with them and assure them that when we do come back we'll look to get back right where we were as one of the top competitive teams in the league. That's still going to be our goal," Colistro said.

"We'll just have to take it day-by-day and prepare for all the unknowns that are ahead of us." The Chill organization will turn its

focus this coming summer to its youth programs, which have been their bread and butter for the past two decades.

"The USL team was an added bonus."

of entertainment for our fans and our players. But obviously the youth program always comes first and we're ensuring we're always working hard with that."

Winnipeg FC, the USL2's other Canadian team, has also opted out for 2022

League president John Nash said it was probably the best move given the circumstances. .

"We absolutely support the Thunder Bay Chill decision," Nash said in a release. "We live in times when it is of paramount importance for some of our clubs to think beyond soccer for the good of their communities, and we look forward to welcoming the Chill back even stronger in 2022.'

Colistro said he's suggested to Winnipeg's new ownership that if conditions allow in late summer or early fall, that the Chill might be willing to play exhibitions against their cross-border rivals as a chance to mark a return to Chapples Field after several seasons at Fort William Stadium.

It gives the Chill plenty of time to prepare for the 2022 campaign, Colistro said.

"But it allows us to really appreciate what we had. And that's why I think we're going to do even a better job when we come back. No one's taking anything for granted."

### be a Super Bowl for the ages **Brady versus Mahomes**



When Tom Brady left the New England Patriots and signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, deep down I think a lot of us wanted to see him face off against Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl. Well, OK, at least I did.

For Brady, Super Bowl LV will be his 10th championship game. Yeah, I know some of you are getting sick of seeing him playing for another title.

His former team is the most hated team in football and the allegations of cheating are still a cloud hanging over his head.

There were accusations he was nothing

more than a system quarterback. Looks like that system followed him to Florida. Like him or not, Brady is the greatest quarterback in NFL history. He's got six rings, has thrown a league-record 581 touchdowns and when all is said and done, assuming he doesn't retire after this season, he'll pass Drew Brees for the most yardage all-time too.

My generation's had it pretty good. We had Wayne Gretzky, the greatest NHL player of all-time, lead us through our youth. Then we got Michael Jordan and Barry Bonds, steroids and all, in basketball and football

If you don't like Jordan at No. 1, then we've also gotten a front-row view of LeBron James's travelling road show that brought titles to Miami, Cleveland and Los Angeles.

But I digress.

On the other side of the ball on Sunday will be Mahomes, likely the only active quarterback in the NFL with any chance at catching Brady and taking the title of greatest of all-time. Sorry, Aaron Rodgers.

Mahomes won his first Super Bowl last season and his Kansas City Chiefs are the odds-on favourite to win a second straight this time around.

Back-to-back winners are rare in the NFL. The last time it happnened was in 2003 and 2004, the Patriots led by youknow-who.

Mahomes, at 25, has thrown for 114 touchdowns in 46 starts and might be one of the best all-time at making something out of nothing, with across-the-body throws that most other quarterbacks would only try playing Madden '21.

Brady is 43, but hasn't shown any signs of letting up this season.

How tight should this match-up be?

The two teams played in Week 12 and

the Chiefs eked out a 27-24 win, Mahomes throwing for 462 yards and three touchdowns - all to speedy wideout Tyreek Hill, who finished with 13 grabs and 269 yards.

Brady also had three touchdowns, two of them to Mike Evans. But he was picked off twice by an underrated-nomore Kansas City defence and three times against Green Bay in the AFC championship game.

It's tough to bet against Brady, but it might be even tougher to go against Mahomes, who's got Travis Kelce and Hill to throw to and can also use his mobility a little better than his aging opponent.

It's shaping up to be a pretty close game. Most sports books have Kansas City as three-point favourites, which matches the result of their regular-season meeting. Then again, only four Super Bowls since 1990 have been decided by

a field goal or less.

The Buccaneers also have home-field advantage, a Super Bowl first, but I'm not sure how much of an edge that will give them, even with 22,000 fans in the stands. Mask up, Florida.

I didn't fare so well in my AFC and NFC championship predictions, so this time around I've also asked my radio and TV colleagues for their thoughts on who's going to win the big game. Drum roll, please ...

- Leith Dunick: Kansas City 31-27
- Michael Mohorovich: KC 37-33
- Troy Charles: Kansas City 35-28
- Brittany Ramsay: KC 34-18
- Ryan Bonazzo: Kansas City 31-25
- Bryan Wyatt: Tampa Bay 34-31
- Tyler Kelaher: Kansas City 30-26
- Brad Hilgers: Kansas City 28-24
- Jonathan Wilson: Tampa Bay 42-39
- Kaile Wanzuk: Tampa Bay 34-31

• Ted Jessop: Tampa Bay 34-28

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Did You

**sports** NEWS

# Did You Know That... LU standout heads up MWBA

#### BASKETBALL By Leith Dunick - TB Source

ormer Lakehead Thunderwolves standout guard Tasia McKenna has been tagged to head up the fledgling Maritime Women's Basketball Association.

The six-team league, has teams tentatively located in Halifax and Windsor, N.S., as well as in three New Brunswick cities - Fredericton, Saint John and Moncton.

McKenna, who most recently was the technical director of Basketball Nova Scotia, starred for Lakehead between 2006 and 2011, where she was a three-time Ontario University Athletics all-star.

She said she can't wait to get the new league rolling and help develop the women's game in Canada even further.

"The MWBA was an idea that caught my attention early and the more we are delving into the creation and foundation of its design, it's an exciting initiative that I wanted to be a part of right away,' said McKenna, who hails from Timberlea, N.S., part of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

"It's a league that will offer competitive play, promote female basketball from players to coaches to officials and minor officials and beyond. It's something I certainly wish existed when I was playing."

#### Made her mark

McKenna, who starred at Queen Elizabeth and Halifax West high schools before heading to Thunder Bay in 2006, is still the Thunderwolves all-time leading scorer, posting 1,341 points in 110 appearances in the white, blue and

thing I certainly wish existed when l was playing."

gold. She's second in team history with 184 three-"It's somepointers made, and second behind Jerika Baldin with 294 assists. McKenna credits her time with the Thunderwolves for helping her understand just how passionate she was about basketball. TASIA MCKENNA "I realized early at

Lakehead how much the game meant to me, but I also wanted to make sure I wasn't going to be recognized as only an athlete," McKenna said

"There was so much opportunity and I wanted to take advantage of that in the classroom and on the court."

After leaving Thunder Bay, McKenna returned to Nova Scotia, where she was an assistant coach at the Canada Summer Games and later started her own business, Crossover Basketball. She's served time as head coach of the Halifax Grammar School's female team and for the past six seasons has been an assistant coach with the Saint Mary's Huskies women's basketball team.

NEW ROLE: Tasia McKenna starred at Lakehead University from 2006 to 2011, and is still the team's all-time leading scorer.

"Sports and basketball have opened so many avenues and although it wasn't easy at first to step out of a certain comfort zone and become a voice, my background has made it easier," she said.

"Basketball has been a focus in my life because it has created so many

opportunities. My inner circle of family and friends are my guiding compass. They keep me grounded and are a daily reminder of what is most important in life."

#### Other ties

McKenna isn't the only person with ties to Lakehead University involved with the league. Brandon Rafuse, an assistant under Thunderwolves women's coach Jon Kreiner, is also an owner with the Halifax Thunder, one of two teams slated to play in the Nova Scotia capital.

The MWBA will be strictly for amateur players, though eligibility requirements have yet to be determined.



### PRIZED PLAYER: Former Kings standout Nicholas DeGrazia plays in Rayside-Balfour.

### **DeGrazia's highly rated**

#### HOCKEY By Leith Dunick - TB Source

ockey may be on hold, but Thunder Bay's Nicholas DeGrazia looks like he's headed for a pretty good year.

The Rayside-Balfour Canadians centre was given a 'B' grade in the National Hockey League Central Scouting Bureau's mid-season players to watch report, one of nine players skating with a Canadian Junior Hockey league club to receive a mark. The rating pencils DeGrazia in a s a

possible second- or third-round choice.

The 6-foot-1 18-year-old is a graduate of the Thunder Bay Kings program and had seven goals and 15 points with the Canadians before play was halted in 2020-21.

He had 61 points in 46 games last season, adding a goal and an assist in four appearances with the Ontario Hockey League's Sudbury Wolves.

Corson Ceulemens, a defenceman with the Brooks Bandits, was the lone CJHL player to receive an 'A' rating, making him a potential first-round pick.

Ty Mueller (Sherwood Park), Alex Teleguine (Chilliwack), Finlay Williams (Penticton), Ryan Gillespie (Brockville), Nolan Dann (Georgetown), Declan Ride (Oakville) and Lucas Strickland (Stouffville) all received C grades, suggesting they could hear their name called in the fourth- to sixth-round range.

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