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Thursday, February 10, 2022

# Scotties silver lining

McCarville rink takes second at national women's curling championship /3, 13-14



Northern Ontario coach Rick Lang, alternate Jen Gates, lead Sarah Potts, second Ashley Sippala, third Kendra Lilly and skip Krista McCarville with their silver medals. (Andrew Klaver)

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THUNDER BAY SOURCE

# Council docks Ruberto's pay

## Councillor posting to Facebook draws commissioner's ire

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Thunder Bay's city council has sanctioned Coun. Aldo Ruberto for comments he made online about an incident in which a man ran over a tent at a homeless encampment.

The issue divided council on a 6-4 vote, however, with several councillors expressing skepticism over a report from the city's integrity commissioner that found Ruberto had breached the city's code of conduct.

### Suspension of salary

That close vote will result in a five-day suspension of pay for Ruberto. Council also unanimously accepted a recommendation to explore developing specific social media guidelines for councillors.

Ruberto's comment on Facebook expressing hope there could be an innocent explanation for the incident violated the widely-recognized principle elected officials shouldn't comment on ongoing criminal investigations or matters before the courts, the integrity commissioner's report found.

It concluded he had violated code provisions that councillors must be "held to a higher standard of behaviour" that "promotes public confidence [and] avoids the improper use of influence of their office," among others.

It also raised serious concerns over the at-large councillor's social media use generally, including his propensity to block members of the public and, in this case, a journalist who pressed him on his comments.

Blocking by elected officials is acceptable to combat harassment

and inappropriate comments, the report found, but should not be "arbitrary" or used to silence opposing views.

Ruberto rejected those conclusions in no uncertain terms Monday, saying he'd done nothing wrong, and dismissing the report as simply the commissioner's "interpretation" of events.

On Oct. 6, 2021, the day after a man drove his truck over a tent at an abandoned gas bar at County Fair mall, which had become a gathering place for people experiencing homelessness, Ruberto posted the following on Facebook:

"I hope it is a case of the wind blowing a tent and hitting the truck. And not a truck purposely running over a stationary tent. The safety of people is the ultimate goal."

The man was charged later that day with dangerous driving.

The use of the gas bar for shelter

had sparked tensions, with the city days earlier backing down on a plan to fence it off with police support.

Several councillors expressed greater concern over the integrity commissioner's report than Ruberto's comments, over the course of a more than two-hour debate Monday.

Some - Mayor Bill Mauro, and Couns. Albert Aiello, Cody Fraser, and Peng You - voted against even granting the integrity commissioner time to make remarks introducing the report. The same four councillors later cast votes against sanctioning Ruberto.

Mauro called the "sub judice" principle that elected officials shouldn't comment on matters before the courts "incredibly important."

However, he said the idea Ruberto's comments could be seen to influence an investigation was "a stretch." The publicity surrounding the report had been punishment enough, he added.

"I spoke to a lot of people, and they

just don't get it," agreed Coun. Aiello. "They're like, he didn't say anything bad... I didn't see any malice there, I didn't see anything there."

### Higher standards

"It's not a question of malice or intention to impede [an investigation]," said Janice Atwood of Principles Integrity, the firm that provides integrity commissioner services to the city.

"It's the failure to recognize that obligation of an elected official not to engage in speculative discussion with respect to a live, active police investigation."

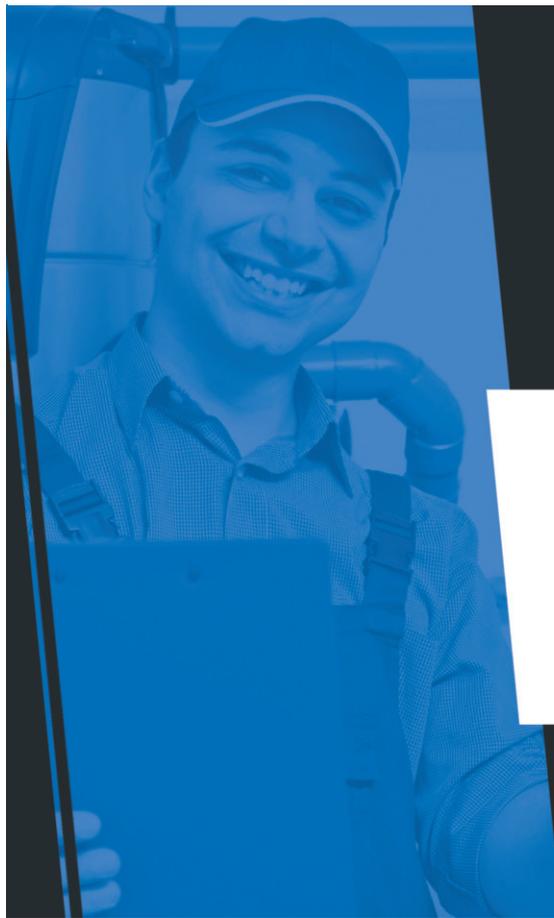
Ruberto called the report an example of "cancel culture," saying the regulation of councillors' online speech could put a chill on their freedom of expression.

"This happened to me - it could happen to you," he said. "We are all on trial tonight."

That warning resonated with some.



ALDO RUBERTO



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# Scotties redux?

## Success of this year's event could lead to 2025 return

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The 2022 Scotties Tournament of Hearts was a pretty good dress rehearsal for what organizers hope could lead to a return by Curling Canada as soon as 2025.

With only a limited number of volunteers allowed inside Fort William Gardens, and not until the final weekend, co-chair Diane Imrie said despite all the challenges posed by the pandemic and operating in a bubble format, she thinks the city showed the sports national governing body that Thunder Bay is deserving of a second chance when COVID-19 is presumably a thing of the past.

"This was our dress rehearsal and we passed with flying colours," Imrie said on Sunday night, crews behind already starting to restore the Gardens to its traditional self.

"They're very happy, the fans were happy and we're looking forward to having them come back."

While no promises have been made by Curling Canada, Imrie said they've been given every indication they'll be high on the priority list for 2025.

Next year's Scotties is scheduled for Kamloops, B.C. and the 2024 bidding process is just getting under way.

"We can talk with them potentially about 2025," Imrie said. "There's some events happening in other years that may not allow it earlier than that, so we're going to start to have some negotiations with them on that."

Tickets sales in Thunder Bay for the initial 2021 event, pushed back a year when Curling Canada decided to move its championships inside the Calgary bubble, will be a pretty big selling point for the city to host again in three years.

"They were thrilled how fast they were bought up, so it's an indication of how hungry this



Thunder Bay's Karlee Everist, was named the most sportsmanlike curler. Everist was born and raised in Thunder Bay. (Curling Canada/Andrew Klaver)

community is to have high-level curling here. I'm pretty sure they'll be back and we're looking forward to that."

John Cameron, a co-chair and a tourism development officer at Tourism Thunder Bay, said the event went as smoothly as could be expected, given the lack of fans and the protocols in place to operate the bubble.

But oh, what might have been, Cameron said.

"I think Thunder Bay could have blown it out of the water. It was a perfect scenario, having the run by Krista McCarville and people and the fans in the town hungry for curling," he said. "It was a great scenario as far as media went and I think the whole media coverage and the excellent national coverage from TSN was great."

"Thunder Bay showed well across the nation, so from the tourism standpoint, I think the vignettes and the ads that we ran showcase Thunder Bay well. It was great promotion for Thunder Bay."

Cameron gives it good odds that the city will get to host again,

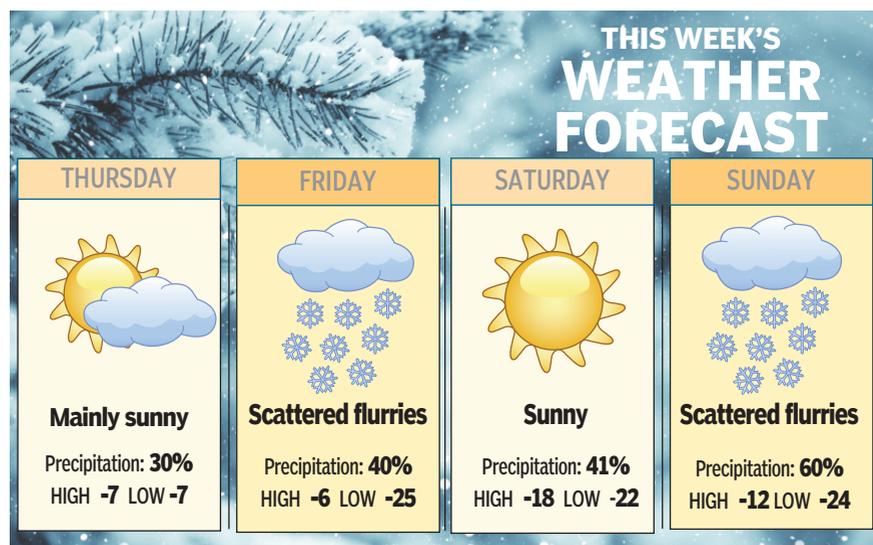
in as soon as three years, but cautioned there are some local aspects that need to be addressed before the conversation with Curling Canada can truly start.

"I think we have a good opportunity. It will come down to some final negotiations with Curling Canada. But really the negotiations are with the local curling community and whether the three curling clubs, Kakabeka, Port Arthur and Fort William, want to come forward and be the host committee again."

Cameron said the Community Economic Development Commission, which supplied the \$400,000 bid fee - later reduced to \$150,000 by Curling Canada - has tremendous potential for the city and its economic base.

"We got great value out of it and we want to see that \$7 to \$8 million of economic impact that we didn't have and fill 13 to 15 hotels in our city. We want those extra 5,000 people coming to our city over the 10 days of our event," Cameron said.

If the Scotties aren't in the cards, the city and its 71-year-old arena is probably too small to go after a Brier, but Cameron said they could seek out a Grand Slam of Curling event.



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# McKinnon on leave

## Councillor hopes to be back soon

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Coun. Brian McKinnon has announced he is taking a leave from Thunder Bay's city council, over what he described as personal reasons.

The long-time Red River ward councillor has been absent from several recent meetings, including deliberations over the 2022 municipal budget.

In a letter to council colleagues, McKinnon asked for understanding, and respect for his family's privacy, during his absence.

"My duties as an elected official for the City of Thunder Bay are important to me," he wrote. "I want to reassure constituents that I do not take this time away from my responsibilities lightly and am proceeding because it is necessary at this time."

McKinnon, a retired principal first elected to council in 2006, said he hoped to return to his duties by March.

In the meantime, he said the city clerk's office would be working with him to redirect correspondence from constituents. He also encouraged constituents to contact other members of council with questions or concerns. Councillors require a resolution of



Red River Coun. Brian McKinnon was first elected to city council in 2006. (FILE)

council to approve absences of more than three consecutive months. Without that approval, their seat can be vacated under Ontario's Municipal Act.

McKinnon said while notice of his absence was not formally required until that three-month mark, he wanted to "be transparent and open with residents of Thunder Bay."

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# Ottawa's a war zone: MP

By Gary Rinne - TB Source

MP Marcus Powlowski returned to Parliament Hill on Monday for the first time since protesters from across the country jammed the centre of the capital with trucks to vent their anger over COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

"It feels a bit like a war zone," the Liberal member for Thunder Bay-Rainy River said.

Powlowski's taxi could only take him within several blocks of Parliament, so he had to walk the rest of the way.

"All the roads are blockaded off, mostly with truckers, sometimes by police cars," he said. "The place has kind of gone to hell the last couple of weeks. It seems to be run by a mob of not particularly nice people."

Powlowski said he's heard of people wearing masks getting stopped by aggressive protesters who try to intimidate them.

He said he feels sorry for the people of Ottawa and the police for having to put up with this.

In an interview, the Liberal MP was asked about Prime Minister Trudeau's refusal to meet with the protesters.

"It's not like the Prime Minister hasn't spoken to people who are opposed to vaccine mandates. We all have in our everyday life... He, probably a lot more than me, has spoken to more people who disagree with his opinion. I'm not sure what the protesters are going to tell him that's new."

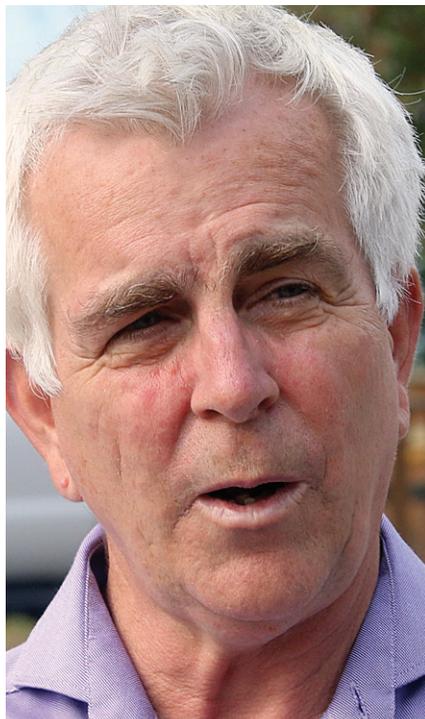
Powlowski said his response to critics who suggest 'Go talk to these people' is that the protesters wouldn't likely be willing to listen to anything, and that a meeting would quickly escalate to anger-fuelled shouting.

"It really has been a mob mentality. Perhaps you're dignifying them more than you ought to by recognizing them as being worth talking to."

He said the protesters are openly confrontational and verbally aggressive.

"It's not like they inspire dialogue. People have a right to protest, but it would seem what's happening here has gone beyond a protest."

Federal NDP leader Jagmeet Singh on Monday called for an emergency debate in the House of Commons, calling the demonstration a direct threat to



Liberal MP Marcus Powlowski is back in Ottawa.

Canadian democracy and alleging foreign interference.

Singh accused the government of showing no leadership on the issue.

But Powlowski believes a debate will accomplish little except to provide a showcase for politicians to get themselves on the news.

He currently plans to be in Ottawa for the duration of the week, but that could change, he said, because some MPs are uncomfortable being in the capital at this time.

"If that's the case and they need people to be here, I might stay for longer to take somebody else's spot. It's a hybrid Parliament, so we're supposed to be here half the time and not here half the time."

Powlowski said it's his job to be in the capital.

"People protest, and you have to deal with protesters. That's part of being an elected politician, and I'm not running away from it."

The MP said it's "pretty significant" that the protesters have undermined democracy by scaring some MPs away from Parliament.

"We're elected. No one elected them," he said.

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EDITORIAL

# Give us a plan

It's time for leaders from all levels of government to lay out their pandemic end game.

Not to appease the occupiers in Ottawa. But clearly a good chunk of the country is frustrated with repeated measures and mandates put in place, lifted, and put back in place.

The Omicron variant appears to be starting to wane. Daily case counts, not necessarily all that accurate, but still something to point to, are down significantly in Ontario and other provinces.

Premier Doug Ford last year laid out an ambitious plan to end all mandates, but the arrival of the highly transmissible variant ended those plans in a hurry.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has enacted requirements for costly PCR tests to return to Canada, and still has quarantines in place for the non-vaccinated, including truckers, who are at the heart of the protests in Ottawa and elsewhere.

Give the public some hope and let them know when those restrictions, and others - mostly at the provincial level, mind you - can start to be lifted and when they can expect mask mandates to be lifted. It'll go a long way.

## Stop the insanity To the editor:

The illegal and irresponsible occupation of downtown Ottawa is dangerous and pointless. This action will not force governments to discontinue efforts to encourage and mandate vaccinations nor will it dissolve an elected government.

The leaders of this protest don't represent the vast majority of truck drivers or Canadians generally. Two of the leaders are not even truck drivers but known political activists. It's time for the governments of Ottawa, Ontario and Canada to consider legal action.

The license plates of all illegally parked vehicles should be recorded to establish ownership. A court order should be sought to end the protest and freeze the gofundme money. An action should be commenced against the organizers, truck owners for damages to the governments, businesses and residents.

If this mob loses funding and faces the real prospect of having to pay serious damage awards and legal fees the party might be over

Don Lenardon,  
Thunder Bay

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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# Nothing lost in translation in these novels

Fyodor Dostoevsky is one of my favourite Russian authors. We all know his classic works such as *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brothers Karamazov*. But we may not be so familiar with this work that is a coiled spring of kinetic energy from start to finish.

No doubt much is lost in the translation, although this version by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky has been lauded as the standard version in English, conveying both the tragedy and the tormented comedy of the original Russian. They give us the musical whole of Dostoevsky's genius.

There are also many hidden cultural references that may escape

the Western eye. Winston Churchill famously defined Russia as 'a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma'. This novel is a case in point.

'I am a sick man ... I am a wicked man'. With this sentence Dostoevsky began one of the most revolutionary novels ever written, a work that marks the frontier, not only between 19th and 20th century fiction, but between two centuries' visions of the self.

For the unnamed narrator of *Notes From Underground* is a multiplicity of selves, each at war with the others - all at war with

everything else.

It is not just the protagonist and the stories he tells that keeps us turning from page to page (I dare you to put this book down). It is also the sheer power of his writing that demands our attention as he takes us deep into his underground world.

*Alberta & Jacob* by Cora Sandel is another book in translation, this time from Norwegian into English by Elizabeth Rokkan. The introduction by Solveig Nellinge is very useful.

Cora Sandel's real name, Sara

Fabricus, did not become known until several years after her first book was published. She was born in Oslo in 1880. Her father was a naval officer and when she was 12 her family moved to Tromso, in the northern part of Norway, which is where *Alberta & Jacob* is set.

The natural environment forms both the backdrop and the structure of this delightful novel. Sandel takes us through the seasons, in great detail, so that we feel we are living in Tromso as it moves through darkest winter, to the hope of spring, the glory of summer, and the anti climax of fall.

Tromso is a small conservative claustrophobic community that

Alberta aches to break free from. As the daughter of the Magistrate she must show social decorum at all times while her brother can get drunk and chase women around the town.

Some of the most interesting characters in this book are those who are not subject to middle class social conventions. These include the sex workers, working class (who are avoided at all costs) and, most of all, the 'Lapps'. These are the Sami and Indigenous people who inhabit Sapmi, their preferred name for Lapland, and adjacent areas of Northern Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. They are feared because of their nomadic lifestyle.



**John Pateman**  
BOOK BANTER

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# City passes on Oscar the Crow

By JR Shermack - TB Source



Crows have been trained to pick up litter in return for food in other jurisdictions. (FILE)

All year long there are crows patrolling our city making their presence known with repeated loud and somewhat abrasive caws.

But if crows expect to continue taking advantage of city life they may soon have to earn their keep.

The free ride is over and crows may soon be conscripted and trained to do our dirty work for us - the devilish plan came to light during a recent Thunder Bay city council meeting.

I was watching and listening to a presentation by EcoSuperior when something unusual arose out of the discussion that caught my attention.

Their summary report described the quantity and variety of litter accumulating on city streets, in city parks and along city waterways.

I was surprised by the number of discarded protective masks and gloves (shame on those litterbugs) and the number of cigarette butts being snuffed out on the ground.

I myself have tap-danced around castoff blue masks as I walk along and it is literally a sickening sight -

what can you do with folks like that?

I was more interested in the huge butt situation - for example, a 265 kilogram sample of litter collected around the city contained almost 60 per cent butts.

In 2021 EcoSuperior recycled 518 kilograms of nicotine stained butts, that's 2,592,613 individual smokes, which seems like a lot to a non-

smoker.

But this is just our local contribution to the 4.5 trillion abandoned butts that are polluting the global environment.

Discarded cigarette butts and the attached filters are hazardous material flowing through storm sewers and into waterways where they are toxic to marine life.

Somebody should do something, but what?

Back at the council meeting, during the question period an unorthodox remedy came to light and this is where the crows come in.

I was intrigued when Coun. Ch'ng brought forward an idea (somewhat sheepishly) that wild birds could be trained to pick up trash.

EcoSuperior was vaguely aware of this strategy, but had no plans to go to the birds and the discussion fizzled out after some frivolous comments about hiring birds.

Not everybody takes it so lightly - in 2017 a Dutch project named Crowbar trained crows to pick up butts in exchange for food but the campaign ended out of concern for the birds.

It was tried again in 2018 at a historical theme park in France and now in 2022 a city in Sweden has started a pilot project employing crows to solve its serious butt removal problem.

They are using a newly designed machine that dispenses a morsel of food every time a crow drops a butt into the device - crows work

cheap.

The man who came up with this ingenious scheme claims that the wild birds are picking up butts voluntarily - I wonder how he knows that.

With the amount of toxic trash that is being handled the health of the birds is a consideration but the crows should have known the risks before they volunteered.

The city could potentially cut its butt removal budget by 75 per cent - the estimated cost of picking up a single butt is 12 cents but crows could bring the cost down to just three cents per butt.

I assume the savings will be used to treat all the volunteer crows who develop a nicotine dependency, not to mention a nagging cough and shortness of breath.

As for me, I don't think we need a Caw Patrol or any other butt birds and from the crow's perspective, it's demeaning work handling hazardous material for a measly morsel.

How typically human to get someone else to do our dirty work for us.

what's happening  
in and around...

## The Bay

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### Feb. 10 Arts and Craft Beer

John Murray, the head chef at the Red Lion Smokehouse, is hosting a Valentine's cookie decorating party. Learn how to decorate a cookie that tells that special someone just how much you really care. Tickets are available on Eventbrite and cost \$31.12 per person. They include a pint of beer or a small wine and four heart-shaped cookies.

### Feb. 11/12 Lakehead vs. Guelph

The Thunderwolves women's and men's basketball teams retake the court on Friday and Saturday night at the Thunderdome. Limited tickets are available to non season ticket holders, and tickets must be purchased during regular business hours at the Wolf Den. The women's game tips off at 6 p.m., while the men are scheduled for 8 p.m.

### Feb. 12 Winter tracking adventure

The Thunder Bay Field Naturalists and guest leader Gerry Racey will lead participants on a snowshoe scavenger hunt through the various habitats of Mills Block Forest, learning how to identify and spot signs of wildlife. The event is free and takes place between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Visit [www.tbfn.net](http://www.tbfn.net) for more information, or phone 633-0189.

### Feb. 13 Winter Fun Days

Get outdoors and energize your body as you move through creative movement with the Community Arts and Heritage Education Project at Marina Park. Winter Fun Days are free and take place from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### Feb. 13 Singles Valentine's Day Party

Spending Valentine's Day alone? Not

any more. This is an online meet-up to let people enjoy Valentine's together, featuring games, great conversations - and maybe even a chance to meet someone new! The cost is \$11.34 and tickets are available at [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca).

### Feb. 14 Paint Nite

Dubbed the Original Paint and Sip Party, it's a chance to execute your own masterpiece in just a few, easy steps. You choose your painting and bring your friends to the virtual venue - your device. No experience is necessary. Artist Veronica Racanelli will guide participants through the process, teaching them how to go from blank canvas to a work of art, while sharing good times with friends old and new. Tickets for Paint Nite: The Original Paint and Sip Party, are \$39 and available at [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca). Presented by Yaymaker.

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

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WEEKLY POLL QUESTION.

### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should council follow its integrity commissioner's ruling and dock Aldo Ruberto five days' pay?

TOTAL VOTES: 1,392

**YES** 64.3%     **NO** 30.53%     **DON'T KNOW** 5.17%

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# Tractor time

Big Red is back! My ancient tractor wot was inert for two weeks is back in action. I have detailed ad nauseum the reasons for Red's inaction in previous columns. Suffice it to say Red's stand-still was a combination of Murphy's Law and the ineptitude of Farmer Fred. But now all is well and two weeks of snow build-up due to snow falls and snow drifts were eliminated in Red's snow-blower.

February is the 'heart' month. The colour associated with this month and hearts is red. We have Valentine's Day just around the corner, a day celebrating love often with a box of chocolates in a heart-shaped box. And it was this past weekend that the one part necessary for Big Red's resuscitation arrived. I was informed that Ken, gentleman who'd accepted the task of getting Red operational since he knows how these machines work, would be showing up around noon on this particular day. Red is back in action.



**Fred Jones**  
RURAL ROOTS

Of course, it is always freezing out when Murphy's mischief causes trouble. Even after I messed up in the changing of the fuel filters and over-tightening of the bolts caused the glass bowl holding the filter shatter to, it took a week to get a new one. Why?

The parts supplier in Winterpeg sent the wrong one. Fortunately, Ken found a local gent who has access to all kinds of places that handle parts for ancient farm equipment.

I was at our local dump Saturday and met my hay supplier and regaled him with the latest in my tractor woes. He chuckled, put his arm around me, and said: "Murphy really loves you!" Yeah well though it is Heart month, that kind of 'love' I can do without, thank you. But he also said I wasn't alone, the shattering of sediment bowls not a few farmers have done at some time. Phew!

My wife Laura, an avid gardener, is anxious for spring. Her entire concentration last summer was on re-doing and expanding our vegetable garden, digging up the soil, adding new, and making permanent beds. Seed catalogs arrived before Christmas and were even brought to bed as she poured over the pages writing down what seeds she needed and what new ones she'd like to grow. So, over the past couple of weeks Laura has been receiving packets of seeds in the mail.

I asked when the planting was to begin and she said that it wouldn't be long.

Spring planting means that one end of our dining table is cleared of salt, pepper shakers and the tablecloth is rolled back to be replaced with newspaper upon which a large plastic tub is set with potting soil. Small seedling pots are filled and seeds planted. These are set in trays that get moved to the shelves that I will have brought into the living room to be stood before our large picture window.

Over the next few weeks, more shelves are positioned and more trays set upon them. Eventually, the view through our windows is blocked by a jungle of green growing things that will be transplanted into larger pots and then when the temperature is right, taken to the garden and shoved into the permanent beds.

Some of the plants get to go out early because we have a makeshift greenhouse in the garden as well as one attached to the back of Casa Jones.

But all that is in the future which, as my weekly luncheon companion likes to say, he is told is on its way.



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# Home cooking on Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day 2022. With the current state of the world many of you will be either 1) cooking at home this Valentine's, or 2) ordering take out. Either option is perfectly normal in 2022 during the unpleasantness we have all been experiencing for 2 years plus now.

If you're wanting to impress your significant other with a fancy dinner, but you're not experienced in cooking and have no way of knowing where to start, you're not alone. If you are a more rudimentary cook, these kinds of dinners can be intimidating.

Let's run through some tips that

will take the stress from trying to cook a restaurant quality meal when you're more of a hamburger helper kinda person.

Timing is critical, but remember, if you're doing this on your own, you only have two hands, and you can only focus on one thing at a time.

Therefore, make menu choices that require short, medium and long cook times and different cooking

styles.

*What does that mean, for the love of God, you gotta tell us?*

Alright calm down.

Here we go.

Choose a starch or vegetable

that is a casserole or something that can be baked. Therefore, you can put it in the oven and set it and forget it.

See what I did there?

The way to any human's heart is cheese, cheese can help you "seal the deal" for sure.

Baked melty cheese? Even better. Scalloped potatoes au gratin, or a baked broccoli and cheese, perfection.

Sauces are easily made ahead of time and warmed up slowly closer to serving time.

You can even do them in the afternoon and refrigerate them for later.

What about the things that need your constant attention? A creamy mushroom risotto perhaps?

You're going to have to simmer

and stir a risotto constantly and serve close to immediately for the full effect.

Consequently, you're going to want everything else either done or easily watched while you're doing that.

A pan seared duck breast, or bacon wrapped beef tenderloin? Both can be easily seared on one burner while you're stirring and babysitting your risotto adjacently.

Careful with those two, you could potentially create some smoke and then, a theoretically loud smoke detector situation. It could ruin the mood or break your tension but will probably create more stress. Best to take necessary steps to avoid it.

If you have a menu item that

requires a small amount of roasting time, like a roasted asparagus maybe, make sure they are trimmed, seasoned and ready for the oven so they can be thrown in about 10 to 15 minutes before show time.

Cooking is only as stressful as you make it.

There's a lot of ways to diminish the possibility of making it more of a production than it must be. Remember that if you're having a good time, chances are your S/O is too!!

Derek Lankinen is an award-winning chef, author, and restaurateur. He is the Owner/Operator of Beefcake's Burger Factory and Co-Owner of Elite Beef, Eat Loco Tacos and Brick and Mortar Food Co.



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# Unique seasons have plenty to offer

We are fortunate to be able to enjoy four uniquely different seasons in Northwestern Ontario. The changing weather is consistently bringing us new opportunities for different adventures as we progress through each new year.

Many Northerners embrace our winters because the frozen lakes and snow-covered landscape allow us to ski, skate, snowmobile and snowshoe through a gorgeous winter wonderland.

However, the unusually cold January that just passed has forced many of us to spend more time indoors than we would like. When

winter drags on and relentlessly cold temperatures refuse to subside, my excitement for winter inevitably begins to fade.

It is only with the first few mild days in February that I start dreaming about the warmth of the upcoming spring season and the time we can spend outside when frigid weather is no longer a barrier.

I am often anxious to begin the open-water fishing season, and the mighty Lake Superior will provide the earliest opportunity. Many winters, wind and waves keep ice off the more exposed shorelines of the big lake, so

there is an early opportunity to take a few casts into the water. When Superior is calm in the early morning or later in the evening, I like to wade out as far as I can and chuck spoons to intercept the steelhead that are cruising the shoreline.

These fish hang out around river mouths, waiting for meltwater and rain to swell the rivers so they can start their annual spawning migration. Before long, the warmer weather has me eagerly following the fish inland.

By April I am hiking up and down the tributaries that cascade down the steep gradient of our North Shore, looking for solitude and hopefully some pre-spawn steelhead.

After a few weeks of early morning

wake up calls and frozen fingers, my body is crying for mercy as the heavy milage begins to accumulate.

By mid-May I am looking forward to getting off my feet and jumping into a boat with some friends to relax and chase walleye or brook trout. About this time of year I will also start putting some serious miles on the bike and quickly realize I have more plans for adventures than time to complete them all.

Summer flies by and I get distracted by a thousand things. Work projects, fitness challenges and new outdoor adventures fill up the days and weeks. By late August I realize that I have barely done any fishing. I waste no time grumbling though, as the cooling weather has me looking forward to autumn

weekends when I can combine salmon fishing with grouse hunting for some truly epic days.

From late September through November I split my free time between coho salmon fishing and stalking ruffed grouse on my bike.

Soon however, the first snowflakes of an early snowfall get me dreaming of another wonderful winter spent skiing and fat biking.

Before I wish away the month of February, I pause to reflect on the fact that each day gives us a few more minutes of daylight. As well, the warming trend means the very best days of winter fun still lie in the weeks ahead. Instead of waiting around for the next season, I decide to thoroughly enjoy the end of winter first.



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# Whoopi on leave

Recently, *The View* has had a different look and tone with the noticeable absence of Whoopi Goldberg.

The TV veteran had caused a social media uproar last week when she and her co-hosts were discussing a Tennessee school board's vote to remove a graphic novel about the Holocaust from their library. Whoopi said that the Holocaust was "not about race [but] instead about man's inhumanity toward man."

That sentiment did not sit well with Jonathan Greenblatt of the Anti-Defamation League. He responded that the "Holocaust was about the Nazi's systematic annihilation of the Jewish people - who they deemed to be an inferior race."

Whoopi apologized the next day.

She also clarified that in her mind, race is something one can see like the colour of her skin. This interpretation might be due to the fact that she, a black woman, considers herself a non-practising Jew and her family lineage is also Jewish.

So she separated her race - African American - from her religion - Judaism. But she also acknowledged that this was wrong.

There was no avoidance of responsibility. No self-serving justifications.

Yet, despite her sincerity and Greenblatt's apparent acceptance of the apology, noting "public figures [sometimes] say clumsy things about race or faith or gender", ABC suspended Goldberg for two weeks.

This is hardly the first time a difference of opinion has been expressed on *The View*. The show was created 25 years ago to bring women of differing backgrounds together to discuss their views on current affairs.

It was hardly uncommon for the guests to say wild things and for the conversation to get heated.



Whoopi Goldberg has been suspended for two weeks because of Holocaust statements.

Even ugly.

In fact, a parade of former hosts have come forward in the last year to talk about the angry exchanges and personal attacks over ideological differences that occurred on set. So what was different this time that had ABC punishing one of its own?

Was it because it wasn't the view of the guest, but of the host that was so controversial?

Jenny McCarthy has been a vocal part of the controversial autism-vaccination debate since the mid-2000's.

Yet she was hired for the show in 2013. So they must like controversy.

Will a suspension hurt Goldberg financially? The comedian has a net worth of \$60

million. So I think not.

ABC claims it wants Goldberg to take this time "to reflect and learn."

Didn't her apology show that she's already reflected? Does ABC really think a 66-year-old black woman who has spent her 40-year career in the critical public eye need to "learn" about the impact of her comments?

Obviously, ABC had to do something. Public reaction was too loud. Some wanted Goldberg gone. Others said it was too much.

But what's unfortunate is that the social media uproar pulled focus from the book banning and education debate that started it all.

Important issues are losing their place on television and will continue to do so. Especially if we can't safely debate them without guaranteeing 40 lashes afterward.



**Fiona Gardiner**  
FI TV

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— YSPOYYOX QLTOH

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9	8							2

**ACROSS**

1 Palestine Liberation Organ. (abbr.)  
4 Dance company (abbr.)  
7 Chairman (abbr.)  
10 Variegated in color  
11 Remote  
12 Excavate  
14 Plaster  
15 Bot (2 words)  
17 Exclamation  
18 Notes in Guido's scale  
19 Shak, contraction  
20 Russ. range  
22 Equine  
24 Mar  
27 Hebrew letter  
31 Duds  
32 Touch lightly  
34 Guide  
35 Chasm

**DOWN**

1 Metallic sound  
2 Coma  
3 Harem room  
4 Pain

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

O	M	A	A	S	V	A	C	S			
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K	I	L	N	I	N	D	I	C	A	T	E
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N	E	M	A	S	U	B					
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O	E	C	H	E	P	I	N	D			

37 Sugarcane by-product  
39 Cereal grain or grass  
41 Pharaoh  
42 Arrival (abbr.)  
45 Ridge  
47 Revolutions per minute (abbr.)  
50 Regatta (2 words)  
52 Nut  
53 Shak, villain  
54 Videocassette recorder (abbr.)  
55 Hung. violinist  
56 Dive  
57 Poetic contraction  
58 Son of Abijah

5 Geological epoch  
6 Nutlike drupe  
7 Certified Public Accountant (abbr.)  
8 Employ  
9 Turn  
10 Birthplace of Henry IV  
13 Bobbsey twins  
16 Irish fortified place  
18 Eastern standard time (abbr.)  
21 Rope  
23 Muslim prayer  
24 As written in music  
25 Male swan  
26 Habakkuk (abbr.)  
28 Fain  
29 Laughter sounds  
30 Dutch commune  
33 Horse's foot part  
36 Moselle tributary  
38 Right turn  
40 Horse-shoeing stall  
42 Mother of Hezekiah  
43 Via  
44 Fad  
46 Behold! (Lat.)  
48 Supplication  
49 Disfigure  
51 Heavy weight  
52 "The Jungle Book" python



Nicholas Cage plays a truffle farmer in Oregon whose prize pig is stolen after Rob, Cage's character, is attacked.

# Cage returns to form

With the cinematic dog days of winter upon us (nice to see SilverCity open once again!) we find ourselves circling back to latter 2021 releases that were overlooked due to the vagaries of timing.

One such film is *Pig*, (Shaw VOD). This is an unlikely title, with an even likelier star in the form of Oscar winner Nicholas Cage, better known these days for B-grade action/fantasy movies.

However, as dubious as it may sound, *Pig* offers a standout, restrained performance by Cage and a story that, like its protagonist, is not what it seems. Thanks to a novel bit of storytelling *Pig* defies expectations.

The plot is seemingly straightforward, downbeat.

Cage plays Rob, a hermit-like truffle farmer living in the wilds of Oregon. He dotes on his cherished pig that helps him dig up the prized truffles. His lone contact with the outside world comes in the form of weekly visits by his young, coarse buyer,

Amir (Alex Wolff) who sells the truffles to elite restaurants.

One day Rob is attacked and his prized pig is stolen. He enlists a reluctant Amir to drive him to nearby Portland to track down the pig, leading them to contacts in the food industry underworld, from fight clubs to chic restaurants. Through the places and people they encounter, we learn there is far more to Rob than meets the eye.

A surprisingly intricate plot emerges, co-written by first-time director Michel Sarnoski and Vanessa Block. Each stop peels back a little layer about Rob. The story goes beyond finding his pig to learning more about what led Rob to be the taciturn soul he has become. This is no John Wick revenge

saga.

Evidently Rob's name carried much cachet many years ago. Such was his reputation that those he now encounters hold him in respectful regard, despite his scraggly beard and shaggy hair, a homeless person by all

appearances. Cage's visage is intense, but his manner is muted, incisive and articulate.

Rob is governed by principles. There is an amazing scene where he quietly deconstructs a former employee now a big-time chef over the consequences of compromising one's dreams.

As implied by the truffles, food plays an important part in the scenario, "one of the few things one should care about." This is illustrated when Rob prepares a special meal for Darius, (Adam Arkin) Amir's father, a menacing food supply mogul. Rob's preparation touches a nerve in Darius, prompting an unexpected response.

Cage is excellent, controlled and magnetic. Wolff and Arkin offer solid support. Sarnoski neatly ties various plot points together. The cinematography and soundtrack enhance the moody atmosphere.

*Pig* is about loss, grief, being true to oneself, the realities of the food industry. It may not appeal to all tastes but "Pig" stands as an impressive first directorial effort, a return to form for its star, a low-key cinematic winter respite.



Marty Mascarin  
MOVIE TALK

# Scotties was a thrilling ride

What a week of curling. Even though most of us weren't able to watch in person – full disclosure, I was at the semifinal – the excitement that built up in the city over Krista McCarville's run to the championship final was palatable.

I truly hope Curling Canada stays true to its word to local organizers and awards the city another Scotties, this time with fans in the stands at Fort William Gardens.

The old barn held up well for 10 days and the curling was spectacular.

New Brunswick's Andrea Crawford made it all the way to the semifinal, and if it weren't for one missed shot, her final one, it might have been her team in the championship match.

Kerry Galusha, 19 times a Scotties participant, had never once tasted playoff action, but got there this time around, edging out Manitoba's Mackenzie Zacharias in a tiebreaker

on Friday morning.

Thunder Bay's Karlee Everist, the second on Team Nova Scotia, helped her team to the playoffs and was named the most sportsmanlike player in the event.

Former Thunder Bay resident Jenna Enge helped Saskatchewan stay in the playoff hunt until the bitter end.

The curlers were fantastic, it's only a shame they couldn't interact more with their fans.

Kudos to Curling Canada for allowing up to 500 volunteers, future stars and family members of the athletes into the building on the final weekend. It's special for them too.

Seeing the Gardens lit up in green and yellow was something special, and it'll be even better with a packed house in 2025.

Great job by the organizing committee, the volunteers and Curling Canada for putting on such a great, if socially distanced, event.



**Leith Dunick**  
SPORTS SHORTS



Krista McCarville came up a few rocks shy on Sunday in the Scotties final. (Andrew Klaver)

Bring on the next one!



Well, it's Super Bowl week and for one day only, I'm going to be a Cincinnati Bengals fan.

Our late, great Thunder Bay Television sports anchor Randy Scheffee was a huge fan of the Bengals, and would have loved seeing them in another Super Bowl, their third ever appearance.

Since he died in 2019, we've kept his Bengals sign at his desk, a tribute to a man loved throughout the community.

I once bought Randy a Bengals tie and asked him why he never wore it. He said it was because his son, Ty, who was probably seven or eight at the time, had snagged it and hidden it, claiming it as his own.

So this week, let's adopt the Bengals as our team and cheer them to victory over the Los Angeles Rams.



Finally, I have to say I didn't watch a second of the NHL all-star weekend.

When I was young, and there was only a game per week on TV, all-star games were special, a chance to see Marcel Dionne and Denis Savard and Wayne Gretzky play, teams that rarely made it to Hockey Night in Canada.

Today, with nearly every game televised if you want to watch, it's just not that special. And really, it's not exactly hockey, either.

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# Einarson threeppeats

Team Canada wins third straight Scotties, downing McCarville in final

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Krista McCarville had a chance with her final shot to extend the Scotties Tournament of Hearts championship.

The long angle raise just didn't work out as planned.

Trying to move Kerri Einarson's stone sitting on the button, her shot rattled a few rocks around the four-foot, but not the Team Canada stone.

Needing two to force an extra end, instead Team McCarville gave up a steal of one and Team Canada's Kerri Einarson claimed a 9-6 win, and more importantly, her third straight Scotties Tournament of Hearts title, joining the likes of Jennifer Jones and Colleen Jones in the back-to-back-to-back club.

It's not the ending McCarville, third Kendra Lilly, second Ashley Sippala and lead Sarah Potts were hoping to write for the hundreds of fans cheering them on at Fort William Gardens on Sunday night, hoping to erase the disappointment of another runner-up finish six years ago against Alberta's Chelsea Carey.

"It was not really the shot I was expecting to have to have the chance to tie it, but that's just kind of how that end went," a dejected McCarville said. "Nothing seemed to really go our way in that end, but that was the only shot I had for the chance to tie. It was kind of a Hail Mary and it just didn't work."

It was a bittersweet week for Team Northern Ontario, who finished 5-3 in the round robin, defeated Nova Scotia in their opening playoff game, dispatched Tracy Fleury's wild card team to the 3-4 Page Playoff in their second and knocked off New Brunswick's Andrea Crawford, the eventual bronze medallists, in the 1-2 Page Playoff to secure the berth in the Scotties final.

"It's disappointing. We've been here before and you don't know when you're ever going to get back. It was six years for us, so to lose it in the final is tough, for sure. We wanted to win this so bad and we love the game. We tried so hard and I feel like we worked really hard day in and day out and just coming a wee bit short is tough," McCarville said.

For Einarson, who won it all in 2020 and 2021, it's a chance to seek a little redemption at the Women's World Curling Championship in Prince George, B.C. next month.

Her team made the playoffs last year in Calgary, but lost to Sweden in the qualification game. A year earlier the event, also scheduled for Prince George, was cancelled because of the pandemic.

Team Canada was clearly the team to beat in Thunder Bay, given their Scotties pedigree - not to mention their 8-0 run through the round



Team Einarson: Kerri Einarson, Val Sweeting, Shannon Birchard, Briane Meilleur, Krysten Karwacki and Reid Carruthers.

robin.

A loss to New Brunswick in the qualification round made their path to title No. 3 a little tougher, but they got the job done.

"It feels absolutely amazing. To win once is really hard. To do it three times, back-to-back-to-back is extremely hard. I'm so proud of my teammates. They've been unreal all week and they definitely made my job easy," said Einarson, skip of the Gimli, Man.-based foursome, which includes third Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard and lead Briane Meilleur.

The two teams traded points in the first and second end, Einarson starting with the hammer.

Team Canada scored a deuce in the third when McCarville played a hit-and-roll, but left a straight hit for the pair.

Northern Ontario got one back in the fourth with a draw to the four-foot, facing three, but Einarson struck back with three in the fifth and took a 6-2 lead to the break.

McCarville, who roared back from four down against New Brunswick the night before, got two back in the sixth and two more in the eighth, but



Ashley Sippala (left) and Sarah Potts. (Andrew Klaver).

was down two with the hammer coming home and with front half of the rings clogged up, couldn't manufacture two more to extend the match.

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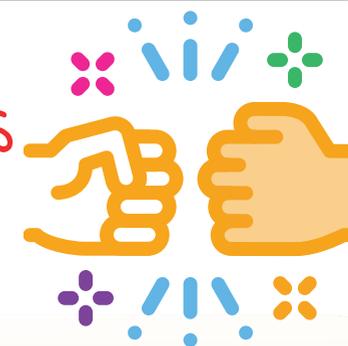
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# HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS

WHEN THEIR OPINIONS ARE VASTLY DIFFERENT FROM YOURS



## 1 BE RESPECTFUL

Respectful communication involves expressing your views in a calm tone of voice and actively listening to the other person when they are speaking.

## 2 STICK TO THE FACTS

Before speaking, ask yourself if your point is a fact or an opinion. Stick to the facts. Avoid emotions, subjective opinions, and negative judgments when communicating.

Keep in mind, this person is a friend or family member, and disagreeing on a topic isn't worth losing your friendship over. Remember, you are disagreeing on a specific topic – not going to war with them!

## 3 KEEP THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE

Respectful communication involves expressing your views in a calm tone of voice and actively listening to the other person when they are sharing their perspectives.

## 4 LOOK FOR A MIDDLE GROUND

## 5 USE "I" STATEMENTS

Validate the other person with statements such as "I understand your point." Avoid beginning sentences with "you," which can make the other person feel defensive. Opt instead for "I" statements (such as, "I feel...").

## 6 AGREE TO DISAGREE

In the end, it is unlikely that either of you will change the other person's mind. So, ultimately, it is best to "agree to disagree" and move on to another (less contentious) topic!



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