

Returning in Red

Businesses excited to reopen under strict rules of Ontario's COVID-19 framework /3



TURTLE RECALL: A Fort William First Nation family on City Road took part in the community's snow sculpture competition over the Family Day weekend.



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Judas and the Black Messiah tells a tale of government racism in the 1960s / 12



Kam River Fighting Walleye make push for NorWest Arena bid / 14

Eleanor Drury Children's Theatre Makes Theatre Accessible for Children

Meet Board Member Lorraine Lortie-Krawczuk



By Janine Chiasson

Seven years ago, Lorraine Lortie-Krawczuk learned a friend was enrolling her son in Eleanor Drury Children's Theatre (EDCT) production of *The Wizard of Oz*, and thought it would be good for her daughter Alexa, 10 years old, on the Autism spectrum, and shy. "She got the role of the wicked witch and was so tiny she needed a special staircase," Lorraine recounts, "but here she was, this huge presence with a booming voice: she just blossomed." When her younger daughter Simone got involved, Lorraine couldn't resist the pull and joined the board.

Lorraine is now president of the hands-on sixmember board where everybody pitches in. She's blunt when she says, "a lot of our challenges are about money." EDCT a non-profit with a mandate to keep things as affordable as possible asks kids to pay a nominal fee of \$125 to be in the show which means fees don't cover costs and ticket prices are very low to allow struggling families and schools to attend. "If cost is prohibitive and people are kept away it goes against everything that Eleanor Drury is all about," Lorraine emphasizes. "It's not about filling the seats, it's about making sure that our actors and families, and the community, have exposure to theatre without financial hardship."

For this to happen, EDCT and generous sponsors subsidize school groups and offer tickets to organizations like the Boys and Girls Club, but the community can help too by attending and promoting shows, paying for a class to come to the show, covering bus costs, or providing food for cast lunches. Plus, Lorraine confirms, "if there's a child that wants to be involved in the production, they won't be turned away."

With a combination of fees, tickets, fundraising, charitable donations, and grants, EDCT stays on stage. But just. The magic ingredient is volunteers. "Our board is so dedicated," Lorraine acknowledges with gratitude, "and our treasurer Susan runs a tight monetary ship. She's also our props master and, like Mary Poppins, just makes things appear incredibly imaginative solutions on a shoestring budget."

EDCT is creative with costuming and everything else to keep their program accessible. The kids work too, breathing life into theatre that is for kids, by kids. "That's what makes us unique," Lorraine emphasizes. "The kids make costumes, they create props, they write the script."

Because EDCT doesn't divide kids by age, 6 to 18 years old work and learn together. "It feels like older and younger siblings interacting, sometimes with annoyance, but you can see the mentoring that goes on," Lorraine points out, "and they learn to accommodate." EDCT has, for example, been using neutral pronouns for a couple of years to avoid actors feeling singled out. "It's part of our acceptance," Lorraine shares. "You're safe here. Just like in a family, it's not always perfect and it's not always smooth, but in the end, we're together."

When showtime comes, these young performers – some of them on stage for the first time ever take over like professionals. But no matter how excellent or innovative, performances need audiences and getting the word out can be a struggle. "We are so grateful to

"It's not about filling the seats, it's about making sure that our actors and families, and the community, have exposure to theatre without financial hardship."

tbaytel for good.stories

be sharing our Eleanor Drury story in a Tbaytel for Good campaign," Lorraine says, "this is absolutely huge for an organization with virtually no advertising budget."

When the show finally gets to the stage, Lorraine thanks her lucky stars again for sponsors like Tbaytel who

help ensure that if there's a child that wants to be involved in the production, they won't be turned away. And Lorraine admits that, "every year, I stand backstage and I think 'wow, we pulled it off again.' And I cry. I'm so proud of them."



EDCT Goes Virtual During COVID

Based on an Oscar Wilde theme, 2020 first-term programming saw cast members exploring verbatim theatre, filming skits, and developing monologues. Starting in January 2021, kids will explore acting for film; music and movement; and visual production techniques like puppetry and claymation; culminating in an online *Wilde Life* performance, to be staged in person when COVID status allows.

Support Youth Live Theatre!

EDCT is a registered Canadian charity bringing accessible live theatre to children and youth in Thunder Bay. Interested sponsors are encouraged to contact EDCT directly (details on Facebook); everyone can make online donations through CanadaHelps.org.

LOCALNEWS



LOCKDOWN OVER: John Murray, owner and chef at the Red Lion Smokehouse, has been closed since Christmas.

Red for reopening

Non-essential stores, gyms, restaurants and salons can open up BUSINESS By Leith Dunick - TB Source

"Am I happy?

You have no

idea l'm over

the moon. I

can't wait to

get back at

it."

TONY MUIA

Red isn't John Murray's favourite colour of the pandemic rainbow, but it beats grey any day of the week.

Murray, the head chef and owner of the Red Lion Smokehouse, last Friday was busy prepping the evening's busy takeout service, but also starting to logistically look at what it was going to take to reopen on Tuesday, when Thunder Bay emerged from lock-down status into the Red-Control zone.

The move means restaurants in the district may reopen to in-person dining, with a maximum of four people per table and 10 patrons inside at any given time.

Though he hasn't officially decided to reopen to in-person dining, it's very likely the popular north-side eatery and pub will welcome customers back inside this week. Murray and his staff are ecstatic.

"We're lucky enough to have a really great restaurant community downtown and we're just really excited to welcome them back, our

regulars, and to see their smiling faces again," Murray said, less than an hour after the province announced the city's return to the colour-coded framework.

"It might not be a lot of people dining in at one time, but we are taking measures to space things out accordingly to give guests the right combination of a good time while they're here, but we do want to have as many guests as we can when it's possible."

Murray, who has yet to finalize details of the reopening, which may or may not happen on Tuesday, said the plan is to slot customers in for 90 minutes, to give them the dining out experience while still being able to get as many guests fed as possible.

Guests will have to wear masks except when eating or

drinking and provide full contact information. Buffets, dancing, singing and live music are not permitted, establishments must close by 10 p.m. and alcohol may not be served after 9 p.m.

Restaurateurs weren't the only business owners celebrating Friday's news.

Tony Muia, owner of Serenity Salon and Wellness, said it's good to learn his business will be among the personal care service outlets that will be allowed to reopen on Tuesday.

It's been a tough 11 months, he said, his business

closed for several months in the spring, then after being open for several more months, closed since Christmas Eve when Ontario went into a province-wide lockdown.

"I'll tell you, a bunch of my clients got called the other day already because I was hopeful we were going back into red," Muia said on Friday. "Am I happy? You have no idea. I'm over the

moon. I can't wait to get back at it." Under the framework, Muia and his staff will

be able to perform most services, with the exception of those that require the removal of a customer's mask.

Hair cuts, colourings and manicures will all be permitted.

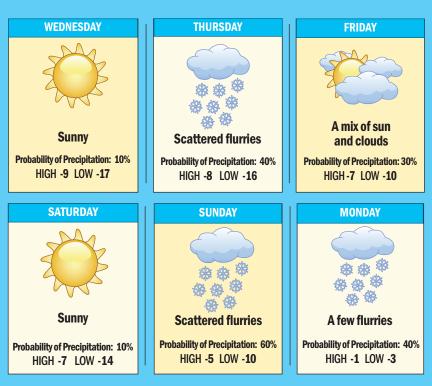
Muia said initially he thought the Christmas lock-down would last two weeks and things would return to normal. It just didn't work out that way and was a frustrating

couple of months. "It's difficult," he said. "And I'm a very positive person. I love life," he said.

Gyms are also allowed to reopen, but are restricted to just 10 people in areas where there are weights or exercise equipment or per indoor class, and 25 people per outdoor class.

Movie theatres, however, are not on the list of businesses that can reopen under red, although drive-in theatres are allowed.

Weather Forecast





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BACK IN BUSINESS: The hospital COVID unit.

COVID unit reopening HEALTH By Leith Dunick - TB Source

With 10 COVID-19 patients in hospital and three in the intensive care unit, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre on Monday reopened its dedicated COVID-19 isolation unit.

The unit was opened early on in the pandemic, and closed in July, never once reaching capacity.

The newly opened unit includes 13 beds on 3A.

In a release, the hospital says it opens the dedicated unit anytime there are more COVID-19 infected cases than available isolation spaces, in an effort to protect the safety of staff.

Patients who are confirmed to have COVID-19, or suspected of having it, will be cared for at the COVID-19 unit.

Peng You takes PC nomination

Councillor says he is impressed with Ford government

POLITICS By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Progressive Conservative Party is the only party that can make a difference for Northwestern Ontario.

It's why the first-term city councillor sought out and captured the nomination for the party in Thunder Bay-Superior North.

A political neophyte when he swept into the top of the at-large race in the most recent municipal election, with more than a third more votes than his nearest competitor, You said he's been following Ontario's pandemic response and is impressed with the results he's seen.

Liked what he saw

"Through the pandemic last year, I saw strong leadership from Premier Doug Ford and his team. They have been working tirelessly for the people to keep us safe and also put Ontario on a solid path. That's why I think they are in the best position," You said.

"And I also really want to join Minister (Greg) Rickford at Queen's Park to bring the key issues and opportunities that matter to the region and



TOP VOTE GETTER: Peng You was first elected to city council in 2018.

those who live here. Thunder Bay-Superior North deserves a voice at the table when the crucial decisions are made about the future."

You, who immigrated to Canada from China several decades ago with his late wife, said he wants to be a champion for the region, much like his likely Liberal opponent, Michael Gravelle, has been since first winning office in 1995.

It's just time for a change after a quarter of a century, You said, praising Gravelle for his service nonetheless. "In this region, we don't have a

representative in a major party like the

PC," You said. "We are a special region and we need more support from other levels of government."

You, a successful businessman and Tai Chi master, said he thinks he can translate his popularity at the municipal level into votes at the provincial level, despite the fact the Conservatives have not won the riding, formerly known at Port Arthur, since 1963, when George Wardrope captured the last of four consecutive wins for the party.

"People know who I am," said You, adding he's learned a lot in two-and-ahalf years sitting on Thunder Bay city council.

Tough times

He also said he understands the plight of the people, many of whom are suffering even more during the age of COVID-19.

"When I came here we had no language, no money. We worked very hard. This is our adopted hometown and I want to give back more. I don't like politics, but I do love my home," he said, adding the region has plenty of potential he believes he can tap into should he win the election.

You is the latest in a line of Thunder Bay councillors to seek higher office. Current at-large Coun. Rebecca Johnson finished third in 2007 in Thunder Bay-Atikokan, while Andrew Foulds sought to unseat Gravelle under the NDP banner in 2014.





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LOCALNEWS



RAMPED UP: The Bora Laskin Education Building will be able to handle up to 500 daily vaccinations.

Hospital opening new vaccine clinic

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The head of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre says the facility is setting up a vaccination centre at the Bora Laskin Theatre building at Lakehead University.

Rhonda Crocker-Ellacott, president and CEO at the hospital, on Thursday confirmed the move, saying it will allow the vaccination capacity to ramp up to about 500 – when they have ample supply of vaccines to hit that number.

"We're anticipating mid next week to be shifting our vaccine operation from our Health Sciences Centre over to Lakehead University. The whole idea behind that is we're tapped out at about 168 vaccinations a day at the Health Sciences Centre, whereas we can likely do upward of 500 vaccines a day at Lakehead University," Crocker-Ellacott said on Thursday.

The move enables hospital officials to better work and plan with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit to ensure they're ready to take on a more widespread rollout of the vaccines in the coming weeks and months.

How long that may be is still up in the air. Crocker-Ellacott said the hospital received its latest supply of vaccines on Thursday, but are not sure when the next batch will arrive in Thunder Bay.

The latest vaccines will allow the hospital to complete the second dose for residents in

long-term care facilities and health care workers who were anxiously awaiting completion of their vaccine program.

"We're able to complete all of those within target," Crocker-Ellacott said. "There's no risk of anyone going beyond dose intervals, so that's very positive.

"That said, we don't have a confirmed supply of Pfizer after this one tray, so once we receive that confirmation, then we'll be in a good position to be able to ramp up and respond to the community need and the district need."

Crocker-Ellacott said it's her understanding that the vaccine supply will accelerate by mid to late next week, but there's still uncertainty how much of that supply will make its way to Thunder Bay. Until that confirmation is in hand, the hospital won't be booking new vaccination appointments.

"But we have plans in place that we're able to give it very quickly and ramp up very quickly to respond to needs. For example, we know there are health-care workers in long-term care who have not received the vaccination. We know that there are essential care partners in longterm care that have not been vaccinated and we know there are significant numbers of health-care workers," Crocker-Ellacott said.

"We just barely started to (vaccinate) health-care workers that are vulnerable and in critical positions." A harmless coffee break can do more harm than you think.

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Editorial

Red is not party time

Thunder Bay has emerged out of lockdown and into the Red-Control zone on the Ontario COVID-19 reopening framework. It may be shortlived.

Case numbers continue to skyrocket in the district. The seven-day total ending on Tuesday was 132, or about 96 per 100,000.

The threshold to drop back into Orange is 39.9 cases per 100,000. We're nowhere close.

On top of that, the Thunder Bay District Health Unit on Monday reopened its COVID-19 isolation unit, with 10 patients in hospital, three in the intensive care unit. Additionally, COVID cases are popping

Automany, COVID cases are popping up at schools throughout the city –Westgate, McKellar, Kingsway Park and St. Martin are just the latest four to report cases.

And then we've got the variants to worry about, which thankfully have not been cofirmed in Northwestern Ontario, but realistically, it's only a matter of time.

Now is not the time for celebration. We need our businesses open and we need the public to play its part. Yes, go to gym, or pick up what you need at the mall or any local business. But then head back home. The move to red is not permission to host large gatherings or break protocol.

If you do, we'll be back down in lockdown before the ink on this paper dries.

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NAPS helps deliver food north

THUNDER BAY By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

A project sending large amounts of food to remote First Nations in northwestern Ontario is a step on the path toward more permanent food security solutions, says one chief.

A partnership between the Regional Food Distribution Association (RFDA) and the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) will see shipping containers, each containing thousands of pounds of donated food, delivered to 13 communities by winter road.

Rod Brown, lead of a NAPS radio project to connect the communities to a central OPP communications and dispatch system, saw an opportunity as he prepared to ship generators and other equipment to the communities.

He reached out to the RFDA when he realized the loads would fill only about half of each shipping container. That left valuable space for the communities that rely on air deliveries most of the year.

The timing was ideal, said RFDA executive director Volker Kromm, as the organization is being offered unprecedented amounts of food from large producers.

"There's quite a surplus of high-value protein across Canada because of the pandemic," he said. "If you imagine all the restaurants that are shut down, a lot



BIG JOB Volker Kromm (left) oversees the packing of NAPS containers with food.

of this food is becoming available." That included premier products like

bison, fish, and crab meat, he said. "To avoid any food in Canada going to landfill, we've put our hand up saying

we'll take it – there are people who certainly would appreciate having access to that food."

It's the first time the RFDA will send food to the remote communities by winter road, rather than by air, an opportunity Kromm was thankful for. The organization loaded three pallets, each bearing about 1,000 to 2,000 pounds of food, into each shipping container. The containers themselves will remain in the communities after they arrive over the coming weeks.

"They become really useful," said Eabametoong First Nation chief Harvey Yesno of the corrugated metal containers.

His community, located about 360 kilometres north of Thunder Bay, will

insulate theirs and use it to store future food shipments.

When donated food is received from the RFDA or elsewhere, a team of volunteers sorts and distributes it to the community, Yesno explained.

"Sometimes the stuff comes in on a weekend and we can't readily get people to help out," he said.

The situation is similar in many other remote communities the RFDA works to assist, according to Kromm.

"When it gets to the community, there's no place to put the product," he said. "We develop a relationship with each community, they assign a champion and they manage the receiving and the distribution... At least this will give us a place where they can store [it] and distribute from there."

The container will provide a useful stopgap, Yesno said, but it points to the need for more sustainable solutions.

In the longer term, he envisions a permanent structure with a walk-in fridge and freezer, as well as multipurpose meeting space that could be used for programming like nutrition classes and fly-in court. He's not yet sure if such a project could qualify for government funding.

Despite recent efforts to build more self-sufficiency, he said the community still faces a great deal of food insecurity.

Perspective

Reluctant zoomer missed family

Resisting the internet and social media is especially tough during the era of the COVID-19 pandemic

OPINION By J.R. Shermack

Special to TB Source

When it comes to virtual reality I am an easily distracted and somewhat irreverent curmudgeon but recent events have turned me into a reluctant zoomer. I haven't ever initiated a zoom myself but when summoned by family and friends I accept their invitation to partake of an online visit.

As a newcomer to the format I am grateful to be included but unfamiliar with zoom protocol - I feel like a stranger in a strange land.

I enjoy the personal touch of face-toface conversation and I felt no need to embrace the widespread use of electronic communication.

While I am not especially outgoing I look forward to planned social encounters and gatherings that are an on-going feature of everyday life.

How it used to be

Getting together for holidays and special occasions or even impromptu bull sessions filled my need for personal interaction and kept me informed and involved.

This enabled me to ignore and be somewhat oblivious to the growing dependency on electronic communication, including the advent of zooming.

But now I am one of the little boxes on the screen, trying to contribute to the conversation but spending a lot of time watching in silence.

I have no one to blame but myself by stubbornly resisting the lure of the internet and social media I have

394th Judicial District Court

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District Court



Jerry L. Phillips

MEOW IS NOT THE TIME: A screenshot of a zoom call that went viral after a lawyer couldn't figure out how to remove a cat filter.

excluded myself from the discussion.

The technology passed me by and now I scramble for any crumbs of conversation or tidbits of information other users are willing to share with me.

I am not a big follower of on-line chats or texting or any other social media platforms but my perspective has changed over the past several months.

If not for tools like zoom and facetime and the generosity of my small but techsavvy social circle, 2020 would have been a lost, sad and lonely year.

I got this rude awakening about a year ago when my preferred (and only) method of personal contact and communication was suddenly restricted and unavailable.

Social groups and safety nets were dramatically reduced or eliminated altogether and most conversations took place using texts and images on small, hand-held screens.

For me it was a total culture shock - I was soon craving close encounters of the human kind and I longed for contact with loved ones who were socially

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

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TOTAL VOTES: 1,686

 \bigcirc YES \bigcirc NO \bigcirc DON'T KNOW

3.50%

29.60% 66.90%



Will you consider eating at a restaurant should they reopen this week?

distant.

The internet became society's lifeline and a valuable resource for all those who were more familiar and comfortable with the magic and mystery of virtual reality.

I was unfamiliar with that world but I had no choice - I reluctantly entered the zoom realm and awkwardly participated while trying not to embarrass myself.

I accept that this can be a useful and valuable tool (especially during a pandemic) but there have been some epic zoom fails lately that highlight the pitfalls.

Feline fun

One online video (thank you internet) features a lawyer who accidentally transformed his screen image into the face of a cat and was unable to exit.

"I am not a cat," he kept insisting as he made (or meowed) his case to an amused human judge.

Another fail shows a woman who turned herself into a potato head during her work meeting.

And all users are familiar with the perils and frustration of a misused "mute" key

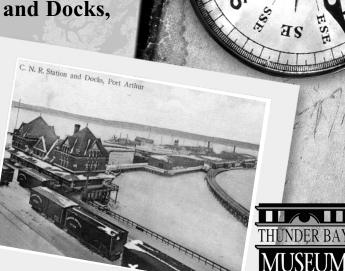
As for me, I rely on the kindness of family and friends to help me navigate the internet without embarrassing mishaps.

I appreciate their efforts to include me in the conversation and continue to take comfort and solace from these electronic encounters

I still long for the freedom to communicate in person but until then I will remain a reluctant, somewhat less irreverent zoomer.

A look back in histor C.N.R. Station and Docks, **Port Arthur**

Canadian Northern facilities in the early 20th century. In 1901-02, Port Arthur was selected as the lake terminus of the Canadian Northern Railway, and extensive docks, sheds, a station and grain elevator construction followed. Coal docks, blast furnaces, and freight and steel handling docks marked the rapid development brought about by the CnoR.



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LOCALNEWS



NOT ALL BAD: A.J. Keene, superintendent of education at Lakehead Public Schools, says postponing March Break is better than cancelling it altogether.

March Break postponed

EDUCATION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The head of the Lakehead Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario bargaining unit says postponing March Break until April isn't ideal.

But it's better than some of the alternatives that were being floated around.

Education Minister Stephen Lecce on Thursday announced the annual week-long break is being shifted in 2021, from a scheduled March 15 start, until April 12.

Mike Judge said teachers will adapt to the new, temporary reality, though it's certainly not ideal for many educators or students, given the pressures of the pandemic.

"What's not ideal is a disregard for the mental health of our students and the mental health of our staff. It's a long stretch and we're in conditions where there is no social distancing. People might not realize that we have classes of 30-to-1 and our students are less than a metre apart," Judge said, "never mind the six feet we recommend to everyone in society.

"That takes a heavy toll. There's a heavy

burden on our staff."

The fear of burnout is real, he added. "For that to be completely ignored is frustrating."

A.J. Keene, superintendent of education at Lakehead Public Schools, said it was fairly apparent the move was coming, adding he's happy to see it was a postponement and not an outright cancellation.

"Obviously

the officials

felt it was the

best thing to

do to keep

our kids

safe "

A.J. KEENE

At the end of the day, the decision was out of their hands, made instead by the province with direction from public health officials like Dr. David Williams, the chief medical officer of health for Ontario.

"Obviously the officials felt it was the best thing to do to keep our kids safe, so we'll do what we need to, to support that," Keene said.

Like Judge, Keene is also concerned about the burnout factor

for teachers who in many cases are now teaching both online and in class.

"It's been a long winter and it's been a longer winter than it normally is. March

Break is a natural time when kids look forward to maybe a little bit warmer weather. We've been fortunate with our weather, but this past week we've been shown how awful it can be with indoor recesses," Keene said.

"Kids and staff are stressed at the best of times and during COVID, it's even worse. We do have strong mental-health supports,

> with our mental-health lead, Megan Tiernan, and she provides it to staff and students and families ... I would say the burnout and angst about this is very real."

> The decision has left administrators scrambling a bit to re-schedule the remainder of the school year, moving anything scheduled for the new spring break dates into other time slots. Some schools had testing scheduled for the week of April 12. The province said it made the

decision to move March Break as a way to limit community spread.

Students in Thunder Bay have been able to remain in class throughout most of the current school year.

COVID-19 affecting multiple TB schools

HEALTH By Leith Dunick – TB Source

A potential case of COVID-19 at Kingsway Park Public School announced on Monday has been confirmed and two more confirmed cases have been added to the count.

Lakehead Public schools issued a release,

saying it's not being deemed an outbreak because none of the cases are believed to have spread at the south-side school.

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit is identifying close contacts and a public health nurse will be contacting anyone who falls in the category. Close contacts could be someone in the same classroom or who travel to school on the same bus. Three cases have been found at Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute, and McKellar school's six cohorts have all be sent home after multiple cases were found at the south-side school and an outbreak was declared.

An outbreak was also declared on Monday at Wequedong Lodge after two cases were discovered.

TBLIFE people | health | home | food | leisure

North side soup kitchen turns 40

Dew Drop Inn began at the back doors of St. Andrew's Church

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

orty years ago, Sister Roberta Derochie was feeding Thunder Bay's hungriest residents out the backdoor of St. Andrew's Church.

As word spread, more and more people began to show up, looking for a meal.

It quickly became clear there was a nutritional gap that needed filling in the city, and thanks to Derochie's vision, the Dew Drop Inn was born.

Housed in Parish Hall, which served as St. Andrew's Church from 1882 to 1924, the Dew Drop Inn had humble beginnings. But with the onset of COVID-19, it's become a lifeline for Thunder Bay's downtrodden, a haven for the city's hungry.

Wants to help

Lelia Lovis, a longtime volunteer at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, said when COVID-19 forced hospital officials to limit the organization's volunteer program, the 93-year-old decided to look into volunteering elsewhere, and settled on the Dew Drop Inn.

For the past year she's been volunteering twice a week and said she had no idea of just how serious a problem hunger was in the city.

It's been a real eye opener, she said last Tuesday, helping make and package sandwiches as the Dew Drop



Inn quietly celebrated its 40th anniversarv

"Being at the hospital, I didn't realize there were so many people that didn't have enough to eat," Lovis said, noting when the weather gets nicer she plans to add an extra day to her current

volunteer schedule.

"I knew the shelters (were full), but the days I'm here, there's more than 300 coming through those doors."

Lovis, who loves keeping busy, said it's thoroughly satisfying to know how much the volunteers' efforts pay off.

"I'm really excited about it," she said. Volunteers like Lovis are the heart and soul of the soup kitchen, which started out serving about 30 people a day, a number than has ballooned by about 10 times that amount since the pandemic arrived in Thunder Bay.

Michael Quiebell, the executive director of the Dew Drop Inn, said it's become a pretty well-oiled machine over the decades.

"Basically we are producing meals for about 300 people a day, plus we're doing take-home lunches for about 100 people a day," he said.

"We have eight volunteers in the morning and eight volunteers in the afternoon, plus staff. In the morning they're preparing the meal for the day and then in the afternoon they're preparing the meal for tomorrow. We're always trying to stay ahead of ourselves.'

Some things don't change

Unfortunately, Quibell said, the issues of hunger and poverty aren't getting any better. In fact, they're getting worse, with so many businesses closed due to COVID-19 and hundreds of people out of work as a result.

"Last year it definitely impacted our numbers. We served 110,565 meals, which is 20,000 more than in 2019,' Quibell said.

It's all in a day's work, he added.

"It's said that people are struggling to put food on the table, but we're really grateful that we're here to provide them with a nourishing meal.'

In addition to receiving a meal, patrons are also encouraged to take home any surplus food, like bread and rolls, to help keep them fed between meals.

The Dew Drop Inn is supported with the help of 26 church and community groups, along with individual donors, who ensure there is enough food to feed everyone who needs it.



Farmer Fred undergoes surgery



ast Tuesday, I underwent surgery to fix a hernia. The hernia is common for men I was told. It was day-surgery so I was in the hospital all told for four hours.

The surgery was successful and my body hurts as they warned me it would; but, this, too, shall pass. The surgery was necessary and eventually, all will be well and I will be able to resume full, Farmer Fred chores. But, in the meantime, I am very limited to what I am able to do.

How limited? The doctor told me that I can do "light exercise" and not to lift anything more than ten pounds for six weeks. I asked him when he came to visit after the procedure, when I could climb on board Big Red, my ancient tractor, a necessary piece of farm machinery.

"Why do you need to drive your tractor?" he asked, to which I replied that I live on a farm and so far, I'm the only one who drives it.

If we were to receive a big dollop of snow for example, then Red needs to be fired up and snow clearing needs to take place. "Oh," was his reply and then he said no climbing on the tractor for four weeks.

We have horses. It has been freezing cold. Normally my wife, Laura and I trade-off who will bring them into the barn for the night. "You are not to come outside. You are not to help in the barn at all, not until the four to six weeks have passed. Beth (our daughter living at home) will help me," I was informed.

So, now planning: apparently, I do a lot to keep the farm working. When

both Laura and Beth need to go to work away from Casa Jones, it is my job to get outside, feed the birds and then head to the barn to feed horses and turn them outside into their respective paddocks.

Then I drive Beth to her place-ofemploy where she works three days a week. When I arrive back home, I head back into the barn to clean stalls, empty and refill water pails, fork fresh hay into stalls, bring in wood shavings as stall bedding, and then sweep the aisle nice and clean.

In the evening I might help bring the horses back inside the barn and, depending on how early we ushered them back inside, I go back out to feed them late-night hay and check the horses' waters.

Since it has been freezing cold, the horses have not been going outside until late in the morning and then coming inside a lot earlier. Lately, they've gone outside with horse blankets. These blankets weigh more than ten pounds so for the next six weeks it is up to either Laura or Beth to blanket the equines.

The surgery has forced changes to schedules. Now Laura bears the brunt of the barn chores.

Enter son, Doug, who lives and works in the city, and who came out this past weekend to help his mum who had texted him a list of things that required young muscles. So, while we remained inside, Doug set about accomplishing her list a lot of which involved heavy lifting.

Planning also involves altering work schedules for both Laura and Beth, delaying when they can go to work until after the horses are fed and kicked outside. Mucking the stalls can wait until later in the day after they return.

Lo these 20 or more years the driver of the tractor as I mentioned, has been me. Apparently, its size intimidated Laura, Beth, and Doug.

So, snow clearing, fetching large hay

bales from the supplier and then ferrying them into the hay storage area and when needed into paddocks, let alone refueling the beast, has been up to me.

Laura told me at supper on Sunday that if she had to, she'd drive the tractor to snow clear but she wouldn't be happy. Hoping we don't get any serious snow (although we desperately need it) any time soon.

Light exercise? No snowshoeing, only walks around the oval driveway. Poor puppies who love tromping on the trail. But this too shall pass. The day before my operation Laura and I were talking at supper. "So, tomorrow they're going to gut you like a fish (joke, joke)," she said.

Well, sort of.

I especially want to thank the team at the hospital who took care of me: Dr. Telang, the surgeon and the nursing staff all of whom were very kind and comforting. Many thanks folks.



Cold-weather exercise can be comfy



As the first real deep freeze of the winter is finally loosening its icy grip on Northwestern Ontario, many people are heading back outside for some much needed physical activity.

Some dedicated endurance athletes even continued to enjoy their daily exercise despite temperatures that barely reached a daytime high of -20 C over the past two weeks.

This extreme devotion to maintaining physical and mental health can be motivational, but it is not without risks.

Luckily, a bit of good advice can go a long way in helping to keep us active throughout the coldest months.

First, check the forecast. Planning to exercise outside during the warmest part of the day is the key to getting outside in a February deep freeze.

Take into consideration

Temperature, wind and moisture, along with the length of time that we will be outside, are key factors in planning a safe



ROLLING OUT: Outdoor biking, as seen last February, can be safely done in winter time.

cold-weather workout. Pay attention to the wind, as wind and cold together result in a wind chill factor that greatly amplifies how cold we will feel.

Getting wet makes us more vulnerable to chills, so dressing in layers with a breathable base and windproof shell are essential. Know the signs of frostbite and hypothermia.

Frostbite is a type of burn that is caused by skin and tissue freezing, and while generating extra heat during exercise can help, it does not necessarily prevent damage.

Frostbite is most common on exposed

skin, but it can also occur on hands and feet that are covered up.

Early warning signs include numbness, loss of feeling or a stinging sensation. Immediately get out of the cold if you suspect frostbite and slowly warm the affected area while resisting the urge to rub the skin, which could cause damage.

Hypothermia is an abnormally low internal body temperature that results from our bodies losing heat faster than it can be produced.

Hypothermia signs include intense shivering, slurred speech, loss of coordination and fatigue.

Seek emergency help right away for possible hypothermia.

Protect the extremities. When exercising in the cold, blood flow will be concentrated in our body's core, leaving our head, hands and feet vulnerable to frostbite.

This is especially true for sports like fatbiking where speed produces extra windchill and fingers and toes see minimal movement.

Consider buying gloves and footwear a bit larger than usual to allow for liner gloves, thermal socks and extra space.

A good winter hat will protect our head and ears while breathing through a Buff, scarf or neck tube can help warm the air we are inhaling before it reaches the lungs.

For some real expert advice, I asked the legendary Brian Berry how he deals with the cold.

A masters-age skier, Brian famously logged 7,501 kiloemtres at Lappe Nordic Centre a few seasons ago and he continues to be unstoppable, recording three to five hours daily over the recent cold snap.

Dress properly

His advice was to "dress warm enough to enjoy what you're doing and slow down your pace." For higher exertion training days, Brian has always stuck to much shorter durations in the extreme cold.

Exercise is safe for almost everyone, even in cold weather.

However, those with certain conditions, such as asthma, heart problems or Raynaud's disease, should check with their doctor first to review any special precautions they may need to take.

We should all closely monitor how our bodies feel during cold-weather exercise to help prevent problems like frostbite.

Most importantly, we may need to shorten our outdoor workouts during weather extremes, and ultimately, we need to know when it is time to head inside.



IN THE DAY arts entertainment culture

Snow sculptures capture imagination

FW FIRST NATION By Leith Dunick - TB Source

he frigid cold blanketing the The trigit cold of anticerregion didn't stop a number of families on Fort William First Nation from enjoying some outdoor Family Day weekend fun.

About 64 entrants signed up to take part in the community's snow sculpture contest, which Chief Peter Collins said was put on as a way to help residents fight off the winter blahs.

"It's too bad the elements haven't settled down a little bit and given everybody a chance to get outside and build the sculptures. But I see a lot that have been built in the community. I drove around this morning just to look around and see who's done what," Collins said.

"I see some are still trying to build them. We're just trying to get people out of their homes and get their families thinking about each other and working with each other."

It's all about unity, Collins added. "We even included our off-reserve members," he said.

From what he'd seen so far, there are some pretty creative people living in the community, Collins said.

"There are some great ones. When I look around and I see what people are building. Some of them have created massive turtles. We live here on Turtle Earth. It's good work from some of the folks in the community and everybody's participating as much as we can."

Collins encouraged residents who live on Fort William First Nation to safely tour the different neighbourhoods to see the sculptures. The community's residential areas are closed to the general public due to the pandemic.



CREATIVE: A family on Squaw Bay Road were inspired by the movie Wall-E to construct their entry into the snow sculputure contes.

Film captures Black Panthers' side of FBI race war



n light of Black History Month, we look to a recent release that chillingly highlights a harrowing chapter in US history often overlooked by Hollywood.

Judas and the Black Messiah (PPV premiere, Shaw) is a riveting account of the race war waged by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover (Martin Sheen under tons of makeup) upon Fred Hampton, (Daniel Kaluuya) chairman of the Illinois Black Panthers in the late 1960s.

The script by Will Berson and director Shaka King outlines Hoover's obsessive targeting of Hampton as a 'black messiah' and the Panthers whom he feels represents the greatest threat to national security, combined with other leftist factions.

The good and the bad

The film attempts to mollify the Panthers' outward appearancesmilitaristic garb, revolutionary rhetoric and violent clashes with police – with their socialist ideals, (as pointed out in archival footage)



TARGETED: Daniel Kaluuya plays Fred Hampton, chairman of the Illinois Black Panthers.

which involved providing free community. health care, legal aid, breakfast for

Caught in the crossfire is William kids and education in the Black O'Neal (LaKeith Stanfield) who, under threat of incarceration for car theft and impersonating a federal officer, becomes a reluctant informant for Special Agent Roy Mitchell (Jesse Plemons) and goes undercover infiltrating the Panthers Chicago chapter.

We follow O'Neal on his edgy descent into the rabbit hole. Despite arousing suspicion, O'Neal is seemingly enamored by the young, charismatic Hampton and his revolutionary oratory while trying to appease his handler who likens the Panthers to the KKK.

Hampton gets a taste of the repressive American judicial system himself, as he's jailed for, of all things, allegedly scamming \$70 worth of ice cream.

While Hampton's incarcerated, tension and paranoia grows as the body count escalates, suspicions arise over 'rats' and the stakes grow higher. Everybody has to watch their backs, even agent Mitchell, answerable to the imperious Hoover.

Upon gaining freedom on appeal, Hampton delivers a rousing, defiant speech that may herald his fate.

He ramps up his rhetoric, denouncing the police in a "kill them all" rage, while his pregnant girlfriend, Deborah Johnson (Dominque Fishback) looks on, fretfully.

Director King builds the suspense leading to the gut-punch, murderous police raid on the Hampton apartment-amounting to political assassination---and the stunning epilogue that highlights the fate of the real William O'Neal and a summation of Hampton's legacy.

As Hampton, Daniel Kaluuya may be older but he captures the passion and magnetism of a captivating orator

Captured the character

While his true motivations aren't entirely clear, Stanfield reveals a tormented soul full of terror and anger at being at the mercy of Plemons' ruthless Mitchell, who's all paternal intimidation.

"Judas" works grippingly on two levels: illustrating the deadly political racial battle waged on the streets and one man's own personal hell. It is a sad, sobering commentary that the abuses and injustices rendered by the various police forces back then-virtually 50 years agocontinue to manifest themselves with more tragic deaths involving African Americans and the police, thus sparking the Black Lives Matter movement.

Judas and the Black Messiah is sure to generate buzz come award season.

NCIS subplots keep viewers wanting more

Sometimes, the most important characters in a story are the minor ones. This week's episode of *NCIS* focused on the death of a Navy officer in a car accident. But the secondary story, a subplot if you will, involved my favourite character on the show, Jimmy Palmer.

In the beginning, the majority of this character's involvement had been as a punchline. Nicknamed "Autopsy Gremlin," Jimmy joined the team as Ducky, the medical examiner's assistant when he was an awkward, young man. He made bad jokes and often had trouble following his older boss' stories and historical references.

Over the years, Jimmy finished medical school and became an actual doctor, taking over as the NCIS M.E. Viewers watched as he fell in love, got married, lost a child, became a father, and turned into the voice of reason and guidance for his co-workers. All while



just a subplot within over 300 episodes.

And yet, some of my favourite stories of all time – and as a fan, I've watched all 18 seasons repeatedly – have Jimmy front and centre. There aren't many. But they're fabulous.

In *About Face*, Jimmy comes faceto-face with a killer. So this gentle soul injects himself into the investigation and winds up taking down a



SUB-STAR: Brian Dietzan plays Jimmy Palmer on the long-running hit, NCIS.

suspect with his car. He then defends his actions, saying that he "stayed in his car" as ordered.

WORD SEARCH

In *Keep Going*, Jimmy breaks protocol by stepping out on the ledge of a building to help a young man contemplating suicide. In *Bears and Cub*, his father-in-law asks him to falsify his autopsy findings. Despite desperately wanting a relationship with the man, Jimmy acknowledged that the only true fathers he's ever had are Gibbs and Ducky.

And now this past week, after focusing on pre-COVID storylines all season, the writers finally entered present day. And it wasn't pretty.

NCIS's most cheerful character had added two more titles to his résumé: widower and single father. His wife died of COVID months prior and he was drowning himself in work to avoid home and sleep.

At this point, there's little that the *NCIS* writers could tell viewers that they haven't already heard about the COVID experience. However, it was

Jimmy's story that shined a light on the plight of those left behind.

His M.E. job specifically requires him to separate himself from the trauma of death. But that's not a healthy coping mechanism for his own life. And after making his autopsy room available to the city coroner's overflow of COVID bodies, he was literally reliving his own loss every day.

But, once again, Jimmy Palmer also had something to teach his friends. In talking to Jimmy, Gibbs was able to acknowledge he'd been stuck in the "anger" stage for years since his family was killed. And if Jimmy moved on from his denial, Gibbs would help him move past the anger. Perhaps together.

NCIS is your typical formula drama with pretty actors and big names. But it's the subplots, and the more minor characters, that continue to bring me back for more.

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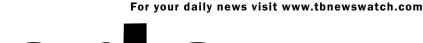
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Staal helps Hockeyville bid

HOCKEY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

ric Staal grew up playing hockey at the NorWest

His name, along with those of his younger brothers, Marc, Jordan and Jared, is permanently affixed to the outside of the Oliver Paipoonge, Ont. rink, on a slightly faded sign that reminds the local hockey community it was two decades or more since he last regularly skated there.

Needless to say, the old barn could use a little tender loving care.

Staal, a forward in his first season with the Buffalo Sabres, did his best to help the cause, trying to turn up the heat (literally) and help boost the Kam River Fighting Walleye's bid to win the \$250,000 Kraft Hockeyville contest to make improvements to Staal's old stomping grounds.

The 35-year-old shared fond memories of playing at the NorWest Arena in a video produced to help win over contest organizers.

"I think I was five years old and I remember it being really cold," Staal said., adding the temperature did help keep the ice fast.

"The arena was cold, the dressing room was cold. I just remember stepping on the ice for the first time there. I couldn't really skate. I more or less walked and tiptoed all the way across to the players' benches."

Staal described Oliver Paipoonge and Thunder Bay as a blue-collar town, a place where people work hard and play equally as tough – but with a heart of gold.

"People are passionate about sports, especially hockey," Staal said. "I think it's a place where everyone who has grown up there has had nothing but positive things to say. It's a community-type feel. It's a place that you're rooting for, not only for your own family and your own kids, but you're rooting for the kid down the street, the kid you grew up with in high school or elementary school."

Needs a little love

The rink could use some upgrades, he said, drawing upon his childhood memories.

"It's a great rink, but like anything, with time, you want to keep it as part of the community for a long time," he said. "If they were to get it, it would definitely go a long way."

The Fighting Walleye didn't let a little cold weather stop them on Saturday from trying to drum up support at the city's many outdoor arenas.

Coach Matt Valley and other team officials toured the rinks, bringing along some prizes and mascot Chomper to hang out with the kids who braved the cold to skate.

Valley said winning the Kraft Hockeyville title would mean a lot to the community of Oliver Paipoonge, being able to make the necessary upgrade to the rink, which the Fighting Walleye have adopted as their new home in joining the Superior International Junior Hockey League as an expansion team in 2020-21.

"It's not just for us, or even for the NorWest (Arena). It's for everyone that uses it," Valley said.



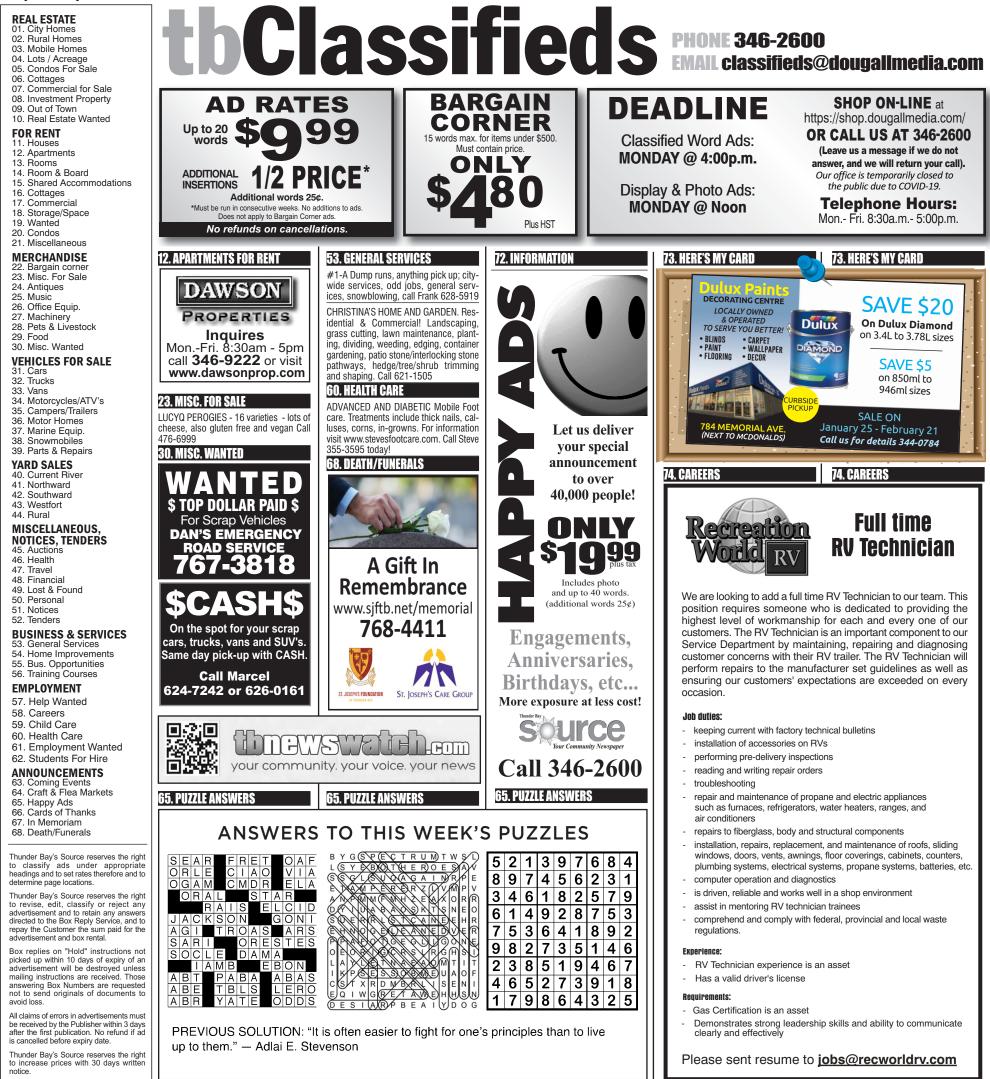
HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES: Hockey players turned out last Saturday at West Thunder Community Centre.

Win or lose, it's been a great experience putting together the contest entry, which has seen more than 250 people sign up and offer words of support behind the bid.

"It's been pretty sweet to be a part of it," Valley said. "We went out to Rosslyn today and it was -35 and everyone was out there supporting it, happy to see Chomper and the (team) bus, just really trying to get on board here and push us over the top."

Nominations for the annual contest closed on Sunday. The four finalists will be revealed on March 20. For your daily news visit www.tbnewswatch.com

Thursday, February 18, 2021 15





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