



Conservative leadership hopeful visits city /4

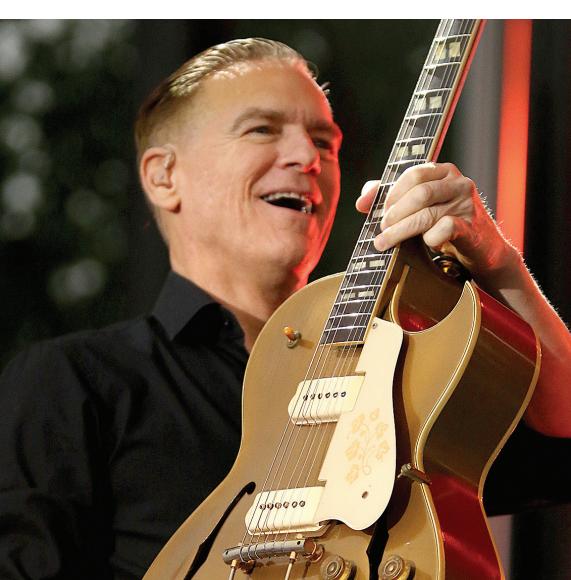
DOG KILLED



Family offering up \$2,000 reward after shooting / 12



SIJHL welcomes Fighting Walleye to fold /17



RAN TO HIM: Bryan Adams helped last year's Thunder Bay Blues Festival sell out in record-setting fashion, only taking about two weeks.



Blues Festival organizers remain hopeful they can revive the three-day event in 2021, despite cancellation /14

Entertainment that makes your palms sweaty... Pricing that won't



2 YEAR

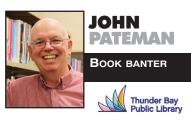
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Cold War era makes intriguing reads



Depending on which side of the Cold War you were on, the Cambridge Spies - Donald Maclean, Kim Philby, and Guy Burgess - were either heroes of the Soviet Union or traitors to the West.

Richard Davenport-Hines describes them as Enemies Within in his study of Communists, the Cambridge Five (which also included Anthony Blunt and John Cairneross) and the making of modern Britain.

He explores the operative traits of boarding schools, the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the Intelligence Division, Foreign Office, MI5, MI6 and Moscow Centre.

These highly educated members of wealthy and well connected middle class families were able to act in plain sight because of the protection afforded by the tightly knit social circles in which they operated.

Stalin's Englishman by Andrew Lownie suggests that Guy Burgess was the most important, complex and fascinating of these brilliant young men who met at Cambridge University in the 1930s.

An engaging and charming companion to many, an unappealing, utterly ruthless manipulator to others, Burgess rose through academia, the Foreign Office, MI5 and MI6, gaining access to thousands of highly sensitive secret documents which he passed to the USSR.

His flamboyant personal life did nothing to stop his penetration of the British Intelligence Service, and even when he was under suspicion, the fabled charm which enabled close personal





SPY GUY: Stalin's Englishman tells the tale of Guy Burgess of the Cambridge Five.

relationships with numerous influential figures (including Winston Churchill) prevented his exposure as a spy for many vears.

Roland Phillips unravels Donald Maclean's character and contradictions in A Spy Named Orphan.

Maclean became interested in Communism during his school days, even before he joined the Cambridge University Socialist Society (along with Fred Pateman, who became a journalist at The Daily Worker).

A model diplomat, he rapidly rose through the ranks of the British Foreign Office, never arousing suspicion of his double life. He had access to some of the greatest secrets of the time, transmitting invaluable intelligence to his Soviet handlers on the atom bomb and the shape of the postwar world.

He successfully eluded the incredulous authorities to defect to the USSR, where he worked and lived unrepentantly for the next thirty years.

A Spy Among Friends by Ben

Macintyre tells the story of Kim Philby, a brilliant and charming man who rose to head Britain's counterintelligence against the Soviet Union during the height of the Cold War - while he was secretly working for Stalin.

Nobody thought he knew Philby like Nicholas Elliott, Philby's best friend and fellow officer in MI6, but every word Elliott said to Philby was transmitted back to Moscow, neutralising almost every important Anglo-American spy operation for 20 years.

When the web of suspicion closed around Philby he remained as cool as a cucumber and invited the world's press into his mother's apartment to hear him clear his name.

His Soviet handler, Yuri Modin, described his performance as breathtaking.

He denied that he was the Third Man; in fact he had tipped off Burgess and Maclean and helped them escape to Russia, where he later joined them.

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ALL TOGETHER: Members of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario will join three others on the picket line on Friday.

Marching en masse

Ontario's four largest teachers' unions to walk out on Friday

EDUCATION By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Classroom learning across Ontario will grind to a halt on Friday.

About 200,000 teachers and education workers with the Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers' Federation, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association and the Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens will stage a unified one-day strike on Feb. 21.

It will mark the first time in 23 years that all four unions have marched out of the classroom together in a unified call to the Ontario government to get back to the bargaining table.

"It is clear to all four Ontario education unions and our members that the Ford government and Education Minister (Stephen) Lecce care nothing about students or educators and everything about taking money out of the publicly funded education system," says AEFO President Rémi Sabourin in a release issued last Wednesday. "To achieve their cuts, they have knowingly

thrown students, families, educators and the system into chaos."

OECTA president Liz Stuart said the effects of the government's cuts are already being felt at schools across the province.

"The Ford government is reducing supports for students with special education needs and mental health issues. It is squeezing students into overcrowded classes and forcing high school students to take e-learning courses. If we allow the government to implement its plan fully, thousands of teaching positions and tens of thousands of course options will be lost," Stuart said.

The various unions are fighting to keep class sizes at current student-to-teacher ratios, continued support for special needs students, the retention of full-day kindergarten and salary increases tied to the cost-ofliving.

Teachers and education workers are also fighting to ensure seniority-based hiring remains in place.

"It is now evident that the Ford government's agenda is entirely ideological and not at all concerned with providing quality education," said OSSTF president Harvey Bischof.

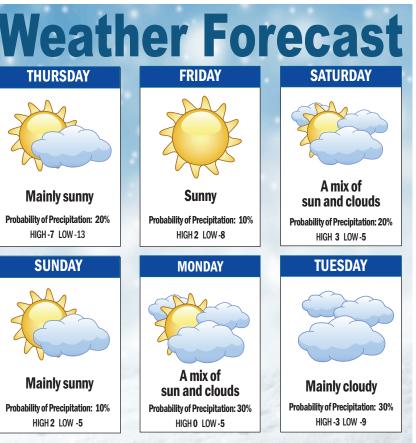
"They are pulling resources out of the public education system and, with schemes like mandatory e-learning, laying the groundwork for private interests to profit from our students' education. We are heartened that so many parents are standing with us against the dismantling of Ontario's public education system."

All four unions have walked off the job at least once over the past few weeks, the AEFO the last to hit the picket lines.

Lecce condemned the ongoing strikes, saying cuts hurt kids.

"Continued escalation of job action by the teachers' unions has gone on far too long. Students across the province are being hurt by the withdrawal of services and loss of classroom time," the education minister said in a recent release.

"Parents expect all parties to meet at the negotiating table and have meaningful, student-centric discussions. I call on union leadership to continue to work with us, in good-faith, to end these strikes, and focus on reaching a deal that keeps our students in the classroom where they belong."



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their cuts, they have knowingly thrown students, families, educators ... into chaos." REMI SABOURIN

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LOCALNEWS



WANTS TO BE PM: Conservative leadership hopeful Erin O'Toole (left) with Linda Rydholm.

O'Toole attacks Trudeau record

Conservative leadership hopeful visits Thunder Bay

"I think

you're going

to find us win

this seat,

because

Justin

Trudeau does

not stand up

for working

people."

ERIN O'TOOLE

POLITICS By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

Conservative leadership candidate Erin O'Toole had his sights trained on one particular target on a weekend visit to Thunder Bay. The Durham MP kept his focus largely on Justin Trudeau during a stop at the Sleeping Giant brewery, arguing the Prime Minister is out of touch with average Canadians and failing to defend the country's resource sector.

About 40 people attended a meetand-greet with the candidate in the brewery's taproom Sunday afternoon. O'Toole was introduced by Linda Rydholm, a former Thunder Bay city councillor who came second in a close three-way contest in the Thunder Bay-Rainy River riding last year.

O'Toole spent years in the military and as a corporate lawyer before winning a Durham byelection in 2012. He served as Minister of Veterans Affairs under Stephen Harper and is currently the shadow minister of foreign affairs. He's

widely seen as the most serious threat to front-runner Peter MacKay in the race to succeed Andrew Scheer as Conservative leader.

The leadership hopeful has staked out territory to the right of MacKay with the slogan "true blue conservative," pledging to defund large parts of the CBC, move the Canadian embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and take a tough-on-crime approach, for example.

The southern Ontario MP on Sunday said

he makes a point of listening to those in the north, noting he was one of only two candidates to visit Thunder Bay during the 2017 leadership race. He emphasized his support for the resource sector, arguing that Trudeau has been against it.

"We would not have a Bay Street in Toronto were it not for Inco and Falconbridge and the mineral extraction in northern Ontario," he says. "This has provided wealth to all of Canada. We've got to be the most ethical, the most environmentally conscious, but we

should be very proud of these jobs – as opposed to the Trudeau government that seems to think that everyone can work for Google."

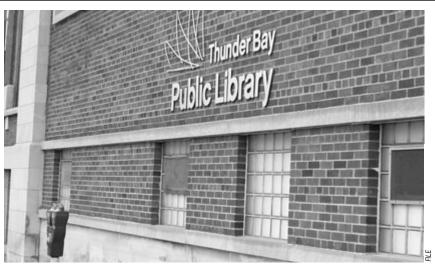
O'Toole believes that dynamic may lead to a shift in the region's electoral fortunes, saying he believes the party can capture both Thunder Bay seats in the next election.

"I think you're going to find us win this seat, because Justin Trudeau does not stand up for working people," he argued. "Minister Hajdu is probably

disconnected from the needs of tens of thousands of people in Ontario that need to work for a living, whether it's in a pulp mill, whether it's in a mining operation – she's part of the most anti-development government we've had in our history."

O'Toole also visited smaller centres in northwestern Ontario on his visit, including Kenora and Emo.

The results of the Conservative party leadership will be announced on June 27.



LESS MONEY: Thunder Bay Public Library will have to make do without a significant chunk of funding.

Library cuts may have big impact

Staff, councillors disagree after \$50K slashed THUNDER BAY alert him to that fact in January, copying By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

hunder Bay Public Library staff are challenging assurances by city councillors that a recent funding cut won't impact core services like the purchase of books and other materials. Council voted to reduce the library's capital budget by \$50,000 earlier this week, reversing a January decision to spare the institution from cuts.

Shortly before council put its final stamp of approval on the 2020 municipal budget Monday night, Coun. Mark Bentz asked for a re-vote on his Jan. 29 proposal to cut that amount, and move it into a fund that supports local non-profits. The motion had originally failed on a tie vote.

McIntyre ward councillor Albert Aiello, who voted against the cut in January, changed his mind Monday. That gave Bentz's motion the support it needed to pass, along with votes from councillors Brian Hamilton, Rebecca Johnson, Brian McKinnon, Aldo Ruberto, and Peng You. Councillors Shelby Ch'ng, Andrew Foulds, Cody Fraser, Kristen Oliver, and mayor Bill Mauro voted against the cut.

After the meeting, Aiello said the cut was minimal in the context of the nearly \$7 million library budget. That total includes the capital budget, now reduced to around \$680,000.

"The cut was on capital, so there will be no change as far as the ability to buy books and licenses and stuff like that," Aiello said. "You might have a few less desks or chairs around, so I don't believe the impact is that great."

But library staff say that's not the case. Collections Director Angela Meady says funding to purchase new books, magazines, and other resources comes mainly from the capital budget. Meady sent Aiello an email to several other councillors, but says he did not respond.

To put the figure in context, Meady estimated \$50,000 would purchase two full stacks of children's books. She believes the cut will "very possibly" mean purchasing fewer books and other front-line resources this year.

Coun. Bentz argued council had not truly cut the library's budget, only reduced a proposed increase. Council approved a boost of just under 1% to the library's operating funding, slightly outweighing the cut to its capital budget. All told, the library's budget will increase by around 0.6% from 2019.

But with slight increases to staffing costs, and the need for capital maintenance and repairs especially at its aging Brodie facility - library representatives say an increase well under the rate of inflation could lead to some difficult choices, including purchasing fewer materials and offering fewer programs.

Richard Togman, a director on the library board, expressed frustration with council's decision, calling it short-sighted. He's disappointed councillors didn't reach out to better understand the library's budget and

operations before making the decision. "We asked city councillors to come talk to us multiple times when they had questions about the budget, [or] understanding the community hub approach," he said. "We've done a lot of outreach to them, and they

haven't really outreached back.' It's now up to the library board to adjust its budget to account for the shortfall in expected funds. Togman says its too early to tell where the library will find reductions in spending, but that the organization will do its best to minimize impacts to the public.

Bombardier sells its rail division to French manufacturer Alstom

THUNDER BAY By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

"It really

doesn't

matter whose

flag is out

there."

DOMENIC PASQUALINO

Bombardier has reached a deal to sell its rail division to a French company. The *Wall Street Journal* reported Sunday that a preliminary agreement worth over US\$7 billion has been made with Paris-based Alstom.

The reported deal comes as the company looks to manage its precarious finances, with over \$9 billion USD in debt - much of that coming due in 2025. Bombardier has already sold off most of its aviation division, some of it to Alstom, and is left with only its smaller business jet sector.

Quebec's Caisse de depot et placement (CDPQ), the province's retirement fund manager, is said to have agreed

to sell its 32.5 per cent share in Bombardier Transportation, and will purchase a minority stake in the new, combined train company. That entity is expected to generate around \$18 billion in annual revenue.

Bombardier Tranpsortation employs around 4,000 people across Canada, with factories in Thunder Bay, Kingston, and Quebec. It's unclear what the sale will mean for those workers. Dominic Pasqualino, president of the Unifor local repre-

senting Thunder Bay's Bombardier workers, has downplayed the significance of a potential ownership change.

"In the past, we've been owned by Hawker-Siddeley and Canadian Car, and we've been owned by Lavalin and by UTDC, and now for over 20 years by Bombardier, and



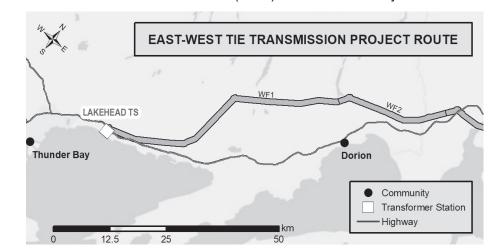
CHANGE COMING: A Bombardier street car for the TTC.

we've always been successful," Pasqualino told Dougall Media last week.

"It really doesn't matter whose flag is out there. We're going to continue building high-quality products.'

PUBLIC BURN NOTICE

As a means of ensuring that all interested communities are kept informed, Valard Construction will be conducting controlled slash pile burning during the period of February 17, 2020 to March 31, 2020 for the clearing of the East-West Tie (EWT) Transmission Project.



The areas where the burning activity will occur, are east of Thunder Bay and north of Dorion within the approved right-of-way of the EWT Transmission project.

For information regarding this project please visit www.NextBridge.ca





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"You many have a few less desks or chairs around..." ALBERT AIELLO

Editorial

EDITORIAL

Stop for a school bus

On Monday, Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay put out an alarming statistic.

Since Nov. 1, at least 190 incidents have been reported of motorists ignoring flashing red lights and extended stop-sign arms on school buses.

More than a quarter of the instances, which the organization says is a conservative estimate at best, have happened along Algoma Street.

This is disturbing at the very least, especially when young children are aboard.

How long will it be before one of them is seriously hurt, or worse?

Drivers often tell police they didn't notice the flashing lights.

How is that even possible? As a motorist, you have one job - to keep your eyes on the road and be fully aware of your surroundings.

All school buses should be equipped with video cameras to catch drivers who fail to stop. And police and the courts should penalize drivers to the full extent of the law.

Under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act, a first offence can result in a fine anywhere between \$400 and \$2,000, plus the loss of six demerit points. Subsequent incidents can raise the fine to between \$1,000 and \$4,000, plus six more demerit points and possible jail time, up to six months.

It's simple: stop for school buses.

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Libraries are important

To the editor:

Growing up in a country like Bangladesh, one of the things I missed was getting access to read the best writers in the world in English. So when I got the chance to move here something that fascinated me was knowing that I'd get the chance to read so many favourite books by some of the world's best writers.

As a visible minority, I know the library is the most welcoming place anywhere in the world for me and I would never feel afraid or nervous spending my time there.

This city has a racism issue and denying the fact would be a even bigger mistake and showing utter disrespect to the victims of racism.

When I have no money to buy a coffee or socializing I know library is the place where I can go read books, spend my times there and nobody asks me why I'm there.

Knowing no one in the city, having no friends at all, I used to be afraid to meet new people, was afraid to ask help was super nervous for my poor English skills.

I spent most of the time in my last year reading books in the public library to improve my English, improving my communication skills and trying to meet some new friends.

When it comes to making Thunder Bay a better inclusive place to live, Thunder Bay Public Library is a great leader showing us exactly how to bring back the trust to our community. More organizations should learn from the public library how to make their own organization more inclusive and welcoming. Having sticker on a door sign doesn't make a place welcoming for me.

> Abu Hena Mostofa Kamal, Thunder Bay

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



FamJam helps Shelter House

THUNDER BAY By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

Combine hundreds of kids on a day off school and numerous bouncy castles, and what do you get? The 2020 FamJam, complete with smiling faces, clowns, and, yes, a bit of organized chaos. The Family Day event directed all that energy toward a good cause this year, raising food donations for the Shelter House.

About 500 children attended the event at the CLE Colliseum last year, and organizer Ken Jones, who operates Funtastic Castles, expected to see similar numbers on Monday. He says it's as simple as wanting to give kids a good time, adding that all that bouncing is a healthy outlet for the sometimes tremendous energy of kids who might otherwise be indoors on the provincial holiday.

"We've got something for the little kids, something for the bigger kids," he says. "It's just a fun family time, I see the parents walk out with smiles on their faces – that's important."

Jones also used the opportunity to support an organization he believes in, offering free admission for adults with the donation of food items for Thunder Bay's Shelter House. He says it's a small way to pitch in for a worthy cause.

Beyond the popular inflatable castles, Jones partnered with Thunder Bay Gymnastics, who brought their tumble bug equipment for pre-school children. The event also offered activities including caricatures, face painting, hair braiding, along with crafts and colouring.

Nine-year-old Winter Lusignan, with hair freshly braided, said it's a great way to spend the day off. "I just love coming out here every year, because

you meet a bunch of new friends," she said. Her cousin Kyra Caouette, 10, agreed: "It's

amazing – it's a good way to spend your Family Day."



NEW LOOK: Facepainting was a hit at FamJam.

Perspective

Get the lead out

Up to 8,700 properties in the city could have lead pipes

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

was visiting with family at their home in the south ward last week when a package was delivered to the front door.

Everyone enjoys having cartons delivered with their Amazon orders, but this package was not ordered and was not particularly welcome.

But due to circumstances beyond the homeowners' control the delivery was necessary and so it was reluctantly accepted.

It contained a water pitcher and a supply of filters intended to remove lead from the drinking water of city homes with old, lead water pipes.

This major inconvenience was due to a sudden change in local water treatment and has focused attention on a long-standing public health concern.

To lessen the amount of lead in our water supply the city has added sodium hydroxide to our drinking water since 2018.

Causing leaks?

This will be discontinued because the chemical is suspected of causing pinhole leaks in water pipes.

While the environment division investigates, sodium hydroxide will be eliminated and lead levels in some homes are expected to rise.

This is troubling for families with young children and pregnant women who are particularly vulnerable to the toxic effects of lead. The urgency of the situation

leaves us no choice - we are well aware of the problem, we cannot delay and we need to get the lead out.

Current River Coun. Andrew Foulds says there are 8,700 Thunder Bay properties with lead pipes including many family homes.

Thunder Bay's 2020 municipal budget included \$50,000 to help home and business owners remove lead supply pipes from their properties.

It may be available for loans, grants or incentives but the remedy is not cheap, even with financial assistance

It would be regrettable if disadvantaged families in our community are put at risk because they don't have the necessary resources to protect themselves.

The city is slowly removing the lead pipes from public property but individual homeowners are on the hook for their own portion.

Water jugs and lead filters are distributed free of charge as a temporary, short-term fix – nervous citizens are anxious for a permanent one.

In the meantime it takes up to a half hour to filter and fill the pitcher with water.

One irate family I heard thought it was laughable to expect that drinking, cooking, hygiene and child care needs of a family of four could be satisfied with one pitcher of water.

This problem is not unique to Thunder Bay and is a slap in the face of all Canadians who brag about clean lakes, sparkling springs and rushing rivers.

Canada's natural water supply is the envy of the world.

But in many Canadian cities the water passes through aging, lead water pipes before it gets to the tap, creating this widespread public health risk.

Not from the source

For example, the raw water in Lake Superior contains little or no lead but many family homes in this city have lead in their tap water.

A year-long investigation reviewed 12,000 water test results taken in 11 cities across Canada since 2014 and the results are distressing.

One third of the tests exceeded Canadian safety guideline of five parts per billion (ppb) and some even surpassed the U.S. limit of fifteen ppb.

Sodium hydroxide was one of Thunder Bay's corrosion control measures for lead in our water but it is no longer part of the plan.

To protect their families and stay informed, concerned citizens can contact the city's environment division to request a water test.

Safe drinking water for every Canadian is achievable in this country but somehow that goal remains elusive and slow-moving. For our own good health we need to get the lead out.



LOVE IS IN THE AIR

FUN IN THE PARK: Huge crowds attended SnowDay at Marina Park, where snow sculptures were one of the main attractions throughout the Family Day weekend.

HOW TO WRITE US:

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

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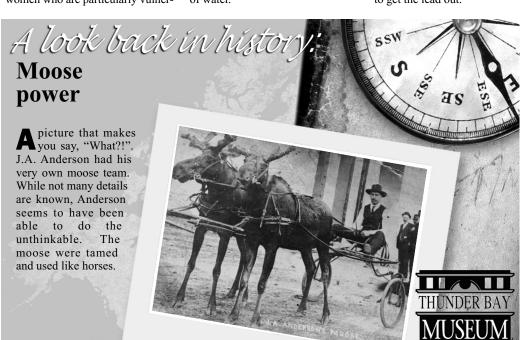
Festival will return in 2021?

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Science fair promotes helping others

EDUCATION By Leith Dunick –TB Source

Science fairs have come a long way. Decades ago, students might build an artificial volcano, add chemicals to make it erupt and walk away with a decent grade.

Today's teens have taken the education rite of passage to new heights.

At Pope John Paul II School, Grade 8 students last Wednesday took part in the Helping Hands science fair, creating projects with the aim of helping those with mental or physical disabilities live better lives.

Thirteen-year-old Andi Carroll, who is terrified of visiting a dentist's office, helped design a brochure for youngsters that helps walk them through what they can expect from a dental visit.

Frightening for some

Whether it's scraping and cleaning or numbing and drilling, the youngster has covered just about everything in her unconventional science project.

"It explains what tools are being used at the dentist and what they're being used for in a friendly way, so kids don't get nervous," Andi said.

She phoned around to local dentists' offices, explained what she was doing, and used the answers she got to create the pamphlets, which are expected to be distributed in many dental outlets throughout Thunder Bay.

The teen said the idea behind the



GREAT IDEAS: Sophie Petteplace, 13, a student at Pope John Paul II School, demonstrates her folding six-foot ramp for aging pets.

science fair is fantastic.

"I think it makes you actually go out of your bubble and think about other people and simple things you can do every day that actually make a difference in someone else's life."

Classmate Sophie Petteplace, also 13, was thinking about her 13-year-old pet dog when she created her project, a sixfoot folding ramp that aging canines can use to help them navigate stairways as their physical abilities begin to deteriorate.

"She can't jump into cars, she can't get up the stairs very easily and she'll stumble a lot," Sophie said of her own dog.

Looking around the school gymna-

sium, Sophie said teenagers are full of great ideas just waiting to be mined.

"And I think all of them can be used further, since this is just Grade 8s building projects. But I think we could take this to the next level, improve the materials and the idea," she said.

Preston Dolleny and Olivia LeCorq used simple mechanics to construct a

pill dispenser for older patients who might not have the strength to open pill bottles every day.

Another pair of student built an innovative system to help people who might have difficulties bending over put on pants.

The ideas are incredible, Olivia said.

"We think it's pretty awesome because it's for the benefits of people and not for just us," she said.

Different mindset

"Science fairs are usually about experiments," Preston said. "But this one really shows creativity in people. I just see a lot of people are thinking of great things."

Teacher Sylvia Dziurda, a Grade 8 teacher at the south-side school, said the projects the students came up with were amazing as they used deep learning to try to make the world a better place.

"Every year that I've seen this project so far, I just think to myself how could it possibly get better. This year, the students just opened up their avenues a lot more," Dziurda said.

At first she saw her students creating a lot of assistive devices to help people with physical disabilities, but now they're working on projects to help the visibly impaired, animals and even support for people who have mental challenges.

"The students have a lot of areas that they're passionate in," she said.





Museum celebrating Black History Month with displays

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Growing up, Jendaya Hopkins hasn't been easy finding herself represented in her school text books and history lessons.

It's why she's so excited to see a pair of exhibits on display at the Thunder Bay Museum honouring the exploits and accomplishments of prominent African-Canadians.

The 16-year-old, who idolizes Harriet Tubman, said she had to learn most of what she knows about her culture through selfeducation.

"There's very little covered in Ontario," the Hammarskjold High School student said last Thursday.

"I learned a bit in Grade 3 and not much of it comes back to me now. Lots of the information I do know I had to study on my own. So getting to come here and see everything, it just helps me enforce the learning that I did do on my own and learn about a bunch of new people I may have never heard of before."

Two exhibits

The exhibits, located on the museum's second floor, focus on two areas of black achievement. Black Canadians in Sport highlights the accomplishments of pioneering athletes like hockey's Willie O'Ree, Olympian Perdita Felicien and football's Mike (Pinball) Clemons.

The Roots of Freedom takes a deeper look at individuals of black Canadian descent who helped shape the country's fabric, both historically and contemporarily.

Hopkins said she's encouraging all youth, especially those of African descent, to check out the displays.

"It's very important for youth to realize their roots and realize how it wasn't easy for people to get to where we are today," she said.

"It's very important they can come out and see they come from amazing things and how it all comes back to them to where we are today."

The result is amazing, Hopkins added. Museum curator Michael deJong said it's

important to shed a light on the entire community when deciding on what to put on display. "The Thunder Bay Museum is pleased to

"The Thunder Bay Museum is pleased to partner with the Caribbean African Multicultural Association of Thunder Bay in offering these exhibits and to play a part



CULTURE CLUB: Margaret Kargbo performs a dance at the Thunder Bay Museum last week.

in celebrating Black History Month by bringing this fascinating aspect of history to Thunder Bay."

In addition to the museum exhibit, CAMAT is hosting its 10th annual Black History Month Dinner and Gala on Feb. 29 at the Italian Cultural Centre. The event features cultural performances and authentic African and Caribbean cuisine in support of the CAMAT scholarship fund. Entertainers include Rockalypso and steel pianist Earl La Pierre.

More information can be found at www.camatnetwork.com.

Thursday, February 20, 2020





TB**Life**

Not hard to find cure for winter blues

Fall Fishing Film Tour headed to the Auditorium soon

uckily, we are well past the days of 5 p.m. sunsets, but erratic temperature swings and plenty of snow can eventually start to wear on those hardy people who call Thunder Bay home.

The winter blues are very common in Canada, with many of us experiencing a mood shift during the colder, darker days of winter. We may find ourselves feeling a bit gloomy, lethargic or unmotivated to get out and enjoy life.

The good news about the winter blues is that there are a number of evidence-based ways to alleviate symptoms. Getting outside, especially when the sun is shining, will help boost serotonin production and, in turn, boost our overall mood.

As well, research consistently shows a strong connection between exercise and mental health. Exercise increases the amount of endorphins our bodies produce, and that leads to a noticeable improvement in the way we feel.

In addition to a daily dose of exercise and spending time outside, I find that having something to look forward to is a big help. Right now, many of us are already dreaming about open-water fishing.

While the ice won't be receding from our favourite fishing spots anytime soon, the International Fly Fishing Film Festival is coming to the



WARMING UP: The Fall Fishing Film Tour might be just enough to help anxious angler get through the final stretch of winter weather.

Thunder Bay Community Auditorium in a few weeks, and it might be just the thing to help get us through the final stretch of winter.

The fourth edition of this annual event comes to town on Wednesday March 4, features 10 short films and promises even more Canadian content than past editions.

This event is aimed at anglers, conservationists, nature lovers and film buffs alike. Presented by the North Shore Steelhead Association, the film fest was brought to Thunder Bay to inspire outdoors-loving people to "get out, mingle, see some films and beat the blues," says NSSA vicepresident Terry Kosolowski.

Film Fest committee member Wes Bender adds that profits from the evening are invested back into our community.

This year, the Outdoors Club at Superior Collegiate high school will be the lucky recipients of some fishing gear as well as complimentary tickets to the event. The school and the film fest organizers are also planning to organize a fishing trip in the spring for these lucky students.

The International Fly Fishing Film Festival features movies produced by professional filmmakers from all corners of the globe, showcasing the passion, lifestyle and culture of fly fishing.

The films at this year's event will showcase an inspiring variety of fishing adventures.

From arctic char in Nunavik to bull trout in the Rockies, and from salmon in British Columbia to permit in Belize, the fish and the locations featured in these films are legendary.

As well, the stories are meant to inspire: we will explore an unspoiled arctic marine environment where humans are not at the top of the food chain; we will see a father and son rehash the destruction of their relationship, and awkwardly grapple with reconciliation; we will meet a woman on a journey to become the world fly casting champion; and we will witness the uplifting story of a young boy's perspective on the sport of fishing.

If you are suffering from the winter blues, craving some gorgeous scenery, or in need of some inspiring stories, get your tickets now and join us at the Auditorium on March 4 for the Fly Fishing Film Festival.



Misadventuring with Farmer Fred, Big Red

Again? Again? You drove your tractor into a ditch again? Will this insanity never cease? OK, what happened (sigh).

So, there I was, doing snow-clearing touch-up on our driveway. We had a vicious wind blowing most of Friday and, inevitably, parts of the driveway were covered enough that even with a

four-wheel drive vehicle, the going would be dicey ("Keep to the left!"). Earlier in the week my poor wife, Laura, didn't keep to the left when she encountered a sizeable snow drift and wound up in the ditch on the right. I was doing dishes and saw her leave for work. I looked up and saw the

truck just sitting there half-way down the drive. Oh dear, she is stuck. On with the boots, jacket, toque, and gloves and into the tractor shelter where I store my ancient beast, Big Red. I grabbed the chain, threw it into the bucket, and off we trundled to liberate the truck from being stuck. T'was an easy job and soon Laura was on her way. She wasn't even late for work.

But, as I mentioned, this past Friday we had an horrendous wind that blew the rug and screen porch furniture upside down. There were some empty pizza boxes on a shelf in the porch waiting to be taken to the recycle area on Dump Day and those were plastered against the far wall. Wow, wonder what the driveway will look like? I found out. That stretch where Laura had gone off of the drive was again blown in. So were a couple of other ones too. I again fired up Red and out we went to snow blow and scrape.

All was going according to Hoyle. I was using the bucket to slice and scrape. Sometimes it is hard to estimate the depth and level of the bucket, to get it just right so that you create a smooth and level drive. I noticed however that I'd created some ridges, the result of the bucket being too angled toward the driveway surface. Ah well, back up and try to scrape up those ridges. Easy. Done it many times before. Except that this time my neck was stiff and turning my head around to see where I was going when backing was a tad difficult. I thought that I was going straight back. And then I felt the resistance of the hardened snow covering the ditch as Red slowly sank. Rats!

I tried to go forward to extricate the tractor. No go. The right rear tire just spun on the ice. OK, try going backwards. Nope, just dug Red deeper into the deep

way were hardened snow from un down drive rear) FRED JONES Succe

RURAL ROOTS

snow. Problem was the weight of the snowblower on Red's rear. Its weight just pulled us further downhill into the ditch until we came to rest against the fence. What to do? I walked back to the house to fetch the snow shovel and one hour later after shovelling hardened snow from under and around Red, even

down to hard ground hoping the drive tires (those big ones on the rear) would gain purchase.

I realized that I couldn't back out, so forward it was, and we succeeded with only one casualty – the support fence post, the one that keeps the gate post to the paddock from tipping over. But, hooray! No damage to Red or the

blower. Whew!

The next day I was taking red to snow blow a neighbour's very long driveway. That one is exposed in several places and drifts blow in such that even with a four-wheel truck, passage is extremely difficult. I almost didn't make it.

The steering on Red is very wobbly. It is an old beast and when driving slowly there isn't a problem; but when using any speed such as heading along our township road, I had to make constant corrections with the steering.

I had left our farm and was proceeding up the road when I came to a curve. I must have hit the soft shoulder that is really soft because again the front right ire grabbed the snow and the weight of the blower on the rear helped the tractor plough into the bank, not far but enough that neither going forward nor back would work. What to do?

Neighbours are great. Just so happened that tractor and Fred sat opposite a new, young one who just happened to be home (thank goodness!). I told him about my mishap and he grabbed his coat telling me that he had his plough truck with chains available and eh could get me out. Which he did, bless him. I thanked him and continued on my journey, this time driving in the middle of the road taking no chances. I snow blew the neighbour driveway and when I returned to our farm, I saw the insane sig-zag pattern Red had made when we drove to the job.

Fixing the steering? I looked in the technical manual for the tractor: perhaps an engineer from NASA could figure it out. Or some handy Mr. Fix-it I happen to know.

Provincial bus service to expand

THUNDER BAY By TB Source staff

People in Northern Ontario will have another option for getting to other parts of the province thanks to the expansion of a provincially funded bus service to the city of Thunder Bay.

The Ontario Northland Transportation Commission is expanding its service west to Thunder Bay later this spring. Previously ONTC only travelled as far west as White River.

"I truly believed this is a taxpayer funded bus service and if it's going to be called Ontario Northland, it should service Ontario North in the fullest extent of the word," said Minister of Energy, Northern Development, and Mines, Greg Rickford, who was in Thunder Bay for the announcement last Wednesday. "That's why it's coming west."

Service is expected to begin in April 2020 with a six day per week return service to Thunder Bay. Passengers can travel to Southern Ontario using integrated private carriers.

This is the first bus service to provide transportation to Southern Ontario since Greyhound announced in 2018 that it would no longer be operating routes in Northwestern Ontario.

"We believe in the absence of the Greyhound bus service created a vacuum for people living in Northwestern Ontario to get to Thunder Bay or Winnipeg."

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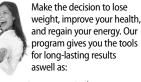
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YCLE this year. I was wondering if you had any other tips for saving. Dawn Dear Dawn – Future Saver! There are many ways that you can save every day. Thanks so much for asking and thank you

day. Thanks so much for asking and thank you for your support. We really just need to be more conscious about how much we are spending day to day so we can eliminate some of the little things that continually add up and limit our ability to save for

things that continually add up and limit our ability to save for the future. Here are some simple tips to help you get started. Don't pay a higher price for

things just because the store is nicer inside. Beware the ambiance and shopping "mood" that stores work so hard to create. Don't get enticed to pay more for items just because you are romanced by the surroundings and the staff.

attended one of your seminars and was telling

my daughter about how she should save more

When doing home improvement that requires expensive tools, rent them instead of buying tools. Cut down on your phone services. Consider eliminating your land line at home if you use your cell phone all the time.

Cut down on your cable service. Beware all the upgrades and bundle services that soon add up to a hefty monthly charge.

Reuse your stuff. Find new uses for things that you want to replace. Paint it, change it, what could you use it for now?

Stop buying. Value your items. It was cherished when you first bought it, why did you lose interest?

Drive your cars longer. Repair your car when needed instead of trading it in just because of high mileage.

Buy generic brands when you can. Consider buying used for everything and keep your things longer. Resist the desire to upsize and upgrade.

Cut out the pet groomers and cut your pet's hair and nails yourself. Buying the right grooming tools is a one-time investment into future savings. Stop the high costs on your pets – they don't need it. Pets just want your attention and that's free.

Use points programs that are offered by retailers. Collect points throughout the year and then use them to purchase gifts for Christmas and birthdays. The gifts are free, but the receiver doesn't have to know.

Stop the take-out and restaurant meals. Take lunches to school and work. There is nothing better than a home cooked meal. Restaurant meals make your waistline wider and your wallet thinner. Eating out should be restricted for special occasions only.

It feels good to get a deal! Have that feeling more often! Start looking for opportunities and become addicted to saving.

Good luck and best wishes,

Money Lady

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author of "How to Retire Debt Free and Wealthy" If you have a money question, please email on my website at: www.askthemoneylady.ca Follow on Facebook and Instagram

Family offers \$2K reward after dog fatally shot

NEEBING By Gary Rinne – TB Source

A someone shot and fatally wounded their beloved pet, then left its remains under a bridge.

The 13-year-old Karelian bear dog disappeared after being let outside at its home at Cloud Bay in Neebing on Jan. 15.

The family had held out hope that a Good Samaritan had picked him up, thinking he was a stray.

But on Feb. 3, his body was discovered beneath a bridge on Cloud River Road., about three kilometres from the residence.

It had a bullet wound in its head.

Owner Bruce Oliver says the family is "devastated" over their loss.

Oliver said the OPP are investigating, and he has put up a \$2,000 reward.

The family initially offered the money to anyone who could find the dog alive, and is now offering the same amount for information leading to the conviction of the person responsible.

"If someone knows something, they're encouraged to call the OPP," Oliver told Tbnewswatch. He said he let Atlas Boyka out about 9:30 the morning of the day he disappeared.

Oliver believes someone shot it deliberately and moved its body where it wouldn't easily be found.





PET TRAGEDY: This Karelian bear dog disappeared and was later found fatally shot near Cloud River Road.

Learning to save more in 2020



Thursday, February 20, 2020 13 Classified

TBLife



WITH THEM: B.C.'s Liston Bentley, a student at Lakehead University, stands with the hereditary chiefs.

Students support the Wet'suwet'en

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

nationwide show of support for hered-Aitary chiefs in the Wet'suwet'en Territory has landed at Lakehead University.

Among the crowd of 100 gathered in solidarity last Wednesday afternoon was Liston Bentley, a first-year student at the Thunder Bay school who hails from the British Columbia First Nation, where blockades have led to arrests of protestors opposed to Coastal GasLink's proposed

\$6.6-billion natural-gas pipeline being built on their territory.

It's tough being so far from home, he said.

But it's great to see so many people from so many different backgrounds willing to stand up and fight for what's right.

"It makes me feel so proud and so much honour that there is so much support for life and for the future of all Canadians and all children," he said, clutching a red sign that reads, "We stand with Wet'suwet'en."

"It makes me so proud to see all these people with us and among us. But it also hurts my heart, when I look at the history of protests and advocacy, and the impotency of it.'

The fight began this past Dec. 31, when the British Columbia Supreme Court gave the company an expanded injunction against community members, who were preventing workers from accessing the project site.

Coastal GasLink says it has agreements signed with 20 First Nations along its proposed pipeline route, including the elected leadership in Wet'suwet'en.

However, the hereditary chiefs disagree with the plan.

The protests have led to the RCMP stepping in and arresting some of the protestors, which has left many questioning the legality of such action and led to protests from coast to coast.

Neeben Scanlon-Wabasse, an LU student who helped organize the rally, said he did so to help support defenders of the land in

the Wet'suwet'en Territory and their right to self-govern themselves.

"It's important to get these messages across to these people, especially when they're the future leaders of society" Scanlon-Wabasse said, point around a packed Agora.

"Hopefully we share the same values regarding these types of issues."

He added it's heartwarming to see just how much support is out there, especially at the university.

"I didn't think there would be that much support," Scanlon-Wabasse said.

"I think it shows that even when the event is over today, it will carry on."

The government must understand that land is worth fighting for, he added.

"The atrocities being committed, we can't stand for that as a country, especially considering the long rich history of oppression we've faced. They won't silence us now."

MUSSELWHITE

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FIVE-PIN BOWLING Galaxy Lanes	9:00AM- 4:30PM	9:00AM- 4:30PM	9:00AM- 4:30PM	EVENTS ARE FREE TO ATTEND!
CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING Kamview Nordic Centre	10:30AM- 3:00PM	10:30AM- 3:30PM	10:30AM- 3:30PM	10:30AM- 12:00PM
CURLING Fort William Curling Club	9:00AM- 5:00PM	9:00AM- 5:00PM	9:00AM- 5:00PM	9:00AM- 11:00AM
FIGURE SKATING Thunder Bay Tournament Centre	11:30AM- 4:15PM	5:15PM- 8:30PM	2:45PM- 9:15PM	
FLOOR HOCKEY Lakehead University	8:00AM– 5:15PM	11:00AM- 10:30PM	8:00AM- 5:15PM	8:00AM- 1:15PM
SNOWSHOEING Chapples Golf Course	9:00AM- 3:00PM	9:00AM- 4:00PM	9:00AM- 4:30PM	9:00AM- 11:30AM
SPEED SKATING Delaney Arena	1:00PM- 4:30PM	1:00PM- 3:30PM	10:00AM- 2:30PM	
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"I didn't think there would be that much support." NEEBEN SCANLON-WABASSE



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IN THE bay arts entertainment culture

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Blues Fest cancelled

A lack of available A-level talent behind the decision to take 2020 off

MUSIC By Leith Dunick – TB Suorce

The Thunder Bay Blues Festival will take the summer off.

Organizers, citing a lack of availability of headliner quality talent to top the bill at the three-day waterfront festival, said it became clear that in order to maintain the standard set in recent years it was best to skip 2020 and concentrate on 2021.

"We pull out the stops to try to make things happen," said the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium's Trevor Hurtig, recalling a deal to charter a plane to allow Sara McLachlan to fly to Toronto after her Blues Festival appearance to see her children, clinching the deal.

"To make something not happen, it's just against our nature. It's not something we like to do by any means. But unfortunately this year there wasn't much option."

It's not for a lack of interest on the part of the ticket-buying public.

The event quickly sold out the past two summers, with the likes of McLachlan, Bryan Adams and Sheryl Crow topping the lineup.

This year was a different story, with one potential headliner backing out and several other options, including Neil Young and Stevie Nicks, proving too expensive for the market to bear. Joan Jett, who was on their early radar, instead decided to tour with Motley Crue, Def Leppard and Poison.

Not enough music available

"It really came down to the fact that a lot of these artists were going out on these mega tours, where there are four or five artists on the bill and they're going all over North America and Europe. When those artists come out of the mix, it's really hard to put together a lineup for a single festival, because they're just gone," Hurtig said.

Other artists were holding out for tours of their own, weren't planning to hit the road, or declined the offer.

The event began in 2002, with Canadian legend Colin James and the late, great Jeff Healey among those sharing the stage.

Over the years the festival began a gradual shift away from the blues, acts in the genre generally relegated to an afternoon billing.

Legendary acts like Dr. John, Buddy Guy and Ten Years After are among the memorable Blues Fest alumni over the years. In later years, acts like the Spin



ALL I WANNA DO: Sheryl Crow, in 2018, was one of the biggest names in Blues Fest history.

Doctors, Tedeschi Trucks Band and Kenny Wayne Shepherd took the stage.

"We're

definitely

hoping to

revive this

and keep it

going in the

future."

TREVOR HURTIG

Organizers considered curating a festival with lesser tier acts, but were worried a lack of big names atop the lineup

poster could hurt ticket sales.

"We did look at that, but it really came down to the fact it would be bands that have been through here so, so many times," Hurtig said. "Even at that point we were getting a lot of pushback and resistance that they were waiting to see what was going out and what they could latch onto as well. "That was really the final crux. When we got down into the B-

level acts, if you will, and they were still somewhat unwilling to commit, the writing was on the wall. We just couldn't proceed." Hurtig said the plan is to regroup and see if the festival can be brought back next year.

"We're definitely hoping to revive this and keep it going in the future. For this year it was obvious we weren't going to be able to get the talent we were looking for." he said.

Other options

Music fans won't be completely left without options on the waterfront this summer.

Country on the Bay, featuring Toby Keith and Terri Clark atop the bill, is scheduled for the same Marina Park venue from July 24 to July 26. Blues Fest had originally been announced for July 10 to July 12.

The Wake the Giant Music Festival, which last year brought July Talk, Coleman Hell and Metric, is scheduled for Sept. 19 at Prince Arthur's Landing. No lineup details have yet to be released.

IN THE **bay**



CRASH LANDING: Julia-Louis Dreyfus (left) and Will Ferrell star in the remake of the 2015 Swedish movie, Film Majeure.

Ferrell, Dreyfus film slides Downhill fast

The makers of Downhill probably thought that their title was a droll play on words, serving as a doubleentendre to describe both a family on a skiing vacation and the brittle state the family finds itself in the aftermath of a cowardly act committed by the father during their stay.

However, they may not have anticipated that the title is an also apt description for the movie's misfired fortunes.

Inspired by the far superior Swedish film, *Force Majeure*, (NOSFA screened 2015) *Downhill* mishandles the good stuff that made the international film so

effective as a darkly funny social commentary and hits some ruts when it makes departures from the Swedish film.

The story focuses on Will Ferrell and Julia Louis-Dreyfus and their two young sons as they embark upon a skiing holiday at a posh resort in the Austrian Alps.

However, their second day is

disrupted by a jolt of terror as a controlled avalanche threatens to engulf the restaurant terrace in which the family is enjoying lunch. The patrons panic, most noteworthy Farrell, who grabs his iPhone and dashes, leaving Louis-Dreyfus and sons to fend for themselves.

The avalanche stops short of the restaurant, but everything is temporarily invisible in the settling mist, whereupon Ferrell sheepishly returns to the table, and upon seeing his family is OK, simply orders some soup.

In *Force Majeure*, the father's craven act became the elephant in the room, bringing gloom and emotional fallout upon the whole family.

The disagreement between mom and dad on what actually happened extended to the husband's buddy

and young girlfriend, thereby underlining satirical observations on what defines masculinity and bravery. These were played out with brilliant, deadpan, oneshot takes.

In *Downhill*, co-directors Nat Faxton and Jim Rash may have the same aspirations, but they are no where nearly as artistically inclined.

Almost all actions and behaviours engender some literal explanation, flattening the effect. Ferrell and Louis-Dreyfus barely illustrate the depth of their relationship. And they don't really play off each other that well.

> Scenes involving Ferrell chatting with his male pal are pale grafts from the original. New to the mix are a horny European hotel hostess and a gigolo-like Italian ski instructor who offer shopworn stereotypical comic relief. Kristofer Hiviu he of the wild-

Kristofer Hivju, he of the wildeyed, storm-tossed hair and bushy beard, best known for his role in

Game of Thrones and who played the husband's buddy in the original, makes a cameo as a very unhelpful hotel safety employee. Dreyfus' supposedly able attorney character cannot penetrate his glaring, monosyllabic sandbagging.

Other bits of *Force Majeure* business are retained, including the flavourful music and motifs mocking the resort's non-human, clockwork operation, and a bathroom mirror tableaux that reveals much simply through characters' body language.

None of which are handled here with the same stylistic assurance.

Even with the ending, Dreyfus' mom is made to explain what could have been a nice little nuanced moment in which the Ferrell character seemingly gets to redeem himself. For the filmmakers of *Downhill*,

Five fun things to do this week

Saturday

The Finlandia Club has partnered with Tomlin Catering to bring Wes Anderson's *Grand Budapest Hotel* to life through food. Snack-sized tastings are paired with scenes from the film and delivered to your seat. The event bgins at 6 p.m. and tickets are available though Eventbrite.

Sunday

Gamers will want to head to the Game Gshelf for a Warhammer Underworld Beastgrave demo day. The public is encouraged to test out the game to see how it all plays out. From 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday

The Oliver Road Community Centre is hosting it's 74th annual Family Fun Carnival Day, featuring a penny acution that opens at noon, a children's corner at 2 p.m., special events at 3 p.m. and draws beginning at 5 p.m.

There will be plenty of food for sale.

Sunday

An Olympic fundraiser is being held at the Foundry for Olympic skateboarding hopeful Adam Hopkins.

A \$5 minimum donation at the door is requested to help cover training and travel costs for the athlete to compete at the Tokyo Games.

There will be Thunder Bay-style raffles, live t-shirt printing and the entertaining live music of Cam Hopkins and the King Rat.

The festivities kick off at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

The Special Olympics Canada Winter Games open at a variety of venues around the city.

Help welcome athletes from across the country to our city in a variety of sports, including five-pin bowling, alpine and cross-country skiing, curling, figure skating, floor hockey, snowshoeing and speed skating. The Games run through Feb. 29.



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IN THE **bay**

Frida makes most of Oscar snub

Unless you've had a baby, you've likely never heard of Frida, a company that makes post-partum products.

You probably aren't even aware of the necessity of their products after childbirth.

And according to their CEO, that needs to change.

No one talks about their flabby bleeding and leaking body that can't poop because of damaged abdominal muscles.

Post-partum women are hobbling around in giant diapers, peeing and soiling themselves.

New ways to clean

They're having to do things to clean themselves that no one ever told them about in high school health class.

So Frida's marketing department has developed very real advertising that



shows women what to expect after they've expected.

But mainstream media has balked. ABC, which aired the Oscars, rejected their bid to air a commercial during the ceremonies. Why?

In the commercial, an exhausted new mother grunts and moans on a toilet. She can barely stand-up at the bathroom sink, her underwear around her ankles. The image is as real as it gets.

And new or soon-to-be-new moms should know this is perfectly normal. But do I want to see that during an awards show? The politically correct or "woke" answer is "Of course. It's time to bring women's reproduction into the light."

However, the truth is more "Yeah, not so much."

I don't really want to go from the glitz and glam of an awards show to a commercial about post-partum urination any more than I wanted to watch Brad Pitt get political or Joaquin Phoenix rant about cows.

Regardless, Frida had to know the commercial wouldn't be accepted. The Academy has strict advertising guidelines for their family-friendly show.

Numerous topics and items are prohibited including feminine hygiene

products, adult diapers, condoms or hemorrhoid remedies.

They also don't allow partial nudity or product demonstration.

And yet, Frida sent ABC their commercial anyway.

Frida wants to push the envelope.

In 2018, their billboard campaign promoted a product that claimed "Your Vagina Will Thank You." Maybe so, but it was still outlawed by most municipalities.

However, this time the rejection was not the end of it.

Frida blanketed social media with an invitation to watch the ad that was "banned from the Oscars."

Online views hit mid-five digits within hours.

So why the Oscars, anyway? Viewership has dwindled.

Yes, those remaining are mostly women. But are they the right women?

Frida isn't a huge corporation and while the Oscars aren't exactly the Super Bowl, advertising time is still expensive. Targeted marketing of a message to a more specific and accepting audience (rather than just half the population) would get a better bang for their advertising buck.

Нуре

Which just might have been the point. Instead of shelling out for 30 seconds in the midst of an overbloated awards show, Frida's getting coverage on CNN and tweets by celebrities, and are the topic of female conversation just as they'd hoped.

And it didn't cost them an Oscar cent.

And I can watch a post-partum woman pee only if, and when, I'm ready to.

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Fighting Walleye added to SIJHL

SIJHL By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Thunder Bay is a two-team Superior International Junior Hockey League city once again.

The league lastThursday made it official, announcing the addition of the expansion Kam River Fighting Walleye, giving the Junior A circuit a seventh team for 2020-21.

Team president Derek Geddes said it was the worst kept hockey secret in the city, but he's excited to be taking the leap into the SIJHL, after founding the junior B Thunder Bay Walleye franchise, a team that will continue to play in the Lakehead Junior Hockey League, under a new name.

"It's hard to keep a secret," Geddes said at an afternoon news conference launching the team – and a new beer – at Sleeping Giant Brewery.

Ready to roll

"We're glad this day is over and we can start putting our feet to the road and working hard at building this organization. We're really excited, this whole group, about getting this team here, getting out there, getting our coach named, starting to sign some players and getting some season tickets out there and getting the business community to know what we're all about and our vision."

Newly appointed general manager Kevin McCallum has plenty of SIJHL experience to draw upon, having helped found the Thief River Falls Norskies, despite detractors telling him the franchise would never get off the



NEW TEAM: Kevin McCallum, Colin Campbell, Derek Geddes and SUHL commissioner Bryan Graham announce the Fighting Walleyes.

ground.

McCallum said he's confident there's more than enough room for two Thunder Bay teams in the league, a first since the K&A Wolverines folded and left the Fort William North Stars as the lone local team in the league in 2010. The Fighting Walleye have built a solid fan base of 250 regulars at the Tournament Centre playing in the LJHL, and McCallum said there are more than enough skilled players to go around.

"We're going to be very competitive in the community. We're going to be working with schools. As far as players are concerned, we're looking for 18- to 20-year olds. We're not looking to raid the Kings organization by any means," McCallum said.

"If there are special circumstances where there's a 16- or 17-year-old and his OHL team believes he should be in a junior A lineup, that's something we may discuss. But just to fill our lineup, we will not be doing it with 16- or 17year-olds."

Like other teams in the SIJHL, the Walleye are expected to operate on a pay-for-play basis, with players anteing up a registration fee to help cover the operational costs of running a junior A franchise.

Past history

League commissioner Bryan Graham said he's confident the team can succeed in the city where others before, including the K&A Golden Hawks and the Thunder Bay Bulldogs, did not.

"I think there's renewed interest in junior A hockey at this level especially. We hope that it will create a rivalry. We understand with the player pool they're going to have to reach outside of Thunder Bay to stock both the teams with out-of-town players as well," Graham said.

"Everybody feels this is a good plan and we look forward to implementing it next season."

The league plans to maintain its 56game schedule and is looking at having each team play all six other teams nine games apiece to start. The Fighting Walleye and North Stars will not both be in town the same weekend unless they happen to play each other, Graham added.

The league is still working with a new ownership group to take over the dormant Minnesota Iron Rangers franchise, which departed after last season, but does not expect the things will line up in time to bring them aboard next season.

Underrated Raptors continue to prove their critics wrong



The Toronto Raptors recent 15-game winning streak had to come to an end at some point.

Before the season began, a lot of socalled experts were predicting the defending champions, minus Kawhi Leonard and company, would barely squeak into the NBA playoffs.

The conventional wisdom was the

team would blow things up at the deadline, deal the likes of Marc Gasol and maybe even Kyle Lowry, to contenders and begin their rebuild in earnest.

I wasn't quite that hard on them, figuing they might bin the mix for fourth of fifth place, speculating they might be buyers come February.

Not even Drake saw them sitting at 40-15 and generally considered the third best team in basketball behind the LeBron-fuelled Los Angeles Lakers and the Milwaukee Bucks.

At the all-star break, the Raptors collectively had lost 188 games to injury, the fifth most in the NBA.

All-star guard Lowery has sat out 12 games, Gasol 20. Serge Ibaka missed 11 and Norm Powell has been injured for 17 and counting, after breaking his hand.

Oh, and Pascal Siakam, Patrick McCaw and Fred VanVleet have also all missed significant chunks of time to injury.

The losses would have sunk most teams.

Not Nick Nurse's crew.

The second-year coach turned to Chris Boucher and Terrence Davis, who was absolutely robbed not being invited to the future stars' game.

Davis is averaging 7.9 points per

game in just 17.3 minutes a night and had a career high 31 off the bench against Chicago as Toronto won its 11th straight.

He's got four 20-point games to date, not bad for a player with just two starts all season.

Chris Boucher, who began his NBA career with the Golden State Warriors, is up to 6.3 points and 4.3 boards per game, a threat to block just about any opposition shot no matter where he is on the court.

Their starting five might not have a superstar, but Siakam isn't that far off and Lowry is playing like a man 10 years younger than his 33 years.

VanVleet, when he's hot, can bury threes from Sudbury, and Ibaka is having a late-career renaissance.

A second straight Larry O'Brien trophy is not out of the quesion in 2019-20, not by any means.

The Raptors still have to prove themselves against the Bucks, and despite 15 straight wins, they've only been able to gain a single game against first-place Milwaukee – the team to beat in the Eastern Conference – and Boston, both of whom have gone 8-2.

Still, for now they're sitting pretty in the No. 2 slot in the East, and barring No. 1, that just where they want to be.

sports NEWS

IN BRIEF

Wolves bounced by Rams

ordan Larson gave the Lakehead Thunderwolves a chance.

But the Ryerson Rams weren't about to let their first-round opponent force a do-or-die Game 3 in their opening round OUA West quarterfinal playoff series.

Larson sent the game to overtime, scoring with 4:32 to go in regulation, but Devon Palani scored 9:12 into the extra frame, beating a diving Brock Aiken for the best-ofthree series-clinching goal that sent the Rams into the second round.Ryerson swept the series 2-0.

Steven Harland had the game's only other goal, scoring 17 seconds into the second period.

Women's hockey wins

he Lakhead Thunderwolves are still The Lakhead Humderworke looking good for a bid at a third straight trip to the ACHA Division 2 women's hockey championship.

A 2-1 loss on Saturday night to the visiting North Dakota State University Bisons didn't help their chances

But the Wolves (12-5-0) managed to rebound on short rest on Sunday morning, riding Victoria Darosa's first-period goal and the shutout goaltender Jessie Pettinger, pressed into emergency duty when starter Callie Bevilacqua went down to injury the night before, to pick up a 1-0 win and a weekend series split.

LU grabs playoff spot

t one point this season, the Lakehead Thunderwolves women's basketball team was 1-9 and headed nowhere. That was then, and this is now.

The Wolves last Friday, led by a 25-point, 14-rebound effort by all-star guard Sofia Lluch, downed UOIT 82-53 and will take on Windsor in the opening round of the OUA women's basketball playoffs on the road.





RECORD-BREAKING: Lakehead's Lock Lam (right) blocks the shot of Queen's forward Quinton Gray on Saturday night.

Wolves finish at No. 2

Career-high 40 points by Isaiah Traylor sparks 114-76 triumph BASKETBALL Queen's went on an 8-0 run in the second and later

By Leith Dunick -TB Source

n a league that includes the Carleton Ravens, being No. 2 isn't all that bad.

Having a guy like Isaiah Traylor leading the way certainly helps.

The American import, one of three Lakehead Thunderwolves playing their final OUA regular season game at the C.J. Sanders Fieldhouse, scored 15 points in the opening quarter and left after dropping his 40th point midway through the third as the Wolves humiliated a road-weary Queen's Gaels team 114-76 on Saturday night.

Traylor was a man on a mission, determined to make sure the Wolves got the two points they needed to stay ahead of the Western Mustangs, a team that rallied earlier in the day to edge the Windsor Lancers and pull even with LU on the final day of the 2019-20 campaign.

"There was something in the air tonight. We hit every shot. There was a lot of energy and a lot of guys stepped up who we needed to step up," Traylor said after his career-high output.

"It was huge. My family was here and they don't get to see me play a lot. I wanted to go out with a bang, but we still have one more game here so we'll try to keep it rolling."

Finishing No. 2 was the weekend goal.

"We talked about that a little bit. We took two tough losses in Windsor and Western, so those hurt. We said we have to bounce back. I'm a faith guy, so I believe in God, so God works in mysterious ways and it came out to be the best for us," the Tupelo, Miss. native said.

The Thunderwolves (17-5) never trailed for a single second in the contest, taking the lead on Chume Nwigwe's early three-pointer and quickly jumping out in front of the Gaels 16-5.

closed the gap to four when Harry Range hit one of two at the free-throw line. But the Wolves then went on a 13-2 run and took a 57-41 lead into the half.

The first half also featured a record-setting performance by defensive wizard Lock Lam, who entered play just one blocked shot short of Yoosrie Salhia's team record of 122.

It was never in doubt, he had five in the first half and finished with nine of the night to set a new standard of

130 - in 56 fewer games than Salhia.

The soft-spoken centre was rather nonchalant about the accomplishment.

"It's just me. That's what I live to do, to block shots," he said.

Coach Ryan Thomson, who played with Salhia, was a little more vocal about the record.

"That's a credit to Lock and his incredible timing. I've said it before, but his high school coach praised him for his instincts and timing with his blocked shots and said he was the best shot blocker he'd ever seen," Thomson said.

"And at this level, certainly he's the best shot blocker I've ever seen or been around."

Traylor only needed 29 minutes of court time to collect his 40 points.

"He did have a ridiculous night and that's incredibly efficient too - 23 shots to get 40. It was something to watch. It was impressive," Thomson said.

Alston Harris finished with 17 off the bench and Matthew Edwards, a third-year guard from Whitby, Ont., collected a dozen points to lead the non-Traylor scoring parade.

Rookie Cole Syllas led the Gaels (14-8) with 21 points. The Wolves will host an OUA guarterfinal match at home next Saturday against the winner of the opening

round series between Queen's and Laurier.

"There was something in the air tonight."

ISAIAH TRAYLOR

Thursday, February 20, 2020 19







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