

Thunder Bay

source



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YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Big winners

Sisters Paulette Howe and Suzanne Gribben take home \$965K hospital 50/50 prize /2



SUBMITTED

HUGE AMOUNT: Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation's first 50/50 prize draw was a huge success, bringing in hundreds of thousands for the hospital.

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HOSPITAL OVERLOAD



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LOCAL NEWS



BIG WIN: Paulette Howe and Suzanne Gribben won the hospital foundation's first 50/50 grand prize.

Sisters capture \$965K 50/50

THUNDER BAY

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Sisters Paulette Howe and Suzanne Gribben are the lucky winners of Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation's \$965,715 50/50 draw.

"Are you kidding me?" Howe said, reached by phone on Friday by foundation president and CEO Glenn Craig.

"Oh my God, I'm just completely stunned. Oh my goodness. This is just amazing. I've never won anything in my life."

The prize, which grew by more than \$300,000 in the final 36 hours of the six-week contest, went beyond the wildest dreams of foundation management, who when it launched were hoping to get into six figures, the goal to try to make up some of the money lost in 2020 when traditional fundraising events had to be cancelled or moved online.

Craig said the final number was staggering. "To be completely honest, we were blown away by the success. We kind of joked about it, when we first launched this, talking about the world juniors and their numbers," Craig said. "We were hoping to get into the six figures, but we're pretty darn close to seven figures, so we're thoroughly surprised."

Craig said in a typical year, the hospital foundation raises about \$5 million, but he added they were facing about a \$2-million shortfall from 2020, when the pandemic hit.

This will go a long way to helping fill that gap, Craig said.

"This is really huge for us, because as we're coming up to the start of the second year of the COVID pandemic, we've already cancelled the Bachelor of Hope Auction, we've cancelled the Motorcycle Ride for Dad, the Luncheon of Hope and the Save a Heart Ball," he said.

"We're now cancelling the second time around, the Bachelor Auction. These events, along with other community events, raise about a million dollars net for the foundation.

We had a million-dollar hole that we needed to fill because we spend at the hospital between \$8 million and \$10 million a year, every year, on replacing capital."

Much of it is spent on equipment, like stretchers, ventilators or ultrasounds.

"We needed that money, so this has gone a huge way at filling that gap."

Craig said while he hopes to bring back many of the cancelled events, there's a never-ending need for funds at Thunder Bay Regional, money needed over and above the provincially mandated budget.

The raffle will continue monthly, with draws occurring on the final Friday of each month. Craig said he hopes the momentum carries on in March.

"Somebody's going to have a very lucky March," Craig said.

"We really don't know what's going to happen in March. People know about the raffle and we hopefully have a lot of returning customers."

The prize stood at \$45,000 on Monday.

"Are you kidding me? Oh my God, I'm just completely stunned."

PAULETTE HOWE

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LOCAL NEWS



ROLLING OUT: The Pfizer vaccine is now available to the general public, based on age group, starting at 85 and older.

Vaccination clinic to open at CLE grounds

Adults 85 and older can start getting vaccinated now

HEALTH

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit will begin administering the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to older adults starting on Wednesday.

The health unit on Monday announced adults over 85 will be the first group eligible to get a vaccine right away, with those aged 80 to 84 being brought into the program in the coming weeks.

It's great news, said Dr. Janet DeMille, medical officer of health at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit in announcing the clinic, which will open at the CLE's Coliseum building.

"This is the next step in bringing the pandemic under control. I am pleased to see that vaccine supply now allows us to protect even more individuals from this virus," DeMille said in a release.

"Age is a significant factor for increased risk of complications for COVID-19, and protecting the

senior population is critical."

Appointments are required and walk-ins will not be seen. For the first go-around, all initial appointments have been filled.

The health unit encouraged the public to keep an eye out on their website to learn when future clinics for those over 85 will be held.

Last month, the province announced its vaccine roll-out plan, with those aged 80 and above allowed to start booking appointments by March 15 for vaccine appointments starting the following week.

On April 15 the booking will expand to those 75 and older, and on May 1 for those 70 and older, as well as many essential workers.







By the first week of July, the province hopes to start vaccinating those 60 and older.

Separate vaccination delivery is being planned for TBDHU communities in the district.

Thunder Bay has one of the highest current COVID-19 rates in the province at the moment, with 376 active cases as of Monday.

"This is the next step in bringing the pandemic under control."
DR. JANET DEMILLE

Weather Forecast

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 <p>Mainly sunny Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 0 LOW -14</p>	 <p>Mainly sunny Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH -1 LOW -12</p>	 <p>Mainly sunny Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH 0 LOW -13</p>
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
 <p>Sunny Probability of Precipitation: 10% HIGH -1 LOW -11</p>	 <p>A mix of sun and clouds Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH 0 LOW -6</p>	 <p>A mix of sun and clouds Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 5 LOW -1</p>

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LOCAL NEWS

Thunder Bay schools pivot to virtual

EDUCATION
By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Students in Thunder Bay went virtual on Monday.

A letter sent to all local school boards from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit medical officer of health Dr. Janet DeMille recommends all local school boards pivot to virtual learning.

The Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board confirmed last Thursday students will not be in school for at least two weeks. The rest of the local boards later followed suit.

“Under the recommendation of Dr. DeMille, we will be transitioning to remote learning beginning Monday, March 1st. We are awaiting a letter of instruction which will provide more details from the TBDHU. We will continue to notify our TBCDSB community as we receive further information,” reads a release issued by the Catholic board.

In addition to the Catholic Board and Lakehead Public Schools the recommendation also includes the Thunder Bay Christian School and CSCD Aurores Boreales's two Thunder Bay schools.

Mike Judge, president of the Lakehead Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, said it's a diffi-

cult decision, but the union is 100 per cent in support of whatever public health orders are issued.

Safety comes first, Judge said. “When Dr. (Janet) DeMille is making a decision, we don't take that lightly,” Judge said. “Our members don't take that lightly. We're really glad that she has looked at this situation very closely and spoken to all stakeholders and has come to the conclusion that she feels is in the best interest and safety of all.

“When public health makes an order, we're ready to say, 'How high,' because we're going to be as supportive as we can.”

The move came two days after the Lakehead Public Schools board of trustees unanimously passed a motion asking public health officials and the province to pivot their schools to virtual only for at least two weeks.

At the time, board chair Ellen Chambers said 7.7 per cent of the student body in public schools were at home in self-isolation, representing 576 students.

Recently outbreaks were declared in five city schools, four of which have already sent students home -- St. James Public School, Kingsway Park Public School, Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute and Woodcrest Public School.

“When Dr. DeMille is making a decision, we don't take that lightly.”

MIKE JUDGE



EARLY START: A recent outbreak at St. James Public School sent students into virtual learning mode prior to the city-wide move.

LEITH DUNICK

Start the Conversation
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LOCAL NEWS



FULL HOUSE: Thunder Bay Regional this week had 10 COVID patients in its Intensive care unit.

Hospital overrun with COVID cases

HEALTH

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

Rising hospitalization numbers are forcing Thunder Bay's regional hospital to expand its COVID-19 unit, which now occupies the whole of its 3A surgical inpatient wing.

The hospital reported 35 COVID-positive patients admitted as of Saturday, with 10 in the Intensive Care Unit – both record figures.

The increasing number of infected patients has required the hospital to not only expand the COVID-19 unit, but also its ICU capacity, now providing intensive care in alternate locations in the hospital.

It continued to free up capacity overall, however, with occupancy falling to around 75 per cent. That measure had reached 90 per cent earlier in the week.

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit has the most COVID-19 cases per capita of any health unit in Ontario, according to recent provincial data.

Its incidence rate stood at 160 cases per 100,000 people for the most recent five-day period of Feb. 17 to 23, nearly double the next highest rate of 88.4, in Peel.

The hospital serves a large region that also includes individuals from outside the TBDHU.

In a release Saturday evening, the hospital implored local residents to follow public health guidelines to reduce strain on the institution. However, it also reassured the public it remained safe to visit the hospital for urgent care.

"During the first wave of the pandemic,

some community members avoided the hospital out of fear," the release stated. "As a result, in many cases, health care conditions worsened. Those who need urgent care can safely access it at our hospital."

Chief of staff Dr. Zaki Ahmed, who provides care in the COVID-19 unit, projected confidence the hospital was prepared to meet the rapidly evolving situation.

"If we need to triple our capacity to provide critical care, our plans allow us to do just that," he said. "We are ready to respond to our community's increasing needs during this pandemic."

Last Tuesday, when there were 22 COVID-positive patients admitted, and six in ICU, COVID-19 incident manager Dr. Stewart Kennedy said the hospital was in a "very fragile" situation due to the number of infected patients.

"They're coming in sicker," he said. "We're in a more severe situation than we ever have been before. Not to panic – we're here to take care of the needs – but... this is getting to be an impending significant problem and we need the cooperation of the public."

In addition to expanding its COVID-19 unit and ICU capacity, the hospital said it would also focus on more day surgeries and short-stay procedures.

"This enables health care providers and support staff to work in the areas of highest need," it said.

There had not yet been cancellations of surgeries as of Tuesday, while Kennedy said all emergency and cancer treatment surgeries were set to go ahead.

Giertuga takes council leave

CITY HALL

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Long-time city councillor Trevor Giertuga is citing health reasons for taking a two-month leave of absence from city council.

Giertuga, in a memo to the city clerk's office, says he'll be off the job from March 1 to May 3.

"My duties as an elected official for the City of Thunder Bay are very important to me. I want to reassure constituents that I do not take this time away from my duties lightly and am proceeding because it's required," Giertuga writes in the memo.

"In my absence, I would welcome constituents to contact any at-large members of council if they have questions or concerns and thank my fellow at-large councillors for their



LONG-SERVING: Coun. Trevor Giertuga was first elected in 2000.

continued service to our community." Giertuga was first elected to council in 2000 and served as the McIntyre Ward representative through the 2018

municipal election, when he switched over to the at-large race.

Councillors are allowed up to a three-month leave of absence.

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Editorial

EDITORIAL

Give more warning

Closing Thunder Bay schools was not an easy decision to make.

Sometimes the toughest ones are the most difficult.

It's the right decision, with cases starting to spread in the classroom and new schools in outbreak seemingly every day.

Where the province and, to a lesser extent, the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, could do better is with timing.

The former needs to give parents and students a little more notice, rather than waiting until week's end to make an announcement.

The same goes for Premier Doug Ford and his government when it comes to announcing changes to a district's place in the COVID-19 framework.

Waiting until 5 p.m. on a Friday to deliver bad news is a tried and true tactic in government.

But the Conservatives are also supposed to be the party of business.

Business owners order supplies early in the week, and shouldn't be left to guess whether or not the province will allow them to remain open.

On the same note, many parents, especially those with kids in elementary schools, have to pivot themselves when classes are closed. Youngsters can't stay home by themselves and arrangements must be made.

A little more time is the only fair way to conduct business, even in trying times.

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Not enough notice

To the editor:

Last Thursday, the Thunder Bay District Health Unit gave school-aged families one business day of notice for a two-week school closure.

This closure was in response to trustees at the Lakehead Public Schools calling for a switch to virtual learning. This later resulted in a move to Grey-Lockdown, for the Thunder Bay District.

This reactive decision, without forethought, planning, or adequate notice to families, means that essential workers with children aged four to 12 who cannot be home alone unsupervised are forced to call in sick or otherwise miss work to care for their children for the next two weeks or more.

Suddenly your grocery store employees, nursing home staff, pharmacy staff, corrections and jail workers, nurses, paramedics, police officers, fire fighters - anyone whose work takes them out of their home - has to scramble to plan for the next two or more weeks.

There was no essential worker child care during the school closure Jan. 4 to Jan. 8; poor planning, however at least in that closure we had two weeks notice to make arrangements, switch shifts, etc.

With one day's notice what are we supposed to do?

We called around the city of Thunder Bay looking for essential worker child care March 1 to 12 and there is none.

We reached out to Janet DeMille, Ian MacRae, and Ellen Chambers on Feb. 25 but got no response.

We understand the switch to grey, lockdown, as a necessary step in response to the rising Covid-19 cases in the Thunder Bay district.

What we object to is the closure of six school boards, with one day's notice, and no apparent planning for childcare for families of essential workers.

The same people whom public health and government are calling valuable, essential, and appreciated are now forced to miss work, unable to support the vulnerable populations and general public.

We are looking for some show of response - a commitment to open essential worker child care during this and future school closures, a commitment to re-open schools in two weeks. Something that shows responsibility and accountability to essential workers during school closures.

And in future, better planning and communication with those who are forced to stay home and educate their children but at the same time go to their essential workplace and serve the public.

We look forward to your response.

Ben and Sara Bye,
Thunder Bay

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Credit and your SIN



CHRISTINE
IBBOTSON
MONEY LADY

Dear Money Lady, I wanted to know if I should agree to give out my SIN when I apply for a loan. Do I have to? Greg

Dear Greg, Most people never want to share their social insurance number for fear of a hit to their credit bureau, but unfortunately you may find it a necessity when asked by your lender who now need to ensure identity due to increased consumer fraud. If you apply for credit at a bank, open a bank account or finance a vehicle, chances are you will need to disclose your social insurance number, (SIN).

So to help you out Greg, I'm going to dispel all the myths and also let you know what the banks are looking for.

There are two major credit bureau companies that all financial institutions and merchants use today. They are Equifax and TransCanada Union - agencies that rank and provide an overall score to each person who uses credit. The system for measuring hits to your credit score is indeed intuitive, meaning it measures and evaluates the

type of merchant and inquiry.

So, it knows if you are shopping around. If you have several inquiries from different banks because you are rate shopping for a mortgage you will usually not see any decline in your score, (however, these inquiries must be contained within a 30-day period).

Same thing when you are shopping for a vehicle, multiple hits to your credit bureau from car dealers will not alter the score if contained within 30 days.

But, on the other hand, if you are truly shopping and going to different stores, applying for multiple credit cards, personal and retail loans, or buying items on deferred payment plans, then YES, this will drop your score regardless of the 30-day limit.

First and foremost, you want to protect your credit. This is the foundation of all lending and is the only way for lenders to judge your creditworthiness for the future.

If you always pay your bills on time and have never declared bankruptcy, chances are you will have good credit. But if you are the opposite, and your credit score is too low, you may find it very difficult to get future credit.

Your credit bureau score can range from 300 to 900. As a general guideline, Banks and A-Lenders are looking for clients with scores above 680 and will generally automatically decline applications with scores under 600.

1. Pay your bills two to three days before they are due. Paying them on the due date may make you one to two days late. This is recorded on your credit bureau and will definitely lower your score without you knowing it.

2. Do not carry balances on credit cards or personal loans month over month. This means your credit is revolving and will automatically drop your score.

3. Resist the urge to have a lot of open credit cards, even if they have zero balances.

4. You must have some credit. If you had bad credit and now are just using cash, you are essentially handcuffing your future. Without re-establishing good credit, the banks will decline you every time.

5. Property taxes and support payments in arrears can also drop your score once they are reported.

6. Mortgage and vehicle payments in arrears, once reported are a major hit to your score. Please try to avoid this.

I have heard in the past that some merchants or banks do soft hits to your credit. Please do not get fooled by this. There is no such thing as a soft hit or a hard hit to your credit bureau.

Written by Christine Ibbotson, Author of four finance books and the Canadian Best-Selling Book "How to Retire Debt Free & Wealthy" or send a question to info@askthemoneylady.ca

Perspective

COVID-19 may be for the birds

Global emissions appear to be way down over the past year, in part because of fewer cars on the road

OPINION
By J.R. Shermack
Special to TB Source

For about a year now global conversation has been hijacked by the pandemic chatter that dominates the news, social media and personal discussions.

Many Canadians are tired of hearing and talking about it but as Yogi Berra once observed, "No matter where you go, there you are."

Even simple observations about the weather these days quickly digress into COVID talk and the discussion soon evolves into that tedious same old, same old.

And while this on-going conversation and awareness is important right now, it makes us weary and apprehensive to hear it all the time.

As for me, I occasionally try to think about something else, anything else just to give my mind some much-needed distraction.

It is surprisingly difficult to find a diversion, but during a recent semi-rural hike on a warm February afternoon I found myself thinking about our natural surroundings.

Life continues

Right now we are preoccupied with the virus but life goes on around us - the trees are still growing, the water is still flowing, snow is still falling and birds are still calling.

(Some say I have a remarkable talent for rhyme.)

But all poetry aside, as I continued my pleasant walk I remembered when environmental concerns dominated the news



LEITH DUNICK

FLYING HIGH: The COVID-19 pandemic may have had an unintended benefit to the world's wildlife populations, including birds.

much like the pandemic does today.

We weren't in any immediate danger, but the environmental threats were relentless and growing in strength and frequency.

We aren't talking much about greenhouse gasses, air pollution or carbon footprints these days and it makes me wonder whether caring for the environment is still a thing.

Is it possible to deal with one existen-

tial threat while we are busy coping with another?

It turns out that the current socioeconomic disruption has led to some positive environmental impacts beginning with improved air quality.

Lockdowns and greatly reduced industrial activity contributed to a seven per cent global reduction in carbon dioxide emissions during 2020, compared to previous years.

The overall production of greenhouse gas dropped by 10 per cent in the United States - in Germany the reduction was enough to push that country past its emission targets for the year.

Here at home a study from Concordia University shows that the amount of key air pollutants has dropped significantly in several large Canadian cities.

Sweeping public health restrictions and a ban on non-essential travel meant

less traffic congestion - 75 per cent lower in Montreal, 69 per cent on Toronto.

The findings show how vehicle emissions contribute to Canada's overall air quality and demonstrate how human activity can affect climate change.

Fortunately the demise of internal combustion engines continues to gain momentum and the use of alternative, renewable energy is growing.

The quiet, understated success of electric vehicles made up 10 per cent of global car sales in 2020 and European countries are leading the charge, so to speak.

Big jump

In Norway E-cars are expected to take a 60 per cent market share of new cars sold in 2021 and that country is on track to phase out fossil-fueled cars by 2025.

And on another eco-friendly note, a nine-year study has discovered a simple, lo-tech solution to the troubling problem of birds flying into the blades of wind turbines.

The number of bird strikes can be reduced by 70 per cent simply by painting one of the blades black which reduces "motion smear" and allows the birds to see and evade the rotating blades.

I was happy to hear that we are keeping the birds safe and I'm sure the birds appreciate it too.

On my next nature hike I will watch them flying, listen to them calling and appreciate the peace and comfort of the natural environment.

As distractions go, it doesn't get any better than that.

A look back in history:

The Huronic on the rocks

On 5 August 1928, the Northern Navigation Company's passenger steamer Huronic piled onto the rocks on Lucile Reef. Three tugs tried to free the liner but to no avail. It took a large grain freighter, the Midland Prince, to do the job. More than 100 lives were saved.

HOW TO WRITE US:

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

The Thunder Bay Source reserves the right to edit submissions for content and clarity. All attempts will be made to preserve the core argument of the author.

Address them to:
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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

your VOICE

Do you agree with the decision to return Thunder Bay to lockdown status?

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TOTAL VOTES: 2,014		
<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input type="radio"/> NO	<input type="radio"/> DON'T KNOW
70.8%	26.91%	2.28%

TB Life

people | health | home | food | leisure

Giant activities

The Sibley Peninsula is on the north shore of the great Lake Superior, just east of Thunder Bay.

On the southwestern tip of this land mass is a series of mesas that form the mythical figure known as the Sleeping Giant.

Also called Naniboujou, this distinctive rock is the source of legends and the backdrop to a provincial park that offers superb activities all year round. During summer, visitors to the park enjoy camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, mountain biking, paddling, swimming, and sea kayaking. However, in the winter, few people take advantage of the many opportunities Sleeping Giant Park offers.

A simple parking pass from the Gate House or Joe Boy Lake is your entry ticket to everything from Nordic skiing to ice fishing.

Nordic skiing: Nordic skiing may be the best way to see Sleeping Giant Park. With 60 kilometers of groomed trails looping through the rugged hills of the Sibley Peninsula, there is something for everyone. Beginners or skiers looking for a short option can ski the easy loop around Lake Marie Louise. Experienced skiers will prefer a loop that includes the Pickerel Lake and Burma Trails, featuring some really fun twists, climbs and downhills.

If you have a few hours to burn, link it all together and follow the long Loppet course, which will reward you with nearly fifty kilometers of skiing by the time you are done.

Fat biking: Fat tire bikes are officially allowed on the trails now, and for the price of a parking pass, this is a great alternative for riders wanting a change of

scenery from their usual Centennial Park loops. The Nordic ski options mentioned above also make for some fantastic riding opportunities. Remember to respect the classic tracks and keep the tire pressure low so as to not damage the trails.

Snowshoeing: After a fresh snowfall, strap on the snowshoes and explore the trails from the Kabeyun Trail Head. Whether it's the short hike to the Sea Lion, a longer jaunt to Tee Harbour, or an exploratory trek towards Sawyer Bay or Thunder Cape, there are plenty of options from this parking area.

Ice fishing: Lake Marie Louise is full of bass but in the winter you are more likely to catch perch or maybe a few small pike. Try drilling some holes just out from the cabins or perhaps along the rocky shoreline between the boat launch and the tip of the point. In addition, just north of the park is the easily accessible Pass Lake, which is stocked with splake.

Camping: Rent one of the park's five family cabins as a base camp for a close-to-home getaway weekend. The cabins are modern, warm and comfortable, and a great place to relax after a big day of adventures. However, they are also very popular and to secure a weekend cabin rental, they will likely have to be booked months in advance.

Less than an hour from Thunder Bay, the adventures that await you on Sibley peninsula are well worth the drive.

Whether you choose to ski, ride, fish, show shoe or spend a relaxing weekend in their cabins, the chance to do it with the iconic Giant as a backdrop is an exceptional opportunity for all types.



**KEITH
AILEY**

THE GOOD LIFE



OUTDOOR GOODNESS: Fat biking is just one of the many fun, outdoor adventures one can have at the Sleeping Giant Provincial Park.

DOUG SCOTT

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That's so raven on Fred's farm



FRED JONES

RURAL ROOTS

This is the time of year when ravens nest, lay their eggs, and get ready to hatch a "couple, three" of posturing, demanding, croaking youngsters. Ravens, so I am told, are the earliest of the bird bunch to do so and we have plenty of evidence on the farm of their activity.

Like to hang out

Our pair of ravens stay with us for the entire year. As I have written before, it was our daughter, Beth, who named them after reading Edgar Allen Poe's famous Poem "The Raven". Thus we have parents Edgar and Lenore and any fledglings are named Allen, Poe, and I can no longer remember the third one (applications for names are open).

I have read that it is the same pair that nest on our property year after year. They know us because we feed them especially at this time of year when they are getting ready to nest or when the weather is just bloody awful.

They have become used to us and their signal that they want food involves one of them flying up on top of the yard light pole.

I have read that ravens, being one of the most intelligent of the bird species, realize that we mean them no harm.

The only disturbance in their lives around Casa Jones is our one-and-a-half year old pup named Lily who delights in springing off the front stoop to frighten away either Ma or Pa raven when they are trying to grab feed from our woodpile where we deposit their provender.

But about two weeks ago I noticed one of the ravens soaring past our living room window with some sort of weed or grass in its beak. Ah, I thought, nesting material.

But where this year are they nesting? In seasons past, we have seen them build a nest in a tree, have their young, but not return the following year. Two or three years ago (I can't remember exactly), they did not move back into

a nest in a jack pine tree visible from our manure mountain we call Mt. Crumpet.

Why?

That spring the weather was vicious. We had a major ice storm that snapped off the tops of trees all over the property. We suspect that the ravens' young froze to death despite their parents best efforts. No croaking young appeared that year.

But last year the ravens built a nest high up in a poplar tree very visible from our front stoop and from our yard. This time they bred successfully and abundantly.

Plenty of young ones

We counted five youngsters perched on various fence rails. A parent would land and suddenly the brood would fly over and harass said parent for food. Eventually they learned how to fare for themselves although there seems to always be a late-bloomer who still harassed Mom or Dad long after the

others have quit.

So, it was on both of our minds whether or not Edgar and Lenore would inhabit that nest.

Last week while heading back to the house after feeding the horses their morning 'brekky' and then leading them out to their day paddocks, I happened to look up to the nest and behold!

I saw activity.

A small head was moving in the nest. Woo-hoo! And while I was beaming the other raven flew up to join his partner.

Lenore had probably laid her eggs and Edgar was possibly bringing nesting material to reinforce the abode. While ravens live here the entire year, they only inhabit the nest when it is time to brood another family.

This time the bird figured out it didn't need to wait for the next brushing. Just go to the source. Smart raven.



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MP seeks stricter isolation measures

HEALTH

By Gary Rinne – TB Source

The member of parliament for Thunder Bay – Rainy River says some people in the city are ignoring COVID-19 isolation requirements, and it's time that the province took stronger action to slow the spread of the disease.

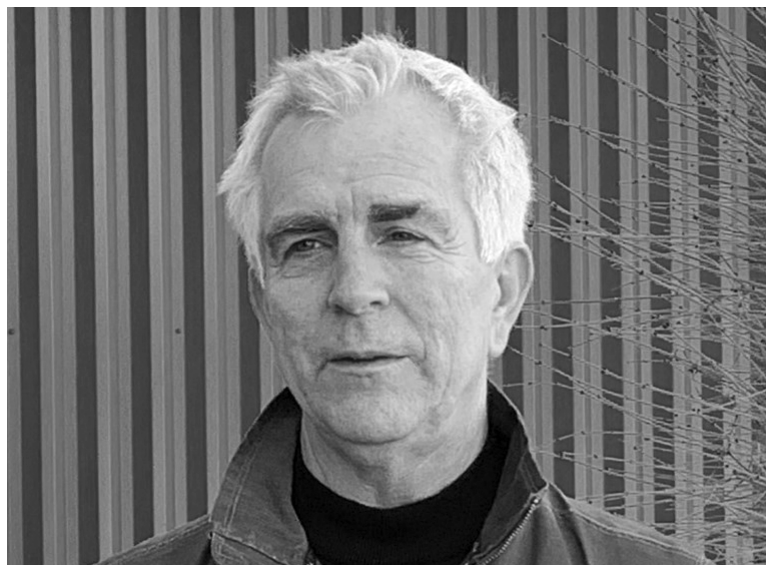
In a prepared statement, Marcus Powlowski said "I have learned of several cases in Thunder Bay of individuals, who were either COVID-19 positive or at a very high risk of being positive, ignoring instructions to self-isolate."

The MP said these people are "continuing to go into public places, use public transportation, and take part in other activities in the community."

He said if individuals refuse to self-isolate, the government should use its powers under the Ontario Health Protection and Promotion Act.

Section 22 of the act, Powlowski said, allows for a person to be fined for ignoring an order, while Section 35 permits a judge to order the physical enforcement of a self-isolation order if a person is diagnosed with a virulent disease.

He said "it seems no provincial health officer is currently enforcing" Section



NOT LISTENING: Liberal MP Marcus Powlowski say people aren't following isolation rules.

35, and that he's heard various explanations for that.

"It's too legally complex...it's too slow...and, more recently, I've heard that under the act they've made COVID-19 an infectious disease, so they could use Section 22, however they have not declared it a virulent disease. The minister [of health] can do this. Why they haven't, I can't really understand,"

Powlowski said in an interview Monday.

He said venereal diseases are on the list of virulent diseases.

"If you sit on the bus beside someone with gonorrhea or syphilis, you're not going to get it, but if you sit next to someone with COVID, especially if they're not wearing a mask, you could end up with COVID."

Powlowski said he's heard from

several different "pretty reliable" sources about individuals in the Thunder Bay area who've continued to mix with others after getting a diagnosis of COVID-19.

In one instance, a person who had been partying and sleeping in the same room as two people who had COVID refused to self-isolate.

"After repeated calls to the public health and police" by his supervisor, "it seemed that their conclusion was that they couldn't do anything about it," he said.

Other cases have been brought to Powlowski's attention by employees of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

"There were people at the hospital who were COVID positive who wanted to leave, and as far as the emergency room staff were concerned, there was no power to prevent them from walking out and getting on the bus," he said.

Some of his doctor friends, Powlowski said, say their elderly patients are "terrified" to ride the bus after seeing passengers, without masks, coughing.

He said Section 35 is an option of last resort, but is meant precisely for this kind of situation, where "you want to protect the community from people who are at high risk of spreading a disease to

others...This is in the community's best interest."

Powlowski emphasized that he feels the Thunder Bay District Health Unit is doing "a great job" managing the COVID situation under a lot of pressure.

"I don't want to seem critical of them. I think this is a provincial decision not to do this. As someone who has written public health laws, I can't comprehend why they're not using this law."

Thunder Bay Source requested information for this story from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, but has not yet received a response.

TBDHU medical officer of health Dr. Janet DeMille described the issue of isolation as challenging.

"It is a complicated issue. Section 35 was designed primarily to deal with tuberculosis...It doesn't lend itself very nicely for the COVID situation, because COVID is such an acute and short-term illness," DeMille said.

She conceded that "some people just don't want to isolate" but said the health unit has other options to promote compliance.

"Some of them are very effective, and we have used them. It depends on the individuals, and the challenges they may have, how easily they can comply with the isolation requirement."

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Sydney Blu reconnects with hometown

Electronic DJ set to release new album, *Conviction*, next week

MUSIC

By Doug Dlazuk – TB Source

Local musician, DJ, and producer, Joanne Hill, better known as Sydney Blu, has built a career around the energy and passion that comes with performing live but with the pandemic halting in-person shows, she has returned to the quiet and isolation of her hometown to finish her latest record.

“It was a really good time to be here because I was trying to finish the album,” Hill said. “When you are writing music you need quiet, you need to focus and think. This is a good place to do that.”

Hill has been back in Thunder Bay since last spring and has been putting the finishing touches on her latest album *Conviction*, which will be released on March 12.

The first single, *Monologue*, was released on Feb. 26 and features Canadian singer, Fritz Helder.

“He’s an amazing singer,” Hill said. “I’m really excited this is the beginning of the release of the album.”

Originally from Thunder Bay, Hill has spent the last 20 years touring the world playing nightclubs, stadiums, and tours in the electronic music scene.

Heavily influenced

While Hill was growing up in Thunder Bay during the 1990s the electronic music scene was still in the early stages of becoming a mainstream sound with acts like Daft Punk, The Crystal Method, and The Chemical Brothers paving the way. But it wasn’t until she moved to Ottawa for school that she really discovered her passion for the genre.

“I had always heard electronic music while I was living here growing up, but I wasn’t fully exposed to it until I left,” she said. “Once I left, I got really into it, I started going out to the clubs, watching DJs, I studied them, and I was really inspired by them and I wanted to try it myself.”

Hill, as a self-taught artist, moved to Toronto and purchased her own turntables and started moving higher and higher up in the club scene.

In 2008 she had a record on DaeDMAU5’s *Mousetrap* recordings, which went to number one on a platform



DOUG DLAZUK

RECORD SET TO DROP: Musician and DJ, Sydney Blu, returned to her hometown of Thunder Bay last spring and plans to release her newest album next week.

called Beatport.

“Because I had that big hit, I started to tour in the United States and different cities around the world,” Hill said. “I moved down to Miami and I got signed to an agency and I started touring around everywhere.”

Just before the pandemic hit, Hill was living in Berlin, which has always had a thriving electronic music scene. While there, she was working on writing a new album.

“I went to Berlin in 2019 because I wanted to be re-inspired musically,” she said. “The Berlin music scene is regarded as one of the number one electronic music city’s in the world.”

Hill was planning on a tour in March 2020 and when things started to shut

down, she decided to return to her hometown to finish work on her new album.

“For the next three months nothing was going on, everything was shut down, so I just decided to stay,” she said. “I hadn’t been here for a long time for a long period of time and it was a nice way to get reconnected to the city. It was a nice way to reconnect to the city and my family.”

“I made a makeshift studio in my old high school bedroom. I shipped all my equipment up from Toronto and I finished the album here in Thunder Bay. I’m really excited for the release of the album because it’s finally here.”

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, musicians have been unable

to connect with fans during live performances.

And it’s the time on tour that really motivates Hill because being on stage and seeing the crowd moving to her music is what she lives for.

“It’s definitely what motivates me,” she said. “I love watching the audience feed off of what I’m doing. It’s why I do it. I live for it. I love playing in front of people. Especially electronic music, it’s such a high energy sound and high energy music. It’s my favourite thing to do. I miss it.”

During the pandemic, Hill has spent a lot of time live streaming performances with local clubs, including Atmos, and while it is not quite the same as performing in front of 35,000 people, it is still important to connect with fans.

“It was the only way we could connect with our audiences because the night clubs had been shut down,” she

said. “A lot of people I played for around the world asked me to do live streams and the guys at Atmos were kind enough to let me go in there and let me play a whole bunch of sets virtually. They really cater to authentic electronic music.”

Tough going

And while being unable to tour has been challenging for Hill and all other musicians, the pandemic has allowed her to focus on writing new material.

“Fifty per cent of making my living is also writing music,” she said. “When all the venues shut down I was able to focus my energy on writing the album and getting that done and finishing it and live streaming and staying in contact with my fans that way.”

Conviction is available on March 12 for download and streaming on Spotify, Apple Music, and Beatport.

“Fifty per cent of making my living is also writing music.”
SYDNEY BLU

Minari one of best pictures of 2020



MARTY
MASCARINI

MOVIE TALK

M*inari* (Shaw PPV) arrives with panache, fresh from having won the Golden Globe this past Sunday for Best Foreign Language Film (Korean dialogue with English subtitles and some spoken English).

The film has also won the Dramatic Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival, plus a whopping 62 other international awards and 156 nominations.

Having said all that, expectations should remain modest for this engaging, quietly observed little film about a Korean-American family that relocates to the wilds of Arkansas by way of California in the 1980s.

Their story about struggling to realize the American Dream manages the delicate balancing act of striking a familiar chord both on a universal level as well as illuminating a hybrid immigrant experience.

Writer/director Lee Isaac Chung's tender but realistic story is drawn from personal experience of growing up in Arkansas. Jacob Yi (Steven Yeun) has transplanted his wife Monica (Han Ye-ri) and their two elementary school age children, Anne (Noel Kate Cho) and young David (Alan Kim) from California. Chafing at the dead-end prospect of sexing young chickens all his life, ambitious Jacob sees a future in farming Korean crops for an expanding immigrant market in nearby big cities.

Wife Monica is unimpressed neither by their pre-owned trailer home nor by Jacob's plan nor by their remote location which is not advantageous for little David who has a heart murmur. This is cause for strain that

will run throughout the film, leavened by fleeting moments of reconciliation.

As mom and dad take jobs at the nearby hatchery until the farming takes off, Monica's mother Soon-ja (Yuh-jung) arrives from South Korea to help care for the children, sporting a raucous tongue, a knack for card playing and a fascination with TV wrestling. Jacob also gets help from hired hand Paul (veteran actor Will Patton) a gentle, religious zealot who offers his own insights into growing crops.

Therein lies an interesting dynamic that evolves among all the characters but primarily with two pairs: Jacob and Monica who tussle over deciding their family's future, and grandmother and grandson that grows from being initially a little fractious ("She can't bake cookies and smells like Korea!") to establishing a teasing, nurturing bond. It's grandmother who extols the health and culinary virtues of minari (water dropwort) to little David as they find an outgrowth by a stream.

Writer Chung weaves the plot strands together with the family interactions, providing little moments that are respectively sweet, lightly amusing, testy, familiar and unexpected.

Modest victories are intermixed with considerable challenges that forces rethinking especially for stubborn Jacob who prides himself on Korean ingenuity but realizes he doesn't have all the answers.

Emile Mosseri's soundtrack establishes a meditative mood, reflecting the family's cultural roots. Lachlan Milne's eye-catching cinematography suggests the pastoral appeal of the rural setting.

Minari is an intimate, engaging little drama that provides emotional moments everyone can relate to, through the unique prism of the Korean-American experience.



ACCOLADES KEEP COMING: *Minari* captured the Golden Globe award for best foreign picture on Sunday night.



DOORS SHUT: A staff member at Waverley Resource Library contracted COVID-19, leading the facility to close temporarily.

COVID case temporarily closes Waverley Library

THUNDER BAY
By TB Source staff

Concerns about an incident of close contact with a positive COVID-19 case have caused the temporary closure of the Waverley Library.

The Thunder Bay Public Library announced Monday afternoon that a member of its staff who had the contact is awaiting COVID test results.

"Although the risk to staff and the public

is low, the library has consistently adopted a safe and slow approach to reopening library service for the community," the statement said.

The Waverley branch is closed for an undetermined amount of time.

It will reopen for curbside service after health officials declare it is safe and after the library has undergone a deep cleaning.

Curbside service continues at the Brodie Library and the Mary JL Black Library Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

IN THE BAY

Television provides plenty of role models

A recent *New York Times* article claims that imperfect girls make perfect role models."

It made me think about my role models over the years. As a child, I loved Wonder Woman, dancer Cyd Charisse, and *Charlie's Angels*. As an adult, I leaned more toward *Alias*' Sydney Bristow and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

According to the aforementioned article, "role models inspire by showing us what is actually possible." OK, so perhaps taking down a super-secret spy network or killing the un-dead wasn't actually possible. (At least, not in Thunder Bay.)

But my role models told me I didn't have to be meek in the face of adversity. However, the article also says that seeing real-life female heroes fills many young women with self-doubt.

They believe they can't possibly live up to those standards.



with FIONA GARDINER

Instead, what they need to see is more "work in progress" models. They need to know not the final polished model, but what pains and failures led to their success. But nobody reports on something until its shiny finish. Ford didn't launch the Model T while it was still in pieces, did it?

So the only way to see the role model develop is to wait for the movie biography. Or to look for fictional ones.



ICONIC: Buffy's Sarah Michelle Geller.

Like those on TV.

I didn't have a lot to choose from as a teen. Daisy Duke ranked simply because I liked her white Jeep. (I still

want one.)

It wasn't until the '90s and onward that there was a solid resurgence of female role models.

That's when I discovered *Buffy* and *Sydney*. And I realized, I really do prefer characters who are still a "work in progress." And because the writers need something to develop, a few flaws give them just what they need to make a good story.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer was the saviour of the world – a lot. But she yearned to be a normal teenager and college student.

Sex in the City gave us four different less-than-perfect women who continued to make romantic mistakes on the road to their personal happily-ever-after.

The Closer's Brenda Leigh Johnson was as tough as any male cop and could get the truth out of any suspect. But in the real world, she was, quite frankly, socially awkward.

Scandal's Olivia Pope considered herself and her team to be "Gladiators" who fought for the little guy. Yet she lived in the shadow of her mother and was always manipulated by her father.

This season, *Call Me Kat*'s namesake fearlessly gave up her professorship to start a business by herself at nearly 40. But she still questions her single status and potential motherhood. There's also *All Rise*'s Judge Lola Carmichael, *FBI*'s Agent Maggie Bell, and *The Rookie*'s Officer Nyla Harper.

Today's television continues to bring a cornucopia of female role models into our homes.

Not so real that we compare ourselves and fictional enough, that they're actually allowed to make mistakes.

And with a broadening spectrum of genders and identities out there, hopefully, we'll soon have literally something for everyone. Imperfect as they may be.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Two
- 5 Dadaist
- 8 River of Shakespeare
- 12 Adept
- 13 Port. explorer
- 14 Pigment test crystalline
- 15 Greave (2 words)
- 17 Volcanic scoria matter
- 18 Time period
- 19 H
- 21 Exclamation
- 22 Feign
- 23 Warm
- 25 Concave molding
- 28 Crane
- 31 Clarinet (abbr.)
- 32 Computer assisted design (abbr.)
- 33 Wings
- 34 Gland

DOWN

- 1 Cartoon chipmunk
- 2 Above (Ger.)
- 3 Sea lettuce

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- 4 Drug Enforcement Admin. (abbr.)
- 5 Allow
- 6 Tumult
- 7 Thirsty
- 8 Classifieds
- 9 Unstable
- 10 Colorful fish
- 11 Indo-Chin. language
- 16 Run
- 20 Pronoun
- 22 Gibe
- 24 Tilled land
- 25 Circuit Court of Appeals (abbr.)
- 26 Hoary
- 27 Dope
- 28 Arabic letter
- 29 Crown
- 30 Ketone (pref.)
- 32 Sweet flag
- 35 Birthplace of Constantine
- 36 Variation (pref.)
- 38 Terror
- 39 Climbing fern
- 40 Maize
- 42 Protend
- 43 Gee whiz
- 44 Oil (pref.)
- 45 Lebanese port
- 47 Generation
- 49 Hindu month

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15			16					17		
18			19				20		21	
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46			47		48			49		
50					51			52		
53					54			55		

WORD SEARCH

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

- Adults
- Amiable
- Blank
- Buyers
- Dried
- Earned
- Elect
- Exposing
- Flees
- Gruel
- Guild
- Hints
- Human
- Iguanas
- Keeps
- Lefts
- Listen
- Lowest
- Mimes
- Proxy
- Relic
- Rotate
- Route
- Rulers
- Shen
- Shays
- Strew
- Surreptitious
- Tattle
- Tempos
- Tenet
- Tiara
- Trance
- Trial
- Tribal
- Ungrammat
- Uproars
- Usual
- Vying
- Wards

Sudoku

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

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

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"IUF GWEMQIT, COI IUF MOCZFPQIT, OV OCF'H MQVF QH KUEI QH QYAONIECI."

— YENIQC MWIUFN LQCZ, JN.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "You cannot dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one." — James Froude

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SIJHL cancels campaign

SIJHL

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The remainder of the Superior International Junior Hockey League season has been cancelled.

The board of governors made the difficult decision, stating the return to Grey-Lockdown and the uncertainty of when the District of Thunder Bay will return to Orange or Yellow and the ability to play games as the driving factor behind the move.

League commissioner Darrin Nicholas said the league has never sought exemptions from public health guidelines, but the stark reality is the District of Thunder Bay and the Northwestern Health Unit's catchment area, which includes Ear Falls, Dryden, Fort Frances and Kenora, are trending in the wrong direction when it comes to active COVID-19 cases.

Nicholas said the league tried its best to hold a season, but with Thunder Bay teams unable to play and teams not wanting to fly in the face of travel restrictions and recommendations, they were left with no choice.

"The 2020-21 SIJHL season will be remembered as a roller-coaster of emotions. From fear we wouldn't even be able to start, to joy when a pathway back to the ice was available, to optimism that as we progressed conditions might allow for a return to more 'normal' hockey, to hope that we might just be able to continue in any fashion and now finally sadness in facing the reality of where we are today," Nicholas said.

The first-year commissioner said team and league officials did what they could to put on a season, adding he feels terrible about the graduating players who won't be able to finish their junior careers on the ice.

"You are without doubt part of a graduating class that has endured the most challenging time in junior hockey history. With the loss of the playoffs last season, and then the minimal return to action this year, I certainly feel your pain. Please know we did within our means to try and get you back on the ice. Always remember: tough times don't last, tough

**TOUGH DECISION: SIJHL commissioner Darrin Nicholas said the league has no choice but to shut down.**

people do," Nicholas said.

It's the second straight season the SIJHL will not crown a champion.

The 2019-20 campaign was stopped last March and did resume. Teams did begin the 2020-21 campaign

last fall, but only eight games were played before Ontario went into a province-wide lock-down on Boxing Day.

The league's two American teams had already ruled out of this current season.

Kakabeka, Port Arthur curling clubs closing up

CURLING

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The return to lock-down status means curlers will have two fewer places to finish off the 2020-21 season. Directors with the Port Arthur Curling Club on Sunday, and the Kakabeka Falls Curling Club on Saturday, announced their facilities will shut its doors until next fall, saying the sport simply can't continue this winter.

"With the unknown date of when (or if) curling will be allowed, the board has made the difficult decision to close the club for the remainder of the 2021 season," reads a note posted to the PACC Facebook page.

"When we decided to open the club in the fall, our goal was to curl as much and as long as we could, as

safely as we could. And we did just that; however, our time together turned out to be a lot shorter than we all would have liked. When the club closed in December of 2020 we anticipated that we would be able to return to play in January when the restrictions were lifted.

"None of us could have foreseen that Thunder Bay would be in such dire circumstances. Please know that this was not a decision that we took lightly and came only after lengthy discussions of all possibilities."

Directors at the Kakabeka Falls Curling Club said they were left with little choice, given the lock-down news.

"We were fortunate to have curled a half-season during this pandemic and it was great to see the majority of the members return this year. It was still a

great season with great curling and great ice."

Officials with the club say they plan to refund members 20 per cent of their registration fees for the season, saying by keeping the club open two extra months during the province-wide stay-at-home order, extra expenses were incurred.

Organizers of the Tbaytel Major League of Curling last week said they were still hopeful they could complete their season. They had been splitting play between the Port Arthur Curling Club and the Kakabeka Falls Curling Club.

The province on Monday plans to apply an emergency brake and return the District of Thunder Bay to Grey-Lockdown status, with the number of active COVID-19 cases in the area standing at 343.

Fort William Curling Club has not yet indicated publicly if it plans to stay open.

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101,793KM | Stock #:2486TA

\$12,858**



**2019 Subaru
WRX Sporty Fun**

Thunder Bay

34,937KM | Stock #:2500TA

\$29,768**



**2018 Kia
Sorento SXL**

Thunder Bay

88,365KM | Stock #:2401TA

\$28,848**

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589 11th Ave 699-5000

*No Purchase Necessary. Customers receive one (1) ballot entry with the purchase of a vehicle between February 5th - November 30th, 2021. Open to residents of Canada who are 18 years of age and over. One (1) prize available to be won. Odds of winning depend on eligible entries. Full Contest Rules and Regulations: www.drivencarscanada.ca/airmilescontest