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THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Canadian Publications Agreement No. 0662445 Vol.17 No. 10

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Police investigate murder on Picton Avenue /8

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Special Olympians had a blast in Thunder Bay /17

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Curling coach off to Brier after plane crash /18

# South-side fire

Former rooming house destroyed in Sunday evening at old Odd Fellows Hall /3



**BIG BLAZE:** Five pumpers and two aerial ladders were dispatched on Sunday night to fight a fire at the former Odd Fellows Hall.

LEITH DUNICK

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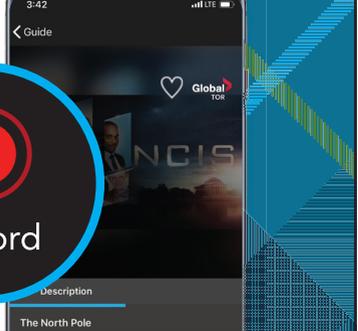
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# LOCAL NEWS



LEITH DUNICK

**STUBBORN FIRE:** Thunder Bay Fire Rescue crews continue to fight a fire at the former Odd Fellows Hall on Monday morning.

## Fire torches vacant hall

Former Odd Fellows Hall was closed to tenants last November

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

A fire at a boarded-up rooming house continued to stubbornly burn into Monday morning, more than 12 hours after firefighters first arrived to fight it.

Acting Fire Chief Greg Hankkio said his crews were finding it tricky to fight the fire at the former Odd Fellows Hall on May Street, battling the building's weakened structural integrity and a maze of renovations over the years that have left scores of combustible material to provide fuel for the flames.

As of Monday morning, Hankkio said firefighters aren't aware if anyone was inside the structure when the fire broke out, sometime around 9:30 p.m. on Sunday night.

"At this point, no, but it is definitely a concern of ours right now. Unfortunately, due to the fact the fire is still ongoing and the structural integrity of the building, we're not able to make access to the building right now," Hankkio said.

"It is something we're cognizant of and something we'll definitely be looking into."

When firefighters arrived, flames could be seen rising through the roof of the building, which this past November was closed and all tenants removed after the Thunder Bay District Health Unit declared the building unsafe for



LEITH DUNICK

**TRICKY BLAZE:** Firefighters plan the best way to attack a South May Street fire.

occupancy.

"My understanding is the fire was primarily involved on the third floor of the building. That's where the bulk of our fire suppression activities were taking place," Hankkio said.

A total of five pumpers and two aerial pumpers attended the fire.

Hankkio said it wasn't an easy one to fight.

"The building has gone through multiple renovations and there are some significant timbers and structural members in the building, so it's a deep-seated fire. It's probably in a bunch of nooks and crannies and void spaces within the building,"

Hankkio said.

"Really what they're doing is just waiting for it to kind of break through and they're suppressing it as they see the fire break through in certain locations."

As a result of the fire, 49 occupants of nearby Shelter House were evacuated on Sunday night and transported to a local hotel.

Hankkio said it's far too early in the investigation to know what caused the fire to break out.

"The fire is still active. We have to assess the structural integrity of the building. We did have a fire-prevention officer on scene last night, so we did gather some preliminary data, but with respect to cause and determination, that'll be an ongoing process."

**"It's probably in a bunch of nooks and crannies and void spaces within the building."**

**GREG HANKKIO**

# Weather Forecast

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <b>Snow</b> Probability of Precipitation: 90% HIGH -1 LOW -12	 <b>Mainly sunny</b> Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH 2 LOW 7	 <b>Cloudy with sunny breaks</b> Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 5 LOW -2
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
 <b>Scattered flurries</b> Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH -1 LOW -11	 <b>Light snow</b> Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH -7 LOW -15	 <b>Mainly sunny</b> Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH -6 LOW -11

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# LOCAL NEWS

## City's first pot store opens

**BUSINESS**  
By Doug Dlaczuk - TB Source

It was a day Taylor Legarde didn't think he would see so soon, but now that it's here, he wasn't going to miss out on the opportunity.

"I just wanted to be one of the first people in Thunder Bay to buy some weed legally in store," he said.

Legarde was the first in line Monday morning awaiting the official opening of Tokyo Smoke, Thunder Bay's first legal cannabis store.

"It's a big surprise. I didn't see it happening this fast," Legarde said. "I thought it would be at least a couple years. But here we are we have a shop in Thunder Bay and I think it's going to go well."

The process to open the store on Memorial Avenue began last August after the company received a license through the provincial lottery system. And while there were some hurdles to overcome, including opposition by area businesses because of its proximity to

YES Employment, the store was granted approval and owners and Tokyo Smoke officials are excited to finally unlock the doors.

"We're ecstatic to be open in Thunder Bay," said Michael Rodenbourgh, who co-owns the store with Rick Bohonis. "It's been a long time coming to have legal recreational cannabis available in Thunder Bay and the community is super excited. Everywhere we go people are talking about the store and excited to have it open."

The store employs 25 people and Rodenbourgh said he expects to add more staff later this week. He is also anticipating a strong demand from the public and between 500 and 700 customers on the first day of business.

Melissa Gallagher, director of franchising for canopy growth with Tokyo Smoke, said the response in Thunder Bay has been very positive leading up to the opening date.

"We know this is an underserved market," she said. "It is the first legal recreational cannabis shop for miles

and miles. So we anticipate there will be a very strong response, as we've seen already with someone waiting outside."

According to Gallagher, Tokyo Smoke is an education-first brand, meaning customers who enter the store are walked through cannabis education with staff to find the right product.

"It's incredibly important in a new market, but in any market to be able to provide education to our guests," Gallagher said. "We think it's important both for those who have experience with cannabis and those who don't. We designed the store and the products we offer both with novice consumers in mind and those who are more experienced."

Only those above the age of 19 are permitted into the store and IDs are checked at the door.

The Ontario Cannabis Store only releases a certain amount of product to licensees to be sold on a weekly basis, but Gallagher said there are no concerns about supply.



WORLD OF WEED: Tokyo Smoke offers plenty of different cannabis selections.

DOUG DLACZUK



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## LOCAL NEWS

# MackKay won't apologize for tweets

## POLITICS

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Minutes into a speech designed to rally Conservative voters to choose him to be the next leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, Peter MacKay said his campaign is centred around respect and inclusion.

Outside the Finlandia Club, in the heart of Thunder Bay's Bay and Algoma district, Indigenous leaders politely disagreed.

About 140 people gathered in the historic neighbourhood, at the request of Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and Fort William First Nation Chief Peter Collins to protest MacKay's social media reaction praising vigilantes for removing a blockade set up in support of hereditary Wet'suwet'en Chiefs.

Fiddler said it's not the kind of language he wants to hear from a potential future prime minister of Canada.

It's divisive, not inclusive, Fiddler said.

"I think we need to send a message to Peter MacKay that his hateful rhetoric is harmful. It's irresponsible and it's something we all need to stand up against," Fiddler said, speaking to local and national media on hand for the demonstration.

One of the tweets in question suggested people with a pick-up truck had done more in one afternoon to undo an Indigenous blockade than the Trudeau government had throughout a crisis that



UPSET: About 140 protesters gathered outside the Finlandia Club last Thursday.

has led to the cancellation of rail service and had an unmistakable impact on the Canadian economy.

Asked if he'd apologize for the sentiment, MacKay was quick to answer that he would not.

"Absolutely not. What I did was recognize that the individuals took it upon

themselves to move material that was blocking a railway. This was not a counter-protest. This was not anything other than people doing something that I think was the responsible thing to do," MacKay said,

"People can characterize it in another way. They can torque the story and try to

misrepresent it, but that's what I thought it was."

The former defence minister under then prime minister Stephen Harper said he's always had a great working relationship with Canada's Indigenous leaders, something he expects will continue if he happens to win the Conservative leadership post.

"I've met with First Nations leaders since I've been on this campaign, which is now in its fifth week, and I look forward to continuing a very positive relationship."

Outside the meet-and-greet, which attracted about 80 supporters, Collins said MacKay's social media messaging is not the right way to resolve issues between Canada's Indigenous people and the federal government.

He's concerned MacKay's sentiments normalize anti-Indigenous beliefs across the country.

"I think that's the wrong message to send. I think we live in a society that wants to be better. We all want to have good strong relationships. And you know, those kind of comments don't help that cause. I think we have to work together to make this country great again," Collins said.

The long-time chief said it seems to be the Conservative way.

"And I don't think it's a good way. It doesn't cause better relationships. I think

it will be a failed relationship as we go forward. All of us in our community, we want a strong, good partnering relationship with Canada and whoever leads this country."

MacKay said he reached out to local Indigenous leaders earlier in the day, but did not get a response.

But while he welcomed them expressing their views, he still disagreed with their stance on the issue of the blockades, which continue to spring up across the country, despite police moving in to disperse the protesters at several locations.

"Impeding people's access to important goods, like propane and medicine and food and blocking other people's ability to get to work and to travel and to carry out their livelihoods and that's not what I consider to be a peaceful expression and that's why the police are being called upon to do their job," MacKay said, adding as prime minister he'd have called on police to step in from the start.

"I think now we are even seeing, three weeks into this, the prime minister of Canada expressing the same. It's a little late, but I'm glad to see he's finally taken that position and come back to Canada, after a week outside the country when these protests began."

A deal was reached to potentially settle the dispute over the weekend.



PETER MACKAY

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# Editorial

## EDITORIAL

### Stop racing to the right

The Conservative leadership race appears to be a race to the far right. Clearly the goal is to shore up support in vote rich Alberta and Saskatchewan, where the contest ultimately could be decided.

Peter MacKay and Erin O'Toole, who have both visited Thunder Bay recently, have gone on an anti-Trudeau tirade and made vocal boasts about how they would treat protesters setting up blockades in support of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs opposed to a natural gas pipeline.

The problem is, those tweets and sentiments won't go away once the new leader is chosen.

Newsflash: Conservatives already have Alberta and Saskatchewan wrapped up.

Clearly the rhetoric, which failed soon-to-depart leader Andrew Scheer in last fall's federal election, didn't play well outside the prairies.

Conservatives boast they got the popular vote last time around, and they're correct.

But winning a huge plurality in those two provinces is the only reason they got it. Elsewhere, the Conservatives failed to gain a lot of ground. They are the Opposition in a minority, but if they continue to race toward Trump, they might not stay there for long.

Canada is not the United States and there are far too many voters who won't buy into American-style politics for it to work well north of the border. Your base will only get you so far.

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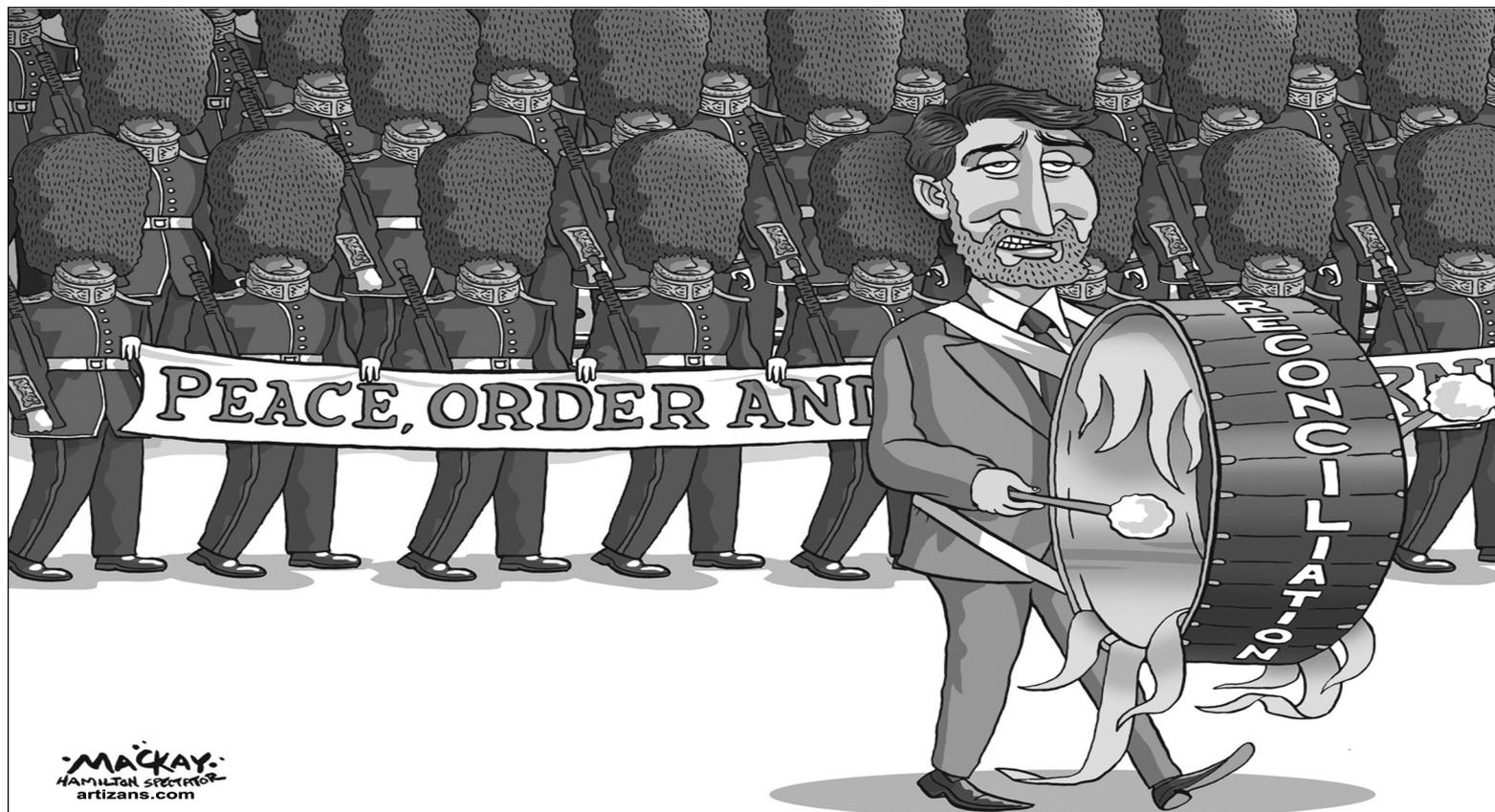
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## Conservatory upgrades on hold

### CITY HALL

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

Decisions on renewing Thunder Bay's conservatory and greenhouse facilities will wait until at least July, after city council deferred the issue Monday night. That came after council received a report from city administration outlining potential investments in the aging facilities totalling between \$4 and \$5 million.

Most of those investments, which include replacing the city's production greenhouses and undertaking major renovations to the conservatory, were not up for debate Monday, though they were discussed by councillors. The only recommendation for immediate action was a \$75,000 investment in a new cold-frame greenhouse, expected to pay for itself through cost savings within a year.

However, council was hesitant to go forward with even that comparatively modest investment, given the uncertain future of the conservatory site. The conservatory and greenhouses are among a number of areas of city operations being examined in the city's core services review conducted by Grant Thornton, with a report expected in late June. An interim report in December recommended the city consider closing the facility altogether.

Given that uncertainty, some councillors were concerned about making any additional investments in the site in the meantime.

"It's a five million dollar commitment that starts with a \$75,000 ask," said Coun. Mark Bentz. "If council were to decide that they didn't want to be in the flower-growing business, or even if they didn't want a conservatory... I'm not suggesting any of that, but



**FIXING UP:** The Conservatory's production greenhouse could see an upgrade if the renovations are approved.

those decisions haven't been made."

The cold-frame greenhouse, along with the larger production greenhouse, provide plants for city parks as well as the adjacent conservatory. The new cold-frame greenhouse was proposed as part of a plan for the city to begin growing its own native plants for low-impact developments (LIDs), a key part of the city's storm water management plan.

The city had estimated bringing that specialized work

in-house, rather than paying contractors to provide the plants, could save around \$30,000 per LID. On Monday, Director of Operations and Engineering Kayla Dixon told council the city is planning to expand the LID program, aiming to install up to 11 per year.

The cold-frame greenhouse would need to be built before next winter in order to be ready for service in 2021. Parks manager Cory Halvorsen told council delaying approval until July would make timelines tight to put out requests to contractors and complete it in time, but that it was likely doable.

Councillor Andrew Foulds urged his colleagues to support the funds for the cold-frame greenhouse, pointing out the \$75,000 would have been funded through a carry-forward budget within the LID program, and would save the city money.

"So we're using carry-forward money we've got in the bank, we're building something we need, and we'll save that money in the first year – that's our decision tonight," he said.

Most councillors voted to defer the decision until July.

On the larger question of reinvesting in the conservatory and greenhouses, some councillors raised concerns over the multi-million dollar price tag. The city report estimates total costs could range between \$4.2 and \$4.9 million, but generate over \$220,000 in annual savings and improving the public utility of the conservatory.

Coun. Bentz said it may be time to undertake more public consultation to determine where the facility stands in terms of the city's infrastructure priorities.

With the deferral, those questions will wait – likely until the first week of July, with the services review report expected at the end of June.

# Perspective

# Speaking Canadian

## Our version of English has plenty of distinctions

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

I've heard it said that here in Canada we have a funny way of talking.

When I was young I learned the English language but I picked up some new words and phrases along the way and now I speak fluent Canadian.

It might sound just like English but to the trained Canadian ear there are many nuances and innuendos that we use to express ourselves.

Language reflects our lifestyle and our sensitivities and some of the "Canadianisms" we use have become popular clichés.

They have also made Canada the brunt of good-natured ribbing by late show hosts and comedians, many of whom are Canadians themselves.

The well-intentioned mocking is taken with good humor - we love making fun of ourselves and we embrace our charming little habits.

But one Canadian verbal quirk continues to raise a very intriguing question, "Why do we all say "eh" all the time?"

This simple remark is considered to be the ultimate example of Canadian jargon and we are often teased about our use of this popular national slang.

Grammar freaks probably already know that in linguistics, "eh" is referred to as an invariant tag, an

exclamation added after a thought to shift its meaning in some way.

It's an easy, convenient and versatile way to add meaning and substance to otherwise ordinary comments.

For example, to state an opinion (good movie, eh?), to express surprise (what an ending, eh?), to make a request (let's sit over there, eh?) or to soften criticism (that movie was messed up, eh?).

This clever, restrained and understated tag is used to express reservations or concerns most Canadians are too polite and reserved to mention outright.

I can also be used alone as a single syllable to shout hello to someone at a distance (EH!) or to voice displeasure in a passive/aggressive way (Eh!).

We just don't want to hurt anybody's feelings, eh?

The Canadian "eh" is also called a "confirmational", which is a word attached to a sentence to confirm the truth or sincerity of the statement - "It's a cold one, eh?" or "Have a nice day, eh?"

It has grown to be considered a true reflection of the Canadian persona because it denotes friendliness, politeness and inclusivity by involving the listener and asking questions.

It's funny how a small word can take on such a huge meaning, eh?

But we have many other unique words and phrases that are spoken every day in Canada to add color and personality to Canadian conversations.

You may have heard them while waiting in line at Timmies to pick up your daily double double and a small box of timbits.

And Canadians never go to the restroom or the toilet while at a restaurant because we only go to the washroom which is what we call them here.

Canadians are not aggressive but we do have three levels of personal interaction which are the mild kerfuffle, the slightly more serious rhubarb and the all-out, full-blown donnybrook.

Donnybrooks are often seen during hockey games at playoff time which is considered a fifth season in Canada between spring and summer.

I came across a simple language test to determine if you know what Canadians are saying.

If you can understand the sentence, "Please pass me a serviette because I dropped someoutine on the chesterfield," then you can speak the language.

There are regional differences - my sister has lived in Calgary for some time now and she uses "hey" in place of "eh" when she talks - "It's nice to be home, hey?"

I can hardly understand a word she says anymore, eh?

**"We just don't want to hurt anybody's feelings, eh?"**



**SLOPE SUCCESS:** Thunder Bay's Carson Smith completes the slalom course last Thursday at Loch Lomond Ski Area during the 2020 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games.

LEITH DUNICK

*A look back in history:*

## Iced Milk Rink

Port Arthur and Thunder Bay Co-op Dairy put itself on the map when, in the winter of 1939, they built the world's first "Iced Milk Rink". Instead of discarding its surplus of skim milk, the dairy poured it within the rink walls. The rink became so popular they did it all again the next year.



WORLD FAMOUS MILK RINK, Port Arthur, Ont.

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## LOCAL NEWS



LEITH DUNICK

**HOMICIDE:** A Thunder Bay police investigator surveys a murder scene on Picton Avenue.

# Police investigate city's third killing

## CRIME

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

**P**olice are investigating the city's third murder of 2020, after a body was found on Picton Avenue.

A source at the scene said his daughter was outside early Tuesday morning, when she noticed someone laying in the middle of the street. Believing the person had slipped on ice, she went to check on their condition.

Upon a quick inspection, she immediately called 911.

Police say they were dispatched to the scene just after midnight and they remain on scene on Tuesday morning, a forensics crew lining the streets with small green

evidence cones.

Police, in a release, say they are investigating a murder.

Residents in the area who happen to see potential evidence on their property are asked to not touch the items and contact the police immediately.

The public is being asked to stay away from the area while police conduct the investigation.

A man who lives in the neighbourhood told [tbnewswatch.com](http://tbnewswatch.com) that two people were injured in an altercation, but police have not confirmed that as of yet. Police say they will provide further updates in the day.

There is no word on any arrests at this time.

# Senator suspended again

## OTTAWA

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

**S**enator Lynn Beyak has been suspended a second time.

The Red Chamber's internal economy committee on Thursday made the decision to remove the Dryden representative for the second time in less than a year, following her failure to properly respond to recommendations by the Senate Ethics Office after she posted racist letters to her official Senate website.

Beyak had been told to remove the letters, attend sensitivity training and apologize for

her actions. She was asked to leave the training, her apology was determined to be misguided and half-hearted and for months she refused to remove the letters, which offered support for the residential school system.

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler said it was the right decision.

"I took time to listen to her apology, the tone of her apology and it just wasn't sincere at all. I'm really glad the senate this afternoon took the steps to suspend her again, because she doesn't belong there."

The suspension will allow the 71-year-old Beyak to complete the sensitivity training.

# TB Life

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**NO MORE SUFFERING:** Sheila Noyes has been advocating for assisted suicide for the past three decades, after watching her mother and sister die.

## Death deserves dignity

**THUNDER BAY**  
By Doug Dlaczuk - TB Source

After watching both her younger sister and mother suffer before death, Sheila Noyes has dedicated her life to ensuring those in great pain have a right to medically end their lives.

With the tabling of Bill C-7, which will result in significant changes to right to die legislation in Canada, Noyes said it might finally provide Canadians facing these kinds of decisions with the compassion they deserve.

"Right now, Bill C-7, should it pass, and we fervently hope that they will, will give the most incredible peace to Canadians who are suffering," she said. "I can't tell you the peace I felt when I waded into it and made my phone call to Patty Hajdu to ask for clarification. Canadians will see the circle of compassion has been drawn wider."

Noyes, who is a member of Dying with Dignity Canada, has been advocating for medically assisted death after losing her sister to breast cancer in 1991. The cancer had spread to her sister's spinal cord, resulting in paralysis, loss of speech, and she died of suffocation. Noyes also watched her mother suffer after being locked in from a stroke.

The Canadian government passed

medically assisted dying legislation in 2016. In that time, more than 13,000 Canadians have died using medical assistance, including 64 people in the Thunder Bay District.

But Noyes said the original legislation had limitations, including restricting those who were eligible based on a reasonably foreseeable death and competency.

Bill C-7, which was tabled last Monday, addresses those concerns raised by proponents of medically assisted death.

"We know that for every person who received a medically assisted death, there were many who were denied," Noyes said. "There were two main reasons why they were denied. One is that natural death wasn't considered reasonably foreseeable. The other is they lost competency and could not give consent just before the procedure was administered."

"Bill C-7 addresses both of those. The eligibility criteria remains the very same with the vital exception that natural death does not have to be reasonably foreseeable."

The eligibility to qualify for medically assisted death remains the same, including the patient being in an advanced stage of decline, suffering both physically and mentally, and the request must always be initiated by the patient.

The bill is also known as Audrey Parker's

amendment, named after a patient who was diagnosed with breast cancer that spread to her bones and brain. She wanted to spend one more Christmas with her family, but she knew by that time she would lose the capacity to consent to a medically assisted death so she chose to die in November.

"They have removed the requirement that there must be a 10 day reflection period," Noyes said. "That was a cruel thing to do. So a Canadian would apply and be approved and then they would say: 'you have to think about it for 10 days.' That is just heartbreaking."

A second consent would also be waived, meaning the patient is no longer required to give consent before death is initiated.

"That has been waived for people who have been assessed and approved and that is hugely compassionate," Noyes said.

The government will receive reports from the Council for Canadian Academics that will look at issues related to mature minors, advanced requests, and where a mental disorder is the sole reason for the request.

Noyes said she remains optimistic that Bill C-7 will pass and become law because she feels the federal government has listened to Canadians.

"It is not just compassionate, it is keeping in line with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms," she said. "It must align with that. That provides for life, liberty, security of the person, and equal treatment under law."

**"I can't tell you the peace I felt when I waded into it and made my phone call to Patty Hajdu."**  
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# Sleeping Giant Loppet always fun



**KEITH  
AILEY**

THE GOOD LIFE

This coming weekend has been circled on hundreds of calendars since last fall.

It is actually quite amazing how many people in our region have been waiting since the first snowfall last November for this special weekend. It is finally time for Thunder Bay's large contingent of healthy, active, outdoors-lovers to descend upon the beautiful trails of the Sibley peninsula for the 43rd annual Sleeping Giant Loppet.

I was first introduced to this event, formerly known as the Sibley Ski Tour, back in 2006. As a new dad



**SISTER ACT: Brooke Ailey congratulates her sister Charlotte at the 2014 loppet.**

struggling to keep fit, I had recently shifted my attention to the sport of Nordic skiing. I had never done a ski race of any kind at that point and I can vividly recall being amazed that nearly

1000 people had driven out to the park for a ski race.

We lined up at the start, the horn went, we took off, and I suddenly understood what all the excitement was about.

In the years since, I have skied the eight-kilometre event with my kids, raced a bunch of 20 and 50-kilometre events, and had infinite fun battling for the podium in the 50km skiathlon during the loppet weekend. This year, I'll be skiing the 20k again, in a friendly competition with my teenage daughter, who has become a far better skier than me.

The Sleeping Giant Loppet is more than a competition though. It is a family-focused ski festival that offers challenging distances for everyone from competitive athletes to 5-year-old children.

The Loppet takes place each year on the first Saturday in March, in the nearby wilderness setting of Sleeping

Giant Provincial Park. It features multiple events, with staggered start times, and distances suitable for all skiers, regardless of their current fitness or ski experience.

The eight-kilometre Mini-Loppet is perfect for families, children and rookies.

The 20-kilometre Marie Louise Lake loop attracts some of the fastest skiers, looking to finish in less than an hour, but it also appeals to many recreational skiers looking for a middle-distance event.

The 35-kilometre Tour is a relaxed and non-competitive event that traverses the best trails in the park. The Loppet's flagship event is, of course, the 50k. Athletes can choose Classic, Skate or Skiathlon (half classic, half skate) for this long distance event. Regardless of the distance one chooses, the atmosphere is joyous and being surrounded by happy, positive people is undeniably inspiring.

While the Sleeping Giant Loppet has been around since the 1970's, a relatively new addition to this fantastic weekend is the Fat Bike Loppet that follows the same trails on Sunday morning.

Jointly hosted by the Thunder Bay Cycling Club and the Black Sheep Mountain Bike Club, the Fat Loppet offers 20-kilometre and 45-kilometre options and riders can choose to treat it like a tour or race it.

However you decide to enjoy the fat loppet, everyone will gather afterwards to share their stories.

Organizer Chris Jones says. "The event continues to grow and this year we have added a barbecue and social in the park's Visitor Centre."

Whether you are skiing or riding, participating one day or both, touring with your family or racing against your friends, there is no doubt that Sleeping Giant Park is the place to be this weekend.



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## TB Life

## March enters 2020 in quiet fashion

Like a lamb. On Sunday, first day of March, it slid into place like a lamb – sunny, warm, with only the slightest breeze. At least in this part of the province while east and south of us our neighbours were being ‘treated’ to more snow.

I can't remember too many beginnings of this month that were peaceful.

Unlike southern and central Ontario, we've had very little snow for over a month. In fact, my wife, Laura, and I were remarking as we negotiated the stretch of land twixt 'hoosie' and barn, just how much snow cover has disappeared.

Not only that, but the roller-coaster ride of temperatures alternately warming and freezing have made that surface slick with ice. One must read carefully so as not to suddenly strain a muscle or even wind up on one's backside. Like I did last Thursday evening.

It was my fault; I was taking our new puppy, who weighs next-to-nothing, outside.

Why carry her? If I put her down on the front stoop, she will want immediately back inside. If I get her away from the front door, she will realize that the point of this exercise is to void. But I wasn't smart.

It was when I stepped onto the flat ground that my slippers lost their grip and down I went. Puppy landed on top of me so she was OK. My body was not. Major ouch to my lower back that was accompanied by me cursing myself for being an idiot. Puppy, sensing we had not gone the usual route, tried to help by licking my face. I assessed the damage and was reassured that I hadn't broken anything, just bruised the muscles in my back.

So, working in the barn has been a challenge. Mucking out the horse poop and pee-soaked wood shavings has not caused me pain. Carrying heavy water pails does. "Why

are you filling them full?" my daughter asked. "Fill them to half and we can top them up if necessary." I'm lazy even when wounded and don't want to make a lot of trips with water buckets. It is getting better; the pain is far less.

Laura has been planting seeds on trays in the house. There was the annual seed swap that took place at our community hall. Quite the display: a table where people dropped off seed that they were willing to donate; a table promoting the Hymers Fall Fair; one encouraging people to not use pesticides so as to promote gardens for pollinators i.e. bees; even one talking about growing milkweed to attract Monarch butterflies. I questioned that one. "We have Monarchs in this part of the world?" "Yes," came the reply but in order to plant milkweed, you have to prepare the soil since milkweed likes to grow in sandy areas.

The Gardener came home with several packets of seeds that she did not possess.

The seed catalogues have, by now, been perused and orders probably placed although it isn't by any stretch too late. What is happening now is the planning by the avid growers of edibles and flowers.

I took a peek at the trays on the shelf that stands in front of our big, picture window.

Four more shelving units will be placed in the living room windows that have a southern exposure before planting in the garden.

And when the snow goes and the land dries a bit, we are out there with the rototiller before remaking those raised beds.

But it is still early days for gardeners. This is the dreaming time, the planning time. The second day of this new month featured ferocious winds and an overcast sky. Ah well, at least we had a spot of warm, "lamb-like" weather to start off the first day of March.



FRED JONES

RURAL ROOTS



SUBMITTED

RETIRING: Gladys Berringer has been with Our Kids Count since 1996. Kathryn Hughes will take over.

# Our Kids Count head is retiring

Gladys Berringer has been at the helm for 24 years

**THUNDER BAY**  
By Gary Rinne – TB Source

After more than 24 years at Our Kids Count, Gladys Berringer is stepping down from the post of executive director of the community development organization.

Berringer joined the staff in 1996, and has led the organization since 2007.

She'll be succeeded at the end of March by Kathryn Hughes, who most recently served as director of home and community care and director of in-patient services at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Hughes is a nurse with 34 years of experience.

Berringer says she's honoured to have served Our Kids Count.

"I have learned so much during my time at Our Kids Count from the families and children that have shared their lives with us," she said.

Berringer said she plans to continue to

play a leading role in the organization's signature "Ribfest" fundraiser.

Board chair Christine Bates said "Thunder Bay is a better city because of Gladys' dedication to our communities. We wish her the best in her retirement."

Our Kids Count currently offers programs in three Family Resource Centres around the city: McKenzie Street, Crawford Street and Windsor Street.

Parents are able to register for skill-building or educational programs at these facilities, while their children are cared for by trained Early Childhood Education workers.

Participants may also access services through one-to-one programs such as home visiting or pre/postnatal educational sessions in their own homes.

Among other services, the organization offers community kitchens, drop-in playgroups, and an on-site family counsellor, and provides the Big Brother, Big Sister program.



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# RRSP loans can be a great investment



**CHRISTINE  
IBBOTSON**  
MONEY LADY

**C**ould you tell me if it is a good idea to get a RRSP Loan from my bank. Does the loan have to be used specifically for a RRSP?

– Thanks, Jason

**Dear Jason – RRSP Saver!**

RRSP loans are tricky and I'm afraid they are indeed only for the purpose of a future RRSP investment. All Tier 1 banks in Canada have RRSP loans and will encourage you to take one to maximize your contributions at this time of year. The first payment on the loan is usually deferred in order to provide clients the opportunity to use their tax refund to lower the outstanding balance.

Payments for the loan must be completed within one year and therefore are not like a typical loan that you can pay over a three- to five-year term.

Most banks will offer a special discounted rate for your new RRSP loan which will be better than other loan options.

As far as getting the funds, the banks will ensure the money is directed into a registered investment account, (mostly likely within their bank) and you will not have access to these funds to use for anything other than a true RRSP investment.

There are many people who choose to use RRSP loans every year to increase their future savings and it is indeed a good idea.

The interest you pay on the loan is a legitimate tax write off and it forces you to pay off the loan within the year, similar to you setting up a monthly savings program. The only drawback to contributing this way, is you generally



**DRAWBACK:** An RRSP loan does run the risk of purchasing stocks at inflated prices.

apply the full lump sum to your investment portfolio every year and typically purchase stocks, bonds or mutual funds at whatever the price is when you make the contribution.

This runs the risk of purchasing stock at inflated prices and negates the effects

of borrowing to invest.

There have been many studies over the years that show lump sum investments tend to not be as advantageous as making a monthly contribution and taking advantage of dollar cost averaging.

Dollar cost averaging is when you invest on a regular basis, say every two weeks or every month, the same amount, into a stock portfolio.

This continuous investment strategy is designed to reduce the volatility of the stock market prices and has been proven over time to lower your total average cost per share of your investment.

Whatever you choose to do Jason, it is great that you are saving for your future. Good Job!

Don't forget to be also saving into your TFSA since this is a true tax-free investment. The maximum contribution to your TFSA this year is \$6,000 and the total contribution is \$63,500.

*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](http://www.askthemoneylady.ca) Follow on Facebook and Instagram.

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# IN THE bay

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## Terror of unseen menace

The Invisible Man a contemporary update of the 1933 James Whale classic



**MARTY MASCARINI**

MOVIE TALK

Leigh Whannell's *The Invisible Man* is far removed from the 1933 James Whale classic film with Claude Rains, inspired by the novel by H.G. Wells, which offered a bit of comic relief along with mad horror. No such luck here.

Any reference to Wells is strangely absent here, though the film's basic premise remains the same: a brilliant scientist goes mad and murderously off the rails once he adopts the power of invisibility. What is effectively different is that the story gets a contemporary update embracing the theme of domestic violence carried to diabolical extremes.

Elisabeth Moss is Cecilia, whom we come upon in the film's opening sequence, fleeing her abusive husband Adrian (Oliver Jackson-Cohen) in the middle of the night with the aid of her sister (Harriet Dyer).

Two weeks later, Cecilia learns that Adrian has committed suicide, yet she is still haunted by him.

Brilliant in the field of optics as his high-tech workshop would attest, Adrian leaves her \$5 million in trust. But then things get increasingly disturbing.

Whenever alone, Cecilia senses an odd presence around her. Weird occurrences arise in the house. Cecilia is accused of



**WELL RECEIVED:** The *Invisible Man* is a critically acclaimed thriller in theatres now.

smacking the teen daughter (Storm Reid) of a detective friend (Aldis Hodge) who's providing her temporary refuge as she nervously recovers from PTSD.

Hostile emails emanate from her account, alienating her sister. Cecilia finds her job interview undermined by her missing portfolio, whereupon she faints, having been drugged.

Cecilia concludes that psychotic Adrian is still alive but has utilized his high-tech knowledge to become invisible, enabling him to escalate the abuse by isolating her. No one has deserted him before, prompting his possessive, maniacal torment.

Cecilia gets throttled as she tries to flush

him out, which was all too common in their previous life together.

Convincing those around her about what's really happening is a tall order, and Cecilia comes off looking nuts herself. How can she combat a threatening, omniscient force she cannot see—nor can anyone else?

This is Cecilia's terrifying quandary.

Cecilia slowly begins to find herself, determined not to succumb again to an abusive relationship.

A duel of wits ensues, but at considerable cost. Bodies begin to tumble, illustrating Adrian's psychotic ruthlessness. Even when she gets incarcerated, Cecilia can feel Adrian hovering menacingly. There's seemingly no escape.

Moss is terrific as the tormented Cecilia, using her body language to variously convey terror, potential madness, and newly-found resolve. Her supporting cast is also excellent.

Director/screenwriter Whannell (*Saw*, *Saw II*) provides a credible backstory ramped up by some heart-stopping sequences, utilizing eerie silences to create foreboding in seemingly empty spaces, underscored by a sinister thumping soundtrack, suggestive of a pursuing monster.

Then he throws in a couple of startling plot twists to ratchet up the suspense and ups the stakes even further.

Forgiven are a couple of dubious plot points (some scenes of bloody violence) and the somewhat too-neat ending. Nonetheless, it is rare to find quality titles in the dog days of winter, but *The Invisible Man* uses a relevant theme to conjure its fair share of cinematic chills.

## Music and curling top weekly list

### Saturday

Singer-songwriter Ariel Posen will be performing at the Port Arthur Polish Hall. Posen has been on the road most of his life, both as a solo artist and as a member of the Bros. Landreth.

Tickets are \$30 in advance for the all-ages show and can be bought at Chaltrek, Fireweed Crafts or online at Brown Paper Tickets. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m.

### Saturday

The second annual St. Joseph's Curl for Care Funspiel takes place at the Port Arthur Curling Club and includes on-site

contests, a penny auction and a complimentary buffet lunch. Proceeds raised from the event remain in the community.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the cost is \$75 per curler, or \$300 for a team. No experience necessary. Prizes for best-dressed team, top fundraisers.

### Saturday

Tiny Hearts Critter Rescue, is fundraising for the cost of new equipment like terrariums and aquariums, food and supplies for its animals. They're hosting a paint night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Shooter's Tavern. It's \$35 to enter, with \$10 being donated to the rescue.

### Sunday

The Vancouver Mountain Film Festival makes an appearance at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium. Films being shown on the tour in various locations: *Wheels Under the Sun*, *Adaptive*, *Ancient Giants*, *Eli*, *UpRiver Running* and *From Slide to Ride*. Tickets are \$16 and are available at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium box office.

### Sunday

Kingston, Ont. alt-rockers Kasador will headline Black Pirate's Pub, featuring Alberta's King Bull and local act, Greenbank.

The all-ages show is \$10 and the concert is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. — *Leith Dunick*

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E-mail the editor at [ldunick@dougallmedia.com](mailto:ldunick@dougallmedia.com)

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## IN THE bay



FIRST-HAND VIEW: Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz wrote *An Indigenous People's History of the United States*.

# Telling Indigenous tales

The untold story of the role that Indigenous peoples have played in North American history is very well told in *An Indigenous People's History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. This is the first history of the United States told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples. Today in the United States, there are more than 500 federally recognized Indigenous nations comprising nearly three million people, descendants of the 15 million Native people who once inhabited this land. The centuries-long genocidal program of the U.S. settler-colonial regimen has largely been omitted from history.

Dunbar-Ortiz adroitly challenges the founding myth of the United States and shows how policy against the Indigenous peoples was colonialist and designed to seize the territories of the original inhabitants, displacing or eliminating them.

And as Dunbar-Ortiz reveals, this policy was praised in popular culture, through writers like James Fenimore Cooper and Walt Whitman, and in the highest offices of government and the military. Shockingly, as the genocidal policy reached its zenith under President Andrew Jackson, its ruthlessness was best articulated by U.S. Army general Thomas S. Jessup, who, in 1836, wrote of the Seminoles: 'The country can be rid of them only by exterminating them.'

Dunbar-Ortiz pulls no punches regarding the genocidal nature of colonialism and imperialism and the deliberate attempt to wipe out Indigenous peoples so that their land could be taken by white settlers as part of the wealth accumulation process that drove US capitalism. The tactics perfected against the Indigenous peoples were then exported to Vietnam, Afghan, Iraq

and other victims of US imperialism in their never ending search for capital accumulation and profit. Spanning more than four hundred years, this classic bottom-up peoples' history radically reframes US history and explodes the silences that have haunted the national narrative.

In addition, Dunbar-Ortiz reveals how Native Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the U.S. empire. This active resistance is also explored by Craig Fortier in *Unsettling the Commons: Social Movements Against, Within, and Beyond Settler Colonialism*.

Drawing on interviews with 51 anti-authoritarian organizers to investigate what it means to struggle for 'the commons' within a settler colonial context, *Unsettling the Commons* interrogates a very important debate that took place within Occupy camps and is taking place in a multitude of movements in North America around what it means to claim 'the commons' on



**JOHN  
PATEMAN**

BOOK BANTER



stolen land.

Travelling back in history to show the ways in which radical left movements have often either erased or come into clear conflict with Indigenous practices of sovereignty and self-determination – all in the name of the 'struggle for the commons', the book argues that there are multiple commons or conceptualizations of how land, relationships, and resources are shared, produced, consumed, and distributed in any given society.

As opposed to the liberal politics of recognition, a political practice of unsettling and a recognition of the incommensurability of political goals that claim access to space/territory on stolen land is put forward as a more desirable way forward.

## IN THE bay

# Wedding Show bliss

Annual event great starting point for brides and grooms

**THUNDER BAY**  
By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

With a festive atmosphere and around 70 exhibitors, the 18th annual Thunder Bay Wedding Show drew hundreds of couples, along with friends and family, to check out a wide array of local wedding options. The event took place at the Victoria Inn last Sunday.

The show's producer, Andre Fitzgerald, says it aims to give couples a first-hand look at options for all their wedding needs.

"When they come to the show, we

want them to be able to sample the foods, touch the dresses, hear the music, meet face-to-face and consult, and find out who's going to be their best possible fit."

Fitzgerald has been organizing the event since its inception. He says it's grown tremendously since starting with around 20 exhibitors in 2002.

The show includes contests like the "last couple standing" competition, where the winning pair could take home a wedding package worth \$7,000, as well as a fashion show that displayed new and traditional wedding styles.

Fitzgerald says since he started the show, he's seen many couples look to mix things up, moving away from traditional and formal weddings. He also noted a trend toward outdoor weddings in recent

years.

"We're seeing a trend definitely toward more niche happenings," he explains. "For instance, you're not seeing the wedding cake necessarily anymore - you're seeing the doughnut wall, or pizza and poutine being served later in the evening."

Theresa Ciccone, owner and operator of Bellissimo Wedding Décor and Theresa's Italian Foods, has been coming to the show for 11 years. She has also seen the trend toward outdoor weddings, particularly tent weddings, she says.

She says the changing nature of the business is part of the fun, and she relishes the chance to share new concepts at the show.

"I've been doing it forever, and I love doing it," she says. "We talk to everybody, we mingle, and we exchange ideas."



NEW FASHION: The 18th annual Wedding Show took place last weekend in Thunder Bay.

# A play that makes one think

**THEATRE**  
By Linda Maehans - TB Source

When next the curtain rises at Magnus Theatre, audiences will glide along down into the Kawartha Lakes region of south-central Ontario: a picturesque green and blue landscape at the height of summer known as cottage country. Lots of extra dwellers this time of year, splashing their urban cares away off sunny docks and on decks where tangy barbeque aromas waft gently on the air.

In these parts the word is "cottage"; and not "camp" as folks in more northern environs would say. Yes, there are all kinds of differences in the way people refer to their surroundings, and how these surroundings are regarded.

Differences the quick-wit pen of playwright Drew Hayden Taylor brings forward with his latest satirical drama, or comedy depending on how you see things. *Cottagers and Indians* is sure to get you thinking.

About your surroundings. About the environment. About grievances, old or new. About how we enjoy time by the lake with family and friends. And a heck of a lot more besides, I'm guessing.

*Thunder Bay Source* chatted with the artistic director of Tarragon Theatre; here now also as director of the travelling production of *Cottagers and Indians*. Richard Rose began by noting humour "doesn't exist just in plays"; adding we should all "re-envision our lives; recognise similar situations, and reconnect."

In this show the lake around which cottages (or camps) are situated is



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Herble Barnes and Phillippa Dornville in *Cottagers and Indians*.

central to the drama. I asked Rose to elaborate. "For Native people wild rice harvesting on the lakes is vital to food sovereignty; it's income. And a return to traditional foods and communal harvesting practises has both a social and spiritual consequence."

How so? "View this especially in light of the issue of diabetes amongst First Nations populations. They need to access better food; hence the sovereignty."

Rose continued. "For cottagers the lake is often a second home; or maybe more so, the home of the heart. Cottages are retreats from the pressures of everyday, and urban life; places for sports and pleasure and fun. We sit by a lake for solace, for healing and contemplation; lakes are great places for a spiritual commu-

with-nature. Think about what a person has by the lake early in the morning or at sunset."

I ask why or if this should become a matter of anyone giving anything up. "I don't know the answer to this. In reconciliation we have to recognise something about the other: it's a two-way street. If cottagers knew that diabetes is a critical problem within First Nations, and good food is essential to survival, then maybe their perspective would change."

If denying wild rice harvesting was hurtful, our view of the lake in early morning might change."

Sure to present food-for-thought, maybe even change some points of view, *Cottagers and Indians* opens March 12 and plays out until the March 28. Go have a-look-see and a listen.

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# Coronavirus starting to impact TV

Deadly disease has already cost the next *Amazing Race* season

It's still early, but it's safe to say that "Coronavirus" is likely to be the word of the year. After all, this mysterious plague-like illness is sweeping the planet. Including my TV. And I don't even drink Mexican beer.

CBS recently halted production on this summer's edition of *The Amazing Race*. Apparently, sending people around the world for entertainment purposes amid a potential global pandemic is a bad idea.

And although their contestants hadn't been anywhere near Asia and nobody involved has shown any symptoms, producers are erring on an abundance of caution.



with FIONA GARDINER

Good for them. But what about all the other reality shows that are shot outside the presumed "safe" borders of the good ol' U.S. of A.?

If Discovery's not careful, they could give new meaning to the *Deadliest Catch*. Meanwhile, Bravo's *Below Deck* is shot in the Caribbean, CBS's *Love Island* was done in Spain, and ABC's *Bachelor in Paradise* has been located outside Puerto Vallarta,

Mexico.

With these shows, the participants are already pretty well isolated from the rest of the world anyway. So will they too fall to the fears of the networks?

Will participants be allowed to return stateside?

Fortunately for CBS and its advertisers, *Survivor's* current anniversary edition, *Winners at War*, is not in jeopardy. The network's juggernaut was shot last May – long before the World Health Organization started announcing warnings and assessing the numbers. But it could put a kibosh on next season.

As for *The Bachelor* franchise, ABC already has a Plan B in the works. They're trying an alternative way to

expand its brand within the continental U.S. with a "Senior" edition. That's right, silver foxes and mature ladies across the 52 States are being courted to dip their toe in the TV dating pool.

One might wonder what kind of contestants "of a certain age" would want to put their dating life on television.

And furthermore, how producers are going to customize the show for them.

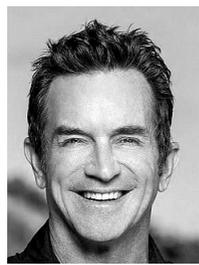
No offense, but I don't think most viewers want to see the usual *Bachelor/Bachelorette* hot tub scenes re-enacted for the mature crowd. (Then again, I didn't want to see them the first time.)

And after a certain age, aren't most singles too smart for the childish

games and superficial interactions that are celebrated on this show? Then again, perhaps the younger generation that usually inhabits the *Bachelor* house will learn something about honesty and communication from the senior set of contestants. Or maybe not.

But it certainly seems that after working so hard to expand reality television beyond the shores of North America and make their shows a global event, producers are going to have to work twice as hard to pull back to the safety of our home and native land while still keeping viewers interested. That's a dramatic twist they probably didn't see coming.

Suddenly, those Canadian versions of *The Bachelor* and *The Amazing Race* with their smaller budgets and limited travel itineraries seem like a smart idea.



JEFF PROBST

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Council for Econ. Advisors (abbr.)
  - 4 Flee
  - 7 Vision (suf.)
  - 10 S Afr. Boer assembly
  - 11 Five-franc piece
  - 12 Basse-Normandie city
  - 14 Ger. highway
  - 16 Snare
  - 17 Bureau of Labor Statistics (abbr.)
  - 18 Rear
  - 20 Your (Ger.)
  - 21 Devotee
  - 22 Stockings
  - 24 Aida's love
  - 28 Cossack
  - 31 103 (Rom. numeral)
  - 32 Stop
  - 34 Bare
  - 35 Sodium carbonate

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

- DOWN**
- 1 Great Antium
  - 2 Food
  - 3 Stir
  - 4 Erudite
  - 5 Yearn
  - 6 Chomp
  - 7 Month abbr.
  - 8 Skull bone
  - 9 Affirmative
  - 10 Mortar mixer
  - 13 Nat'l Public Radio (abbr.)
  - 15 Ray
  - 19 Child
  - 21 Syncope
  - 23 Sword
  - 24 Receipt (abbr.)
  - 25 Display
  - 26 Castor
  - 27 Juice
  - 29 Utterly
  - 30 Recommended daily allowance (abbr.)
  - 33 Knife
  - 36 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
  - 38 Rend
  - 40 Flora and fauna
  - 42 Divine law (Lat.)
  - 43 Three (Sp.)
  - 45 Nail with a hole
  - 46 Wing (pref.)
  - 47 Rip
  - 48 Annex
  - 50 Son of, in Arabic names
  - 52 Military macaw

## WORD SEARCH

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

- |            |                |         |               |
|------------|----------------|---------|---------------|
| Adults     | Harrows        | Onion   | Spoiled       |
| Attorney   | Harsh          | Outcry  | Spouse        |
| Booth      | Hastiest       | Paths   | Super         |
| Cashier    | Housings       | Psych   | Thrust        |
| Chaps      | Hugely         | Receive | Transmissions |
| Consortium | Hymnal         | Ropes   | Tunes         |
| Ebony      | Indiscriminate | Rumps   | Unpick        |
| Fishy      | Ivies          | Scars   | Untie         |
| Frayed     | Lapel          | Sinew   | Usefully      |
| Futures    | Malice         | Siting  | Weigh         |

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CRYPTOGRAM

"WEX JYM LK Y KLLV GA NGPEW GQ EGA  
 LJQ XMXA: UIW EX WEYW EXYNHXQXWE  
 IQWL TLIQAXV GA JGAX."

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "If you want to know how rich you are, try to find how many things you have that money cannot buy." — Author Unknown

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

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# Sports

local sports news | information | coverage



TOP DOGS: Forward Nathan Irwin, who scored the golden goal in overtime, and Team Prince Edward Island goaltender Keegan Walte celebrate their floor hockey championship.

## Games spectacular success

### THUNDER BAY

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

After a week of competition, Thunder Bay began saying goodbye to athletes in town for the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games on Sunday, after their conclusion the previous day.

Hundreds of athletes, coaches, and family streamed into the Thunder Bay airport Sunday morning, some proudly wearing medals around their necks, as they prepared to return home.

Local organizing committee chair Barry Streib said he had mixed feelings as he saw the athletes off. Local organizers and volunteers felt a tremendous amount of pride seeing the joy of the athletes and strong community support throughout nearly a week of events that ran quite smoothly, Streib said. But it was bittersweet to say goodbye for all involved, he said.

The games concluded with an athletes dance at the Valhalla Inn ballroom Saturday night that included an informal closing ceremony.

"After the ceremony we had to extinguish the cauldron, and it was a sad moment," Streib described. "It was palpable – all of us that have been involved in organizing, and all the volunteers, had that little moment of, 'aw, jeez, it's over.'"

Streib says the nearly 1,000 athletes who participated had a great experience in Thunder Bay, and volunteers were receiving hugs and high fives Saturday as the event wrapped up.

That sentiment was echoed by departing athletes Sunday morning.

"My whole experience here in Thunder Bay has

been really good," said floor hockey player Robert Shedrick. "I had a blast – the people are friendly, the food is excellent, the accommodation [was] phenomenal."

For Shedrick, who was attending his second national games for the Quebec team, the highlight of the week was probably getting to know his fellow competitors from across the country.

Another moment that stuck out was when he was honoured as a star of the final game, where Quebec picked up a silver medal in a hard-fought match against Ontario.

"I didn't expect it," he said. "It really touched me a lot – I had tears in my eyes."

Five-pin bowler Erin Pippy, from Charlottetown, P.E.I., said her team trained hard in the months leading up to the games, as well as doing quite a bit of fundraising to cover the costs of the trip. But it was all worth it when they got to Thunder Bay, she says.

Pippy was honoured to serve as a flag-bearer for her province, but agrees the camaraderie between athletes is the best part about the event. She enjoyed meeting new people and reconnecting with some she'd seen in the past.

For Streib and his team, seeing hundreds of athletes go home with those kinds of positive memories means mission accomplished. He said witnessing the smiles on the athletes' faces Saturday night makes for a memory of his own that will stick with him.

"That ballroom at the Valhalla was just packed," he said. "I've never seen that many people there – and they were having a great time."



OVAL AND OUT: Thunder Bay's Claire Kachur competes in speed skating at Delaney Arena last Thursday.



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# Lang survives plane scare

Curling legend shakes off injuries, heads to Brier to coach Jacobs rink

## CURLING

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Not even an airplane crash can slow Rick Lang down – at least not for long.

The former two-time world curling champion was supposed to head to the Tim Hortons Brier in Kingston, Ont. last Thursday, where he'll coach the 10-time Northern Ontario champion Brad Jacobs rink in search of a second Canadian national championship.

But Lang, who also coaches Krista McCarville's foursome, who just returned home from a playoff appearance at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Moose Jaw, Sask., last Monday was injured in a Bearskin Airline plane crash in Dryden on the journey back to Thunder Bay and had to put his trip to the Brier on hold for a few days while he recovered from a hand injury.

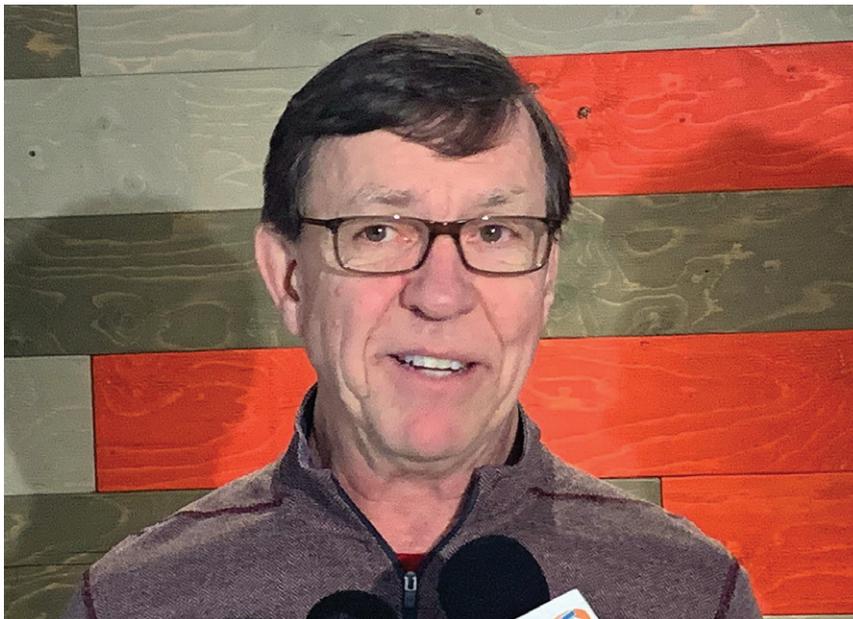
McCarville and teammate Ashley Sippala were also aboard the flight, which crashed on takeoff and hit a snow bank, pieces of the propeller piercing the fuselage and carving into Lang's right hand.

Lang is also using the added time to get to know his twin grandsons, who were born while the McCarville rink was battling their way into the championship round at last week's Scottie's.

"I knew this was going to be an eventful month, at the beginning of February with the Brier and Scottie's and all the excitement that would go with those events and only being home three days in between. But as the world knows, a few things have happened in between," Lang said.

His daughter Sarah, who normally plays lead for McCarville, and her husband Jordan, had their twins a little earlier than expected, and caught everyone by surprise.

"I was just sad not to be there for it. And then coming home, of course, very anxious to



**FLIGHT FRIGHT:** Former two-time world curling champion Rick Lang suffered injuries to his hand.

see them all and the mishap happened with the plane accident," Lang said.

"We're well. I want everyone to know we're OK. The girls are doing well and we're getting over our injuries."

Lang's squad in Kingston will be in tough in a star-studded field that also includes reigning champion Kevin Koe of Alberta, provincial rival Brendan Botcher and former two-time champion Brad Gushue. Team Jacobs, which retooled and added Mark Kennedy at third in place of Ryan Fry, will be seeking its first title since 2013, a year before they captured Olympic gold in Sochi.

Lang said they've been banging on the door for years, reaching the playoffs every year since 2015, but just haven't been able to break through again.

"Getting through the Brier playoffs and finals is something I think that was a goal of

theirs from the beginning. They've made changes this year. They have Mark Kennedy on board and he is an absolutely unbelievable player and has been phenomenal," Lang said. "It's been a pleasure working with him and the whole team. I hope I've supported them and been able to help with what they've been doing this year. They're doing a lot of things right. They've got a lot of great habits. They've been open to new learning this year."

It seems to be working. After losing out in the quarterfinals at the Masters, the Jacobs rink has rolled off three straight Grand Slam of Curling titles, capturing the Tour Challenge, a title they won in Thunder Bay a year earlier, the National and the Canadian Open.

"I think if they just continue what they did all year, they don't have to change a thing. They just have to perform the way they have all year and they have a great chance of winning."

# Special Olympics resoundingly great

The 2020 Special Olympics Games are in the books.

And what a week it was.

Organizers deserve to be applauded for their efforts. I can honestly say, I haven't seen that many smiles in any one place at any other point in a journalism career that later this year hits a quarter of a century.

The crowds were large and boisterous, the athletes showed why they are the Special Olympics elite and the volunteers came out in droves to make everything run smoothly.

Every day there seemed to be a new and more intriguing story to tell.

There was Josh Boudreau, the Northwest

Territories speed skater – and their only athlete at the Games – who told us he felt like he was carrying the Territories' flag on his back.

There was curler Jacob Striker and his grandfather, Don, who also happened to be the Team Alberta coach, who together captured gold in their division.

We got to speak to Michael Sumner, a Yukon skater who dedicated his routine to a former girlfriend, Stephanie, who recently passed away.

And on Saturday, the closing day of the Games, we got to interview Nathan Irwin, whose overtime goal came a decade and a day after another No. 87, Sidney Crosby,

scored his most famous medal-winning gold at the 2010 Olympic Games.

There were plenty of local good news stories too, like skiers Amy Cizmar and Carson Smith, speed skater Claire Kachur and snowshoer Gabrielle Hannusch, who cheered her sister on four years ago in Corner Brook, Nfld. and had the chance to compete at home in 2020.

My only regret is not getting the chance to tell a few more stories along the way.

A huge shoutout to everyone who made the Games possible, especially media coordinator Ashleigh Quarrell and our media handlers, especially Lexie and Maddie Penko and our own Nicole Dixon, who ensured we were well taken care of throughout the week.

Bring on the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts!

**"We're well. I want everyone to know we're OK."**  
**RICK LANG**

**LEITH DUNICK**  
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