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Thursday, May 5, 2022

# Landmark lost

Historic James Whalen Tugboat sinks into Kaministiquia River /3



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The 117-year-old vessel was found submerged in the Kaministiquia River last Sunday. (Photo by Justin Hardy).



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JUSTIN HARDY

**SUBMERGED:** The 117-year-old vessel was found fully submerged in the Kaministiquia River last Sunday.

# Lost to the river

The historic James Whalen sank into the Kaministiquia River

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

The historic James Whalen tug boat at Kaministiquia River Heritage Park sunk into the river on Sunday morning.

"The tug boat has taken on water again over the period of time during the rain and the thawing in spring here and we were unable to observe any change until this time," said Cory Halvorsen, manager of parks and open spaces.

"It looks like it took on enough water to become fully submerged and disconnect from the mounts on the dock as well."

This is not the first time the 117-year-old tug boat took on too much water, the James Whalen also partially sank last year but crews were able to pump enough water out to keep it from fully submerging, this year will be a completely different story.

"I think we're dealing with a completely different situation this time. Last year we were able to respond before it got to this point and we were able to pump the water out and get it back out of the water," said Halvorsen.

"But now we're looking at a different situation where it's fully submerged and I'm not sure if there will be an option to get it afloat or how we're going to move it this time."

Crews are limited in what can be done immediately other than informing the Coast Guard and monitoring to make sure there are no environmental impacts which Halvorsen says will be unlikely as there is no fuel or similar contaminants on the vessel.

"I'm reaching out to administration. I've already asked them to bring something to council tonight that will explain what has happened and how we got here, and what we can do to prevent this from happening again," said Thunder Bay Mayor Bill Mauro.

The mayor said he understands why people in the community would be upset, but added that he's been told the boat can be salvaged.

Mauro said he's brought resolutions to council in the past trying to facilitate the relocation of the James Whalen to the Lakehead Transportation Museum

Society's property at the former Pool 6 site south of Prince Arthur's Landing.

For various reasons, that hasn't been practical so far.

LTMS representatives met just last month with the city's waterfront development committee to initiate new discussions.

Society president Charlie Brown said while it's unfortunate the tugboat is "now a submarine," its sinking won't necessarily have caused much more damage than it already had.





"I don't think there's any actual hull damage yet. We won't know that until it's refloated. The interior was damaged for a number of years anyway by vandalism. We would have had to gut the interior anyway."

Brown added "If it gets refloated and we can bring it over, we can probably deal with those things over time."

The LTMS is currently looking at putting the James Whalen in front of the Alexander Henry, which would require some dredging.

-With files from Gary Rinne

## THIS WEEK'S WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			
<b>A mix of sun and clouds</b>	<b>Sunny</b>	<b>A mix of sun and clouds</b>	<b>Light rain</b>
Precipitation: <b>20%</b> HIGH <b>10</b> LOW <b>1</b>	Precipitation: <b>10%</b> HIGH <b>11</b> LOW <b>3</b>	Precipitation: <b>20%</b> HIGH <b>10</b> LOW <b>3</b>	Precipitation: <b>60%</b> HIGH <b>12</b> LOW <b>6</b>




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# Plane crash claims four lives

The OPP was notified last Saturday morning after the aircraft had been located southwest of Sioux Lookout

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

The Ontario Provincial Police Sioux Lookout detachment is currently investigating a plane crash that took the lives of all four individuals on board early Saturday morning.

According to the OPP, the London Police Service was the first agency to initiate an inquiry into an aircraft that was supposed to have landed at the Marathon airport but did not land at the scheduled time.

A search was initiated by the Joint Rescue Coordinating Committee based out of Trenton Ontario and they were assisted by various other agencies that deal with search and rescue

specifically when it comes to aircraft-related incidents.

The OPP was engaged early Saturday morning after the aircraft had been located.

“We had various different specialized units attend the scene in order to start their investigation and the four deceased were located onboard the aircraft. We’re still working on confirming the identities of all four of the people who had passed away and notifying family members,” said Allison Lawrence, media relations coordinator.

“And that’s where we’re at now is continuing that investigation and trying to identify everyone on board and get in touch with

their families to let them know what happened.”

The Transportation Safety Board has been notified and released a statement on Sunday.

“The Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB) is deploying a team of investigators following an accident involving a Piper PA-28-140 aircraft that occurred on Friday near Sioux Lookout, Ontario. The TSB will gather information and assess the occurrence,” the statement reads.

The OPP asks that anyone with information regarding the crash contact OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or anonymously at Crime Stoppers 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online [ontariocrimestoppers.ca](http://ontariocrimestoppers.ca)



INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY: The plane that went down was a Piper PA-28.

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Thunder Bay Coun. Shelby Ch'ng takes on a police board vacancy created when fellow Coun. Kristen Oliver resigned from the board.

# Ch'ng named to TB police board

## Northwood councillor fills one of three vacant spots

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

City councillor Shelby Ch'ng has been appointed to fill one of three vacant seats on the Thunder Bay Police Services Board, potentially allowing the body to once again officially hold meetings.

Three of the board's five members resigned in protest in April after an outside administrator was appointed to oversee the board.

The Ontario Civilian Police Commission (OCPC) granted administrator Malcolm Mercer sweeping powers to act on behalf of the board after an initial investigation deemed dysfunction within the police services board threatened its ability to function properly.

The OCPC was forced to expand Mercer's powers after a majority of the board resigned in

protest, allowing him to make decisions entirely without the board's involvement.

Thunder Bay's city council appoints three members on the board, including two members of council and one citizen appointee.

Mayor Bill Mauro remains on the police services board, while Coun. Kristen Oliver, who had served as chair, was one of those who resigned.

Georjann Morriseau, the city's citizen appointee, is the other remaining board member, though she recently took a leave.

Council voted unanimously to appoint Ch'ng, a second-term councillor for the Northwood Ward, as one of the council representatives on the board at a Monday meeting, after holding a discussion behind closed doors.

Two provincially-appointed seats remain vacant.

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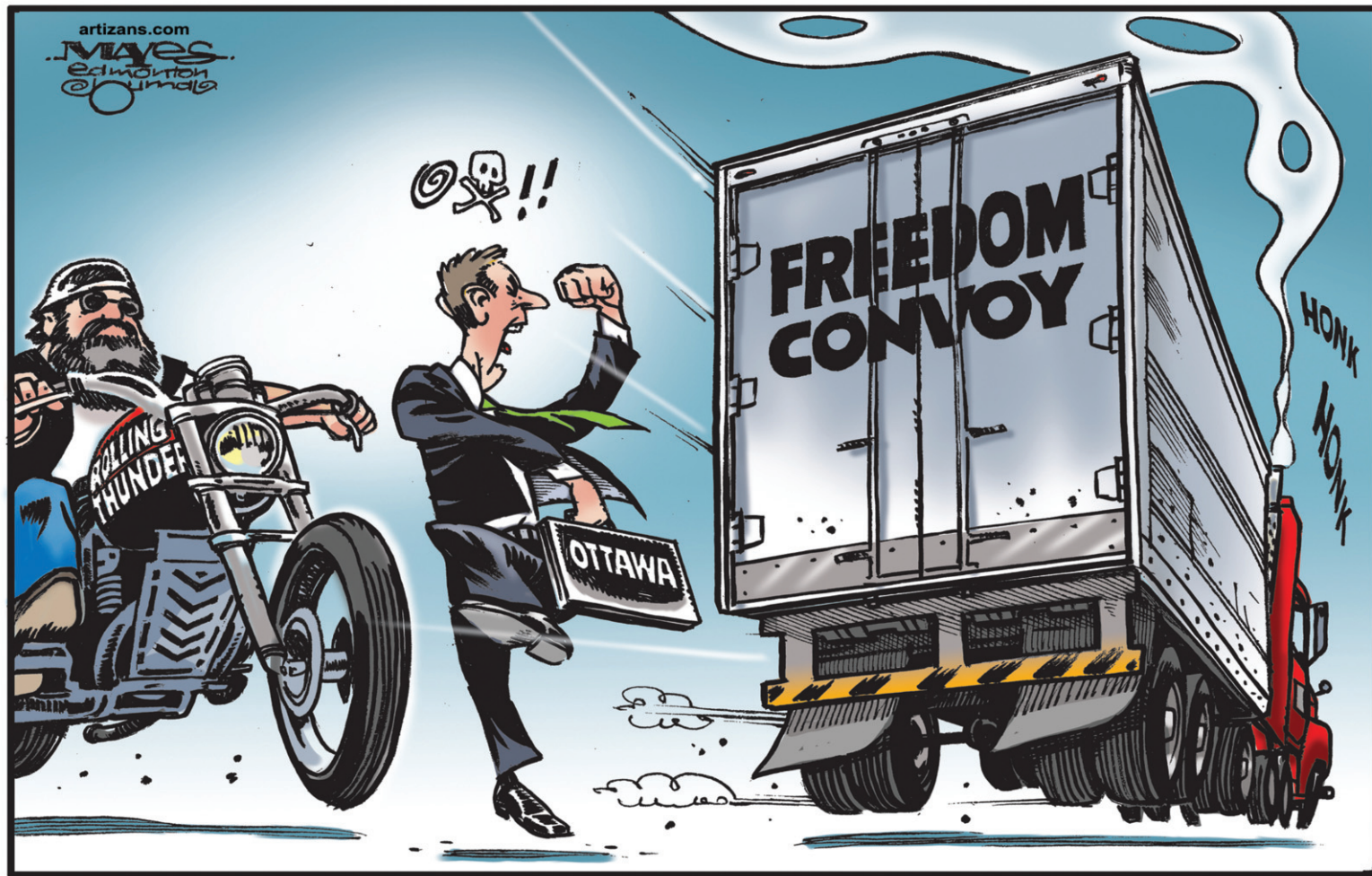


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EDITORIAL

# Upheaval time



The provincial election is less than a month away, but already the political thoughts of many have turned to the municipal election next fall.

This week saw the opening of the nomination period, which runs through Aug. 19.

It's an election that could bring about real change on Donald Street.

Several long-term councillors have indicated they may walk away. Trevor Giertuga has said he's almost certainly not running again.

Brian McKinnon, Rebecca Johnson and Aldo Ruberto are weighing their election options.

Peng You is running for the Conservatives in a suddenly very winnable race.

At least one other ward candidate may jump to the at large race.

It's a time for new faces at the table, younger voices with new visions for what Thunder Bay must become if it is to survive and thrive in this new economic age.

The pay is awful and the comment sections are a constant source of piling on. It's rarely win-win for the successful candidates, but with the right people around the table, it can definitely be win-win for the city. We need you. Will you heed our call?

# First candidates jump into election race

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

A pair of candidates vying for the Northwood ward were the first to officially file their nominations in Thunder Bay's 2022 municipal election.

Bill Dell and Dominic Pasqualino, each first-time candidates aiming to succeed Coun. Shelby Ch'ng as the Northwood rep, were the first among four candidates to file their paperwork at city hall Monday as the nomination period officially opened.

Other declared candidates now include Chris Krumpholz in Northwood and Lori Paras in the McKellar Ward, who had previously

announced her intention to run.

Both ran unsuccessfully for at-large positions in 2018.

Like most current councillors, Ch'ng has so far remained silent on her own plans. In an email Monday, the two-term councillor said "everything is on the table" and it's still early to announce intentions.

Candidates have until Aug. 19 to file, with nominations often tending to be clustered in the opening and closing days. The nominations won't be officially valid until certified by the city clerk in the days after the deadline.

Mayor Bill Mauro confirmed earlier this year he intends to seek a second term.

Residents can track who has filed to run in the municipal election at the city's election website, which will be updated daily.

No candidates had yet filed to run as trustees on the city's four school school boards as of Monday.

Leanne Lavoie, the city's election coordinator, said the five appointments booked for nomination filings so far is roughly on par with 2018, when a total of 61 candidates ended up vying for mayor and city council positions.

"There have been a few people who have signed up so far, [and] lots of phone calls, so I'm expecting a lot more people to start signing up soon," she said.

She encourages anyone thinking of running in the election to access the city's election website for candidates or call her office at (807) 627-3859.

Dell, the Northwood candidate, who is a former manager at the Valhalla Inn, called filing his nomination "an easy process."

Candidates for council must include 25 signatures from eligible voters and pay a registration fee of \$100 (councillor) or \$200 (mayor).

Dell hopes he'll be joined by a large number of other candidates like there was in 2018.

"The more issues we can bring forward during the campaign and have some more ideas for the citizens of Thunder Bay, and let

them decide who's going to carry forward for the next four years, [the better]," he said.

Pasqualino, the long-time labour leader at Thunder Bay's Alstom plant, said others might strategize about when to announce their runs, but that wasn't his style.

"Once I'd made up my mind I thought it's best to get it out there so people know that I'm interested," he said. "And I think if you're going to make a decision, dive in the water completely, don't just put your foot into it."

Online voting in the election will begin on Oct. 5. Election day is Oct. 24. Electors vote for a mayor, ward councillor, and up to five at-large.

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# Legalizing weed has worked

By JR Shermack

I wonder how many Canadians remember where they were and what they were doing on Oct. 17, 2018 or if the events of that day changed their lives in any way.

On that date the Cannabis Act (Bill C-45) became law in this country making cannabis legal in all provinces and territories for Canadian adults 18 and over – that seems so long ago now.

There were some dire predictions at the time, but legalization went ahead smoothly, without much serious controversy or negative consequences.

The legislation was intended to protect the health and safety of cannabis consumers, displace illicit cannabis sales and generate economic growth for the country.

The bill has already made a significant economic and social impact – after less than four years the cannabis industry directly or indirectly sustains 98,000 jobs across the country.

It has also provided a \$43.5 billion

boost to Canada's GDP, generated \$15.1 billion in government tax revenue and invested another \$29 billion in capital expenditures.

Most of the initial fears and concerns about legalization were unfounded and the industry will continue to be an important source of economic growth for the country.

Forecasters are predicting that sales of Canadian recreational cannabis will reach \$4.8 billion in 2022, \$8.6 billion by 2026.

The number of recreational cannabis users in Canada has not skyrocketed, but it has risen since legalization and is expected to reach 3.4 million by 2025.

Economically, legalization has been a success and the legislation has also impacted illicit cannabis operations – legal sales now far exceed unlicensed sales.

You have to stop on the way home for bread and milk anyway so you might as well pick up some weed at the pot shop next door, one of thousands across the country.

Recreational use is a large contributor to this overnight success, but there is another important, more serious aspect of cannabis sales and use that is sometimes overlooked.

Cannabis is not just about getting high any more – it is a proven and widely known herbal remedy used for centuries in a wide range of therapeutic applications.

Long before legalization, in 2001, Canada became the second country in the world to have a government-run medical marijuana program.

From then until now research has continued and a growing number of symptoms and diseases can be treated with cannabis products to achieve positive results.

One way or another more Canadians are taking advantage of the therapeutic benefits of cannabis, some with THC and some with CBD oil, a non psychoactive ingredient.

In both cases it provides relief from a variety of mental and physical ailments including stress, anxiety, insomnia and chronic



Legalized marijuana has not been the menace many opponents said it would become.

aches and pains.

Maybe that's why, right after legalization, Canadians over age 65

showed the most growth in cannabis use, you know, for medicinal use only.

How quaint that the same people who used pot to broaden their minds in the 1970s are also using it therapeutically in the 2020s to relieve their aching backs.

As for me, I couldn't help noticing how many cannabis dispensaries are popping up around the city – a quick look revealed 20 different locations where weed can be legally purchased.

For research purposes only I visited two or three neighborhood pot shops where I found nothing to be alarmed about and the people working there were friendly and knowledgeable.

I walked out with a small souvenir in a plain, white paper bag – my research continues.

It is encouraging to see new business opening up and it appears that C-45 has been very good for Canada and Canadians in cities like Thunder Bay.

For medicinal reasons, of course.

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## The Bay

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Please include details about the event, including any cost

### May 6 Youth Week Drag Show

Join the queens and kings of Thunder Bay for an intimate evening of drag.

This all-ages event takes place at In Common, at 40 Cumberland St., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. and the show set to start at 7 p.m.

The lineup features host Mz. Molly Poppinz, Ivan Love, Amber Ail and Miss Take.

Tickets are \$20 and include snacks. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Faye Peterson House.

Tickets are available at [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca).

### May 6/7 Moose of Mayhem Festival

Two nights of music and mayhem at Atmos, featuring the likes of PRZM, Torn, Kratom, Swecoon on Friday and BEVZ, Ginja Ninja, MEaNGeek and Aven on Saturday.

The shows start at nine each night. Tickets are \$20 per night or \$30 for a

weekend pass and are available at [www.atmostbay.ca](http://www.atmostbay.ca).

### May 6 Whitehorse

Since their debut in 2011, Toronto's Whitehorse has evolved from magnetic folk duo to full-blown rock band. In truth, Whitehorse is never fully either one or the other, but an ever-evolving creative partnership between Melissa McClelland and Luke Doucet.

As five consecutive JUNO nominations in four categories attest, whether it be a holiday album or reworked blues covers or pop noir album, Whitehorse rises to every challenge with guitar wizardry and magnetic harmonies.

They'll be on stage at the Port Arthur Polish Hall at 102 Court St. South on Friday night, starting at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$32.84 and are available at [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca).

### May 7 Spring Yard and Craft Sale

On Saturday, head on down to HMCS Griffon, located at 125 N. Algoma Street, to browse at the Spring Yard and Craft Sale.

Admission is \$2 and masks are required for the event, which takes place between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

### May 8 Mother Mother

Featured in Rolling Stone magazine and Tik-Tok stars, the Vancouver indie band will hit the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium stage on Sunday night, part of their Inside Tour.

Get your concert groove back on with hit songs like Hayloft, Arms Tonight or Wrecking Ball, and share in their joy of music, a band that routinely sells out shows in Los Angeles and New York. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

The show starts at 8 p.m.

#### HOW TO WRITE TO 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.

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**THAT TIME OF YEAR:** Kyle Jacklitch displays what to look for in your tires and rims following run-ins with potholes.

# Potholes are back

This year's pothole season one of the worst in recent memory

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

Thunder Bay drivers have definitely noticed how many more potholes are on the roads after a season that made it difficult for city crews to keep up with the mix of snow and rain wreaking havoc on the road surface.

"We've had a hard winter on our roads with the continual freeze-thaw, as well as when you consider the same people that are plowing our roads are also looking at drainage concerns, [and] are the same staff that are also fixing the potholes for us," said Kayla Dixon, director of engineering.

"So it is a bit of a prioritization project and we'll continue to address the potholes more, but until we see asphalt plants open up, really the patching that we're doing is a very temporary measure."

The condition of the road has caused frustration for local drivers who are constantly forced to slow down or swerve to avoid large craters in city streets, sometimes leading to damage that needs to be repaired.

"This year especially there has been a lot of pothole damage, basically front end damage on cars especially, rims, tires, ball joints mechanically, so I've definitely seen more frequent customers coming in, more frequent damages to their cars. Ultimately it's just the result of the

current road conditions," said Kyle Jacklitch, service advisor at Done-Rite.

Currently, the city is only able to carry out short-term fixes to roads until asphalt plants open and the weather starts cooperating.

"Really the patching that we're doing is a very temporary measure. The roads are still wet and that material just has a tendency to pop out very shortly after the work is done, so it's a bit of a make-work project at this time," said Dixon.

"We've heard that there will be an asphalt plant open next week, so we're very excited about that."

While asphalt plants will begin opening up soon, it may still be a while before the city can make solid progress addressing the issue and until then, the public is being reminded to know what signs of damage to look for in your tires, and be extra cautious around potholes.

"If you see a pothole, you want to slow down as best you can, try to avoid it. I know there's a lot of other potholes around so it kind of makes it a little harder but you just have to do your best to try to stay safe for other drivers," said Jacklitch.

"If you do hit a pothole, try to pull over right away, and try to take a look at your tires and rims. If you see any bends, cracks, breaks, bulges, immediately try and get it resolved, otherwise it'll potentially be worse down the line."



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# City denies insurance claims for leaky pipes

By Gary Rinne - TB Source

While work continues on a proposed class action lawsuit over pinhole leaks in household water pipes, some Thunder Bay homeowners say they have received rejection letters from the city's insurer.

The leaks started showing up in copper pipes in homes and other buildings around the city in 2019, resulting in significant damage in numerous cases.

Many residents paid thousands of dollars out of pocket for repairs and cleanup costs.

After the pinhole leaks came to light, in 2020 the city discontinued the use of sodium hydroxide, a chemical it started adding to the water system in 2018 to reduce

corrosion in lead water pipes.

However, the city has never admitted responsibility for any damages that may have been caused by the use of sodium hydroxide.

The proposed representative plaintiff in the class action suit, Patsy Stadnyk, isn't surprised that people who applied to the city for compensation have recently received letters from an insurance adjuster denying their claims.

One letter to a homeowner who experienced leaks in July 2019 and January 2020 states "After engaging in a lengthy investigation regarding the circumstances surrounding your claim, it was determined that the City of Thunder Bay is not responsible for any damages that may have occurred."

It's not clear how many letters like this have been sent out.

Stadnyk noted that the city previously denied liability in response to a lawsuit over pinhole leaks filed by St. Joseph's Care Group.

"They just wanted to make sure, I guess, that they had it in writing," she said, but added that the city "kind of gave us a little bit of false hope."

Stadnyk said "We thought, when they sent the adjuster, maybe the city was going to do something. This was before there was a class action suit. But as it turned out, no. It's a dead end."

Having received those letters, she said people who were counting on the city for some relief are now wondering if they

would be covered in any class action settlement.

Under Ontario law, if a judge certifies the class action, any person with a property serviced by Thunder Bay's water system - and who could provide evidence of the damage caused by pinhole leaks - will automatically be included.

But Stadnyk advises people to save any photos of damage, receipts for repairs, and even a section of damaged pipe.

"It's the judge who makes the decision as things go forward," not the City of Thunder Bay, she said.

Toronto lawyer David O'Connor, who's working on the case, said Friday that his firm submitted affidavits in support of a motion for certification some months ago, and believes the city is scheduled to

hand in its material before the end of July.

A certification hearing is scheduled for December.

O'Connor said it's not unusual for class action applications to take this long to get to a hearing.

"This case is actually moving at a pace that is fairly good. To get in front of a judge by the end of this year on certification is not a bad outcome."

He cited an ongoing class action against a bank that he's been involved in since 2007, but said it's a much more complicated case than this one.

"I know people want answers, and they'd like relief and some decision from the courts sooner rather than later. We're doing the best we can to get people across

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Wednesday May 11th ~ **The Persian Man & Holland Bakery**  
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Thursday May 12th ~ **Perfect Endings Pasteries By Gina & Whiskey and Sage Bakery**  
Our featured sweets of the day, Brownies, Carrot Cake and a variety of mini cupcakes!

Friday May 13th ~ **The Persian Man**  
Our featured baker providing persians!

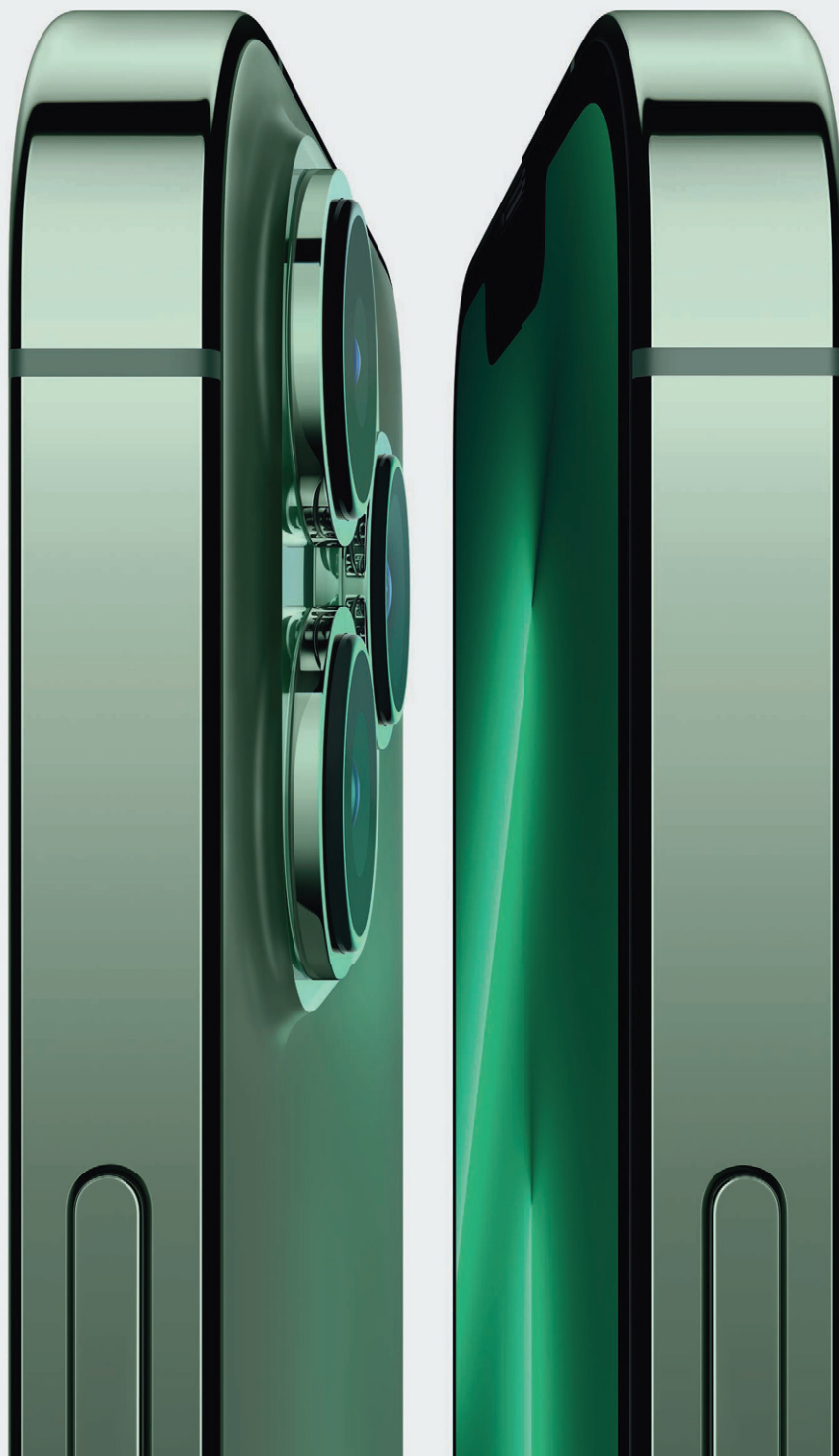
Saturday May 14th ~ **The Sweet North Bakery**  
Our featured baker providing a variety of cookies!

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# Cycling club offers all kinds of inspiration to ride

The Thunder Bay Cycling Club is eager to return after a long winter and kicked off the season with the Slate River Rambler

After a long winter, the Thunder Bay Cycling Club kicked off their new season last week. First, a small group braved the cold to race an individual time trial on Thursday night, then a much larger crowd gathered on Saturday morning for the Slate River Rambler gravel road race. After two frustrating years of pandemic-delayed season openers, it was refreshing to see the first mass-start event bring so many people together again.

The Slate River Rambler is the club's newest race and it joins favourites like the Hymers Classic, The Thunder Grinder and the Tour of Thunder Bay on an action-packed calendar. Throughout the coming season, everyone is sure to find plenty to



**Keith Ailey**  
the GOOD LIFE

enjoy with more than seventy events like races, touring rides, women's social rides and riding clinics. Relying on a group of amazing volunteers, the club is offering an incredible amount for their paltry \$40 membership fee (plus the mandatory Ontario Cycling Association insurance).

Established in 1975, the Thunder Bay Cycling Club has expanded from its roots as a road racing club. Over the past fifteen years, much of the new growth has happened around women's rides, cyclocross events and the latest and greatest sport on two wheels: gravel road racing. Gravel and 'cross have even added a much-needed infusion of youth to the club,

with many teens and pre-teens joining the fun on their mountain bikes.

Like any volunteer-run organization, the Thunder Bay Cycling Club is successful because of the good people who organize and run the events. This year, club members are lucky to have the popular duo of long-time racing director Darrell Hay and Chief Race Official Maureen Page return to run all the timed events. Club president Stephane Audet, in his third year at the helm, has ambitious plans to see the club enjoy their biggest season ever. Finally, the executive has two new faces in Kyle Fry and Caitlin Guarasci who bring a youthful excitement to the team. Kyle takes over as cyclocross director and he is sure to offer something special as he draws on his vast race experience, including representing Canada at the Cyclocross

World Championships in the Netherlands in 2009. Caitlin brings her infectious positivity and style to re-ignite a women's group that didn't get to ride last year because of the pandemic-shortened season.

The women's group rides, affectionately called WOW (women on wheels) are scheduled to start next week and continue every Tuesday evening with short and medium-distance rides aimed at beginner and intermediate cyclists. These fun, non-competitive rides will encourage women in our community to come out to ride and socialize together.

Weekly Individual Time Trials (ITTs) happen every Thursday night, offering a great introduction to racing. With these, riders depart individually and ride solo, staggered by one minute intervals. This low-stress format allows every individual plenty of

space on the road while they chase a new personal best time against the clock.

Once per month there is a road race happening on a Saturday with several learn-to-race clinics scheduled on Sunday mornings throughout May to help ease newer racers into the sport. By June, the Touring group will start up with their Sunday rides. Finally, autumn brings cyclocross, with its multi-lap format filled with obstacles to help local cyclists stretch their fitness from late September into November.

The popularity of cycling continues to grow here in Northwestern Ontario because it is a fun and easy way to stay happy and healthy.

Visit [tbaycc.ca](http://tbaycc.ca) to learn more about becoming part of the amazing cycling community in Thunder Bay.

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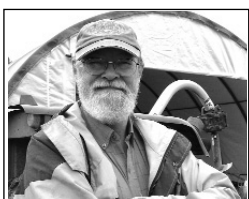
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# Navigating potholes on rural and city roads

This winter has not been kind to rural roads. Or to city roads for that matter.

Our dirt road has the worst washboard I have ever experienced. So, in order not to take out your vehicle's suspension, you need to learn to negotiate the road swerving from side to side in an effort to avoid the more treacherous potholes and even driving on the wrong side for quite a distance praying that no one is coming from the opposite direction.



**Fred Jones**  
RURAL ROOTS

So why hasn't the road crew got out the grader and smoothed out the bumps? Too early. The frost has to completely go out of the road bed or the grader will just make a mess and then have to come back again to re-do. So, we wait and swerve.

Dirt roads aren't the only 'victims' of winter's wrath. There are two highways we drive to get to town. One is in excellent

shape; the other is not. My wife, Laura, and I were driving Tuesday night to attend puppy training with our new canine member of the clan, Sophie. The route I took is the 'not-in-good-shape' one. On the way I noticed some fairly large potholes and I tried to avoid; but one hidden one I didn't see until it was too late and BANG! The right side wheels hit it, jarring us and the vehicle. I kept on driving but Laura felt that the pothole had done

some damage. Driving didn't feel right. Sure enough. We had a flat. I had to pull over and set about changing the tire. As I removed the wheel, I noticed that the tire itself was just fine, thank you. It was the rim that was bent enough for air to escape. I put on the 'doughnut' that Japanese cars include as a spare and proceeded to the training. Laura and Sophie actually only missed a half an hour



**POTHOLE SEASON** City and rural roads are plagued by potholes this spring.

FILE

since we'd left Casa Jones early. The rim of the rear tire on the same side had also been damaged but not enough for a flat - thank

goodness!

I don't like 'doughnut' spare tires. Fine enough for town driving but not for country roads and highways. I like a full spare. But the tires I had on the car were winter tires and I thought that the next day after we got home hopefully without mishap, I'd switch to summer tires. After all the forecast was for rain and finally, no snow.

So, for future drives to town I elected to take the other route since that road miraculously had no potholes. It is a smooth ride.

The city is no better off. There are some doozer potholes especially along the side of main roads. You learn where they are through careful observation or by mishap. I don't blame the city works crew just as I don't blame our roads crew just as I don't blame the highways crew. There is a particularly bad stretch at Stanley just before we turn left onto the bridge when heading to the highway. I noted that some temporary repair had been done

but it didn't last. For a day or two the car didn't bottom out but then the heavy traffic the road supports compressed the repairs and it seemed like no repair had been done at all.

So, we just have to wait for the thermometer to consistently read in the double digits so that the frost can come out of the ground and then some serious road repair can take place.

Meanwhile, here at the farm, The bird feeder is being cleaned out quickly as all the flitting feathered things plus a flock of grackles along with the Redwing Blackbirds are dive-bombing the seed I spread on the snow (yup, we still have lots of snow). The pair of Sandhill Cranes have returned wondering what the heck is all this white stuff on the ground.

So, we wait for a serious melt that seems to have begun. All the rain this past weekend helped a bit. Slowly more grass is revealed, I see all the detritus that I must clean up. Yay Spring!

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**READY FOR A HOME:** Each Pet Valu had a local rescue that had some animals from their rescue to meet and get to know.

# Corrections Cares Adopt a Pet Day returns with in person event

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

Thunder Bay corrections officers were out and about at three local Pet Valu locations holding the 2022 Corrections Cares Adopt a Pet Day in support of 3 local animal rescues.

"For the last three years, this is my third year now, we do fundraising for Thunder Dog Rescue and Caring Hearts Cats. This year we brought in Murillo Mutts as well," said Dana Bruno, correctional officer.

"Last year we had an online concert due to COVID and the year before we had an event such as this where we were selling some cupcakes and pup-cakes, taking donations, and meeting some of the dogs and cats."

Each Pet Valu had officers selling cupcakes (and pup-cakes at the loca-



**READY TO LOVE:** Adopt a Pet Day supports three local animal rescues.

tions with dog rescues) and coffee with all proceeds going to the local rescue at that location.

"People are really good in Thunder Bay to support the animal rescues which is awesome because i couldn't survive if they didn't," said Rebecca

Estey, director, Thunder Dog Rescue.

Each Pet Valu had a local rescue that had some animals from their rescue to meet and get to know and possibly apply to give them their "furr-ever" home.

The Arthur Street location featured Thunder Dog Rescue, an all-breed volunteer-run dog rescue located in Westfort.

Caring Hearts Cat Rescue and Sanctuary, a joint community effort focused on stray and feral cats/kittens in Thunder Bay and surrounding areas, was introducing kittens to city residents at the Golf Links Road location.

The Dawson Road location featured Murillo Mutts Respite Refuge, which provides respite care for local animals with the ultimate goal of keeping pet families together.

# Threads of Life holds fundraising walk

This is the first Steps for Life Walk to be held in person since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic

By TB Source Staff

Despite the rainy weather, dozens of residents took part in a 5-kilometre walk, all wearing bright yellow shirts as a part of the Steps for Life Fundraiser for Threads of Life, an organization that supports families who have been affected by workplace tragedies.

This is the first walk they've been able to do in person since the pandemic and the fundraiser set a goal of 5 thousand dollars that, thanks to the support of the Thunder Bay community, they were able to more than double.

"We originally set our goal for



**STEPS FOR LIFE:** Dozens of residents took part in the five-kilometre fundraising walk.

5 thousand dollars, and through the donations, through the various people in the community, the organization

committee, and our walkers here today, we've actually just reached the goal of over 12 thousand dollars this year," said Robert Popien, member, organizing committee.

"I can only see it getting higher next year as the word gets out about this event."

Thunder Bay mayor, Bill Mauro, also stopped by and spoke about the importance of prioritizing the health and safety of employees. He mentioned that it's an issue that needs continued profile and attention and that events that bring awareness to workplace

tragedies help save lives.

"The people that spoke today, y'know, did a great job of putting the focus on workplace accidents and prevention, but when they do occur, trying to have an organization and individuals who are there to support the families that are left behind," said Mauro.

Threads of Life does not reach out to families who have been affected by workplace tragedies, those families must take the initiative to reach out to them.

For more information on Threads of Life, visit their website.

# Local photographer captures 'otterly' cute moments

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

Local photographer Chris Artist's social media went viral locally recently after he was able to capture a pretty rare moment between a family of otters who make Thunder Bay's rivers their home.

Artist, a longtime photographer and nature lover has photographed countless critters in and around Thunder Bay, but never has he enjoyed an afternoon like he did last week, where he was able to get up close and personal with the family of three otters as they played and fished by the river's edge.

"They don't usually stick around, but when they do, they pop up. They are a little curious about what's going on. And just the other day I spent about an hour and a half with three of them, which has never happened," said Artist.

Artist's passion for nature is clearly shared by many in the community, as his Facebook page has been flooded with visitors wanting to get just a glimpse of the adorable creatures.

"It's been overwhelming, I mean I can't even keep up with the comments and the mentions, the people sharing them, I made



**FAMILY FUN:** Local photographer Chris Artist is sharing videos of cute moments captured of an otter family.

a little post, that I've otter-ly lost control of my otter pics," said Artist.

And while Artist won't always be as fortunate as he was last week, his deep appreciation for the natural beauty that surrounds

us keeps him out there looking for his next shot and enjoying the natural wonder of Thunder Bay

"Just to have this at our doorstep, drive 10 minutes out of town and you can be somewhere where you won't see anyone, and

you are alone in nature. It's very special, and too many take it for granted," said Artist

To see the otters and more local wildlife, visit Chris' Facebook page to keep up to date with his latest adventure.

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**BACK ON THE GRILL:** Ribfest will return in 2022 for an in-person event at the CLE Grounds.

# Ribfest returns

The popular summer event is returning in-person for 2022

By Justin Hardy - TB Source

Ribfest is back, and this year it's returning to the CLE grounds and those planning to attend can look forward to the full pre-pandemic experience.

The 2021 event was held in a drive-through format because of the pandemic, and while it was successful, it didn't have the same feel as Ribfests of the past.

"For us, it's that personal contact, it's different. You don't have to talk to them through a car window and you can service. It'll still be busy for us so we can't enjoy it like everyone else, but we still look forward to it," said John Collins, owner of Daytona's.

This summer will see the return of walk-up ribbers, a Sleeping Giant Brewing Co. beer tent, and some great local music.

Also, the three ribbers from last year will be

returning including Dinosaur Smokehouse, Ribs Royal, and of course the local restaurant Daytona's.

As per usual, proceeds for the event will go towards a great local cause: Our Kids Count, a community development organization that works with individuals & families to promote the health and development of all children.

"The biggest thing about Ribfest is the community it promotes because that's what Our Kids Count is here for, to help our community, to help the families that need it, and Ribfest just represents bringing everyone together." Daniel Trevisanutto, co-chair, Ribfest.

Ribfest 2022 will take place from August 25 to 28, with organizers hoping to raise 60-thousand-dollars from the event.

For more information on how to get involved as a volunteer or as a vendor, visit their website.





**MASSIVELY MEDICORE:** The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent stars Nicolas Cage as Nick Cage.

# Massive talent or massively mediocre?

The new film: Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent starring Nicolas Cage has some fun moments but the project doesn't quite live up to the expectations

After an inspired performance in last year's offbeat "Pig", Nicolas Cage seemed to be on the verge of a career renaissance. A recent re-screening of 1995's "Leaving Las Vegas" also served as a reminder of his Oscar-winning talent and some of his more artistically ambitious films.

These are a distant memory given his subsequent wallowing in B-grade action/fantasy fodder supposedly intended to stave off the IRS and other financial indulgences.

Cage has recently resurfaced on the talk show circuit after an extended hiatus (or exile?) regaling hosts with self-punctuating "Cagian" stories about once owning a two-headed snake and being stalked by a mime.

Much like Christopher Walken, Cage has a distinctive persona that is at once charismatic and intriguingly eccentric.

It seemed only natural, then, to regard "The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent" (SilverCity) with cautious optimism: Cage sending himself up in a self-parody has great satirical potential,

in the vein of "Being John Malkovich" and "JCVD," a self-revealing take of action star Jean-Claude Van Damme.

"Talent" begins promisingly. Cage is playing himself--or rather, a fictional version of himself--as Nick (extra 'k') an actor who's in domestic and career doldrums. He's in the doghouse with his estranged wife Olivia (Sharon Horgan) who's upset over Cage's narcissistic handling of their teenage daughter Addy (Lily Sheen).

He's also tussling with a psychic younger alter-ego serving as his artistic conscience.

After losing out on a career-rejuvenating role, financially downtrodden, Cage reluctantly accepts \$1 million to appear at a weekend birthday party for an ultra-rich Spanish super-fan, Javi, (Pedro Pascal) on a remote Mediterranean island. Cage asks no questions.

Upon his arrival, complications ensue when Cage is enlisted by two CIA agents (Tiffany Haddish, Ike Barinholtz) to spy on Javi whom they suspect is connected to a

crime cartel. Cage has played a spy before, right?

Initially, the script by director Tom Gormican and Kevin Etten offers some funny Cagian moments. Awe-struck Javi introduces Cage to his shrine room awash in Cagian memorabilia, featuring a life-size figure of Cage in a suit, sporting two .45s. "It's grotesque," marvels Cage. "I'll give you \$20,000 for it," making for a giddy dig at Cage's real-life spend thrift ways.

There are few other Cagian references to "Con Air" and other titles but the shift to the lame 'bromance' between Nick and Javi doesn't provide the same satirical pay-offs. Cage then reverts to action hero forced to rescue his family who've been lured to the island as pawns in a darker plot.

Certainly, we're not supposed to take this very seriously but the scriptwriters missed an opportunity to further cultivate Cage's idiosyncratic tendencies and skewer showbiz in general rather than reverting to standard action conventions found in Cage's lesser flicks. Perhaps Gormican felt compelled to cater to Cage's die-hard action fans.

Next time we hope Cage simply finds a massively better script.



**Marty Mascarín**  
MOVIE TALK

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"BW SMP AYQL AMOLS SMPE DMV, BR IBHH FHYDPL SMP HBQL RZL VLCBH."

— ZLOES WBLHVBD

8										4
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							3			8

**ACROSS**

- Detective
- Semitic deity
- Woman's work basket
- Hardwood
- Pointed (pref.)
- Anagram (abbr.)
- Boy Scouts of America (abbr.)
- Guise
- Common Indian otter
- Frenzied
- Siberian wildcat
- Dravidian language
- Alpine mountain goat
- Child
- School dance
- Yellow ocher
- Age
- Tumor (suf.)
- Observation (abbr.)
- In the same place (abbr.)
- Rung
- Condition (suf.)
- Spoken alphabet letter
- Vault
- Cicatrix
- Spanner (2 words)
- Adjective-forming (suf.)
- Wild ox
- River into the Yellow Sea
- No (Scot.)
- Deception
- Fever (pref.)
- "The Jungle Book" python

**DOWN**

- Flap
- Curved letter
- Media
- Aromatic herb
- Maple genus
- Appendage
- Mine stair
- S. Air. fox
- Year (Lat.)
- Help
- Mature
- Fraught
- Auxiliary (abbr.)
- Hatred (pref.)
- Annual Heb. month
- Tapestry
- Son of Ruth
- Indian lady
- Toddy (2 words)
- Buddhist sacred mountain
- Family member
- Pipe
- Snow (Scot.)
- Cereal (2 words)
- Blood of the gods
- But (Sp.)
- Forest ox
- Wound crust
- Exclamation
- Pixie
- Never (Ger.)
- Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- Pasture

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A	B	C	S	M	A	I	D	S	P	A
P	R	O	A	O	B	R	A	A	I	R
B	A	R	M	R	E	A	M	I	O	U
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# High draftees

Great news out of the Ontario Hockey League for a pair of Thunder Bay Kings players.

Goaltender Carter George was taken in the third round, 53rd overall, by the Owen Sound Attack in last week's OHL Priority Selection Draft.

That's pretty high for a Thunder Bay player in recent years.

Nicholas Holomego, a hulking 6-foot-3 defenceman who did not look out of place as a call-up with the U18 Kings team during their NWO regional last month, was grabbed by Erie in the fifth round, 85th overall.

Both players have plenty of work to do to prove they belong at the next level, but it's not hard to see the extra exposure of playing in the Greater Toronto Hockey League allowed plenty of eyes to watch the two and their teammates play.

That's a blessing and a curse, it seems.

They were also the only two players to hear their names called in the 15-round affair, which started on Friday night and concluded on Saturday afternoon.

In year's past, OHL teams might have taken a greater risk on Thunder Bay players, mostly sight unseen.

It'll be interesting to see how much it helps or hurts local players in the draft going forward.



Another former Thunder Bay Border Cat player has made the jump to the big leagues.

Penn Murfee, who played at Port Arthur Stadium in 2015, made his MLB debut this past weekend with the Seattle Mariners.

He looked pretty darn good. Murfee retired six of seven batters he faced over two innings and as of Monday night had a perfect 0.00 ERA.

He's not the only former Border Cats player having some early season success. Infielder Jason Vosler, who started the season in the minor leagues, will likely earn more playing time

if he keeps up his recent success.

Vosler, 28, was hitting .286 with two home runs, five RBI and five runs scored in nine games with the San Francisco Giants.

It's been a long road to the big leagues for a guy who bounced around the minors from 2014 to 2021, but maybe he's got a little staying power? Let's hope so, anyway.



I was at Game 4 of the Minnesota Timberwolves opening round series against the Memphis Grizzlies two weekends ago, and what a great team they appear to be building at the Target Centre.

Karl Anthony Towns and Anthony Edwards, together with D'Angelo Russell, have the makings of something pretty special.

But, as Toronto Raptors fans can tell you, in the NBA you almost always need a superstar to win.

One of Edwards or Towns is going to have to take a huge step to the next level if the Timberwolves are going to compete for a championship in today's NBA.



**Leith Dunick**  
SPORTS SHORTS

Here's hoping north of the border rookie-of-the-year Scottie Barnes is that guy.

The Raptors need a consistent shooter, someone who you can count on to hit those clutch shots when they need them most.

Too often down the stretch the Raptors came up short, despite holding large leads. The difference? Joel Embiid and his like hit the clutch shot to win the game.

Toronto couldn't even hit its foul shots.



Well, May has arrived, can golf be far behind? Here's hoping some of the private courses get the covers off their greens and start opening up soon. I suspect the city courses will be a week or two behind. But, thankfully, it's looking like it won't be too much longer. Thanks goodness.



Red Lake's Jordan Baranesky celebrates a goal earlier in the SIJHL final against Kam River. (FILE)

## Miners win SIJHL crown

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

For the first time in team history, the Red Lake Miners are Bill Salonen Cup champions.

The Superior International Junior Hockey League team on Saturday clinched the title with a 3-2, home-ice win over the Kam River Fighting Walleye, taking the best-of-seven series in six games.

Jordan Baranesky scored the cup winner, notching the lone goal of the second period that gave the Miners a 3-1 lead at the time.

Nic Bolin and Noah Kramps also

scored for Red Lake, a team making it's third SIJHL final appearance.

Colton Crysler and Jeremy Dunmore, who cut the Miners lead to one 2:42 into the second, scored for the Fighting Walleye, who finished atop the league standings during the regular season.

Jaxson Taupert made 25 saves in net for Red Lake, while Eric Vanska stopped 40 of 43 shots he faced for the Fighting Walleye.

The Miners, with the win, earned an automatic berth at this month's revamped, 10-team Centennial Cup in Evestan, Sask.




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 41. Northward  
 42. South  
 43. Westfort  
 44. Rural

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 47. Travel  
 48. Financial  
 49. Lost & Found  
 50. Personal  
 51. Notices  
 52. Tenders

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 64. Craft & Flea Markets  
 65. Happy Ads  
 66. Cards of Thanks  
 67. In Memoriam  
 68. Death/Funerals

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**23. MISC. FOR SALE**

Autographed sports memorabilia and vintage records for sale. Phone 475-0995 to view.

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Looking to downsize or get rid of valuables? Local reseller interested in buying your stuff, no estate too big or too small. 10 years selling experience on multiple online platforms; fair, trustworthy and transparent. Call or text Mike 472-8990

**51. NOTICES**

Is it time inter-provincial boundaries became interesting historical vestiges of an inefficient middleman system? Let's vote twice, CITYSTATES-LOCALLY and NATIONWIDE-CENTRALIZED-LY?

What if we decided, changed our country, Canada, into a CO-OPERATIVE operating system? W/C/S/hould 'We, The Shareholders' then become equal?

**53. GENERAL SERVICES**

#1 AFFORDABLE TREE REMOVAL, CEDARS, SHRUBS, etc. Dump runs. Low rates. Senior discounts. Call Brian at 622-7888.

#1 YARD CLEAN-UPS: Grass cutting, garbage dump runs, yard clean up and trees trimmed. Phone Brian 474-8870 or 768-9849

Book Now - RustBlock vehicle corrosion protection, driplless. 127 Algoma St. S. 344-2886. Call for an appointment and drop-ins welcome

CHRISTINA'S HOME AND GARDEN. Spring clean up - Residential & Commercial! Landscaping, grass cutting, lawn maintenance, sod installation, dethatching, fertilizing, planting, dividing, weeding, edging, container gardening, patio stone/interlocking stone pathways, hedge/tree/shrub trimming and shaping. Call 621-1505

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Revenue Canada Certified - Income Tax Prep/E-file Service, personal and small business. Pick-up, delivery and Senior's discount available. Call 344-2886 or 623-7467

Spring & Fall yard clean up dump runs lawn cutting rototilling tree & hedge trimming eaves trough cleaning powerwash or scrub dirty surfaces RJC WINDOW CLEANING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE 632-2161

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**53. GENERAL SERVICES**

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Sunshine Lawn Maintenance - yard, garden, odd jobs including eave-strough cleaning, window-washing, experienced, great seniors' rates, references. Call Mark 631-6967.

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Read us online at [www.tbnewswatch.com](http://www.tbnewswatch.com)

**ANSWERS TO PUZZLES**

**ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES**

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

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "If you make money your god, it will plague you like the devil." — Henry Fielding

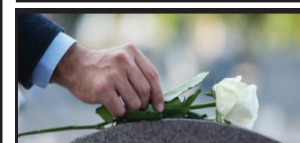
**55. BUS. OPPORTUNITIES**

One Stop and Shop has tables (6ft @ \$35ea) available for the upcoming Spring event taking place on May 7 from 8-1:30pm. Located at the CLE Heritage Building (by Silvercity). If interested, please check the FaceBook page to ensure your product is not listed. <http://www.facebook.com/groups/onestopandshop> or email: [onestopandshop@yahoo.com](mailto:onestopandshop@yahoo.com) Always looking for new vendors to participate!

**64. CRAFT & FLEA MARKETS**

ONE STOP and SHOP. FREE ADMISSION! Variety of local vendors. Something for everyone! Ranging from snacks, tea, decor for the home, cooking, cleaning solutions, clothes and so much more. Saturday May 7, 8-1:30pm. CLE Heritage Building (by Silvercity). List of current vendors and information: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/onestopandshop> email: [onestopandshop@yahoo.com](mailto:onestopandshop@yahoo.com)

**68. DEATH/FUNERAL**



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