

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Deadly beating

Liam Slipperjack, 18, identified as the victim of the city's first homicide of 2021; two in custody /3



MURDER SCENE: Thunder Bay Police hold the scene of a violent assault that led to the death of a teenaged male last Friday on Limbrick Street in the Northwood neighbourhood.

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DRIVEN CARS CANADA

INSIDE NOTHING FISHY HERE

Springtime angling can be a therapeutic exercise for many people /15

BAMBI REVISITED



New podcast looks into the infamous Bembenek murder case / 19



Columnist Fred Jones hears all sorts of things while working and walking /16

DAY CELEBRATES CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN CARE

Tikinagan Child & Family Services to recognize Children and Youth in Care Day on May 14, with social media campaign and launch of new mental health tool.

When Children and Youth in Care Day arrives on May 14, it's a chance

for Tikinagan Child & Family Services to celebrate its own clients, but the organization also hopes those from beyond the child welfare world will take note.

The day was proclaimed by the provincial government in 2012 as a chance to honour the contributions of children and youth in and from care, discuss the importance of supporting them, and raise awareness of the barriers they continue to face.

This year, it will also bring the launch of a new mental health tool for children and youth in care.

"As an agency, we recognize the importance of this day and honour the strength, bravery, and resilience shown by children and youth in the face of difficult times," said Thelma Morris, Tikinagan's executive director. "We hope this day will destigmatize views about children and youth in and from care by increasing public awareness and understanding."

There are approximately

<image>

12,000 children and youth in care in Ontario. Each year 800 to 1,000 individuals "age out" and leave the care of the child welfare system.

Children and Youth in Care Day is an important reminder that children and youth in care face adversity, and require allies, advocacy, and collaboration to help them reach their full potential, said Morris.

"It's important for children and youth in care to know they belong to and have the support of, their community," she said. "They need to know they are not alone."

It's a philosophy she said is foundational at Tikinagan, which serves children, youth, and families from 30 First Nations in Northwestern Ontario.

The agency's service model, means "everyone working together to raise our children."

In practice, that means creating wide circles of care involving those who have an interest in the child's wellbeing, promoting connection with elders, and an emphasis on hiring staff from the communities they're serving. With some of those connections challenged by the pandemic, Tikanagan has often to maintain them.

The agency will soon have another online tool available, with the launch of a new mental health platform Take5 to mark this year's

Children and Youth in Care Day.

Take5, which will go live May 14, is an interactive onlinespace focused on reducing mental health risks and isolation for children and youth in care, created by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS).

The project was developed with help from the group's youth advisory committee, community organizations, experts, and first voice advocates (youth with firsthand experience in the system) and funding from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services.

It will include information, multimedia content, live workshops, and other events for caregivers, children, and youth of all ages.

The Take5 activities will provide positive outlets for children and youth to get help with mental health concerns, Tikinagan said, adding those in care have been hit even harder than

average by feelings of loneliness and isolation during the pandemic.

"We know these online resources can't replace in-person engagement, which is why our service model stresses the support of our communities to help raise our children," said Morris. "But we are thankful for these tools that children and youth can access for support."

Members of the public are encouraged to share stories and support Children and Youth in Care Day by using the hashtag #CARE4CARE.

To symbolize the day, a logo of a purple lion was chosen to represent the bravery and courage children and youth in care display to overcome obstacles and challenges.

Tikinagan will also celebrate its own annual Honouring Our Children Day on June 24, with family-friendly events in each of the First Nations it serves. In the past, the day has included community feasts, barbeques, games and activities, special guests, and even a jumpy castle.

To learn more visit tikinagan.org.

LOCALNEWS

Teen killed, 2 arrested

CRIME By Leith Dunick – TB Source

A teenager has been identified as the first homicide victim in Thunder Bay in 2021.

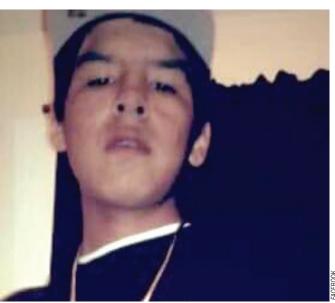
Thunder Bay Police on Monday confirmed Liam Edward Simon Slipperjack, 18, has died of injuries sustained in a violent assault that took place early Friday morning outside a public housing complex on Limbrick Street. Slipperjack died on Sunday, two days after being taken to hospital for further evaluation and treatment of his injuries.

Two suspects have been arrested and are expected to be charged with second-degree murder.

"This is tragic," said Det.-Insp. John Fennell on Monday afternoon. "I can't believe how tragic this will be to the family."

Desomond Jarrel Keewaykapow, 18, was initially charged with aggravated assault. The second suspect, a 17-year-old youth who cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, was later identified by police and taken into custody on Monday morning. The male youth has been charged with second-degree murder and failing to comply with a sentence. He's expected to appear in court on Monday.

Fennell said the fact two people were arrested so quickly is a good



TRAGEDY: Liam Slipperjack, 18, was the victim of last Friday's deadly assault.

sign for the investigation. It was all hands on deck, he added.

"Something like this, we put all the manpower that we have toward these investigations. We don't want anybody out on the streets who is responsible for such a crime," said Fennell, who also thanked members of the public who came forward with information that may have aided the investigation.

A post-mortem examination has been scheduled to assess the cause of death.

Police are asking anyone with

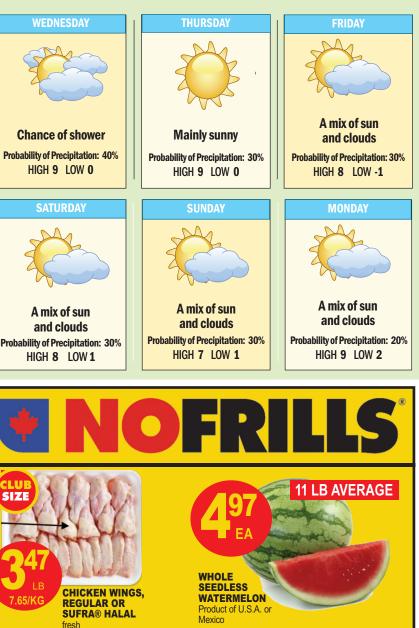
information about the assault to phone them at 684-1200 or contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at www.p3tips.com. The invesigation is ongoing, but at this time, Fennell said police believe the people responsible for the killing are in custody.

The charges have not been proven in court.

It's Thunder Bay's first homicide of 2021. There were eight murders in the city in 2020, the last coming more than eight months ago, on Aug. 30.



Weather Forecast





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LOCALNEWS

Edward Street roundabout approved

CITY HALL By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Thunder Bay's first roundabout on a city street is set to open in a matter of months after winning city council approval, but one councillor says accessibility concerns over the project remain unresolved.

Council voted 10-1 to award the roughly \$2.7 million tender for the project to Nadin Contracting on Monday. In addition to replacing a set of traffic signals with a roundabout at the intersection of Edward Street and Redwood Avenue, the contract also covers reconstruction of a section of Edward, watermain replacement, and installation of a new multi-use path.

Reports from the city's engineering department have touted the benefits of roundabouts for safety, traffic flow, and the environment.

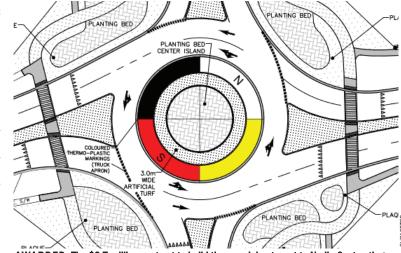
Roundabouts lower the number of collisions causing injury by about 75 per cent compared to traffic lights, one report found, while also reducing their severity.

There were 16 collisions reported at the intersection of Edward and Redwood between 2010 and 2020, according to the city. Of those, five caused non-fatal injuries, eight caused property damage, and two involved pedestrians.

Coun. Rebecca Johnson cast a lone vote of protest against the tender Monday over unresolved concerns around pedestrian safety, particularly for people with disabilities.

The city's Accessibility Advisory Committee continues to have objections to the roundabout at that location, said Johnson, who sits on the committee.

Though the committee has not passed a formal motion around the issue, she



AWARDED: The \$2.7-million contract to build the roundabout went to Nadin Contracting.

said it had written a memo to council expressing its concerns after holding several meetings to discuss how the roundabout design would accommodate people with disabilities.

"It was very clear the committee was not in favour of it," Johnson said.

The city will look to address one of the committee's concerns over the roundabout's landscaping plan, which was recently modified to incorporate a medicine wheel design, staff said in a report to council.

The Accessibility Advisory Committee shared concerns over the planned height and size of plantings, and sight lines for the visually impaired, the report said.

"Pedestrians with vision impairment or other mobility challenges may find roundabouts difficult to navigate due to their unfamiliarity with layout and constant traffic flow," a previous city report acknowledged.

However, it concluded those concerns could be addressed by installing pedestrian crossovers, which would signal traffic to stop upon request, for multilane crossings on Edward Street.

Nadin, a local company, submitted the lowest big among six companies who competed for the tender, at \$2,673,146.08. That beat the closest bid by over \$200,000, and the city's pretender estimate by nearly the same amount.



Council voted to award the tender without any discussion on Monday. Johnson said in an interview she had already raised her concerns at previous meetings, and didn't feel the need to express them again.

LOCALNEWS **Anti-lockdown Sky arrested**

Leader of so-called Freedom Convoy defied orders not to speak to supporters in Ontario

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Chris Sky may have gotten to speak, but Thunder Bay Police got the last word.

Sky, also known as Chris Saccoccia, was arrested on Tuesday night by police after speaking to a crowd of more than 100 people at Hillcrest Park, more than an hour after a planned anti-lockdown rally went ahead at nearby Waverly Park,

Sky did not attend that first event, having been told by police not to speak in Ontario or hold any rallies while in the province, allowed to cross into the province from Manitoba only because he's an Ontario resident.

His supporters were led up the hill to Hillcrest Park by one of Sky's traveling companions, following an hour of anti-Trudeau, conspiracyladen rants about COVID-19 measures put in place by various levels of government across the country and around the world.

Close contact

Sky greeted some of his listeners with big bear hugs and joked it wasn't his fault the crowd had managed to find him, even though it appeared he was waiting for them to arrive, parked in his white Range Rover at the entrance of the popular park.

"I'm here to remind Canadians that we have rights and freedoms, like the right to go to work, the right to refuse a COVID test. The right not to be interned in a government quarantine facility," he said, interrupted briefly by a counterprotestor in the back calling him a Nazi.

Sky later said the government and powers that be

want Canadians to feel scared and hopeless, doing exactly what they're told to do.

"Every day they tell you to do



TALKING TOUGH: Anti-masker Chris Sky speaks to a few dozen people last week at an illegal rally at Hillcrest Park.

something else, that's not for your own good. Closing your business is not for your own good. Putting a mask on your child for eight hours a

day is not for their own good. Going to a quarantine hotel makes absolutely no sense," Sky said.

"This is how you know that it's not about your safety, it's about control."

Brie Nistico wasn't buying anything that the speakers at the rally were trying to sell. She was one of several anti-protestors who showed up at the early evening event, blaring horns

and blasting Celine Dion in an attempt to drown out and frustrate organizers and the 200 or so that showed up for the initial rally, expecting to hear Sky speak.

Nistico said she's worried about the aftermath of such a large gathering of people, almost none of whom were wearing masks or social distancing, some going out of their way to hug everyone around them, egged on by the speaker at the microphone.

"There's people coming here and not being safe and this is just going to prolong what is going on in our community and in Canada right now," Nistico said.

The event, which was watched from afar by police, was mostly peaceful, though a man wielding a walking stick did try to knock over a counter-protestor's speaker and got into a slight scuffle before being ushered away.

After the Hillcrest Park meet-andgreet and speeches concluded, the

SUV Sky arrived at the park in was pulled over by police, who could be heard telling the occupants they were in violation of the province's emergency orders. Part of his Freedom Convoy, which began in British Columbia, were denied entry at the Ontario/Manitoba border on Monday, but Sky, an Ontario resident, was permitted into the province.

Multiple charges

Sky, 37, faces charges of breach of undertaking and he was also charged under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. He was released with a future court date.

The event organizers were charged under the provinces Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.



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"I'm here to remind **Canadians** that we have rights and freedoms..." **CHRIS SKY**

Editorial

EDITORIAL

Staying the course

ast Tuesday, a prominent anti-lockdown provocateur arrived in Thunder Bay, and despite being under orders not to speak, he spoke anyway.

Sadly, about 200 people showed up, most not wearing masks or social distancing, to hear what Chris Sky had to say.

He didn't show at the publicly planned rally, but his followers were led up the hill, where Sky, also known as Chris Saccoccia, was waiting for them at Hillcrest Park.

Hopefully the gathering doesn't lead to another wave of cases in Thunder Bay.

The city has done well in recent weeks, after being the hotspot of Canada just two months ago.

Thunder Bay is down to 44 active cases as of Tuesday, the fewest since Nov. 16.

That's incredible. Let's not blow it now.

Yes, we're all tired of endless lockdowns and mask orders, but the only way we're going to get through this is if enough people take it seriously.

Police in Halifax last weekend issued 17 \$2,000 tickets for people gathering outside of their household. Ontario needs similar measures and the willingness of the health unit and local police to issue the tickets. Money talks. Maybe that's what's needed.

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Spend smartly

To the editor:

As a resident, homeowner and businessman in Thunder Bay for the past 11 years, I write today to express some thoughts with regards to recent decisions taken by council and the need for council to be more intentional in their deliberations.

I have followed the debates and arguments pro and con for the indoor turf facility. It is notable to me the shifting landscape upon which many of these arguments are laid. To listen to some of you, I hear your version of fact change depending on the day or whom you are interviewing with. What I have never heard is actual empirical data supporting the pro side of this equation other than those who have a vested interest in this project.

What should be at the forefront of council's thoughts, words and actions are the hardships the people of Thunder Bay are currently experiencing as a result of the pandemic which has laid waste the very thought of normalcy. businesses shuttering their doors and many losing their means of providing basic survival needs which have become a day-by-day struggle. The people look to those elected to provide at the very least a sign that council is working for the people of Thunder Bay to address the challenges and give hope of better days.

Instead, turf facilities, big neon signs, round-a-bouts dominate the policy and direction of this council. Council promotes projects that are best left for a time when the people are prospering or at the very least, not starving or living hand-to-mouth week after week. This should be the objective of council; to steward the city in such a manner as to place a measure of hope that things can return to a place of normalcy once again.

A few years back under the previous council, a request for \$3 million to add onto and renovate the existing police station was made. That council was obsessed with the "Event Centre" and the inadequate conditions at the police station were relegated to a banker's box in the file room it would seem. Now some years later, the issue comes back before council, but this time speaking of the need for an entirely new building at a cost in the ballpark of what's proposed for the indoor turf facility.

Thunder Bay's need for effective police services is, without doubt, a key core element to any city's survival and prosperity and should be a priority for council with the same vigor and intent many have shown for the indoor turf facility which is not a core element to this city.

Respectfully, it is time for council to invest in the core projects of Thunder Bay and not those that serve just a handful.

> K.D. (Tom) Thompson, Thunder Bay

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Proletarian fiction



am a big fan of 20th century American proletarian fiction. I like novels that are either told from a working class perspective or which deal with political themes.

Upton Sinclair was born into a poor Baltimore family and began writing a series of dime novels at age 15 to finance his education.

His breakthrough as an author came with the publication of *The Jungle*, a dramatic and deeply affecting story that documents the brutal conditions in the Chicago stockyards at the turn of the century, bringing into sharp moral focus the appalling odds against which immigrants and other working people struggled for their share of the American dream.

Sinclair was a passionate believer in the redemption of mankind through social reform.

His expose of the interlocking corruption in American corporate and political life was a major literary event and caused an almost immediate reform in pure-food legislation.

Described as America's first proletarian novel, this is one of the most powerful, provocative and enduring novels to expose social injustice ever published in the United States.

Sinclair used the money from *The* Jungle to begin a utopian experiment, the Helicon Hall Colony of Englewood, New Jersey.

He was joined in this adventure by another proletarian author, Jack London, who is best known for his animal stories *White Fang* and *Call* of the Wild. London left school at 14 and worked in a cannery, as an oyster pirate, and as a member of the Fish Patrol in San Francisco Bay.

In *The Iron Heel*, which is part science fiction, part dystopian fantasy, part radical socialist tract, London offers a grim depiction of warfare between the classes.

Battling the shadowy organization known as the Iron Heel, a band of revolutionaries exposes how this state oligarchy maintains hegemony by controlling the churches, the schools, the press and the courts.

What begins as a war of words between Ernest Everhard and his capitalist foes ends in scenes of harrowing violence as the Iron Heel moves to crush all opposition to its power.

This novel anticipated the rise of fascism, the emergence of domestic terrorism and the growth of centralized government surveillance and authority.

John Steinbeck focused much of his fiction on the cannery workers and immigrants searching for a better life on America's Pacific Coast.

He was determined to make his readers feel angry and uncomfortable so that they would advocate for social change.

The Grapes of Wrath, his shocking and controversial Pulitzer Prize winning epic, remains his undisputed masterpiece.

Set against the background of Dust Bowl Oklahoma and Californian migrant life, it tells of the Joad family who, like thousands of others, are forced to travel west in search of the promised land.

Their story is one of false hopes, thwarted desires and broken dreams, yet out of their suffering Steinbeck created a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision.

This intensely moving novel is an eloquent tribute to the endurance and dignity of the human spirit.

Perspective

What's our future? A post-COVID world is coming, are we ready for it?

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

ow will you feel and what will you do in a safe, post-pandemic community because it looks like that's where we are headed.

We were encouraged last fall when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that all Canadians who wanted to receive a vaccination would get their jab by September 2021.

That federal timeline has been adjusted - If all goes well anyone over age 16 could get their shot by the end of June due to increases in vaccine shipments.

Once the other approved vaccines are received and administered quickly the one dose per person target will be easily achieved by Canada Day.

A return to normal life in the foreseeable future is a tantalizing prospect, but after a year of living dangerously, it's hard to imagine that the end is in sight.

Looking ahead

If you think about what comes next it is not unusual to become anxious and a little overwhelmed by the concept of an emerging post pandemic world.

It won't be as simple as flicking a switch and there will be no "all clear" declaration - each individual will decide for themselves when it is over. Most of us will readily re-engage with the new normal but many others will hold back, continuing to be wary, cautious and unsure about the future. We are a nation under pressure.

In a recent poll 56 per cent of Canadians said they are feeling increased stress and anxiety - young people (18 to 34) were even more stressed (63 per cent) while the 55 plus crowd was less (46 per cent).

After a traumatic and tedious year communities have adjusted to restrictions on business and social activities and have reluctantly adapted to a sort of uneasy discomfort zone.

Once the restrictions are relaxed it

may take a while for people to feel relaxed and comfortable enough to "It won't be take advantage of some as simple as forbidden flicking a switch and The eventual change

no all

clear..."

there will be back to normal activities will be a global relief but on a personal level the adjustment to post-COVID life could present new challenges.

formerly

freedoms.

Many Canadians are skittish about leaving the protection and safety of tightly knit social bubbles and worry about awkward social encounters that await them.

After so much time separated from friends and family it may be difficult to pick up where we left off - for better or worse we are all different people now.

When we reconnect with family and friends will it be just like old times or will we have to rekindle and rebuild our long-time personal relationships?

As we sheepishly return to business as usual will we nervously squeeze past each other in the aisles, on the lookout for coughs and sneezes and other personal hygiene violations?

Those who have grown accustomed to working from home may find it difficult to tolerate the ordeal of a long, crowded commute to and from work.

Different times

For some, the new working conditions have led to other positive

> changes in their lives and they fear losing those gains once "normal" workday the returns.

These are genuine concerns of nervous Canadians as they contemplate the end of the pandemic and anticipate the beginning of whatever comes next.

The Canada Day target for the first shot vaccine rollout

would be a welcome birthday gift and a symbolic milestone for the entire country.

Health Minister Patty Hajdu will soon be releasing federal guidelines about what we can and can't do after receiving our first and second COVID-19 shots.

As for me, I am not immune to the stress and anxiety of living through a pandemic but the prospect of immunity to COVID-19 is a tonic for frazzled nerves,

This year Canada Day cannot arrive soon enough.



OPTIMISTIC: By Canada Day, columnist J.R. Shermack is hopeful things will be vastly different.

HOW TO WRITE US:

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

The Thunder Bay Source reserves the right to edit submissions for content and clarity. All attempts will be made to preserve the core argument of the author. Address them to: **Thunder Bay Source** 87 North Hill Street, Thunder Bay, ON P7A 5V6

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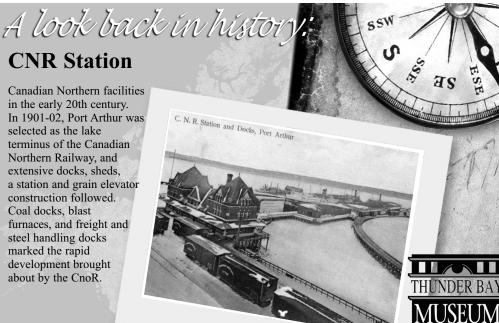
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LOCALNEWS

Teachers now eligible for vaccinations

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick -TB Source

Sooner would have been better, but union leaders are thankful teachers and other school employees in Thunder Bay will be allowed to start booking COVID-19 appointments on Thursday.

The move, announced last week by the province, should go a long way to returning classrooms to normal operations by the fall, especially if school employees are able to get their second dose in August.

Carlo Cappello, president of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association's Thunder Bay branch, said it was news his membership has been waiting to hear.

"It was definitely welcome news for teachers and other education workers that will be getting vaccinated. The hope is we will get both vaccinations before the start of the school year in September. That would be ideal," Cappello said.

"We are disappointed that the vaccine rollout for teachers and education workers has been pushed back, but we're confident that it will happen relatively soon and we're definitely happy that it's happening regardless."

In Thunder Bay, teachers and other education workers are eligible to start booking on Thursday, the same day the district health unit lowers its vaccine eligibility to anyone 50 and older. Those 40 and older are already eligible to book an appointment to receive an AstraZeneca vaccine.

workers." Rich Seeley, president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation said it CAPPELLO would have been nice if all teachers had been included in earlier front-line worker vaccination strategies, but said they were happy the province last month opened up appointments to

teachers and education workers who work with special needs students.

"But yeah, more or less we were kind of thinking late May we'd be in line and here we are. So theoretically, if you look at what the federal government is saying

"It was

definitely

welcome

news for

teachers and

other

education

CARLO

as well, if they meet all their targets, we could be looking at getting our members double vaccinated by the end of August - which would be great, which would probably allow next year to get closer to some kind of normal," Seeley said.

Education Minister Stephen Lecce said Ontario's education and child care staff have gone above and beyond to support students and working parents at this critical time.

"To keep them safe, as early as the week of May 3rd, all education workers across the province will be eligible to book an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine. With education staff eligible starting next week, and licensed child care settings currently eligible, we are building momentum to defeat this pandemic," Lecce said.

"With more stable vaccine supply, we are ensuring every front line worker in our schools and child care settings can get vaccinated. We are incredibly grateful for their hard work and dedication to Ontario youth."

Schools at all three boards in Thunder Bay have been reduced to online learning only since March 1, when the case count in the city soared above 450, including several cases tied to schools.

Classrooms were scheduled to reopen on April 19, but Premier Doug Ford put an indefinite pause on inperson learning, as cases surged in southern Ontario.

"We're hoping that we can return to a normal system next year," Cappello said.



NEEDLE DATE: OSSTF's Rich Seeley is glad teachers are getting vaccinated.

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NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE Northern Road Link Project Environmental Assessment

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) and Webequie First Nation (WFN) are commencing an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act,* RSO 1990, c. E.18 for the design, construction and operation / maintenance of a proposed all-season road (the Project) called the Northern Road Link. The communities of MFFN and WFN are remote Indigenous communities in northwestern Ontario and are not currently accessible by all-season roads. The proposed Northern Road Link is a multi-use road between the proposed Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) and the proposed Webequie Supply Road (WSR). The Northern Road Link Project will connect the Ring of Fire mineral deposits in the McFaulds Lake area to the highway network via the MFCAR. The Northern Road Link Project would enable economic activity by facilitating the transport of goods, services and resources. Two broad corridors which merge going northwards (see the inverted "Y" shape on the map) are being considered for routing of the Northern Road Link Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The EA will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*, RSO 1990, c. E.18 (Act). The first step of the EA process is the preparation of a Terms of Reference (ToR), which will set out the framework and work plan for addressing requirements under the *Act*. The ToR will include an outline of the studies and consultation activities that would be carried out to evaluate the alternative corridors, assess the potential adverse effects of the Project, and identify measures that would be taken to mitigate these effects. The anticipated completion date for preparation of the ToR is Spring 2022, at which point it will be submitted to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Minister) for review and approval. If approved by the Minister, the ToR will provide the framework and requirements for the preparation of the EA.

CONSULTATION

Indigenous communities, government agencies, municipal officials, members of the public and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in the EA process. Consultation and engagement opportunities will be organized throughout the EA process and will be communicated through newspaper advertisements, radio, mail-outs, social media posts and on the Project website (www.northernroadlink.com).

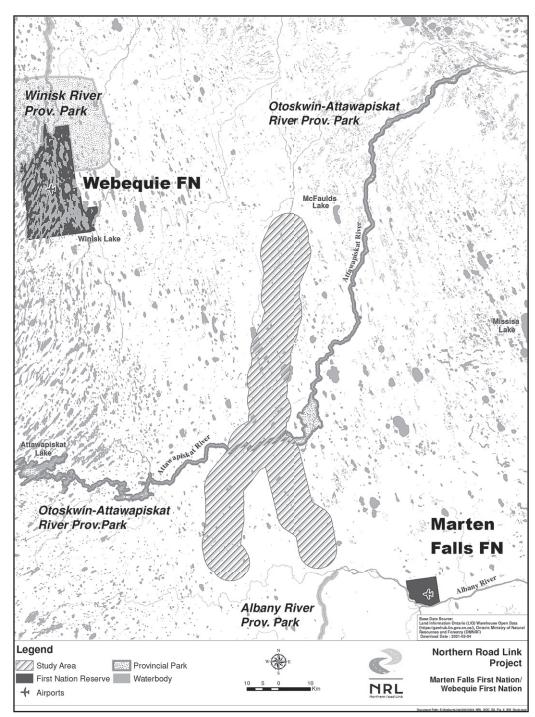
For further information about this Project, including ongoing updates, please visit our website (www.northernroadlink.com) or contact:

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THIS NOTICE WAS FIRST PUBLISHED MAY 4, 2021

LOCALNEWS

Vaccination rate drops 14.6%

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit's vaccination rate dropped 14.6 per cent last week, as more vaccines were diverted to hot spots in southern Ontario.

The health unit's weekly vaccination numbers, which include doses administered as of this past Saturday, show 7,179 doses were given out, 1,231 fewer than the week prior. A total of 5,660 people received their first dose, 2,219 fewer than the week before.

A total of 61,898 people have received their first dose, 45.1 per cent of the eligible population 16 and older. The district health unit and other agencies have given out 69,928 vaccines, meaning 8,020 people have received a second shot, 5.84 per cent of the eligible population.

There are currently 44 active

•he Thunder Bay District Health COVID-19 cases in the district, the Unit's vaccination rate dropped lowest since Nov. 16.

Assault on Amelia

A2-year-old Thunder Bay man has been arrested following an assault at an Amelia Street residence that sent a 57-year-old woman to hospital.

Thunder Bay Police on Monday said they were called to a home in the 200 block of the Westfort Street just after 10:30 p.m. on Sunday, following reports of an unconscious woman.

By the time police arrived on scene, the woman had already been transported to hospital for evaluation and further treatment of her injuries.

Police say their investigation revealed a physical confrontation had taken place between the victim and the accused at the doorway of the 42year-old male's residence. That altercation allegedly led to the woman's injuries.

The accused, James Maurice Smallwood, faces a charge of assault and another of uttering threats to cause death or harm. He was in court on Monday and is expected to be released with a future court date.

ORNGE may strike

Paramedics with Ontario's air ambulance service, Ornge, have provided a resounding strike mandate ahead of upcoming collective bargaining with the province.

Ornge paramedics voted 94 per cent to strike if necessary on Friday, Unifor national president Jerry Dias announced at a virtual press conference Sunday. The negotiations will include a faceoff with the Ford government over its legislation capping public sector wage increases at one per cent per year. Unifor will seek an exemption to the cap, which the Ford government introduced in 2019 through Bill 124, Dias said.

"I think about Doug Ford going to the Ornge headquarters and calling our members heroes, talking about how they risk their lives each and every day making sure we're staying safe," he said. "Yet he introduces outrageous legislation that caps their wage increases at one per cent."

A strike won't impact the level of care offered to patients, said Keith Simons, an Ornge paramedic based out of Thunder Bay and northern bargaining representative with Unifor Local 2002. **50-plus now eligible**

Oin 2021 were eligible to book COVID-19 vaccine appointments as of May 6, the provincial government announced.

A "stable and reliable" increase in vaccine supply will allow the province to open bookings to numerous groups in the coming days, in line with a timeline announced last week.

Across the province, those turning 50 this year are able to book appointments through the provincial booking system.

Other groups who will become eligible to book through the provincial system Thursday include elementary and secondary school workers, individuals with high-risk health conditions, frontline workers in the province's Group 1 category who cannot work from home, and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

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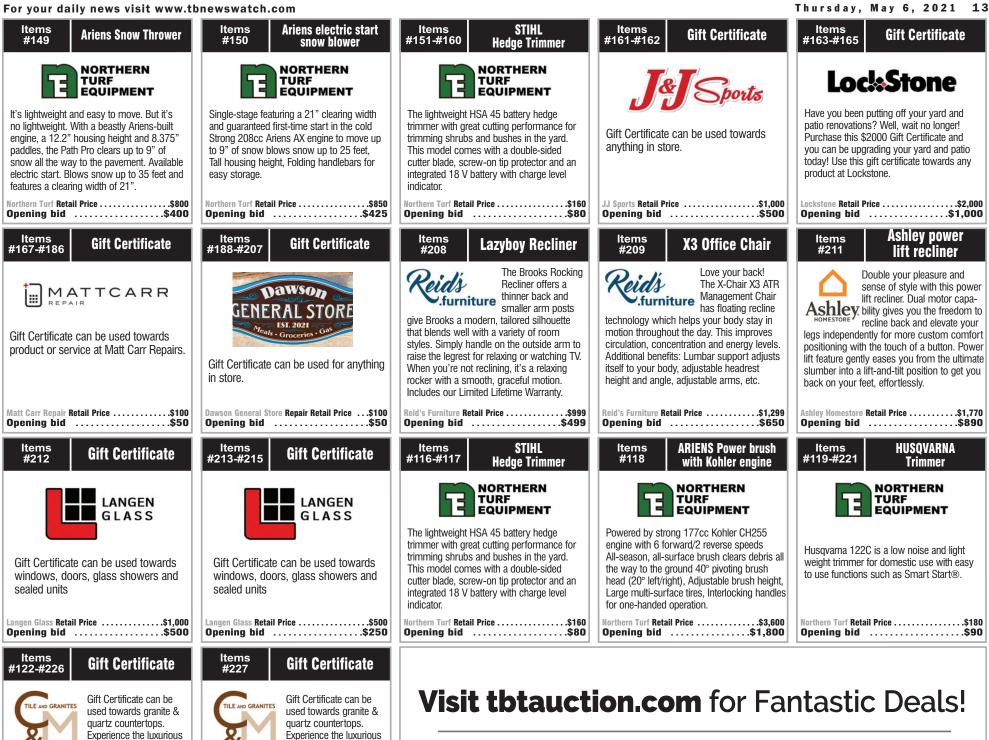
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CKPR Thunder Bay On Line Auction 2021 All items can be previewed at tbtauction.com

- If available, items can be previewed at participating sponsor locations and at purchase the item immediately at a fixed price of 75% of the retail value online using Visa or MasterCard. www.tbnewswatch.com. Items may only be purchased on-line using Visa or MasterCard! If you elect to bid by increments, bidding ends at 4 p.m. on Friday, May 14th, 2021 and the successful bidder will receive an automatic response by email. Bidding will begin on-line at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 10th, 2021 until 4 p.m. Payment is due by 4:00 p.m. Monday, May 17th, 2020. Visa or MasterCard only are on Friday, May 14th, 2021. accepted. All items other than gift certificates are subject to HST unless the purchasers possess
 - When you opt for the immediate 75% purchase, payment is due at this time. Visa or MasterCard is accepted. You will receive a receipt by email.
 - Failure to complete your purchase within 5 minutes may result in you losing the item you are bidding on.
 - In the case of a Visa or MasterCard being charged incorrectly, payment will be reversed within 2 business day of transaction.
 - Gift Certificate(s) will be mailed out to you no later than Friday, May 21st, 2021.
 - Items that are actual products can be picked up at the retailer, successful bidders will receive an email confirmation on Tuesday, May 18th, 2021 with a merchandise release form. You will need to present the merchandise release form to the retailer.
 - If you are having trouble bidding, email: help@tbtauction.com and we will You can bid on any item until 4 p.m. on Friday, May 14th when bids close or you can respond to you.

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Fishing for enjoyment

have set myself the goal of trying to spend some time outside every single day throughout the year. Even if it is just for an hour or so before or after work.

I think you will find that you never regret going outside. Getting outdoors to enjoy simple activities like walking and cycling have become extremely important in the

pandemic. I would not hesitate to add recreational fishing to a growing list of outdoor pursuits that are quickly growing

in popularity. Somehow, when we are fishing, the problems of the world seem to melt away and we are afforded some well-deserved time to relax and reflect.

Getting out

Often, I will make a trip to the river to refresh my mental health when life and work get a bit hectic. It is amazing how something as simple as fishing can provide a focus and add so much joy, balance and quality to our lives.

In Northwestern Ontario, we are

lucky to live in a beautiful and natural landscape, sparsely populated and surrounded by so much water, so many trees, and the abundant wild creatures that call our boreal forest home.

We have plenty of angling opportunities in the nearby lakes and rivers, and several world-class fisheries are just a short drive away.

KEITH

A minimal investment of time and some simple fishing equipment is all it takes to find both peace and adventure THE GOOD LIFE while opening a world of possibilities on the water. You never know if you are going to

spot a moose, see a bald eagle swoop down to grab a fish, or get to catch and release that once-in-a-lifetime trophy fish. Even on the days when the fishing action is painfully slow, there are plenty of other ways to enjoy the experience.

Sometimes the value is simply found in the opportunity to either spend time alone or to get outside with our family. Each adventure seems to include some amazing encounter with a fox or beaver or grouse or bear to add a highlight to

the day.

Some days it is just the sunrise that makes the journey worthwhile.

We might catch a gorgeous trout or we might not catch anything at all, but we will always return home from a fishing trip with something we needed. I find great satisfaction in knowing

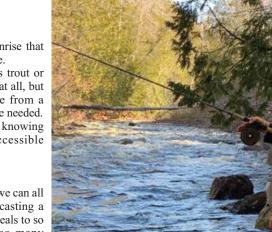
that fishing is a truly accessible pastime.

Not hard to find

From a boat or from shore, we can all find some water worthy of casting a line into. Consider how it appeals to so many different people in so many different places around the globe. Best of all, fishing does not discriminate or care about our age, height, gender, social status or financial success.

Along the same stretch of shoreline we might find a young couple sharing a passion for angling as they fall in love, a businessperson escaping the worries of the world, and an elder, teaching his granddaughter to respect nature.

Right now, it is especially evident that the simple sport of fishing can be a much-needed source of joy for many people.



DOWN BY THE RIVER: Fishing can be a therapeutic activity at all times of the year.



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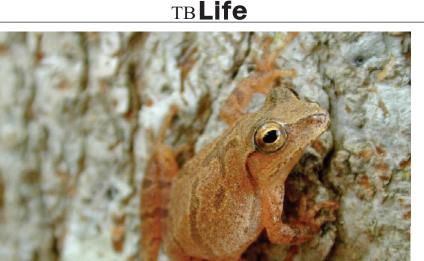
Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine plan is helping to stop the spread and save lives. Thousands of people across the province are getting vaccinated every day.

As vaccinations continue, we need to stay the course to protect those we love. Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Keep your distance.

Find out when, where and how to get vaccinated at **ontario.ca/covidvaccineplan** or call 1-888-999-6488 for assistance in more than 300 languages.

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FROGGY WENT A COURTIN': A spring peeper has an unmistakable call, especially in spring.

Sounds of spring

So, I stepped out to head across the yard to prepare the horse stalls prior to bringing in the equines for the night.

As I walked across the yard, I stopped. A new sound was filling the air: spring peepers. "Aha," I thought, "another returning sound of spring."

We have already had the songs of redwing blackbirds since they returned and are very busy around the bird feeders; The pileated woodpecker has been active and noisy in the bush.

Twice on my walks through our woods, I have seen this Woody Woodpecker either perched on a tree, pecking away looking for food, or flashing by to disappear

into the trees. And that unmistakable cry echoes throughout the forest. Now added to the springtime chorus are the

peepers who, having emerged from the pond mud, are trilling their mating calls, a kind of Morman Tabernacle choir-sized chorus.

When I head to the pond with pooches for a look-see of course the peeping ceases.

Speaking of the pond and the bullrushfestooned swamp bordering it, the sandhill cranes are back and if my sighting of the soon-to-be a-dad-again is correct, he flapped off the field south of the house and slowly wend his way to land in those rushes pretty much mid-swamp. Is that where they are nesting?

Occasionally I have heard that unmistakable call coming from that area.

The other sound issuing from the pond/swamp area is the American bittern who makes that "galumping" sound (gah-gah-lump, gah-gah-lump).

Only once have I seen this bird who likes to stick its head straight up since its eyes are the side of the head.

One summer it ventured into the now-tall grasses of our southern field making sudden dashes hunched over before it was startled by something that I couldn't see as I watched from our living room window, and flew back in the direction of the swamp.

Another bird that seems to prefer hunting during dusk is the snipe that flies high and then hurtles down upon some prey making a rising seven or eight note flute-like sound.

Adding to the daily feeding the birds routine, I put the hummingbird feeder up in its usual spot. I check the levels of the liquid from inside Casa Jone since the feeder hangs from the eaves trough right in front of a major window. Haven't seen any customers or any lowering of the level yet. My wife, Laura,

suggested that these small, amazing speedsters will be arriving soon. Hope so.

Laura and I were in the vegetable garden Sunday morning preparing raised beds for planting. I was

planting onion sets when suddenly we heard the raven 'cawing' rapidly and obviously very upset at something as it flew top speed from the nest, over our heads, flying southeast. What could have possibly caused this commotion, caused it to be so disturbed? I looked up and way up in the sky a large bird form was gliding on the thermals slowly circling in ever-larger patterns.

An eagle? I couldn't tell. Very strange. You mean that the raven spotted that eagle so high in the sky way off to the southeast, not anywhere near the raven nest and that prompted a sudden race across the sky? Made me think that perhaps the wee ones in the nest have hatched and the parent felt threatened.

Ah well. The high-flying bird disappeared; the raven flew home.

And if you are hearing peepers (they are really loud!), then you will hear (and feel) mosquitoes.

Yup, they, too, are back - large, slow, B52 ones easy to smack, first to arrive. Later the small, fleet hard-to-hit Spitfires come to torment. And with the recent heat, black flies will soon be on the scene to bother us.

"That is why I have been trying to get the beds in the garden ready before the blackflies show up," announced The Gardener (Laura). Now where did I leave the bug spray?



Thursday, May 6, 2021 1

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TB**Life**



KEEP TRYING: Unrealistic expectations and societal pressures are just two obstacles facing couples these days.

Relationships are hard to maintain

This week we are going to have a conversation about the joys and challenges of intimate relationships.

With everyone posting perfect pictures of their relationships on social media, replete with the #blessed hashtag, it can often feel like everyone's relationship is perfect but your own.

Our sense of security in our relationships is further complicated by this unavoidable social media comparison game.

Outside of social media, relationships were already hard to begin; they take dedicated,

purposeful work, and this is often missed by the average North American couple.

Relationships typically start so strong! Our desire to be around our intimate partner is high, the intimacy is consistent and desired, and our general

interest, respect and admiration is high. So why then, do approximately 38 per cent of marriages in Canada end in divorce? What actually makes relationships so hard, when they start out so great? How do people genuinely have positive, healthy relationships?

Perhaps the most overlooked first step in this discussion is the actual admission that relationships are challenging. People feel that by admitting this unarguable fact, that they have somehow doomed their relationship.

This simply is not true, and here's why:

• Intimacy is difficult: although relationships commonly "start off strong" in this area, maintaining a strong intimate connection requires emotional, physical, spiritual and mental commitment that can become overwhelming at different points of the relationship. Similarly, romance isn't constant once a relationship matures in its development.

• Conflict management is hard: ensuring that both

partners are aware of each other's conflict management styles and remain open to learning new ones is taxing and requires commitment.

• Unrealistic expectations and differing values: we often enter in to a relationship without fully exploring one another's expectations, values and goals. Understanding that these will also change as we grow is also important to recognize and honor within the relationship.

Financial, familial and societal pressures: the



pressures placed on us through these avenues often most negatively affects our intimate relationships before anything else.

The positive news, however, is that there are multiple tried and true ways to develop and maintain a healthy relationship, including:

• Keep expectations realistic and continually check in with one another.

Talk! Truly talk, genuinely listen and ask questions.
Take care of yourself: your relationship can't be nourished if you are trying to water from an empty cup: ensure that you are taking care of what you need as well.

• Be dependable: if you say you will do it, do it.

• Fight fair: believe it or not, disagreement is a healthy part of relationship growth. Learning what each individual needs during a disagreement and remaining respectful is key.

• Set aside dedicated time for your relationship: don't underestimate the power of date night!

There are a multitude of stressors that can influence our intimate relationships and an expansive list of things can help. Utilizing a trained professional to help facilitate some of these more difficult conversations has routinely proven to be beneficial. If you and your loved one need support, give us a call. We are here to listen.



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IN THE Day arts entertainment culture

The Courier a tale of true heroism



he Courier aka Ironbark (Shaw **T**VOD) is an engrossing espionage thriller focusing on the 1960s Cold War where the world held its collective breath over the possibility of nuclear devastation as the US stood nose to nose with the Soviet Union over the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Based on a true story, The Courier tells the tale of a British businessman, Greville Wynne (Benedict Cumberbatch) whose involvement with a Soviet mole, Colonel Oleg (Alex) Penkovsky (Merab Ninidze) helped avert nuclear catastrophe.

Penkovsky, a much-decorated military officer who's fearful of the volatile, sabre-rattling Nikita Kruschev, desperately reaches out to the CIA to head off nuclear war.

Need help

Lacking resources in Europe, the CIA teams up with MI-6. They devise a plan using a civilian to establish contact with Penkovsky (codename 'Ironbark') in Moscow to avoid suspicion. They recruit Wynne who's a well-established manufacturing salesman dealing with Eastern Europe countries.

Thing is, Wynne is no James Bond. Though competent at business, he's viewed as middle aged, out of shape, drinks too much, and was just a private who saw no action in WWII. The last man Britain would dream of



putting in harm's way. He's also haunted by having once cheated on his ideal courier. wife, Sheila (Jessie Buckley, Wild

Rose). Wynne's efforts eventually result in a crucial face to face between Penkovsky and the CIA. But he's not

done. Penkovsky sees Wynne as an

The growing political tension forces Wynne's continued involvement. The strain affects his marriage. Sheila suspects he's having another affair. Trouble is, both men fall under suspicion thanks to a leak in MI-6.

Therein lay grim decisions. Bound by loyalty, Greville lobbies to help Penkovsky and his family defect, aided by the CIA. It's a daring move that will have grave consequences for all involved.

The Courier is a well constructed yarn, embracing the requisite spy tangles and ruthless perils. Director Dominic Cooke properly conjures a flavourful 1960s cloak and dagger atmosphere.

Cooke uses archival news footage at appropriate junctures to illustrate the raging political tension and the subsequent effect upon the characters. This all culminates in the thrillingly staged defection attempt.

Well shot

Sean Bobbitt's cinematography heightens the dark intrigue literally with plenty of shadowy streets and corridors. Another effective visual motif shows Greville, tiny at a distance, dwarfed by huge buildings, a single individual against the big bad world.

What buttresses the film is the relationship between Greville and Penkovsky. Their emerging friendship and evolving bravery evokes our empathy.

"Maybe we are just two people," Penkovsky says, "But this is how things change."

Cumberbatch gives dimension to his flawed hero. He and Ninidze share a tangible rapport. Buckley has moments as the long-suffering Sheila. The supporting cast including Rachel Brosnahan and Angus Wright as Wynne's overseers is very good. Also effective is an evocative score by Abel Korzeniowski.

The Courier's ending features brief footage of the real life Greville, making this tale all the more tangible, topping off a well-made movie about a little-known story of true heroism and sacrifice.



LOTTERY LUCK: Lance Dyll is the third Thunder Bay 50/50 draw winner.

Lance Dyll wins \$634K hospital draw THUNDER BAY dollars," Craig repeated.

By Leith Dunick TB Source

hunder Bay's Lance Dyll is the winner of Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Foundation's \$634,240 50/50 draw.

Reached by hospital foundation president and CEO Glenn Craig, Dyll could hardly believe his ears when told.

"What?" he asked.

"Six-hundred-and-thirty-four thousand, two-hundred-and-forty

"Sorry, is this a joke," said Dyll, well known to local media from his communications role with a "Yeah. uh.

local health agency. that's "Nope," Craig said. "Yeah, uh, that's crazy." crazy," Dyll later LANCE DYLL replied, seconds after confirming he had the winning ticket.

"That's absolutely crazy." The third monthly draw brings the

foundation's 50/50 share of the total to more than \$2.2 million.

The fourth draw will be held on May 28, with half of the proceeds going to the prize pot and the other half being used to buy equipment at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. Tickets, which must be

purchased while in Ontario, are three for \$10, 30 for \$20 and 150 for \$50.

They're available at www.thunderbay5050.ca



ON THE RUN: Lawrencia (Bambi) Bembenek was captured in Thunder Bay in 1990.

New podcast looks at Bembenek case

AUDIO By Gary Rinne – TB Source

More than 30 years after fugitive Lawrencia (Bambi) Bembenek was captured in Thunder Bay, her saga lives on.

Toronto-based TV and documentary writer/producer Catherine Fogarty has produced a three-part podcast about Bembenek titled *Woman On The Run.*

The former Milwaukee police officer escaped from a Wisconsin prison in 1990 after serving eight years of a life term for murdering her then-husband's ex-wife.

Bembenek swore to the end that she had been framed for filing a sex discrimination complaint against the Milwaukee police force.

After her escape, she and her fiance made their way to Thunder Bay where she found work as a waitress in the Columbia Grill on May Street.

Bembenek's freedom lasted three

months, until she was recognized after is being profiled on *America's Most Wanted* TV show.

When Thunder Bay Police arrested her in the north-side apartment the pair was renting, an international media frenzy ensued.

She was eventually extradited to the U.S. where she was subsequently released on parole in a plea deal that saw her original conviction set aside and a new plea of "no contest" to second-degree murder.

In 2010, Bembenek died while in hospice care in Portland, Oregon, at the age of 52.

Fogarty's podcast series Story Hunter focuses on true crime stories.

She told *TB Source* that she came across the Bembenek case while researching a different episode, and immediately felt compelled to look into

it further.

"I ordered

the books

and thought,

"I'm really

interested in

this from the

Canadian

perspective."

CATHERINE

FOGARTY

"There was three books written about Bambi Bembenek, including one that she wrote herself. I ordered the books

and thought, 'I'm really interested in this from the Canadian perspective, because I don't think that aspect of it has been really told.'" One of the key participants

in the podcast is a reporter who interviewed Bembenek in jail and followed her case closely for the 18 months that she was in Canada.

Fogarty admits to being "very sympathetic" to Bembenek, whom she believes was wrongly

convicted.

"I think she was a young woman caught up in a very male-dominated organization, and there were issues of corruption and discrimination going on."

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CELEBRATE NURSING WEEK MAY 10-16, 2021



Ontario Nurses' Association

www.ona.org

NEW SERIES:Adhir Kaylan stars in The

United States of AI on Global Thunder Bay.

Sit-com too politically correct

In the last year, it's gotten harder and harder to laugh. We're sad, disillusioned, physically isolated, and tired. Now, more than ever, we need a reason to laugh. Unfortunately, comedies are disappearing from the TV landscape.

So when ABC announced their new sitcom, *United States of Al*, I was thrilled. An Afghanistan interpreter who has found political refuge in the States was perfect to highlight today's problems of stereotypes and culture clashes. Perhaps, like the old *Mork & Mindy* series, this legal "alien" would give viewers life lessons – or at least, a better perspective on themselves.

So far, *US of Al* has avoided any political incorrectness with the most liberal, socially-openminded characters in the entire US of A. Not a single "Karen" in the bunch. And frankly, the humour has suffered.

Of course, many new comedies struggle to find a home with viewers.



But today's political correctness brigade is truly limiting their voice.

It wasn't always this way. Remember *All in the Family*? Even today, Archie Bunker is still one of the most offensive characters on television. But his prejudiced beliefs and rude language was used to highlight the issues of the day. Of course, the writers gave equal treatment to his whiny liberal/socialist daughter and her freeloading "Meathead" husband.

Yet, despite the ongoing reverence for that show, today's viewers seem to have lost their ability to separate the intent of the humour with the words themselves. After decades of insensitivity – racially, culturally, sexually – we're now more socially aware of the harm words can do. However, comedy is, by definition, always at the expense of someone. But the best kind also serves a higher purpose. US of d could be timely and bilarious

US of Al could be timely and hilarious if it would just take a chance, push a few boundaries and question some cultural beliefs. What are the writers so afraid of? Cancel culture? Getting the axe?

Because, ironically, now is definitely the time for some "gallows humour" – originating from those about to be executed. Although usually no one's literally on the chopping block (except perhaps a writer or two), gallows humour or black comedy or dark humour is simply highly irreverent "witticism in the face of a hopeless situation." It's used by many to get through life's toughest moments.

Police, health care workers, funeral directors, or anyone who deals with death on a daily basis is likely to manage stress with this kind of humour. It's somewhat rude, often inappropriate, and definitely politically incorrect.

But it serves a purpose when used judiciously. Like taking the lid off a steaming pot, it alleviates the pressure and lets the bubbles decrease before spilling over and making a mess. And boy, is society in a mess right now.

We need more opportunities to laugh. Not less. So what's wrong with some slightly irreverent, politically incorrect humour at the end of a tough day? Especially if it opens the door to change.

Amid a year of pain, death, and general unrest, 30 minutes of uncensored laughter could do us all a world of good.

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Lakehead prepping for fall season

Thunderwolves teams have been on the sidelines since last March

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

will drop, the tip-off will take place om Warden is hopeful the puck and the starter's gun will go off this fall, allowing university athletes in Canada to get back to competition.

Warden, athletic director at Lakehead Unviersity, said it's been a tough 13 months since the COVID-19 pandemic turned the Canadian sports world on its head, but there's plenty of reason for optimism.

For starters, at the Ontario University Athletics level, officials have started the process of

working out schedules for the coming fall seasons.

Secondly, vaccination progress is moving along relatively quickly, with even Toronto expected to pass the 40 per cent mark for first doses this weekend. Thunder Bay sits at 41 per cent of eligible recipients as of last Saturday and by late May, all Ontarians 18 and

older are expected to be eligible to get they're anxious," Warden said. a vaccine.

TOM WARDEN

"This is good

news and

we'll work

toward

solidifying

what that

means."

TOM WARDEN

Getting closer

"That's the objective, certainly, of the OUA and U Sport and Lakehead University, that we do have sports again next year. That is our goal that we're working toward. Publicly, it's important for people to understand that's our goal, provided it's safe, provided that we can deliver sports under the current legislation at the time," Warden said.

A year ago the OUA announced it was cancelling all championships for the fall semester, but left the possibility teams and individual sports might be able to return to action in January. As case counts rose in the fall, that dream was quickly dashed.

It's been a trying year for coaches and athletes, Warden said.

"It's been a very difficult year all around, in every sector, but certainly I feel for our athletes. First of all the announcement there wasn't going to be any sports and the on-and-off again training piece. I think it's important there is some good news," Warden said.

"This is good news and we'll work toward solidifying what that means."

Team rosters will most definitely look different in 2021-22 than they might have to start the 2020-21 campaign.

For most, studies continued. Some will undoubtedly just forgo their final year of eligibility in order to move on with life or other athletic opportunities.

Players departed

The Thunderwolves hockey team, for example, lost Tomas Soustal to the European professional ranks, while Josh Laframboise left to try his hand

in the ECHL, though was ultimately cut and could return.

Life goes on, Warden said. "Honestly, all those things have happened. You've had the kid that's in his or her fourth year that's now in their fifth year and they're not interested in continuing. You've had kids that aren't ready to commit, or who commit early because

"I think generally speaking, that's right across the sector

in U Sport."

Canadian universities just don't have the infrastructure or revenue generation in place that allowed leagues like the NHL and NCAA to go forward in 2020-21.

Warden is holding out hope that when his athletes do return, they'll be able to do so in front of fans, though again that will depend on the rules in place in Ontario and Quebec when competition resumes.

Varsity sports at Lakehead include men's and women's basketball, men's hockey, women's volleyball, wrestling, cross-country skiing and cross-country running and track and field.

Other leagues, including high school sports and the SIJHL, are also hopeful of a return to action.



SHOT-BLOCKING MACHINE: Thunderwolves forward Lock Lam blossomed in 2019-20 before the pandemic.

sports NEWS

T-Wolves sign Spanish pivot

BASKETBALL **By Leith Dunick – TB Source**

The Lakehead Thunderwolves have tapped the Spanish recruiting well once again.

The women's basketball team on Friday announced it has landed 6foot-1 post Eva Guilera, a native of La Granada, Spain who captured silver at the Women's U18 International Tournament last year and bronze at the 2018-19 Catalonia Championships.

Guilera is the second Spanish player on the Thunderwolves roster, joining all-star Sofia Lluch, who spent the past season playing professionally in Spain, but has committed to return in the fall.

"From the very first moment I felt Lakehead was the right place for me and I am very excited to be part of the Lakehead community. Talking with coach Jon Kreinier I knew playing with their team I will be able to get my game to the next level, which is my principal goal, and that coaches will push my hardest to make that happen," said Guilera, who plans to study electrical engineering at Lakehead.

Kreiner, who has had plenty of success recruiting out-of-country in recent years, said he's thrilled to land a prospect with Guilera's abilities.

"Eva is a very smart and dedicated

young woman who has a strong desire to improve. Eva is an athletic and mobile post who has a very good basketball IQ. She understands how and where to move off the ball on offence and is a very solid defender and rebounder. Eva is an excellent student and an even better teammate." Kim Gispert, coach of Guilera's current club team, has nothing but good things to say about Guilera's talent and attitude, both on and off the court.

"Eva is a tactically very disciplined player who tends to make good decisions during training and the game. She stands out for her understanding of the game, her predisposition to effort and work and above all I would highlight her infinite ability to absorb new knowledge that later turns into resources for self-management of her personal improvement.

"She is very brave in trying and applying everything that comes her way. Her human and personal facet is extraordinary," Gispert said, in a release issued by the Thunderwolves. Kreiner, whose team did not play last season because of COVID-19, said he's looking forward to seeing his

new recruit in action. "I cannot wait to start coaching Eva," Kreiner said. "She will leave a very positive and lasting impression on the Thunderwolves program."



SPANISH CARAVAN: Eva Guilera joins fellow Spaniard, guard Sofia Lluch, on the Lakehead Thunderwolves women's basketball roster.

Votto just second Canadian to hit 300 home runs

oey Votto did something only one other Canadian has ever done.

Last Friday, the Cincinnati Reds allstar blasted a Jake Arrieta slider over the wall in right at Great American Ballpark, becoming just the second

Canadian to reach the 300-home run mark. The Toronto native,

the just third Cincinnati player to reach the milestone,

joined Larry Walker, the all-time leading

Canadian power hitter, in the 300 Club.

Coming up short

It's unlikely the 15-year-veteran, who turns 38 in September, will ever catch Walker, who hit 383, but it will be interesting in a decade or so from now to see where he ranks with voters who choose future hall-of-fame classes.

In my mind, he comes up a bit short, but his numbers are compelling. Seven times he's led the league in on-base percentage and he's got eight 20-home run seasons.

Votto is also a career .300 hitter, though if he plays much longer, he might fall short.

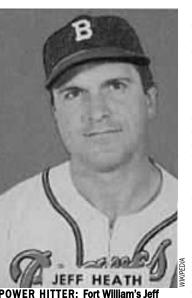
He is also a little shy on a number of other counting statistics that often catch

the eye of voters, with just 1,932 hits and 418 doubles. His career also only includes 11 post-

season appearances, but that's not as much his fault as it is Reds

Votto's feat got me thinking about

Matt Stairs, from my end of the country, is third with 265, while Justin Morneau checks in at No. 4 with 247.



POWER HITTER: Fort William's Jeff Heath's 1948 Bowman baseball card.

887 in a career that saw him toil in leftfield for Cleveland, Washington, the St. Louis Browns and Boston Braves.

Though his career spanned the watered-down war years, Heath, who died in 1975, twice led the league in triples, received MVP votes in five seasons, including an eight-place finish in 1941, and was a two-time all-star.

Heath was a career .293 hitter, and even hit .343 in 1941. Of course, that was the year that Ted Williams hit .406, the most recent player to hit .400, and the same summer that Joe DiMaggio set his record 56-game hitting streak.

Heath wasn't in Fort William for long. His family moved to Victoria, then south to Seattle, where he went to high school.

An ankle injury cost Heath his one shot at a World Series appearance, forcing him to the sidelines when the Braves made a rare appearance in the Fall Classic in 1948.

Here's a quote from 1964 about the play that broke his ankle, in a meaningless game, Boston having already clinched a World Series berth.

"I guess I didn't tuck my leg while sliding. Carl Furillo (Dodger rightfielder) made the throw. He had a great arm and I was out a mile. They (sportswriters) said it was an unnecessary slide in a game that didn't mean anything. The hell it was, you always slide. Besides Johnny Sain (Braves pitcher) was after his 23rd win and we wanted to shove Brooklyn into third place."

Troublemaker

Heath was nicknamed Lord Jeff and according to his Wikipedia page, was also described as a problem child by then Cleveland player-manager Lou Boudreau.

Inducted into the Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame in 1987, Heath finished his big-league career with 1,447 hits in 1,383 games, scoring 777 runs, hitting 102 triples and 279 doubles.

In case you were wondering Vladimir Guerrero Jr., who was born in Montreal, is the next highest active Canadian on the home run list, at 31. Three came last week in a game against Washington. Looks like the slimmed-down Vladdy has found his game.



management's.

other top power hitters from north of the border.

Fifth on the list is Jason Bay, who hit 222, mostly with Pittsburgh and Boston. No. 6 has a local connection. Jeff Heath, born in Fort William in 1915, spent 14 seasons in the big league, cracking 194 homeruns while driving in

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