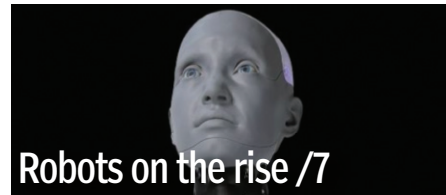




Murder on Pearl /3



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Jumping for joy

History-making Olympians pay visit to Fort William First Nation /14

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Mackenzie Boyd-Clowes (left) and Matthew Soukup were part of Canada's mixed ski jumping team that captured bronze in Beijing, the first Olympic medal for the country in the sport.

City to fight homelessness, poverty

Council votes to spend \$1 million to leverage funding

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

The City of Thunder Bay will expand its efforts to tackle poverty and homelessness issues, after city council voted Monday to create a new \$1 million fund meant to leverage funding for transitional housing and other capital projects.

Mayor Bill Mauro cast a lone vote against funding the initiative, saying it would replace dollars that should be spent by the provincial and federal governments.

Coun. Mark Bentz, who launched the push for the city to do more on homelessness last year, said the fund, which will offer up to a

maximum of \$500,000 per project subject to council approval, could be impactful.

"I think we're showing a lot of leadership here and we hope to effect some positive change with this, so it will be very interesting to see how this progresses," he said.

The Community Partnership Fund, which council voted to top up from \$200,000 to \$1 million Monday, already existed as a fund to support infrastructure that offers public benefits.

In the past, it's contributed to projects by Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services, Wequedong Lodge, Magnus Theatre, and Community Clothing Assistance.

In addition to building the fund up to \$1 million, the city made eligible projects that support goals in the city's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, which include

reducing Indigenous homelessness by 50 per cent by 2027, and boosting transitional and supportive housing.

Projects must have a total budget of at least \$150,000 to qualify. The city's maximum contribution is \$500,000.

Several councillors said it will be crucial the fund is used to leverage further dollars from outside the community, particularly from provincial and federal governments, and not as a primary funding source.

The \$800,000 top-up for the fund will be drawn from the Renew Thunder Bay Reserve Fund, which sits at \$16 million.

Applications will be reviewed by a team of senior staff from

numerous city departments. Council will give final approval to the team's recommendations.

The fund will be recommended for replenishment back up to \$1 million each year through the budgeting process, but staff emphasized

it will be up to council whether to continue funding it to that level.

First Nations and other Indigenous governing bodies like tribal councils that serve members in the city will be eligible to apply, with a report claiming Thunder Bay may be the first municipality in Canada to offer capital dollars to those

groups.

Around two-thirds of the city's homeless population is Indigenous, according to local homelessness

point-in-time surveys.

Mauro, asked why he cast the only vote against creating the fund, said he's supported transitional housing developments in the past but doesn't believe they need city dollars.

"I think those projects will come anyway," he said. "My concern is we're just going to backstop something financially from the tax base that would have likely happened already."

The Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board, which allocates provincial housing and homelessness dollars in the area, has identified transitional and supportive housing in particular as a pressing local need.

Around 700 people in Thunder Bay have signed up to a DSSAB list of people experiencing homelessness and seeking housing.



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City police stand watch over a Pearl Street residence, where a 41-year-old man was killed on Sunday night. (Gary Rinne)

Man killed, one person arrested

Police seek two others in city third homicide of 2022

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

A 44-year-old woman has been arrested and charged with first-degree murder after a 41-year-old man was killed on Sunday night.

A witness reported hearing shots fired at the time of the incident.

Police, in a release issued on Monday, said they arrived at the 200 block of Pearl Street at about 10:15 p.m. and located the victim, who was found with serious injuries. He was later pronounced dead of his injuries at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. The victim's name has not been released.

In addition to the first-degree murder charge, Jaime Osmar was also charged with breach of recognition. Osmar in December was charged with

possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking. Two other suspects remain on the loose.





The first suspect is believed to be a white male, with a slim build and long, dark unkempt hair. He was wearing dark pants, a light-coloured hoodie and a black hat, worn backwards.

The second suspect is also believed to be a male, wearing a light-coloured jacket, grey pants, a white toque and a light-coloured face mask.

Both suspects are considered to be armed and dangerous and police warn the public not to approach them if spotted, but to immediately phone 911.

Anyone with information or cameras in the area are asked to contact police at 807-685-1200, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477, online at www.p3tips.com/273.

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER FORECAST

| THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Cloudy with sunny breaks | Light rain | Cloudy with showers | Cloudy with sunny breaks |
| Precipitation: 30% HIGH 13 LOW 5 | Precipitation: 90% HIGH 11 LOW 2 | Precipitation: 40% HIGH 9 LOW 2 | Precipitation: 30% HIGH 12 LOW 2 |

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Candidates talk pandemic

By Leith Dunick -TB Source

Ontario needs to learn lessons from its lack of preparedness when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, say candidates vying for the seat in Thunder Bay-Atikokan.

It was one of several topics up for discussion last Thursday night at the DaVinci Centre at an all-candidates forum – that both right-wing candidates declined to attend – put on by the Thunder Bay and District Injured Workers Support Group.

Green Party hopeful Eric Arner, a first-time candidate in provincial politics, said everyone loves to say they love health-care workers, but actions speak louder than words.

On that end, the government fell woefully short.

“What we’ve done is capped their wages and not allowed them to bargain fairly for a proper wage,” Arner told a crowd of about 50 who attended the in-person debate.

“Bill 124 needs to be repealed for nurses and PSWs. Those folks are

working really hard at saving lives and they need to be compensated properly. So let’s put our money where our mouths are and show them some respect.”

Arner added the province needs to hire more nurses and other support workers to avoid the burnout that’s taken place since the pandemic set in.

“COVID is still around and other variations could come in or some other pandemic could happen. We need to take care of these folks.”

NDP incumbent Judith Monteith-Farrell said Ontarians need to be reassured the proper measures are in place ahead of time, to take proactive measures rather than be forced into reactive ones.

It’s not like a pandemic couldn’t have been predicted, especially after the SARS outbreak.

“We had the lessons of SARS and we had the recommendations of that, and when we were faced with this pandemic, we found out the things that were supposed to be in



Judith Monteith-Farrell (from left), moderator Steve Mantis, Rob Barrett and Eric Arner.

place were not in place. The other thing that really needs to happen is we saw people with disabilities and seniors pay a large price during the pandemic,” Monteith-Farrell said.

Liberal Rob Barrett wholeheartedly agreed with both of his competitors.

Barrett said the Liberals have pledged to work with both individuals and systems to rebuild trust.

“And as we’ve take in these lessons we will conduct an independent public inquiry to learn from the pandemic that we’ve all suffered through and are still suffering

through, especially our most vulnerable,” said Barrett, adding they will permanently increase lab testing capacity and stockpile rapid tests and personal protective equipment.

Affordable housing was also discussed.

Barrett said the Liberals will build at least 138,000 affordable homes over the next decade, helping to create 150,000 new jobs. They’ll also place a use-it-or-lose-it tax in an effort to avoid homes sitting empty.

Arner said the Green Party has proposed a 20 per cent tax on secondary homes, also aimed at larger-scale owners.

The Greens will build 182,000 permanently affordable housing units and have also committed to 260,000 community rental units.

Monteith-Farrell said the NDP would reinstate rent control policies that were lifted by the Conservative government to provide protection to renters.

“We’d also provide assistance for new homeowners,” she said.

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Joseph Massicotte faces charges of second-degree murder in the killing of William Wapoose. (FILE)

Murder trial after 8 years

Massicotte charged in 2014 killing of William Wapoose

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

Nearly eight years after the body of 32-year-old William Wapoose was discovered in the Chapples Park area, one of the two accused in his murder is now standing trial.

The second-degree murder trial against Jonathan Massicotte opened before Justice Tracey Nieckarz and a jury in a Thunder Bay Courtroom on Monday. This is the first criminal jury trial to be held in the city of Thunder Bay since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jury selection took place last week and Massicotte pleaded not guilty to the charge of second-degree murder.

Wapoose's body was found by a passerby the morning of Sept. 3, 2014 near a bike path at the south end of Chapple's Park Drive.

Massicotte was arrested in May 2019 and initially charged with first-degree murder, along with a second accused who was a youth at the time of the offence. The youth is expected to stand trial in October 2022 on the charge of second-degree murder.

In his opening statement on Monday, Crown attorney Trevor Jukes told the jury that Wapoose had been beaten and stabbed and he will be calling numerous witnesses throughout the week.

The first witnesses called included the passerby who discovered Wapoose's

body between 7:30 and 8 a.m. the morning of Sept. 3, 2014, as well as one of the responding paramedics.

According to the passerby who was riding his bike through the area, he noticed discarded candies and a yellow piece of paper along the bike path. Before leaving the park, he returned to see what the piece of paper was and then discovered Wapoose's body in the tall grass.

"I was standing almost right over him when I noticed him," he testified. "I saw his feet. I thought it was somebody sleeping it off because of the long weekend. But when I got closer and saw his face I knew the guy wasn't sleeping."

One of the first paramedics who attended the scene also testified. She said she and her partner could not engage in any life-saving measures because based on observations, including rigor mortis evident, it was determined Wapoose was already deceased.

Det. Const. Rob Miller with the Thunder Bay Police Service, who was working in general uniform patrol in September 2014, also testified on Monday.

Miller took the court through scene photos of the area that showed Wapoose on his side in the grass just off the bike path. A large amount of blood was also visible around his face and puncture wounds on his side and back.

Do you have an opinion to share?
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EDITORIAL

Gang issue

Spring has arrived and the violence has started to ramp up on Thunder Bay streets.

The city already has two murders this month, and each day seems to bring another release from police of another home takeover, drug bust or weapons call.

If politicians running for office, seeking your vote to send them to Queen's Park, really want to make a mark during the current election campaign, it behooves them to address the problem.

The province has done little to address the situation in Thunder Bay, beyond providing lip service and a smattering of funding to fight the problem.

There were six murders last year and that was a low year, compared to other recent years.

The city is pacing toward that many or more and the problem isn't going away.

As soon as police make one arrest, five more gang members flock to Thunder Bay to take their place.

The courts must also do their part, and stop releasing those accused of drug offences quite so quickly.

We need answers now.

Stop the insanity To the editor:

The City of Thunder Bay continues to have the second highest taxes and tax rates in the province of Ontario according to the 2021 report by Zoocasa out of 35 cities listed.

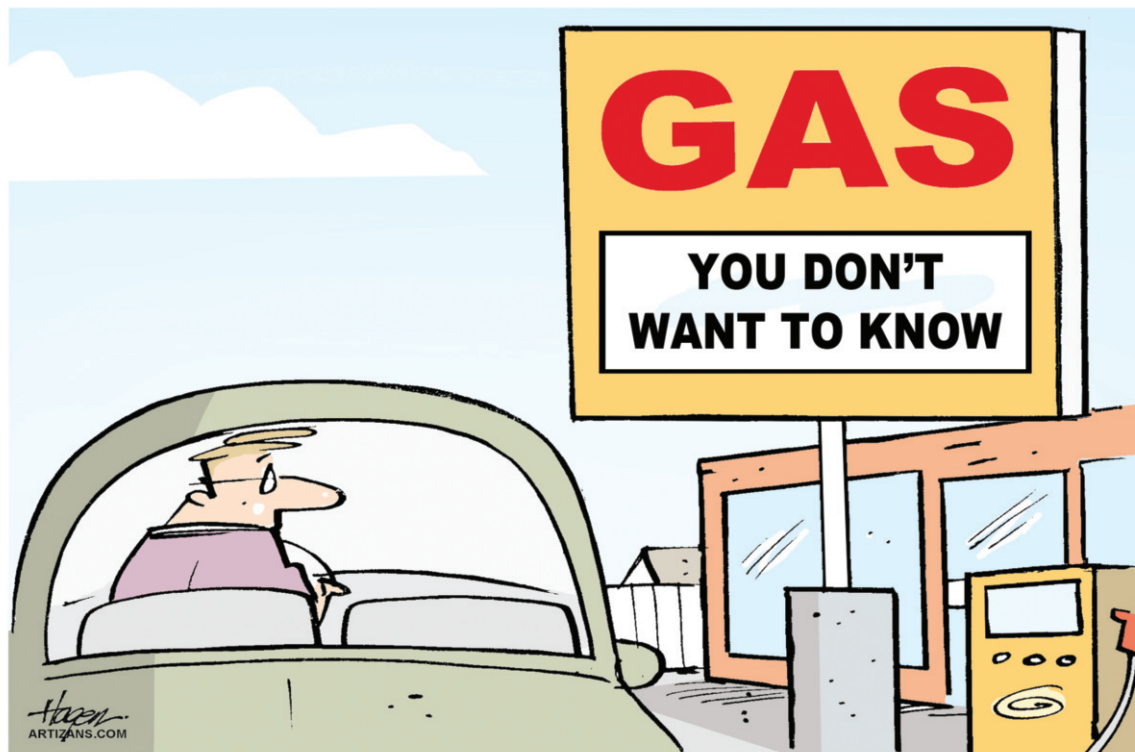
Despite Thunder Bay's small population it has one of the biggest payrolls and number of city employees per capita in the province. The city also employs 547 who are on the sunshine list making an average of \$127,000 which is also tops for comparable sized cities. City manager Norm Gale is making \$261,390 the highest amongst similar sized cities.

Thunder Bay council just approved a four per cent increase for management and non union employees that will cost taxpayers over 1.1 million dollars.

The city behind closed doors is also looking at giving some management and non union employees raises significantly over four per cent.

City staffers conveniently recommended this increase looking at city staffers in larger cities like Toronto for wage

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



comparisons.

At the same time the city scrapped several major road repairs this year and is running about a \$20-million annual infra-

structure deficit.

Until city management and council come to grips with the bureaucracy at city hall city taxpayers will continue to be

gouged with unfair taxes and a lack of basic services.

Ray Smith,
Thunder Bay

Ford's Canada a great 21st century novel

Canada by Richard Ford has been described as 'one of the first great novels of the 21st century'. Ford is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and this novel is a literary tour de force.

It starts off with a bank robbery and ends with a double murder. In between we see the world through the eyes of fifteen year old Dell Parsons.

Dell is the all-American boy who enjoys playing chess and is interested in bees. He cannot wait to go to school in Grand Falls, Mont., in the fall of 1960 when America, and the world in general, is on the precipice of great social change.

Dell can feel that his life is full of possibilities, unlike his parents who

were not suited and only got married because his mother fell pregnant with twins.

Dell is close to his twin, Berner, who is eager to break free of small town life with her boyfriend and explore what the world has to offer.

Both of their dreams are shattered and their lives changed forever when their father gets into debt over an illegal meat selling scam.

There are many possible ways out of this dilemma but his father, who is a dreamer with lots of home spun philosophy,

always picks the most improbable and disastrous option.

He recruits his wife into his crazy scheme and, despite her attempts to make his plan more achievable, they are both caught through a series of rookie errors.

With their parents in jail and the threat of being taken into care hanging over them, Berner heads off into her brave new world and Dell is taken across the border to safety in

Canada.

But, far from being safe, Dell is thrown from the frying pan into the

fire when he enters the orbit of the enigmatic Arthur Remlinger.

Arthur, like Dell, is an American with a dark past that is quickly catching up with him. A Harvard graduate, Arthur had high hopes for himself until, like Dell's father, he involved himself in a reckless act of violence that went horribly wrong.

Now Arthur runs a hotel in Saskatchewan which entertains goose hunters from America and Toronto. He has a girlfriend, Flo, who befriends Dell and watches over him.

Part 1 is set in America and explores the dark, violent underbelly of American society. The violence and death that America was founded

on is never far beneath the surface.

Part 2 is set in Canada which, apart from the accent and the superficial friendliness of the people, is not much different to its southern neighbour.

These are the forces that shape and determine Dell's life as he struggles to accept what he has to witness, including the cold blooded murder of two Americans who have tracked Arthur down to his Canadian sanctuary.

Ford writes in short, clear, simple, declarative sentences which are very reminiscent of Ernest Hemingway, who changed the style of American prose forever.



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Not paranoid about androids

JR Shermack - TB Source

To the best of my knowledge I have never had a personal interaction with an android but these days you never know.

Humanoid robots, also called androids, are being engineered and built to mimic human appearance, gestures, movement, conversation and emotional response.

Most of us are already interacting with primitive robots through computers and smartphones and whenever we check out our own groceries, but these are not androids.

Any respectable android could do our shopping for us and when it got home it could put the groceries away before making us a delicious meal and then doing the dishes.

Futurists are predicting that fully functioning humanoid personal and professional service robots will be among us within a few years - resistance is futile.

Robotics is one of the world's fastest growing industries - humanoid robots are already widely

used for personal assistance and caregiving, healthcare, education and entertainment.

Billions of dollars in investment has made the mass production of robots feasible and market demands will further accelerate innovation and entrepreneurship.

Advanced technology enables androids to more closely mimic human behavior and emotions while serving as companions and assistants.

As they become more human in their appearance, speech and behavior they may create the illusion of companionship, even friendship.

Humanoid robots are commercially available in a wide range of applications and their rapidly improving human capabilities make them as irresistible as Cabbage Patch dolls.

I never really considered getting one for myself but when I came across a promo advertising Humanoid Robots at Affordable Prices, I was intrigued.

Depending on your needs and

your budget you can easily and affordably welcome an artificially intelligent robot into your life.

It might be a Food Serving/Waiter/Food Delivery Humanoid Robot for the house or a Humanoid Robot Barista Café to impress your invited dinner guests.

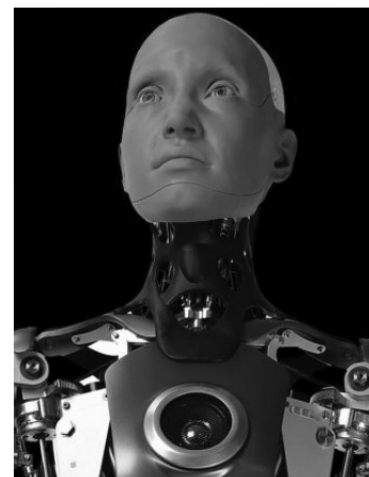
But as impressive as these high functioning robots can be, they are mere novelties compared to the remarkable advancements in Humanoid Robot technology.

Robots are now being designed to interact with humans on another level and can mimic a vital emotional need that many humans crave - companionship.

Engineered Arts, a leading manufacturer of humanoid entertainment robots has just introduced a remarkably human-like robot named Ameca,

It has been in development for 15 years and is described as, "the perfect humanoid robot platform for human robot interaction".

Ameca was built to look exactly like a real person because it is intended to interact with real



Ameca is a product of Engineered Arts.

people, to engage in conversation with humans.

Ameca was made with grey colored skin along with deliberately race and gender-neutral features and basic human characteristics.

The price of Ameca is in the neighborhood of \$170,000 (CAD) - that's the cost of state-of-the-art humanoid companionship.

Not to be outdone, eccentric humanoid, Elon Musk (remarkably robot-like himself) recently announced that his Tesla Bot humanoid robot prototype is set to be launched this year.

They are designed to perform repetitive tasks, boring jobs and dangerous work - maybe he's planning to establish a Tesla-bot colony on Mars.

As for me, I have been suspicious of robots ever since I saw the first Terminator movie even though today's androids look nothing like Arnold Schwarzenegger.

But now that I have seen and listened to a number of humanoid robots speaking plain English to humans I would like to get in on that conversation myself.

Hearing these androids speak feels like listening to real humans, even more so than the nonsense blurted out by actual humans we interact with every day.

Is there a place in our world for humanoid robots and more ominously, will there be a place in their world for us.

what's happening
in and around...

The Bay

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Please include details about the event, including any cost

May 19 Polo G

Up-and-coming rap star Polo G brings the biggest show to Fort William Gardens in years.

The 23-year-old's career took off with singles like Pop Out and Finer Things and his debut album, Die a Legend, hit No. 6 on the Billboard 200 in the United States. His 2021 album, Hall of Fame, topped the charts and gave Polo G his first No. 1 single, Rapstar.

The show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets can be found for sale at www.tickets.thunderbay.ca.

May 21 Meet the Playwrights

It's your chance to meet up with Shelley Hoffman and Stephen Sparks, the playwrights of Magnus Theatre's current show, Smarty Pants.

Admission to the event is free, following the matinee performance of the play on Sunday. The event is

scheduled to begin at noon. for more information, phone 345-5552.

May 25 Queen - It's a Kind of Magic

There was only one Freddie Mercury and his legacy lives on. The late Queen frontrunners magic will be brought back to life on Wednesday night at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.

Queen - It's a Kind of Magic showcases the rock band's best songs, from We Will Rock You to Radio GaGa to Bohemian Rhapsody.

The outlandish costumes and the larger-than-life personality of Mercury, guitarist Brian May and the rest of Queen make it a show you won't want to miss. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.

May 19 Pints and Pawns

Drop-in to the Red Lion

Smokehouse on the third Thursday of each month for an evening of challenging chess.

It's a fun night and a great way to learn the game.

May 21/22 Meet the Playwrights

It's been nearly three years since the Thunder Bay Chill last took to the pitch, the past two seasons wiped out by COVID-19.

But the four-time national finalists, and 2008 PDL champions, are back with a pair of tune-up friendlies this weekend against the Winnipeg Lions.

The Chill, who say they've built a team they hope will lead them to a second championship, will also mark their return to their home field after several years at Fort William Stadium while the field was rebuilt.

Game times for the games are Saturday night at 7 p.m. and Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for youth and \$10 for adults at the gate.

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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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should the Ontario Liberals and NDP merge to form one party?

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Cooking it old school

Memories of George Brown days

The great part about this column is the freedom I've been given to explore the different facets of cooking, sourcing products and the actual life of a "professional" (using that term very loosely) chef.

While my career has had a lot of twists and turns, (some planned, some not so) it gives me a lot of inspiration to draw from. As avid readers of HCAYK know, I started my career working in hotels locally, while taking Culinary Management at Confederation College. This program is focused on a balance of cooking and hospitality management courses.

These courses, while overall extremely beneficial to professionals in the industry, at the stage of my career I was at, I needed more cooking focused training.

It was at this time I was apprenticing under Chef Raymond Nadeau, it was decided that during the course of my apprenticeship it would be more beneficial for me to leave the city for a more in depth cooking experience from chefs I wouldn't get to learn from otherwise.

I made the choice to enroll at George Brown College, I was told it would be a two-year wait to get to school, however, it turned out to be about six days before I had to be in Toronto.

As is my attitude with most things, I decided screw it and I booked a ticket. It was a bit of a mad dash to get ready to go

and with the benefit of some friends in the area, I was able to crash with them while I found a place to live.

I consider myself an adaptable person and assimilating into Toronto student life was no where near as daunting as I thought it would be.

As is with most trades, you instantly find that the others in your class are similar personalities (mostly). There will always be those chefs who take themselves too seriously, and obviously many who don't take themselves serious enough. The skill comes in walking that line.

Our main skills Chef was Mario Gozzi, a very tall swiss Chef with a booming voice and an imposing presence. I was warned, if he liked you he would call you by your last name and refer to you as Chef. If he didn't, it was first name only.

He had just returned from a 6 month contract, cooking for a documentary film crew near the North Pole. He asked us where we were working currently. There were students from the Royal York Hotel, the King Edward Hotel, Top Tier golf courses in rural Barrie, resorts in the Muskoka region. All incredible places chefs would kill to work at. He pointed at me.

There was no escape, I might as well double down, I raised my voice decidedly louder than others in the room and proudly stated my work place in Thunder Bay, Ontario!

Chef Gozzi's eyes lit up, he worked where I worked in the '70s. He told some stories and said thank you Chef Lankinen. I was on his radar. Now the pressure was on.

Derek Lankinen is an award-winning chef, author, and restaurateur. He is the Owner/Operator of Beefcake's Burger Factory and Co-Owner of Elite Beef, Eat Loco Tacos and Brick and Mortar Food Co.



Derek Lankinen

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Never-ending walleye search

High-water levels mean anglers will have to adapt on Northern Ontario waterways this summer

A late ice-out and heavy rains have left us with some extremely high water levels in Northwestern Ontario. Kakabeka Falls and the Current River are drawing a lot of people to see their raging flows. In fact, every waterway on the north shore of Superior has seen some flooding conditions over the past two weeks. Of course, now that the ice has melted, we are seeing that many of our lakes will also be exceptionally high this year.



Keith Ailey
the GOOD LIFE

Well, it is very likely that we will have to adapt to be successful with our fishing.

Here in Northwestern Ontario, Walleye fishing season opens each year on the third Saturday in May. Over the first few weeks of the season, anglers headed to their favourite lakes to target a limit of golden walleye will likely need to adjust their usual

strategy. Back in the first week of May, the temperature was still below the freezing point every night and several feet of ice remained on

most lakes. This had many anglers thinking the walleye could be late with their spawn compared to last year. Then came a lot rain and a full week of summer-like warmth. So, now what should we expect for the walleye opener?

We know for sure that the water will be high, but we should not rely on the fish be in their usual spots.

The most-popular lakes have well-established springtime hotspots where boats will congregate because they rarely fail to cough up limits of walleye. However, when Mother Nature throws us a curve ball, or a series of them in the case of this spring, we often discover that the fish are

not where we expected them to be. This is the time to go exploring.

It is always wise to start at a proven location on the lake, but when our favourite spot fails to produce, a willingness to move can often save the day. With a late spring and high water, we will probably need to have a backup plan. If the spots we caught walleye last May are quiet, it might pay off to focus in on the structure closest to a major inflow. If there is a river entering our target lake, it could pay off to fish around the mouth or even into the river itself if it is not a sanctuary.

When our lake is lacking a major

inflow, early season walleye hotspots to look for might include wind-blown shorelines, rocky points, and any narrows or bottleneck areas that create a current. As well, shallow rocky reefs surrounded by deep water could be the structure walleye are favouring.

Walleye are typically very predictable and we can often catch them in the same spots each year. However, when they are not where we expected to find them, we need to change our game plan. Knowing where to look, and having the willingness to search until we find the fish, will likely be the keys to success this opening weekend.

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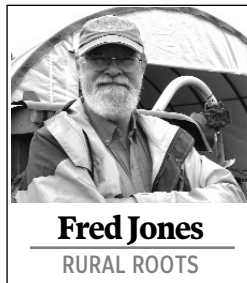
michael's
HAIR DESIGN & DAY SPA

Spring has arrived

And now, suddenly summer! How about that? Where did spring go?

Spring was delayed and delayed; then we had a gradual warming and then wham! The temperature soared to t-shirt weather. Friday and Saturday the thermometer read plus 31 out here on the farm. My wife, Laura, recalled one summer that was cold and very wet. The joke was: "I hope we get summer on a weekend this year." Now she piped up: "I hope we get Spring on a weekend this year." Just kidding.

We've had a spring, sort of. Late is better than none. The melt was slow and then storms with lots and lots of rain. Driving around the highways and rural roads anywhere there is a stream or rivulet, the usual spring runoff has been a torrent. Photos of Kakabeka Falls have been magnificent with all that water plunging over the edges. But the falls I



Fred Jones

RURAL ROOTS

wanted to journey to is Silver Falls, also incredible to see during the runoff. This spring because of all the rain, what photos people have posted show a phenomenal froth of gushing water. I've been there a couple of times to see but a small trickle of water gently flowing over the edge. But, alas, too many chores and/or errands to allow for such an undertaking.

The sudden heat has prompted the resurgence of green, growing things. Pussy willows and Saskatoon flowers have started to show.

It took a few days for all that rainwater



The tree leaves have started budding.

to be absorbed into the ground to reveal all the dog doo-dos I had to pick up which I did. Now we no longer have to play hopscotch while keeping a wary eye on the lookout for doggy land mines as we trod over to the vegetable garden.

Speaking of the vegetable garden: in the previous column I mentioned how impatient Laura has been to get digging in dirt, to plant onions, peas, carrots, lettuce, kale, et al. Since we've suddenly shifted into summer (or so it seems), the dirt in those permanent, raised beds Laura created all last summer, has thawed sufficiently enough for her to plant. She took me on a guided tour Saturday to show me where she had planted. Amazing how she can spot the tiniest shoot poking its head above the earth.

"See those two orik plants coming up?" she asked. "Er... Where again?" I

muttered. Sure enough, when I crouched low (ouch! My back!) I beheld two specks of purplish colour. That is the difference twixt the trained gardening eye (Laura) and the untrained (moi).

Last Thursday evening I chanced to gaze out our living room window over in the direction of the beaver pond. What I saw were two, large, white blobs. What the heck? So, I grabbed the binoculars and focused on the 'blobs'. Good heavens! Swans? In our beaver pond?

I grabbed the telephone and called my all-things-bird expert, Dan Ratcliff, who publishes a column on birds in the weekend paper.

"You've got a pair of Trumpeter swans, I'll bet," he replied.

But aren't they rare and not native to this part of the world, I asked? "They are coming back and recently more and more have been spotted in this area," he answered, "You might find them nesting in your pond." What? Really?

Very exciting news, that.

But Friday I saw them wing their way up from the pond and head north. Oh well. T'was a nice dream. However, Saturday Laura said that she saw them fly back and land on the pond. So, perhaps we will be blessed with a mating pair that produce youngun's this summer.

I took the binoculars and walked to the edge of the pond Sunday afternoon. I only saw one of the swans, tail up, obviously rooting for weeds and whatever else swans eat.

Reminded me of that "Wind in the Willows" poem: "All along the backwater, Through the rushes tall, Ducks are a-dabbling, Up tails all." Just substitute "swan" for "ducks"

We will have to keep tabs to see if swan lings appear this summer. I'll let you know.



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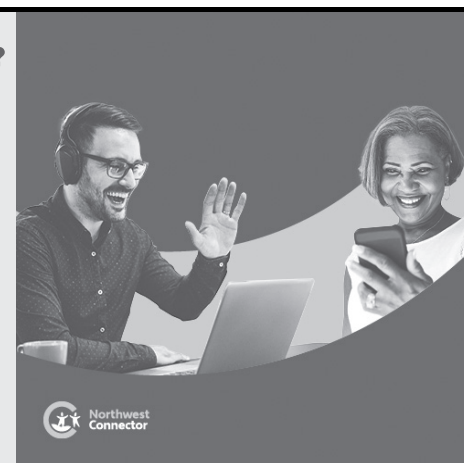
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Alice lives on in Wonderland

By Linda Maehans - TB Source

First penned by Lewis Carroll (1865); then adapted for live-theatre by Andrea Jacobsen; now the long-lived and best amateur troupe-of-thespians here in the Lakehead are poised and ready. They won't be late, for a very important date!

Cambrian Players present an unforgettable show for all ages. By a cast of two dozen, ages seven to 75 if you're curious (of course you are), less the one forgotten. That one's Alice. She's in Wonderland.

How odd: what vivid dreams. How does human memory contain all of life's wondrous surprises and complexities? Go ask Alice, she's there. In a world of white rabbits-in-waistcoats; red queens; grinning Cheshire cats; games-of-croquet,

and chess. At least in that game, thinks Alice, only pawns can't move in any but one direction. As does Time. But, no, Time can move forward or backward. How fortunate, thinks Alice: the human mind, so flexible, will always find a way. Time? Well, it's only one of myriad dimensions.

"Alice, at its heart, is a story about identity," notes Cambrian's Thomas McDonald, wearing the director's-hat this time around. "A tale of belonging; and yes, the passage of time. These past few years I think we've all felt a bit frozen-in-time. That's why this show is so very timely for everyone. This could be a child's 'first Alice', or someone's visit to Wonderland for the 100th time. I predict audiences will return home with two wonderful stories: the one Lewis Carroll first imagined



Cambrian Players' Alice in Wonderland until May 29.

and created; another that's real, with deep meaning and heart."

Enter the Tweedle's. Don and

Dolores (Dee for short) Tweedle; played by Barb Philp and Norm McDougall. You already know who they've become for Alice. Barb, as Tweedle-Dee, sounds wistful. "We were about three when we first met; Alice was my next door neighbour.

Our mom's took us to the same school. Back then kids got to walk to school, so one day it would be my mom, the next her mom would bring us. Yes, we both had good childhoods. Ever since, we've kept in touch with letters.

Visiting Alice now, in this 'home', oh that sounds awful doesn't it, I know this isn't what she wanted. But we get the chess board out, I can tell she's remembering how we used to play. It does my heart good to think I'm being the best friend I can be for my dear Alice. There's a light in her eyes. I can see it. She knows

who I am: ever her Tweedle-dee."

Norm, or Tweedle-dum, speaks quietly. "Alice? She was brilliant, and funny. With such a passion for life. It's hard, now, to see her confused about what is real and what is not."

And yet. As adults we revise and re-shape our memories all the time. As children, well, the imagination knows no limits. Really, at any age that's the wonder-part of Wonderland.

The May 28 show also live-streamed for at-home audiences. The 29th matinee performance and Mad Hatter's Tea is sold-out.

Cambrian Players' *Alice in Wonderland* invites everyone to 818 Spring Street from May 18-21, and May 25-29; all shows 7:30 p.m. Tickets @ cambrian-players.eventbrite.com.

Do you have an opinion to share?
E-mail the editor at ldunick@dougallmedia.com




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BMUTX JBXMPF ZXJ TUHHJB BMUTX
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— TJHGATQAF

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Film gets a failing grade

In the high school satire, *Senior Year*, (Netflix) Australian comedienne Rebel Wilson plays Stephanie, a 37-year-old woman who awakens from a 20-year coma, the result of a high school cheer-leading flip gone wrong.

Trouble is, while her body has 'matured,' Stephanie is mentally landlocked as a 17-year-old, aghast to find that she was robbed of her ultimate high school goal to be prom queen.

Stephanie goes home with her supportive, widowed dad (Chris Parnell), determined to recapture her adolescent dreams. Fantasy bureaucracy enables her to return to Harding High for the final month leading to prom. In so doing, old friendships and bitter rivalries that characterized her senior year are re-kindled.

Therein lies the dubious but sporadically amusing premise of this temporal fish-out-of-water story.

Thus, we have "cluelessness" on two fronts The film begins promisingly with Anjourie Rice, very funny as a teenage Stephanie, who's an Australian immigrant gorged on American pop culture in

her new upscale school, blissfully self-absorbed, angling to be the most popular girl, vying to become cheerleading captain.

She's also competing for both the hottest boy and the prom queen title with young Tiffany (Anna Yi Puig), inadvertently sidelining her pals Seth (Zaire Adams) and Martha (Molly Brown.)

Returning to school, Wilson is a decidedly older looking woman dressed like an over-aged Spice Girl, trying to fit in all over again, who didn't get the memo about remedial adult education classes.

Stephanie's old pals are conveniently employed at Harding High. 'Older' Martha (Mary Holland) is the prim principal. 'Older' Seth (Sam Richardson) is the genial school librarian.

The film extends Stephanie's utter cluelessness as a youth to her 'older' physical manifestation now confronted with a totally foreign politically correct teen culture and a social media obsessed landscape.

The breezy opening half happily mocks both our hapless protagonist and the Gen-Z teens she befriends. In one

instance, Stephanie's stunned to find that everyone's a captain on the socially conscious cheerleading squad who chants about gun control.

Stephanie's then horrified to discover that the prom king and queen competition has been banned. Undeterred, she campaigns to revive the contest, reigniting a ridiculous rivalry with her 'older' unhappily married nemesis, Tiffany (Zoe Chao).

Rice has some giddy moments in the first half. Wilson pushes through with her funny, tactless persona. However, the film sputters in the second act as the premise runs aground. Steph has romantic considerations with two males from her past, who are now mid-30s adults. But she's still mentally a teen. This doesn't square with the premise—unless Steph is growing up psychologically REAL fast.

Towards conclusion, Stephanie gets some sage life advice from cabbie Deanna, (Alicia "Clueless": Silverstone in a nicely placed in-joke) who was once Steph's idol, in a message-heavy last act.

Senior Year struggles for a passing grade, thanks to Anjourie Rice and Rebel Wilson. For the screenwriters though: welcome to summer school.



Marty Mascarín
MOVIE TALK

- ACROSS**
- Conjunction (abbr.)
 - Wheel projection
 - Applelike tree
 - Wings
 - Botanist Gray
 - Deep
 - Glacial trough
 - Half-boot
 - Sly look
 - Son of Chaos
 - Interweave
 - Shak, contraction
 - Harem room
 - Muslim fast month

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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- DOWN**
- Herring barrel
 - Whistling swan
 - Son of Loki
 - Jumping rodent
 - Windlass
 - King of Judah
 - Camera lens
 - Soldier (Fr.)
 - Son of Ruth
 - Whirl
 - Cow shelter
 - Ger. conjunction
 - Commotion
 - Stool pigeon
 - Amer.
 - Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
 - Indo-Chin.
 - Bow
 - According to (2 words)
 - Tenth of a sen
 - Hitherto
 - Fortification
 - Low-grade brown sugar
 - Eur. Economic Community (abbr.)
 - Rage
 - Sp. peninsula
 - Biblical juniper tree
 - Grape syrup
 - Method
 - Adjective-forming (suf.)
 - Moselle tributary
 - Yemen capital
 - Irish exclamation
 - Television channel

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Introducing The Rookie, Part 2

This spring, ABC used its hit Nathan Fillion cop show, *The Rookie*, to introduce another rookie in the making. The two-part back-door pilot focused on a school counsellor-turned-FBI trainee, Simone Clark, played by Niecy Nash who was brought in to help the L.A.P.D. (One of her former students had built a bomb. It happens.)

I know. Just what we need: another 40-plus year old making a major life change by moving into law enforcement with the young-uns. In fact, Nash and Fillion's John Nolan lamented the constant physical challenges when compared to the 20-year-old trainees. Didn't we already hash this out in Season 1?

Yet, based on the ratings, fans loved it. It's not that television needs *The Rookie: Part Deux*. But Nash is so darn enjoyable to watch as Simone. She sees the world in shades of grey instead of black and white. She's the approachable school counsellor who understands both academia and the real world. She's

got decades of life experience and a father who's totally unsupportive of her goals. So she's surrounded by friends and family while simultaneously, being completely alone in life.

As for Nash, herself, the role is tailor-made. Simone is funny, frank, fresh and full of flaws. And that's Nash to a "T" (or an "F").

Also, with the generally negative sentiment toward law enforcement and the demand for change, the idea of John Nolan's rookie was certainly timely. But let's face it. A woke, older white male cop isn't going to make a huge dent in the stereotype.

But a sassy, opinionated black woman? That's changing the image. Especially in the FBI. Just saying those initials conjures up a skinny guy, white shirt, dark tie, and a severe haircut. And that's definitely not Simone.

Which brings me to what I absolutely love about Nash: she's not your typical Hollywood leading lady. A supporting character? A comedic foil? Sure. But

the star of her own show? Until now, it wasn't likely.

Nash is 52, black, and very curvy. And as a woman, I really want to know where she got her undergarments because they defied gravity. I've never seen a brassiere stand up so well to that kind of stunt work. Even my 80-something mother thought her bra was being auditioned for the part as much as Nash was.

So I would be thrilled to see a Simone-spin-off this fall. Her character certainly has a lot of room to develop. She's new, still learning, and her own father was falsely incarcerated. So she's walking a fine line between old school and "defund the police."

The as-yet-untitled backdoor pilot also introduced the local senior agent, Garza, who wanted to start a new specialized team that did things differently. A perfect fit for a potential new agent who doesn't fit the mold.

Of course, the writers will have to be surgically-precise in wading through today's politics. But if anyone can serve up tough topics and make them more palatable, it's Niecy Nash.



Fiona Gardiner
FI TV

DefSup produces Redux exhibit

By Linda Maehans - TB Source

Many things have been shut down, downright squelched, by an unwelcome visitor (COVID) these past couple of years; leaving few places for vibrant creativity to manifest itself. Yet here in Thunder Bay some incredibly diverse visual commentary returns in “technicolour” and all under one roof, namely the vaulted ceilings and airy spaces of Definitely Superior Art-on-Cumberland.

Two cohorts of graduates from LU’s Visual Arts Department have at last their bright day-in-the-sun. Nine artists, on new thresholds of their professional goals, showcase their achievements with ample evidence of how far they might in future go. No less than 60 works are featured in the Retrograduate Redux 2021/2022 exhibition; many if not most are pieces you’ll not have had the pleasure of seeing before. Lucky viewers!

“Redux has many meanings,” says DefSup’s director David Karasiewicz.

“Here it’s a re-mix; the grads from the past two years have combined



Definitely Superior’s Retrograduate Redux 2021/2022 is on display through June 4.

final works with pieces from their earlier student-days-in-studio. Basically they’ve curated themselves; individually and as a group.

An enterprise I’d say was nicely challenging for them, to start their careers and set them off on all sorts of future possibilities and

successes.”

He should know. At the helm of a provincially award-winning, nationally recognized art collective for many years now, alongside this grads’ show Karasiewicz points to another special occasion at Definitely Superior Art these days. May marks the gallery’s 34th anniversary in the city and region. So happy birthday to DefSup, too.

As mentioned, with the Redux Grad Exhibit of 2021/2022 there’s so very much to look at and take in. Many pieces are three-dimensional; some absolutely lovely, others spooky to the point where caution or warning is an understatement.

The environment and nature are over-riding themes: no surprise there, considering how artists are barometers for the world in which we all live.

The eye-to-hand skill of these artists is impossible to miss. Be charmed by a “field” of waist-high purple thistles crowned by miniature Valais Blacknose sheep and Scottish Highland cows.

Cheer for the big cat crouched in a forest-landscape atop a yellow

Caterpillar tree de-limber; hey, you can even turn a crank to move significant parts of wildlife-vs-machine.

Gaze at a series of watercolours rendered in a familiar woodland-style yet somehow imbued with an eerily futuristic vibe. Or if you prefer, take an Impressionist post-rainfall walk (or drive) along “Road to Mount McKay”: you can almost smell the musky aroma of wet autumn leaves as you wipe off the windshield of your vehicle or your hikers. And throughout of course, COVID should be in your rear-view mirror.

“Artists are always pursuing a vision for the future; certainly the environment appears to be of great concern (in this show). Nature is beautiful; we all want that. With the diversity of materials these grads have used, we see how powerful an exhibit this is,” remarks Karasiewicz. “It will have you wondering.”

Congratulations to: Hanna Marion, Taylor Anderson, Nathan Cross, Katie Untinen, Christopher Rantala, Brynn Monteith, Julia Mills, Camille Vernier and Erika Niva.

They’re at DefSup until June 4.

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Olympians deliver

By Leith Dunick –TB Source

Earlier this year, Mackenzie Boyd-Clowes and Matthew Soukup helped make Canadian ski jumping history.

The duo, along with teammates, Abigail Strate and Alexanderia Loutitt, captured bronze at this year's Winter Olympic Games in Beijing, the first medal of any kind for Canada in an Olympic ski jumping competition.

On Monday they journeyed to Fort William First Nation Arena to share their story with school children, encouraging them to follow their dreams despite any obstacles that might present themselves – like the lack of funding their sport has received recently from the Canadian Olympic Committee.

Soukup, who trains in Slovenia because of a lack of facilities in Canada, said they're also hoping to create more local interest in ski jumping and support the efforts of another former Olympian, Fort William First Nation's Steve Collins, who is trying to revitalize the sport at ski hills across the country.

The 24-year-old Calgary native said they went to Beijing with an eye on the mixed ski jumping event, one they had an inkling they could do well at. They had no idea they'd wind up on the podium.

"I think we surpassed all expectations. It was a one-of-a-kind event. It's unbelievable, still unbelievable," Soukup said.

Canada has a long history with ski jumping, but never found success at the Olympics. Collins winning a World Cup event in Finland in 1980, finishing third in the Lou Marsh Trophy voting behind Terry Fox and Wayne Gretzky.

It made the Olympic win that much



Matthew Soukup, Steve Collins, Mackenzie Boyd-Clowes and John Cameron. (Leith Dunick)

more special, Soukup said, knowing how much effort Canada's ski jumping trailblazers put in to make the 2022 Olympic dream a reality.

"It means everything," Soukup said. "There are those in the ski jumping community that know how much this means for us. It's an absolute honour and the medal is definitely theirs as well. It's shared among the whole community."

Boyd-Clowes, a four-time Olympian, anchored Team Canada, soaring just far enough and sticking the landing to earn the points needed to take third place.

"I knew the hill well enough that I had the confidence just to let go and trust in myself. I kind of knew it was going to be enough. I kind of had that feeling it was going to be enough and it all worked out," he said.

Their message resonated with Collins, who represented Canada at the

Olympics in 1980, 1984 and 1988.

Collins, who also won World Cup silver at Thunder Bay's Big Thunder in 1981, said without athletes like Boyd-Clowes and Soukup, there are no sporting dreams for children, which is why he's trying to bring the sport back to Thunder Bay.

But it can't be him alone, he said.

"These kids here, they didn't have the support, with Canada behind their back. They fundraised for all their own travel. It's incredible how hard that must have been, let alone to compete at that level.

"(Canada) has to step it up for the athletes and Team Canada, for sure. It was a downfall when they closed Big Thunder. It was disappointing the money they put into the world championships and then shut it down and killed all the dreams for Canadians and younger children."

Second round looks fantastic

The final eight are set for the NHL theme in the pool. The second round should prove interesting.

Here's how I see it.

Colorado vs. St. Louis: I think the Avalanche, my pick to win it all, and their firepower will outlast the depth of the Blues and Thunder Bay's Robert Bortuzzo, seeing regular action this spring.



Leith Dunick
SPORTS SHORTS

Calgary vs. Edmonton: The Flames are a more complete team and have better goal-

tending, but I have a sneaking suspicion Connor McDavid is out to prove something and the Oilers are going to take it in seven.

Florida vs. Tampa Bay: The Panthers struggled to score against Washington. The Lightning are two time champs who have a better goalie, and I think they'll edge them out in six.

Carolina vs. New York: The Rangers were outplayed by Pittsburgh, but rallied from a 3-1 deficit to pull out the series. The Hurricanes also struggled, but I think they'll take it in six.

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