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ONTARIO VOTES

Inside see profiles of the candidates running in Thunder Bay-Atikokan and Thunder Bay-Superior North, a chance to get to know them and what they stand for before you cast your ballot /8-24



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An Elections Ontario worker puts up voting signs outside the Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre. Advance voting is under way and Election Day is June 2. (Leith Dunick)

Fraser won't run in Neebing

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Neebing Coun. Cody Fraser will not seek a second term on city council, he has told TBnewswatch.

Fraser called serving on council the honour of his life, but said as a young legal professional hoping to start a family, the workload had become unsustainable.

"I didn't come by the decision lightly - it was probably one of the most difficult decisions I've ever had to make," he said. "However, I'm getting married this summer, I'm beginning a new chapter in my life, and I think it's a good time for me to take a step back."

"For me, the pace I was at as far as work-life balance... there wasn't much balance, if any."

The decision could be a blow to

age diversity on council, with Fraser, who turns 30 this year, the youngest sitting member by about a decade.

He hopes the Oct. 24 election will see other younger candidates elected, but acknowledged there are serious challenges to youth participation.

A desire to see his generation represented - and dispel the narrative that millennials are apathetic - was one motivation for his 2018 run, in which he improbably unseated incumbent Linda Rydholm.

"I would really like to see a young professional take my seat," he said. "Part of why I'm announcing quite early is to give folks who are hemming and hawing, but maybe they don't want to run against an incumbent, the opportunity to get organized."

Thunder Bay's city council is not necessarily friendly to youth participation, he acknowledged.

"It certainly is a friendly place as far as the supports you get, everyone's kind," he said. "But is the job conducive to people who [are] starting a career, starting a family? It certainly is not."

It's not an easy problem to fix without drastically reshaping a model in which all of council's 13 members, save the mayor, are considered part-time employees.

"I think the only way you could rectify that would be to have it be a full-time position that pays well enough to attract someone of that calibre to leave their job and go do it," he said. "Short of that, I think

as a part-time job it will always attract business owners with flexible schedules and folks who are retired - that's just the truth of the matter.

It's a full-time job with part-time pay."

The gig may be a challenge for those starting a career or a family, he acknowledged, but he encouraged other young people considering a run to jump in feet first.

"I'd like to think my experience - me running and winning - can show people you can do this, it is possible as a young person, as a young professional," he said.

Looking back on his single term on council, he said he had found constituency work, helping indi-

vidual residents resolve concerns, surprisingly rewarding.

He also pointed to a successful push to allocate funds toward the city's infrastructure gap and the launch of a secondary plan for the Parkdale area as two accomplishments he's proud of.

Asked how he'd grade the current term of council, Fraser said he'd assign an A-

"We had a pandemic to deal with... and I thought we managed quite well. The only reason I don't give an A or an A+ is I think sometimes we struggled with our procedure, sometimes we forgot to stay on point."

Fraser expressed frustration during council meetings, worrying about that lengthy debates and stalled decision-making could undermine the community's faith in council.



CODY FRASER

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EDITORIAL

Time to vote

Election Day is almost here and your best way to get the government you want is to vote.

It's that simple.

Despite what Tucker Carlson and his ilk would have you believe, Canada remains one of the most free nations on the planet.

Unlike the U.S., where politicians gerrymander electoral boundaries to rig the vote in favour of one party or another, Canadians can rest assured knowing their vote matters.

While it is possible for a party to get the most votes and still lose, it's highly unlikely at the provincial level.

It's reassuring to know that the will of the people, regardless of what the result may be, is the rule of the land.

In other countries (not the United States, by the way), votes are rigged, candidates have little chance of winning and the people have no say.

You may not like the result, but by voting, at least you've given your choice a chance. Take the time to research all the candidates and see which one suits you best.

Democracy is alive and well in Canada and the best way to keep it that way is by voting.

It's your way to have a say in how the country is run.

Stop the insanity To the editor:

Workers of the world unite. It's time to vote for, wait for it, the Conservatives. That's right. The Conservatives are the only party on the side of the working man, woman, or non-binary individual.

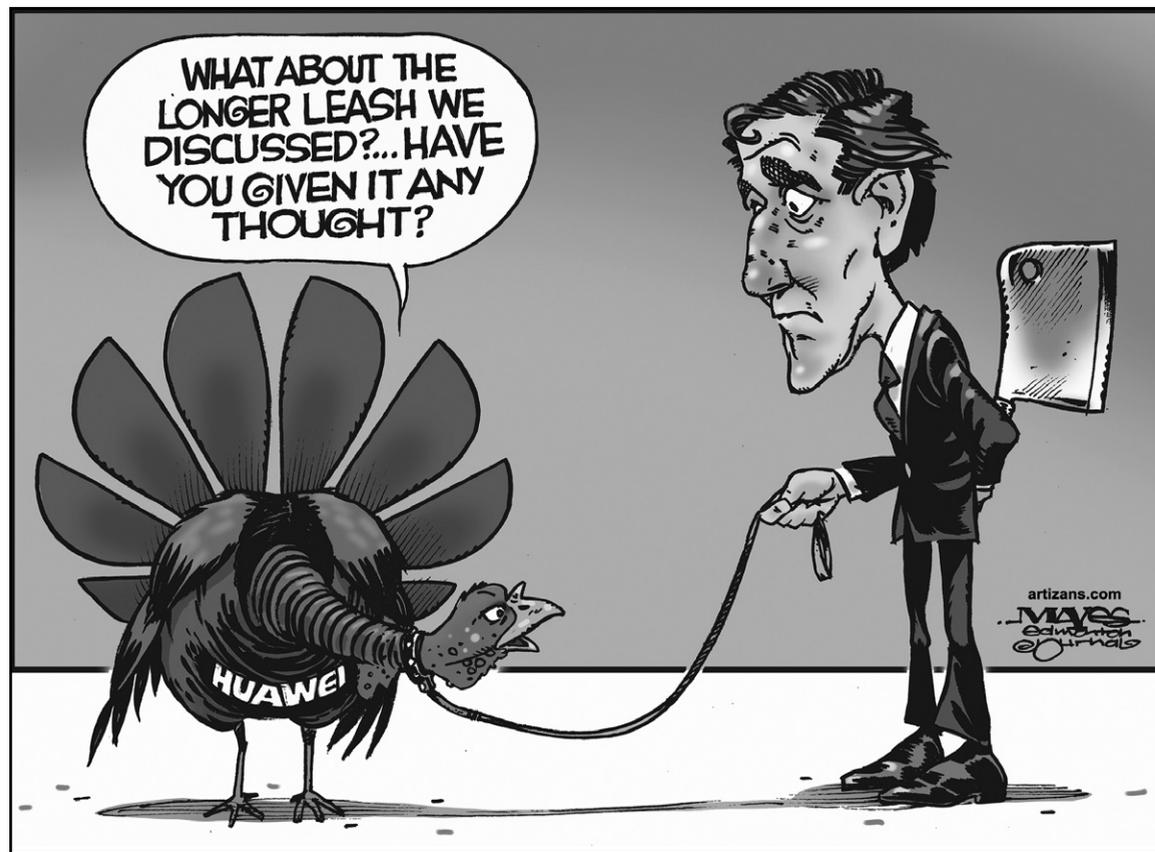
Oh sure, the NDP claim to be on the side of workers. That ended when Jagmeet Singh sided with Justin Trudeau's plan to fire any federal worker that didn't get vaccinated against Covid. So much for protecting worker rights.

Doug Ford imposed no such onerous violations on Provincial workers. Only the Conservatives seem to care about protecting personal rights.

The Liberals and NDP are tripping over each other trying to invent new ways to spend your tax dollars. Only the Conservatives understand the economic truth. The only way government can stimulate the economy is with tax cuts. That benefits working people the most, you know, the ones that actually pay the taxes.

Liberals are motivated by self interest. The NDP gave up on working people in favour of special

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



interest. Only the Conservatives seem to understand the concept of making ends meet, something

every worker in Ontario already knows.

James Sutherland,
Thunder Bay

George Blake's story one well worth telling

The Happy Traitor: spies, lies and exile in Russia by Simon Kuper is the extraordinary story of George Blake.

In 1961 Blake was sentenced to 42 years imprisonment - at the time, the longest sentence in modern British history.

He had betrayed all the western spying operations that he knew about to the KGB. This included the names of hundreds of British agents working around the world. About forty of them are believed to have been executed.

Blake was a charming and intelligent man, a loving husband and father. But he was also a ruthlessly efficient mole, and the key player in the infamous 'Berlin Tunnel' opera-

tion. Alfred Hitchcock found his story so fascinating that he decided to make his last film about him.

This riveting biography tracks Blake from his beginnings as a teenage courier for the Dutch resistance during the Second World War, to his sensational prison break from Wormwood Scrubs, to his tranquil old age in a dacha outside Moscow, where Kuper caught up with and interviewed him.

Today, Blake's story is known only to a few experts, and only insofar as anything can be known for certain in

the world of deceit that is spying. MI6 has never made its files on him public. Now that the master spy has died, Kuper sets the story straight.

He unravels who Blake really was, and why he did it, through a combination of personal interview, research in many languages and use of previously unseen Stasi files.

Part of Kuper's interest in Blake is that they both had connections with Holland. Blake adopted his English name when he joined the British Army and was converted to Communism in a North Korean

prisoner of war camp during the Korean War.

On his return to Britain he joined MI6 and became a double spy for the Soviet Union. He believed in communism and spied for ideological rather than financial reasons.

Blake knew that the USSR and People's Democracies of Eastern Europe could only build socialism if they were left in peace by the western imperialists. Much of his espionage work was aimed at avoiding a Third World War. He worked for peace and socialism.

The 'Berlin Tunnel' was built by the West under East Berlin to listen in to Soviet communications. When Blake revealed its existence he gave

the USSR the advantage of knowing that America and Britain were monitoring their every word.

Blake's escape over the prison wall and hideout just yards from the Scrubs and his journey to East Berlin hidden under a car seat are the stuff of James Bond novels.

In Moscow he made good friends with Maclean and Philby, two fellow British spies. He missed his wife and three children, but started a new life and had a Russian family.

It is difficult to assess the true contribution that Blake made to world communism but it is clear that his story, unlike that of the Cambridge Five, has been mostly unrecognized to date.



John Pateman
BOOK BANTER

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Collections, varied and weird

By JR Shermack

It has been said that one person's trash is another person's treasure or to put it another way, one person's trivia can sometimes be another's magnificent obsession.

An interesting hobby is a good way to relax and one favorite pastime is collecting something, anything that intrigues you and captures your imagination for a while.

It might be stamps, coins, baseball cards or something more offbeat like airplane barf bags, sticky banana labels or even belly button fluff.

Somebody, somewhere collects each of these things and many will share pictures and trade interesting finds with like-minded people on web sites and chat lines.

And in case you were wondering, an Australian man actually "harvested" 22.1 grams of his own personal naval lint over a 26-year period, a Guinness World Record.

Obviously some collections are strange or even bizarre while others may be common, everyday

collectibles like rocks or figurines or lapel pins.

Also old beer cans, collectible Cheetos shaped like celebrities, breakfast cereal boxes, 'Do Not Disturb' signs, and door knobs.

There is no real explanation why certain people are compelled to collect specific objects which are of little interest or value to others.

But when an avid hobbyist discovers hidden wealth in their collection they sometimes lead to business ventures and money-making opportunities.

Vintage toys appeal to nostalgic hobbyists and some collections of toy box favorites rekindle fond childhood memories.

The first Hot Wheels were released by Mattel in 1968, a set of 16 cars including custom models of the Camaro, Barracuda, Mustang, Thunderbird and Volkswagen Beetle.

Hot Wheels aficionados affectionately refer to this vintage collection as the Sweet Sixteen - they were Toyland's hottest new playthings then and are still in demand today.



Shreya Mohapatra documents and keeps every mosquito she's ever killed and shares the results on her Instagram Page.

Since 1968 Mattel has released more than six billion cars in twenty thousand different models which

fuels a small but mighty, and very lucrative, collector's market.

Cars that originally sold for \$0.59 each are now worth up to \$150,000 - the world's most valuable collection contains 7,000 rare Hot Wheels and is insured for \$1.5 million.

I am not a collector but sometimes when I go through a junk drawer or an old box of knick-knacks I come across a classic Hot Wheels from years gone by.

They still hold a little of that old boyhood fascination - I don't know what they're worth and they aren't insured but my grandkids still drive them.

Vroom, vroom!

Some offbeat hobbyists collect things they have plucked away from the natural world like flowers, butterflies or believe it or not, mosquitoes.

Shreya Mohapatra lives in India, a country plagued by disease carrying mosquitoes - she has accidentally acquired a practical and very useful hobby.

One day while she was studying

for exams and swatting pesky mosquitoes Shreya decided to collect the carcasses in a bowl on her desk.

She had a natural talent for dispatching the tiny, winged assassins without squashing them or causing unsightly disfigurement.

That allowed her to catalogue her kills and paste their tiny, intact remains into a notebook which she shares through social media with a few thousand followers.

At last count she had collected and mounted 187 mosquitoes which coincidentally is about the same number inside my tent at bedtime whenever I go camping.

In the morning I sweep the tent floor and collect the victims in a dustpan.

Not all people are hobbyists but most of us have collections of something or other gathering dust in drawers and on shelves.

And for those who decide to turn a collection into a hobby (even unsavory ones like barf bags and belly button fluff) it is a magnificent obsession.

what's happening
in and around...

The Bay

To submit an event, email ldunick@dougallmedia.com.
Please include details about the event, including any cost

May 27

PRO Kids Quiz Night

It's back and this time it's personal. PRO Kids Quiz nights, hosted by Giant Quiz, takes place at the Columbus Center. Tickets are \$60 per person and you and up to eight teammates will try to guess general trivia while dining on pasta, meatballs, chicken and salad.

All proceeds will support PRO Kids, which helps families whose children otherwise might not be able to take part in extra-curricular activities.

The event begins at 6 p.m and lasts through 10 p.m.

May 26-27

Newsies Jr. at the Paramount

Based on the Disney film, with music by Alan Menken, and the book by Harvey Fierstein, it's the story of a charismatic newspaper delivery boy named Jack Kelly, who rallies newsies from across the city to strike against unfair conditions.

Songs include Carrying the Banner, Seize the Day and Santa Fe.

The show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$16.93 and available through eventbrite.ca.

May 27-28

Heatwave '22 at NV Music Hall

The amazing Dj Tokyo and Dj Mo bringing in the heat with all the hottest tracks at Heatwave '22 at NV Music Hall.

Tickets are \$11.62 to \$16.93 and are available at eventbrite.ca.

The show stars at 10 p.m. both nights.

May 28

D&D with SM Isaac

A four-week campaign for \$80, it's a chance to play Dungeons and Dragons with one of the city's best. Hosted by Thunder Games and Gifts, the fun starts at noon and includes a Chessex 7 die set, four snacks and four drinks.

May 27-29

Hike for Hospice

There will be an in-person and a virtual event this year, the major fundraiser for Hospice Northwest.

The in-person event takes place at 11 a.m. on Sunday at Current River Park, while the virtual hike can take place anytime from May 27 to May 29.

For more information, email them at hike@hospicenorthwest.ca.

May 30-31

Once Upon a Mattress

Directed by Marcia Arpin, Once Upon a Mattress will be presented at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium on Monday and Tuesday night.

It's based on the book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller and Marshall Barer and is a humorous take on Hans Christian Andersen's The Princess and the Pea.

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

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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Del Duca talks highway fixes

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Liberal Leader Steven Del Duca has recommitted to designating Highway 11 and Highway 17 Class 1 highways.

Del Duca made the pledge on Sunday morning during a brief visit to Thunder Bay's Goods and Co. Market, where he visited with supporters and local business owners, even stopping to serve up bagels to hungry followers.

However, he fought back when asked why he didn't make the move when he was Ontario's Minister of Transportation from 2014 to 2018.

"Look, right now, I'm running to be premier. I'm not running to be a senior cabinet minister and what I learned in my time at the MTO is that we need to do more to support highway and road safety and maintenance throughout the province, including here in and around Thunder Bay, across the North, across the Northwest," Del Duca said, flanked by Thunder Bay-Superior North candidate Shelby Ch'ng and Thunder Bay-Atikokan hopeful Rob Barrett.

"That's why we've made this decision as part of our platform."

Better maintenance

The designation as a Class 1 highway would set strict standards for maintenance on both Highway 11 and Highway 17, requiring inspections three times every seven days and snow removal equipment must be deployed once 2.5 centimetres of snow has accumulated.



Liberal Leader Steven Del Duca visits with local business owners at Goods and Co. Market during a campaign stop last Sunday. (Leith Dunick)

Repairs must also be made more quickly, including potholes, road cracks and shoulder drop-offs.

Highways in Ontario's north have been put under the microscope this past year, with a number of fatalities and several more near misses, including multiple instances at Siston's Corner, where Highway 102 and Highway 11/17 intersect.

Asked if it was a mistake not to

do it earlier, Del Duca said he's looking forward, not in the rear-view mirror.

"This isn't what happened several years ago. It's about where we are right now and how we make this province, including the Northwest, strong and safe and secure for the people that we're honoured to represent," he said.

Del Duca broached a number of topics during his campaign visit,

which also included a private meeting with Fort William First Nation Chief Peter Collins and a stop at Fresco's Deli on Frederica Street.

Del Duca said it's readily apparent Ontario's Indigenous people are facing serious challenges and promised to reinstate a stand-alone ministry responsible for Indigenous relations and reconciliation.

"I think it was a horrible mistake on the part of the current government, the Ford Conservatives, to get rid of that exclusive and standalone responsibility, given how serious the challenges are," Del Duca said.

Inclusive education

Inclusion in the education system will also be a big plank in the Liberal party platform, should they form government following the June 2 election.

"Our plan has thousands of new units of off-reserve Indigenous housing that we'll build. We have a lot of other ideas around the curriculum in our public school system, to make sure all of our students are learning about our history - both the not-good-at-all, the horrible stories that are part of our history around, for example the residential school system, and how we can work together to make sure we are building a more caring and tolerant society going forward," Del Duca said.

The Liberal leader added there are also measures in the party platform aimed at leaving a lasting economic development opportunity legacy and creating jobs for Indigenous people."

Del Duca re-committed to a ranked-ballot system and said the Liberals would work with the federal government and municipalities to combat a growing guns and gang problem that has hit Thunder Bay, in particular, fairly hard.



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Guns and gangs on Horwath radar

COVID forces NDP Leader to cancel Thunder Bay visit

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Guns are a growing concern in Thunder Bay, fueled by increased gang activity largely related to the lucrative drug trade.

Gang members from Toronto, Ottawa and elsewhere in Canada have infiltrated the illegal narcotics scene in the city, and it's led to more firearms violence and execution-style deaths.

In the past gun deaths in Thunder Bay were rare.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath, who cancelled a planned Friday trip to Thunder Bay after contracting COVID-19, spoke to media in isolation from Toronto and said Thunder Bay's issues aren't dissimilar to those found in larger centres.

Horwath pointed out it's also an issue in Hamilton and in Sudbury, another Northern Ontario community that's proven not immune to drug-related violence.

"A lot of the Northern communities are worried about the same things," Horwath said. "The solutions may look a little different in Northern communities. But the result of not finding the right mixture of policies to address that violence is just going to continue to allow it to proliferate and people lose their lives."

"Young people lose their lives and communities feel unsafe."

Horwath acknowledged there's a growing concern in a community like Thunder Bay, worried about crime and looking for answers and politicians willing to deliver results.

Part of that is addressing poverty issues that often lead people to addiction or into the criminal world, seeking to make a better life for themselves.

"We would be doing similar things, but much more focused and targeted on the needs of the Thunder Bay community. There are certainly structural things - partnering with the federal government, for example in that regard," Horwath said.

"But the kinds of things I was talking about, in terms of how we support communities to be able to provide opportunity and hope for the people that are joining gangs and being part of these unacceptable behaviours, but the solution for Thunder Bay is going to look different from the solution here in the south."

Horwath also addressed her priority list for Northwestern Ontario First Nations, promising to do what it takes to find solutions for water issues and housing shortages in Indigenous communities.

It's unbelievable what many First Nations communities are still addressing, after years and years of experiencing the same problems, Horwath said.



NDP Leader Andrea Horwath planned to visit the city last week.

"Whether that's safe drinking water on the territories, whether that's the housing crisis that continues to be problematic on the territories, whether that's lack of health care and access to proper health care, all of these things are unsolved for many, many years."

Particularly when it comes to water, Horwath said an NDP government won't put up with federal red tape that's led to lengthy boil-water advisories in many communities, some that have lasted for decades.

The jurisdictional ping-pong has to stop.

"What I've always said water, and I now say with housing, we'll start fixing it. We'll get to work, start fixing the water crisis and the housing crisis and we'll send the bill to Ottawa. Because people should not be living in the kinds of conditions that they are and as those conditions worsen and people have difficulty eking out a dignified existence, we see what happens," Horwath said.

"We see when young people lose hope for the future. We know the suicide crisis that's up and down over the last couple of years. No young person should want to die by suicide because there's just no hope and their existence is just so bleak."

Horwath said an NDP government would also work closely with leadership in First Nation communities as well as urban centres like Sioux Lookout, Kenora and Thunder Bay to make sure to provide that dignity and quality of life."

THIS WEEK'S WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			
Cloudy with showers	Mainly sunny	Cloudy with showers	Risk of a thunderstorm
Precipitation: 40% HIGH 17 LOW 6	Precipitation: 20% HIGH 21 LOW 8	Precipitation: 40% HIGH 15 LOW 7	Precipitation: 70% HIGH 13 LOW 9



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Ch'ng follows Gravelle legacy

Veteran councillor steps in for Grits in TB-Superior North

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Shelby Ch'ng says after eight years on Thunder Bay city council, the next logical move is to take her advocacy expertise to Queen's Park.

It's just happening a little earlier than expected.

Ch'ng, who was first elected to council in 2014 as the Northwood ward representative, had earlier turned down an offer from the Liberal Party to run in Thunder Bay-Atikokan, having recently closed her business and moved from one side of town to the other.

Stepped down

But when long-time Liberal MPP and cabinet minister Michael Gravelle announced he was retiring following a second cancer diagnosis in a decade, Ch'ng decided the time was right to step into the provincial political ring

and fight to keep Thunder Bay-Superior North in the Liberal fold, a riding it's held since Gravelle was first elected in 1995.

"I saw Michael not only fighting for his job, but for his life, and I thought, if he has something to give, I have something to give. So when he announced he wasn't running again, I knew it was time to step forward," Ch'ng said.

"I've trained for this for a long time. I have the experience that it takes and I'm not the type of person to sit around and wait for someone else to do the job we all need to get done."

Ch'ng immediately pointed to housing when asked what issue she feels is most pressing in Thunder Bay-Superior North.

She said she was campaigning in areas like Marathon and Terrace Bay and the issue was front and centre.

"Housing prices have increased astronomically. A house in Schreiber is double or triple what it was now, and they don't have the tax base. Even if they had newcomers to come and industry, there's nowhere to house them,"

said Ch'ng, noting banks are reluctant to provide mortgages for homes that cost more to build than they're worth on the open market.

After 15 years in power, from 2003 to 2015, Ch'ng said she realizes there still may be reluctance on the part of voters to trust the Liberal brand again.

Big changes

It's a completely new party, she reminded voters.

"I think we've suffered so much under a Conservative government and selling off all of our public assets to private companies is not something that's tolerable for anybody in Ontario," Ch'ng said. "Even the most diehard Conservative will find at the end of the day that the public service has a role to play to make sure we have service."

Ch'ng also opposes any privatization efforts of health-care, long-term care and education, areas she said the Ford government has decimated in an effort to appeal to the party's most extreme base.

Election Day is June 2.



Two-time Northwood Coun. Shelby Ch'ng is the Liberal candidate in TB-Superior North.

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Liberal



MacKinnon tackling poverty

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Tracey MacKinnon has long fought for the underdog.

The Green Party candidate in Thunder Bay-Superior North, who has also run federally and municipally, is open about her past, saying she was homeless for a time when she first arrived in Thunder Bay.

But with the help of others, she managed to pull herself up and has since become an advocate for a universal basic income, which she believes would help put an end to many of the issues facing a community like Thunder Bay.

MacKinnon took part in a pilot program offered by the previous Liberal government, and fought against the current Ford government's decision to shut it down shortly after being elected to run the province in 2018.

"I chose to run for the Green Party again, mostly for our future generations. I have a grandson, he'll be five years old in October. I want his generation to have a healthy, sustainable Earth and clean air to breathe," MacKinnon said.

With the cost-of-living skyrocketing in recent months, thanks in



Tracey MacKinnon ran federally for the Green Party last year and municipally in 2018. (FILE)

part to the pandemic and Russia's attack on Ukraine, affordability is high on her list of priorities, MacKinnon saying things most of

her generation took for granted may be out of reach a generation or two down the line.

"They should be able to go to

post-secondary school or be able to buy a house some day," she said.

"Everyone deserves to have a safe, secure, affordable, sustain-

able roof over their head, some place to call home," MacKinnon said.

"I lived in downtown Fort William. I see it every day, going to and from city hall and all around that area. There are a lot of homeless people. I was homeless when I first came to Thunder Bay. I know what it's like. I know the struggles. I luckily had some good people in my corner help me not become homeless."

That lived experience can make a difference when trying to develop effective legislation that doesn't just pay lip service to serious issues.

"I'm trying to be the voice for those who don't think they have a voice," MacKinnon said.

Money talks, she added.

"Everybody deserves a basic monthly income," she said.

MacKinnon also believes health care needs attention, pointing to a shortage of personal support workers, doctors and nurses across Ontario, but in particular in the province's northwest region.

"We need more funding for health care and long-term care," she said. "An investment in the community is an investment in the whole city. It's win-win."

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE



RECYCLE

Ontario Party stands for values

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Principles are important to Stephen Hufnagel.

In fact, says the Ontario Party candidate in Thunder Bay-Superior North, he's based his whole life around them.

Now it's time to take them to Queen's Park.

Hufnagel, who lives in Barrie, Ont., said the province needs to live by a strong set of values, not just for families, but for life and society as a whole.

"Up until now, there hasn't been any party that I've seen that has had a platform that they're willing to stand behind that has reflected the same principles and values that we hold to as a family and as Christians," Hufnagel said, reached by Zoom in southern Ontario.

The other parties don't really know what they stand for, changing platform planks each time the wind changes direction.

That's no way to govern, Hufnagel said.

It's especially harmful in the education sector, where his wife teaches kindergarten in the public school system.

"We have seen the education system degraded, not just by the Wynne government, but by the Ford government, that promised to make changes to it and what did he do? He just basically reinstated it. In kindergarten they're not even taught to read or write, in a way that is functional," Hufnagel said.

"They're playing."

Hufnagel said rather than producing children that are able to think, the education system is

producing robots that simply follow instructions.

"Basically everything the (Ontario Party) stands for I can completely agree with," Hufnagel said.

"They're touching on all the important facets of what makes a society thrive."

Hufnagel said it's clear the Northern Ontario economy has been hurt by government policy, an area that needs to be addressed.

"Even the roads, that are critical to the economy in the North, is something the Ontario Party is going to take a stand toward improving," Hufnagel said, promising to make Northern Ontarians voice to the legislature by taking the time to listen.

"Being in politics isn't something for me, it's for the people."



Barrie's Stephen Hufnagel is running for the Ontario Party in Thunder Bay-Superior North.

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Suutari fighting Ontario reforms

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Kathy Suutari is a big believer in individual freedoms.

She also wants to see big reforms in health-care and education, particularly when it comes to making it easier for parents who want to home-school their children to do so.

It's why she's found a home in the New Blue Party, an upstart political party that formed when former Conservative MPP Belinda Karahailos was dumped from caucus and decided to sit as an independent.

The party has vowed to put an end to all COVID-19 mandates and reform education, promising to remove "critical race theory and gender identity theory" from Ontario classrooms.

Rights and freedoms for all are important to everyone said Suutari, who nevertheless isn't quite as anti-mandate as Karahailos and her husband, Jim Karahailos, the New Blue leader.

"I don't necessarily mean taking away COVID mandates. Mandates are not laws, they're



New Blue candidate Kathy Suutari.

just guidelines,' said Suutari, running for the New Blue Party in Thunder Bay-Superior North.

"But I do believe that people have a choice with their own bodies and the right to religion, the right to protest. What the current government did with our

protests on the border to me was just over the top. Federally what they did with the Emergencies Act was even more over the top."

She also wants to push the provincial government to stand up to federal rules restricting the unvaccinated from most commercial travel.

Suutari is also worried about transparency when it comes to hospital finances.

"There's no accountability. Where are the detailed statements about where this money is going?"

Suutari said the best attribute of the New Blue Party is its candidates and leadership actually take the time to not only listen to people and their concerns, but to actually hear them.

"Representation for Thunder Bay, there's none. People don't have a voice. I've got houses on either side of me and of those two houses, people haven't voted for a long time, because they don't trust the system. I believe in order to have a change in the system, the people have got to have a voice," Suutari said.

Cherry's picking freedom

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Adam Cherry wants to do just what his party's name says it will do - build consensus before making decisions at Queen's Park.

Cherry, who once ran a successful music label, says he's a Canadian through and through and plans to do his best, if elected, to make Ontario a better place to live for everyone.

"I plan on strengthening our community safety throughout the Thunder Bay area," Cherry said, in a statement issued to Dougall Media earlier this month.

Cherry, a candidate in Thunder Bay-Superior North,

said Northwestern Ontario has a lot to offer Ontario's economic portfolio, and it's time politicians in southern Ontario were made to realize that and work with the North to ensure the opportunity is not lost.

Continuing with the status quo is not the answer, he said.

"It's obvious that the long-term future of Ontario is its North and the bottom line is only a Consensus (Party) MPP can bring your municipality's true priorities to the decision-makers are Queen's Park. Old-style, top-down party politics will never be

able to present your true needs ahead of their party," Cherry said.

Cherry, in his profile on the Consensus Party website, says he's an exciting and compassionate leader who spent several years in Thunder Bay before relocating to Schreiber where he lives with his wife and four children.

A graduate of Georgian College, he's also worked in marketing and has written several songs.

Prior to moving to Northern Ontario, he was a candidate for municipal council in southern Ontario.



ADAM CHERRY

Health-care top NDP issue

Second-time candidate Lise Vaugeois says it's time for a riding reset

By Leith Dunick -TB Source

Four years ago, Lise Vaugeois nearly toppled a 23-year veteran in Thunder Bay-Superior North.

The first-time NDP candidate came within 813 votes of Liberal Michael Gravelle, who has held the seat since 1995 – and won't be on the ballot in 2022.

It's a real chance for a riding reset, said Vaugeois, who added she learned a lot in the 2018 campaign, specifically how diverse the riding is from one end to the other.

"I learned that every community is different. That was one of the wonderful things about running last time, to get to know people in the region and get to know the issues in the region," said Vaugeois, who originally moved to Thunder Bay to play in the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra and now is an associate professor at Lakehead University.

"I'm more confident. I was ready last time and we came very close to defeating Michael, and Michael's been around for a very long time and people like him. I like him too. I guess I feel more confident and the NDP is really well positioned. We have 40 people who have been



Lise Vaugeois nearly toppled long-time Liberal MPP and cabinet minister Michael Gravelle in the 2018 Ontario election. (Leith Dunick)

in government the last four years, in opposition, not able to do nearly as much as they wanted to do if

they were working with a cooperative government."

Vaugeois, up against Liberal

Shelby Ch'ng, Conservative Peng You, the Green Party's Tracey MacKinnon and New Blue's Kathy

Suutari, said returning funding to health care is the No. 1 issue she wants to see addressed should she be elected to public office.

Ending thoughts of privatization of education and shifting long-term care back to the public sector are other areas that need work.

"When I think about education and health care, they were suffering before the Ford government. Those attacks started with the Harris government and then we had 15 years of a Liberal government and they didn't take on those cuts. There were continued cuts and they were 3P partnerships that meant public dollars going into private profits," she said.

"Putting that money back into health care, paying people properly, getting rid of things like Bill 124, getting teachers back in the classroom ... it's been disastrous for teachers, for students and it doesn't need to be."

Vaugeois said Ontario is still a wealthy province, so there's no reason why public services should be gutted.

She also pointed to the NDP's Northern Ontario platform and noted how many times leader Andrea Horwath has visited Thunder Bay, a clear indication of the importance of the region to an NDP government.

"She's got, I feel, a real appreciation of the kinds of struggles we have here and the way that the Northwest is so frequently left out, left as an afterthought."

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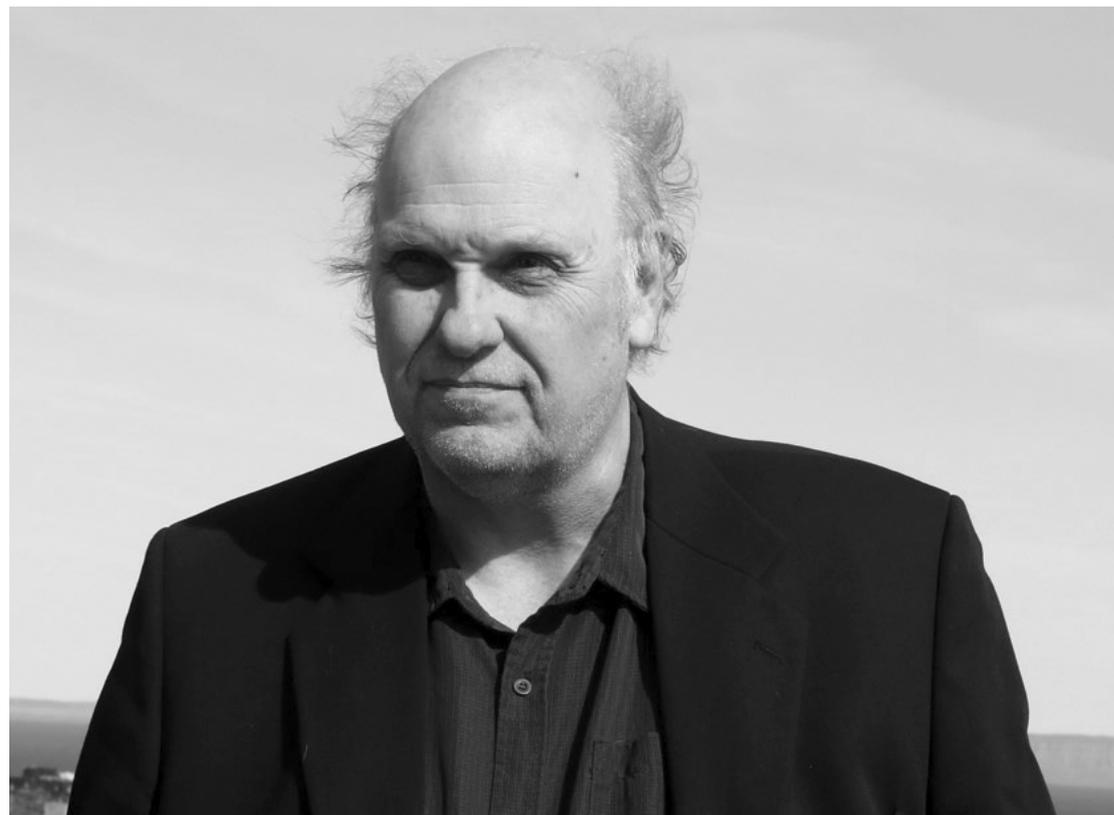
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The Northern Ontario Party's Andy Wolff has run both provincially and municipally in the past. (Leith Dunick)

Riding first, says Wolff

Northern Ontario Party has two candidates running in election

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

If he's elected, Andy Wolff says the only people he'll be beholden to at Queen's Park are his constituents.

Wolff is one of two candidates running under the Northern Ontario Party banner in this year's provincial election, seeking to capture the riding of Thunder Bay-Superior North, a Liberal stronghold since 1995.

The long-time city hall watchdog says his been a strong passion of his to be a voice for Northern Ontario, an area of the province he says gets no more than lip service every few years from the governing party, regardless of whom is in power.

"There are no candidates, in my mind, that would be representing the North. They would put their parties first before they would put the people from here," Wolff said.

It's speaks to a lack of accountability in the legislature, especially when it comes to the region's natural resources.

Wolff, who tours in a Creedence Clearwater Revival tribute band, says looking out his back door, there's plenty of work that needs to be done to ensure Northern Ontario gets its due.

"What makes me stand out is I'm not bound by any party agenda. Since there's only two of us, we have the freedom to vote any way we will," he said.

"You will either elect a candidate that's going to be a part of the government, which will unconditionally support that government, even if it's bad for Thunder Bay or you will vote for a candidate that is against everything the government does and that could be beneficial to our economy. I'm willing to work with the present government and support what they do, provided they give us benefits up in the North."

Wolff said he'd also like to see reforms made in the criminal justice system, given the growing guns and gangs problem in Thunder Bay.

"They've made Thunder Bay an easy target," Wolff said. "A big part of that is our justice system which has provincial jurisdiction. We need harsher sentences for people who do break the law and create more deterrents for that, and obviously support our police."

Wolff, who ran provincially for the NOP in 2018, said his main purpose as an elected MPP would be to help people with personal issues, such as WSIB claims, social services and housing.

"I felt it was important we had some kind of representation on the ballot, so they know we're still around," Wolff said.

The party, founded in 1977, was formerly known as the Northern Ontario Heritage Party. It disbanded in 1985, but was revived in 2010. They ran 10 candidates in 2018.

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Conservative candidate Peng You was the highest vote-getter in the at-large race during the 2018 municipal election. (Justin Hardy)

Strong voice key, says PC's Peng You

By Justin Hardy – TB Source

Peng You, who has sat on the Thunder Bay city council for 4 years has now turned his sights on Queen's Park and is running as the Progressive conservative party candidate for Thunder Bay-Superior North.

You says that, over his time as a city councillor, he's come to understand the community and the region.

"It is all about our community, because Thunder Bay-Superior North, the community is hard working, generous, and full of potential, so we need a strong voice at Queen's Park to get things done," said You.

"So Doug Ford and Peng You can get things done for our Region."

You, whose experience in Municipal politics and constant door knocking says that the constituents in the riding's number one concern is potholes, with the economy a close second and having a strong voice third followed by a lot of social issues.

"All issues matter for everyone, that's why Peng You for you, your strong voice at Queen's Park. From social issues to economic developments, and to infrastructure, everything, that's why we have to deal with those issues. So, it's no other choice. You

want to go backward? Ask your questions, voters," said You.

"You want to go backward? You want to be stuck? Or you want to go forward? Only one choice to move forward is the PC. Get things done all right."

With many in the region feeling that their voices go unheard at Queen's Park and feeling that the issues that they care about are being ignored, You says that while others say that he's no politician, he has the strong voice that Thunder Bay-Superior North needs in Toronto.

"We need a strong voice, not just strong with strong momentum. As a tai chi master, I understand one, you need the balance which will keep healthy, two, you have to build up the momentum. The momentum is here. This is a historical moment. You choose to move forward or you choose to move backwards. I want to move forward," said You.

"Of course, everybody won't do that. You vote Peng You for you, June 2. June 2, I'm asking you to vote You for you, your strong Voice at Queen's Park. Let's say yes to rebuilding, growing our economy. Say yes to working for workers and keeping costs down, say yes to building highways and the key infrastructure and also with a strong plan to stay open."



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June 10	Back to the 90's - Pride Kickoff Party	Goods & Co. Market
June 11	Story Time with Drag Queens	Thunder Bay Public Library, Waverley Branch
June 11	Games Night, in person and virtual (Minecraft Server launch)	Victoriaville
June 12	Virtual Film Night	Virtual
June 13	Awareness Breakfast	Prince Arthur Waterfront Hotel
June 13	Pride Pool Party	Canada Games Complex
June 14	Small Business Educational Awareness Workshop	Ungalli Clothing Co.
June 17	The Unicorn Glitter Ball Dinner & Dance ft. Canada's Drag Race Superstar, Tynomi Banks	The Chanterelle
June 18	Pride Street Festival	Waterfront District (Red River Rd)
June 18	Pride After Party	Black Pirates Pub
June 22	2SLGBTQIA+ Trivia Night	One Time Brew Co.
June 24	Drag Bingo	Lakehead Beer Co.
June 25	Drive-By Drag	City Wide
June 29	Literary & Poetry Night	Mary J.L. Black Library
June 30	Spiritual Healing Night	TBD

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Experience counts: Holland

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Kevin Holland has been a municipal politician for the past three decades, the past 25 as mayor of Conmee Township.

During his time in office, the Conservative Party hopeful in Thunder Bay-Atikokan says he's learned first-hand the inner workings of the provincial government, what they're good at and what they're not when it comes to Northwestern Ontario.

Holland says it's that experience that will prove invaluable at Queen's Park, allowing him to become the voice the region sorely needs in the legislature should the Conservatives be re-elected for another four-year term on June 2.

"I feel that my 31 years of experience as a municipal councillor and mayor, combined with my business experience, gives me a unique opportunity to represent the interests of the riding, with a clear perspective as to what we need."

That's been missing for at least the past four years, Holland said, with a Conservative government at the helm - and looking poised to sweep back into office next month - and an NDP representative sitting in opposition.

Holland said the biggest issue in the riding, coming out of the pandemic and 15 years of Liberal rule in Ontario from 2003 to 2018, is finding solid financial footing. He said the Conservatives inherited a province in the worst financial shape in Ontario's history and the party has spent the past four years trying to right the

ship - despite the damage done by COVID-19.

"We need to focus on building our economy in order to sustain healthy communities," Holland said.

"We can't have healthy communities without a strong economy and we can't have a strong economy without healthy communities. They depend on each other."

Health care is among Holland's top priorities, along with mental health and addiction issues that have plagued those that live in all four corners of the expansive Thunder Bay-Atikokan riding.

"We've seen a lot of investments in those two fields, particularly by the Ford government, but there's more work that needs to be done and I want to make sure we have a strong voice at the table, not just telling them what we need, but explaining to them why we need it," Holland said.

"I think that's where we've been lacking before. If you don't explain why you need something, the message can be lost, because everybody's got their hand out."

Holland said it's key to have a seat in government in the Thunder Bay area.

"It's huge, we absolutely need to have a seat at the table. We've seen what we get when we don't have representation as part of the government. All the polls we've seen is the Ford government is on track for another majority government and Thunder Bay-Atikokan needs to have a representative at that table, advocating for the needs of our riding."



Conservative candidate Kevin Holland has served as mayor of Conmee Township since 1977. (Leith Dunick)

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Lots of work to do: Barrett

First-time Liberal candidate says he's got a handle on the issues that matter

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Rob Barrett is a newcomer to politics, but the first-time candidate says he's got big plans for the region if elected to office on June 2.

The Liberal candidate in Thunder Bay-Atikokan, Barrett comes late to the campaign as he tries to win back a seat held by the Liberals and now Thunder Bay Mayor Bill Mauro, who many believed might seek another shot at provincial politics, from 2003 to 2018.

Barrett said it was a privilege to be asked to run.

"I just thought this is the next level in terms of my career and being able to give back to a community that's been really generous and supportive to me. I'd like to be able to pay that

back," said Barrett, who has worked as an executive director at a number of non-profits, including Shelter House and Yes Employment, and for the past three years has worked as a consultant and executive coach.

Barrett said he believes he's got a good gauge on the thoughts that are on people's minds, and he understands there's much to do to improve the lives of those who live in Northwestern Ontario.

"We've got a lot of work to do here and we've got a great team and we're really excited about taking that work on."

The issues are endless, but housing affordability and cost of living are top of mind as Barrett knocks on doors during the campaign. Climate change and the health-care system are also high on voters' lists, he said.

"And we need to change what's going on in our long-term care facilities and bring back dignity. With our education system, we need to cap the number of students in classrooms. We need to hire more teachers, we need to

hire more special ed teachers and support personnel who can help our youth who really struggled over the past two years because of the pandemic," Barrett said.

"It's a very ambitious platform, but it's one that I think is quite achievable."

Privatization of public services is a no-go, especially with regards to Ontario seniors.

"In our long-term care facilities it's shown that things like neglect and a lack of dignity and a lack of collaboration with families and loved ones during the pandemic has really been a blight on our health-care system and so sad for families and seniors who have had to deal with it," Barrett said.

Barrett said it's a brand new Liberal party and their loss in 2018 was an eye opener and a game changer for the better.

"I think it's allowed us to take a step back and take a look at where things are and do a lot of the legwork and evaluate where things are at and talk to constituents, which is why our platform is a very holistic one."



Rob Barrett has worked at non-profits and now runs his own consulting firm. (Leith Dunick)

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Family and freedom top Criger's hitlist

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Dan Criger says the Ontario Party stands for family, freedom and faith.

The Cobden, Ont. resident, running as a parachute candidate in Thunder Bay-Atikokan, says he hopes to help restore those values at Queen's Park and in the way the province is governed if his party is elected to run Ontario in the June 2 election.

Criger, who worked at a grocery store in Thunder Bay in the mid-1970s, says many of the problems that existed in the city 45 years ago still exist today. Nothing has been done and none of the parties that are routinely elected to run the show have a willingness to make change happen.

The Ontario Party will, said Criger, an independent federal candidate in 2019 in Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke who plans to move to the Northern Ontario riding should he be the winning candidate next month.

Health care tops his list of areas in need of rapid change.

"Back in 1976, the province of Ontario had 6.9 beds per 1,000 people in the province. Now the population of the province has increased dramatically from then to now, but right now there are only 2.3 beds per 1,000 people," Criger said.

"The government is spending more and more money on health care, but they're also decreasing and decreasing the services available to people."

Criger said too many people lack a family physician and far too much time is spent by patients waiting in hospital emergency rooms in order to get health care.

"That is no longer acceptable," he said. "The people in the province deserve far better for the money that they're paying."

The other parties offer nothing but rhetoric on health-care and most, if not all, major issues.



New Ontario Party candidate Dan Criger lives in Cobden, Ont.

"There's a lot of talk, but no substance," said Criger, a retired businessman, married to his wife Carolyn

"This has been happening for the past 45 years. They've used whatever the most popular divisive issue is at the time to divide the people of the province so they can go in and do what they want to do, with their ideology and just throw out the windows whatever they've said to people."

Criger said there are all kinds of social issues in Thunder Bay that need attention, from homelessness and substance abuse, to name just two. They were issues four decades ago too, he said.

"It's still there. There's homelessness, there's poverty, there's low-income people looking for jobs who have basically just dropped off the radar, who have stopped looking for jobs because there are not enough there," he said.

Ontario's new blueprint

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

New Blue Party candidate David Tommasini was invited to be interviewed for a candidate profile, but after initially accepting the offer, turned it down when reporters arrived at his home.

The New Blue Party's campaign literature says they will fight to end all COVID-19 mandates, and work to ban any future COVID-19 vaccination passports in Ontario.

They will also try to reduce the power of local bureaucrats and provide restitution for those harmed by emergency measures imposed

during the trucker convoy's occupation of Ottawa.

Among the New Blue Party's other promises are a plan to renew political accountability, defunding the establishment media, growing Ontario's economy, providing tax relief by cutting the HST from 15 per cent to 10 per cent, education reform, including alternative schooling tax credits, and the restoration of dignity and transparency in health care.

Their plan on that front is to promote early treatment of COVID-19 and rehiring health-care workers who lost their jobs because of COVID-19 vaccination requirements.

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Eric Arner is a high-school teacher who calls Atikokan home. (Justin Hardy)

Arner has plenty to offer politically

Green Party will deliver for all of Ontario, he says

By Justin Hardy – TB Source

Eric Arner is running for the Green Party of Ontario in Thunder Bay-Atikokan, his first foray into provincial politics.

Arner originally reached out to find out ways he could help the party in the election when he was offered the candidacy.

“I had looked into becoming a volunteer and just taking part and I’ve always voted, sometimes signed petitions, and I’ve sent letters to MPs and MPPs. I feel like there’s a lot we can do to take part and make a difference. And so I was contacting the Green party and they said, sure you can help out, do you want to be a candidate?” said Arner.

Plenty to offer

“And after thinking about it for a bit, there are a lot of reasons that I really wanted to get involved and take part and be able to spread the Green Party

message.”

Arner, a high school teacher says that his experience has shown him firsthand the effects of mental health issues and learning gaps made only worse by the COVID-19 pandemic and that’s why mental health and education are important issues to him.

“The Green Party is known for environmental issues but they’re also making a really big push to have mental health included in OHIP coverage so that it’s available to everyone and we know that with the pandemic, that anxiety and stress and all kinds of other mental health issues have really been exacerbated lately,” said Arner.

Arner, at the Thunder Bay and District Injured Workers’ Group forum, 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.”

Needs more help

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.”

Arner is also outspoken about the need for affordable housing in all areas of the province and says only the Greens will make it happen.

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

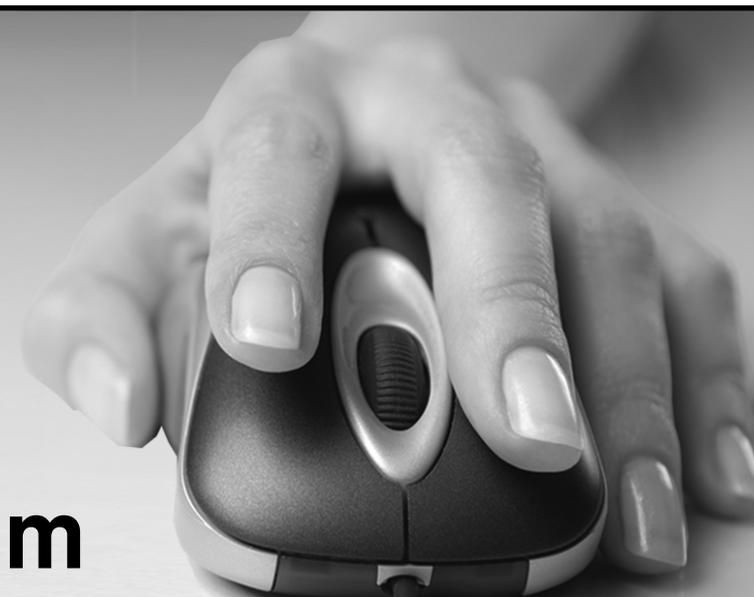
“It’s for corporations that buy up houses and leave them empty or try to sell them to the highest bidder,” Arner said.

The Greens will build 182,000 permanently affordable housing units and have also committed to 260,000 community rental units. – *With files from Leith Dunick*

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Jones will speak up for North

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Kenneth Jones doesn't think Northern Ontario has enough of a voice at Queen's Park.

He's aiming to change this.

Jones, running for the Northern Ontario Party in Thunder Bay-Atikokan, said he's looked at what the other parties have to offer the region and doesn't see nearly enough for the people who live here.

"Other than every four years, they have not put the extra foot forward and actually said we are going to institute a manufacturing policy for Northern Ontario. Here is our actual plan for Northern Ontario. These parties have been elected and in power since our party was (formed) and we haven't seen any results," Jones said.

"We've only seen population decline and we've only seen poverty grow in Northern Ontario."

Jones joins a crowded field in his riding, won four years ago by the NDP's Judith Monteith-Farrell, who squeaked out a razor thin win over Liberal Bill Mauro.

Separates himself from the pack

He's one of six names on the ballot, but still thinks he can stand out to voters tired of the status quo and tired of being ignored by the south.

"Any voice at Queen's Park is going to be a voice for the North. It doesn't matter if we elect one person or we elect many people. At the end of the day we are trying to get involved in the narrative itself of Northern Ontario and really bring back some honesty into the electoral process," Jones said.

The party's election slate, which currently consists of Jones and Andy Wolff in Thunder Bay-Superior North, has taken a close look at the policy promises of the other parties and the goal is to keep them accountable and true to their word.

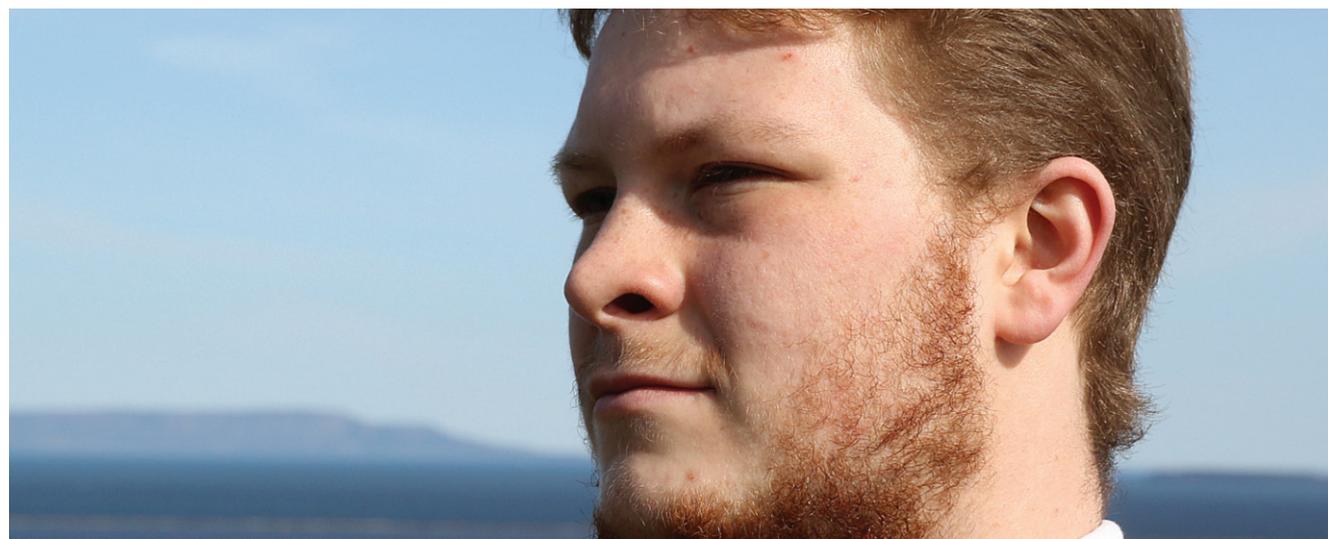
Mining and manufacturing is a key area of interest and Jones said their platform will help grow the area's population and its economy.

"Most of our resources are shipped elsewhere right now and they're not being manufactured in Northwestern Ontario. That will be a promise in Queen's Park," Jones said.

The Ontario election is one of the most important, not only for Ontario, but for all of Canada.

"With this, I hope to represent Northern Ontario for all of our 13 ridings. Even though we do not have candidates in all those ridings, we are running a very strong campaign," Jones said.

The Northern Ontario Party, formerly the Northern Ontario Heritage Party, was formed in 1977, disbanded in 1985 and reformed in 2010, offering up 10 candidates in the 2018 Ontario election.



Kenneth Jones is not only a Northern Ontario Party candidate, he's the party president too. (Leith Dunick)



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Monteith-Farrell stands up for riding

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Experience counts at Queen's Park.

Unlike her competition in the race for Thunder Bay-Atikokan, Judith Monteith-Farrell can claim four years of experience there, sitting in opposition in the Ontario legislature as a member of the NDP caucus.

More valuable than experience, she said, is remembering one's morals and values, the qualities that got her elected in the first place in 2018, toppling long-time Liberal cabinet minister Bill Mauro by a hair, capturing the riding by a mere 81 votes.

"That's what you're bringing to Queen's Park. Someone who doesn't have experience might have that heart, but when you have experience you have a far better chance at influencing change," said Monteith-



NDP incumbent Judith Monteith-Farrell is seeking a second straight trip to Queen's Park.

Farrell, up against Liberal Rob Barrett, Conservative Kevin Holland, the Green Party's Eric Arner and the New Blue's David Tommasini.

One of the areas she most wants to effect change is health care. It's her No. 1 priority if she's re-elected.

"I think coming out of COVID, and

even before COVID, health care was the No. 1 thing at the doors. It's the No. 1 thing that comes to our office, people not being able to access health care in Northern Ontario. They're suffering needlessly and we need to improve that," Monteith-Farrell said.

The second biggest issue, in her mind, is affordability.

It's just getting too expensive to live and the government has to use the available tools to do what it takes to help keep the cost of living down.

"We need to ensure that people can raise their families and have the ability to pay for the things they need to pay for and have access to the things that they need, like housing, like electricity and regulating the cost of gasoline," Monteith-Farrell said.

The past four years haven't been easy for any politician, particularly

since COVID struck in 2020.

Monteith-Farrell said she believes she's proven to be an effective representative who fights for the people in her riding, regardless of their political stripe.

"I think I've proven that I listen to people, I'm respectful and I've worked almost every single day the past four years representing the people of Thunder Bay-Atikokan. I believe that I'm the best choice," she said.

Monteith-Farrell said it's time for Ontarians to elect a government that believes people matter, not one that looks out for itself and corporations first.

"Not one where a small, select group of elite people matter," she said. "In Northern Ontario we need a voice that's going to know and understand our issues and bring them forward."

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Who gets the tips?

Tipping has long been a custom in North America, in other parts of the world it is considered unnecessary and occasionally unjustified.

As someone who has been in the industry, I see how hard some service staff work and I am always grateful when I see service that I would consider premier.

Customary amounts for tips and gratuities vary wildly over social customs and etiquette and can be a point of discussion and combative amongst people, with the rise in costs of operating a full service or even a mid-service operation.

We are finding more and more stories in the news and on social media of unscrupulous owners taking more than their fair share of gratuities from their employees. These situations become dicey, and it's caused a bit of a shift in the nomenclature surrounding gratuities.



Derek Lankinen
Here's Cooking at You Kid

Recently, a court case that made it all the way to the 11th circuit court of appeals has upheld a judgement that states in layman's terms "a service charge doesn't necessarily constitute a gratuity".

Now the language used on the menu is similar to what the guest may find surrounding a gratuity.

In this particular case it stated "For your convenience an 18 per cent service charge will be added to your final bill and will be distributed to the entire team". What isn't written is this service charge was being used to pay their wages and not what the guest would probably assume was a gratuity.

By now I'm sure you're wondering what restaurant would be playing these games with their employees. Well, it is the famous Nurs-Et Steakhouse in Miami. Owned by the dramatic salt sprinkling Nusret Gokce, known on the internet at "Salt Bae".

There are some laws out there that clearly state a service charge is not a gratuity but it's worth noting that most laws relating to labour do not make many clear distinctions between the two, mostly because this type of language hasn't really been used before to circumvent the word gratuity.

For the sake of transparency, I will state that the ruling does state that employees at Nurs-Et were making \$23-\$51 during an investigation period, so this would be well above minimum wage and even a lot of restaurant averages in Florida. However, it does bring up a certain moral obligation of restaurants to their guests who may be thinking they are providing a service to an individual or team of employees they are not.

Unfortunately, as restaurant owners feel the squeeze post covid some of these situations may become more prevalent, we have all heard the stories of the legendary scumbag restaurant owner, some of these stories may be over inflated and some may be completely truthful. Thankfully, the age of social media has made it slightly harder to keep these stories silent. **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.**

Do you have an opinion to share?
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Spring arrives after long wait

The land is changing colour. Brown is switching to green. Our belated spring is in full flush. At last.

The branches of poplar and birch trees are starting to burst into leaf. A friend (alas, no longer with us) once told my wife, Laura, that when the poplar leaves are the size of a mouse's ear, the blackflies appear. I'm keeping watch.

I've been going on daily walks with the dogs on our trails. I need it; the dogs need it especially after the brutal winter that was not kind to old coots both human and canine. The snow was either too deep or it was far too cold; or when it did warm up, the snow was too soft to support the weight of our eldest pooch, Baxter. So, we tromp. So far, no blackflies.

But what I see on those tromps is the seasonal changes to the landscape. The trees are putting on their spring clothes. The poplar are now green as the sap rises; birch branches are purple. Instead of bare branches, green is flushing forth as the new leaves burst out of the buds. It is remarkable to watch the greening unfold.

I reported last week on the pair of Trumpeter swans that showed up in our beaver pond.

I looked out our living room window to see two white blobs on the water's surface. They are not always there; they move about. Our neighbour who lives kitty-corner to us and who also has a beaver pond has sighted them there as well.

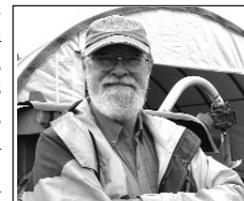
On Sunday, the dogs and I walked the trail that rises up to higher land we call Mountain Trail. There is a part where you can look down to the middle beaver pond (we have three interconnecting ones). There they were.

You can't see this part of the pond from Casa Jones. Instead of heading straight back, I chose the head through the red pine plantation planted back in the 1960s.

In one spot the trail takes you close to the middle pond. The trees open up and you have a full view of the pond.

Our smaller dog, Lily, saw them as well and began her ferocious barking. Lily is small and also hates getting her feet wet so she just stood on the edge and barked.

The swans lifted their elegant heads on those long necks, stared and slowly retreated to the far shore. "Come on, guys," I called and we set off the away from the pond.



Fred Jones
RURAL ROOTS

When we reached the top of the trail earlier, we suddenly came across the complete skeleton of a deer. While the animal had been picked clean of flesh, its two hind legs were still visible complete with fur. Fur lay all around the area where (I'm guessing) a wolf seized the deer and rendered it.

Oddly enough, neither Lily or Baxter were interested in the deer remains. For the past month Lily has shown up at the house with some part of a deceased animal she found in the bush. Deer legs are common prizes.

Aside from getting some much-needed exercise, I wanted to suss out the trails to learn how much blow-down damage there was and how much chainsaw clearing I need to do.

As you know, we've had some serious storms with snow and winds. The result in the bush is a lot of tree tops of spruce and balsam snapped and now fallen across the trail. Some of them are easy to move by hand; others require the chainsaw. Both Saturday and Sunday Laura, and I went trail clearing - Laura walking with dogs and me on the quad towing the trailer containing the chainsaw.

There was a lot of work to do.

In several places great big balsam trees were down across the trail. All of the trees were alive when they toppled. I would delimb branches and then buck the wood while Laura cleared the branches away and then stacked the pieces of wood to the side of the trail.

This mission was not to haul the stuff back home yet; it was just to clear the trail. I would return with quad and cart at a future date to retrieve.

The wood is green and I won't be able to use it until well after I get it all split and then stacked to dry.

At night we hear the spring peepers now loudly chorusing and a few mosquitoes are about but, at time of writing, so far no black flies. So, what size are those poplar leaves again?

Gotta wear shades

Heading outside, protect your eyes from the sun

When we head out on the water for a day of fishing, there are a few essentials that we just cannot forget to bring: rod and reel, tackle, drinking water, fishing licence, rain jacket and of course, sunglasses.

Most importantly, sunglasses protect our eyes from harmful UV light, and from our buddy who is still learning to cast.

Not all sunglasses are created equal however, and those with polarized lenses can give the angler an added advantage.

Quality polarized lenses serve to cut the glare on the water so we can see rocks, wood, weeds and sometimes even fish below the surface.

I still remember my first pair of polarized glasses. They were a pair of Bob Izumi signature series shades and I had to cut a lot of lawns to save up enough money to pay for them.

Unfortunately, they were heavy, too big for my 12-year-old face, and they were soon destroyed like everything else a pre-teen boy touches.

Those Izumis were replaced with a more affordable plastic pair that were lightweight and comfortable but got more scratched up each time the



Polarized lenses help cut the glare on the water, letting you see what's below.

wind blew.

After a few weeks of fishing, the cheap plastic lenses were so hazy with fine scratches that I could not even see through them. Over the

past thirty years, I have rotated through dozens of fishing sunglasses from expensive Oakleys to gas station junk. The good ones last a lot longer, but inevitably, they have all been crushed, lost and sunk during my fishing adventures.

What I really needed to find was a quality pair of polarized sunglasses that float if I drop

them over the side of the boat and don't cost so much that I am afraid to wear them on the river.

By a matter of chance, the cycling team that I ride for picked up a new sunglasses sponsor called Xspex for this coming race season.

I appreciate the fact that Xspex are fairly priced, but even more, I love the fact that this is a local company that designs their products in Thunder Bay.

They started up a few years ago with unique alpine ski goggles that feature magnetic interchangeable lenses and have since branched out their product line to include a variety of sunglasses.

When our race team visited the Xspex headquarters to check out their products, I was immediately interested in their floating sunnies that look to be perfect for fishing.

In fact, while I am excited to race bikes in their Versa glasses this summer, the first pair I chose from their lineup is their floating Vision shades with polarized lenses.

For anglers, choosing sunglasses with polarized lenses may seem like a minor detail, but there are days when the payoff can be major.

With far less glare, we can see below the surface of the water on clear rivers and lakes.

This might mean spotting a huge boulder to avoid running into it with the prop of our outboard motor, or it could be the key to locating submerged trees that will attract the trout we are chasing.

Either way, polarized sunglasses are essential gear for the modern angler.



The planned playground at Centennial Park has something for kids of all ages. (Supplied)

Playgrounds get makeover work

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Work is underway on ambitious makeovers for two prominent Thunder Bay playgrounds, but it will mean equipment at Centennial Park and Boulevard Lake is out of commission for much of the summer.

Crews recently resumed work at Centennial, which will boast a larger, wooden playground featuring a forest zipline and other new attractions based around a woodland theme.

The city expects the structure to be finished and ready for use by the beginning of July.

Werner Schwar, supervisor of parks and open space planning with the city, said the summer shutdown of one of the city's most popular

playgrounds was unavoidable.

"All I can say is that structure has gotten to the end of its life, so it really did have to be replaced," he said.

Both playgrounds are set for significant transformations.

At Centennial, equipment in several different "pod areas" are meant to appeal to a range of ages.

Older children will find excitement in a zip line and climbing structures, while Schwar expects younger children to delight in new ground-level features, some of which will be incorporated into the surrounding wooded area.

The new playground at Boulevard Lake will be notable for its focus on accessible and inclusive design elements meant to support play for a full range of abilities and ages.



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Surrealistic horror goes nowhere

In the psychological horror film, *Men* (SilverCity) the title could easily be short form for 'men-acing,' given the kind of male characters encountered by our protagonist Harper, (Jessie Buckley, *The Lost Daughter*), who's rented an aging Elizabethan manse in a sedate little English village to recover from the untimely death of her husband, James (Paapa Essideu).

Such is *Men's* premise directed and written by Alex Garland (*Ex Machina*, *Annihilation*) who certainly is adept at establishing a sense of foreboding, thanks to hallucinatory cinematography, symbolic imagery, eerie sound design and moody soundtrack.

The characters Harper runs across begin with her landlord, Geoffrey (Rory Kinnear, MI-6 operative Tanner in Daniel Craig's 007 films), who's seems affable enough, if a tad eccentric.

Soon after getting Geoffrey's tour of her lodgings, Harper encounters a spooky naked male stalker, an initially understanding turned accusatory vicar, and a sulky school boy, all exuding varying degrees of hostility, arousing understandable unease in our heroine.

What's strange however is that

Harper fails to notice that all the males bear a creepy, off-kilter resemblance to her landlord. These resemblances extend to one of the stalker's arresting male police officers, the barman in the local pub and its sole surly looking male patron. So all men are misogynists but Harper awash in trauma isn't seeing it?

Does Harper flee the weirdness?

Hell, no. She is buoyed by support from the stalker's other female arresting officer and Facetime with her best friend Riley (Gayle Rankin) who's driving out to join her. (As opposed to screaming, "Get outa there now!" instead.)

At the same time,

Harper's haunted by troubling flashbacks that precipitated her husband's fall from a high-rise balcony, sparked by Harper's demand for a divorce, an ensuing shouting match and then a smack from James. Soon after, James falls. Accident or suicide? Their relationship is vague.

Is Harper experiencing a manifestation of her guilt over James' death? The creepy vicar says so, earning a dismissive salty response from Harper. And if so, where are we headed here?

Director Garland goes beyond standard horror elements though



Jessie Buckley plays Harper in Alex Garland's new horror film, *Men*, which is currently playing at SilverCity.

he has those in ample supply—the requisite Jack-in-the-Box jolts, eerie estate setting, mysterious faulty lighting, spotty cell phone connections and here-one-minute-gone-the-next ghostly scares.

That's the conventional horror stuff which easily gets our attention. But Garland doesn't amplify it. Is this an allegory of men's

treatment of women? What is the connection between Harper's trauma to the male-violence she's confronted with? Garland doesn't go beyond the surface.

The script fails to flesh out whatever's going on within Harper at this point. Her catharsis: deal with misogyny by brandishing a mean knife.

By the last act, Garland seems content to escalate the surrealistic flourishes by way of David Lynch and David Cronenberg. The imagery is jaw-droppingly bizarre, suggesting that men's misogyny and self-loathing are self-perpetuating. Trouble is, by this point our emotional investment in *Men* has been reduced to zero.



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SPRING INTO SUMMER



Polo G whipped nearly 3,000 fans at Fort William Gardens into a musical frenzy as they sang along to the trap rapper's biggest hits last Thursday. (Leith Dunick)

Polo G worth the wait

Chicago rapper delivers stellar performance at Fort William Gardens

By **Leith Dunick** – TB Source

I'll be the first to admit, I wasn't Polo G's target audience.

I'll also admit, I'm no stranger to rap shows either, even though I grew up on Springsteen and the Police in the '80s, and stuck with my rock roots through Nirvana and Pearl Jam a decade later. Not much has changed.

Thanks to music festivals, I've been exposed to more and more hip-hop, and having a teenager in the house who likes concerts almost as much as me, one who's into the trap scene, has led me to shows like Travis Scott, Lil Pump and the late JuiceWrlld and Cardi B, the latter two at my home away from home in Manchester, Tenn., the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival.

That said, I'm no hip-hop aficionado, but I do know what I like.

Apparently Polo G is now on that list.

The up-and-coming rapper, also known as Taurus Tremani Bartlett, has soared to the top of the Billboard music charts, charting 10 singles on the Hot 100 off his second album, Goat. Last year the Chicago-born rapper also hit No. 1 with his song Rapstar.

He's really good, even though his live show is pretty bare-bones. It works.

An old-school storyteller, Polo G doesn't need the flash and doesn't need a hype man pumping the crowd up every 10 seconds. While it may be a rap tradition, I've seen plenty of artists – I'm looking at you, Cardi B – who waste way too much of their limited time on stage feeding their own egos rather than the musical shows of those who forked out more than \$150 to see them.

The 23-year-old comes with a more laid-back style, letting his lyrics speak for themselves (with a little bit of hype, of course).

Before going any further, I do have to address the logistical issues that led to hours-long lines, the Gardens only offering up a handful of security guards to inspect patrons coming into the building, which slowed things down tremendously.

If promoters like Hanh Marino and others are able to bring more acts to the Gardens, it's something the city is going to have to address. It's one thing to have eager fans waiting in line for 2.5 hours in May, it's another to expect it in January.

While the fans were trickling into the facility, DJ Supa, a regular at NV Music Hall, warmed the crowd up, mixing high-energy rapping with familiar beats – and the obligatory "I say Thunder, you say Bay"

chant that all three acts used to keep the 3,000 or so fans on hand engaged.

The main show finally began about 9:30 p.m., local act Chief Supreme hitting the stage, the four-time Canadian Hip-Hop Award nominee coming out in full head dress to start the ball rolling with a short, but entertaining set that set the stage for what was to come.

After a brief intermission, Sheck Wes, a former NBA hopeful, probably best known for his 2017 hit Mo Bamba, a top five song on the Canadian charts, ramping up the excitement on the floor and in the stands with a sweat-drenched set heavily influenced by Travis Scott and Kanye West.

He left the stage after 30 minutes or so and the "Polo G, Polo G" chants began, the crowd peaking in anticipation for the headliner, an act that's exploded onto the scene and potentially headed for superstardom down the road.

The crowd ate up every lyric, often drowning out Polo G as they sang along word for word to *Rapstar* and *Hate the Other Side*, a tribute to the late, great Juice Wrlld, along with a dozen or so other hits. It was short and sweet, and by the time all was said and done, more than worth the wait.

ENIGMATM Enigma cryptograms are created from quotations and proverbs from around the world. Each letter stands for another letter. *Hint: "V" = "A"*
CRYPTOGRAM

"ZC VDC ULDR UDVEC, HDAXHTRN VRO
NDCCOK, VRO FLXH LJ AX DCFVTR
NDCCOK."

— VAHILD ARMRLZR

		1	5	8				2
	7		1	2				
							8	
8			3				2	
4	5							
	1							8
		5		6				1
3		6	8			5		4
			2				7	

ACROSS

- Legume
- Snow (Scot.)
- Manuscripts (abbr.)
- Errand boy
- Pronoun
- Tamarisk salt tree
- Roomy
- Odyssey beggar
- Adjective-forming (suf.)
- Shinto shrine gateway
- Presidential nickname
- Sup
- Sluggish
- Alit
- Lohan
- Pale brown
- Jewish scholar
- Apiece
- Town (Ger.)
- Boat race
- Calf meat
- Spread to dry
- Gelderland city
- Mex. pine
- Haitian voodoo deity
- Sod
- Redo
- Alleviate
- Epoch
- Asafetida
- Dive
- Bobbsey twins
- Mine (Sp.)

DOWN

- Family member
- Equal (Fr.)
- Atomic Energy Commission (abbr.)
- Marble
- Nerve (pref.)
- Opposite of thesis
- Fr. month
- Baku (2 words)
- Yarn lump
- Greek letter
- Compass direction
- Italic (abbr.)
- Bantu language
- Musical practice exercise
- Mountain
- nymph
- His (Fr.)
- Outer (pref.)
- Cross
- Daughters of the American Revolution (abbr.)
- Deed
- Arabic letter
- Denote
- Touch lightly
- Hereditary factor
- Marsh
- Summer (Fr.)
- Two
- Assam hills
- 57 (Rom. numeral)
- Wine (pref.)
- Argentina (abbr.)
- Morass
- Electric unit

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

Chill kids shining

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Youth will be served. Sometimes, it even pays off. Thunder Bay Chill coach switched up his lineup on Sunday afternoon to give some of his younger players a chance to see the pitch in the team's final friendly tune-up against the Winnipeg Lions, getting an extended look at the likes of Alex Pike and Devan Jorgenson with their United Soccer League 2 regular season opener a mere handful of days away.

Pike opened the scoring in the 15th minute and Jorgenson wrapped up Thunder Bay's offensive onslaught in the 84th, helping the Chill to a 5-2 win.

It was the first goal for each player, both of whom have grown up in the Chill organization. Both said it was a pretty special moment watching the ball move the mesh.

"It was great in front of the home crowd," said Pike, a defender in his second full season with the Chill's USL 2 club.

"I grew up playing for the (organization) so to finally score for the first team, it's a good feeling. To get the lead early, it also really helped us maintain our composure and the possession of the ball and let us play how we wanted to."

Sports family

Jorgenson, the son of former Thunder Bay Border Cats owner Brad Jorgenson, said it was a dream come true to put the ball in the net.

"Growing up with the team, it definitely felt good being on the USL team and to come out here and score a goal for us," the 22-year-old Jorgenson said.

Scoring goals is a great way to get noticed by the coaching staff, who will be doling out playing time when the Chill open next weekend on the road against FC Winnipeg.

"Growing up with the younger team, you want to come up and show that you deserve to be here. Having the win today proves that some guys who come up from the Academy team can perform for us," Jorgenson said.

Even with a mixture of likely reserves and starters in the lineup Sunday at Chapples Park, the Chill dominated most of the action in the opening half, much like they did on Friday night.

The results were much the same, at



Thunder Bay's Devan Jorgenson (right) scored his first goal with the team on Sunday. (Leith Dunick)

least until the final five minutes, when the Lions twice managed to put the ball past keeper Alejandro Chavarria.

Andrea De Vincenzi doubled the lead in the 28th minute, an advantage they'd take into the second half, but not before the Lions had their best opportunity of the opening 45 minutes when Selfeddine Dhaoul's free kick from just outside the box was blocked by a wall of Chill players, the chance coming in the 31st.

Osita Obiekwe was stopped on a breakaway in the 51st minute, but teammate Sebastian Bocaz Canales pounced on the rebound and buried behind Lions keeper Sean Golden.

He added his second of the afternoon in the 73rd, faking a pass before lofting it home for a 4-0 lead. The Chill

matched their 5-0 lead of a night earlier in the 84th, Jorgenson chipping it home, making up for a missed opportunity 10 minutes earlier.

Late goals

Braden Silva and Caelan Budhoo spoiled Cavarrria's shutout bid, scoring in the 87th and 89th minutes respectively, a sloppy ending that did not please Chill coach Gio Petraglia.

"What happened in the last 10 minutes cannot happen again. It's something we have to fix right away because during the league we're not going to have much time and we cannot go in with this attitude," Petraglia said.

"Overall it was good, but it was kind of a bittersweet feeling."

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

6	9	1	5	8	3	7	4	2											
5	7	8	1	2	4	9	6	3											
2	3	4	9	7	6	1	8	5											
8	6	7	3	5	1	4	2	9											
4	5	2	6	9	8	3	1	7											
9	1	3	7	4	2	6	5	8											
7	8	5	4	6	9	2	3	1											
3	2	6	8	1	7	5	9	4											
1	4	9	2	3	5	8	7	6											

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "We are born brave, trusting and greedy, and most of us remain greedy." — Author Unknown

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 11. Houses
 12. Apartments
 13. Rooms
 14. Room & Board
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 17. Commercial
 18. Storage/Space
 19. Wanted
 20. Condos
 21. Miscellaneous

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 22. Bargain corner
 23. Misc.
 24. Antiques
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 28. Pets & Livestock
 29. Food
 30. Misc. Wanted

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

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

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 53. General Services
 54. Home Improvements
 55. Bus. Opportunities
 56. Training Courses

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 58. Careers
 59. Child
 60. Health Care
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 65. Happy Ads
 66. Cards of Thanks
 67. In Memoriam
 68. Death/Funerals

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