

Thunder Bay

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THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Plan falls short

Local politicians, business leader says Ontario needed to take on a regional reopening approach /3



MOVING FORWARD: Above, County Fair Plaza will remain closed until at least the week of June 14; below, the highlights of Ontario's three-stage, reopening plan.

| Vaccination rate plus key health indicators* | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--|---|--|--|
| | 60% Adults with one dose | 70% Adults with one dose 20% Fully vaccinated | 70-80% Adults with one dose 25% Fully vaccinated |
| Permitted with restrictions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoors first with limited, well-managed crowding and permitting restricted retail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open indoors with small numbers and face coverings and expand outdoors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand indoors where face coverings can't always be worn |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger outdoor gatherings for up to 10 people Outdoor dining for up to 4 people per table Essential retail capacity at 25% Non-essential retail at 15% Outdoor religious services, rites and ceremonies with capacity limited to permit 2 metres physical distancing Outdoor sports, training, and personal training for up to 10 people Day camps Campsites and campgrounds Ontario Parks Outdoor horse racing and motor speedways Outdoor pools, splash pads and wading pools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger outdoor gatherings for up to 25 people Small indoor gatherings for up to 5 people Outdoor dining for up to 6 people per table Essential retail at 50% capacity Non-essential retail capacity at 25% Personal care services where face coverings can be worn at all times Outdoor meeting and event spaces Outdoor amusement and water parks Outdoor boat tour operators Outdoor county fairs and rural exhibitions Outdoor sports leagues and events Outdoor cinemas, performing arts, live music events and attractions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger indoor and outdoor gatherings Indoor dining Essential and non-essential retail open with limited capacity Larger indoor religious services, rites, and ceremony gatherings Indoor meeting and event spaces Indoor sports and recreational facilities Indoor seated events Indoor attractions and cultural amenities Casino and bingo halls Other outdoor activities from Step 2 permitted to operate indoors |
| | +21 days before next step → | +21 days before next step → | |

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INSIDE

ICU TRANSFERS

Hospital agrees to take COVID patients from neighbouring Manitoba /9

MADS ABOUT YOU

Riders of Justice does out a dose of post-military vigilantism /12

BUS BOMB SCARE

Thunder Bay Transit shut down by threat made against bus service /8

LEITH DUNNICK

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LOCAL NEWS

Plan disappointing

Politicians, business leader wanted more of a regional approach taken

THUNDER BAY
By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Thunder Bay's two MPPs are happy to see a reopening plan in place.

It's the details they're not thrilled about.

Liberal Michael Gravelle (Thunder Bay-Superior North) and the NDP's Judith Monteith-Farrell (Thunder Bay-Atikokan) say the plan is a rejection of their preferred regional approach, with the District of Thunder Bay down to just 25 active COVID-19 cases.

The provincial plan, which turfed the former colour-coded system, is set to kick in the week of July 14, when 60 per cent of Ontario adults are vaccinated.

It will slowly allow businesses to reopen in a three-phased approach, the move to Stage 2 and Stage 3 dependent on vaccination numbers. A 70 per cent first-dose tally of Ontario adults is needed to move on to the second stage, which would allow personal care services to return – as long as 20 per cent of the population is double vaccinated.

Between 70 per cent and 80 per cent single-dosed is required for the third stage, which would allow gyms and movie theatres to reopen, with the caveat that a full quarter of the adult population be double vaccinated.

Timeframe in place

A three-week window between stages is mandatory, even if thresholds are reached in a sooner time frame.

"I was disappointed to see that we haven't received the regional approach that we've all been pushing for, (but) I was pleased to see we have the recognition that outdoor activities are actually good for people," Monteith-Farrell said.

Ontario golf courses and outdoor tennis facilities were allowed to reopen as of Saturday, after weeks of pushback from both the public and public health officials.

"The thing that was shocking, that I did not see, was any reference to education. That was a glaring kind of omission, with parents really left with no answers around that," Monteith-Farrell said.

Premier Doug Ford said it's unclear whether opening schools up to in-



NO CHANGE: Charla Robinson says Ontario's plan is status quo for too many.

person learning before the summer break begins is the right move, despite calls from parents and teachers' unions.

"Right now, we have some differing opinions," Ford said last Thursday.

Students in Thunder Bay have been learning from home since February.

Gravelle said the reopening framework is good news and bad news wrapped up into one report.

Like Monteith-Farrell, he applauded lifting restrictions on many outdoor activities. But not enough thought was put into rolling the plan out at different speeds in different parts of the province, the long-time MPP said.

"From a Thunder Bay District level, with our low cases and our high vaccination rates, I really do believe that Thunder Bay should be out of the lockdown now, as it was planned for on May 19. The fact is we are at a 60 per cent vaccination rate

in the Thunder Bay District and that was the criteria by which the province would start the reopening on June 14," Gravelle said.

According to the latest numbers provided by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, 54.6 percent of those 16 and older have received at least one dose. The health unit last week

opened up vaccination appointments to anyone born in 2009 or earlier. A total of 45.6 per cent of the population had been vaccinated as of May 15.

"I don't think it's thorough enough," Monteith-Farrell said, noting she does think the province may have set achievable goals that might allow them to enter Phase 1 earlier than planned for political reasons.

Charla Robinson, president of the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, said she too was disappointed with the plan, stating it takes too slow of an approach.

Businesses bear brunt

Charla Robinson last Friday said the two-tiered plan lets some businesses reopen, with capacity restrictions the week of June 14, but others, like hair salons and movie theatres, may have to wait until August if vaccination targets are met in time.

"For a reopening strategy, Stage 1 is basically status quo for many of the businesses that are closed right now – hairdressers, casinos, even retail is only 15 per cent capacity," Robinson said on Friday, a day after the new rules were announced.

"I certainly would have liked to have seen more folks be allowed to reopen, but at very reduced capacities. Unfortunately, they've chosen to keep many places closed into Stage 2 and sometimes into Stage 3."

"...I really do believe Thunder Bay should be out of the lockdown now..."
MICHAEL GRAVELLE

Weather Forecast

| WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--|--|---|
| | | |
| A mix of sun and clouds Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 12 LOW 1 | A mix of sun and clouds Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 9 LOW -1 | Sunny Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH 11 LOW 1 |
| SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
| | | |
| Sunny Probability of Precipitation: 10% HIGH 14 LOW 6 | Chance of showers Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH 16 LOW 9 | Mainly sunny Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 18 LOW 9 |

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LOCAL NEWS

Comuzzi drops out over NOSM

POLITICS

By Doug Dlaczuk – TB Source

The Ontario Conservative Party candidate who was to run in the 2022 provincial election has announced she will be stepping down, citing concerns on the government's decision to sever the Northern Ontario School of Medicine from Lakehead University.

"The government has decided to hastily introduce legislation without consulting Northwestern Ontario or the people of Thunder Bay. This legislation will create new administrative costs for the taxpayer rather than directly funding medical education in Ontario's North," said Maureen Comuzzi, former Ontario PC candidate said on Tuesday.

Comuzzi was acclaimed in March to run as the Ontario PC candidate in the Thunder Bay-Atikokan riding.

This was her first foray into provincial politics after having run for the federal Conservatives twice in 2011 and 2015, where she finished second and third

respectively. She also ran locally for a city council seat in 2018.

"Finding waste and efficiencies in government, while delivering for Northern Ontario is why I sought the Ontario PC nomination in Thunder Bay-Atikokan," Comuzzi said. "This legislation does exactly the opposite of what I wished to accomplish as PC Member of Provincial Parliament for our region."

"Significant questions still need to be answered, including big issues such as the impact on taxpayers, accreditation of the medical school, and the potential negative impact on delivering healthcare in the North."

Comuzzi praised Premier Doug Ford as a strong and thoughtful leader who cares about the north but she said she is deeply disappointed by the government's decision involving NOSM.

"I urge the premier to step in and correct this decision for the benefit of Ontario taxpayers, the medical school, and our Northern community," she said.



OFF BALLOT: Moe Comuzzi, who twice ran federally for the Conservatives, had secured the Thunder Bay-Atikokan nomination.

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LOCAL NEWS



TSN KAUFMAN

RENEWAL: Sandy and Jeff Korkula plan to soon open for business at the Silver Islet General Store.

Silver Islet store ready to reopen

SILVER ISLET

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

The historic Silver Islet General Store, closed since 2015, will once again welcome customers this summer.

Its new owners hope to renew the store's role as a hub in the small community on the Sibley Peninsula, just in time to mark its 150th anniversary.

First built in 1871, the store originally supported operations at the Silver Islet mine, known for a time in the late 19th century as the world's richest silver mine.

The Saxberg family bought the store in 1985, but health issues forced its closure in 2015. Its future remained uncertain for several years, but in 2020 family member Sandy Korkola and her husband Jeff announced they would take on the task of upgrading the building.

Sandy, who spent much of her life in and around the store, said it's a "piece of Canadian history" that she's thrilled to keep in the family.

"It's just unbelievable the building has withstood Lake Superior and the elements for that long," she said. "To see it [open] a new chapter from what my family started is just a really proud moment, and it just means a lot – to me and the entire family."

Her father Lorne Saxberg, Sr., who turns 90 this year, looks forward to seeing the store running again and plans to be there scooping ice cream, she said.

"When it went up for sale, it was difficult to imagine it leaving the family. Jeff and I were just in a position a couple of years ago to take the jump."

She hopes the Silver Islet community, along with visitors from near and far, will share her family's enthusiasm.

The couple tentatively hopes to open the store, located about a one-hour drive from Thunder Bay and within minutes of the popular Sleeping Giant Provincial Park, by the beginning of July.

"People are looking for a place, and we'd

like to offer that again," said Sandy.

The general store has always been a hub and a gathering place, she said. She hopes to continue that tradition, offering food, drinks, art, and a celebration of history.

The store will sell some limited grocery staples, light lunches, and baking including cinnamon buns and pies. There will also be a takeout window offering selections from a cappuccino and ice cream bar – high on the list of in-demand items on a survey the couple conducted last year.

The shop will also feature work from local artisans, and Canadian gifts for tourists, said Sandy. The store, with its tearoom in the back, could also serve as a venue for small concerts.

Visitors will be arriving by boat, as well as by land, thanks to the refurbishment of the Silver Islet harbour, including the dock located directly behind the store, by the federal government in 2020.

The store is working with Sail Superior to collaborate on boat tours, Sandy said.

The relaunch has come with hours of work by the Korkolas, but they've had help from volunteers and received donations toward the approximately \$75,000 spent to date to renovate the building.

"It's just been wonderful, the support and the love for the building and the area," Sandy said.

The renovations have included installing a new roof, two dozen new windows, with work on a solar power system underway.

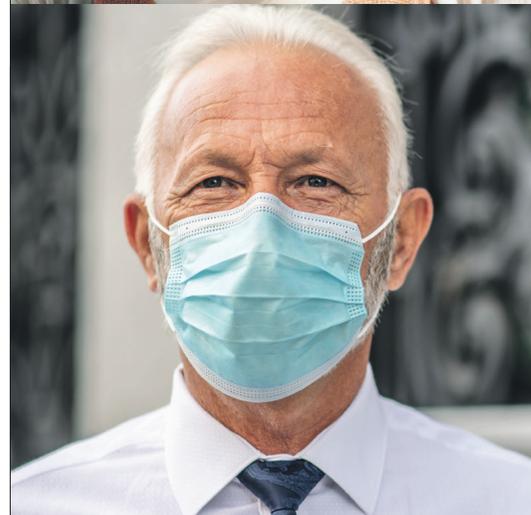
To celebrate the relaunch and honour the store's 150th anniversary this summer, the Korkolas plan to erect a 42-foot mast in front of the store, paying tribute to Silver Islet's mining history.

The couple is thrilled to welcome customers back this summer, but say a fitting celebration of the milestone may have to wait due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We'll mark the 150th year this year to whatever extent restrictions allow us to, but I think we're going to move our main celebration to 2022," said Jeff. "We'll have a big party."



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Editorial

EDITORIAL

Vaccination road map

Ontario, you've got your answer. It's up to you to make sure reopening of the province happens in a timely fashion.

The province last week unveiled a three-stage approach that could lead to the return of indoor gatherings and movie theatre popcorn as early as the end of July.

While too slow for local business leaders and MPPs, the plan does provide a roadmap – one that is vaccination-dependent.

Once the adult population hits 60 per cent, Premier Doug Ford says he'll move to Stage 1. Three weeks later, if Ontario is at 70 per cent vaccination and 20 per cent double-dosed, Phase 2 can kick in.

That would allow personal care services to reopen, with restrictions, of course.

How badly do you want that hair cut?

Then, if the province gets between 70 per cent and 80 per cent vaccinated, with 25 per cent double-dosed, Phase 3 can begin, perhaps as early as July 26.

So now the ball is in your court. Thunder Bay is at 59 per cent singly vaccinated and 10.4 per cent doubly vaccinated.

Every appointment counts at this stage. If you're hesitant, speak to a health-care professional to ease your fears.

For now, there's only one way out of this pandemic and that's ensuring the vast majority of adults – and those 12-15 too – sign up and receive a vaccination shot. That will allow summer to really begin.

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Idea for shopping centre

To the editor:

Perhaps when the pandemic is over, I was wondering if the city would possibly consider refurbishing the old Lowe's store in the Intercity Shopping Centre, and turn that section of the mall into a Wheelies-type of indoor roller skating rink?

The Lowe's store is definitely big enough.

The project would certainly cost less than building a new indoor soccer facility and would generate much-needed economy into business and the food court at Intercity Shopping Centre.

We could still wear our masks while skating around listening to music.

How about it, city council?

C. Manfredo,
Thunder Bay

Freedom

To the editor:

A dose of freedom will fix the lockdown blues.

Having been stuck in Northwestern Ontario for almost a year and a half, I could feel my mental health slowly being chipped away at. As someone who loves to travel, not being able to, due to threats and penalties from the Canadian government and health units, really took its toll.

It would be bad enough not travel internationally, but Canada is one of only a few countries which punish their citizens for travelling domestically.

And Ontario is the only sub-sovereign entity I know of, which does so for travelling within a province. Being threatened with quarantine demands or financial penalties, simply for wanting to exercise one's Charter rights, is ridiculous.

You see, I believe that the most precious thing any society can offer is freedom. Having had the opportunity to visit family in the former Communist East Germany numerous times before the wall fell, I have an insight into being kept prisoner in one's own country. And let there be no mistake, we are, essentially, living in a quasi-prison in Ontario.

Go west equals 14 days quarantine. Go east equals 14 days quarantine. Go anywhere equals quarantine.

So one can say it's a spacious prison, it's a comfortable prison, but it's a prison nonetheless.

Every time Doug Ford would announce ever more draconian measures or extensions to lockdowns, my already blue state of mind would take another hit.

Anger, frustration, hopelessness, despair. And no, I'm not exaggerating.

That is how I felt. Maybe it's also because I have zero faith that our

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



elected officials or health tsars will ever willingly give up the powers they have created for themselves (out of thin air) and fully return to us the Charter rights which they had no authority to steal in the first place.

So, for the benefit of my mental health, I decided I had to leave the Canadian police state and experience freedom again.

It honestly felt like a jailbreak, but when I arrived in Florida, I was a new man. Freedom! Everything was open. Stores, restaurants, bars, live entertainment, sports venues. It was glorious. And, to top it all off, no masks.

Remembering how happy my East German relatives were in the 80s when we used to bring them simple gifts like bananas or scented shampoo, took on a new meaning for me when I was able to have a seat in a barber's chair for the first time in an eternity.

The only place in Florida which (officially) required masks was the Blue Jays stadium in Dunedin.

However, even there, people only wore masks through security and then removed them.

An usher even told me to remove the mask, saying that "there is no

mask police here".

Key West was as packed as I'd ever seen it. When the bartender heard I'm Canadian, he said "Welcome to freedom, man".

I had received my 1st vaccine dose in Thunder Bay in April and was able to get my 2nd dose in Florida. I had my choice of Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson.

No waiting, no cost. In fact, I saw only foreigners at this particular Walmart pharmacy to receive their shots. People from France, Canada, Mexico and Colombia all got vaccinated for free and in a matter of minutes.

No waiting weeks or months for an appointment.

To put a fitting end to my trip to a place where freedom still exists and rights haven't been arbitrarily suspended or curtailed, I attended an Atlanta Braves baseball game. 40,000 spectators, not a mask in sight.

If, 18 months ago, you would have told me that I would find this to be an emotional and moving experience, I wouldn't have believed you. But I did. You simply don't know what you had until it's gone.

Seeing Florida (and most of

Georgia) 100 per cent open made me happy. It gave me hope and restored a small glimmer of faith that our officials might give up their authoritarian ways.

After all, as I'm writing this, Florida, which has been 100 per cent open since September 2020, has a known Covid case mortality rate of 1.58 per cent, while Ontario's known COVID case mortality rate sits at 1.65 per cent.

That's right, you have a higher chance of dying from Covid in Doug Ford's lockdown nightmare than you do in a free Florida.

Let that sink in.

In the meantime, if you can manage the quarantine period upon returning, I highly encourage anyone to take a trip to a place where people are free and full vaccination is easily available. It will remind you of how we used to live in Canada and will highlight what has been taken from us.

But, moreover, it will be a much needed antidote against government induced COVID depression.

I, for one, have already planned and booked several more trips abroad.

Mirco Walther,
Thunder Bay

Perspective

We will survive this

COVID-19 has been a battle, but the end is nearing

OPINION

By J.R. Shermack
Special to TB Source

Living in a small city or town in Northwestern Ontario during the pandemic does have some benefits when compared with large urban centres.

We have always been geographically isolated and this has taught us how to look after each other and provide assistance to those in need.

Like many other Canadians hunkered down in their own communities, our social lives have also been disrupted and we have been separated from family and friends.

We have experienced the same inconvenience, hardship and loss as everyone else but our relatively small population has been spared the worst case scenarios.

We owe a lot to medical and science professionals but at the local level we have seen many unselfish acts of human kindness along the way.

After coping with COVID and staying healthy for the past year I now have a deeper appreciation of the benefits of a strong, compassionate local community.

Everybody was scrambling when the virus first appeared but it didn't take long for individuals, groups and organizations to identify needs and provide assistance.

Whether it was the dedication and hard work of medical workers on the front line or the support of family and friends on the front porch, care and

compassion made a big difference.

Over the past year the benefits of living in a strong, vibrant community were clearly demonstrated by the combined efforts of many local citizens looking out for each other.

When the virus was running rampant through our long-term care facilities we responded quickly to control and suppress the infection in vulnerable groups.

When the schools shifted to on-line teaching, local educators and artists stepped up to provide creative and interesting content for the virtual learners.

There was a huge rattle of pots and pans in Thunder Bay kitchens as savoury casseroles, hearty pots of soup and fresh home baking were prepared and delivered to loved ones.

It is always easier to deal with adversity and make it through a crisis when those around you share the burden and lighten the load.

During times of fear and uncertainty and in spite of social distancing we are depending on our personal connections for solidarity, guidance, empathy and information.

We were locked down and isolated but we were never really alone or living in isolation – we could always rely on the continuing kindness of family, friends and even total strangers.

Now, more than ever as our

community regains its strength and vigor and case numbers drop, it is especially gratifying to be a Northerner – we have always been in this together, and it shows.

The importance of local involvement in response to the pandemic is emphasized in global health guidelines and the importance of community support is widely recognized.

The pandemic has shown us how individual behavior at the local level can have far-reaching effects provincially, nationally and even globally.

We are social animals and we always count on the generosity and kindness of our loved ones, and sometimes unknown strangers, to keep us safe and healthy.

Everyone living in Northwestern Ontario should appreciate the good people in our communities – hardship is much easier to bear with the comfort and support of those living around us.

As for me, I often listened to morning updates on the radio, hopeful when the news was good and horrified whenever the numbers were on the rise.

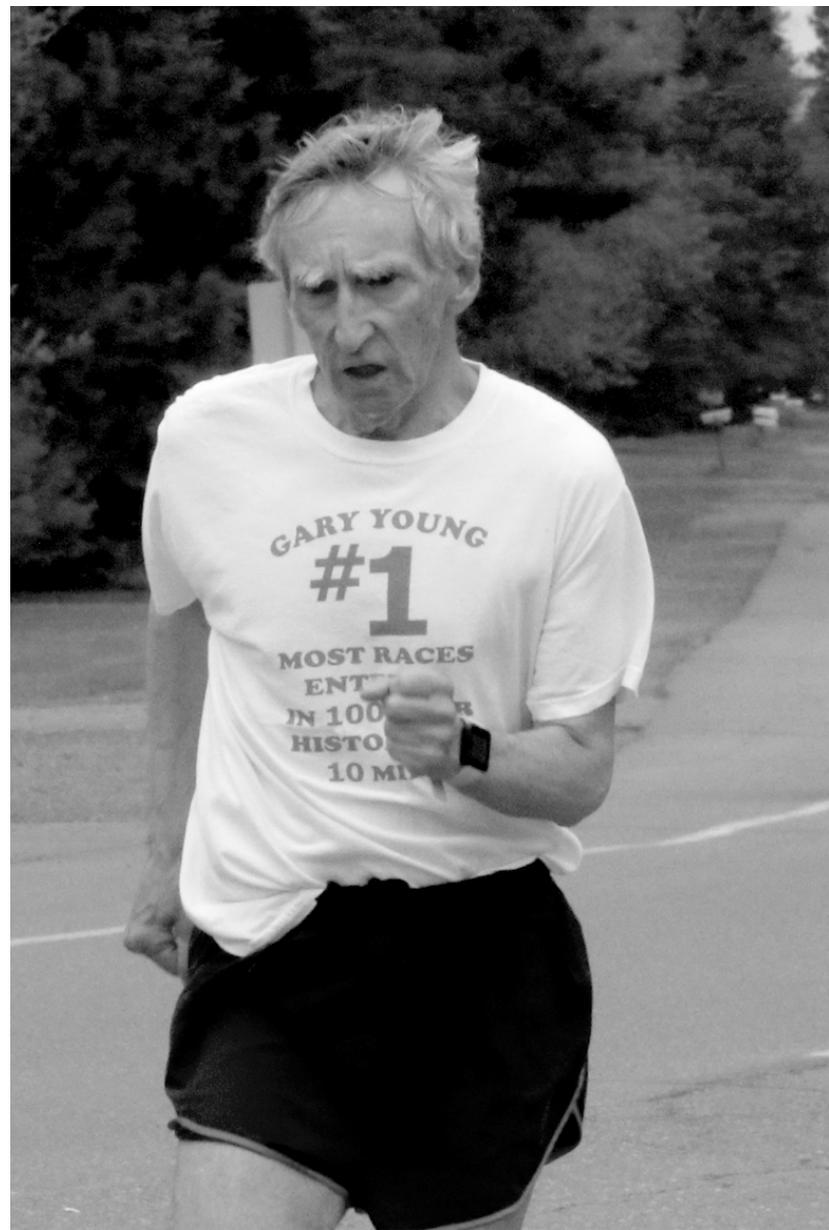
Lately the news has been positive and hopeful but even during the most troubling times I always believed what Dr. Janet DeMille said, "We can get through this."

We will accomplish it together for the benefit of the local, national and global community.

"We can get through this."

DR. JANET DEMILLE

VIRTUAL RUN



STILL GOING: Gary Young helped keep the May long weekend tradition alive, hosting the virtual Victoria Day 10-Mile Challenge on Monday in the absence of the Firefighters' Ten Mile Road Race.

LEITH DUNICK

A look back in history:

Farm Tractors

Just before the First World War, the International Harvester Company of Fort William assembled tractors for sale to prairie farmers. Here a full trainload heads west from its plant on the Kam River. Production ended when war began in 1914.



HOW TO WRITE US:

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

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your VOICE

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LOCAL NEWS

Bomb threats halt city's bus service

POLICE
By Gary Rinne – TB Source

An individual detained by the Thunder Bay Police Service after bomb threats were phoned in to Thunder Bay Transit is co-operating with detectives.

No charges have been laid but the investigation continues.

Det.-Insp. John Fennell said two calls were made to transit within 10 minutes of each other at around 9:30 a.m. last Wednesday.

"They were making the threat that there was a bomb on board one of the buses. Needless to say, it was taken very seriously, and led to an investigation throughout the whole day," Fennell said.

Arrangements were quickly made to stop and evacuate all buses that were in service at the time.

Fennell said a total of 25 buses were searched with the assistance of the Ontario Provincial Police bomb squad, and no explosive devices were found.

He said that early in the investigation, police were able to identify the location from which the phone calls were made.

"As such, a person residing in Thunder Bay has been detained. That person has

been co-operating with us."

Fennell said the individual's potential involvement with the threat is still to be determined.

"Several devices can make these phone calls. So we are going through that process with our computer experts and trying to identify 100 per cent as to where that phone call originated."

He said police don't have the luxury in this kind of situation of knowing whether the perpetrator might be a child playing a joke, or whether it is a serious threat.

In his 28 years of service, the only similarly disruptive incidents Fennell can recall were the numerous threats made against Hammarskjold High School in 2018 and 2019.

"To essentially shut transit down for the day, I can't imagine the impact this had on the public," he said. "We've done everything we can to ensure those buses are now safe, and can resume service."

Buses began rolling Wednesday night.

Fennell cautioned the investigation is far from over, saying "We are still concerned. You don't know what you don't know," adding that with public safety having been addressed, the focus now is on identifying the caller, and to "verify the truth" of what happened.



TAKE NO CHANCES: The police bomb squad investigates a report of a bomb on a city bus last Wednesday, which cut off service.

LEITH DUNICK

INJURED WORKER'S DAY

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TB Life

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Hospital accepts Manitoba ICU transfers

Thunder Bay Regional to take in up to five COVID-19 patients to help overwhelmed ICUs

HEALTH

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre could receive up to five COVID-19 intensive care unit patients from neighbouring Manitoba.

Hospital president and CEO Dr. Rhonda Crocker-Ellacott on Thursday said they'd already admitted three patients transferred from Ontario's provincial neighbour to the west.

They later added two more transfers, bringing the hospital to its available limit of five.

According to CBC Winnipeg, two more patients had been shipped to Sault Ste. Marie, with one patient each going to North Bay, Ottawa and Windsor.

Overloaded

As of Sunday, there were 316 people hospitalized as a result of COVID-19 in Manitoba, with 120 people in intensive care.

The pre-COVID ICU capacity in the province was 72.

"We've been working together with Manitoba Shared Services and with our Northwestern Ontario hospitals to collaborate and provide some



HELPING OUT: Thunder Bay Regional has taken in five COVID-19 intensive care unit patients from neighbouring Manitoba.

support for intensive care over-capacity needs in Manitoba," Crocker-Ellacott said on Thursday

afternoon.

"The fortunate part is given the low case counts of COVID-19 in our

region, we are in the position that we can provide additional capacity and supports to Manitoba in their time of

need."

Crocker-Ellacott said an incident command structure has been set up, chaired by Dr. Michael Scott, the medical director of the intensive care unit at Thunder Bay Regional, to coordinate any future transfers.

"He identifies which hospitals across the whole north have capacity and capability to take ICU patients in order to help Manitoba with their surge," Crocker-Ellacott said.

"We'll take our first five and then it will move down the road to whomever has the capacity, capability and staffing to support the next few transfers will take (them) and we'll do that in a co-ordinated way until we reach our max capacity within the north – and then there's a potential for it to go further if there's still a need in Manitoba."

Trying to save space

Crocker-Ellacott said her hospital has limited intake to five patients in order to be able to offer timely care to those living within their catchment area.

"The idea is we wouldn't want it to impact care and services to those living in Thunder Bay or in Northwestern Ontario. In no way is accepting these five patients impacting care within our community and within our region."

Thunder Bay Regional on Wednesday announced it had four COVID-19 patients in hospital and two in intensive care. The overall hospital capacity was at 80 per cent.

Ontario to use AstraZeneca for second doses

HEALTH

By Doug Dlaczuk – TB Source

The provincial government is looking at offering the AstraZeneca vaccine as a second dose within a 12-week period to those who received it as a first dose.

During a media briefing on Friday, chief medical officer of health Dr. David Williams said the risk of developing vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia or blood clot is reduced with the second dose to approximately one in 600,000.

The province suspended the use of AstraZeneca as a first dose out of an abundance of caution after the risk of

developing VITT was found to be approximately one in 60,000.

"These numbers sound like something but they are very low risk in situations, especially compared to COVID," Williams said. "We want to make sure it is safe, continues to be safe, and is efficacious.

"We are still in the third wave and have people in their 20s and 30s ending up in the ICU. The risks of getting COVID far exceed any risks associated with the vaccine, especially with the second dose."

Between March 10 and May 11, approximately one million people in Ontario received the AstraZeneca vaccine.

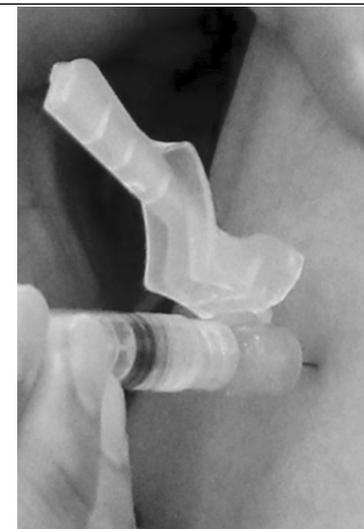
Williams said people who have received the AstraZeneca vaccine as a first dose will have the opportunity to receive it as a second dose within the recommended 12-week interval, which is the time period research has shown it to be most effective.

"The province is working with primary care providers and pharmacies to ensure second dose appointments are scheduled in advance of the 12-week interval, and will provide further information on how individuals who received their first dose of AstraZeneca can book a second dose appointment in the near future," a statement from the province reads.

AstraZeneca was first introduced as part of a pilot project to offer vaccines in pharmacies in three Southern Ontario regions on March 10 but only became available in three Thunder Bay pharmacies on April 8 to individuals between the ages of 55 and 64 and later expanding to those 40 plus.

Individuals who received their first dose as part of that pilot between March 10 and 19 will be eligible to receive the second-dose within a 10-week interval.

The efficacy of the second dose after the 10-week period is approximately 70 to 75 per cent, while at the 12-week interval it increases to between 80 and 90 per cent.



WIDE USE: About one million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine have been given.



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GOING FOR A RIDE: Charlotte Alley and Mikkal Jones begin the loop on the Prospector Skills Trail at Trowbridge Forest.

Mountain biking is starting to take off

Go for a mountain bike ride in Trowbridge Forest any evening after work and it is hard not to be impressed by the large number of people discovering Thunder Bay's expanding trail network.

Even more remarkable is the growing amount of people interested in exploring the trails. Unfortunately, many are worried about getting lost or ending up on a trail that is far too difficult for their skillset.

For a newer rider, taking the right route and riding the trails in the best direction is key. What follows is a recommendation that covers all the best trails in a flowing route that begins and ends at the trailhead at Kinsmen Park (Trowbridge Falls).

There are small maps posted throughout the trail system to keep you on track. Please keep in mind that even the beginner trails require some skill and riders should have at least basic trail riding abilities, a well-maintained bike and a quality helmet before heading into the singletrack.



KEITH AILEY
 THE GOOD LIFE

Easy beginning

Starting from the parking lot, plunge into the Prospector Skills Trail next to the river for a little warm up.

This easy flowing kids' trail will lead you to the "new" metal bridge where you will cross the Current River. Once you cross the bridge, you will see the entrance to the Conveyor Belt trail that takes you directly up into Shuniah Mines.

This trail climbs steadily for 2.2 kilometres but the flowing nature disguises the elevation gain.

Be aware of riders descending quickly as multiple intersections and short sight lines characterize this fun and twisty trail.

Conveyor Belt will spit you out at the big field in Shuniah Mines. Here you will enjoy a few rollers, some berms and an optional jump line through the field.

Keep heading south into Crossover where you will get to ride a series of skinny bridges.

Thanks to Wanson Lumber, the addition of these bridges allows riders to cross wet areas with no risk because they are only a couple inches off the ground. Crossover ends at the "Four Corners" intersection where you can hang a left into Dagobah.

The current iteration of this classic trail is technical but still flows smoothly, making it a favourite with riders of all abilities.

Make your move

At the end of Dagobah, a section of double track road leads you to BMX, another beginner-friendly trail that is great for building skills. After BMX, take another short section of access road, then head north into the Grand Chasm. Be cautious of the rock drop and the bridge, but otherwise this signature trail is a relatively safe thrill ride which gradually

descends back to Four Corners.

Hang a left to ascend Peekaboo, which offers about as much fun as you could ever ask for while climbing. From here, beginners should take the snowmobile trail back towards the field, but more confident riders can add Doctor's and The Stranger to get them up to the Hydro Tower at the top of the field. The loop is almost over now, but luckily there are no bad choices to get out of Shuniah.

Both HillTop and Drift are exciting downhill trails. I almost always select Drift because it is newer and longer, but either way, you will end up back on the snowmobile trail that leads you back down, over two wooden bridges, towards Trowbridge Falls Campground.

By this point, the smile on your face will be pretty big, and so is the decision you must make. Do you have time for another lap?

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FRED JONES
RURAL ROOTS

digging, grabbing clumps of crabgrass roots-infested soil, shaking out the good stuff, and tossing the bad.

My wife, Laura, The Gardener, has been building frames from boards we've removed from horse stalls no longer in use.

With the price of lumber being exorbitant, thank the gods we have a convenient supply on hand that is free. The hope is that when all of the permanent beds are made, we will no longer have major weeding to do.

Yellow is also the colour of the American goldfinches who are frequenting our bird feeder that is hung in the crab apple tree that is now festooned in white blossoms.

I counted four males Saturday morning. By afternoon we were in what seemed to be a monsoon - horizontal sheets of rain tearing by the house so thick that sometimes it was difficult to see the woods surrounding Casa Jones.

We had brought the equines inside just before the deluge and we kept them in

their stalls all night since it was still wet outside. But Sunday morning was a huge contrast: plus 5 and a stiff, cold wind that greeted me as I headed outside to feed the birds. I had to don a warm jacket and gloves to work in the barn.

I had hung out a hummingbird feeder several weeks ago but I didn't observe any thrummers until Friday when I saw one perched on the feeder. Sunday morning, a pair were seeming to duke it out.

Obviously two males competing for the resources. Glad that they have returned and are availing themselves of the sweet sucker.

The downpour we received a week ago made a huge difference in grass growth and in other vertiginous stuff. I hitched up the hay trailer and trundled down to my supplier.

While lashing the large, round, hay bales securely to the trailer, I chatted with my farmer friend and he noted that the height of his rye crop the week prior was about six inches high.

After the rain, it shot up to a foot. Does this bode well for the new hay crop?

Too soon to tell, he told me. Last summer was terrible for growing things - far too hot and dry.

The quality of hay was good but the yield was far below normal. Here's hoping the weather gods will do the right thing and supply just the right balance of wet and heat.

The heat and dryness of last summer meant lousy berry crops. We headed out to pick blueberries up on our back meadow only to discover few in number and shrivelled. I am praying this summer will yield a good crop for browsing bears and hopefully leaving a few for human's pancakes.

We have a pair of Canada geese feeding in our southern paddock alongside the horses. They have probably made a nest in our beaver pond. We might see a line of goslings waddling behind Mum and Dad in the not-too-distant-future,

The sandhill cranes are still gliding

onto the field to graze on what, I don't know. I suspect that they are nesting in the tall bulrushes in the swamp just west of the pond. Hope their 'colts' survive to a point where they can fly south in late summer with their parents.

Last year something grabbed one of them when they were quite small, possibly a fox. It made me very sad.

The ravenlings have left the nest. They gather on the fence rails and squawk at their parents to feed them. Our young pooch, Lily, loves to chase them but, fortunately, can't get them when they fly to the safety of a fence rail or post since she is a small pup.

And once the lawns dried, I resolved to cut them. Dandelions sprouted two weeks ago but nary a bee have I seen buzzing them. Not to worry: the dandelions will grow back and the pollinators will have ample chance to gather nectar.

But what a rollercoaster we are experiencing in terms of temperature.

I love the old term collywobbles. That is what Ma Nature is experiencing: the collywobbles.

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Riders dispenses proper justice



**MARTY
MASCARIN**
MOVIE TALK

Riders of Justice (Shaw PPV, Danish with English subtitles) is a newly released revenge saga with a father/daughter relationship at the core. Mads Mikkelsen, starring in a role that's a far cry from his wayward teacher in the Oscar-winning *Another Round*, demonstrates his versatility as a troubled military dad fumbling to connect with his daughter.

In *Riders of Justice*, a title with double-meaning, Mads is Markus, a crack special forces officer who is forced to return home from Mideast action upon the untimely death of his wife who was killed in a train accident while in transit with their teenaged daughter, Mathilde (Andrea Heick Gadeberg).

The relationship between dad and daughter is already strained, given his extended absence but it isn't helped by Markus' stoic, shaved head, bushy-beard remoteness and dismissal of therapy.

The situation gets even more acute when a trio of very quirky super-tech computer guys shows up with algorithm-deduced evidence that the train wreck is the result of deliberate sabotage to knock off a key witness in a trial against the leader of a notorious biker gang known as The Riders of Justice.

Having been rebuffed by the police, the leader of the trio, Otto (Nikolaj Lie Kaas) who gave up his seat to Markus' wife on the train, feels compelled to inform the grieving Markus.

Expiating his grief through vengeance versus therapy, Markus puts his special skills to work. Much violence ensues, leavened by the absurdist presence of the brilliant but eccentric, squabbling

techies who become part of Mads' dubiously armed retinue and pseudo in-house therapists.

True to Scandinavian cinematic tradition, "Riders" blends together the disparate elements of violence, dark comedy and domestic drama. There is quirky hilarity, unexpected plot twists and jolting action, with myriad little elements skillfully linked together.

Director/screenwriter Anders Thomas Jensen is particularly adroit at fleshing out the characters, providing empathetic, cathartic moments, without getting maudlin.

Markus does not exactly embrace his new confederates but subtly exudes a glimmer of tolerance. The techies, meanwhile, are allowed to exist beyond one-note clichés.

Interwoven throughout are debates about algorithms' efficacy in a world of randomness and coincidence which refers back to the opening sequence where Otto gets fired from an auto company.

The family in the line of fire theme, similar to Bob Odenkirk's *Nobody*, is a bit queasy. It's okay for a lone-wolf to do the vigilante thing but it's different when there's family at risk.

Yet Jensen makes daughter Mathilde as bright and plucky as her nerdy counterparts. She shows Otto her own low-tech algorithm via post-it notes, illustrating how the whole nasty business began with what was supposed to be her dad's extended tour of duty, setting off a chain reaction of coincidences leading to loss and tragedy, hence her resentment.

Jensen ends with a sweet moment, referencing an earlier incident involving loss, quietly hinting that reconciliation and recovery may be possible. Though there are bumpy moments in *Riders*, Jensen has pulled off a cinematic algorithm balance of his own.



GOING MAD: Mads Mikkelsen plays Marku, a special forces officer who returns home from the Mid-East after the death of his wife.

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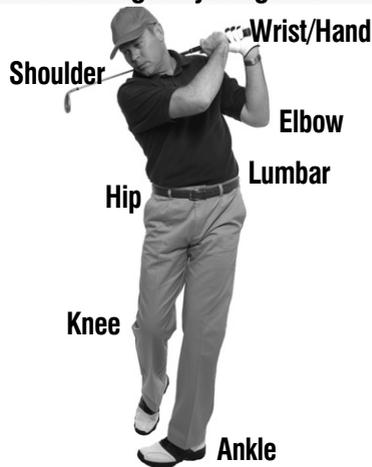
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Golfers back in the swing

GOLF

By Ian Kaufman -TB Source

Local golfers wasted no time hitting the links as provincial restrictions on outdoor activities lifted this weekend.

The enforced delay to the season made it extra sweet to score a tee time for one Fort William Country Club member who had gone to some lengths to secure a slot when the course's booking system opened Friday morning.

"I'm pretty excited," he said. "We set our alarms for 6:55 a.m. the other day just so we could get some times for today... It seems like everyone else did, [too]. I think 30 seconds in, there were about 16 times left out of the whole day."

Couldn't wait

A golfer at the city's Strathcona course was thrilled to be back, saying the province's decision to close golf and other outdoor activities province-wide in April had always been misguided.

"It's fantastic," he said, choosing not to give his name "It's about time they changed their mind and opened up the outdoor sports. Everybody's looking forward to it, especially in Thunder Bay and the area."

For Brian Bruni, general manager of the Fort William Country Club, the shifting regulations had made things a challenge, but nothing could take away from the joy of opening the course on a beautiful Saturday morning.

"(It's been a) very interesting and late start to the golf season, but we're ecstatic about being able to welcome golfers out today," he said.

The course managed to pivot after



BUSY SPOT: Tee times at courses around Thunder Bay, including Fort William Country Club, filled up on the weekend.

the announcement by the province Thursday that courses could reopen Saturday.

"The announcement with two days' notice has made it a bit of a challenge in terms of rounding up staff, particularly in the middle of a long weekend," he said.

Tee times, which were opened to members only for the first weekend of operation, were fully booked for all three days of the long weekend. The public can start booking as of Tuesday.

The last-minute announcement led to a "pretty chaotic" season opening, agreed Brian Duguay, clerk at the Strathcona Golf Course.

The booking system had slowed due

to high demand, with the course nearly entirely booked over the coming days.

"The tee sheet filled up in probably about an hour and a half for all three days," Duguay said.

If there was a sliver of good news in the delayed opening, Duguay said, it had given extra time to prepare the grounds at local courses.

"This is the best shape we've seen it in at the opening, I think, just because we had an extra week or so of nobody being on it," he said. "You can take a look for yourself, but it's all green, the fairways are lush..."

Municipal courses ended up marking a "bumper year" in 2020 despite a similar pandemic-caused late start,

Duguay noted.

Courses will operate with restrictions similar to those in place last year, though two riders from separate households can now ride in the same cart, with masks on.

Feel safe

Local golfers said they're entirely comfortable with the rules, seeing golf as a low-risk activity.

"Going back to last year, there were no issues from what I gather and from what I've seen online," said the FWCC member.

"Golf is safe – we demonstrated that last year, and we'll continue to demonstrate that," agreed Bruni.

McDavid's time in Edmonton being wasted

The Edmonton Oilers have to figure things out.

They've basically wasted six of Connor McDavid's valuable seasons, and what have they got to show for it?

A single second-round appearance, three missed post-seasons and a team with more holes than Hardy Astrom.

It just goes to show a team can't win with just one or two players. All those No. 1 picks and Leon Draisl

and just a handful of playoff wins. It's a shame.

The Oilers have McDavid under control for five more seasons. They have to find a way to put the players around him that will help him win.

If they're going to trade him, a la Wayne Gretzky – and I absolutely think they won't – they'll have to get it done next year before his no-movement clause kicks in.

Sunday's collapse, blowing a 4-1 lead to Winnipeg, might be rock bottom for the McDavid-era Oilers.

Cory Perry took his punishment like a true hockey player, dropping the gloves to take on Marcus Foligno after his knee inadvertently collided with the face of Leafs captain John Tavares.

It looked nasty, probably felt nastier, but it was clearly accidental and unavoidable.

Tavares will miss two weeks,

because of a knee-on-knee collision with Montreal's Ben Chiarot. He'll be out at least two weeks.

Finally, it was hard to cheer against Phil Mickelson last weekend at the PGA Championship.

Lefty captured his sixth major title and second PGA crown, at 50 becoming the oldest player to ever win a major.

As someone who qualifies for the senior tour by age, but certainly not by talent, that was a win for the aged.



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- DECOR

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68. DEATH/FUNERALS



68. DEATH/FUNERALS

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ST. JOSEPH'S FOUNDATION OF THUNDER BAY
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69. PUZZLE ANSWERS

69. PUZZLE ANSWERS

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

Purchase a vehicle between Feb 5 – Nov 30, 2021 and

BE ENTERED FOR A CHANCE TO WIN

100,000

AIR MILES® Reward Miles



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Lifetime limited power train warranty on all Driven Certified Vehicles



2016 Acura ILX TECH PKG Thunder Bay
84,037KM | Stock #:2604TA **\$18,000****



2015 Mazda 3 GS Thunder Bay
102,440KM | Stock #:2603TA **\$12,500****



2014 Mitsubishi Lancer SE Thunder Bay
141,249KM | Stock #:2595TA **\$9,500****



2018 Kia Forte LX + Thunder Bay
109,220KM | Stock #:2597TR **\$13,500****



2016 Subaru Crosstrek 2.0i w/sport Thunder Bay
82,020KM | Stock #:2559TA **\$19,500****



2014 Mercedes Benz CLA Class 250 Thunder Bay
112,630KM | Stock #:2594TA **\$22,500****



2016 Toyota Corolla S Thunder Bay
136,344KM | Stock #:2588TA **\$13,500****



2021 Hisun Strike 550cc L/H/N/R Thunder Bay
0KM | Stock #:2575TO **\$13,599****



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drivencarscanada.ca

589 11th Ave 699-5000

*No Purchase Necessary. Customers receive twenty-five (25) ballot entry with the purchase of a vehicle between February 5th – November 30th, 2021. Open to residents of Canada who are 18 years of age and over. One (1) prize available to be won. Odds of winning depend on eligible entries. Full contest Rules Apply. See website for details.

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