TBDHU TOTAL ELIGIBLE PEOPLE VACCINATED (1 DOSE): 112,441 (78.3%) TOTAL DOSES: 197,686



OPENING UP: Canada's border with the United States has been closed since March 2020. The U.S. has not indicated when it will allow Canadian tourists to drive into the States.

INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Project Dryden, English River and Wabigoon Forests

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)** invites you to inspect the MNRF-approved aerial herbicide projects. As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, selected stands on the **Dryden, English River and Wabigoon Forests** (see map) will be sprayed with herbicide to control competing vegetation, starting on or about **August 1, 2021**.



The approved project description and project plan for the aerial herbicide project is available electronically for public inspection by contacting **Dryden Forest Management Company** for the Dryden Forest, **Resolute FP Canada Inc.** for the English River and **Domtar Inc.** for the Wabigoon Forest during normal business hours and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at **https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online** beginning **June 30, 2021 until March 31, 2022** when the Annual Work Schedule expires.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange a remote meeting with MNRF staff to discuss the aerial herbicide project. For more information, please contact:

DRYDEN FOREST

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WABIGOON FOREST

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ENGLISH RIVER FOREST

Mallory Miller

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Ontario 🕅

Traffic light upgrade OK'd

Lights will be synchronized on some heavily travelled routes in the city

CITY HALL By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

Drivers travelling down busy city streets could soon save a little extra time as city council agrees to move forward on upgrading the traffic light system, which will also see lights synchronized on heavily travelled routes.

During Monday night's Thunder Bay City Council meeting, a motion brought forward by Mayor Bill Mauro to recommend that city administration continue work on a plan for implementation of traffic light synchronization over the next four years and that funds be included in upcoming capital budgets for the next four years received unanimous support.

Upgrades to the traffic light system were first identified in the 2018 transportation master plan with a cost of approximately \$4 million.

The motion passed on Monday formalized timelines and directs city administration to budget for



directs city administration to budget for the upgrades between 2022 and 2025.

Northwood coun. Shelby Ch'ng raised some concerns regarding the motion, questioning if \$4 million is a worthwhile investment to save 30 seconds on a commute down a busy street.

"I understand we have traffic lights and people complain about them and people don't follow the rules and it leads to a number of issues," she said. "We have these rules to follow but I have a hard time spending \$4 million for something I

SHELBY CH'NG

see as a minor inconvenience. Is there another narrative where I can feel comfortable signing off on this?"

Long-time coming

According to Kayla Dixon, director of engineering and operations with the city of Thunder Bay, the current traffic light system is extremely dated and uses dial-up internet to access and needs to be upgraded.

"It is a legacy system no longer supported by the supplier. It is required to update that in any case," she said. "There are other functionalities other than being able to provide better traffic flow."

Dixon added there are connectivity issues with the majority of intersections throughout the city and upgrades to the system will allow city staff to better address problems with traffic lights.

"We rely on the community to let us know if detection isn't working at an intersection or if an intersection has gone into flash," she said.

"The new system will provide new functionality but it will also provide remote access so we are aware of issues in the network so we can respond more quickly. Some of the new functionality will allow us to time intersections."

Timing intersections will allow for lights to be synchronized in heavy traffic areas, which will reduce the amount of time vehicles spend stopped at red lights to improve traffic flow and reduce green house gas emissions from prolonged idling of vehicles.

It will also allow the city to prioritized emergency vehicles and public transit.

Coun. Aldo Roberto asked if the upgrades will see the removal of any traffic lights across the city.

Dixon said city administration is already reviewing intersections and traffic counts to see where traffic lights are warranted and where they are not.

LOCALNEWS



BACK IN BUSINESS: Canada's land border to the United States has been closed to non-essential traffic since March 2020.

Border reopening soon

Fully vaccinated Americans allowed into Canada on Aug. 9

"Travellers

will have to

be fully vacci-

nated ... at

least 14 days

prior to

entering the

country."

PATTY HAJDU

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

CAmerican tourists on Aug. 9 – though the United States has yet to say whether or not they'll reciprocate at that time.

Non-essential, fully vaccinated international travellers, who meet certain requirements, will be allowed to enter Canada as of Sept. 7.

Canada is also reducing restrictions for fully vaccinated Canadian citizens, permanent residents and those otherwise permitted to enter the country.

Partially or non-vaccinated non-essential international travellers will not be allowed to cross the border, while Canadians who have had one or no shots will face a 14-day quarantine. Travellers flying into the country will no longer have to stay at a government approved hotel for three days.

Health Minister Patty Hajdu said the news has been a long time coming, but the country had to be cautious in its approach, pointing out that 80 per cent of eligible Canadians have now received at least one COVID-19 vaccination and more than half the eligible population has had both doses.

That's still short of the 75 per cent fully vaccinated total Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and other public health officials had touted earlier this year as the threshold to reopen the border, but the numbers are expected to climb over the next 21 days.

"Thanks to the hard work of Canadians who have followed public health measures and stepped up to get vaccinated when it was their turn, we're in a much stronger position to be able to further ease border measures for fully vaccinated travellers," Hajdu said at a Monday news conference, speaking from her Thunder Bay home.

Non-essential travel has been restricted into Canada since March 2020.

That will change in three weeks, but there are caveats. "Travellers will have to be fully vaccinated with a Health Canada-authorized vaccine, at least 14 days prior to entering the country," Hajdu said.

The health minister said the earlier opening to United States tourists is a recognition of the importance of the relationship between the two countries, which share the longest unguarded border in the world.

Returning Canadians will also see changes. At present a negative test taken within three days of arriving at the border must be presented.

"Starting Aug. 9, we will shift to a mandatory, randomized testing for fully vaccinated travellers. Only

those who have been randomly selected will need to take a Day 1 test," Hajdu said. "This shift allows us to focus efforts on unvaccinated travellers, while still keeping track of variants."

Another change is that children younger than 12, not yet eligible for a vaccine, may travel with parents without having to quarantine for 14 days, but must avoid group settings, including day care and schools, for a two-week period upon return.

Travellers will have to upload vaccination information to the ArriveCan app or present official government vaccination receipts to border officials.

Public Safety Minister Bill Blair said it's unclear when the United States will reciprocate.

He said he spoke this past Friday with Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, telling him about the measures Canada intended to put in place later this summer.

Blair was told the United States has not yet made a decision whether or not to reopen its land borders to Canadians.

"They anticipate their current measures will likely be rolled over on July 21. They are considering additional measures and data, but at present time they have not indicated a plan to make any changes in the current

Weather Forecast



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LOCALNEWS

Swimmers save man from drowning

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

A leisurely swim at Soldier's Hole quickly turned into a life or death situation on Thursday night.

Thanks to the quick thinking of several people, including Katryna and Jenna Kadikoff, disaster was averted.

The cousins said they were enjoying the water at the popular, but hard-toget-to swimming spot, located off a trail in Centennial Park, when they heard shouting, the commotion springing them into action.

"We were just floating in the water and we heard somebody screaming that somebody was drowning," said 26-year-old Jenna.

"We started swimming toward them. He was unconscious and had been under the water for quite a while, so we were all trying to grab hold of him and pull him up onto Jenna's floatie," her 27-year-old cousin added.

Katryna said there were several other people present who helped get the victim, who they believe through his friends is in stable condition, out of the water and onto the rocks, where Jenna's CPR training kicked in.



SAVIOURS: Katryna Kadikoff and her cousin Jenna Kadikoff were swimming last Thursday at Soldier's Hole when they heard shouting.

"Katryna was holding his head out of the water while I was holding onto his arms. Then there were two other of his friends that were helping us too. Luckily all four of us were there – and the girl who notified us from shore – if all five of us weren't there it would have had a different ending." It was the last thing the cousins expected to happen.

"It was just the adrenalin that kicked in and we thought CPR. I got my hands ready to do the compressions and it was just kind of instinct that kicked in after that," Katryna said.

"I think in the moment I was trying

to tell myself, 'You have something to do right now and you can let your emotions out after.' In the moment we were able to get it together and stay calm and brought him back to shore," Jenna said. "And then afterward, when we realized what had happened is when it kind of hit us and we got a little bit emotional."

That moment didn't take long, Jenna added.

"When he became conscious and spit up some water and we knew 911 was on their way, we were just so grateful he was OK."

Firefighters and paramedics raced to the scene and helped bring the man and one of his companions back to shore for treatment, using specialized equipment to lift them to safety up the steep side of the gorge.

Katryna said she believes the victim got caught up in the current and cautioned anyone who goes swimming at Soldier's Hole, or anywhere really, to be aware of their surroundings and make sure they're not alone.

"And hopefully maybe we can get some signs up saying that it's a strong current and you need to be a better swimmer to make sure you're going to be OK."

"It's such a popular place and it's so dangerous," Jenna added.

There have been numerous close calls at Soldier's Hole over the years and in 2002, a 10-year-old boy died while swimming there.



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SHUT DOWN: The hospital's COVID-19 clinic reopened in mid-February.

COVID clinic shuttered

HEALTH By Gary Rinne – TB Source

n yet another sign that the COVID-19 pandemic is currently under control in this area, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre has decided to close its dedicated COVID-19 care unit.

The hospital made the announcement Monday.

It has no admitted patients with COVID-19, and there are no active cases anywhere in the District of Thunder Bay.

In all of Northwestern Ontario, there is only one confirmed active case, in the Kenora area.

The dedicated care unit on 3A at TBRHSC first opened on Feb. 15, 2021.

The hospital statement said that over the past five months and during the second wave of the pandemic, the unit looked after a significant number of patients infected with the virus.

It did not disclose the precise total but said "This resulted in many changing circumstances and staff redeployment to areas needing support. While this was not ideal, the staff and professional staff at TBRHSC showed tremendous dedication to the care of patients in our hospital."

At various times, the hospital was looking after dozens of patients with COVID-19.

The statement said that closing the COVID-19 unit will free up the 3A surgical beds and enhance the hospital's inpatient capacity.

TBRHSC also recently announced the closure of its Bora Laskin COVID-19 vaccination clinic as of July 23, based on high vaccination rates in the community and a significant drop in appointment bookings.

Vaccinations continue to be available through the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and other venues.

District at zero cases

By TB Source staff

For the first time in over eight months, there are no active COVID-19 cases reported in the Thunder Bay district.

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit announced Monday that the district's caseload has fallen to zero.

The last time there were no active cases was on Nov. 5, 2020. There have been 3,340 confirmed cases since the onset of the pandemic.

The district's first case was reported on March 27, 2020. There were no new cases reported on Tuesday,









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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

Border will finally open

Canada blinked first, much to the surprise of many.

On Monday, Health Minister Patty Hajdu announced that Canada would open its borders to fully vaccinated U.S. travellers.

Tourists from other international locations will be allowed in, starting on Sept.

It's been a long wait. The border was last open in March 2020, and our businesses that rely on tourism have suffered greatly.

Some may never bounce back, which is tragic, but the need to keep the country safe outweighed economics.

Hopefully Thunder Bay welcomes American tourists with open arms. There have been cases of drivers with U.S. plates being screamed at in the city, though thankfully those situations seem to be few and far between.

There is good news for children too. Those who can't be vaccinated because of their age no longer have to quarantine, but will still have to stay away from school and daycare for two weeks upon return. That could be tough on Minnesota hockey tournaments, at least for a little while anyway.

Now it's up the United States to reciprocate. If Canada can welcome Americans with much lower vaccination rates, it should be a no-brainer for the U.S. to open up. The sooner, the better.

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COVID still a threat

To the editor: With the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions I am noticing more examples of people ignoring social distancing practices.

As an immune-compromised person, I am careful to follow the recommended health protocols. However, yesterday I was in a coffee shop waiting in line when a woman rushed up, grabbed me with both hands and pushed me aside as she headed to the washroom. I understand she was probably desperate but a simple verbal, "Excuse me please", would have worked.

Later, I was in a store ordering some art framing at the counter. I was talking to the framer when two women moved up close to me to see what I was showing to her. One woman was within a foot of me. I moved over, but she moved with me.

These are just two examples of what I seem to be encountering on a daily basis. Because we are opening up and more people are double-vaccinated doesn't mean we can all start ignoring health precautions. COVID variants are around and some people are more vulnerable than others.

So this is a plea for people to respect one another's health. Please mask up, sanitize and keep your distance.

> Teresa Patcheson, Thunder Bay



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR





SUPER-SPREADIER

Sci-fi and horror authors shine



lark Ashton Smith (1893-1961) Was a poet, a sculptor, a painter and the author of more than 100 tales of fantasy and horror. A disciple of George Sterling and a close friend of H.P. Lovecraft, Smith was a member of the famous Lovecraft circle and was a regular contributor to Weird Tales in the 1930's.

He began his writing career as a poet, composing more than 1,000 poems over the course of more than 30 years, much of his work exploring the realms of fantasy, terror, wonder, and the supernatural.

He also wrote some beautiful prose poems although some of these were considered obscene at that time.

The Dark Eidolon and Other Fantasies, sometimes written in the Cthulhu Mythos, were lush and vivid, wildly speculative, reminiscent of the Symbolist and Decadent movements

and often deeply sardonic.

Not just any fantasy, horror and science fiction author could impress Lovecraft into calling him 'perhaps unexcelled by any other writer, dead or living' or compel Fritz Leiber to suggest that Smith simply wrote like no one else.

Smith's visionary brand of fantastical, phantasmagorical worlds are filled with invention, terror and a superlative sense of metaphysical wonder. In his masterful and monstrous pen not a single sentence is safe.

He wrote to make money to keep his aged and ailing parents. This sometimes meant he had to compromise his content or style to get published. After they died he dedicated himself to his craft.

He married very late and became stepfather to three children.

Richard Matheson (1926-2013) was one of the giants of twentieth century horror and fantasy. He was the author of I Am Legend, 16 Twilight Zone episodes and so much more.

He revolutionized horror by moving it from Gothic castles and strange



PROLIFIC: Author Richard Matheson.

cosmos into the dark streets and quiet suburbs of our own lives.

Infusing tales of the fantastic and supernormal with elements of science fiction and dark explorations of human nature, the best of Richard Matheson delves into our deepest collective fear; the universal dread of feeling alone and threatened in a dangerous world.

In Deus ex Machina a man wakes up one day thinking that he is human but, after a shaving accident reveals wires under his skin and he bleeds oil, he starts to have some doubts about himself.

And then he starts to notice that he is not alone. In fact quite a few 'people' are in fact robots. What is going on?

Is the world being taken over by some alien intelligence one person at a time?

And what can he do about it?

When a nervous passenger in Nightmare at 20,000 Feet looks out of the window he is certain that he sees a man walking on the wing.

He calls the stewardess who assures him that there is nothing to worry about. They are just passing through a little storm.

But when he looks again the man on the wing is tampering with the engine, making it falter.

What would you do in that situation?

Perspective

Getting hot in here

Summer weather sizzling many part of Planet Earth

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

On the surface of Venus (some-times called our sister planet) the average temperature is 462 degrees Celsius, which is hot enough to melt lead.

I only mention that to put this year's heat wave in a global warming perspective.

Because here on Earth, all around the northern hemisphere the weather in June 2021 was also a real scorcher, including western Canada where it was hotter than a bandit's pistol.

In the small town of Lytton, B.C. a new national record was set for the highest temperature ever recorded in Canada at 49.6 Celsius. The heat wave moderated somewhat as it moved east across the prairies and into Ontario.

Here in Thunder Bay the city issued an extreme heat warning asking residents to check on family, friends and neighbors at risk or in need of assistance.

The average local temperature for June 2021 was three degrees higher than normal as records were broken here in the city (34.3 C) and at several locations in the region.

These days Canadians in many parts of the country are greeting each other with that same old iconic weather cliché - "Hot enough for you?'

States buckled asphalt highways and melted power lines - many cities on the west coast had temperatures in the forties.

Elsewhere in the hemisphere the hottest temperature on our planet so far in 2021 was recorded on June 22 in the city of Nuwaiseeb, Kuwait at 53.2 C.

A number of other countries in the Middle East also endured temperatures over 50 C.

The highest officially registered temperature ever recorded anywhere on the planet was a sizzling 56.7 C or 134 F in Death Valley,

"We've been California in 1913. warned fro But as the temperature continues to rise don't decades so it be surprised if that should be no record is broken soon surprise that and then most likely, temperatures broken again after that. are rising "

We need to adjust quickly to the reality of a rapidly overheating

planet and learn to cope with global warming, a changing climate and extreme heating events.

We've been warned for decades so it should be no surprise that temperatures are rising to dizzying heights - we even have new jargon to describe what's happening.

Our current situation is attributed to a relatively unknown atmospheric phenomenon that has come to be known as a "heat-dome".

This is exactly what it sounds The same record heatwave in the like – hot air is trapped under a static dome of high pressure and then pushed down to the ground while being heated and reheated many times over.

The strength, length and intensity of the resulting heat wave that blanketed much of North America was unlike anything we've experienced before.

We need to adapt to these hotter and much more dangerous conditions - we'll have to find creative ways to keep cool while being broiled under a heat dome in June.

Something more creative perhaps than just turning up the air conditioning, which

produces collectively billions of tonnes of greenhouse gas. That's the rub – ironically,

the hotter it gets, the more air conditioning we use and the more we use, the hotter it gets.

There will be no quick relief from the heat - the extremes of global warming do not have an on/off switch.

Forecasting models tell us to expect more extreme heat waves, droughts and wildfires.

As I write this there are more than a hundred forest fires burning in Northwestern Ontario - the skies are hazy and most days you can smell smoke in the air.

When I looked up at the moon last night it was an ominous shade of smoky orange which begged that old question once again, "Hot enough for you?"

EARNING HER WATER WINGS



FULL SCHOLARSHIP: Thunder Bay's Isabel Harri has committed to swim for Eastern Michigan University, starting in 2022-23. She's currently a member of the Thunderbolts swim team.

HOW TO WRITE US:

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

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

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VISIT www.tbnewswatch.com TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND VIEWS ABOUT OUR WEEKLY POLL QUESTION.

Ontario could lift most remaining COVID-19 restrictions by mid-August. Would you support such a move? VOICE YOUR OPINION ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER MOST.



Fisherman Two fishermen displaying their catch. In 1889 Fred Jones and George Marks trolled for fish off Jarvis

A look back in history.

Island and, in only six hours, caught 46 red salmon trout. Meanwhile, Mr. Wink, a local barrister, pulled eight trout from the Nipigon River weighing a total of 24 pounds.





OUT ON THE WATER: The Sleeping Giant provides a stunning backdrop for a paddle on Lake Marie Louise, the weather making it even more enjoyable this summer.

So many different ways to enjoy lakes



Our family has been spending a lot of time at camp over the past few months and we have really been taking it for granted how easy it is to enjoy time on the water in Northwestern Ontario.

Last week I posted some images on social media of us fishing, paddling & playing in the water, and a friend who has moved away from Thunder Bay reminded me just how good our life is here with the simple comment "I miss lakes."

Northwestern Ontario has roughly

150,000 natural inland lakes in addition to our prime location on top of the world's largest freshwater lake, Superior.

In fact, many people in our region are lucky enough to live right on the water year-round, and those of us who do not can still have access to a lake or river close to home.

A lot of families have a seasonal camp (cottage) to retreat to while many others will spend their summer holidays camping in a trailer or tent on some slice of heaven close to the water's edge.

Even on the days when we are in the city, we are always just minutes away from a river, our beautiful waterfront or some other gorgeous piece of Lake Superior's shoreline.

Most lakes and rivers in our region

feature some public access like a beach or boat launch. However, spending a few nights at a camp, campground or a resort is the very best way to capitalize on our abundance of water, especially during an exceptionally hot summer like this one.

Whenever you find yourself on the water, you will also find that there are many different ways to enjoy it.

Paddling: No matter what your vessel of choice is, paddling is a great way to get some exercise while exploring the shoreline of your favourite lake. While I like to start or finish my day with a lap of our lake on the stand up paddleboard (SUP), I also enjoy fishing from the kayak. Meanwhile, my wife is partial to our canoe and my kids love their little aluminum row boat.

Fishing: Whether you are chasing walleye, salmon, trout or bass, angling is undoubtedly one of the most popular pastimes in our region.

From the mighty Nipigon River, which produced the world record brook trout, to the walleye factory known as Lac Des Mille Lacs, to the many backcountry lakes where you are more likely to see a moose than another boat, there is no shortage of great fishing spots in Northwestern Ontario.

Swimming: Swimming is a great way to enjoy the water with friends or family. We are lucky to have many options, like taking a plunge in the refreshing waters of Lake Superior, jumping off the dock after a hot sauna at camp, or cooling off after work at Soldier's Hole in Centennial Park. **Playing:** Any activity that involves splashing will inevitably bring plenty of joy, smiles, and maybe some screams of delight.

We recently added a rope swing to a giant pine tree that hangs over the water at our camp. It quickly became one of the favourite things for the kids (and adults) to enjoy on these hot July days we have seen recently.

Unfortunately, I do not have anywhere near the space in this column to cover sailing, wind surfing, water skiing and all the other fun activities we enjoy throughout the summer.

Regardless, the point remains the same: our abundance of clean, cool, fresh water is a big part of the good life we are living right here in Northwestern Ontario.



TBLife Walk of Sorrow marches to Ottawa

THUNDER BAY By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

woman's walk One woman's wark norm Saskatchewan to Ottawa to honfrom our residential school victims has become a journey of healing that's resonated with communities along the route and gathered a small convoy of supporters

Patricia Ballantyne began her walk in the wake of the discovery of unmarked grave sites at residential schools, visiting former sites along the way, speaking with fellow residential school survivors, and hoping to conclude with a sit-down with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Attended residential school

Originally from Deschambault Lake. Saskatchewan, a few hours northeast of Prince Albert, Ballantyne attended the Prince Albert Indian Residential School for 10 years of her childhood.

"After the news of the grave site that was found in Kamloops, I started thinking about all the little ones there, all the parents, and how terrifying it was for the kids," she said. "That just brought back all of the memories that I had of my childhood in the residence. That just bubbled up and I couldn't hold it back any more – I felt like I needed to say something."



TRAUMATIC: Patricia Ballantyne addresses fellow walkers at a former residential school.

She channeled that feeling into a cross-country walk after experiencing a dream, she said.

"I know there's a lot of people that don't believe in dreams and visions, but we do – we're very spiritual

people. After the news, I dreamt of my grandma and asked her what I should be doing. She told me, go for a walk.

The Walk of Sorrow has resonated in communities along the route, gathering momentum and a small convoy of supporters after Ballantyne began in Prince Albert with her step-daughter, niece, and a friend.

The group numbered 16 by the time it reached Thunder Bay, with several vans driving behind walkers.

"It's quite an experience – there were only four of us walking, and we made it to Regina in a week," Ballantyne said. "Then we started picking up people who wanted to join our walk along the way. They're all healing in their own way – we have residential school survivors, '60s scoop survivors, people who have been in foster care.'

Others have joined on behalf of parents or grandparents who can't walk themselves, she said, coming from as far afield as Pukatawagan, Manitoba.

Ballantyne said there's a need to share the stories of survivors and honour the grief of Indigenous communities as discoveries of grave sites continue across the country.

The journey has also resonated with non-Indigenous Canadians.

"It's just been really uplifting and all through the way, we've been getting support through the different leaderships - even mayors and police officers, everyone has been very supportive," Ballantyne said.

Many Canadians had only a superfi-

cial understanding of the history of residential schools that's been shaken by the recent discoveries, she believes.

"I keep encouraging people - those ones that don't understand or don't know about residential schools - I encourage them to take in workshops, find authors who were in residential schools... sit and listen to our stories of how we were treated."

Rested in city

The group spent a couple of rest days in Thunder Bay last week, visiting the pow wow grounds at Mount McKay, the Terry Fox memorial, and paying respects at the site of the former St. Joseph's residential school.

The group hopes for a meeting with the prime minister when it arrives in Ottawa in several weeks, saying discussions were ongoing.

Ballantyne hopes to talk to Trudeau about the child welfare system, both reforms she believes are needed today and action to address the history of Indigenous children who were adopted out of province or out of country, she said.

The Walk of Sorrow group documents its progress on its Facebook page, and is also active on other forms of social media.



Hot weather leads to plenty of work



So, it has been hot. Very hot. I know: it is July but I can't recall it being this hot this long. The heat has played havoc with our garden, with the country roads, with our rural routines.

The forest fires burning west of us have blanketed the sky with smoke. Recently, our daughter, Beth, awoke to ask why the heck Dad (me) had a fire upstairs in the fireplace in the living room. I didn't.

Her window was open as her bedroom is in the cooler part of Casa Jones - the basement; but she sometimes keeps her bedroom window open to allow her ancient cat, Cleo (18 this year and still frisky!), to jump outside or back inside at will.

So, she got a whiff of the prevailing

smoke that is now a constant out here in the boonies.

Oh sure, there was one morning when the thermometer registered plus nine and I thought that I'd enjoy a wee fire in the fireplace since I had cut and split a broken fence post made of cedar. Ah, the aroma of cedar as I carried the split pieces into the house and then the aroma of burning cedar when I stepped outside. But now that seems far away and long ago although it was only on Saturday morning (or was it Friday?).

If we don't stay on top of watering the veggies in the garden, the garden greenhouse, and the Leaning Greenhouse of Pisa (the one my son, Doug, and my wife built against the basement door), then wilting ensues.

Climbing in

To top it off, after discovering way back when that the water in our above ground swimming pool had almost completely drained out over the winter, Doug and I had to don bathing suits, put the step ladder back into the pool, and then go round with a marker pencil to see if we could find the location of the leak or leaks. We think that we found two which I plugged. Then I turned on the hose and began to replace the water.

Of course we get our water from a well and though we've never run out, I couldn't just leave the hose on all day. So, I would run water for an hour three times per day. The leak-fix must have worked because we got a foot above the level that the water had settled at and no leaks. Hurray!

But filling the pool that holds 16,000 gallons would take too long so we ordered a water truck. It took a week but one day Steve the water delivery guy showed up and emptied his tank into the pool. Now the level was just above half way. "Is that all?" I asked. "Yup," came the answer, "you'd have to get one or two more trucks full to fill your pool." Well, no can do; too expensive for us, so back to filling from the well.

It only took a week of careful moni-

toring that I didn't run the hose for more than three hours per day but this past Sunday, I had the water level up to within six inches of the top of the pool, just where I think the level is ideal. But the water is cold so now I had to turn on the solar panels in the hopes of warming the water to the temperature both my wife, Laura, and I like before dipping in our toesies. Soon boss, soon.

Smoky situation

But what one needs isn't just heat; one needs sun to heat the water flowing through the solar panels and though we see the sun daily, it is red due to the smoke from the distant forest fires and not very effective when it comes to heating our pool.

As I have mentioned in this space, we have two dogs - Baxter and Lily. Baxter is big; Lily is small. We have learned that neither dog likes water. They avoid puddles. When the day temperature is plus thirty or more as it has been on occasion, Baxter retreats to the cooler basement as does Lily.

Because of the heat, Baxter has not been keen on going outside except to do his "business". Lily being a lot smaller, is content to lie under our parked truck. Shame really as we used to have Golden Retrievers who loved water. Thus, when we go boating to our favourite lake, we don't take the dogs.

Fortunately, Beth is usually in residence and can tend to the doggies' "business" needs while we are gone.

By the time you read this scribbling, I expect to have been able to stay cool in our pool whenever I want. There is only one, slight drawback: biting flies. Why is it that you can't dunk your body without some clarion call going out to all the horse flies: "Exposed flesh in the pool! Exposed flesh in the pool! Come and get it!" Where the heck do they come from? One has to dunk a lot.

I don't mind spending time underwater. At least I'll be cool. Just need a straw through which I can breathe.





Moviegoers return to cinema

FILM By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Patrizia MacMillan had to pause as she walked into SilverCity Cinemas on Friday, doing a slight double take as she looked up at the screen displaying show times.

It's been months since she last saw a full board of movies listed, dating well back into 2020 when the pandemic began.

MacMillan, the theatre's general manager, was giddy as she spoke, several eager customers lining up for popcorn and snacks to chow down on while marking the return to indoor movies, the silver screen having been darkened since Christmas night when Premier Doug Ford ordered the province into a twoweek shutdown.

"You can't explain it," MacMillan said. "There's so much hype to get to this point and the kids are so excited. We have guests calling. You don't realize you miss something as extravagant as coming to the movies until it's not there.

"We've had a lot of cast (members) come back. They just want to serve our guests."

There was plenty for movie buffs to choose from on Friday, starting with the latest Marvel offering, Black Widow. Space Jam: A New Legacy, F9: The Fast Saga, The Boss Baby: Family Business and the Forever Purge are some of the other movies being shown on reopening week.

Theatres were closed under provincial restrictions and not scheduled to reopen until July 21, but the province decided to enter into Step 3 of its reopening plan five days earlier than planned.

That's great news for movie fans, who get to experience films the way their creators meant for them to be seen," MacMillan said.

"If you've ever come to a Marvel movie or a blockbuster hit, yeah you can watch it at home and now streaming is even more part of our lives, but to sit in an auditorium with 350 people and hear them clap, or see them cry at the last Avengers, you can't trade that.



MOVIE MANIA: Customers were welcomed back to SilverCity last Friday afternoon.

Sci-fi horror sequel delivers the goods

Quiet Place was a surprise hit in 2018. One wondered whether they could maintain the novelty of its 'silence is golden' premise in a sequel. Upon a welcome return to SilverCity this past weekend, it is a relief to report that the filmmakers have conjured a worthy successor to the original, though not without a few warts.

For the uninitiated, the story centers on the Abbott family led by protective mum, Evelyn (Emily Blunt), son

Marcus (Noah Jupe) and daughter Regan (Millicent Simmonds) as they battle blind creepazoid aliens who are wiping out any humans within their acute hearing range. Any noise could result in screeching predatory death.

The Abbotts have survived, thanks to their pre-existing use of sign

language with deaf daughter Regan and by learning to move like ghosts. However, one precious slip claimed their heroic father, Lee (John Krasinski) in the original.

Silence no more

In *A Quiet Place Chapter II* director/writer Krasinski gives us a prelude, showing how the normalcy of life in small town USA is shattered by something threatening appearing in the skies. Instantly, chaos erupts in the streets as the creepazoids come out of nowhere, wreaking havoc on any weaponless humans.

Jump to the apocalyptic present where Evelyn and family, new baby in tow, their home destroyed, are forced out in the open seeking shelter and help. This may (or may not) come from battered neighbour Emmett (Cillian Murphy) hiding out beneath an old factory, bearing the emotional scars of having lost his entire family.

Krasinski squeezes high-wire tension into every scene as he did in the original, from hair-raising large-scale action with Evelyn furiously running their car in reverse to avoid a head-on collision with an alien-commandeered runaway bus to zeroing in on a hushed bare footed step on a cluttered path.

Krasinski masterfully pulls off the climactic last act, cutting back and forth among three edge-of-your-seat sequences, with Marcus' curiosity getting the better of him, Evelyn foraging for medical supplies and Emmett and Regan tip-toeing through a radio station.

Great casting

The sequel is distinguished by the young actors, particularly Simmonds as Regan, who has adopted her dad's survival instincts, her deafness inadvertently providing a weapon against the creatures. Simmonds convincingly

conveys Regan's courage and brilliance. Jupe also gets to show that he can recover from injury and a near fatal unguarded moment.

Serving as solo screenwriter this time, Krasinski keeps the story intimate, its perspective narrow, adroitly mixing family character development with the horror sci-fi elements.

There are still some requisite 'gotcha' bits, with jackin-box jolts and cringing "why do that?" moments. The rationale for the murderous attacks remains elusive as does the global state of the world. Will Part III provide answers?

Plot quibbles aside, *A Quiet Place Chapter II* impresses as a slickly-made thrill ride.

PS: Masking and social distancing are in effect at SilverCity. Patron adherence to reserved seating enables more efficient sanitation efforts.

Concessions are available at the serving island and perimeter venues.

Presently, snack tables are withdrawn.





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Olympics won't be the same in 2021

When I was growing up, the Olympics were always big news. They seemed to literally take over television (given our limited channel options back then) every four years in both winter and summer.

For those who don't remember, until 1992 the Summer and Winter Games were held in the same year, with a proper four year period between called the Olympiad.

The decision to alternate the games every two years occurred due to the rising costs and logistical complications. This change meant Olympic excitement never totally disappeared. Everyone knew about the games despite the lack of internet and social media. People got up early or stayed up late and even brought rabbit-eared TV's to work to watch events half-way around the world.

The Olympics were part of every country's national pride. And a big part



of our viewing schedule. Then COVID-19 hit.

This past year has been a "Will they or won't they?" nightmare for elite athletes whose entire focus is on this ultimate goal.

Amid a global shutdown, the Summer Games were postponed last year and many doubted they would come to pass in 2021 either. Then Tokyo gave the "all clear" this spring, but a recent spike in



OPENING: The Olympics begin Friday.

COVID cases there has once again changed all that.

Amid a state of emergency in Japan, athletes who compete in money-making events elsewhere started finding reasons not to compete in Tokyo – be it injuries, timing, or mental health. Spectators were also no longer welcome in the stands.

For those who are still planning to compete, every day brings another announcement of an athlete who has tested positive. Never before has an alternate on the team had a better chance of taking their shot at the podium. But would you want to win the gold this way?

In 1984, the Soviet Union and East Germany led a boycott of the Olympics in Los Angeles. To be fair, the U.S. did the same to Moscow's 1980 Games.

This resulted in the U.S. winning a record-number of medals. Sure, the American athletes were duly honoured by their countrymen. They got fame. They got Hollywood. Some even got the Wheaties box.

However, every gold medal seemed to come with a caveat: the results would

friends?" - Abraham Lincoln

likely have been different had those 14 Eastern Bloc countries shown up to compete. So were those athletes really the best?

And now, it's potentially happening again in 2021 because of a positive nasal swab.

There's a definite pall over this year's games. No families. No cheering from the stands. No celebrating with other countries. And 80 per cent of Japanese residents oppose hosting it. Not to mention the 50% of Canadians who question its safety.

But athletes have worked and sacrificed enough to earn the world's support now that it's here. In case you've lost track, the 2020 Summer Olympics start (ironically) Friday, July 23, 2021 at 7am ET on CBC.

This won't be a "normal" Olympics. But after Covid has taken so much, let's cheer on our athletes that have made it this far.

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SEASON UNDER WAY: Galaxy Lanes Athletics second baseman Kyle Coppola fields the ball on Sunday against the Daytona Dodgers. The Dogers won the opener 14-3.

Play Ball! Senior League a go

BASEBALL By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Put 'em in coach, they're ready to play. After a year-and-a-half on the sidelines, there might be a little rust to shake off when the Thunder Bay Senior Baseball Association kicked off its abbreviated 2021 campaign on Sunday night at Baseball Central.

But as soon as Jon Brattenger, the starting pitcher for the defending champion Galaxy Lanes Athletics, delivered his first pitch, high-level baseball was back and the chase for a championship was on.

It's good to be back said Brennan Tienhaara, the Athletics lead-off hitter and player-manager, admitting he'd yet to take a cut in the batting cage in the rush to put a team together and get ready to defend their title.

"Hopefully we can start up the season like we ended the last one, with a win. It's good to get back after a year-and-a-half, or longer," Tienhaara said. The toughest part in batware

The toughest part in between was just not knowing.

Last year the season was wiped out by COVID-

19, and as cases raged in Thunder Bay in early spring, there were no guarantees games would be played in 2021.

But as vaccination rates soared and case counts dropped, Ontario on Friday moved into Step 3 of its reopening plan, which gave the TBSBA the goahead to start playing.

As soon as the province said it was OK, Tienhaara said he started scrambling to find players.

"It was kind of a bummer last year not getting to play or do much at all. But we ended up getting quite a few guys together for the team this year, so it should be a good year. We're going to win again. I think it's going to be a lot of hitting. We have a lot of good hitters on our team," he said.

It wasn't easy at first, he added.

"At first it was kind of hard. Not many guys were answering right away, but we got more and more," Tienhaara said.

John Ritchie, manager of the Daytona Dodgers, who came up short against the Athletics in the 2019 final, said it's been a long wait and he's glad it's

finally over.

"It's a joy to be back. We missed all of last year and it's killing us. We're used to playing every summer. It's time. It's time to get back. Everybody's looking forward to it," Ritchie said.

Like Tienhaara, Ritchie had to race to put together a squad, a team that includes former Thunder Bay Border Cat Chris Toneguzzi, drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 2002 and the Milwaukee Brewers in 2006.

It's a veteran team, Ritchie said, scattered with a mix of youth thanks to the arrival of Jason Varey and Ethan Willmore from the Thunder Bay Lakers.

"You keep replenishing your players and they look good. They're going to help us," Ritchie said of his two newest additions.

The regular season will run through Aug. 30, with playoffs set to begin on Sept. 1, a best-of-three play-in between the fourthand fifth-place teams.

Other teams in the hunt this year include the Play It Again Sports Lakers, Bennett's Bakery Bombers and the Boston Pizza Red Sox.



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of a bummer last year not getting to play or do much at all." BRENNAN TIENHAARA

"It was kind

sports NEWS

North Stars looking at rebuild up front

SIJHL By Leith Dunick – TB Source

When the Thunder Bay North Stars take the ice this fall, it'll be a different looking club than the one that had clinched top spot when the pandemic shut down the Superior International Junior Hockey League in March 2020.

Eight 20-year-olds from last season are gone, aging out unceremoniously with their team on the sidelines unable to play due to restrictions put in place by the province.

Jett Leishman, Jacob Anttonen, Austin and Ryley Cardinal, Michael Vecchio, Liam Tivers and goalies Jacob Stone and Seth McKay won't be back, leaving plenty of questions for coach Rob DeGagne as training camp approaches next month.

"We've got a little bit of a rebuild to do on the front end. Our back end should be good and our goaltending. We've got some key guys coming back up front and we've got some guys signed from out of town, from the Toronto area and a couple of guys from the B.C. area," said DeGagne, hours before his team claimed the first annual North Stars Golf Classic at Fort William Country Club last Thursday.

While it was tough to recruit this past season, with so many leagues shuttered, DeGagne said his team isn't alone in that respect.

Everyone's in the same boat and

luckily there are lots of kids out there looking for a place to play, he added.

"It's just a matter of taking the right ones," DeGagne said.

"We've got until really January to build a team that we want. You've got to have some bricks in place. We're not in a panic to get guys just to get guys. We want good quality guys and if it takes us a little bit longer, so be it.

DeGagne, who took over the North Stars prior to the 2017-18 campaign, said he feels bad that the players who graduated from junior didn't really get the chance to go out on the ice. The North Stars did get in a handful of meaningful games last season, but the team did not return to the ice following the Christmas break, the province instituting a lockdown on Boxing Day that did not lift in time to allow league play.

SIJHL commissioner Darrin Nicholas was left with no choice but to cancel the remainder of the season as the shutdown kept extending.

"It's hard on those kids for sure," DeGagne said.

The North Stars hope to hold a camp in mid- to late August and are in negotiations with the city to determine if ice time will be available. If not, they'll hold camp at the Fort William First Nation arena.

DeGagne added they're hoping to find some local talent at the camp, noting their new recruits are all from out of town.



GEARING UP: Thunder Bay North Stars coach Rob DeGagne said it's been a tough couple of seasons because of COVID-19.

Golfing with the North Stars

learned a valuable lesson last week a the first annual Thunder Bay North Stars Golf Classic — pay the \$10. It's for a good cause.

I didn't and it cost me \$365. The backstory: The Stars invited me

and some of my media counterparts – *The Chronicle-Journal's* Reuben Villagracia and Acadia Broadcasting's Kevin Jeffrey and Trent McLeod – to take part in their inaugural fundraising events.

I love scrambles because while I can pitch in the occasional shot or drop a putt or two, the pressure is spread throughout the team. As long as one person makes a shot, all is good.

None of the media types who played are really golfers. I probably play the most of the four of us and have only been out a handful of times this year.

I blame the four-year-old. He wants to go to parks and play, when before he was born I was free to hit the links



LEITH

But I digress. Let's just say we had fun as a team and collected the most honest team award.

Needless to say, none of us had

their A game going, myself at the top of the list. So when I stepped up to the

SPORTS SHORTS the pin marker, it was jabbed into the green about a foot or two from the

pin. There was a closest to the pin contest up for grabs, pay \$10 and the winner took home half the pot.

Seeing how close the marker was to the cup, I figured there was no way I'd beat that result, so chose not to pay the 10, stepped up to the tee and then fired a dart, landing it about 16 inches from the cup – inside a fantastic shot by North Stars coach Rob DeGagne.

Not surprisingly, DeGagne and his

team of ringers, I mean assistant coaches, took the tournament, with a -13 59. We finished three over.

By the time you're reading this, Bthe fate of Carey Price will be known.

Regardless of whether he stays in Montreal, which I suspect he will, or is taken by the Seattle Kraken in the expansion draft, it was still shocking to see him left off Montreal's protected list.

Price has been the face of the Canadiens franchise for a decade, an Olympic hero and a future hall-offamer.

General manager Marc Bergevin is either a genius, working out a deal with Seattle brass to be able to keep both Price and Jake Allen, or an incredible gambler, guessing the Kraken won't take on Price's \$10.5million contract and the \$11-million signing bonus due in September.

Personally, if I'm Ron Francis, the Seattle GM, I take him. But it's easy to spend other people's money.



SWEET SWING: The Chronicle-Journal's Reuben Villagracia tees off last Thursday.

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