

Premier Doug Ford was in Thunder Bay last week to receive an update on the forest fire situation in Northwestern Ontario.

Invitational title/14

Wabaseemoong First Nation ready to evacuate

The First Nation 120 km northwest of Kenora is on standby to evacuate due to a nearby forest fire

KENORA

By Gary Rinne - TB Source

Residents of Wabaseemoong First Nation, 120 km northwest of Kenora, have been advised to prepare for possible evacuation because of a forest fire burning nearby.

In a social media post Sunday, Chief Waylon Scott said the community is now "officially on standby."

Citing information from the province's Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services agency, Scott said Kenora fire # 51 has the potential to jump across Umfreville Lake, which is just north of the First Nation.

"Our hope is that we don't need to

do a full scale evacuation...We are receiving updates hourly," he wrote.

Chief Scott attached an AFFES memo from the Kenora office to his post, which indicated that neither fire # 51 nor a fire burning in eastern Manitoba threatens Wabaseemoong or Minaki at this time, "but smoke is spreading across the Kenora area which may affect communities if unfavourable weather conditions persist."

The memo stated that vulnerable community members with health conditions should make preparations to leave in the event this becomes necessary, and that all residents should prepare to evacuate if the fire crosses Umfreville Lake.



INCREASING THREAT: Several communities have already been evacuated due to threats from forest fires and smoke.

contact.

An AFFES spokesperson told

TBNewswatch on Monday afternoon

"The situation may change rapidly," it said, while advising residents to keep informed and to maintain that fire # 51 has burned 188,000 hectares, about 17,000 hectares more than was reported on Sunday evening. It is approximately 20 kilometres north of Wabaseemoong.

Helicopters with buckets, and waterbombing planes are being used to slow its spread.

Ignition crews hope to bring the fire to natural boundaries, and bulldozer lines will be used to further contain the fire.

Close to 190 firefighters from outside Ontario including Alberta, Quebec, the maritime provinces, Wisconsin, Mexico and Australia are currently assisting in the battle against 110 fires in Northwestern Ontario, of which 17 are not under control.

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RARE VISIT: Premier Doug Ford got an in-person update on the forest fire situation in Northwestern Ontario last week.

Fiddler, Ford at odds over emergency call

NAN chief says fire situation dire, more resources required **POLITICS** By Justin Hardy – TBSource

N Fiddler shared frustration (NAN) Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler shared frustration with the provincial response to the threats posed by forest fires in the northwest region, as Premier Doug Ford visited forest fire management headquarters in Thunder Bay last Tuesday morning.

Fiddler, and NAN's frustrations with the provincial government started when NAN called on the Ford government to declare a state of emergency on July 12 to assist remote First Nation communities threatened by fire.

"Their response at that time was to issue what they call emergency orders. We're not really quite sure what that means, what that entails," said Fiddler.

"We know what a full emergency declaration would entail, it's about allowing all of us to be able to access whatever resources that are out there that are needed to support our families, and to fight the fires, and to support our communities."

The province issued an emergency order on July 14 due to the forest fires in Northwestern Ontario, allowing the government to take special measures to ensure the safety of people and the protection of critical property.

As of July 27, there were 157 active fires in the Northwest region according to the Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services. Fifty-one fires were not under control, 10 fires were being held, 32 fires were under control and 64 fires were being monitored.

Nearly 3,200 people from five communities have been evacuated. Deer Lake and Poplar Hill are fully evacuated, while Pikangikum, Cat Lake, and North Spirit Lake are partially evacuated. Evacuees are staying at host communities in Thunder Bay, Kapuskasing, Cochrane, Cornwall, Timmins, Sudbury, Sioux Lookout, Sault St. Marie, and the Peel Region.

"I think there's a little confusion, what a state of emergency is, it's not going to add any more resources,



NEEDS MORE HELP: Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler says more supports for families are required.

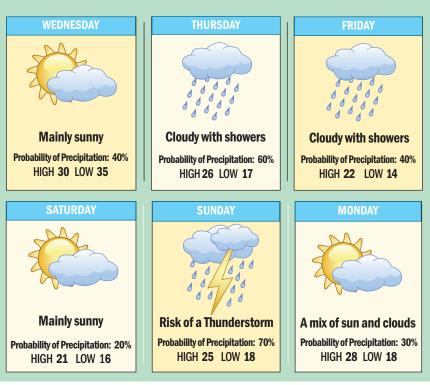
it's basically the province is coming in, taking over everything," said Premier Doug Ford.

"We believe in working with collaboration, cooperation, with First Nations, with municipalities, that's the only difference, is the province will come in and say you can't go down this road, there's already emergency orders put in place, so it's not holding back any resources. We will put all the resources we have, I won't spare a penny, and we'll make sure we're there to support the people of Northwestern Ontario."

Fiddler once again expressed frustration at the situation.

"Their response, the last week or so, and again today, confirmed by Premier Doug Ford, that they will not go there, that's not what we're asking for, and I think we've been very clear on what that is."

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Youth sentenced to 12 months probation for school threats

THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

A youth charged in connection to threats against Hammarskjold High School throughout late 2018 and early 2019, which resulted in numerous disruptions to the school year and heavy police responses, has been sentenced after pleading guilty to one count of public mischief.

In a Thunder Bay Courtroom on Thursday, Justice Danalyn MacKinnon sentenced the youth, who cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, to 12 months of probation.

Throughout the academic year in 2018/2019, Hammarskjold High School received 14 anonymous threats through Crime Stoppers, which resulted in the school being closed for 12 days. The threats involved shootings, suspicious packages, or bombs.

Following a lengthy investigation by the Thunder Bay Police Service, the youth, who was 14-years-old at the time, as well as Emilie Jade Pakrashi, 18 at the time, were arrested in April 2019.

The youth was initially charged with four counts each of public mischief and mischief endangering life. On Thursday, the youth pleaded guilty to one count of public mischief and all other charges were withdrawn by the Crown.

Prior to sentencing, the Crown shared victim impact statements from school officials who spoke about the toll the repeated threats had on students and staff, which included anxiety and emotional stress that manifested inside the school and at home.

There was also a significant financial cost associated with the threats, with the school reporting costs of more than \$82,000 and the Thunder Bay Police Service putting the cost of responding to and investigating the threats at more than \$200,000.

Justice MacKinnon said she agreed with the joint submission of a 12-

month probation period agreed upon by the Crown and defence attorney George Joseph who was representing the youth.

But Justice MacKinnon did say that the actions of the youth have had a profound impact on not only the school community, but the community as a whole.

"The actions that you took, these threats to the school, the most horrible part of that I have to consider as an aggravating factor, is these threats create fear in other people, whether it's administration, teachers, families, or students going to school there," she said.

"Every time a threat was made, people could imagine and see the worst-case scenario of being killed by someone in a school. It's not like it never happened. These threats created very real pictures in people's minds and very real fears."

Justice MacKinnon added that by reading the victim impact statements, it becomes clear that some individuals affected by the threats may never recover.

"The threats caused a lot of disruption in people's education. Particularly for teenagers and the skills they need in order to be good students in the future, learning how to manage their own time, how to concentrate, how to get their assignments done. A lot of that was broken by the constant removal of students from school," she said.

Another aggravating factor Justice MacKinnon referred to was the fact the threats were a repeated action that must have taken some planning.

When given the opportunity to address the court, the youth expressed regret and apologized for any harm the threats caused to students and staff.

"I'm using this as a learning opportunity for me about myself and taking action on what could have caused this, and I am working on my personal growth," the youth said.

"I am very grateful for all the support I have received through my family, professionals, and the justice system. I am looking forward to moving past this point in my life."

Justice MacKinnon said she was pleased to hear the youth has been able to continue and pursue future education opportunities, as well as abiding by all terms and conditions of the release order.

"I was extremely pleased to hear you are doing community service hours to try to put yourself back in the right position with the community," she said.

"In all of the circumstances, I will agree with the joint submissions, which is unusual in these circumstances, but it is because of all of the things you have done. You are part of the community and we look forward to you being part of the community."

Pakrashi is still facing charges of public mischief and mischief to property in connection to the threats made against Hammarskjold High School. She is expected to make her next court appearance in August.



Lawyer Bryson nabs NDP nomination

POLITICS By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Chantelle Bryson says she's tried to stay out of politics, but her belief that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has launched an all-out attack on Canada's democratic institutions convinced her it was time to take a stand.

Last Tuesday night she was officially nominated as the NDP candidate in Thunder Bay-Superior North and will take on Liberal Health Minister Patty Hajdu in the next federal election, widely expected in the fall.

Bryson, a lawyer and activist, said decisions and policies of the Trudeau Liberals, including kicking outspoken MPs Jodi Wilson-Raybould and Jane Philpott out of caucus, taking the speaker of the House to court and betraying Indigenous children and their communities, made it clear a new vision is needed in Ottawa.

Still, it took a lot of soul-searching before Bryson committed to run.

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SPEAKING UP: Chantelle Bryson wants to give Thunder Bay-Superior North a voice.

"I was afraid I would become Patty Hajdu and be a puppet of Justin Trudeau who can't speak freely, who can't stand up for the riding," Bryson said, shortly after accepting the nomination, noting the final push was watching former MP Mumilaq Qaqqaq do her farewell speech in the House of Commons.

"I wouldn't do it if my voice was going to be silenced. Yesterday, last night and this morning I had the opportunity to meet in person with (NDP Leader) Jagmeet (Singh) and that further solidified my decision. He is a humble, hard-working, highly skilled and honourable man."

Bryson said she senses a shift in the political winds adding that voters believe Singh is a man of integrity, someone who can get the job done for the entire country.

An improvement of Indigenous services is a top priority for the wouldbe politician.

"I have spent 25 years fighting for equality in public services for First Nation communities. This debate needs to end. The attempt to starve out communities on some dream of assimilation and these calls to close down these communities needs to end," Bryson said. "We are harming children with grossly underfunded housing, health care and education. It's cruel and it needs to end."

Broadband access and schools in the communities are the first places she'd start.

"When people have the tools they need and they're healthy, they can prosper. And they will prosper," Bryson said.

"Obviously there's an immediate need for justice on the found children and the murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls. These are the preeminent concerns for me. I think everyone in this community knows that's what I stand for and what I've fought for, amongst my other very practical work for municipalities and doing seemingly mundane things like bylaws and contracts and procurement."

In addition to Hajdu running for the Liberals, the Conservative Party of Canada last week announced Joshua





Editorial

EDITORIAL

Forest fire emergency

Clear evidence of climate change has been available for decades, but after a summer of record temperatures and devastating forest fires, it's impossible to look away.

While record-shattering temperatures on Canada's west coast made international headlines, Thunder Bay set heat records of its own in July.

That fueled a fire season that had already started earlier than normal due to dry conditions. Both the number of fires and the amount of land burned in Ontario - predominantly in the Northwest - are on track to far outstrip the 10-year average.

Climate change is already making fire seasons longer and more intense. Like COVID-19, climate change is expected to disproportionately impact the most vulnerable. Increased heat will bring many other impacts to the region, from more common blooms of blue-green algae in inland lakes to agriculture challenges.

With the evidence of a changing climate growing harder to ignore, it's time for serious solutions.

Action can start closer to home as well, as shown by the City of Thunder Bay's net-zero climate plan - but a tepid commitment from city councillors demonstrates the need for the public to push leaders on the issue.

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Save Canadian media

To the editor: hese days, when I open my news-paper I'm always wondering whether it's the last time I'll get to read my favourite column or get a story about what's happening in our community. Due to years of government inaction and the hostility of big

try is dying. Here's the thing, though: Canadian storytelling matters. Whether it is on screens or in our newspapers, whether it is about a new initiative to support local businesses or about a new after school program — our stories tell us who we are as a society. So if these stories disappear, so do we.

foreign players, Canada's news indus-

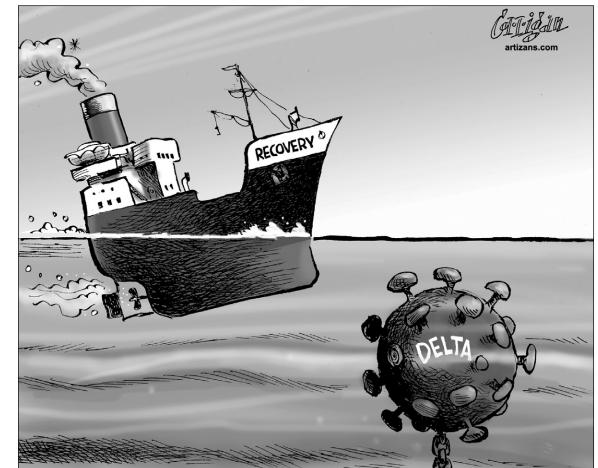
And that's the crux of my fear. Canadian storytelling is going extinct and the government is simply standing idly by.

An election will be called any day now. I want our candidates to know that my vote comes at a price: if you don't offer substantive solutions to the Canadian news crisis, you can forget about my vote.

I hope my fellow readers, my fellow community members will join me in demanding more from our elected officials.

> Tracey MacKinnon, Thunder Bay

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Exploring the world through books

Literature can offer many unique and exciting ways to see the world

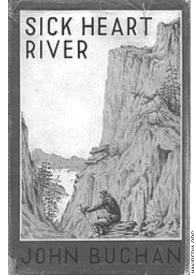


Deople travel for different reasons. Some travel for leisure or business while others just like to explore. And then there are those who want to escape or discover something about themselves.

In Sick Heart River by John Buchan the protagonist, Edward Leithen, is dying and seeks one last adventure. He sets off into the Canadian Arctic to find the meaning of life, before his own life ends. He is looking for some kind of Northern Eden. He is also on a rescue mission - to search for Francis Galliard who has disappeared without trace. Severed from his past and exposed to extreme physical hardship, uprooted from urban civilization and struggling for survival, Leithen undergoes a gradual spiritual development. The insular egoism of his 'sick heart' is ultimately replaced by a new

concern and love for his fellow men. This is not an easy read. Buchan, who served as Governor General of Canada, is suffused with settler colonialism. His casual racism is shocking. It lays bare his philosophy of life and death.

The Lost Steps by Alejo Carpentier is diametrically opposite. The author was born in Cuba and, after the Revolution, became Vice President of the National Council of Culture. The narrator is a successful composer who leaves New York and his wife to search for early musical instruments in Latin America with his existentialist mistress, Mouche. As the expedition penetrates the upper reaches of the Orinoco, leaving every sort of sophistication behind, Mouche fades and sickens and the composer turns to Rosario, an Indigenous woman at one with the rhythm of life in a landscape of immeasurable age, and with a very different world view. Slowly, the composer is roused to a new consciousness of himself - and of the futility of his existence 'back there'. In matching a visionary evocation of



LITERARY CLASSIC:Sick Heart River by John Buchan.

scenery with the introspective flights of his protagonist, this novel is at once a celebration of life - and a denunciation of civilization as we know it. Carpentier describes what Marx would call a 'primitive communist' society in which there is no private ownership of land, the environment and animals are respected, the governance structures are truly democratic and women are free and equal members of society.

D.H. Lawrence delves deeper into this theme in The Woman Who Rode Away, which is unequalled among his short novels in its awesome yet strangely impersonal descriptive power. His protagonist is a woman who leaves her comfortable lifestyle, husband and children to discover her real self. She travels to a remote mountainous Indigenous community in search of a new god. She has renounced her old god and wants to be born again. She realizes that, living in the capitalist world, she is alienated from everything, including herself. She is already dead. We don't know her name but, like many of Lawrence's main characters, she is a woman. Lawrence was not a misogynist. And he was not a racist. He was fascinated by Indigenous communities which he regarded as being superior to so-called 'western civilization.'

Perspective

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

Gardening is a very popular Gactivity around Thunder Bay and creates hundreds of natural, eco-friendly environments that attract thousands of birds and insects.

I was enjoying the scents and colors of our own flower garden the other day when I suddenly caught a glimpse of a monarch butterfly fluttering among the blooms.

It was an inspiring sight - a large, showy butterfly with stark orange and black wings gently floating on the summer breeze while searching for a meal.

There is something about the monarch that captures the imagination and makes it one of the most recognizable butterflies in North America.

It has become an international symbol of conservation and a shared natural conservation project for Canada, the U.S. and Mexico.

It is often used as an example to encourage an understanding of biology, insect metamorphosis and a general appreciation of our natural surroundings.

Now that summer is in full swing there is a flurry of activity in flower and vegetable gardens around the city, from birds to bees to butterflies.

I was especially encouraged by the sight of that monarch flapping through the flowers because this iconic and very distinctive insect may be running out of time. It migrates to Canada from Mexico every summer and ranges from B.C. to Newfoundland but the numbers have been dwindling for years and it is now a "species of special concern".

It will need our help to avoid extinction.

I was reminded of the monarch's plight during a recent conversation which was both inspiring and sad at the same time.

We were chatting with one of our neighbors last week and he shared some information about the monarch situation in his back vard

Some of the plants in his garden were being devoured by caterpillars and he was a little "It will need concerned about how our help to fast the plants were disappearing.

avoid

extinction."

What worried him the most was that there might not be enough plants to feed all those hungry crawlers.

The plants he was referring to was the patch of milkweed he was cultivating - the insects that were eating them were the larvae of monarch butterflies.

He intentionally created a butterfly-friendly habitat to attract them to his back yard where they can complete their metamorphosis into adult monarchs.

He is responding to the continental call to plant more milkweed, the only plant where monarchs lay their eggs and the only vegetation that hatching caterpillars can eat.

I suspect he is also responsible for the monarch I saw in our garden that day and probably many more sightings around the neighborhood.

Small backyard sanctuaries like his are necessary to help replace the loss of natural habitat all over North America, a leading factor in the relentless decline of the species.

There are major international projects under way to preserve and restore lost habitat along with thousands of concerned individgrowing milkweed in uals backyard gardens.

We have tried to grow a patch of milkweed in our own back yard but so far it seems to be the only weed that doesn't thrive in our garden - we will try again

next year. Right now we pride ourselves in our homegrown vegetables and flowers - how satisfying it would be to boast about a

home-grown flutter of monarchs. Incidentally, a group of butterflies may also be referred to as a roost, a bivouac, a swarm, a kaleidoscope or a rainbow.

Whatever they're called we'll do our best to establish a monarch-friendly garden next summer so we can help these regal creatures avoid total extinction.

And hopefully, optimistically, we can rescue them from the brink, one neighborhood garden at a time.

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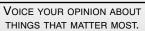
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A look back in history

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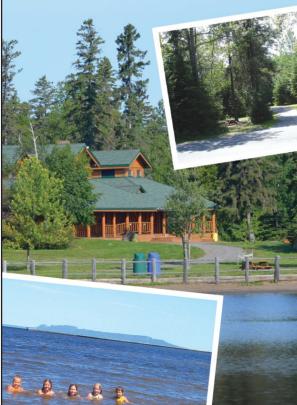
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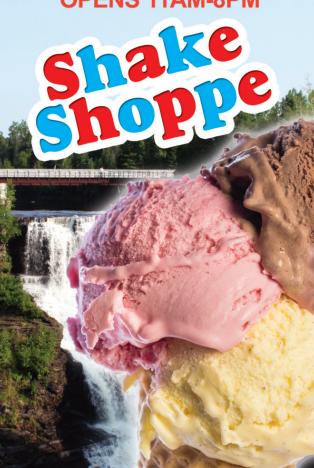
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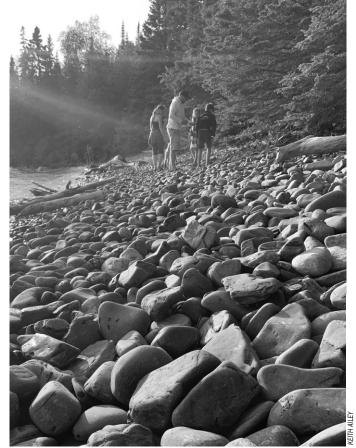




Few places in the world can boast the variety of magnificent scenery and unspoiled wilderness on offer in Northwestern Ontario. The great amount of natural parkland here makes it easy to enjoy a new adventure any day of the week and visiting our provinicial parks is a summer tradition for many people looking for a vacation from city life. Heading east from Thunder Bay, there are several amazing parks along the north shore of Lake Superior where we can bike, paddle, hike, swim, explore and relax.

Less than an hour from Thunder Bay, on the southern tip of the Sibley peninsula lies the legendary Sleeping Giant and the provincial park that shares its name. While this park boasts over 240 camp sites and a gorgeous beach on Marie Louise Lake, visitors will discover that the best part is the recreational opportunities that abound here. There are more than 100km of trails, many with access to secluded stretches of Lake Superior's shoreline. Plus, there are plenty of nature walks, fishing spots and places to explore on a mountain bike. Venture deep into the boreal forest to experience backcountry camping, or hike one of the rugged trails to the Sea Lion or the top of the giant for unbeatable views of Lake Superior. You could spend the entire summer here and still not take in all the beauty of this remarkable piece of paradise.

Just outside the town of Schreiber is Rainbow Falls Provincial Park. This park features two campgrounds: Whitesands Lake on the north side of the highway and Rossport on the south. Many of the trails here are more advanced but the panoramic views of Lake Superior, Whitesand Lake and the cascading river and steep rock ledges of Rainbow Falls make it well worth the effort. The 3km Rainbow Falls Trail is part of the great 52 km Casque Isles Trail section of the Voyageur Trail that runs between the communities of Terrace Bay,



NATURAL BEAUTY: The Lake Superior shoreline at Sleeping Glant Provincial Park...

Schreiber and Rossport.

Neys Provincial Park, close to Marathon, boasts one the finest beaches on Lake Superior's north shore. This area is also home to sub-Arctic plants and a rare herd of woodland caribou. Of course, a visit to Neys would not be complete without hiking the Pic Island Overlook Trail. This challenging hike is 9km round-trip but at the top you are rewarded with the breathtaking view of Pic Island and Thompson Channel that inspired Group of Seven painter Lauren Harris.

Pukaskwa National Park is a remote and wild park that protects 1878 square km of an ecosystem that features boreal forest and Lake Superior shoreline. This park's exceptional beauty is revealed to visitors who hike its rugged Canadian Shield landscape, unspoiled northern forests, and the sandy beaches and incredible vistas along Lake Superior.

Lake Superior Provincial Park, near Wawa, is one of Ontario's largest parks. It offers spectacular scenery and diverse camping opportunities with two campgrounds and over 200 backcountry sites. The main attraction here is Agawa Rock, which features images painted on the rocks centuries ago by the area's indigenous people. Made with a mixture of powdered hematite and animal fat, the 35 images are still visible and believed to represent events, legendary figures, spirits, and dreams.

Many other unique parks along the northeast shore of Superior, including Ouimet Canyon, Batchawana Bay and Pancake Bay are also worth a visit. We are blessed to live in an area that offers such variety and opportunity to spend time outside and the easy access to our great parks is a big reason why our quality of life is so good here.



FESTA FOOD: Volunteers prepare food at Festa Italiana on Sunday.

Return of Festa

THUNDER BAY By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

The pandemic may have nixed the usual entertainment and fireworks at this year's Festa Italiana, but its culinary offerings remained more than enough to bring thousands to the Italian Cultural Centre on Sunday.

The event continued Monday, offering takeout orders from noon to 8 p.m., with a small seating area available.

There's no replacing the social aspect of the event, acknowledged Festival chairman Benny Melchiorre.

It's the human interactions that have made Festa resonate for 31 years now, he said, enough that some who attended as children return to Thunder Bay years later just to attend or volunteer.

"We're missing the social part of the Festa, people coming down to see their friends, making new friends. To have 10,000 people in the parking lot for the fireworks, it's a good feeling – we miss that."

Provincial COVID-19 restrictions eased to allow larger events in mid-July, but certainty on that move didn't come soon enough to organize a major event weeks later.

"We would have loved to go back to the full-blown Festa, but of course that takes a lot of planning – you can't just wake up in the morning and say, we're going to have a Festa," he said. "But we're really happy with the turnout and look forward to doing a full [event] next year."

That will be welcomed by attendee Lorenzo, who has been coming for around seven years.

"It's always a blast," he said. "During COVID, I miss having the whole Festa – we used to spend hours out here."

Still, like many others Sunday, he didn't miss the opportunity to pick up favourites like gnocchi, meatballs or crostoli.

Roughly 5,000 people showed up to enjoy the take-away food at last year's event. The usual version draws roughly 10,000 visits per day, organizers estimate.

Melchiorre expressed gratitude to the community for decades of support, and he expects the event to come back in a big way next year.

Proceeds from the event support the Italian Cultural Centre. The organization also donates significant amounts to other local charities, Melchiorre said.

All Festa attendees were asked to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

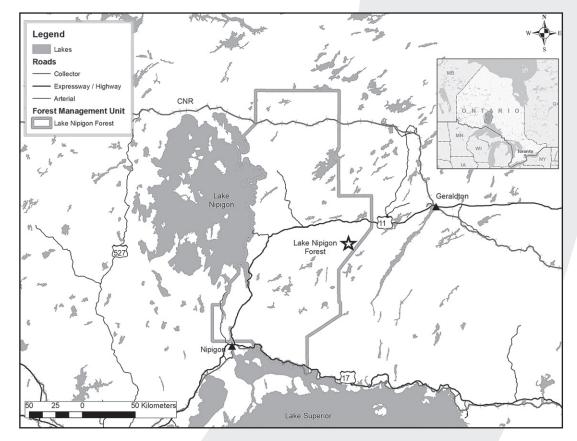


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INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Project Lake Nipigon Forest

The Ontario **Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF)** invites you to inspect the NDMNRF-approved aerial herbicide project. As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, selected stands on the **Lake Nipigon Forest** (see map) will be sprayed with herbicide to control competing vegetation, starting on or about **August 14, 2021**.



The approved project description and project plan for the aerial herbicide project is available electronically for public inspection by contacting Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. during normal business hours and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online beginning July 6, 2021 until March 31, 2022 when the Annual Work Schedule expires.

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

Raymond Weldon, R.P.F. Management Forester Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry 5 Wadsworth Drive, P.O. Box 970 Nipigon, ON P0T2J0 tel: 807-889-0881 e-mail: raymond.weldon@ontario.ca Scot Rubin, R.P.F. General Manager Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. 3134 Kam Current Road Kaministiquia, ON POT1X0 tel: 807-621-7835 e-mail: scot.rubin@newleafforestry.ca

Renseignements en français : Nicole Gross, nicole.gross@ontario.ca, tél. : 807 853-1596





Libraries delay reopening

THUNDER BAY By TB Source staff

he Thunder Bay Public Library has released details of its phased reopening plan.

In an announcement Tuesday, TBPL said In-person services at the Mary JL Black and County Fair branches are currently targeted to resume on Sept. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

However, inside service at the Waverley and Brodie libraries won't start up again until Sept. 27.

New hours of operation will also be implemented on Sept. 27, and will include evening hours as well as Saturday openings at selected locations.

Details will be announced later.

In the interim, curbside service will continue at the Mary JL Black, Waverley and Brodie locations.

As well as taking care of pickups and returns, library staff are offering take-andmake craft kits, book bundles, online programming, the TD Summer Reading game, a new technology loan program, and a 24/7 virtual library which includes eBooks and eAudiobooks.

TBPL said its reopening plan takes into account the provincial Roadmap to Reopening, key public health indicators and vaccination rates.

"We'd like to thank the community for their patience and continued patronage online and at curbside during the pandemic," chief librarian John Pateman said.



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FIRST-TIME FIGHTER: Big Brother Canada star Hamza Hatoum says he's never stepped inside a boxing ring before.

Big Brother's Hatoum to fight Jozea Flores

Canadian stars taking on American counterparts in Texas TELEVISION never been to Texas. I hear it's pretty hot. I've been

"I can't wait

to knock your

head off."

HAMZA HATOUM

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

When the cameras turn on, Hamza Hatoum has all the confidence in the world,

Brash and cocky, the former Big Brother Canada star is going to need both his brains and his brawn for his next venture, a celebrity boxing match against American Big Brother star Jozea Flores in an Aug. 6 pay-per-view event.

Nine Canadians will go up against nine Americans at the event, being staged in Arlington, Texas.

"I can't wait to knock your head off," Hatoum chirped at Flores on Twitter, continuing an age-old smack-talk tradition between prizefighters that would make even the Marquis de Queensbury proud.

The Thunder Bay native, who was elimi-

nated five weeks in during Big Brother Canada 6, said he's never stepped into the ring before, but doesn't see any way he'll lose to Flores, a make-up artist and a reality show regular from New Jersey who has also appeared on MTV's The Challenge: Champs vs. Stars.

'I'm excited to go down. The King of Chaos is going to go down there and kick some (butt)," he said. "I've

training pretty hard."

Despite his lack of experience in the square circle, Hatoum said Flores is in for a rude awakening if he thinks he's going to come out on top.

"It's not going to happen," Hatoum said.

"Jozea's got no chance against me. He doesn't know who he's standing up against. They call me the King of Chaos for a reason. I'm going down there and it's going to last one round, maybe 20 seconds. It's going to be quick and easy.

"Jozea talks a lot. He calls himself the Messiah, but come on."

It's time to put up or shut up, Hatoum added.

It's one thing to talk smack behind someone's back in the Big Brother house, but this is an individual sport with one opponent. "If I'm going to talk the talk, then I've got

to walk the walk, he said. Others taking part on the card, put together by Celebrity Net Fights, include Veronica Doherty, Jon Pardy, Adam Pike, Micheal Stubley, Madeline Di Nunzio, Dallas Cormier, Godfrey Mangwiza and Tom Plant.

For more information, visit www.celebritynetfights.com.

Stillwater: fine performances tripped up by a faulty script



Stillwater (SilverCity) represents Matt Damon's welcome return to the big screen (and perhaps streaming screens too). Here, Damon gives the kind of performance expected of a good actor and charismatic star--- detailed, believable characterization. His work is reason enough to see the movie.

Alas, the script doesn't quite match Damon's performance. "Stillwater" is one part character study (very good) one part fish-out-of-water tale (engaging), one part affecting family drama (uneven) and one part police procedural (steady until the disastrous last act.)

Damon plays Bill Baker, a fitfully

employed oil rigger from Oklahoma (hence the film's title) who's been travelling to Marseille to visit his estranged daughter, Alison (Abigail Breslin), in the middle of a nine-year prison term for murdering her female lover, an act she says she didn't commit. This recalls reallife Amanda Knox who wrongfully served time in Italian prison for her roommate's murder in 2007.

Along the way Baker befriends a French actress, Virginie (Camille Cottin) and her precocious nine-year-old daughter Maya (Lilou Siauvand) who wind up assisting him towards securing his daughter's release, a possibility reinvigorated by a tip Alison has recently stumbled upon that could exonerate her. Baker, a taciturn, baseball cap-

wearing, prayer-at-dinner, 'yes ma'am sort tries to regain his daughter's trust by following up the tip solo, but he's stymied by language barriers, cultural conflicts and an unhelpful French judicial system until Virginie unearths a lead.

Up until this point, we're on fairly solid ground. Baker's connection with both single mom and daughter builds credibly. The interactions between Damon and young Siauvand feel warm and naturalistic.

Damon is nuanced in allowing us to see beneath Baker's laconic surface. There is some sensitivity and regret for past offences buried there. Commendably, he doesn't suddenly morph into a warm and fuzzy good ol' boy. His 'stranger in a strange land' experience—a white guy from Trump Land prone to occasional F-bombs--buttresses the movie.

Then the script veers onto a slippery slope. To stay on the case, Baker gets a construction job (we can overlook his lack of familiarity with French) and winds up staying with Virginie and Maya, who become his surrogate family. The improbability quotient balloons in the last act. An extraordinary coincidence ramps up the plot, prompting Baker to commit an implausible action, potentially comprising everyone and everything around him.

This action stems from Alison's earlier complaint that her absentee, substanceabusing dad was a 'screw-up' felon who spiraled upon his wife's suicide. But this outrageous act is a dubious way of suggesting that Baker's previous selfdestructive tendencies continue to haunt him, flying in the face of his enlightened efforts to reassert himself as a good dad.

We're left with an ambiguous ending and some unresolved plot strands.

"Stillwater's" unevenness can be attributed to multiple hands sharing the screenwriting with director McCarthy. Most ill-served is Breslin's Alison whose character comes off as unconvincing.

If only "Stillwater" managed the same

discipline and detail as exemplified by its star, they might have had a solid little drama on their hands.

This section occurs to justify Alison's embittered assertion that her dad is a "screw-up," an absentee father who chased oil jobs leaving Alison to be brought up by her grandmother while he also battled substance abuse, earning a felony conviction after his wife's suicide (fuzzily explained).

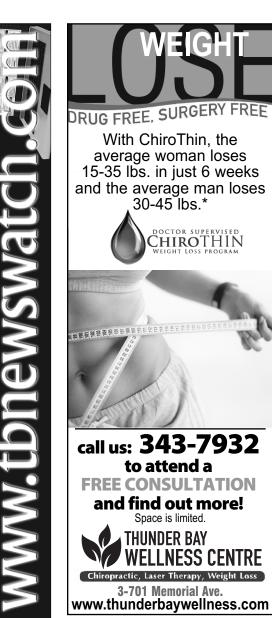
How he functions without facility with French is a bit of a leap we can overlook thanks to Damon's committed performance.

But what unfolds in the latter stages is a weak excuse to suggest that Bill's selfdestructive tendencies continue to haunt him.

An extraordinary coincidence ramps up the plot, leading Baker to resort to an implausible action that potentially compromises everyone and everything around him.

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Conor Carr captures first Strathcona Invitational

GOLF

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

onor Carr has grown up playing in the Strathcona Invitiational and on Monday he was finally able to capture something he's been dreaming of for a long time, the Invitational title.

"I'm kind of in disbelief. I can't really believe it," he said. "I grew up playing in this event and it's always been a dream of mine to come to Strathcona and win the invitational."

Carr defeated opponent Jeff Hunter through 18 holes of play on Monday, with the two evenly matched throughout most of the day.

"Jeff is a remarkable player. His ball striking is incredible," Carr said. "It's too bad the way it finsihed there. He put on a great display all day and he just as easily could have been right here."

This year there were two newcomers vying for the invitational title, with Carr beating out Jordan Potter, Ryan Untinen, and Randy Boudreau to earn a spot in the final. "We played five rounds this week. It was close to 90 holes," Carr said. "There was definitely some mental slip ups towards the end, but I forgave myself a little bit on the back nine and it was still good enough to get the job done."

"I've been hanging in there all week. I didn't have my A game by any means. I just



TEEING OFF: Conor Carr captured his first Strathcona Invitational title on Monday, defeating Jeff Hunter through 18 holes of play.

kept reminding myself to stay in it, keep the ball in play, and that was my game plan."

Carr started out the final on a strong note, earning a birdie to start the first round.

"I kind of blacked out when I made the putt to be perfectly honest, but it was a nice relaxing way to start the round," he said. "The nerves started to settle around hole five and six. Me and Jeff didn't trade off too much. A couple birdies in the middle of the round and at the end we traded off a couple of times."

There wasn't much back and forth between

Carr and Hunter but Carr said the turning point for him came about halfway through the round.

"I thought the turning point in the round for me was hole number nine. When I was really out of the hole I ended up getting up and down for par from about 150 to 140 vards. And then the back nine was smooth and I kept it in play and hung in there until the end," he said. "My putting within 12 feet I would say what got me here today."

Carr will be going on to defend his Fort William Invitational title next week.

Hutton signs \$750K deal with Coyotes

NHL

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Carter Hutton is headed home, of sorts. The Veteran Thunder Bay goaltender on Wednesday signed a one-way, one-year, \$750,000 deal with the Arizona Coyotes and will once again play in the Central Division, the Coyotes moving there to join three of Hutton's former teams to make way for the expansion Seattle Kraken in the West Division.

Hutton spent five of his eight full seasons in the Central, three with Nashville and two with St. Louis, where in 2017-18 he led the National Hockey League in both goals against average and save percentage. He also made his NHL debut in the Central, getting in one game with the Chicago Blackhawks on the final weekend of the 2012-13 campaign.

"Going back to the Central Division I think is great for me. I think the East is a little bit

wide open and obviously in Buffalo it didn't fare well for us in general," Hutton said, reached by phone hours after the signing was made public on the opening day of NHL free agency.

"Going to Arizona it's in the Central Division that I know very well. I think my attributes as a goalie pair well. I think my puck-handling ability plays well in the Central. It's going to be exciting.'

It's certainly more promising than the end of his 2020-21 campaign.

Hutton hurt his knee in March in a game against the New York Rangers after being hit by Rangers forward Julien Gauthier and never returned.

It was easily his worst season in the big leagues, playing for a Sabres team that at one point lost a record 18 straight games and finished last overall.

Hutton finished with a 1-10-1 record, a 3.47 goals against average and a .886 save percentage, not exactly numbers that create a lot of interest in a contract year.

"It was obviously difficult," he said. "You want to play, you want to help out. I thought at the time of the injury I was playing well. We had a coaching change and a few guys moved out and the team started to play a lot better too, which you want to be a part of.

"I think at times it was a little bit scrambly. It's not that I was the solution either. Obviously I wasn't my best at times, and I thought at times I was my best and there was not really much I could do. Some things happen, you can't control it, you move on and I'm glad it worked out.

"I'm glad I have enough of a resume and a rapport in the league that Arizona was excited to give me an opportunity."

In nine seasons, Hutton has a 94-88-27 record, with a 2.71 goals against average, a .909 save percentage and 13 shutouts in 231 games.



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Premier Doug Ford was in Thunder Bay last week to receive an update on the forest fire situation in Northwestern Ontario.

Invitational title/14

Wabaseemoong First Nation ready to evacuate

The First Nation 120 km northwest of Kenora is on standby to evacuate due to a nearby forest fire

KENORA

By Gary Rinne - TB Source

Residents of Wabaseemoong First Nation, 120 km northwest of Kenora, have been advised to prepare for possible evacuation because of a forest fire burning nearby.

In a social media post Sunday, Chief Waylon Scott said the community is now "officially on standby."

Citing information from the province's Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services agency, Scott said Kenora fire # 51 has the potential to jump across Umfreville Lake, which is just north of the First Nation.

"Our hope is that we don't need to

do a full scale evacuation...We are receiving updates hourly," he wrote.

Chief Scott attached an AFFES memo from the Kenora office to his post, which indicated that neither fire # 51 nor a fire burning in eastern Manitoba threatens Wabaseemoong or Minaki at this time, "but smoke is spreading across the Kenora area which may affect communities if unfavourable weather conditions persist."

The memo stated that vulnerable community members with health conditions should make preparations to leave in the event this becomes necessary, and that all residents should prepare to evacuate if the fire crosses Umfreville Lake.



INCREASING THREAT: Several communities have already been evacuated due to threats from forest fires and smoke.

contact.

An AFFES spokesperson told

TBNewswatch on Monday afternoon

"The situation may change rapidly," it said, while advising residents to keep informed and to maintain that fire # 51 has burned 188,000 hectares, about 17,000 hectares more than was reported on Sunday evening. It is approximately 20 kilometres north of Wabaseemoong.

Helicopters with buckets, and waterbombing planes are being used to slow its spread.

Ignition crews hope to bring the fire to natural boundaries, and bulldozer lines will be used to further contain the fire.

Close to 190 firefighters from outside Ontario including Alberta, Quebec, the maritime provinces, Wisconsin, Mexico and Australia are currently assisting in the battle against 110 fires in Northwestern Ontario, of which 17 are not under control.

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RARE VISIT: Premier Doug Ford got an in-person update on the forest fire situation in Northwestern Ontario last week.

Fiddler, Ford at odds over emergency call

NAN chief says fire situation dire, more resources required **POLITICS** By Justin Hardy – TBSource

N Fiddler shared frustration (NAN) Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler shared frustration with the provincial response to the threats posed by forest fires in the northwest region, as Premier Doug Ford visited forest fire management headquarters in Thunder Bay last Tuesday morning.

Fiddler, and NAN's frustrations with the provincial government started when NAN called on the Ford government to declare a state of emergency on July 12 to assist remote First Nation communities threatened by fire.

"Their response at that time was to issue what they call emergency orders. We're not really quite sure what that means, what that entails," said Fiddler.

"We know what a full emergency declaration would entail, it's about allowing all of us to be able to access whatever resources that are out there that are needed to support our families, and to fight the fires, and to support our communities."

The province issued an emergency order on July 14 due to the forest fires in Northwestern Ontario, allowing the government to take special measures to ensure the safety of people and the protection of critical property.

As of July 27, there were 157 active fires in the Northwest region according to the Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services. Fifty-one fires were not under control, 10 fires were being held, 32 fires were under control and 64 fires were being monitored.

Nearly 3,200 people from five communities have been evacuated. Deer Lake and Poplar Hill are fully evacuated, while Pikangikum, Cat Lake, and North Spirit Lake are partially evacuated. Evacuees are staying at host communities in Thunder Bay, Kapuskasing, Cochrane, Cornwall, Timmins, Sudbury, Sioux Lookout, Sault St. Marie, and the Peel Region.

"I think there's a little confusion, what a state of emergency is, it's not going to add any more resources,



NEEDS MORE HELP: Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler says more supports for families are required.

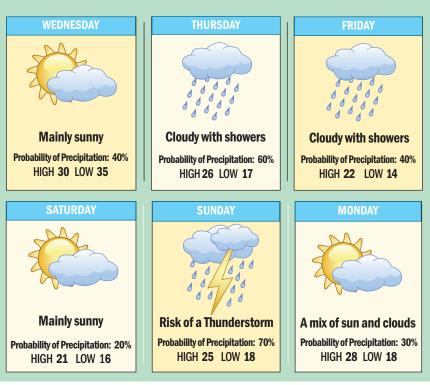
it's basically the province is coming in, taking over everything," said Premier Doug Ford.

"We believe in working with collaboration, cooperation, with First Nations, with municipalities, that's the only difference, is the province will come in and say you can't go down this road, there's already emergency orders put in place, so it's not holding back any resources. We will put all the resources we have, I won't spare a penny, and we'll make sure we're there to support the people of Northwestern Ontario."

Fiddler once again expressed frustration at the situation.

"Their response, the last week or so, and again today, confirmed by Premier Doug Ford, that they will not go there, that's not what we're asking for, and I think we've been very clear on what that is."

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Youth sentenced to 12 months probation for school threats

THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

A youth charged in connection to threats against Hammarskjold High School throughout late 2018 and early 2019, which resulted in numerous disruptions to the school year and heavy police responses, has been sentenced after pleading guilty to one count of public mischief.

In a Thunder Bay Courtroom on Thursday, Justice Danalyn MacKinnon sentenced the youth, who cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, to 12 months of probation.

Throughout the academic year in 2018/2019, Hammarskjold High School received 14 anonymous threats through Crime Stoppers, which resulted in the school being closed for 12 days. The threats involved shootings, suspicious packages, or bombs.

Following a lengthy investigation by the Thunder Bay Police Service, the youth, who was 14-years-old at the time, as well as Emilie Jade Pakrashi, 18 at the time, were arrested in April 2019.

The youth was initially charged with four counts each of public mischief and mischief endangering life. On Thursday, the youth pleaded guilty to one count of public mischief and all other charges were withdrawn by the Crown.

Prior to sentencing, the Crown shared victim impact statements from school officials who spoke about the toll the repeated threats had on students and staff, which included anxiety and emotional stress that manifested inside the school and at home.

There was also a significant financial cost associated with the threats, with the school reporting costs of more than \$82,000 and the Thunder Bay Police Service putting the cost of responding to and investigating the threats at more than \$200,000.

Justice MacKinnon said she agreed with the joint submission of a 12-

month probation period agreed upon by the Crown and defence attorney George Joseph who was representing the youth.

But Justice MacKinnon did say that the actions of the youth have had a profound impact on not only the school community, but the community as a whole.

"The actions that you took, these threats to the school, the most horrible part of that I have to consider as an aggravating factor, is these threats create fear in other people, whether it's administration, teachers, families, or students going to school there," she said.

"Every time a threat was made, people could imagine and see the worst-case scenario of being killed by someone in a school. It's not like it never happened. These threats created very real pictures in people's minds and very real fears."

Justice MacKinnon added that by reading the victim impact statements, it becomes clear that some individuals

affected by the threats may never recover.

"The threats caused a lot of disruption in people's education. Particularly for teenagers and the skills they need in order to be good students in the future, learning how to manage their own time, how to concentrate, how to get their assignments done. A lot of that was broken by the constant removal of students from school," she said.

Another aggravating factor Justice MacKinnon referred to was the fact the threats were a repeated action that must have taken some planning.

When given the opportunity to address the court, the youth expressed regret and apologized for any harm the threats caused to students and staff.

"I'm using this as a learning opportunity for me about myself and taking action on what could have caused this, and I am working on my personal growth," the youth said.

"I am very grateful for all the support I have received through my family, professionals, and the justice system. I am looking forward to moving past this point in my life."

Justice MacKinnon said she was pleased to hear the youth has been able to continue and pursue future education opportunities, as well as abiding by all terms and conditions of the release order.

"I was extremely pleased to hear you are doing community service hours to try to put yourself back in the right position with the community," she said.

"In all of the circumstances, I will agree with the joint submissions, which is unusual in these circumstances, but it is because of all of the things you have done. You are part of the community and we look forward to you being part of the community."

Pakrashi is still facing charges of public mischief and mischief to property in connection to the threats made against Hammarskjold High School. She is expected to make her next court appearance in August.



Lawyer Bryson nabs NDP nomination

POLITICS By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Chantelle Bryson says she's tried to stay out of politics, but her belief that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has launched an all-out attack on Canada's democratic institutions convinced her it was time to take a stand.

Last Tuesday night she was officially nominated as the NDP candidate in Thunder Bay-Superior North and will take on Liberal Health Minister Patty Hajdu in the next federal election, widely expected in the fall.

Bryson, a lawyer and activist, said decisions and policies of the Trudeau Liberals, including kicking outspoken MPs Jodi Wilson-Raybould and Jane Philpott out of caucus, taking the speaker of the House to court and betraying Indigenous children and their communities, made it clear a new vision is needed in Ottawa.

Still, it took a lot of soul-searching before Bryson committed to run.

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SPEAKING UP: Chantelle Bryson wants to give Thunder Bay-Superior North a voice.

"I was afraid I would become Patty Hajdu and be a puppet of Justin Trudeau who can't speak freely, who can't stand up for the riding," Bryson said, shortly after accepting the nomination, noting the final push was watching former MP Mumilaq Qaqqaq do her farewell speech in the House of Commons.

"I wouldn't do it if my voice was going to be silenced. Yesterday, last night and this morning I had the opportunity to meet in person with (NDP Leader) Jagmeet (Singh) and that further solidified my decision. He is a humble, hard-working, highly skilled and honourable man."

Bryson said she senses a shift in the political winds adding that voters believe Singh is a man of integrity, someone who can get the job done for the entire country.

An improvement of Indigenous services is a top priority for the wouldbe politician.

"I have spent 25 years fighting for equality in public services for First Nation communities. This debate needs to end. The attempt to starve out communities on some dream of assimilation and these calls to close down these communities needs to end," Bryson said. "We are harming children with grossly underfunded housing, health care and education. It's cruel and it needs to end."

Broadband access and schools in the communities are the first places she'd start.

"When people have the tools they need and they're healthy, they can prosper. And they will prosper," Bryson said.

"Obviously there's an immediate need for justice on the found children and the murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls. These are the preeminent concerns for me. I think everyone in this community knows that's what I stand for and what I've fought for, amongst my other very practical work for municipalities and doing seemingly mundane things like bylaws and contracts and procurement."

In addition to Hajdu running for the Liberals, the Conservative Party of Canada last week announced Joshua





Editorial

EDITORIAL

Forest fire emergency

Chas been available for decades, but after a summer of record temperatures and devastating forest fires, it's impossible to look away.

While record-shattering temperatures on Canada's west coast made international headlines, Thunder Bay set heat records of its own in July.

That fueled a fire season that had already started earlier than normal due to dry conditions. Both the number of fires and the amount of land burned in Ontario – predominantly in the Northwest – are on track to far outstrip the 10-year average.

Climate change is already making fire seasons longer and more intense. Like COVID-19, climate change is expected to disproportionately impact the most vulnerable. Increased heat will bring many other impacts to the region, from more common blooms of blue-green algae in inland lakes to agriculture challenges.

With the evidence of a changing climate growing harder to ignore, it's time for serious solutions.

Action can start closer to home as well, as shown by the City of Thunder Bay's net-zero climate plan – but a tepid commitment from city councillors demonstrates the need for the public to push leaders on the issue.

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Save Canadian media

To the editor: These days, when I open my newspaper I'm always wondering whether it's the last time I'll get to read my favourite column or get a story about what's happening in our community. Due to years of government inaction and the hostility of big

try is dying. Here's the thing, though: Canadian storytelling matters. Whether it is on screens or in our newspapers, whether it is about a new initiative to support local businesses or about a new after school program — our stories tell us who we are as a society. So if these stories disappear, so do we.

foreign players, Canada's news indus-

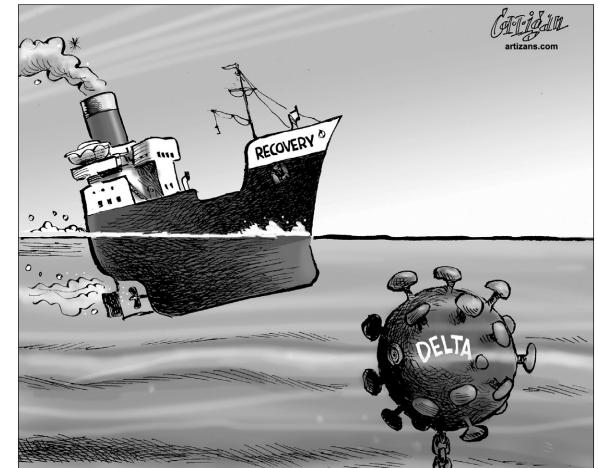
And that's the crux of my fear. Canadian storytelling is going extinct and the government is simply standing idly by.

An election will be called any day now. I want our candidates to know that my vote comes at a price: if you don't offer substantive solutions to the Canadian news crisis, you can forget about my vote.

I hope my fellow readers, my fellow community members will join me in demanding more from our elected officials.

> Tracey MacKinnon, Thunder Bay

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Exploring the world through books

Literature can offer many unique and exciting ways to see the world

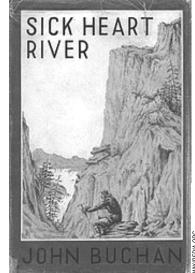


People travel for different reasons. Some travel for leisure or business while others just like to explore. And then there are those who want to escape or discover something about themselves.

In Sick Heart River by John Buchan the protagonist, Edward Leithen, is dying and seeks one last adventure. He sets off into the Canadian Arctic to find the meaning of life, before his own life ends. He is looking for some kind of Northern Eden. He is also on a rescue mission - to search for Francis Galliard who has disappeared without trace. Severed from his past and exposed to extreme physical hardship, uprooted from urban civilization and struggling for survival, Leithen undergoes a gradual spiritual development. The insular egoism of his 'sick heart' is ultimately replaced by a new

concern and love for his fellow men. This is not an easy read. Buchan, who served as Governor General of Canada, is suffused with settler colonialism. His casual racism is shocking. It lays bare his philosophy of life and death.

The Lost Steps by Alejo Carpentier is diametrically opposite. The author was born in Cuba and, after the Revolution, became Vice President of the National Council of Culture. The narrator is a successful composer who leaves New York and his wife to search for early musical instruments in Latin America with his existentialist mistress, Mouche. As the expedition penetrates the upper reaches of the Orinoco, leaving every sort of sophistication behind, Mouche fades and sickens and the composer turns to Rosario, an Indigenous woman at one with the rhythm of life in a landscape of immeasurable age, and with a very different world view. Slowly, the composer is roused to a new consciousness of himself - and of the futility of his existence 'back there'. In matching a visionary evocation of



LITERARY CLASSIC:Sick Heart River by John Buchan.

scenery with the introspective flights of his protagonist, this novel is at once a celebration of life – and a denunciation of civilization as we know it. Carpentier describes what Marx would call a 'primitive communist' society in which there is no private ownership of land, the environment and animals are respected, the governance structures are truly democratic and women are free and equal members of society.

D.H. Lawrence delves deeper into this theme in The Woman Who Rode Away, which is unequalled among his short novels in its awesome yet strangely impersonal descriptive power. His protagonist is a woman who leaves her comfortable lifestyle, husband and children to discover her real self. She travels to a remote mountainous Indigenous community in search of a new god. She has renounced her old god and wants to be born again. She realizes that, living in the capitalist world, she is alienated from everything, including herself. She is already dead. We don't know her name but, like many of Lawrence's main characters, she is a woman. Lawrence was not a misogynist. And he was not a racist. He was fascinated by Indigenous communities which he regarded as being superior to so-called 'western civilization.'

Perspective

The monarch situation

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

Gardening is a very popular Gactivity around Thunder Bay and creates hundreds of natural, eco-friendly environments that attract thousands of birds and insects.

I was enjoying the scents and colors of our own flower garden the other day when I suddenly caught a glimpse of a monarch butterfly fluttering among the blooms.

It was an inspiring sight - a large, showy butterfly with stark orange and black wings gently floating on the summer breeze while searching for a meal.

There is something about the monarch that captures the imagination and makes it one of the most recognizable butterflies in North America.

It has become an international symbol of conservation and a shared natural conservation project for Canada, the U.S. and Mexico.

It is often used as an example to encourage an understanding of biology, insect metamorphosis and a general appreciation of our natural surroundings.

Now that summer is in full swing there is a flurry of activity in flower and vegetable gardens around the city, from birds to bees to butterflies.

I was especially encouraged by the sight of that monarch flapping through the flowers because this iconic and very distinctive insect may be running out of time. It migrates to Canada from Mexico every summer and ranges from B.C. to Newfoundland but the numbers have been dwindling for years and it is now a "species of special concern".

It will need our help to avoid extinction.

I was reminded of the monarch's plight during a recent conversation which was both inspiring and sad at the same time.

We were chatting with one of our neighbors last week and he shared some information about the monarch situation in his back vard

Some of the plants in his garden were being devoured by caterpillars and he was a little "It will need concerned about how our help to fast the plants were disappearing.

avoid

extinction."

What worried him the most was that there might not be enough plants to feed all those hungry crawlers.

The plants he was referring to was the patch of milkweed he was cultivating - the insects that were eating them were the larvae of monarch butterflies.

He intentionally created a butterfly-friendly habitat to attract them to his back yard where they can complete their metamorphosis into adult monarchs.

He is responding to the continental call to plant more milkweed, the only plant where monarchs lay their eggs and the only vegetation that hatching caterpillars can eat.

I suspect he is also responsible for the monarch I saw in our garden that day and probably many more sightings around the neighborhood.

Small backyard sanctuaries like his are necessary to help replace the loss of natural habitat all over North America, a leading factor in the relentless decline of the species.

There are major international projects under way to preserve and restore lost habitat along with thousands of concerned individgrowing milkweed in uals backyard gardens.

We have tried to grow a patch of milkweed in our own back yard but so far it seems to be the only weed that doesn't thrive in our garden - we will try again

next year. Right now we pride ourselves in our homegrown vegetables and flowers - how satisfying it would be to boast about a

home-grown flutter of monarchs. Incidentally, a group of butterflies may also be referred to as a roost, a bivouac, a swarm, a kaleidoscope or a rainbow.

Whatever they're called we'll do our best to establish a monarch-friendly garden next summer so we can help these regal creatures avoid total extinction.

And hopefully, optimistically, we can rescue them from the brink, one neighborhood garden at a time.

THUNDER BA

SEUM



Thursday, August 5, 2021

HITTING THE ROAD Luna wears booties on her paws to protect from the hot pavement as she joins Michael Yellowlees on a cross-Canada trek in support of Trees for Life.

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19th Century Newspaper Men

A look back in history

During the isolated winter months of the mid 1870s two handwritten newspapers were started in Thunder Bay, one in Fort William (The Perambulator) and one in Prince Arthur's Landing (the Thunderbolt). They poked good-natured fun at each other, a practice that turned nasty in the decades to come.



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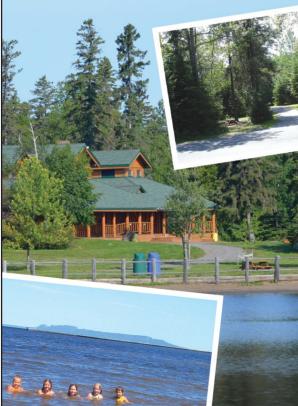
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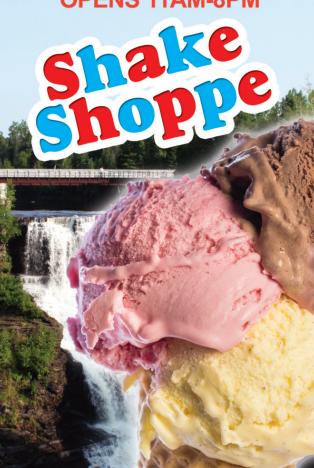
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New park adventures



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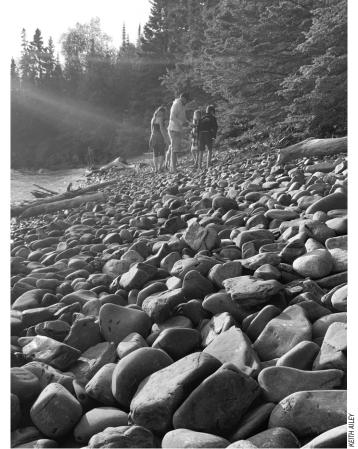




Few places in the world can boast the variety of magnificent scenery and unspoiled wilderness on offer in Northwestern Ontario. The great amount of natural parkland here makes it easy to enjoy a new adventure any day of the week and visiting our provinicial parks is a summer tradition for many people looking for a vacation from city life. Heading east from Thunder Bay, there are several amazing parks along the north shore of Lake Superior where we can bike, paddle, hike, swim, explore and relax.

Less than an hour from Thunder Bay, on the southern tip of the Sibley peninsula lies the legendary Sleeping Giant and the provincial park that shares its name. While this park boasts over 240 camp sites and a gorgeous beach on Marie Louise Lake, visitors will discover that the best part is the recreational opportunities that abound here. There are more than 100km of trails, many with access to secluded stretches of Lake Superior's shoreline. Plus, there are plenty of nature walks, fishing spots and places to explore on a mountain bike. Venture deep into the boreal forest to experience backcountry camping, or hike one of the rugged trails to the Sea Lion or the top of the giant for unbeatable views of Lake Superior. You could spend the entire summer here and still not take in all the beauty of this remarkable piece of paradise.

Just outside the town of Schreiber is Rainbow Falls Provincial Park. This park features two campgrounds: Whitesands Lake on the north side of the highway and Rossport on the south. Many of the trails here are more advanced but the panoramic views of Lake Superior, Whitesand Lake and the cascading river and steep rock ledges of Rainbow Falls make it well worth the effort. The 3km Rainbow Falls Trail is part of the great 52 km Casque Isles Trail section of the Voyageur Trail that runs between the communities of Terrace Bay,



NATURAL BEAUTY: The Lake Superior shoreline at Sleeping Glant Provincial Park...

Schreiber and Rossport.

Neys Provincial Park, close to Marathon, boasts one the finest beaches on Lake Superior's north shore. This area is also home to sub-Arctic plants and a rare herd of woodland caribou. Of course, a visit to Neys would not be complete without hiking the Pic Island Overlook Trail. This challenging hike is 9km round-trip but at the top you are rewarded with the breathtaking view of Pic Island and Thompson Channel that inspired Group of Seven painter Lauren Harris.

Pukaskwa National Park is a remote and wild park that protects 1878 square km of an ecosystem that features boreal forest and Lake Superior shoreline. This park's exceptional beauty is revealed to visitors who hike its rugged Canadian Shield landscape, unspoiled northern forests, and the sandy beaches and incredible vistas along Lake Superior.

Lake Superior Provincial Park, near Wawa, is one of Ontario's largest parks. It offers spectacular scenery and diverse camping opportunities with two campgrounds and over 200 backcountry sites. The main attraction here is Agawa Rock, which features images painted on the rocks centuries ago by the area's indigenous people. Made with a mixture of powdered hematite and animal fat, the 35 images are still visible and believed to represent events, legendary figures, spirits, and dreams.

Many other unique parks along the northeast shore of Superior, including Ouimet Canyon, Batchawana Bay and Pancake Bay are also worth a visit. We are blessed to live in an area that offers such variety and opportunity to spend time outside and the easy access to our great parks is a big reason why our quality of life is so good here.



FESTA FOOD: Volunteers prepare food at Festa Italiana on Sunday.

Return of Festa

THUNDER BAY By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

The pandemic may have nixed the usual entertainment and fireworks at this year's Festa Italiana, but its culinary offerings remained more than enough to bring thousands to the Italian Cultural Centre on Sunday.

The event continued Monday, offering takeout orders from noon to 8 p.m., with a small seating area available.

There's no replacing the social aspect of the event, acknowledged Festival chairman Benny Melchiorre.

It's the human interactions that have made Festa resonate for 31 years now, he said, enough that some who attended as children return to Thunder Bay years later just to attend or volunteer.

"We're missing the social part of the Festa, people coming down to see their friends, making new friends. To have 10,000 people in the parking lot for the fireworks, it's a good feeling – we miss that."

Provincial COVID-19 restrictions eased to allow larger events in mid-July, but certainty on that move didn't come soon enough to organize a major event weeks later.

"We would have loved to go back to the full-blown Festa, but of course that takes a lot of planning – you can't just wake up in the morning and say, we're going to have a Festa," he said. "But we're really happy with the turnout and look forward to doing a full [event] next year."

That will be welcomed by attendee Lorenzo, who has been coming for around seven years.

"It's always a blast," he said. "During COVID, I miss having the whole Festa – we used to spend hours out here."

Still, like many others Sunday, he didn't miss the opportunity to pick up favourites like gnocchi, meatballs or crostoli.

Roughly 5,000 people showed up to enjoy the take-away food at last year's event. The usual version draws roughly 10,000 visits per day, organizers estimate.

Melchiorre expressed gratitude to the community for decades of support, and he expects the event to come back in a big way next year.

Proceeds from the event support the Italian Cultural Centre. The organization also donates significant amounts to other local charities, Melchiorre said.

All Festa attendees were asked to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

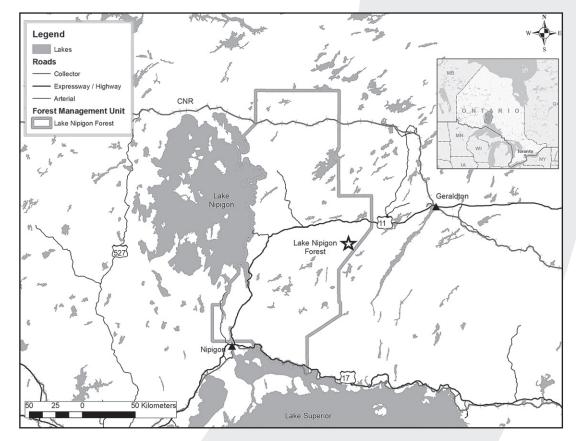


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INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Project Lake Nipigon Forest

The Ontario **Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF)** invites you to inspect the NDMNRF-approved aerial herbicide project. As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, selected stands on the **Lake Nipigon Forest** (see map) will be sprayed with herbicide to control competing vegetation, starting on or about **August 14, 2021**.



The approved project description and project plan for the aerial herbicide project is available electronically for public inspection by contacting Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. during normal business hours and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online beginning July 6, 2021 until March 31, 2022 when the Annual Work Schedule expires.

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

Raymond Weldon, R.P.F. Management Forester Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry 5 Wadsworth Drive, P.O. Box 970 Nipigon, ON P0T2J0 tel: 807-889-0881 e-mail: raymond.weldon@ontario.ca Scot Rubin, R.P.F. General Manager Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. 3134 Kam Current Road Kaministiquia, ON POT1X0 tel: 807-621-7835 e-mail: scot.rubin@newleafforestry.ca

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Libraries delay reopening

THUNDER BAY By TB Source staff

he Thunder Bay Public Library has released details of its phased reopening plan.

In an announcement Tuesday, TBPL said In-person services at the Mary JL Black and County Fair branches are currently targeted to resume on Sept. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

However, inside service at the Waverley and Brodie libraries won't start up again until Sept. 27.

New hours of operation will also be implemented on Sept. 27, and will include evening hours as well as Saturday openings at selected locations.

Details will be announced later.

In the interim, curbside service will continue at the Mary JL Black, Waverley and Brodie locations.

As well as taking care of pickups and returns, library staff are offering take-andmake craft kits, book bundles, online programming, the TD Summer Reading game, a new technology loan program, and a 24/7 virtual library which includes eBooks and eAudiobooks.

TBPL said its reopening plan takes into account the provincial Roadmap to Reopening, key public health indicators and vaccination rates.

"We'd like to thank the community for their patience and continued patronage online and at curbside during the pandemic," chief librarian John Pateman said.



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FIRST-TIME FIGHTER: Big Brother Canada star Hamza Hatoum says he's never stepped inside a boxing ring before.

Big Brother's Hatoum to fight Jozea Flores

Canadian stars taking on American counterparts in Texas TELEVISION never been to Texas. I hear it's pretty hot. I've been

"I can't wait

to knock your

head off."

HAMZA HATOUM

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

When the cameras turn on, Hamza Hatoum has all the confidence in the world,

Brash and cocky, the former Big Brother Canada star is going to need both his brains and his brawn for his next venture, a celebrity boxing match against American Big Brother star Jozea Flores in an Aug. 6 pay-per-view event.

Nine Canadians will go up against nine Americans at the event, being staged in Arlington, Texas.

"I can't wait to knock your head off," Hatoum chirped at Flores on Twitter, continuing an age-old smack-talk tradition between prizefighters that would make even the Marquis de Queensbury proud.

The Thunder Bay native, who was elimi-

nated five weeks in during Big Brother Canada 6, said he's never stepped into the ring before, but doesn't see any way he'll lose to Flores, a make-up artist and a reality show regular from New Jersey who has also appeared on MTV's The Challenge: Champs vs. Stars.

'I'm excited to go down. The King of Chaos is going to go down there and kick some (butt)," he said. "I've

training pretty hard."

Despite his lack of experience in the square circle, Hatoum said Flores is in for a rude awakening if he thinks he's going to come out on top.

"It's not going to happen," Hatoum said.

"Jozea's got no chance against me. He doesn't know who he's standing up against. They call me the King of Chaos for a reason. I'm going down there and it's going to last one round, maybe 20 seconds. It's going to be quick and easy.

"Jozea talks a lot. He calls himself the Messiah, but come on."

It's time to put up or shut up, Hatoum added.

It's one thing to talk smack behind someone's back in the Big Brother house, but this is an individual sport with one opponent. "If I'm going to talk the talk, then I've got

to walk the walk, he said.

Others taking part on the card, put together by Celebrity Net Fights, include Veronica Doherty, Jon Pardy, Adam Pike, Micheal Stubley, Madeline Di Nunzio, Dallas Cormier, Godfrey Mangwiza and Tom Plant.

For more information, visit www.celebritynetfights.com.

Stillwater: fine performances tripped up by a faulty script



Stillwater (SilverCity) represents Matt Damon's welcome return to the big screen (and perhaps streaming screens too). Here, Damon gives the kind of performance expected of a good actor and charismatic star--- detailed, believable characterization. His work is reason enough to see the movie.

Alas, the script doesn't quite match Damon's performance. "Stillwater" is one part character study (very good) one part fish-out-of-water tale (engaging), one part affecting family drama (uneven) and one part police procedural (steady until the disastrous last act.)

Damon plays Bill Baker, a fitfully

employed oil rigger from Oklahoma (hence the film's title) who's been travelling to Marseille to visit his estranged daughter, Alison (Abigail Breslin), in the middle of a nine-year prison term for murdering her female lover, an act she says she didn't commit. This recalls reallife Amanda Knox who wrongfully served time in Italian prison for her roommate's murder in 2007.

Along the way Baker befriends a French actress, Virginie (Camille Cottin) and her precocious nine-year-old daughter Maya (Lilou Siauvand) who wind up assisting him towards securing his daughter's release, a possibility reinvigorated by a tip Alison has recently stumbled upon that could exonerate her. Baker, a taciturn, baseball cap-

wearing, prayer-at-dinner, 'yes ma'am sort tries to regain his daughter's trust by following up the tip solo, but he's stymied by language barriers, cultural conflicts and an unhelpful French judicial system until Virginie unearths a lead.

Up until this point, we're on fairly solid ground. Baker's connection with both single mom and daughter builds credibly. The interactions between Damon and young Siauvand feel warm and naturalistic.

Damon is nuanced in allowing us to see beneath Baker's laconic surface. There is some sensitivity and regret for past offences buried there. Commendably, he doesn't suddenly morph into a warm and fuzzy good ol' boy. His 'stranger in a strange land' experience—a white guy from Trump Land prone to occasional F-bombs--buttresses the movie.

Then the script veers onto a slippery slope. To stay on the case, Baker gets a construction job (we can overlook his lack of familiarity with French) and winds up staying with Virginie and Maya, who become his surrogate family. The improbability quotient balloons in the last act. An extraordinary coincidence ramps up the plot, prompting Baker to commit an implausible action, potentially comprising everyone and everything around him.

This action stems from Alison's earlier complaint that her absentee, substanceabusing dad was a 'screw-up' felon who spiraled upon his wife's suicide. But this outrageous act is a dubious way of suggesting that Baker's previous selfdestructive tendencies continue to haunt him, flying in the face of his enlightened efforts to reassert himself as a good dad.

We're left with an ambiguous ending and some unresolved plot strands.

"Stillwater's" unevenness can be attributed to multiple hands sharing the screenwriting with director McCarthy. Most ill-served is Breslin's Alison whose character comes off as unconvincing.

If only "Stillwater" managed the same

discipline and detail as exemplified by its star, they might have had a solid little drama on their hands.

This section occurs to justify Alison's embittered assertion that her dad is a "screw-up," an absentee father who chased oil jobs leaving Alison to be brought up by her grandmother while he also battled substance abuse, earning a felony conviction after his wife's suicide (fuzzily explained).

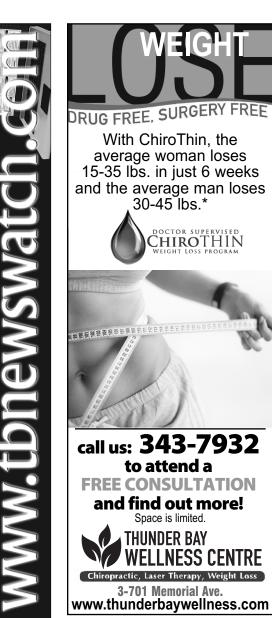
How he functions without facility with French is a bit of a leap we can overlook thanks to Damon's committed performance.

But what unfolds in the latter stages is a weak excuse to suggest that Bill's selfdestructive tendencies continue to haunt him.

An extraordinary coincidence ramps up the plot, leading Baker to resort to an implausible action that potentially compromises everyone and everything around him.

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Conor Carr captures first Strathcona Invitational

GOLF

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

onor Carr has grown up playing in the Strathcona Invitiational and on Monday he was finally able to capture something he's been dreaming of for a long time, the Invitational title.

"I'm kind of in disbelief. I can't really believe it," he said. "I grew up playing in this event and it's always been a dream of mine to come to Strathcona and win the invitational."

Carr defeated opponent Jeff Hunter through 18 holes of play on Monday, with the two evenly matched throughout most of the day.

"Jeff is a remarkable player. His ball striking is incredible," Carr said. "It's too bad the way it finsihed there. He put on a great display all day and he just as easily could have been right here."

This year there were two newcomers vying for the invitational title, with Carr beating out Jordan Potter, Ryan Untinen, and Randy Boudreau to earn a spot in the final. "We played five rounds this week. It was close to 90 holes," Carr said. "There was definitely some mental slip ups towards the end, but I forgave myself a little bit on the back nine and it was still good enough to get the job done."

"I've been hanging in there all week. I didn't have my A game by any means. I just



TEEING OFF: Conor Carr captured his first Strathcona Invitational title on Monday, defeating Jeff Hunter through 18 holes of play.

kept reminding myself to stay in it, keep the ball in play, and that was my game plan."

Carr started out the final on a strong note, earning a birdie to start the first round.

"I kind of blacked out when I made the putt to be perfectly honest, but it was a nice relaxing way to start the round," he said. "The nerves started to settle around hole five and six. Me and Jeff didn't trade off too much. A couple birdies in the middle of the round and at the end we traded off a couple of times."

There wasn't much back and forth between

Carr and Hunter but Carr said the turning point for him came about halfway through the round.

"I thought the turning point in the round for me was hole number nine. When I was really out of the hole I ended up getting up and down for par from about 150 to 140 vards. And then the back nine was smooth and I kept it in play and hung in there until the end," he said. "My putting within 12 feet I would say what got me here today."

Carr will be going on to defend his Fort William Invitational title next week.

Hutton signs \$750K deal with Coyotes

NHL

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Carter Hutton is headed home, of sorts. The veteran Thunder Bay goaltender on Wednesday signed a one-way, one-year, \$750,000 deal with the Arizona Coyotes and will once again play in the Central Division, the Coyotes moving there to join three of Hutton's former teams to make way for the expansion Seattle Kraken in the West Division.

Hutton spent five of his eight full seasons in the Central, three with Nashville and two with St. Louis, where in 2017-18 he led the National Hockey League in both goals against average and save percentage. He also made his NHL debut in the Central, getting in one game with the Chicago Blackhawks on the final weekend of the 2012-13 campaign.

"Going back to the Central Division I think is great for me. I think the East is a little bit

wide open and obviously in Buffalo it didn't fare well for us in general," Hutton said, reached by phone hours after the signing was made public on the opening day of NHL free agency.

"Going to Arizona it's in the Central Division that I know very well. I think my attributes as a goalie pair well. I think my puck-handling ability plays well in the Central. It's going to be exciting.'

It's certainly more promising than the end of his 2020-21 campaign.

Hutton hurt his knee in March in a game against the New York Rangers after being hit by Rangers forward Julien Gauthier and never returned.

It was easily his worst season in the big leagues, playing for a Sabres team that at one point lost a record 18 straight games and finished last overall.

Hutton finished with a 1-10-1 record, a 3.47 goals against average and a .886 save percentage, not exactly numbers that create a lot of interest in a contract year.

"It was obviously difficult," he said. "You want to play, you want to help out. I thought at the time of the injury I was playing well. We had a coaching change and a few guys moved out and the team started to play a lot better too, which you want to be a part of.

"I think at times it was a little bit scrambly. It's not that I was the solution either. Obviously I wasn't my best at times, and I thought at times I was my best and there was not really much I could do. Some things happen, you can't control it, you move on and I'm glad it worked out.

"I'm glad I have enough of a resume and a rapport in the league that Arizona was excited to give me an opportunity."

In nine seasons, Hutton has a 94-88-27 record, with a 2.71 goals against average, a .909 save percentage and 13 shutouts in 231 games.



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