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Results indicate at least 1 in 10 students not returning to classroom at local school boards / 3



THE RETURN TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER WILL LOOK VERY DIFFERENT THIS YEAR, WITH MANY STUDENTS STILL LEARNING AT HOME.

REVIEW

Review of Draft Forest Management Plan Black Spruce 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Resolute Forest Products Canada Inc. and the Black Spruce Forest Local Citizens' Committee (LCC) invite you to review and comment on the 2021–2031 Draft Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Black Spruce Forest.

The Planning Process

The FMP takes approximately three years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public consultation and First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation are provided. The third opportunity (Stage Three) for this FMP occurred on March 10, 2020 when the public was invited to review and comment on proposed operations for the ten-year period of the FMP. This **'Stage Four'** notice is to invite you to:

- review and comment on the draft FMP; and
- contribute to the background information.

Comments from the public will be considered in revisions to the draft FMP.

How to Get Involved

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit:

https://www.ontario.ca/document/participate-forestmanagement-ontario/how-get-involved-forest-management.

The Draft FMP and the Draft FMP summary will be available electronically on the Ontario government website at **www.ontario.ca/forestplans** and can be made available by contacting the Resolute Forest Products Canada Inc., contact listed below, during normal office hours for a period of 60 days: **September 14, 2020 to November 13, 2020**. Comments on the draft FMP for the Black Spruce Forest must be received by Scott Galloway of the planning team, by **November 13, 2020**.

In addition to the most current versions of the information and maps which were previously available, the following information can be obtained electronically on the Ontario government website (www.ontario.ca/forestplans) to assist you in your review:

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BLACK SPRUCE FOREST

- Draft FMP, including supplementary documentation;
- Draft FMP summary;
- MNRF's preliminary list of required alterations.

The Information Forum related to the review of Draft Forest Management Plan will be held via individual or group remote meetings which may be arranged by calling the individuals listed below during the review period. Remote meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be also requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to remotely meet planning team members during non-business hours will be provided upon request. If you require more information or wish to discuss your interests with a planning team member, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

Scott Galloway MNRF Thunder Bay District 435 James Street South, Suite B001 Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7 tel: 807-473-3073 e-mail: scott.galloway@ontario.ca Niall Scarr, R.P.F. Resolute FP Canada Inc. 2001 Neebing Avenue Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S3 tel: 807-473-2843 e-mail: niall.scarr@resolutefp.com

During the planning process there is an opportunity to make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the MNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the 2020 *Forest Management Planning Manual (Part A, Section 2.4.1)*.

The last possible date to seek issue resolution with the MNRF Regional Director is November 30, 2020.

Stay Involved

The MNRF-approved FMP will be available for inspection for the 10-year duration of the FMP **Stage Five** - Inspection of the MNRF-approved FMP is tentatively scheduled for **February 19, 2021**.

The approval date of the FMP is tentatively scheduled for March 20, 2021 with implementation on April 1, 2021.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/ or the sustainable forest licensee to contact you regarding comments submitted. Your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used by the MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Alyson Dupuis at 807-475-1512.



Red

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SPRUCE

FOREST



NO INJURIES: The fire destroyed the mobile home, causing heavy smoke visible in the city's East end.

Fire destroys mobile home

THUNDER BAY By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

A McKellar Island fire burned a mobile home to the ground Monday evening. No injuries were reported in the blaze.

Thunder Bay Fire Rescue responded to reports of heavy black smoke from an East end resident around 6:30 p.m..

A truck initially on scene at the Island Drive property where the mobile home was located attacked the fire, but crews ran out of water before being able to extinguish it.

The home had burned to the ground by the time a larger tanker arrived from the Mapleward fire hall.

TBFR platoon chief Philip Dzuba said two people were present, but not in the home, at the time. Two cats escaped the home and also survived unharmed, he reported.

Two Thunder Bay police cruisers also responded to the incident.

There was not yet any indication as to the cause of the fire, Dzuba said.

Woman charged

Police called to Thunder Bay Airport after passenger refused to wear a mask

THUNDER BAY By TB Source Staff

Thunder Bay Police were dispatched to the airport on Saturday morning after an incident in which a departing passenger refused to wear a mask.

Officers were told that a woman in her 20s was scheduled to board an Air Canada flight to Toronto but was being denied boarding because she wouldn't obey the federal regulation requiring all passengers to wear masks to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Exceptions are granted only to passengers who present a medical certificate showing they are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons.

Police met with airport security staff outside the terminal, then transported the woman off airport property.

She was charged under the Trespass to Property Act before being released.

LOCALNEWS **Student opt-out numbers**

Results indicate at least 1 in 10 students not returning to classroom, though some parents have yet to respond to the surveys

EDUCATION By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Thunder Bay's two largest school boards have revealed results from parent surveys, with preliminary results indicating at least 1 in 10 students will stay home come September.

The substantial number of students learning from home is good news for efforts to lower class sizes in the face of COVID-19 concerns, said leaders with the Lakehead District School Board and Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board.

82 per cent of public school students will be returning to schools, while 7 per cent opted for athome learning. Another 11 per cent had yet to respond as of Monday afternoon.

At the English Catholic board, 77 per cent of students were confirmed to return, while 11 per cent will learn at home and 12 per cent had yet to respond.

Parents keeping children home will have the chance to move them back to in-class learning in October, while students can move to at-home learning at any time.

The boards will be calling parents who had not responded to the surveys to finalize numbers over the coming week. LDSB director of education Ian MacRae said his board assumes the bulk of those who didn't answer will be keeping their children home.

Both MacRae and his counterpart at the English Catholic board, Pino Tassone, anticipated being able to lower class sizes thanks to the sizeable number of students opting for at-home learning.

"The more that [do] remote learning, the easier it will be to determine we're going to have smaller class sizes," Tassone said. "It's going to

vary from school to school, but we're going to try our best.' Board officials were also considering

factors such as the physical dimensions of classrooms in determining individual class sizes, Tassone added.

MacRae said he understands the uncertainty many families are feeling as the school year looms - particularly when it comes to the lack of guaranteed minimum physical distancing on buses and in schools. "Parents, rightly so, are concerned about

it - distancing has from day one been the major factor," he said. "We're not entirely thrilled we haven't been able to get to [a] 15-to-1



BACK TO SCHOOL: There will be fewer students in the classroom this year as more parents opt to keep their kids home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[student-teacher ratio]."

The scramble to prepare for both in-school and online learning and meet provincial guidelines that

continue to change only weeks from the planned return to school could push back start dates for at least some students, Tassone warned

"It's like building a whole school board from the foundation up," he said. "We're whole school hopeful we'll be ready, but we're really under a lot of pressure between now and school start... there may be some extensions as we move forward."

For his part, MacRae anticipated an on-**PINO TASSONE** time start for LDSB, though he admitted that wasn't a sure thing.

"It's going to be tight, but provided there's no surprises over the next two weeks, we're pretty confident we can make it," said MacRae.

Red Lake fire evacuees head

"It's like

building a

board from

the founda-

tion up."

RED LAKE By TB Source Staff

Evacuees who fled Red Lake due to a nearby forest fire are heading home.

The last of about 60 residents who were accommodated in Thunder Bay were set to fly back to the community, situated about 500 kilometres to the northwest, early Monday afternoon.

Residents had also found shelter elsewhere in the region, including Dryden, Fort Frances, and Kenora. Red Lake 49, the fire that menaced the community through much of the last week, is now considered under control by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). Crews continue to fight hot spots in the interior of the fire.

The province lifted an order barring non-essential travel to the area of the fire, including Red Lake, on Sunday morning.

Red Lake Mayor Fred Mota cautioned services could be lacking for some residents, as the fire caused damage to power lines and other assets on the outskirts of the community. Residents are urged to phone 211 for more information.

Weather Forecast

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Risk of Thunderstorm	Risk of Thunderstorm	Risk of Thunderstorm
Probability of Precipitation: 60% HIGH 21 LOW 15	Probability of Precipitation: 70% HIGH 25 LOW 17	Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH 26 LOW 18
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Showers	A mix of sun and cloud	A mix of sun and cloud
Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH 21 LOW 16	Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH 21 LOW 16	Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH 23 LOW 15



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LOCALNEWS

Bus company confident in school plans

EDUCATION By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

School bus operator Iron Range Bus Lines says it's confident in back-to-school plans for the upcoming school year.

While physical distancing won't be possible with buses authorized to run at full capacity, general manager Eric Lehto said the back-to-school plan will include the use of masks and other PPE, as well as additional cleaning.

"We're confident in what we're doing, and hopefully parents are as well," he said. "Certainly we feel that if the Ministry of Education and the [Thunder Bay District] Health Unit is allowing us to go back to work, it's a safe place to be.3

Iron Range contracts with Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay (STSTB), a consortium representing the public, Catholic, and French Catholic school boards.

The consortium announced Friday that school buses would be allowed to operate at normal capacity. That can run as high as 70 students for children up to Grade 6, who can be placed three to a seat, or 48 students for children in Grade 7 and higher, who can only ride two to a seat.

The actual number of children riding school buses this year was not yet known, as school boards were still in the process of collecting and assessing information from parents on Monday.

STSTB had indicated it was preparing for possible restrictions of one child per seat as recently as late July, while the Ministry of Education had also indicated school bus capacity could be reduced.

In a Facebook post on Friday, STSTB said chronic bus driver shortages made that impossible.



BACK TO SCHOOL: Iron Range Bus Lines says it's confident in plans put in place by the province and local school boards.

"Simply put, there is not enough 'extra school buses' available across the province to reduce the number of children riding each one and, with the severe driver shortage in the school bus industry over the past few years, there would be no one to drive them

even if we could double or triple the number of buses," the post reads. "We also anticipate an increase this year in the number of school bus drivers that don't return"

However, Lehto said while recruiting bus drivers is an ongoing challenge, he didn't anticipate any unusual shortages this year.

"We think we're in good shape," he said. "We can always use some more drivers – there's a shortage across Canada as it is. But in terms of logistics, we feel quite confident and we're ready to go... I wouldn't say it's any different than any other year.'

Lehto reported minimal concerns from drivers over COVID-19 safety issues, saying most were looking forward to seeing kids again.

"There's always going to be some concerns," he said. "The majority of drivers aren't worried, but there are certainly some that are asking questions. We hope the safety protocols being put in place [will] alleviate a lot of those issues for drivers and parents.'

Those protocols include personal protective equipment (PPE) including masks, face shields, gloves, and more provided to drivers by the government - though mask wearing won't be mandatory for drivers, Lehto said.

Students in Grades 4 and up will be required to wear masks (with medical and accessibility exemptions), while younger children are strongly encouraged to do so.

High-touch areas on buses will be cleaned twice per day, including between morning and afternoon runs, by drivers. School boards have indicated they will work with contractors to cover additional costs for the cleaning, though details of the arrangment had not yet been ironed out as of Monday.

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LOCALNEWS

Local childcare centre suddenly closes

The W. J. Griffis Children's Centre operated by Community Living Thunder Bay suddenly closed, notifying families the day after

THUNDER BAY By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

A local childcare centre suddenly announced it is now closed, leaving many parents struggling to find childcare after being notified via letter the day after the closure.

"It is so utterly patronizing and infuriating," said parent Dustin Kreps. "I can't even express it any more than that."

The W. J. Griffis Children's Centre, operated by Community Living Thunder Bay, officially closed as of Aug. 10.

The centre has not been operating since March 14 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Kreps said he had spoken with Community Living Thunder Bay in June to confirm his child still had a place at the centre. He did not receive any other communication until a letter from the executive director on Aug. 11, one day after the centre closed.

"What I found particularly patronizing about the letter is there was no real sense that they had considered the consequences of this," Kreps said. "They

346-2600



DOORS SHUT: The W. J. Griffis Children's Centre located on John Street closed Aug. 10.

made a comment that they are confident someone else will offer the program and we will find daycare somewhere. That is so deaf to the situation of childcare, not just in the city but across the province."

Community Living Thunder Bay declined an interview to speak to the closure, but issued a statement, saying the decision to close the centre was based on province wide changes to early years programming and funding.

"Making decisions that impact local families and children is never easy," said Lisa Foster, executive director of Community Living Thunder Bay, in a written statement.

"However, in light of ongoing sector transformations, the provision of nonspecialized daycare services no longer fits the mandate of Community Living

Thunder Bay. We are an organizations that supports persons with intellectual disabilities, and we must ensure that our work focuses on the people and communities we serve."

Foster goes on to say that there are more suitable public and private sector organizations in the city that have the mandate and capacity to meet these needs.

The W. J. Griffis Childcare Centre is a non-profit Montessori pre-school and served children between the age of 18 months and six-years old. Montessori is an Italian child-centered education method that focuses on physical, social, emotional, and cognitive learning.

"Community Living Thunder Bay recognizes the need for Montessori programming in Thunder Bay," Foster said. "We are willing to donate our Montessori supplies and resources to another local childcare centre or eligible service provider. We welcome interest from parties who can give the Montessori programming the focus and

attention it deserves."

The sudden closure has left many parents now struggling to find childcare, saying Community Living Thunder Bay failed to properly communicate with families and staff.

"What I find even more egregious was the staff wasn't even informed until after we were," Kreps said. "The staff found out they lost their jobs by distraught parents contacting them asking if this is a real thing."

Kreps added he lost his job due to COVID-19 and was expecting to start a new job in September, but those plans will have to change.

"Now I will have to continue to be a full-time father," he said. "I love spending time with my kids, but we were trying to get back to some sense of normalcy and childcare as a guarantee was the only certainty we had in life and that is now gone."

"This whole situation just seems so half-cocked and poorly thought out. It's a shock to us. It's taken away any certainty families had."



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Failing grade

t's a familiar refrain offered by teachers everywhere at the start of a new school year: don't leave your assignments until the last minute.

It's a lesson the provincial government doesn't seem to have learned.

Only weeks from the scheduled start of classes, the government continues to announce major changes to its back-toschool plans, while crucial pieces of those plans are still unknown.

The government announced just days ago that school boards would be able to access \$500 million of their own reserve funds to better protect students by lowering class sizes, and that another \$50 million would go to improve ventilation systems.

The last-minute changes and failure to set out a comprehensive plan well in advance of schools reopening has left parents uncertain.

Parents learned only days ago that physical distancing would not be possible on buses, with the possibility of younger children three to a seat.

The chaotic approach has left parents having to commit to a wrenching decision on whether to send their children back to class without a clear sense of how safe that will truly be.

A global pandemic is an unforgiving environment for any government. But the coming of September is not a surprise – and Ontario families had a right to expect their government would complete its homework well in advance, not at the last minute.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Indoor turf facility To the editor:

o build now or not to build now, To build now or not to can that is the question. Well, at least that is the question that will be facing City Council the evening of August 24 regarding the proposed Multi-use Indoor Turf Facility. On August 10, when Council was advised by Administration to delay the project for up to 15 months so that they could better understand the financial risks due to the current pandemic, Council voted 9 to 4 to reject this advice and proceed with the construction of the \$42 million facility, even in the absence of provincial and federal funding for the project. As this decision will be re-voted on August 24, I wanted to share a proposal with the community that will allow further due diligence to occur, as recommended by Administration, while still allowing the project to move forward with minimal delay for Councillors who want to move this project forward immediately.

The referral that was put forward by Administration on August 10 stated that: "Administration report back to Council on or before November 2021 in respect of the City's financial position, confirmation of the sources of financing for the project including any funding from other levels of government to support the advance-



GAME ON: City council voted in favour of moving forward with the Indoor Turf Facility.

ment of the project". I believe that many on Council viewed this referral as a direct threat to the project itself, likely due to the potential delay of up to 15 months. What I will be proposing on August 24 will be an amendment to the referral date changing it from November 2021 to November 30, 2020 allowing for further due diligence to occur while only delaying the project by 90 days.

The 90 days will allow time for the following critical information to be determined prior to tendering:

1. Administration will more accurately understand the pandemic's impact on the City's 2021 Budget

2. Council will know if a second wave of the pandemic materializes this Fall resulting in further lockdown

3. Council will more accurately understand the economic fallout and unemployment due to the pandemic as CEWS and CERB

programs end over the next 90 days.

4. Council will have time to review the Program Services Review to determine strategic directions for 2021 Budget

5. Administration will have time to hear from funding partners regarding our current applications and to seek new funding programs

A critical aspect of controlling costs on large projects involves proper risk assessment and risk management. I believe that more information is needed to properly assess our risk in proceeding with tendering a project of this magnitude during this pandemic and the resulting economic recession. My sense is that the community wants to pull back and properly assess all risks prior to tendering this project. The amendment that I am proposing protects the financial interests of the community in these times of economic uncertainty while imposing a minimal delay in construction.

I encourage all citizens, both for and against the above amendment to reach out to Council via email, phone or by giving a deputation at the August 24 meeting to express your thoughts on this important decision. Democracy works best when all voices are heard.

Mark Bentz, Councillor At-Large

Perspective

A matter of trust

OPINION By J.R. Shermack Special to TB Source

These are trying times but you can still look forward with a positive outlook if you believe science and trust the scientists who do it.

Reasonable people use the recommended precautions, avoid close contact with others, wear face masks and practice good personal hygiene.

These common sense remedies have been proven effective and right now they are our best defense against spreading infection.

We all know how to protect ourselves and our families but being on edge and constantly vigilant prompts weary Canadians to ask, "When will the pandemic end?"

Scientists and medical professionals are uncertain about how long it will last as they search for effective ways to eradicate this troublesome virus.

Eradication means an overall reduction in the number of new cases to an acceptably low level, preferably zero.

Ideally this could lead to total elimination of the virus - clearly, completely and permanently wiping out COVID 19 from the human population.

This is a scientific possibility - in several locations around the world the virus has been eradicated, at least on a local level.

You might say that Thunder Bay is an example of how effectively

common sense remedies can be used to keep a community safe and healthy.

However, more widespread eradication depends on appropriate human behavior which is often adversely influenced by personal, political, moral and economic beliefs.

If scientific and medical advice was strictly followed worldwide community transmissions would be negligible and infections could be controlled.

In a perfect world and in the best possible scenario a few months of widespread global isolation and masking might eradicate the virus for good.

In our actual, imperfect world it will take considerably longer recent examples of stupid human behavior will extend the road to eradication even more.

How long the pandemic will last and how long control measures remain in place depends largely on how individuals behave and governments respond.

Experts can't predict exactly when the pandemic will be over but they have a pretty good idea of what the end game will look like.

It will be a mixed bag of strategies using continued social control measures to buy time, new antiviral medications to treat symptoms and an effective vaccine.

Protective measures will prevent transmission while new anti-virals will provide more treatment options and lower the numbers of serious illness and death. These measures are effective in slowing the spread and protecting human health but scientists tell us it will take an effective vaccine to stop COVID 19.

Using advanced technology and lessons learned from past pandemics, researchers are confident in their ability to successfully defeat this one.

There are dozens of potential vaccines in development around the world and drug companies are hoping to have one (or more) ready in record time.

However, developing an effective vaccine is very difficult and challenging work even with the advances and advantages of 21st-century technology.

It has typically taken many years to bring an effective vaccine to market after a multi-staged clinical trial process and eventual approval for human use.

The battle against COVID 19 is driven by a widespread sense of urgency and even though it is too soon to claim victory, some scientists expect a vaccine in less than a year.

Phase three human trials are under way, including here in Canada and the Canadian government is preparing for manufacturing and distribution.

We will eventually escape from the grips of COVID 19 and the pandemic of fear and apprehension that surrounds this disease.

In the meantime, stay strong, be brave and watch for encouraging developments – it's now just a matter of trust.

LENDING A HAND



GENEROUS DONATION Ungalli Clothing Co. co-owner Hailey Hollinsworth holds a box of with a gift of 200 masks for evacuees from Eabametoong First Nation.

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

Email: ldunick@dougallmedia.com Visit our website: www.tbnewswatch.com

 \bigcirc YES \bigcirc NO \bigcirc DON'T KNOW

9.7%

31.5% 58.7%



A look back in history Catherine Seppala

Fort William's first and only female mayor, Catherine Seppala, took the office in 1959 after serving three consecutive terms as a councillor. Her municipal accomplishments, including the Neebing River Conservation project and her constant work as a volunteer for charities, was overshadowed by her strong, even prudish, moral stances while in office.





For your daily news visit www.tbnewswatch.com











WATCH the Buzzy Bee Safety Video for First Time School Bus Riders along with additional important school bus safety information with your child starting **Saturday**, **August 22nd** at www.ststb.ca.

REGISTER online or call 345-7387 from Monday, August 24th to Friday, August 28th to book a time for your child to experience their first bus ride which will be held at Confederation College McIntyre Building on Saturday, August 29th.

RIDE a school bus day runs from 10:00 a.m. through 1:30 p.m. with two school buses, limited to 20 children per bus, departing every 30 minutes. Times must be booked in advance. School Buses will be cleaned and sanitized between tours. Only children will be permitted to ride the school bus.

First Rider Partners







OUT FOR A STROLL: Heritage Advisory Committee chair Andrew Cotter and heritage researcher Laurie Abthorpe.

Walking tours offer some glimpses of the city's past

Revamped series of self-guided tours help residents deepen knowledge of city's history **THUNDER BAY**

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

The City of Thunder Bay is inviting residents to take a closer look at local history. A revamped series of self-guided historical walking tours use the city's architecture as a window into its past.

Tours are on offer for the south core, Vickers Park, McVicar Creek/Harrington Court, waterfront and north core, and Waverley Park neighbourhoods.

Andrew Cotter, who chairs the city's heritage advisory committee, said those who take the tours can glean surprising insights into the city's development simply by looking a little closer at their surroundings.

"The history that's gleaned out of these tours is really neat," he said. "You kind of float back to that era to understand the prominence of that particular building in Thunder Bay's development." Some sites featured in the tours, like the Prince Arthur Hotel or the Whalen Building, advertise their historical importance, while others might pass by

sleuthing. It

takes a lot of

interesting

resources to

piece togeth-

er a story."

LAURIE

ABTHORPE

unnoticed – like a house on Marks Street where pioneering engineer Elsie MacGill lived while overseeing the production of fighter planes at Can Car during World War II.

Unearthing those kinds of details can take some digging, said Laurie Abthorpe, the city's heritage researcher.

"It's a bit of sleuthing," she said. "It takes a lot of interesting resources to piece together a story."

The city gleaned details from sources including sewer hookup records and Henderson Directories found in city archives, the Thunder Bay Museum, Brodie resource library, and elsewhere. In revamping the series, the city split the

npor- north end into two tours, added new sites, rephotographed buildings, and began including some natural features like the Sleeping Giant.

Abthorpe estimates the tours take about an hour to complete, with each including around 20 sites along a suggested route.

Printable tour booklets are available online at the city's website. Physical copies will be available at city hall, city archives, and visitor centres at the pagoda and Terry Fox monument – but not until those venues reopen following COVID-19

closures. The city asks those taking the tours to respect private property and observe sites from the sidewalk.

Service helping people with life-limiting illnesses

TBLife

HEALTH CARE By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

Alife-limiting illness can be devastating for an individual and family members, but a new palliative care initiative is now connecting people with the services they need to achieve the best quality of life possible during such difficult circumstances.

Palliative Carelink is a new collaborative program in the city consisting of physicians, nurse practitioners, therapists, and other healthcare professionals to implement an early approach to palliative care.

"We aim to follow the client and the family throughout their journey and in different care centres," said Melora Serediuk, a nurse navigator for Palliative Carelink.

"We advocate for what's best for them and make sure they have what they need

to maintain a good quality of life while they are struggling with their illness."

Life-limiting illnesses are defined as incurable diseases and the program does not only offer services to seniors or people requiring end of life care.

"Even though certain diseases might be delivering some kind of treatment, it's more to prolong life, it's not something that can be cured," Serediuk said. "People are struggling with a disease that has no cure and don't necessarily want invasive treatment and their main priority is guality of life."

Palliative Carelink connects clients and families with the services that are available in the city.

"Palliative Care Link is meant to connect the already existing good services Thunder Bay has to offer," Serediuk said.

"But often clients and families don't know which services to ask for in



IMPORTANT LINK: From left to right: Melora Serediuk, a nurse navigator for Palliative Carelink, Reegan Bushby, therapist, and Tricia Jordan, Manager of Palliative Carelink, hold up 24 dragonfiles symbolizing the clients who have registered for Palliative Carelink

different stages of their journey. We are there to keep the whole circle of care communicating with each other and acting on what's best for the client so they know where to go to for help with the different service providers."

This is the first program of its kind in Thunder Bay and the NorWest Community Health Centre is the host site. Other partners include Hospice Northwest, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, St Joseph's Care Group, Home & Community Care/Ontario Health North, and the Palliative Physician group of Thunder Bay.

"Our team used research and proven practices to guide the development of Palliative Carelink. The model of care has been adapted to our community and bridges existing support and services," said Tricia Jordan, manager of Palliative Carelink.

"We have heard from individuals in the past that supporting a family member with life-limiting illness could be made much easier with increased coordination of supports and care. A wrap around approach with help to navigate the journey from diagnosis to death is the overall intent of Palliative Carelink."



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A boat isn't always needed

There are a lot of other ways to get the most out of fishing than just sitting in a boat all day

As a young boy, I spent all my free time fishing. Of course, being too young to drive, that meant riding around on my bicycle with a fishing rod and looking for places to cast a line from shore. What I learned back then is still true today: fishing from the shoreline can actually be highly productive for the angler who can find suitable structure along the water's edge.



Shallow-water structure attracts baitfish seeking food and shelter. These areas also hold crayfish, leeches and aquatic bugs as well as the possibility of worms, insects, and mice falling into the water. In turn, that abundant supply of food attracts many species of fish, including bass, walleye, perch, pike, and trout. While these fish like the security of deep water, they do come in to the shallows to feed. That is when they are vulnerable to being caught by the shoreline angler.

What to look for

Any change in bottom contour or composition is always good, but rarely easy to identify without the help of a boat equipped with a fish finder. Instead, shore anglers searching for fishholding structure can look for something unique that the fish can use as an ambush point in their hunt for food. Focus on anything that casts a shadow: an overhanging tree, a large boulder or rock pile, the edge of a weed bed, submerged timber, and anything manmade, such as a dock or swimming platform. Of course, if there is an inflowing stream, that can also be an allyou-can-eat bonanza for opportunistic fish, especially after a heavy rain. Finally, pay attention to the landscape along the water's edge as chances are good that what you see above the surface will continue below.

Finding Access

This part of the equation can be as simple as walking out on a dock, but to access more structure, and more fish, mobility is the key. Because shorelines can often be choked with trees and vegetation, or be difficult to negotiate due to the terrain, getting into the water will open up a whole new world for the shoreline angler. Walking through the



FISHING FROM SHORE: Charlotte Alley with a rainbow trout she caught from shore.

shallows and casting out to the drop off, weed lines, and every piece of visible structure is more exciting and will pay off with more fish than sitting on the dock and waiting for a fish to swim by. A pair of chest waders is optimal for spring and fall, but, on a warm summer day, anglers can "wet-wade" in their running shoes.

Keep it Simple

The nice thing about shore fishing is its simplicity. Just a few things are needed for this type of angling: a long spinning rod with light line will allow lengthy, accurate casts and a satchel slung over the shoulder will eliminate the need for a clumsy tackle box. In that satchel, you don't need a whole lot more than a pair of pliers and a bit of fishing tackle.

While the advantage of using a boat is undeniable for quickly covering a lot of water, chances are most of those boat anglers will end up casting towards the shore anyway. That's why, for the shore angler who is willing to move around and find productive structure, having a boat isn't always necessary to catch fish.

It's back! An essential vehicle on the farm

TBLife

Why an all terrain vehicle is not just for recreation but actually makes completing chores on the farm so much easier

Our quad is used 365 days of the year. It serves two purposes: hauling a cart into which we fork manure from horse stalls and drive to be dumped on Mt. Crumpet (our growing manure pile); and it is used to negotiate our trails usually for the purpose of clearing away trees the wind has blown down. Our quad is a farm machine.

When I am buying oil or parts for the machine, it always surprizes salespeople when tell them that we use the quad every day of the year. The majority of quad runners are big toys used for recreation. Not ours.

It stopped working a couple of months ago. I had a couple of mechanically-inclined people look at it, even try to fix whatever problem that was causing it to sputter, backfire, and stop. Very annoying when trying to ferry horse manure to where we dump it and then make it back to the barn in one



piece. Before it completely ceased to function, it would slow down and then emit a huge and very loud backfire. Ouch! My ears!

So, after being seen by different well-meaning folks-in-the-smallengine-know, and no success, it sat. "It's got to be the carburetor," was the consensus. A couple of attempts were made to fix but it wasn't until our friend, Drake, a heavy equipment mechanic, who 'knoweth' quad lore, was able to get the thing going without the fireworks. Perhaps daily use since 2004 took its toll on the engine. Thankfully, it didn't need an engine rebuild.

In the absence of a working quad to haul out horse-stall muck, we made do: we used wheelbarrows. Depending on how long the horses stayed in their stalls, all determined by how hot the day and how buggy outside, we might get away with two wheelbarrows-full; but on days when they had to come in early and stay late, even one-wheelbarrow per stall. It all got dumped outside and after a week, I would bring my trusty tractor, Big Red, scoop it all up making several trips to Mt. Crumpet.

The other task for our quad is trailclearing and gathering what we call "fun wood" – the stuff we burn in our fireplace. This past Saturday, my wife, Laura, and I put chainsaws in the cart and trundled on the quad to where four beautiful, tall, dead, balsam trees stand close to the trail. I love felling these standing-dead trees also known as "cheekos". The wood is usually dry inside and if you get it in time, there will be no rot. It makes excellent fireplace wood with that gorgeous aroma and the 'crackle, crackle' when burning. Laura and I are a team: I cut and limb; Laura drags away the branches. Then I buck into fireplacesized chunks that get placed in the cart, being carefully arranged so that they don't bounce out on the ride back to our 'hoosie'. We got one of the four. I hope this week to return and bring back more.

The quad makes trail clearing so much easier. The trails meander and in places there are sharp turns. I have employed Big Red to do trail clearing but I always have to be aware that the machine with bucket on the front is long. Some turns require raising the bucket to its full height in order to "get around the corner" as it were. In one area we call the Red Pines (because it is full of mature red pine trees planted back in the 1960's), Red and I had a tricky time negotiating the entrance. We arrived where several wind-blown trees were obstructing the trail. I fired up the chainsaw, cut the trees, loaded the piece I had bucked into the bucket, and then tried to exit the pines driving the rest of the trail. I soon learned that it wasn't possible.

There were a couple of sections where the trees were too close together on either side of the trail. Boy did I have fun trying to turn Red around. I think I made a sixteen-point turn, back and forth, back and forth before we managed to go back the way we came.

So, it is with great relief that we have again a working quad. It makes these farm chores so much easier.



IN THE bay arts entertainment culture



SINGING FOR GLORY: The Eurovision Song Contest is a popular music competition, now the focus of a new film starting Will Ferrell and Rachel McAdams.

INSPECTION

Inspection of Approved Aerial Herbicide Project Lake Nipigon Forest

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)** invites you to inspect the MNRF-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: **September 1, 2020**.

The approved project description and project plan for the aerial herbicide project are available electronically for public inspection on the Ontario government website at www.ontario.ca/ forestplans beginning July 27, 2020 until March 31, 2021 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:

Raymond Weldon, R.P.F.

Management Forester Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry 5 Wadsworth Drive Nipigon, ON POT 2PO tel: 807-887-5058 office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Ryan Gleeson, R.P.F.

Planning Forester Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. 2225 Rosslyn Road Thunder Bay, ON P7K 1G9 tel: 807-282-4004 office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Renseignements en français : 1 807 887-5000



Ontario 🕅

Singing on screen

Ferrell and McAdams overcome some wobbly notes in Eurovision Song contest

In the wake of 2018's misfire, "Holmes and Watson" and this year's flat "Downhill," Will Ferrell gives his child-like dim-bulb act another go with "Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga." (Netflix) Typical of most Ferrell outings, "Eurovision" is much like panning for gold, unearthing the odd nugget of guffaws amidst a fair amount of dross.

Here, Ferrell's thud-like obviousness is offset by the appealing Rachel McAdams. They play aspiring Icelandic singers Lars and Sigrit, who are taken for brother-sister but "probably aren't." Lars dreams of competing in Eurovision, the candy-coated continental song contest which had the distinction of launching ABBA decades ago.

The movie starts off amiably enough with Lars and Sigrit navigating eccentric small-town life with their concerned families and oddballfellow villagers in Husavik. Ferrell and McAdams' Icelandic



accents are largely MIA, save for moments of convenient mispronunciation like "Semen and Garfunkel." Scenery in both Iceland and Edinburgh is also one of the film's brighter compensations.

Lars is driven by his maladroit passion for songwriting and costume design plus a need to impress his dismissive, practical dad, (an appropriately hirsute Pierce Brosnan) the "handsomest man in Iceland," (one of the film's subtler in-jokes).

Sigrit, meanwhile, craves a possible romance with Lars, while in fact she may be the more talented of the two. She also has an unshakeable belief in the mystical power of elves to help realize their dreams.

To qualify for Eurovision, the duo must compete with 11 other bands to represent Iceland in Edinburgh for Eurovision Scotland. They get the coveted 12th placement through sheer randomness and wind up representing their country by default when the other bands are dispatched in an explosion on a party boat. Comically, Lars' grief can barely conceal his gleeful realization that they are now solely representing Iceland.

Once at Eurovision, Lars and Sigrit's relationship is threatened by bigger competition and seductive overtures from the swarthy, heavily-favoured Russian, Lemtov, (Dan Stevens), he of the bare-chested, over-ripe baritone, and sexy Greek singer, Mita (Melissanthi Mahut).

Director David Dobkin shows his music video roots with an impressively staged 'song-along' sequence at Lemtov's mansion, showcasing several performers doing covers of Cher and ABBA.

The protracted relationship derailment stalls the film's momentum and a climactic competition sequence is undermined by Lars' disastrous staging and costuming choices. What? No safety inspectors?

Such are the scattershot vagaries of a Ferrell opus, where characterization leans towards the cartoonish, much humour is rather lowbrow and character motivation serves only to satisfy dubious plot contrivances, rather than make much sense.

Nonetheless, there are some reparations. Director Dobkin does a credible job of capturing the glittery excesses that characterizes Eurovision. Popular talk show host Graham Norton fires off a few witty barbs as the TV commentator.

The goofy cultural send-ups recall John Candy and Eugene Levy's Shmenge Brothers and Steve Martin and Dan Ackroyd's "Wild and Crazy Guys."

A credible enough upbeat resolution arrives but a more inspired script could have placed "Eurovision" higher on the pop charts.

IN THE **BAY**

The stars and their gastronomical productions

Cooking shows have become the new outlet for stars between jobs and the pandemic is making it even worse

Growing up, I loved visiting my grandmother. Walking into her apartment for a hug, the first words out of my mouth were usually, "What are we making?"

Grandma and I were always in the kitchen. Together, we baked cookies and squares. I helped her make köttbullar (Swedish meatballs). And she taught me how to kneed bread dough by crushing my six-year-old fingers inside her big meaty fists.

Grandma was the world's greatest cook. (No bias whatsoever.) Plus, she had a full figure so I figured she knew what she was doing. (Never trust a really skinny cook.)

And while I've never reached her skill in the kitchen and following her "recipes," which included descriptions



like "two handfuls of flour" or "some sugar," have proven challenging, I still get great satisfaction when I have the time to really cook – as opposed to throwing something together at the end of the day. So I love to watch TV chefs for suggestions.

Unfortunately, cooking shows have

become the new outlet for stars between jobs. Why else would Martha Stewart and Snoop Dogg ever get together? And the pandemic has made this even worse.

Selena Gomez – yes, that Disney child star turned 20-something ingénue – is joining HBO Max for *Selena* + *Chef.* Since most viewers wouldn't buy her as a voice of culinary expertise, she's pairing up with a parade of professionals for recipes, tips and tricks. She might appeal to younger audiences, but personally, I don't buy it.

When COVID hit, comedian and new mom Amy Schumer was trapped at home with her husband – an awardwinning chef. So what's a gal to do but shoot *Amy Learns to Cook* in their kitchen? Hubby, Chris Fischer, is the straight man serving up simple, pronounceable dishes while Schumer, his inept and wonderfully-unfashionable sous chef, offers the punch lines. It isn't bad.

Music stars have also been welcomed to the Food Network. Trisha Yearwood has her *Southern Kitchen* while Martina McBride serves up *Martina's Table*. And while Grammy-winning singers don't exactly scream "cuisine," their whole down-home country-ness has earned both shows multiple seasons.

Valerie Bertinelli rejuvenated her television career by signing on to promote Jenny Craig meals in 2008. But since 2015, the former *One Day at a Time* star has been preparing her own recipes on *Valerie's Home Cooking*. Ironically, she's also admittedly gained weight again so I'm guessing a new theme is on the horizon.

Of course, one's career path has nothing to do with their skill in the kitchen. But is it any wonder that British supermodel Jourdain Dunn cooking with her underfed model-ites did not last? Nor did Ayesha Curry, Brian Boitano, Haylie Duff, Tia Mowry. They were the equivalent to culinary freak shows.

Sure, I may eventually check out Selena's show the way I look at a car accident as I drive by. But I prefer to watch the pros. Besides, while I'm sure many had grannies like mine, most stars are just too skinny for my kitchen.

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A GIFT FROM ABOVE: A helicopter dropped balls down onto the green during the Raising the Barr Golf Tournament in memory of local golfer, Dustin Barr.

Golf balls drop from heaven

Sports

local sports news information coverage

GOLF By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

For any golfer, seeing the ball fly through the air and landing on the green is a great feeling. But for friends and family of a local golfer who recently passed away, seeing 3,000 golf balls fall from the sky onto the green lets them know they are helping keep his dreams alive of helping others.

The inaugural Raising the Barr Charity Golf Tournament was held on Friday at Whitewater Golf Course in memory of Dustin Barr, who lost his battle with cancer last March.

"We are keeping one of Dustin Barr's dreams alive, the charity golf tournament, so we started a charity in his honour and we partnered with some of the groups that really helped him out," said Dustin Wilson, one of the organizers and former golf coach to Barr.

"Children's Wish and Ronald McDonald's House were a big help when he was travelling for his treatments."

The event included a unique fundraising initiative as well, called Golf Balls from Heaven, where a Helicopter from Wisk Air dropping 3,000 golf balls onto the green.

"It's never happened in Northwestern Ontario so we are doing it first for Dustin," Wilson said.

Golf balls were available for purchase and the ball that was closet to the hole would earn the purchaser \$2,500. Of the 3,000 balls dropped, five ended up in the hole.

"We sold out our ticket drive in two weeks," Wilson said. "The total revenue we brought in just off the



INSPIRING OTHERS: Dustin Barr lost his battle against cancer last March.

helicopter drop was \$20,000. So we are going to write a cheque today for \$15,000 to Ronald McDonald House. With all the sponsors and all the help, I think we are over \$40,000 or \$50,000 to give back to the charities and support some families."

Barr was an avid golfer and was first diagnosed with cancer in 2013 at the age of 17. After his diagnosis, he underwent numerous treatments, but he never let it get in the way of his love of the game. "It was really hard when we went through that," Wilson said. "As part of Children's Wish, we got to go over to Scotland and played some of the best golf courses in the world. It was the trip of a lifetime."

After the trip, Barr underwent surgery where he had part of his hip and pelvis removed. Doctors said the survival rate was less than five per cent, but he made it through the procedure and continued to exceed expectations.

"They did a miracle surgery and the doctor said if you live you won't be able to play golf again or maybe even walk and within 18 months he got a full golf scholarship down in the States and started to train and play in tournaments," Wilson said.

Unfortunately, two years ago the cancer returned and entered Barr's bloodstream and he passed away in March.

Friends and family wanted to do something to keep Barr's dream alive of not only loving golf, but helping the organizations that helped him so much while he was fighting cancer.

"It's been an incredible few weeks and a lot of emotions are going to run high today because we haven't even had a funeral yet," Wilson said.

The event was made possible with the help of volunteers, friends, family, and 84 sponsors. Organizers said this is just the beginning of keeping Barr's dream alive.

"We are planning on doing more events too. We will be doing different unique things for charities as we grow. The golf tournament will be something that happens every year." For your daily news visit www.tbnewswatch.com

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