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RIBFEST WAS BACK WITH A DRIVE-THROUGH FORMAT AT LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY AND THE LINEUPS WERE LONG ONCE AGAIN.



## Singh campaigns in north

#### NDP leader Jagmeet Singh promised to strengthen Indigenous relations

THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick - TB Source

**N**DP Leader Jagmeet Singh says it's clear past governments have failed Canada's Indigenous communities, particularly those in remote, Northwestern Ontario.

Singh, in Thunder Bay on Friday for a series of campaign stops as the party tries to reclaim a pair of Thunder Bay seats lost to the Liberals in 2015, said the time for talk is past.

This time around action is needed, something the NDP is prepared to act on almost immediately if he's elected prime minister on Sept. 20.

"This is something we need to do. There are a number of factors. When I was speaking with Indigenous communities they mentioned the fact that not having adequate housing really creates a sense of despair," Singh said in an exclusive interview with Dougall Media. "Not having access to clean drinking water makes people feel a loss of hope.

"When we talk about the mental-health crisis, we need investments in mental health. We need supports for Indigenous-led learning on the ground, on the land. There's a lot of onthe-land learning that can happen with good programs."

The 42-year-old Singh has led the party for the past four years and said there's plenty that can be done to prove to Northwestern Ontarians that the NDP is deserving of their vote.



NORTHERN TOUR: NDP leader is the first federal party leader to visit the north on campaign.

He pointed to the party's efforts, with the balance of power in a minority government, fighting for better pandemic supports for average Canadians, convincing the Liberals under Justin Trudeau to provide more than initially planned.

"When people needed supports we fought to double the CERB. That gave eight million Canadians more help. They were able to pay their bills, put food on the table. We were able to make that happen. When people needed help to keep their jobs, we increased the wage subsidy the Liberals started at 10 per cent to 75 percent," Singh said.

"In doing that, we saved millions of jobs. When people wanted help in this strict time, the Liberals wanted to do the bare minimum. We fought to get more help to more people."

The NDP leader's topic of the day was universal pharmacare, a \$10.2 billion plan he said will save the provinces about \$4.5 billion, but he also touched on a number of other issues during a question-and-answer session with local and national media.

Singh, who also met with local Indigenous leaders as part of his Thunder Bay visit, said the message he wanted to deliver to them was a promise to not only listen, but to fight for them in the House of Commons.

"I want Indigenous communities across Canada and for the chiefs that we'll be meeting with to know we're not just here to give all the answers. We're also here more importantly to listen, because Indigenous communities know what the solutions are. They're experiencing the problems on the ground and we have to work together," Singh said.

"What we've seen for a long time, from both Liberals and Conservatives is an Ottawa-knows-best. And it's not the right approach. For a lot of Indigenous communities, they just want an ally that's going to work with them. I want folks to count on me as that ally."



<complex-block>

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For more information, contact Infrastructure & Operations Dispatch 625-2195 or visit thunderbay.ca/treasuredays

## Afghan interpreter, family, arrive in city

Fearing for their lives because they worked alongside foreign military outfits, Mohamed and his family fled their homes in Afghanistan **THUNDER BAY** 

#### By Leith Dunick - TB Source

though he's a world away from war-torn Afghanistan, where fighting has been all the country has known for most of the past 40 years.

Mohamed, who asked not to be fully identified for fear of reprisal against family members still stuck in Afghanistan and within easy reach of the conquering Taliban, on Friday night arrived in Thunder Bay with his wife and two grown children.

An interpreter who worked with the Canadian military, Mohamed has a target on his back, but considers he and his family among the lucky ones.

Thousands were left behind this month, as the United States followed through on its promise to exit the country, ending a two-decade war against terrorism that erupted soon after the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre were flatted by a pair of hijacked airplanes on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I am very

thankful to

all the vets

and all the

**Canadians** 

who have

helped us."

Монамер

"T'm really happy to be here in Canada. I was not thinking that one day I would be in Canada," Mohamed said, seated in a wheelchair on the lower level of the Thunder Bay Airport, where he was greeted by a cadre of local federal and municipal politicians, as well as retired army veteran Robin Rickards, who spent three tours of duty in Afghanistan.

Together they helped make Mohamed's Canadian dream a reality.

"I am very thankful to all the vets and all the Canadians who have helped us. They helped a lot, taking us out from Afghanistan. We were in a situation that was very critical," said Mohamed, who hopes to put his Masters degree in agriculture to use in his new home land.

> "All the time I was hiding. I fled from my village and I was hiding in one place, and then another house and then another house."

Rickards was in touch with his former interpreter and told Mohamed he had to find a way out of the country before it was too late.

The Taliban, after marching over the Afghan military, quickly began sealing off access to the airport in Kabul,

setting up checkpoints on highways into the city, as countries from around the world worked to evacuate not only their own citizens and military personnel, but those who helped along the way and risked the Taliban's wrath. Mohamed knows first-hand the ravages of war.

It's another reason he wanted to leave it all behind.

"I lost my youngest son on Oct. 13, 2020," he said.

Earlier this year he lost six more members of his extended family. It was time to go.

it was time to go

"We were in fear of how to get to Kabul, then I went to Khost, by road and took a flight to Kabul," he said, detailing his journey to the city of nearly 200,000 in the southeastern section of the country, a little north of the border with Pakistan.

"It was really dangerous to come by road my province to Kabul because they have checkpoints in the way. They are searching. Right now they are always searching for the interpreters that are back in Afghanistan."

If caught, death was all but a certainty.

Rickards said getting Mohamed and his family out is the least Canada can do.

"Their story is literally the tip of the iceberg and most of those families are still submerged under the Taliban in Afghanistan. It's unfortunate that politicians other than (Liberal) Marcus (Powlowski) didn't see the need to act on this in a timely way," Rickards said.

"Had they acted in a timely way, we would have been able to ensure there were dozens more families that were able to get out. We've already lost 16 gentlemen that worked for us in Kandahar City, that we know of. And now their widows and orphans are left there and we're left struggling to figure out how we're going to get them out. Today is a mixed day of emotions. We're glad to see (Mohamed) and his family here, but I know there are so many more who haven't been as fortunate."

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## **Wunnumin Lake calling for assistance**

Chief Sam Mamakwa of Wunnumin Lake calling for assistance following a series of tragedies in remote community

#### THUNDER BAY By Justin Hardy - TB Source

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Derek Fox is supporting a plea for assistance issued Thursday bv Wunnumin Lake First Nation Chief Sam Mamakwa following a series of tragedies in the remote community.

"We are very concerned for the welfare of the members of the Wunnumin Lake community as they grieve these terrible losses. Tragedies like this have devastating effects in our First Nations communities, and people often have nowhere to turn for help," said NAN Grand Chief Derek Fox.

"We will do everything we can to support the community and we look to our provincial and federal Treaty partners to respond immediately to Chief and Council's requests for assistance."

Last week, a 20-year-old Wunnumin



CALLING FOR HELP: NAN and community leaders held a media conference last week.

member fell from a communications tower located in the community, the cause of which is still under investigation. A youth who witnessed the incident later took his own life. Additionally, an

Elder passed away while living in a longterm care facility away from the community without the family being informed until a day after his passing. "Our community is under risk manage-

ment to maintain community stability, but we require immediate and longerterm support to help us with the psychological trauma and impacts on our entire community," said Wunnumin Lake Chief Sam Mamakwa in a press conference in Thunder Bay.

"It is critical that the appropriate mental health and other supports are provided as quickly as possible to stabilize our community and help our members heal from these terrible events. We are doing the best we can, but the people of Wunnumin need to know that more help is on the way."

The leadership of Wunnumin Lake is asking the federal and provincial governments to provide immediate mental health and intervention supports on an urgent basis, provide additional policing and security to support the community, and work with the community to establish dedicated mechanisms, with capacity-building and resources, to empower the community to respond to similar emergencies in the future.

"There's no dedicated source of support at the federal and provincial government levels, to support this kind of situation in our community, and in other communities," said Wunnumin Lake Deputy Chief Dean Cromarty.

"So, it's like a case-by-case basis, if they have any, that they'll come help us. So, it's time the government looked at instituting a support program funding for this purpose, so we don't have to cry out every time, we'd know where to go."

Wunnumin Lake First Nation is an Oji-Cree community located approximately 360 kilometres northeast of Sioux Lookout, Ontario, accessible only by air and seasonal winter roads.

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### **Editorial**

#### **EDITORIAL**

### Declining discourse

As Canadians, it used to be easy to look south of the border and scoff at the political division and rhetoric in the United States. But here in the north, we are seeing similar divisions play out on the campaign trail.

There have been several instances of candidates being harassed, shouted over, and protestors displaying vulgar and violent images.

It would appear that the majority of protestors are anti-vaccination, antilockdown, and those who believe COVID-19 restrictions are akin to Nazi Germany.

The complete misunderstanding of oppression and the offensiveness of equating public health measures to Nazism aside, equally troubling is the decline in our political discourse. We have reached a point where if you don't agree with what someone is saying, the only response is to put your fingers in your ears and scream in the hopes that person will stop talking.

It's understandable that the last yearand-a-half has been difficult for everyone, but does that give you the right to act like a child? Sometimes the best way of understanding your frustration or anger is to talk it out. But that doesn't work if you stick your fingers in your ears, refuse to listen, and try to yell louder than everyone else. That's what children do because they think the world revolves around them.

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#### A marathon thank you

To the editor:

The Kakabeka Falls Legion would like to thank all the participants, spectators, volunteers, and sponsors for participating in our 4th annual Kakabeka Falls Legion Half Marathon and 8K on Sunday, Aug. 15.

Our race honoured the memory and the sacrifices of those 1,973 Officers and Men of the Royal Rifles of Canada and the Winnipeg Grenadiers along with two nurses who were assigned with them along with units from the UK, India and China to defend Hong Kong. On Dec. 8, 1941, the Japanese attacked. When the battle was over, 17 days later, there were 783 Canadian casualties including 290 killed In Action. A further 264 Canadians would die in Japanese-run POW camps. We paid special honour to Warrant Officer Class II John Robert Osborn who was awarded the Victoria Cross, Canada's highest military honour for his actions during this battle.

While I would like to thank all involved, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the first responders in attendance: the members of the Ontario Provincial Police, Superior E.M.S., and Oliver Paipoonge Fire and Emergency Services for helping us out on race day. However, I would like to reserve my biggest thank you to the Men and Women of the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment (LSSR), the Officers, Men and Women of the H.M.C.S. Griffon, the 18 Medical Company and the 2294 18 (Thunder Bay) Service Battalion Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, specifically the Cadets, their parents and the Officers, Civilian Instructors that attended. A special thank you to the Senate of the 18 Thunder Bay Service Battalion as well. The 2294 Cadet Corps, and parents, along with the members of the Senate, took charge of that portion of both courses that ran through the Provincial Park.

The LSSR sent one of their own to run the 8K course – and not overly surprising, Corporal Adam Isaacson of the LSSR was the first male finisher of the 8K. Next year we look forward to a member of the HMCS Griffon taking up this challenge as well. Who knows we may even see some challenges start amongst some first responders in the area.

Jim Gilbert Race Director Kakabeka Falls Legion Half Marathon and 8K





## **A Hemingway classic**



**E**verybody Behaves Badly by Lesley Blume is the true story behind Hemingway's masterpiece The Sun Also Rises. Blume gets her title from Jake Barnes, the main character and narrator of The Sun Also Rises who says, 'Everybody behaves badly if you give them the proper chance.' In the summer of 1925 Ernest Hemingway and a clique of raucous companions travelled to Pamplona, Spain, for the town's famous running of the bulls. Then, over the next six weeks, he channelled that trip's drunken brawls, sexual rivalry, midnight betrayals and midday hangovers into his ground breaking novel The Sun Also Rises. This revolutionary work redefined modern literature as much as it did his peers, who would forever after be called the Lost Generation. But the full story of Hemingway's legendary rise has remained untold until now.

Lesley Blume resurrects the

explosive, restless landscape of 1920s Paris and Spain and reveals how Hemingway helped create his own legend. He made himself into a death courting, bullfighting aficionado; a hard drinking, short fused literary genius; and an expatriate bon vivant. Lesley Blume's vivid account reveals the inner circle of the Lost Generation as we have never seen it before, and shows how it still influences what we read and how we think about youth, sex, love and excess.

Published in 1926, The Sun Also Rises is Hemingway's first novel and a classic example of his spare but powerful writing style. A poignant look at the disillusionment and angst of the post-Great War generation, the novel introduces two of Hemingway's most unforgettable characters: Jake Barnes and Lady Brett Ashley. The story follows the flamboyant Brett and the hapless Jake as they journey from the wild nightlife of 1920s Paris to the brutal bullfighting rings of Spain with a motley group of expatriates. It is an age of moral bankruptcy, spiritual dissolution, unrealized love and vanishing illusions.

When the young Hemingway arrived in Paris he was introduced

to literary luminaries including Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, F. Scott Fitzgerald, James Joyce, T.S. Eliott, Ford Maddox Ford and Sherwood Anderson. Pound taught Hemingway to cut out all unnecessary words from his writing and Stein told him that repetition was effective and these became the hallmarks of Hemingway's unique writing style. Stein told Hemingway 'You are all a lost generation' and he used this quote at the front of The Sun Also Arises along with an extract from Ecclesiastes in the Bible from which the title was taken. Fitzgerald advised him to cut out some of the early chapters. Hemingway was influenced by Fitzgerald's work, particularly The Great Gatsby, but he was determined not to write just another 'flapper novel'.

The Sun Also Rises has been criticised for having unsympathetic characters and for being a thinly veiled portrayal of real life people: Hemingway was Jake Barnes, Lady Duff Twysden became Lady Brett Ashley, and Harold Loeb was Robert Cohn. He did not ask their permission to be included and lost several close friends as a result of its publication.

### **Perspective**

**HUNGRY FOR APPLES?** 

## **Hugs have returned**

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

was nervously pacing from room to room one day last week occasionally looking out the window at the driveway in anticipation of something "normal" that was about to happen.

I thought about the good old days before COVID when it would be full of vehicles and our house was alive with family and friends.

It will be some time yet before that happens again but in the meantime we were eagerly expecting one special vehicle to pull up.

That vehicle would be bringing some beloved family members who had travelled many miles to spend time with us and share a joyful reunion.

Our family bubble had been strictly following public health guidelines and now we were prepared to welcome another equally conscientious bubble into our home.

It was just a baby step and we weren't planning anything outrageous but after taking all the necessary precautions for so long we were grateful for this one small reward.

For those who behave responsibly and take appropriate measures to prevent the spread of COVID and protect their families from disease, hugs are back.

I used to be a little shy and reserved when it came to physical

Port Arthur's harbour in the

Fred Jones, postmaster and

mid 1880s. In the 1870s

avid fisher, procured the

money to establish a bell on the waterfront. It was

used as a fog signal for many years until the Port Arthur Storm Signal Station was established

and a Marconi wireless

apparatus installed.

A look back in history

**Port Arthur Harbour 1885** 

human contact but lately I have been enthusiastically hugging it out as our family gradually reunites with loved ones.

Last week we had an occasion to wrap our arms around some cherished family members and welcome them with a warm cuddle, a heartfelt squeeze and a loving pat on the back.

It was a long time coming and a tonic for the soul when three generations of our family pulled into the driveway, also fully vaccinated and eager to fall into our beckoning arms.

We are all likeminded individuals, still wary of the pandemic but comfortthat able our unrestrained display of sentiment was a safe, risk-free and appropriate gesture.

None of us could resist the solace and comfort of a heartfelt hug from sadly missed loved ones.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has given fully vaccinated people the go-ahead to pull each other close and enjoy the benefits of a long awaited emotional embrace.

The physical and emotional benefits include lower blood pressure, reduced stress and a stronger immune system, but especially, the unbridled joy of reconnecting with loved ones.

Strong scientific evidence about the positive effects of cuddling, snuggling and human touch points to one inescapable conclusion hugs are crucial for our well-being and good health.

According to one family therapist we need 4 hugs a day for survival, 8 hugs a day for maintenance and 12 hugs a day for personal growth.

We know that babies require the comfort of a loving touch for normal human development and as we all discovered over the past two years, this need continues as we grow older.

We also discovered that absence

"We also discovered that absence makes the heart grow

fonder."

emotional void in the lives of many Canadians who have desperately needed a hug for some time. The pandemic is far from over but for those who are

fully vaccinated, hugs are back and this void can finally be filled.

We relied on technology to ease the pain of separation but an image on a flat screen is a poor substitute for the human touch and the physical contact we crave.

It wasn't until later in life that I began to appreciate hugging but after that joyful encounter in our driveway that day I now consider myself to be a full-fledged huggie. Danger and delight grow on the

same vine - whatever troubles we meet in the months ahead it is comforting to know that for many Canadian families, hugs are back.

## make the heart grow fonder. Two years of social distancing and forced separation have created a huge

APPLE PICKING LESSON A bear cub was searching for fresh apples atop a local apple tree.

#### **HOW TO WRITE US:**

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

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

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## August one of the warmest on record

#### IN BRIEF

Thunder Bay experienced unusually warm and dry weather in August.

Environment Canada data released Monday shows that the mean temperature for the month is 19.2 C, well above the long-term average of 16.6 C.

The mean temperature is calculated by adding the high and low temperatures each day and dividing them in half.

It shows that August was marked by both warm nights and warm days.

Meteorologist Peter Kimbell said it was among the top five warmest Augusts ever recorded by monitoring equipment at Thunder Bay Airport, and the warmest since 1983.

That was the year that the city recorded its hottest-ever day. The thermometer reached 40.3 C or 104.5 F on Aug. 7.

This year, new daily all-time hightemperature records were recorded both on Aug. 15 and Aug. 18.

Only 42 millimetres of rain fell at the airport in August, half the normal amount.

However it was not nearly as dry as July, when the rainfall of about 16 millimetres was only 18 per cent of what Thunder Bay usually gets.

### Rain helps ease forest fire threat

Ontario's Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services Agency says significant rainfall has helped firefighters dealing with the 79 wildfires still burning in the Northwest Region. The fire hazard is now low throughout the region.

AFFES said Sunday evening that only six fires are not under control, and 58 are being observed.

Areas in the southern part of the region received the most rain, with some getting up to 50 millimetres.

Fires in Quetico Provincial Park, where a ban on backcountry camping and canoeing remains in place, got 14 millimetres to add to the 5 to 15 millimetres they received Saturday.

A Restricted Fire Zone remains in place in the Fort Frances district and southern portions of the Dryden and Kenora districts.

### Westjet flight diverted to city

A mechanical issue forced a Westjet aircraft to divert to Thunder Bay on Friday while en route from Toronto to Vancouver.

Westjet says the crew of Flight 717 made the decision to land after

receiving an indication that required the shutdown of the aircraft's engine number one.

In a statement Monday, the airline said the plane landed safety.

It said all 171 passengers were provided with reaccommodation options to Vancouver later the same evening.

A recovery flight was sent to Thunder Bay from Toronto to pick them up.

#### Atikokan man facing charges after woman assaulted

Ontario Provincial Police have charged an Atikokan man after receiving information on the weekend about a serious incident that occurred in July.

OPP say a female complainant

reported she was held against her will, administered a noxious substance, and assaulted.

Officers located and arrested a suspect on Saturday.

They also executed search warrants at properties owned by the accused, and seized numerous prohibited, restricted and non-restricted firearms.

Brian Bates, 53, faces the following charges under the Criminal Code: forcible confinement, assault with a weapon, careless use of a firearm, administering a noxious thing with intent to endanger life or cause bodily harm, and transfer of a restricted or prohibited firearm without authority

Bates was remanded into custody and was scheduled to appear by video before a Thunder Bay judge on Monday.

OPP said their investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact OPP.





## TBLIFE people health home food leisure

## **Chinook salmon rule Lake Superior**



King is a well-deserved nickname for the chinook salmon. The largest of the Pacific salmon, chinook have been stocked in the Great Lakes since the 1870s, but it is the Michigan planting in 1967 that is generally credited for the established self-sustaining population we now have. Originally from the Pacific Ocean on Canada's West Coast, these hard-fighting salmon seem to thrive in the deep, cold water of Lake Superior. Here, there is plenty of smelt and other food, the temperature is just right, they have a lot of space to roam, and there are plenty of big rivers along the vast shoreline that are perfect for spawning.

In the spring time, they can be found closer to shore before the water starts heating up. Since they prefer colder temperatures, they head to deeper water in the summer. As fall approaches,



EPIC BATTLE: Adam Munshaw battles a chinook salmon on Lake Superior.

mature fish that are nearing the end of their life cycle will head to the rivers to spawn and die. Last week I had the opportunity to venture out on Lake Superior for a morning of salmon fishing with my

friend Adam Munshaw. We did not get a

particularly early start and by the time we hit the water at 8am, the parking lot at the boat launch was already packed with trucks and trailers. Despite the later start, we were still fairly confident we would be enjoying salmon for supper.

On Superior, anglers fishing from a

boat are allowed two rods each, so we set up the downriggers with spoons and used the other rods to long-line troll some deep-diving crankbaits. Then it was just a matter of covering as much water as possible in hopes of intercepting a salmon on the vast expanse of water that surrounded us.

The rod on my downrigger was the first to "pop" and I sprung to my feet to set the hook. The big king immediately broke the surface and followed up his initial thrashing with some sizzling runs. After peeling off a bunch of line, the fish quickly turned and charged towards the boat. I had to reel hard and take up the line as quick as I possibly could in order to keep tension on the rod and the spoon firmly planted in his jaw. As soon as he was close enough to the boat, Adam slid the net under him and hoisted the bright silver fish into the boat. We would follow this up by landing a few more chinook before calling it a day.

The name "Superior" was surely given to this lake for its massive size, but it also applies to the quality of the fishery on this exceptional body of water. Superior is



VICTORY: Keith Alley admires a Lake Superior chinook.

home to pink and coho salmon, the rare Atlantic salmon, steelhead, coaster brook trout, lake trout, walleye and a wide variety of other fish. Yet, there can be no doubt that the mighty chinook is king of these waters.





## **Getting back on track this September**



A, September. Here so soon. While the scorched earth of the hottest July on record made that month seem to crawl, in August things picked up. And while I am loath to make predictions, I'm hoping that as the season changes, we're back on track.

I love the late August skies. Big, ominous clouds form in layers, the bottom one scudding by being pushed by the winds, the upper layers slowly parading. And rain! Finally, we've had a couple of days of the muchneeded wet stuff. Not nearly enough. During the week we had rain that I thought would go a long way to soaking the ground. Not so. My wife, Laura, The Gardener in this family, trooped out to investigate and when she returned with a bowl overflowing with harvested veggies, of course, she announced that she poked her finger into the raised beds to learn that they were still dry. "The ground is so thirsty that the water is immediately absorbed," she said.

We got rain again this past weekend with strong winds especially on Sunday. Snuggled in bed Saturday night, I saw flashes of lightning and then the bowling game-in-the-sky began. Next morning it continued to rain off and on but began to clear in the afternoon. But not for long. I took our pooches for a much-needed walk along our trails. As soon as we entered the trail it began to "spit" a light drizzle and then it stopped. Well along the trail the clouds gave way to blue sky for a while but at one point the heavens briefly opened up. Fortunately for me (I was not prepared for a wet trek), a stand of balsam trees provided me with cover. The intense rain only lasted a couple of minutes. Dogs also found cover under the trees. Baxter lay down to wait for me to move and Lily, much younger 'gal-on-the-go', roamed around oblivious to the rain.

The rain eased and we resumed our walk until we exited the trail network and marched across the southern field in sunlight. But when I reached Casa Jones, the clouds were back. There, an almost blow-by-blow (stomp-bystomp?) tale of our trek. Laura had spent the morning working in the garden and after lunch had elected to do some work in her office so she stayed inside nice and dry.

I have written about the very unusual colour change on some poplar trees and on roadside flora. Way too early as the leaves turned yellow or orange in early August and all due to the drought. The trees, ferns, and bushes were majorly stressed much like the drops in farmers' fields. The corn crop does not look good as the stalks are not as high as they should be. Just hope the farmers do get decent cobs for feed for their animals.

The berry crop was one of the worst again due to the driest, hottest July and late June. In early August I did find some raspberries in small patches and even a few tiny blueberries where we usually see them. When I again took pooches for a walk we investigated both areas where the raspberries and 'bloobs' grow. Nary a one. I suspect Bruno was there as the leaves on both the raspberry and blueberry bushes had been scraped off. On the return path coming down from what we call "Mountain Trail", I did see a couple of bear scat plops full of seeds. Good. Better the bears get the berries than have them starving and invading human areas looking for garbage.

No wild mushrooms though. There are two areas, one on a slope of Mountain trail and another in the bush just off our dirt road where chanterelles grow, that luxury mushroom. Not this year. Too dry.

But now the season changes and the remaining bushes by the side of the road are changing colour. The poplar and birch won't be far behind. Along with the rich harvest from our vegetable garden (all thanks to the very hard work of La Laura), I look forward to the first MacIntosh apples, my favourite. I picked up a magazine totally devoted to apple recipes pages and pages of pies, cakes, tarts, drinks, you name it. Yum! Just add in cinnamon, some sweetener, and there vou have it - a taste of Fall. my favourite season, all too brief in my opinion.

And then there will be pumpkins. I salivate therefore I am.



## IN THE DAY arts entertainment culture

## Theatre showcase brings stage outdoors

10x10 Out Loud Showcase brings live performances to the Spirit Garden at Marina Park this year

#### THEATRE By Justin Hardy - TB Source

back with a new outdoor venue he 10x10 Out Loud showcase is this year.

The performance, featuring 10 10minute plays written by local playwrights, took place at the Spirit Garden at the Thunder Bay Marina Park Aug. 27 and 29.

"It's very exciting, all of our actors have been involved through the pandemic doing theatre online, which can still be live, but it's not the same as being in person, because you have the audience right there, you can hear them, so they've been very excited, I've heard from actors and the audience members as well, how excited they are to be back together again." said artistic director Cathi Winslow.

In previous years, 10x10 was held at the Magnus Theatre, and Winslow hopes to go back to that venue once



OUTDOOR THEATRE: Actors perform Dragon's Breath during the 10x10 Showcase.

Migraine &

Disorders

Fibromyalgia

Chronic Injuries

Stress &

Bursitis

Arthritis

Thunder bay

**Tension Headaches** High Blood Pressure

 Sleep Disorders Repetitive Stress

**Tension Disorders** 

ELLNESS CENTRE

the pandemic is over. "We would prefer to be indoors,

just, there's a lot of contingencies, like right now we're worried about

the rain and the wind," Winslow said,

"So, I think we would probably look at going indoors, but, who knows, we kind of have to re-invent how we're doing theatre and live performance, everybody is doing that.'

This year's production will look a little different compared to previous years, plays will be presented in short shows of two plays each instead of the usual format which is showing all 10 plays consecutively in a span of roughly 110 minutes.

Admission to the performances was free, but advance registration was required.



#### **Ribs return** DRUG FREE, SURGERY FREE **By Ian Kaufman - TB Source** t may have required a few tweaks to operate during a second Dr. Alan Cranton is excited to offer the year of COVID-19, but organizers of the Thunder Bay latest advance in safe, comfortable and highly effective pain relief and tissue repair. Laser & Chiropractic RibFest are calling the event a success. Thousands attended the drive-through event from Thursday Treatments to Sunday, held at Lakehead University due to the vaccine are safe, effective and painless. clinic being run on the CLE grounds. The event featured two familiar visiting ribbers, Ribs Royale **Benefits of Chiropractic** and Dinosaur Smokehouse, while Daytona's took up the local Includes Management and Relief of: ribber mantle from Silver Birch after its closure. But while the ribs may steal the spotlight, organizers said Back & Neck Conditions what really makes RibFest special is the cause it benefits - Leg Pain (Sciatica) and the way the community comes together to support it. Knee, Foot & Ankle Pain Last year's RibFest raised around \$60,000 for beneficiary Shoulder or Elbow Pain Arm or Wrist Pain · Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Our Kids Count, a local non-profit community development organization. Executive director Jackie Knough said that plays a crucial role in supporting their programming. "All of this is in support of Our Kids Count," she said. "We

do amazing programs in the community for our families - we do our food kitchens, we have our parenting groups, Big Brothers Big Sisters - it's an amazing organization."

Around 100 volunteers helped make the event a reality, she said.

"Just the amount of volunteer support we get to run an event like this is amazing," said RibFest co-chair Daniel Trevisanutto. "That's really the highlight - the amount of people willing to give back, all of the sponsors we've had come on board that really help make this event what it is."

The main goal was to match or beat last year's fundraising total, something Trevisanutto said looked possible Sunday evening.

One local resident won a \$17,770 jackpot from the event's 50/50 draw.

Organizers hope to return to a traditional model for RibFest next year, public health rules permitting.

"It's so fantastic that people could still come out and participate even with the drive-thru model," said Knough. "Next year we're really hoping to get back to a full festival with the restrictions lifting - that would be our goal, for sure."

## The Wonder of a much-needed reboot

t's rare that I get really excited – the "I'm five years old and everybody's coming to my birthday party tomorrow!" kind of excited – waiting for a new show to premiere. But that's how I've been feeling since ABC started airing promos for *The Wonder Years* reboot.

The original coming-of-age comedy ran from 1988 to 1993 and focused on a pre-teen boy and his family in the turbulent late sixties to early seventies. It starred Fred Savage, Danica McKellar, Dan Lauria, Alley Mills and Olivia d'Abo. And its weekly storylines were a master class in balancing the comedy of growing up and the tragedies of that era.

The show garnered a devoted and respectful fan following. In fact, decades later Fred Savage and Danica McKellar are still immediately – and fondly – recognized as "Kevin and Winnie."

But given the growing demand for



equal representation on television, even the fans must recognize that the show was extremely "white" in characters and it's perspective. And knowing the extent of the civil unrest that still existed at that time, it's no surprise that someone decided to explore the African American experience during that period.

The new team is a mix of the old and the new. Executive producers (the

people who make the show happen) include *Empire* co-creator Lee Daniels, the president of Lee Daniels Entertainment, Marc Velez, and Fred Savage, himself. One of the creators of the original series, Neal Marlens, will also be consulting to guarantee the reboot has the same magic and heart.

Of course, it doesn't matter who's behind the scenes if viewers don't fall in love with the new characters. But how could they not?

Like the original, the series plucked a new face for its titular role. Elisha "EJ" Williams will play Dean, a 12-year-old in Montgomery, Alabama. Also like the original, each week the story will be narrated by a grown-up version of Dean. This time, the voice resonating with understanding and sometimes, adult amusement, will come from none other than my personal secret crush, Don Cheadle (*Hotel Rowanda, Ocean's* 



was a hit show in the 80s and 90s.

11/12/13, House of Lies, Avengers). If Cheadle isn't enough incentive to tune in – which, of course, is ridiculous – another fan favourite, Dulé Hill (*The*  West Wing, Psych, Suits, Ballers, Black Monday, need I say more?) will play Dean's father with a whole lot of style and attitude. Then again, how could he not?

The rest of the cast is rounded out by numerous rising stars – including one Tony-award nominee – from hits shows including *Black-ish*, *Black Lightning*, *Heels*, and the Jennifer Hudson-led Aretha Franklin movie, *Respect*.

But beyond the impressive names behind the show, this reboot has lifechanging potential. People need to listen to each other more. Really hear each other – their experiences, perspectives, and the "why's" behind their actions.

While a lot of white folks tout their knowledge of MLK and Malcolm X, there's much more everyday black history that is unknown to viewers. And the *Wonder* of it, is that this fall, we can explore those *Years* together.

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IN THE **BAY** 



THE QUEEN OF SOUL: Aretha Franklin"s life is brought to the big screen in the film Respect, staring Jennifer Hudson.

# **Respect: Queen of Soul deserves better**



Much is made of the fact that Aretha Franklin personally tabbed Jennifer Hudson (Oscar winner for "Dreamgirls") to portray her in a cinematic version of Franklin's life story, "Respect" (SilverCity). While Ms. Hudson certainly sings her heart out trying to capture the essence of a music legend, the soul of the Queen of Soul (if this makes any sense) goes sadly wanting in this jumbled bio-pic.

The movie follows Ms. Franklin's evolution from a 10-year-old singing prodigy (wonderful Skye Dakota Turner) through to the celebrated release of her 1972 gospel album, 'Amazing Grace' which wound up being the crowning glory of her remarkable career.

Two core problems readily emerge, however. Tracey Scott Wilson's script doesn't give Ms Hudson much of a character to play and the storytelling by director Liesl Tommy (TV's "The Walking Dead") is a mess. The film fails to illuminate Aretha's inner self which would serve as a through line to salient occurrences in her life.

Odd structural choices are also evident when the film leapfrogs from little "Re-re," belting out tunes at church and at home for her father's friends, to a young Aretha getting a big break signing with Columbia Records. Oh yes, she suddenly has three little kids in tow. Where's daddy? Continuity is a curiosity here.

Two traumatic childhood events, a sexual abuse incident and the sudden death of her inspiring music-loving mother Barbara (Audra McDonald) after a bitter divorce from Aretha's domineering minister father (Forrest Whittaker) haunt her adult life but are barely explored.

Aretha's early career is stymied by her first husband Ted White (Marlon Wayans) who's an abusive, jealous, hot-headed hustler and Columbia, who stifles her by churning out pre-fab standards. Her distinctive "voice" is AWOL.

Once Aretha finally disengages herself from husband number one and her dad, she inexplicably falls prey to diva-like behaviour including whimsically cancelled play dates and spats with her family and managers, finally ballooning into alcoholism. Why? The grind? The pressure?

#### Past traumas?

The film abruptly ends with her career revived by the release and documentary recording of "Amazing Grace."

The key to any worthwhile bio-pic is giving the audience a fix on the sensibility of the central character. "Respect" fails to do so. The movie is a morass of scattershot incidents, poorly knitted together. There's little context given to Aretha's more momentous concerts, her civil rights activism and friendship with Martin Luther King.

"Respect" does shine sporadically on two fronts. The recording sessions involving the evolution of some of Franklin's hits credibly illustrate her sometimes bumpy creative process among various musicians, her sisters, and producer Jerry Wexler (Marc Maron), one of the few characters who has any on-screen resonance.

The other lies in the singing by both little Miss Turner and Ms Hudson. While Hudson's sequences are impressive, they become—blasphemy---a rather tiresome, reverential play out of Aretha's greatest hits at the expense of story, padding out the film's two-and-a-half hour running time.

"Respect" may have heart, but it's sorely lacking in soul.

FIRST RIDER We would like to thank all of the first time school bus riders who came out on Saturday, August 28th!

Have a great school year!

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