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#### INSIDE THIS WEEK MURDER ON MAIN



Police investigating city's eighth homicide of 2020 / 2

MIND BOGGLING FILM



Our review of the movie Tenet / 11

#### **BACK ON THE ICE**



Hockey Northwestern Ontario unveils return to play protocols / 14



Drive-through RibFest a resounding success despite COVID-19 restrictions placed on organizers **/12** 



GETTING SAUCY: Darlene Green, owner of Silver Birch Restaurant, cooks up a grill full of mouth-watering ribs last Thursday during the city's first drive-through Rib Fest event.



MURDER SCENE: Police investigate the discovery of a body near Main Street on Sunday.

### LOCALNEWS

# Sudden death ruled homicide

Christopher David Meeseetawagesic is the latest victim in a very deadly 2020 CRIME

#### By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Police have deemed a sudden death in the 400 block of Main Street as a murder.

In a release issued on Monday, police say the body of Christopher David Meeseetawagesic, 31, was located by a passerby at about 10:10 a.m. on Sunday, who phoned 911 to report a possible body in the area.

Thunder Bay Police Service's

major crime unit is investigating the alleged killing and the circumstances surrounding the death.

Police continued to hold the scene on Monday afternoon and asked the public to keep their distance and stay out of the area until it's released.

A post-mortem is scheduled for Toronto later this week.

Police have not indicated if any arrests have been made.

Anyone with information about Meeseetawagesic's whereabouts for the 72 hours prior to Sunday morning is asked to phone police at 684-1200. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at www.p3tips.com.

#### **OTHER 2020 HOMICIDES**

JAN. 1: An unamed youth killed at a Victoria Ave. residence. One person arrested.
 JAN. 9: Austin Peter Robinson attacked in a South Syndicate residence. Two teens arrested.
 MARCH 23: Adrian Kadeem Drysdale dies in the 500 block of North May Street. A pair of 19-year-olds face murder charges.

• MARCH 30: Rae Towegishig killed outside a Picton Avenue residence. Two arrested and charged with murder

• APRIL 27: Kayleigh Ivall, 14, was killed, her body found in the woods near Boulevard Lake. Another teen has been charged in her death.

• MAY 30: Paul Winnifred Vivier dies at a north-side hotel. Three arrested and charged with murder.

• JUNE 19: Lydia Jaco was killed at a Dawson Road apartment complex. Her daughter was charged with her killing.



#### LOCALNEWS



LEGEND LIVES ON: Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope came to an abrupt end just east of Thunder Bay on Sept. 1, 1980.

# **Terry Fox's legacy** is \$800M strong

#### Courageous Canadian's run ended 40 years ago this week

#### THUNDER BAY By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Forty years ago this week, Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope came to an end, just east of Thunder Bay.

Bryan Wyatt remembers it like it was yesterday.

Little did he know on Sept. 2, 1980, it would be the biggest story he'd cover in a television and radio broadcasting career that's spanned more than four decades.

Wyatt, currently the news director at CKPR Radio, said he recalls the excitement was starting to build as the one-legged Fox, dubbed by many as the greatest Canadian, and his run across Canada in support of cancer research got closer and closer to Thunder Bay.

"The interest really picked up when he moved into Ontario. There was no question about it, and obviously it grew locally as he hit the North Shore and was getting closer to Thunder Bay," Wyatt said on Tuesday morning, the 40th anniversary of Fox's last leg of his Marathon of Hope.

"I think the excitement level was fairly high."

On Sept. 1, 1980, an intense cough and chest pain forced Fox, then 22, off the road, though he hoped to continue his journey westward after seeking medical treatment.

Wyatt said the following day, local media knew something was wrong when they received word about a hastily called news conference on Munro Street, near the former Port Arthur General Hospital.

"We had set up our cameras down in the basement in Amethyst House, getting ready for this interview in their meeting room. Probably a few minutes before it was going to happen we were told they can't get his stretcher inside and we bolted outside," Wyatt side.

"We knew there was something really big."

Fox was wheeled to the scrum, surrounded by journalists both local and national.

"There was an ambulance in behind. His mother and father were with him. Terry basically just addressed how things had developed, that the cancer had returned and spread to his lungs and he needed to go home for more treatment," Wyatt said.

"He was determined to come back and finish his run if he could, which of course he wasn't able to do."

Fox died nearly 10 months later on June 28, 1981, a month before his 23rd birthday.

His legacy, however, has grown exponentially in the 39 years since his death.

"We knew

there was

something

really big."

**BRYAN WYATT** 

Annually, Terry Fox runs are held around the world and it's estimated nearly a billion dollars have been raised in his name in the battle against cancer ever since.

Don Morrison, who has helped organize runs locally, said it's hugely significant to see Fox's work continue long after his run came to a premature end.

"When you think of the 40 years and how much money has been raised, more than \$800 million in the

40 years they've been run. If you think about the amount of research and scientific work that's been done in that 40-year period and the number of people that have benefited from what he started," Morrison said.

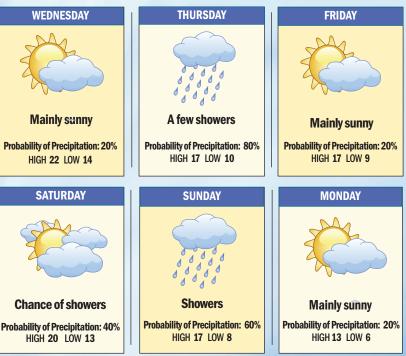
He pointed to a local youngster who was diagnosed with the same type of cancer that cost Fox one of his legs.

Four or five years ago that youngster was able to participate in a local Terry Fox run.

"Improvements in cancer care and treatment allowed him to still have his leg, whereas 40 years ago Terry lost his leg."

This year's Terry Fox run will be held virtually on Sept. 20.

## Weather Forecast



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**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**





## IN BRIEF Live indoor music returns

he president of Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 5 says every precaution will be taken to protect the public from potential exposure to COVID-19 when live music returns to the legion hall in mid-September.

'Throughout this whole process, we've been in almost constant contact with the health unit to make sure what we're doing fits within their rules," Les Newman emphasized in an interview Monday.

Newman said those rules mean no dancing will be permitted.

Two performances by the CCR Tribute Band are scheduled for the Van Norman Street legion on the weekend of Sept. 11, followed by the the Vic Arnone duo with Frankie T. on Sept. 18.

According to Newman, since the clubroom bar reopened about a month ago, attendance has been relatively small, but members have been asking 'When are you going to start having music back?'

The legion has installed a large sheet of plexiglass at the front of the stage to separate the performers from the audience.

Newman said signs are posted advising attendees that dancing is strictly prohibited, and some tables and chairs have been moved to the dance floor to facilitate social distancing.

"When we did the setup, in order to maintain distancing, I believe we are set up for 44 patrons, so we are well within" the permitted limit of 50, Newman added.

Patrons will also be required to enter the legion wearing face masks.

Newman said routes in and out of the building will be clearly laid out with arrows.

"We're looking out for everyone's safety.



**Anishinabe Women's Crisis Home & Family** Healing Agency



**HELPED DOWN: A firefighter helps remove a** bear from a tree in a Machar Avenue laneway.

Our staff, our volunteers, our patrons and the performers for that matter," he said.

#### Assault investigated

hunder Bay police are investigating a recent apparent assault involving a young person.

Police say they became aware of an assault after it was reported on Friday, Aug. 28, according to a police spokesperson.

Officers have since learned of a video circulating on social media which they believe is linked to the investigation.

The apparent assault is believed to have taken place in the area of Mary J L Black Library, according to police.

#### Bear rescued in tree

hunder Bay Fire Rescue crews lived up to their name on Sunday evening, helping to rescue a black bear cub from a Machar Avenue tree.

In a release issued on Sunday evening, TBFR says the bear was spotted about 35 feet up a tree in a laneway in the north-side neighbourhood. With the assistance of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, first responders used an aerial ladder to help perform the successful rescue operation.

According to the release, the MNRF technician was unable to lure the bear close enough to be able to use a sling-pole device, which secures a cable around the animal's neck as a precaution to keep it from biting or scratching its rescuer.

"TBFR fire fighters with the assistance of Thunder Bay Police Service officers quickly developed a public safety plan which included keeping bystanders a safe distance back from the scene while rescue equipment was set up to try to capture the bear from the top of the tree," said platoon chief John Kaplanis in the release.

"Fire fighters in an aerial ladder truck were able to secure the sling pole device around the small bear's neck and then pull the bear into the safety of the aerial ladder basket where it was then lowered to the ground."

Once on the ground, the bear technician took possession of the bear cub so that it could transfer the young bear to a cage for transfer to a wildlife rehab centre.

Five firefighters, a pumper truck and an aerial ladder took part in the rescue operation.

The Board of Directors invite Community Members to attend the

### BEENDIGEN INCORPORATED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, September 17, 2020 Virtually via ZOOM

*Time:* 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Please visit www.beendigen.com in order to register, or email cassandra.blair@beendigen.com for more information

Voting members must be of Indigenous Ancestry, over the age of eighteen (18) and reside in the District of Thunder Bay

LOCALNEWS

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ON THE TRAIL AGAIN: Chris Jones, Joel Gerry and Stephane Audet ride a technical section of trail on their gravel bikes.

# **Do-it-all adventure bike**

We headed out last Sunday morning with the plan to explore some distant roads while still being able to get back to our families by lunch time.

Knowing our mountain bikes are simply not fast enough to cover 100 plus kilometers in the small window of time we had, and our road bikes are not capable enough to handle the roads and trails we wanted to

ride, we had to make a compromise. So, our weapon of choice for this ride would have to be the gravel bikes.

On the paved roads, we could still roll at a respectable 30km/hr but

with our bigger tires we could confidently traverse sections of gravel and even rocky, root-infested trails.

By noon we had surpassed our hundred kilometer goal, we also blissfully ignored a No Exit sign while taking the back roads past Lappe up to Howcum Lake Road, we took a short cut through the Centennial Park mountain bike trails, we rumbled down a



rocky quad trail along a power line corridor, and we even did a few laps of the Jumbo Gardens BMX park.

Gravel bikes are a relatively new segment of the cycling world and for many people, their versatility makes them the ultimate solution to having a bunch of different bikes taking up space in the garage. These bikes look a lot like road bikes with their drop

handlebars but they will have slacker head tube and seat tube angles for a more comfortable ride.

Of course, the big difference is the clearance these bikes have for bigger tires, in some wide and approaching

cases over 40mm wide and approaching mountain bike tire widths. The most recent trends in gravel are all coming from the mountain bike world with disc brakes, dropper seat posts, wider gearing, tubeless tires, wider handlebars and even micro suspension being built into these bikes.

The real appeal of the gravel bike is the fact that we really have few limits when it

comes time to decide where to ride. Pavement, chip seal, gravel, dirt and muddy trails all provide opportunities for fun and adventure.

In fact, many people are enjoying the gravel trend so much, they are loading these bikes up with frame bags full of food and water so they can head out for epic all-day or even multi-day rides.

One cool thing about gravel is that you do not necessarily need to buy a brand new bike to ride it.

Many of us are simply repurposing our cyclocross race bikes while others are modifying their hardtail mountain bikes or squeezing big tires into their road bike frames to enjoy the gravel experience.

Thunder Bay is surrounded by countless gravel roads and enough bits and pieces of trail to link them all together and make some pretty spectacular routes.

Between the big weekend adventure rides with friends I also use my gravel bike to commute to work, and because I can go anywhere on it, I never have to take the same route twice. Thursday, September 3, 2020



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## **Editorial**

#### **EDITORIAL**

## **Turf facility** too costly

s this the best time to be committing upward of \$42 million in taxpayer money for an indoor soccer facility? We say no.

There's no disagreement that some sort of indoor turf facility is needed in a city the size of Thunder Bay.

But does it have to be the Taj Mahal version?

Could the city, if it has to be involved, not have recreated the former Sports Dome idea at the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition grounds?

At less than \$10 million, that would have been a lot more palatable for those footing the bill.

Could the city not have looked to partner with local developers who are already clearing land for a planned two-dome facility that would meet much of the soccer community's needs?

We're in the midst of a pandemic. The city's revenue is falling well short of its budgeted target as a result and there are no guarantees next year, or the year after that, is going to be any better.

We can hope, but no one truly knows. Taxpayers are already facing a hefty increase in 2021, one many can't afford and one none of us really want to pay for at this time.

Council really needs to reconsider its spending ways and listen to the experts, especially in current fiscal state.

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#### **Kingdom of Oli-Poo**

To the editor: The Oliver Paipoonge Council (with the exception of Councillor Allan Vis) has embarked on a process to merge/amalgamate Oliver Paipoonge with Conmee.

This is not to disparage the good people of Conmee or their fine community but clearly even a perfunctory glance shows that the only benefactor of this "deal" is Conmee and that will be at the expense of the Oliver Paipoonge taxpayers.

Not one person has asked for this amalgamation. None of the people you were elected to represent. I have asked the Mayor and every Councillor why?

Surely we are missing the obvious! Not one person will answer, not one member will guarantee no tax increase to Oliver Paipoonge.

Councillor Vis wanted to answer my questions but as every meeting regarding this was "in camera" he was prohibited. Why are meetings concerning the future of this municipality conducted in deliberate secrecy? Why did you form a joint task force for restructuring before any survey or facts, and we don't know the members?

This is open and transparent?

The initiator of this amalgamation appears to be Mayor Lucy Kloosterhuis and, according to Coun. Brandon Postuma, this has been in the works for "some time".

In fact he wants the Municipality of O'Connor amalgamated as well.

Both the mayor and councillors confirmed they had no information on the state of Conmee; financial, regulatory compliance, infrastructure assessment, existing contractual obligations, staffing problems.

Not one bit of due diligence has been performed.

Postuma, a resident and taxpayer in Conmee sitting on the Oliver Paipoonge council, did complain that the lot size should be reduced in Conmee and that there was a shortage of building lots.

Firstly shouldn't you solely be representing Oliver Paipoonge and secondly there is an inventory of over 500 lots available. Perhaps there is a conflict of interest here?

All councillors have refused to answer why employees from Oliver Paipoonge have, for some time been sent to Conmee to do their work and yet we gave Oliver Paipoonge Managers a 14 per cent pay increase as they are "overworked?"

An investigation should be conducted immediately to insure correct appropriation of resources and that all attendant costs have been fully recovered.

Coun. Postuma admitted this survey

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



was flawed.

The contract Oliver Paipoonge signed with Grant Thornton does not specify any of the key financial or liability deliverables, it does specify in great detail how to stickhandle people and meetings.

Few people have received it, and now the old trick of conducting a public meeting for input in the summer so no one knows or will attend is being played.

If this has been in the works for such a long time why try and hide it during the summer?

This amalgamation affects 6,000 people and only 50 fit into the Murillo Hall.

It was suggested that people might phone in to Grant Thornton in the two hour allotted slot 6,000 people in a two hour slot?

The province of Ontario's direction to Councils indicates this process is backward.

Council should have obtained all the information prior to considering this and only after all financial implications to our taxpayers is known conduct a survey.

A survey based on fact, not an attempted manipulation to a predetermined outcome!

So lets review, Mayor Lucy Kloosterhuis and Couns. Alana

Bishop, Bernie Kamphoff and Brandon Postuma acting beyond their elected responsibility, without any direction from taxpayers, endorsing a flawed process with a forced timeline, that will surely compromise the taxpayers of Oliver Paipoonge.

Is your kingdom worth that much? Please cease and desist at this time, conduct a plebiscite or better yet run your next election campaign on this and see if you get re-elected.

#### Put the brakes on project

To the editor:

taying up to 3:11 a.m. is never rec-Sommended, especially to watch a Thunder Bay city council meeting to see our city council recklessly spend tax dollars on an indoor turf facility.

The Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce said put on the brakes, the Thunder Bay Economic Development Commission said put on the brakes, a youth group located in a marginalized neighborhood of the city debunked council's assertions that it's only the 35+ crowd asking to apply the brakes in one of the most eloquent, well thought out letters to the media.

Worst of all, even the people that they

put on the sunshine list that work in city administration said put on the brakes.

But Mayor Bill Mauro flexed his muscle and his political will, supported by his party whip, Westfort Coun. Kristen Oliver, and committed a minimum of \$42.3 million into the Chapples swamp of Northwood.

All this during a Pandemic that has yet to fully reveal its financial impacts and social impacts going forward.

All this despite a three-hour budget discussion where administration warned we are looking at a potential six per cent tax increase and as city manager Norm Gale said, we are at a breaking point.

Reckless, irresponsible management. Lack of due diligence. Lack of community consultation outside of the echo chamber.

And you know what the worst thing is? In 2022, the voting public will be mad at the councillors, but they'll have their favourite pet and enough will have a different favourite pet that 11 of 13 will get re-elected.

Wash, rinse, repeat.

The apathy and lack of engagement is the Thunder Bay tax payers' worst enemy.

> Lex MacArthur, Thunder Bay

Rick Potter,

Oliver Paipoonge

## **Perspective**

# **Turf the turf project**

### No one is saying never, but now is not the right time

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

The best way to understand the mood of the city is to hear the word on the street from concerned citizens who have a vested interest in our community.

Back in the old days, late 2019 and early 2020, I would get together with friends for coffee and conversation. as we commiserate about our mutual concerns.

Our friendly banter would often digress into local issues, politics and personalities.

These "bull sessions", and others like it around the city, are a valuable source of local history, not to mention the shared wisdom, knowledge and good will.

And for better or worse, the opinions expressed (even the questionable ones) are a window into our city at large and reveal the mood of its citizens.

#### **On hold**

Right now many of these informal think tanks are on hiatus due to the pandemic and the local flow of information and ideas has been temporarily interrupted.

Physical distancing and social circles make open, honest, face-toface communication very difficult and curtails the widespread sharing of ideas.

Now more than ever many voices are unheard amid an atmosphere of uncertainty.

**CNR** Station

in the early 20th century.

terminus of the Canadian Northern Railway, and

extensive docks, sheds, a station and grain elevator construction followed. Coal docks,

handling docks marked

the rapid development

brought about by the

selected as the lake

blast furnaces, and

freight and steel

CnoR.

Canadian Northern facilities

In 1901-02, Port Arthur was

A look back in history

The local perspective has been overshadowed by on-going health concerns and public opinion on serious issues may be overlooked or worse, ignored altogether.

This makes decision-making even more challenging and uncertain, especially for municipal politicians who claim to have their finger on the pulse of this community.

Under these conditions questionable decisions and bold claims are sometimes made in spite of and not in response to strong public concerns.

City council's recent choice to lay turf over a patch of local swampland is one example of how political will can easily trump concerned citizens.

The controversial decision to commit multi-millions of tax dollars for an indoor turf facility has left some Thunder Bay citizens sad, dismayed and disappointed.

I am still bound by the limits of my social circle but even from six feet away I can easily hear how many people are distraught and disillusioned by this development.

I was surprised by the number and strength of the reactions from people who are already emotionally battered and physically drained by six months of isolation.

There is another perspective from taxpayers who would happily accept a tax hike for the privilege of playing indoor soccer.

Personally, I haven't heard anyone say it is a good idea or that facing an uncertain future is the perfect time to proceed.

So I was happy last week when I got the call for a backyard deck reunion with my appropriately distanced friends.

It was a sunny day in the beautifully landscaped garden of our host and for a while it seemed like all was right with the world.

Everyone was still healthy and the mood was mellow and light-hearted as we exchanged pleasantries and greetings - with one exception.

At one point a serious question was raised, "What's the deal with the indoor turf facility."

#### Too costly now

The consensus on the deck that morning reflected the concerns of the community at large.

Our city faces an uncertain financial future -- an \$8-million COVID-related shortfall has just been announced, with more to come.

We have many pressing social issues to deal with already and those millions of turf dollars could be better spent.

Nobody is openly opposed to recreation and sport, but now is not the time for such an extravagant facility - it's being compared to the event centre fiasco.

In any community with a social conscience public dialogue is crucial, has merit and is worth consideration.

That's the word on the street and that was the word on that sunny deck last week.

THUNDER BAY

JSEUM



MOVING FORWARD: An artist's rendering of the city's proposed \$33-million indoor turf facility.

#### **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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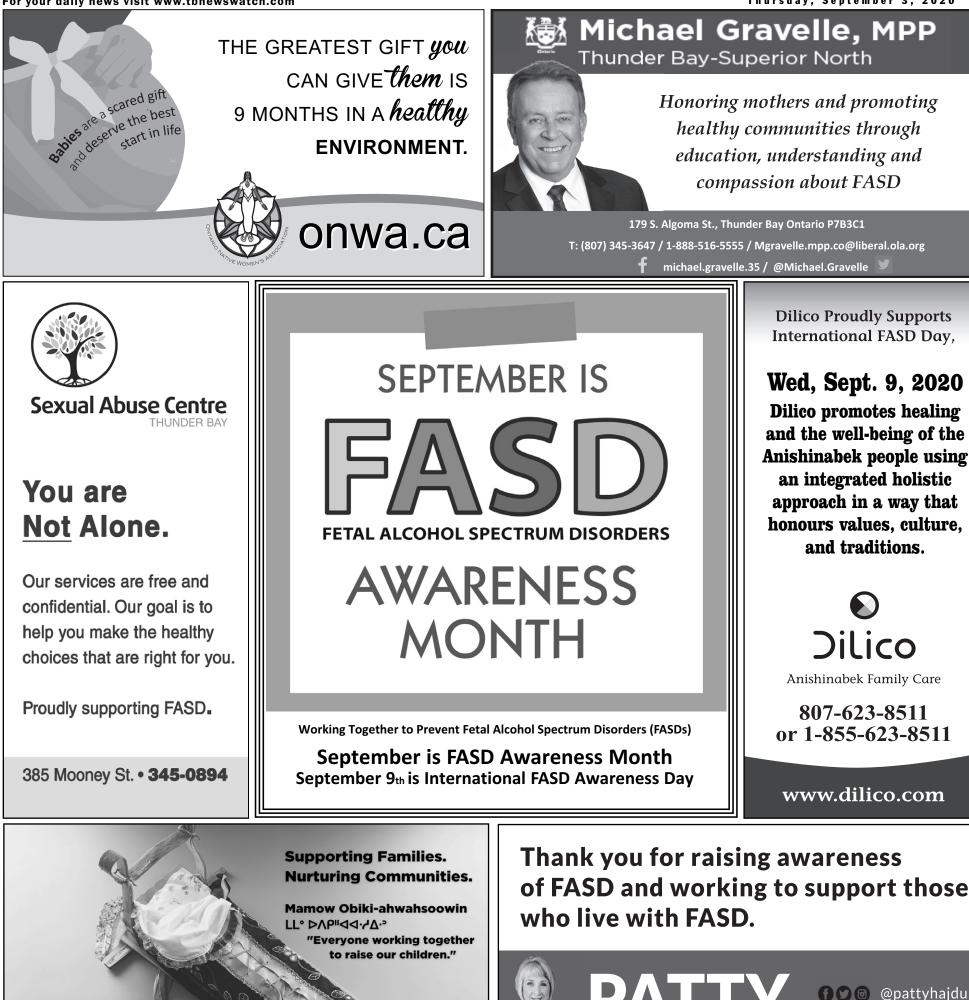
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Member of Parliament Liberal MP for Thunder Bay-Rainy River

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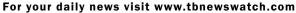
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# **Testing centre moving**

HEALTH By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The COVID-19 testing trailer at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is about to be a thing of the past.

Instead, hospital officials are busy preparing a new testing facility inside the medical building adjacent to the hospital.

It's being done for a variety of reasons, said Jackie Park, the clinical co-ordinator of the COVID-19 assessment centre at the hospital. First and foremost is the weather.

As winter approaches, a temporary testing trailer is not ideal, she said.

"Thunder Bay winters are long and harsh and we'd like to be able to sustain this. As everybody understands, the fall is going to bring a lot more testing with kids going back to school and we'd like to have something that's a little more sustainable," Park said.

The move indoors will also allow the hospital to ramp up its testing numbers, something the province is insisting upon as the pandemic continues.

The province is asking the hospital to increase the number of tests it does by 200 per cent.

With the possibility of a second wave coming, it's important, Park said.

"We've done really well here in Thunder Bay, with low numbers, and we'd like to be able to continue to do that and testing is part of the strategy to do that," she said.

"We will be able to work more efficiently out of one space. It's certainly been difficult



HOSPITAL UPGRADE: Workers with Tom Jones Corporation discuss a new testing centre entrance.

having our bookers, as well as our clerks who do all the registering in one location and then our staff who are doing the testing in the trailer outside of (the emergency department)."

To accommodate the new testing centre, the medical centre building is undergoing a revamp, with a ramp and separate entrance being added to the back of the building, facing the parking lot.

This is being done to keep as little interaction as possible between potential COVID carriers and both the general public and hospital staff. Construction is expected to be completed in a couple of weeks.

Park said there will be three rooms available for testing when the project is complete, with interior modifications being minor.

The hospital is also planning to run weekly drive-through testing clinics in the parking lot next to the medical centre.

"We will have drive throughs for the next four Tuesdays in the morning from 7 to 11 here in this location. You can book those appointments by calling the 935-8100 number or by booking online at www.tbrhsc.net," Parks said.

### **September arrives in Northwestern Ontario**

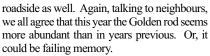
So, here we are in September. I meet neighbours at our local garbage dump or store and everyone remarks on how fast August zipped by. "Who was that masked month?" "Why it was Formula One August." Or so it seemed.

July dragged. The heat, the drought. Then we got rain and wind actually beginning (as I have mentioned before) in late July, then back

to heat, and then as if it was spring-loaded, August took off. A friend wrote to me that lately the weather feels like October. I suppose although I recall in other years the closing days of August and the early ones of September to be fairly unruly weather-wise.

Some mornings the temperature has been very cool prompting me to light a 'crackle, crackle' fire in the fireplace. Too soon for the boiler downstairs. "C'mon," I say, "time for sweaters and warm covers on the bed." It has to be around freezing consistently for me to fire up the boiler.

I forgot to mention last column that in addition to the roadsides displaying the colour yellow due to the proliferation of Golden rod, in the fields there is also a lot of purple and lavender asters. Those lovely, blue, corn flowers are still blooming with their soft hue



With the cold mornings, our swimming pool is having a hard time reaching the desired temperature for comfortable swimming. My wife, Laura, thinks we should consider putting the pool to bed for the winter. I want to do a bit

RED Never know but with the roller-coaster ride of temperatures this summer, we might still get a few days of roasty degrees that will allow us to make the plunge one or two more times before calling it a season.

Certainly the cooler temperatures and the amazing growing season in our garden, at least this summer, means mad harvesting. Our tomatoes are ripening at a furious pace unlike any other year before. While the green and yellow beans are done, the pole beans both green and purple, are still producing; the peas are still flowering and fat pods are there for the picking. I love going into the garden and liberating a few for an on-the-spot snack.

One vegetable garden ago in our previous residence, I planted Jerusalem artichokes. I love them. My mother used to make a Jerusalem artichoke soup for the Christmas dinner. Unbeknownst to me, Laura planted these luscious root crops in both the vegetable garden and in the main flower garden. I never before noticed that these tall plants sport beautiful yellow flowers. Perhaps I never let them get that far in our other garden impatient as I was to sample. Don't remember. There will be a pot of Jerusalem artichoke soup to start our Christmas repast this year.

I have to mention a wonderful reader of this column named Judy who got in touch with me with some solutions to my deer-invasion problem. She had attended the Seed Swap held at our local community hall in February and a Master Gardener had given a lecture with these tips. "Shove some stakes into the ground around your garden, take fishing line, stretch two lines of it at different heights and attach strips of plastic shopping bags. The deer won't come near. You can also take bars of Irish Spring soap, cut in half, shove into some old stocking or pantyhose, and hang that around. The deer can't stand the smell." Er...the smell might keep me out of the garden too. There were a couple of other great tips but I like the fishing line one best. Many thanks, Judy.

So, August zoomed by. I wondered why. My daughter, Beth, said it was because she blinked.

"I really must not do that."

FRED JONES RURAL ROOTS

# IN THE arts entertainment culture

# **Tenet mind-boggling, visually striking**



Odd times: that the very thought of attending a familiar movie theatre after a dispiriting hiatus would give one pause. There are limited capacities, fewer patrons, assigned seats with attendant distancing, and cleaning staff hovering, masked and gloved.

These strictures, coupled with a scarcity of reported COVID cases and a masked populace, made succumbing to the buzz surrounding Christopher Nolan's Tenet less of a sobering proposition, though safeguarded by wearing a required mask and armed with one's own mini-sanitizer spray. That being said, patron reticence about returning to mass indoor gatherings is understandable.

Being the sole patron for a late Friday afternoon screening of "Tenet" proved less anxiety-inducing.

As for Tenet, itself, one has to hand it to director/writer/producer Nolan. He confidently challenges his audience, given his predilection for mind-bending concepts surrounding time and memory, as evidenced by his trickier works including Memento, The Prestige, Inception and Interstellar.

With more conventional films like The Dark Knight, and Dunkirk, Nolan demonstrates that he's equally adept at grandiose filmmaking. Tenet is his most ambitious melding of the two approaches to date.

Tenet features formative James



THE PROTAGONIST: John David Washington stars in Tenet, the latest Christopher Nolan film, which arrived at SilverCity last weekend.

Bondian elements. John David Washington, (BlacKKKlansman, TV's Ballers), son of Denzel, known to us only as "The Protagonist," is a CIA agent recruited to save the world from destruction, one where weaponry from

the future is being used to wage war on the present. These weapons are inherently more threatening thanks to "temporal entropy" and 'time inversion,' that defies existing laws of physics. (Don't ask.) These techno

concepts permeate the film.

The purveyor of said weaponry acquisitions is a very nasty, crazed Russian oligarch, Andrei Sator, (Kenneth Branagh) who will use the goods to assemble an "algorithm"

(more techno-speak) that will give him supreme power. To get close to Sator, Protagonist zeroes in on his abused, desperate wife, Kat (Elizabeth Debicki, Widows). Protagonist is also aided by a daring, resourceful wingman, Neil (Robert Pattinson, The Lighthouse).

Protagonist's globe-trotting mission involves much fierce hand-to-hand combat and intense gun play. There are spectacular action sequences involving a freeway hijacking with huge hurtling vehicles grinding together and a highspeed chase with a crashed car spinning up and going in reverse.

Within the same frame, Nolan has action elements going forward while other elements move in reverse. Explosions and gunfire reverse themselves. What exactly is happening may not be clear but the action is intense and dazzling.

The production is embellished by the overwrought music and audio track, gritty cinematography and quicksilver editing. Washington has a charismatic, coiled presence enabling us to give over to this stupefying story.

However, the muddy sound mix renders a huge chunk of dialogue virtually unintelligible, thereby hindering an already overly intricate story dependent on espousing fantastic sci-fi theories.

Amidst the sensory pyrotechnics and audacious jigsaw-puzzle concepts, Nolan barely manages to get us to care about the sketchily drawn characters. It'd help if the proceedings made greater sense.

Ultimately, Tenet gets high marks for originality and adrenalin inducing action, less so for narrative clarity and character development.



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# Theatre in the natural realm

#### THEATRE By Linda Maehans – TB Source

Nothin' too nostalgic 'bout this one: we just want your good company under the sun and the stars.

Come out, get comfy-cozy in Magnus Theatre's beautiful backyard (Waverley Park, no less) and enjoy a well-deserved and long-overdue night or afternoon out with one of the most unforgettable voices in the history of the airwaves.

Country-to-pop; from her Virginia roots to Nashville and the Grand Ole Opry; all the way to Carnegie Hall, NYC, no less. This gal could sing then and she sure knows how to sing here in 2020, in Thunder Bay, Canada.

Here, from a time-warp, is the DJ who first walked us through that *Closer Walk With Patsy Cline*. In character, Andrew Cecon flics the mic-switch to on.

"About 15 years ago, when yours truly was the new kid sweepin' the floors at WINC, a young lady wandered in, demanded a chance to sing on the air. Well, she was kinda cute; sure had spunk, but they didn't take her seriously until she got in front of the microphone. I was hooked from her first note, never doubted she was gonna be a star."

No doubts, either, for the technical success of this show in the mind of director Thom Currie.

He and the all-local cast and crew have taken extra steps to ensure a safe, seamless and scintillating experience for the audience. I mean, come on.

With Patsy, what else would it be?

"Sure, some challenges but we've met them with all approvals from the District Health Unit, in step with provincial protocol. It won't look exactly like Magnus' earlier renditions of *A Closer Walk* as there are some things we have to do differently this time.

All microphones are protected by plexi-glass shields; are never shared. No performers, actors nor musicians, ever come within two metres of one another throughout the show."

Currie describes why Dean Regan's A Closer Walk, first performed back in 1991, is ideal for the



ALL SET: Amy Sellors rehearses for Magnus Theatre's outdoor production of A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline.

2020 theatrical scene here in Thunder Bay. "Little Big Man, the DJ, never really interacts

with anyone. He's on the air. As he's talking 'bout Patsy Cline, she appears (on her stage, to us). The music? Little Big Man drives it. He puts on

a record, and the band starts to play."

Thunder Bay's got a stellar band of musicians. It must be Danny Johnson. "We have a full live band, with Danny and the boys."

It's nearin' show-time. No time warp here. I'm in a huge ware-space; realise I'm watchin' a star-ofstage-and-sound get ready. Amy Sellors: no ghosts. She was an iconic lady, with an iconic voice.

This will be my third time stepping behind the microphone as Patsy Cline.

Oh, I have several wonderful dresses picked out for y'all.

It's great to be bringing live theatre back, Thunder Bay, after these months of isolation and uncertainty. Hope to see you!

Shows are Thursday-to-Sunday 7 p.m. Weekend matinees 2 p.m.

Call Magnus Theatre for details.

# **Thousands flock to drive-through Rib Fest**

#### THUNDER BAY By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

t may not have offered quite the festive atmosphere attendees are accustomed to, but that didn't stop thousands from descending on the CLE grounds for Ribfest this year.

Organizers estimated at least 3,000 vehicles rolled through the drive-through event since it began Thursday, looking for freshly barbequed ribs and the chance to support a good cause.

Proceeds from the event – estimated at \$65,000 in 2019 – go to Our Kids Count, a not-for-profit offering participant-led programming and supports to local families.

Executive Director Kathryn Hughes was optimistic the event would surpass this year's more modest goal of \$40,000 shortly before it concluded Sunday evening. The support was a relief for an organization that relies on fundraising for around three quarters of its budget.



LINING UP: The first vehicles await their 2020 ribs.

"Our Kids Count is a small not-for-profit, so we count on this money to run our programs every year," she said. "We were worried without the regular version running – it's so unexpected that the drive-up model would have been so popular."

While some waited over 40 minutes as lines of vehicles wound their way through lines at the CLE – and sometimes stretching to the Intercity Shopping Centre – Hughes and other organizers said spirits had remained high, thanking attendees for their patience.

Demand had been high enough that this year's sole local ribber, Silver Birch, eventually ran out of ribs, leaving Dinosaur Ribs and Ribs Royale to fill the gap.

Gus Sakellis of Ribs Royale, president of operations for the fest, said turnout in the city had exceeded all expectations.

He called it a promising sign, with mass gatherings like this one facing an uncertain future.

"Until the government gives us the OK, which we don't see coming anytime soon, we're going to have to adjust to the new norm," he related. "If this is the new norm, we'll be okay with it for the short term – as long as the crowds keep coming out like Thunder Bay." IN THE **BAY** 

# Boseman had powerful screen image

**O**<sup>n</sup> August 28, actor Chadwick Boseman died of colon cancer at the age of 43.

For some, this name might not mean much.

But in a summer of racial unrest and the growing demand for more black roles and more black actors to play and voice them in Hollywood, Boseman was a shining example of the future of Hollywood.

Marvel's Stan Lee and Jack Kirby created the Black Panther in 1966, as the term "Black Power" was gaining popularity in response to white suppression.

Amid the battle for civil rights, this comic book storyline offered a novel concept: a black community with untold wealth, technology and military power.

And yet, it still wasn't until 2016 that the Black Panther first appeared –



albeit briefly – in the growing Marvel movie series.

But the 2018 *Black Panther* film made cinematic history. It had a black director and a mostly black cast, with Boseman as the King of Wakanda.

Strong women were everywhere, leading the king and going into battle. The clothing, language, and music were African, mixing the cultures of its many countries.

Sadly, it was not entirely accepted. In a move reminiscent of the '60s white resistance, a Facebook group flooded the internet with poor ratings in the hopes of damaging the film at box office.

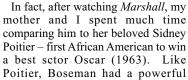
Yet, it was still one of the most commercially successful films of the Marvel Comics Universe, inspiring young black children everywhere. And Boseman was its face. But that was just his most

recent iconic role.

His break-out role was as baseball Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson (42),

followed by singer James Brown (*Get* on Up), and my personal favourite, lawyer (and Supreme Court Justice) Thurgood Marshall.

**WORD SEARCH** 



presence on-screen and played a wide range of unforgettable roles. Like Poitier, he was the face of change in Hollywood.

And now with the news that he'd had Stage 3 cancer back in 2016, comes the realization that Boseman continued to perform while undergoing painful and debilitating treatments.

Ask anyone who has undergone surgery, chemotherapy and radiation if they're ready to go for a walk, let alone shoot an action film followed by international press junkets.

Boseman did so for four years and 10 films while secretly battling cancer. To me, this makes him one of the greatest actors of all time.

Not to mention a real life superhero (who privately visited cancer patients in his spare time).

I still wonder what he might have brought to the world in the future. He could have been this generation's Sidney Poitier, who is revered even now in his '90s.

But maybe he already was. Because Chadwick Boseman, or King T'Challa to many, represented something positive, powerful, and changing in the world.

And he will inspire others for decades to come.

**Sidenote**: Boseman died on MLB's Jackie Robinson Day which had been re-scheduled due to COVID-19.

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# Minor hockey gets return-to-play rules

**HOCKEY** By Leith Dunick – TB Source

**M** inor hockey in Thunder Bay and the rest of Northwestern Ontario is going to have a decidedly different look this season.

But the good news is it's looking more and more likely players will be back on the ice in some form of meaningful competition by mid-October.

On Thursday Hockey Northwestern Ontario unveiled its return-to-play document, which followed guidelines set out by the province and the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

Among the changes slated are the removal of intentional contact at all levels of play, strict sanitization and entry and exit protocols at the rink.

Teams will also have to play in 50player bubbles, which could mean fewer teams or smaller rosters, depending how the various minor hockey organizations in the region choose to set up their leagues. Parents will also have to get used to the idea of not always being able to watch their young hockey players play in person, as only a small number of non-participants will be allowed in each facility at a given time.

Tournament play is also off the table for the time being, at least until the province and public health officials give the OK.

It's going to take some getting used



PLAN IN PLACE: Safety comes first, says Hockey Northwestern Ontario executive director Alex Vaillant, on hockey returning to the ice

to, said HNO executive director Alex Vaillant, but at least minor hockey can move forward in 2020-21.

"We're going to do what we can to transition through stages," Vaillant said on Friday. "Ultimately our end goal is back to traditional hockey and normalcy. But the No. 1 priority first and foremost is safety. We'll be doing what we can, working with the health units keeping everyone safe."

Vaillant said on average, about 4,500

youngsters take part in organized ice hockey each year. While he does expect those numbers will drop this season, given the trepidation and uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, he's optimistic and excited to at least be able to give kids the chance to play – something they haven't been able to do since mid-March when hockey stopped across Canada.

At the moment, HNO is in Stage 2 of its plan to return to the ice.

In Stage 1, individual in-person and group virtual training resumed. The second stage allowed in-person training to take place, including on-ice hockey camps.

Under the framework, for a month starting on Sept. 14, individual team formation will be allowed, which could include tryouts. Practices, focusing solely on skill development will also be permitted. The informal competition stage is tentatively set to begin on Oct. 14.

Stage 4, the return to traditional hockey, won't happen until the province gives the thumbs up.

"We're super excited. The key thing is the mental health of our participants, the physical health of all our participants. March 12 was the day that hockey shut down and since that day we've been looking forward to the day where people could get back on the ice," said Vaillant, who spent two seasons playing with the Thunder Bay North Stars between 2012 and 2014.

"Now that we have a framework in place, and barring any setbacks, we're set to return. It's undoubtedly exciting.

# It's fantasy football heaven this weekend



For those of you who play fantasy football, this weekend is like Christmas in September.

Most leagues draft over the Labour Day weekend. All of my money leagues are in play between Thursday and Monday night, so you know what I'm going to be doing.

Hopefully I remember to eat.

I'm also in a lot of just-for-fun leagues, as I prefer to mock draft against people who are actually in it to win it – at least most of the time.

With so many leagues, I try to keep a

lot of the same players, though obviously that's not always possible.

Here's some of the guys I've been trying to lock down as much as possible (also noting I seem to be picking at the back end of all my drafts).

**Clyde Edwards-Helaire, RB, Kansas City**: The Fresh Prince of Helaire is a go-to-guy for me in the seven to 10 range, assuming he's available. With no real competition in the Kansas City backfield, and on such an explosive offence, he could be a top 5 back in 2020. Hoping to grab him with my top pick in my keeper league, but I have my doubts he'll be there at No. 4.

James Conner, RB, Pittsburgh: Injuries set him back last season, limiting him to 10 games. But with Ben Roethlisberger back under centre, I expect big things out of the 25-year-old Conner, whose ADP on Fantasy Football Calculator is 23rd – the 15th overall running back. He's got top 10 written all over him if he can stay on the field. If he's there in the third, snag him.

**Cam Akers, RB, Los Angeles Rams**: Another rookie whose value could skyrocket, depending how the Rams use him. He might not be Todd Gurley, but as a guy going in the fifth or sixth round or later, could provide plenty of bang for the relatively cheap buck while you load up on other skill positions.

Hunter Henry, TE, Los Angeles Chargers: With uncertainty surrounding Mike Williams and his injured shoulder, Henry, who is only 25, could see a lot of those targets come his way this season. He is injury prone, but lasted until the 15th round in my latest draft.

A.J. Green, WR, Cincinnati: Another high-risk, potentially highreward guy. Green, who missed all of last season with an injury, will be hauling in passes from No. 1 pick Joe Burrow. He'll have competition from Tyler Boyd for targets, but he's rested and should be good for 75-1,000-8 if healthy. That's a big if though.

Matt Ryan, QB, Atlanta: I've religiously stayed away from quarterbacks this year, loading up on running backs and wide receivers in the COVID-19 era. Can never have too many. He's got Julio Jones and Calvin Ridley, two top receivers, not to mention TE Hayden Hurst, another guy who's worth a double-digit round snag – and is usually there. Once Ryan, Carson Wentz and Josh Allen are what's left on the board, that's when I strike. Now, if Patrick Mahomes or Lamar Jackson fall your way in the third round, I'd pounce. But one, if not both, are going in the first rounds in a lot of my drafts, too pricy for me.

There are plenty of guys I've been avoiding like the plague too. **Miles Sanders**, the Philly running back, has to prove he deserves to go in the first round, though he's starting to slide a bit. **Joe Mixon** and his headaches (and contract battle) is also a no-go for me. Too risky in the top couple of rounds. **Kenyon Drake** won't be found on any of my rosters, and **Leonard Fournette** being cut by the Jags makes him undraftable in my world.

It's hard to trust **Odell Beckham Jr.** in Cleveland or **T.Y. Hilton** in Indianapolis, though with a new, proven QB in **Philip Rivers**, he could be a solid No. 2 or high-end No. 3. I'm gun shy.

As always, find value and exploit it, and be sure to keep on top of the latest injury news. Best of luck this season! For your daily news visit www.tbnewswatch.com

Thursday, September 3, 2020 15







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