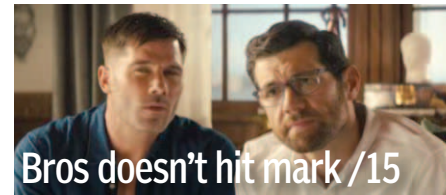




Rally for Mahsa /10



Truth and Reconciliation /9



Bros doesn't hit mark /15



Saints march on /16

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Read our mayoral profiles

Clint Harris /3
Gary Mack /4
Robert Szczepanski /5
Peng You /8
Ken Boshcoff /9



WATCH FOR US!

YOU WILL FIND US WEEKLY ON THURSDAYS IN THE CHRONICLE JOURNAL LAKEHEAD WEEKLY FLYER DROP OR HOME SUBSCRIBERS WILL FIND US WITH THEIR FRIDAY CHRONICLE JOURNAL PAPER

STILL PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY DELIVERED

Mayoral hopefuls Ken Boshcoff (clockwise from top left), Clint Harris, Gary Mack, Peng You and Robert Szczepanski have plenty of ideas of how the City of Thunder Bay should be run.

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Harris will end homelessness

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Five years ago, when he was publisher of the *Chronicle Journal*, Clint Harris declared he wanted to help Thunder Bay end its homelessness problem.

Harris pointed to the success of Medicine Hat, Alta., which all but eradicated chronic homelessness, as a stark contrast to Thunder Bay, which has seen its homeless numbers double to more than 700 since 2017.

As mayor, Harris, whose friend lost a daughter last year to a fentanyl overdose, said fighting homelessness and addiction will be his No. 1 priority for the city, and the benefits will have a major economic impact for everyone living and doing business in the community.

“My top issues are homelessness and human trafficking and the gangs that are coming to our city that are making it difficult for many families, including the elderly who are afraid to go out into the streets,” said Harris, one of five candidates seeking the mayor’s chair in the 2022 municipal election.

“The homelessness numbers have doubled in the last four years. I think in 2017, when I first talked about ending homelessness, the number was about 256. If you fix the bottom end of our city that needs serious help... I watched how Medicine Hat eradicated chronic homelessness and the financial benefits they’re seeing by taking care of their vulnerable on the streets.”

Reopen facility

Among his suggestions is appealing to the province to make use of the now-vacant Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, a 500,000 square-foot, 1,200-bed facility that he said could easily be used to house those in need and provide the mental-health and addiction care they might require.

Though lacking in political experience, Harris said he brings plenty of private-sector knowledge to the mayor’s race, something he called sorely lacking at city hall in recent years.

In addition to running a daily newspaper, Harris served on a number of boards, including chairing the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium board and the United Way of Thunder Bay campaign, and serving on the board of the Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute.

It’s that proven track record that can help turn the city around, he said.

“It didn’t matter which board that I was on, whether I was a team member or a leader, we found successes,” Harris said.

“The city needs to look at my resume and my advantages and the national clients and the visits of 200 per year (from my *Chronicle Journal* days),



Clint Harris is seeking the mayor’s chair in Thunder Bay.

and my ability to bring new businesses to the community. And there’s my connection to the community. You need a charismatic sort of mayor, but also a mayor that has successes in his past and his resume shows he can fulfill all the needs of the position.”





Open information

Harris said he’d fight for more transparency on the Thunder Bay Police Services Board and opposes the city building an indoor soccer facility at this time, without support from either the private sector or senior levels of government.

It just doesn’t make sense, he said.

“This thing’s been going on since 2018 and the \$22 million they were looking at for funding, it fell off the table. Once that money is gone, until money comes to the table of that sort, you don’t invest in something that has no backing,” Harris said.

THIS WEEK’S WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			
Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
Precipitation: 50% HIGH 8 LOW -1	Precipitation: 0% HIGH 9 LOW 3	Precipitation: 0% HIGH 13 LOW 3	Precipitation: 0% HIGH 12 LOW 3

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Gary Mack co-owns Bay Village Coffee.

Social ills concern Mack

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

If he's elected mayor, Gary Mack says he plans first to tackle the issue he knows best - Thunder Bay's growing homelessness problem.

Mack, who spent 25 years in social services, including two as the executive director at Shelter House, before opening the successful and popular Bay Village Coffee café, said homelessness, poverty and addiction are at the root of many of the city's problems.

It's at the heart of why the first-time municipal candidate decided to run.

"I was really inspired to run this year because I feel like our city has been neglected. It seems to me that nobody has been driving this ship and we need a mayor who has a vision for Thunder Bay and the

drive to see that vision through," Mack said.

"I especially was focused on the social issues our city is facing. The police, the Chamber of Commerce, it seems like everyone agrees that we really have to deal with our social issues if Thunder Bay is going to move forward. I came to realize I was the perfect person to address those [issues], because I have 25 years experience working in those areas."

First and foremost, he plans to create a task force to deal with the homelessness problem.

"We have tent cities, we have encampments, and I'm really afraid that those are going to become entrenched in Thunder Bay. So we really need to act quickly. We need to house our most vulnerable people and it will have a huge

impact in terms of cost savings to our emergency services and also for just making our city a safer, better place to live," Mack said.

Mack would also like change to come on the emergency services front, stating there's a better way of responding to many incidents that don't necessarily require police involvement.

"We need to free up our police officers' time so they can be focused on the serious crimes we're facing in Thunder Bay, which is the gangs, the drugs and the guns," he said. "We need to take serious action on those issues. Police officers have 50,000 calls per year. Most of that is non-criminal and non-violent. That can be done by somebody else."

"That can be done by teams of mental health workers who can be

going out and handling all of that so our police officers can be dealing with the stuff they are trained to do."

When it comes to police leadership, Mack said he's strongly in favour of hiring an Indigenous police chief and working to change the culture at the Thunder Bay Police Service to be more inclusive and more representative of the people they're serving.

He wants the next police chief to have a say in any plans for a new police headquarters.

Mack is supportive of an indoor turf facility, but not at any cost.

"I don't think we need a \$55-million, super-fancy, in-a-swamp facility. I think we can do something a lot cheaper," he said, pointing to an \$8-million covered facility built in Edmonton.

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Robert Szczepanski says he's a guy who wants to fix the city and make it better for everyone who lives here. (Leith Dunick)

Szczepanski bringing new ideas to politics

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Robert Szczepanski says its time to send career politicians packing.

At 33, he's the youngest of five candidates seeking the mayor's chair in Thunder Bay, but said his lack of experience around the council table isn't necessarily a bad thing.

With new blood comes new ideas and a chance to wash away the status quo, which clearly isn't working, Szczepanski said.

"I have lived in this city my whole life and I've worked so many jobs where I've had to interact with so many people from so many different class systems, and I've learned over the years what people want and what people don't want," he said.

Born and raised on the south side of the city, Szczepanski said the No. 1 issues he's hearing about these days as he campaigns for mayor is that something must be done to improve mental health in Thunder Bay.

Fix that, and many of the other problems go away, he said.

"My biggest hope is we can either reopen the [Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital] or even just build a new one. After the LPH was shut down, our homeless numbers shot up, because those people don't have anywhere else to go. A lot of these people don't have the ability to take care of themselves," Szczepanski said.

The first-time candidate said unlike career politicians, he won't treat the position of mayor as simply something to do, a stepping stone for other political

ambitions or as just a chance to earn a paycheque.

"To me, I'm just a guy who wants to fix this city and make it better for every single person, not just the one per cent who currently run everything," said Szczepanski, who currently works multiple jobs, including at Eat Local Pizza and the Shuniah landfill. He also volunteers at LU Radio.

Another issue Szczepanski would like to address is crime.

An opponent of plans to build a new \$56-million police headquarters, he said there are much better ways to spend money allocated to the Thunder Bay Police Service. First and foremost, if the mental health piece is fixed, the need to self-medicate with illegal drugs will also start to go away, Szczepanski said.

"When people have that need for illicit medication, that requires the need for people to sell it. If we remove the need for people to self-medicate, then we remove a chunk of drug dealers' profits. Then they either have to leave or get real jobs," he said.

Szczepanski also opposes city involvement in an indoor soccer facility, calling it unnecessary at this time.

"It's a waste of money. We should be focusing on the people first. To quote Mahatma Gandhi, you can tell a lot about a society by the way they treat their most vulnerable citizens. Thunder Bay, right now, doesn't care about our most vulnerable," he said.

"We just cancelled that SOS program. Why? That was a great program that a lot of people depended on."

THINK RECYCLE



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Voting closes at 4:00 pm EST on Oct. 18, 2022.

EDITORIAL

Under a dome?

In speaking with city council candidates, it's become abundantly clear there is still plenty of support for an indoor turf facility.

What is equally clear is the project as most recently proposed, is dead in the water.

The candidates have said they do support a facility, but not at any cost. Rather than building a 'Taj Mahal', a term used by several different candidates, they'd like to see a more modest proposal cross their desks, should they be elected to office on Oct. 24.

The City of Edmonton recently built an indoor facility for a meagre \$8 million, give or take.

Why can't Thunder Bay?

While we've had issues in the past with domes collapsing, it's not like the climate in Edmonton is any less harsh than in Thunder Bay.

The city needs to learn from the successes in other communities and find a way to get the project done, without ransoming the economic future of generations to come.

We can have nice things, they just don't always have to have all the latest bells and whistles that drive up the cost for everyone.

Stop the insanity To the editor:

I received a handout in my mailbox recently from Bill Dell, who is running for councillor in Northwood.

On the back of his handout there was a chart that showed General Government Spending by Major Ontario Municipalities per 100,000 of Assessment.

Thunder Bay was the highest out of the 28 cities listed. I took a second look at this chart by looking on the internet.

It is easy to understand why our city taxes and tax rates are second highest in the entire province when you look at this chart.

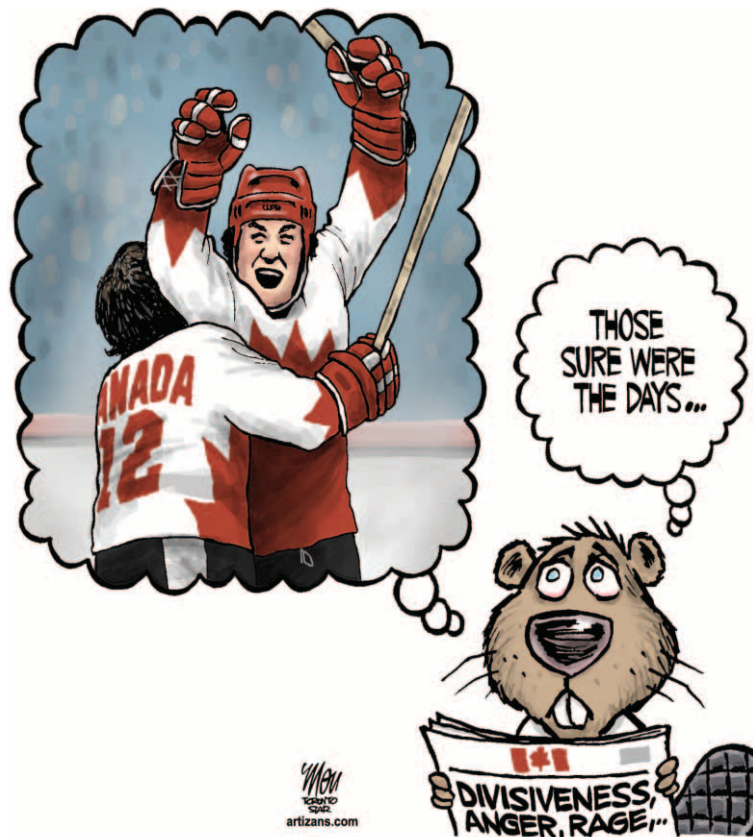
City administration has failed to control its spending and staffing levels.

I would ask everyone including each and every candidate running for office in this coming municipal election to look at three charts that can easily be found on the internet.

They are:

1. Ontario cities with the highest and lowest property tax rates
2. New sunshine list for the City of Thunder Bay. (Then view and

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



- compare the sunshine lists of other similar sized cities from the chart in 1 above, by simply typing
- in the name of the city and new sunshine list)
3. General Government

Spending by Major Ontario Municipalities.

It is imperative that after the municipal election in October the new mayor and council direct administration to bring taxes and the cost of running city hall in line with other Ontario municipalities

Thunder Bay is unable to combat crime and maintain existing infrastructure, let alone build new as the cost of running city hall is way out of line.

Far too many of our tax dollars are being gobbled up by an over abundance of city management. This would include the recent wage increases management just gave themselves and other non union employees that will cost city tax payers millions more to implement over the next several years.

City manager Norm Gale and administration need to be held accountable.

Ray Smith,
Thunder Bay

Lawrence collection a sensual study

Birds, Beasts and Flowers by D.H. Lawrence was published in 1923 after cautious consideration of the text by the printer, given Lawrence's publishing history. Some of his early works were rejected by publishers because of their sexually explicit nature.

Birds, Beasts and Flowers slipped through the net of censorship despite being a deeply sexual, sensuous and seditious collection of poems. Lawrence was a literary polymath whose writing was excellent in every genre - novels, short stories, plays, reviews, essays and poetry.

Lawrence is generally thought of as a serious writer who explores

deep and meaningful themes. But he could also be playful and humorous and this side of his character is particularly evident in his poems.

The section on 'Fruits' includes a delicious, juicy description of a Peach: 'Why so velvety, why so voluptuous heavy? / Why hanging with such inordinate weight? Why so indented?' But is this a peach he is describing or something more human, more manly?

In 'Fig' he is more explicit: 'The Italians vulgarly say, it stands for the female part; the fig fruit / The fissure, the yoni / The wonderful

moist conductivity towards the centre.'

Lawrence was fascinated, from a very young age, by the flora and fauna that surrounded his childhood home. His love of nature came from his father, a coal miner who, after long hours in the darkness of the pit, would walk home across country fields, picking wild flowers for his wife, and scooping up stray rabbits for his children.

These poems were written between 1920 and 1923 and they reflect Lawrence's wide travels at that time. The core poems were

written while Lawrence was at Fontana Vecchia, Taormina, in Sicily; others were composed - as their subjects testify - in Australia, Ceylon, Mexico and New Mexico.

Birds, Beasts and Flowers was his first post-war poetry collection after finding that, though so much else had died for him, Italy was still alive and fresh and there were other climates that agreed with him.

'Man and Bat', for example, was written in Florence and is the hilarious account of Lawrence trying to remove a bat from his room: 'Flying round the room in insane circles / A bat! / A disgusting bat / At mid-morning! / Out! Go Out!'

The bat is harmless and yet he

wants to kill it. The 'Snake' (written in Taormina), on the other hand, is deadly poisonous, but he wants it to live: 'A snake came down to my water trough / On a hot, hot day, and I in pajamas for the heat / To drink there / I came down the steps with my pitcher / And must wait, must stand and wait, for there he was at the trough before me.'

My favourite poems in this collection are a series on the subject of Tortoises, a reptile that clearly fascinated Lawrence. He describes the first moments of a baby tortoise: 'You know what it is to be born alone / Baby tortoise! / The first day to heave your feet little by little from the shell / Not yet awake.'



John Pateman
BOOK BANTER

CONTACT INFORMATION
87 North Hill Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7A 5V6
Tel: 807-346-2600

Editor: Leith Dunick 346-2650 | ldunick@dougallmedia.com
Reporter: Doug Diaczuk 346-2622 | ddiaczuk@dougallmedia.com
Reporter: Ian Kaufman 346-3558 | ikaufman@dougallmedia.com
Reporter: Justin Hardy 346-2591 | jhardy@dougallmedia.com
Sales Manager: Kathy Harris 346-2510 | kharris@dougallmedia.com

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Mountain Man skipping stones

By JR Shermack

A rocky, North Shore beach on Old Woman Bay is where we like to stop for a picnic lunch before the last leg of our gruelling drive back from Toronto.

We take a wobbly walk along the beach over the loose stones and every now and then we pick one up and send it skipping out over the bay until it sinks into Lake Superior.

There is something peaceful and rewarding about casting stones and watching them skim over the surface, often ten or more times before disappearing beneath the waves.

Not tough to do

It's easy to make a stone skip a few times and when you find the perfect stone and cast it just right, it seems like it will go on forever

Whenever Canadians find themselves near a lake or river few can resist the primal urge to crouch sideways and launch a rock, skipping it over the water.

The experience of sending your stone skipping over the waves is a joy to behold – some spend their whole lives casting stones in search of the ultimate rocky ride.

Dedicated stone throwers pursue this goal semi-professionally in tournaments including the World Championships held every year on Easdale Island in Scotland.

Kurt Steiner is a world class competitor and a recognized master stone skipper, winning 17 tournaments in the past 22 years in North America and Europe.

He has dedicated his entire adult life to his endless pursuit of skipping stones and has achieved amazing feats of athleticism and prowess on his journey.

Steiner is driven, almost obsessed by the need to cast stones over water which he has done since he was a boy - today he is the world's greatest stone skipper.

But that is not what motivates his personal quest.

Steiner discovered that the

discipline and delight of stone skipping provides respite and comfort from the burden of lifelong depression and other ailments.

So far Kurt reckons he has cast a quarter of a million stones in his lifetime with likely many more to come.

For him it is "a legitimate path to an essential inner balance" but his passion and dedication came at a cost, leaving him broke, divorced and somewhat adrift in life.

The most prestigious event for North American skippers takes place on Mackinac Island in Michigan – the winner gets a trophy and a pound of the island's famous fudge.

Obviously Kurt isn't tossing stones for the money although who knows, he may have a sweet tooth.

His 57-year-old, lean, athletic frame is showing signs of wear and tear - he copes with a growing list of aches and pains while he gathers stones for his next launch.

The Guinness world record for most consecutive skips of a stone on water is 88 times, cast by Kurt "Mountain Man" Steiner on Sept. 6, 2013.

He continues to hold that world record – some say it will never be broken and that to do so would defy the laws of physics.

Just wants to throw

Kurt Steiner is compelled to throw, he has no choice, and he approaches his passion like a Zen master seeking enlightenment – who knows how far it will take him.

The tournament at Mackinac is held every July 4 – amateurs can enter for five bucks but if you want to throw with the big boys it takes 30 skips to qualify.

As for me, every time I cast a stone and it only takes a few hops along the water I still get a sense of what Kurt Steiner feels while his stones perform their magic.

I will think of him the next time I cast stones from that rocky beach.



Kurt Steiner loves to throw stones.

what's happening
in and around...

The Bay

To submit an event, email ldunick@dougallmedia.com.
Please include details about the event, including any cost

October 7

Thunderwolves Hockey

After a stunning upset of the University of Wisconsin Badgers, the Lakehead Thunderwolves will look to continue their winning ways at Fort William Gardens on Friday and Saturday night against the Guelph Gryphons.

It's their final tune-up before starting the OUA regular season next weekend on the road against the Windsor Lancers.

LU will open their home schedule on Oct. 21 and Oct. 22 against York.

October 11

The Mavericks

The Mavericks were founded more than 25 years ago by Malo and Deakin as a standout alternative band in a Miami rock scene dominated by hair metal and punk.

They'll be performing at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium on Tuesday night. Tickets are avail-

able through Ticketmaster.

October 13

Salvation Army Dinner

Jonathan Maracle from the band Broken Walls, will be the special guest at The Salvation Army Journey to Life Dinner on Thursday, Oct. 13, at the Valhalla Inn Scandia Room starting at 5:30 p.m.

The Salvation Army Journey to Life Dinner supports the work of The Salvation Army in Thunder Bay. The Salvation Army assists people in Thunder Bay who are struggling to live. From simply providing a meal or a bed for the night to supporting people as they journey to stability and independence, The Salvation Army is there making a difference and giving hope.

The evening will provide an opportunity to learn more about the work that The Salvation Army in Thunder Bay is doing including the new Journey to Life Program and how to

support the ongoing services.

Tickets are \$75 or \$600 for a table of 8. They can be purchased through our office at 545 Cumberland St. N., by phone at 345-6492, or through www.journeytolife.com.

October 13

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The show is at the Auditorium and takes place on Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

HOW TO WRITE TO US:

Letters 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.

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38.33%	51.57%	10.10%

You says city needs to grow

By Leith Dunick- TB Source

Peng You believes the city needs a new vision, starting at the top.

It's why the Tai Chi master, who roared to the top of the at-large race four years ago to secure his first term on city council, decided in 2022 to jump into the mayoral contest.

He says he's determined to bring about the change that's needed to help Thunder Bay attract new business while improving the quality of life for everyone who lives and works here.

"I'm very aware of the current issues that we face and the opportunities that are available," said You, who finished second running for the provincial Conservatives earlier this year in Thunder Bay-Superior North.

"I have heard from many constituents about their concerns and what they wish the future to look like. As a city, we need to grow and move forward. I have the energy, strength and I'm ready to hit the ground running with a bold vision, with leadership and business



Peng You has entrepreneurial experience and is currently an at-large councillor. (Leith Dunick)

experience."

Among the pillars holding up his platform is growth and economic development. You also touts a close

relationship with the provincial and federal governments and a plan for increased transparency and communication.

He'd also like to reform council, taking another run at possibly reducing its size, an effort he wasn't able to accomplish earlier this term, but not for lack of trying.

A Thunder Bay resident since 1990, You owned two restaurants before opening the International Tai Chi Academy and taking on the role of president of the Thunder Bay Martial Arts Council, leading the charge to bring the 2022 National Martial Arts Championships to the city, as well as the World Tai Chi Championships in 2024.

"I strongly believe that we can grow the economy to support our tax base, protect public services and improve our physical infrastructure. This will require collaboration and teamwork. Both things I'm committed to," You said.

"Growth is the key for our future. We need to expand our tax base."

You said all communities are currently facing many challenges, but Thunder Bay may be uniquely positioned to take advantage of growth in the natural resource sector, something Northwestern Ontario has an abundance of

throughout the region.

"I think we need to look forward to the community we want and can be," he said.

Solving the crime issue, including the increased guns and gangs problem that's infiltrated Thunder Bay over the past decade, cannot be done alone, he said.

"Thunder Bay cannot hold too many balls. We've only got two hands. We have to work together with other levels of government. We really have to rely on provincial resources for things like guns and gangs. We cannot deal with that alone. So that's why I'm in the position with a strong relationship with upper levels of government," You said.

"The status quo doesn't work. We have to make changes."

He'd like to refocus police efforts on front-line officers, making sure there are mental health and morale supports in place.

"Also, neighbourhood policing works very well. The statistics show it. So why don't we use those tools? We have to think outside the box," he said.

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

RE-ELECT GEORGE SAARINEN

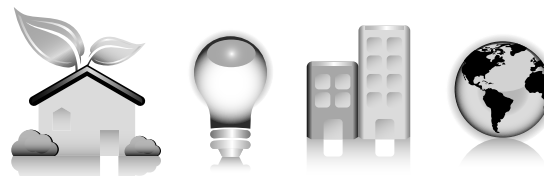
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ELECT

Boshcoff brings experience

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

There's no one on this year's municipal mayoralty ballot with the political experience of Ken Boshcoff.

First elected to council in 1979, the now 73-year-old served on council until 1997, when he was elected for his first of two terms as Thunder Bay's mayor.

He'd then go on to spend two terms and five years as the Liberal MP for Thunder Bay-Rainy River, serving one more term on council from 2010 to 2014, losing the mayoral election to incumbent Keith Hobbs eight years ago.

Boshcoff says it's that experience that makes him the top candidate in the 2022 mayor's race, someone who knows how to work with both new and experienced councillors while also having the knowledge to navigate through senior levels of government.

"Without having training on council, or having done those kinds of things, people would be in a really rough spot. The learning curve is too

steep," said Boshcoff, who will take on sitting councillor Peng You, former Chronicle Journal publisher Clinton Harris, businessman Gary Mack and Robert Szczepanski.

"You have to have somebody who takes on this job at a run, understanding the rules, knowing who to contact and understanding the processes and operational mechanisms. I'm quite skilled in all that and I'm ready to do it, now."

Repairing Thunder Bay's image is Boshcoff's No. 1 priority, should he be elected.

"I believe in our community. I think we're a great place in which to live. We'll tackle that as an overall theme and everything else falls into place, in terms of getting our finances in order, ensuring we can do some of these projects that are important to our people and our youth," he said.

He also wants to address crime in a big way, but also many of the issues that lead to crime.

It's broader than just crime, Boshcoff said. "It's the poverty, it's the homelessness and the fact that Thunder Bay is a collecting point for a

region larger than Germany and France," he said.

"This is a regional issue and I'm going to get all the mayors together from all the communities, and the chiefs from the First Nations and assemble them and say, 'This is not just one city's issue, it's all of ours.' And the burden of us handling it all is problematic. We need everybody on the same page, to go to the provincial and federal governments to solve this."

The veteran politician is also keenly aware that increased taxation of city residents isn't sustainable, given all the other financial pressures people are facing.

He called tax increases a mindset of council.

"I'm hoping that as leader, they will understand I'm kind of a frugal guy. I like to keep things modest, where necessary, so I'm hoping to enlist a lot of people who will really want to slow down on the spending and keep the tax rate as low as possible, for two reasons. One, for the people who live here already and are having a struggling time, but two, to make sure we have an attractive tax rate for businesses and people."



Ken Boshcoff was mayor from 1997 to 2003.

Mixed emotions at pow wow

By Ian Kaufman – TB Source

Participants in events marking the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in the Thunder Bay area called it a much-needed chance to acknowledge historic wrongs, while also celebrating Indigenous resilience and committing to reconciliation.

Local events included a pow wow hosted by Fort William First Nation, a reconciliation run, and a flag-raising ceremony at Hillcrest Park, in which an orange flag commemorating residential school victims and survivors was raised at half mast.

The flag will become a permanent fixture in the park, with a seating area to be installed in the spring, the city said – a place to reflect while taking in a view of both Anemki Wajew and Nanabijou.

The site is planned as the first of four to eventually be established representing the four directions around the city.

Looking out at a sea of orange shirts at Hillcrest Park on Friday morning, Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Derek Fox said the open discussions of the trauma of residential schools showed things have come a long way within his lifetime.

"No one wanted to talk about it, including my own family," he said. "It was good to share a little bit today. We're on this path of truth and reconciliation – I believe we're just beginning."

Thunder Bay-Superior North MP Patty Hajdu, speaking at the flag-raising, said it was no secret the federal government's approach to Indigenous peoples – which she now has a large hand in shaping as Minister of Indigenous Services – had included explicit attempts to control First Nations communi-



A pow wow was held last Friday atop Mount McKay.

ties and destroy Indigenous cultures.

"The federal government has had a long and colonial history of essentially oppressing Indigenous peoples," she said.

An advertisement for a concert. On the left, a purple vertical banner contains the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra logo and text: "THE THUNDER BAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS Born For This: Nancy Freeborn OCT 15 7:30PM Tickets at: Ticketmaster.ca". On the right, a close-up photograph of Nancy Freeborn, a woman with dark hair and a nose ring, smiling.

Dozens protest Iranian brutality

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

The death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini has sent shockwaves around the world, including Thunder Bay.

Last Saturday a group of about 35 Iranians living in the city came together at Marina Park, joining in solidarity with the women of their homeland and protesters under siege in the streets of Tehran and other cities in Iran.

More than 75 people have died in Iran protesting Amini's death, which occurred while she was under detainment by Iran's morality police in mid-September. She'd been accused of not wearing a hijab while travelling, which goes against Iranian laws requiring women to cover themselves in public.

More than 1,200 protesters have been arrested in the Middle Eastern nation, which is enforcing laws enacted 43 years ago during the Islamic revolution.

According to a recent CBC article, women who do not comply, regard-



The death of Mahsa Amini has sparked angry protests throughout Iran. (Leith Dunick)

less of their faith, face imprisonment, fines and physical abuse. According to reports, Amini was beaten into a coma and later died.

Mohammad Ghadiri was among the crowd gathered at Prince

Arthur's Landing, holding a sign reading Woman Life Freedom.

After the killings started, Ghadiri said he began to worry about his own family still living in Iran.

"I always think about maybe the

next person will be my sister or my mother. I'm so, so sad and angry about this issue," Ghadiri said.

He's hopeful the protests will awaken the eyes of the world to the oppressive nature of the Iranian regime, fuelled by religion under president Ebrahim Raisi and supreme leader Ali Khamenei.

"My friends and I, are doing this protest because of our people. We want the rules changed and we hope the government realizes its mistakes and maybe changes rules, especially those for women. The government in recent years hasn't done any positive actions. Iranian people think it's time for revolution."

Another woman, holding a photocopied picture of Amini, with her name emblazoned underneath, said she thinks it's the biggest revolution in her homeland for feminism in history. It's led to the internet being cut off in the country for the past week.

She's worried about her family back home.

"We don't know whether they're OK or not," said the woman, who asked not to be identified in case she ever visits Iran again.

"So we need the support of the world. We need people, especially on social media, to put #mahsaamini or put stories on Instagram or post something about Mahsa or something like that."

A newcomer to Canada, who has been in Thunder Bay for just a couple of months, the woman said the difference between the two nations when it comes to the treatment of women is massive.

"A lot of Iranians immigrate to Canada because of the lack of freedom in Iran. As a woman, you don't have even the choice to wear what you want. So this is a very basic human right that I can talk about here. When you don't have the choice to choose what you want to wear, what kind of country, or regime, actually, is that?"

"It's the brutal and oppressive regime of Iran."



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Going Thai

When I was first getting into the business, one style of food that was grossly underrepresented in Thunder Bay was Thai food. Admittedly there was a lot less diversity on menus and in restaurants 20 years ago in our city. Thankfully that has changed for the better.

When I was apprenticing, I played around with curries and Thai food a little bit, fascinated with the flavour profiles and techniques. It wasn't until 2014/2015 when I began to get a serious education.

Working in Northern Saskatchewan many of my coworkers were from Thailand, Pakistan, India, Iran, and the Philippines. There was also one dude from Wales who thought that Lemon Pepper could fix everything, but we don't need to talk about him.

When you're cooking in volume like we were, over the course of a 12 hour work day, when it comes time for you to eat dinner at 7:30-9:00 the last thing you want is the thing you've been working on all day.

Typically, one of the staff members would cook meals for the staff, they would of course cook something from their culture. This is where a real teaching started. Famously one of my assistants in that kitchen told me, "I'll teach you to cook like my people, if you show me how to cook like a white guy".

He meant absolutely no disrespect by it, and I didn't take it that way. He just wanted to make sure he was successful at his job cooking for 3000 (mostly) dudes who burn serious calories.

With a long history in royal households, religious strongholds, and foreign trade, contemporary Thai curry highlights the cultural diversity of Thailand (formerly known as Siam).

Thai curry is the storytelling about our culture and life from different regions of Thailand. Much like Italy and other regions, "How you make your sauce depends on where you come from".

In the 13th century traders began to experiment and so came by "nam prik", a type of thick pastes of varying ingredients that included lemongrass, fish sauce, peppercorns, and tamarind. Nam priks are used as a universal sauce for many Thai dishes, including a set of dishes called gaeng, kaeng, gang, or geng — what today are known as Thai curries.

From the 14th to the 18th centuries, kapi, or shrimp paste, was added to these dishes, then, with the arrival of Portuguese merchants in the 16th century came the hot chilies that gave Thai cuisine the kick for which it has become renowned.

Today, Thai curries still carry these ingredients, flavours, and cooking methods.

In 2002, the Thai government created a universally loved gastrodiplomacy campaign, "The Global Thai Program" which brought flavours and dishes worldwide, during this time many western restaurants adopted the menus curated by the Thai government, a more standardized system of red, yellow, and green curries.

While highly successful at popularizing the dishes, the diverse and highly regional category of dishes was reduced to a handful of broad categories. Next week we go deeper into curries.

Derek Lankinen is an award-winning chef, author, and restaurateur. He is the Owner/Operator of Beefcake's Burger Factory with two locations in Westfort and Current River and Co-Owner of Elite Beef, Brick and Mortar Food Co. and Eat Loco Tacos.



Derek Lankinen

Here's Cooking at You Kid

Gigliotti wins \$554K draw

By TB Source staff

Like clockwork, Leila Gigliotti tells her husband she's going to get the call from Thunder Bay Health Sciences Foundation president and CEO Glenn Craig, telling her she'd won the monthly 50/50 draw. Last Friday, the call came.

Craig told Gigliotti she had won \$554,508 in the September draw, after trying to get a hold of the latest winner for several hours.

Gigliotti couldn't believe her luck. "Every Thursday I tell my husband jokingly I'm going to win, but not thinking it will ever happen," she said.

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Cyclocross racing continues

In Thunder Bay, most of the cycling seasons have wrapped up by October.

The Blacksheep mountain bike race series concluded in mid-September, and the Thunder Bay Cycling Club's road and gravel racing were done by the end of last month too.

Keeping in mind that the beautiful scenery and cooler temperatures of autumn make it the very best time to ride, we are fortunate to still have one discipline of bike racing to keep us going as we move into October.

Cyclocross is a cold-weather, high-tempo activity born in Europe more than a hundred years ago.

Used by cyclists to stay in shape during the fall and winter months, the sport was originally called

steeple chase.

That odd name comes from the fact that the only landmark tall enough to show the direction of the finish line in the destination town was a church steeple. What made this type of bicycle race unique was the fact that there was no pre-determined course, and bike racers would use everything from crude back roads to shortcuts through farmer's fields to reach the destination town.

Along the way, the racers would inevitably need to dismount and carry their bikes to hop fences, cross creeks and climb over the many obstacles in the way. Steep hills and muddy bogs would also

force the riders to push their bikes over the nastiest parts of their route.

The unique challenges presented by each course was a big part of the fun.



Keith Ailey
the GOOD LIFE

The sport of cross has evolved from a point-to-point event to now feature a short loop where racers complete multiple laps.

What remains are the obstacles, the dismounts and the fun.

Cross events are very short, lasting only thirty to sixty minutes, but what this sport lacks in distance, it makes up for in intensity.

Right from the gun, riders go hard and fast, holding a near

maximal effort until they cross the finish line in exhaustion.

Obstacles and barriers are now mostly man-made and strategically placed throughout the course.

Racers use a high-speed running dismount and remount that allows them to jump barriers and climb steep hills without losing their momentum.

While some riders use specific cyclocross bikes, most participants in our local series are on their mountain bikes.

A true cyclocross bike looks a lot like a road bike, except for the tires. Cross bikes are equipped with wide, knobby tires that are run at low pressures to find traction in mud, sand and wet grass.

Show up to a big cyclocross

event like the Canadian National Championships and you are likely to find cowbells, waffles, costumes, beer, bacon, and some really crazy fans. No wonder that cyclocross continues to be popular.

This fall, the first event in our local six-race series was held at Belluz Farm last week in a downpour of rain that turned the course into a mud pit. It was awesome.

True to the spirit of cyclocross, our Thunder Bay events focus on fun, with draw prizes for participants and weekly themes like Halloween costume cross.

Races continue at Belluz Farms this Sunday at 11 a.m.

Come by to see the action and pick out your Halloween pumpkins at the same time.

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Changing leaves and beaver ponds

"Holy flying leaves, Batman!"
- Beth Jones

So that exclamation burst from my daughter's mouth as we were driving down our country road. It was early October a couple of years ago. At the end of the road is an s-turn hill that drops down to the highway. Leaves were indeed being blown off branches of poplar, and in the case of where we were driving, off of the two maple trees growing beside the road.

The road was already accumulating fallen leaves and with our passing I snuck a peek out the rear-view mirror to see those that had fallen being stirred into whirling activity. The colour changes are progressing albeit slowly it seems. Manitoba aka

'Moose Maples' have abandoned their green for the orangy-brown.

Drive along Hwy 61 towards town and take a gander at the Nor'westers especially around Big Thunder. There is a beautiful display of colour from the sugar maples growing on the side of the hills. I recall walking with my wife, Laura, along the new trails that had been made for the '96 Northern Winter Games. The trails snaked up and along a ridge.

But October is, again according to daughter Beth, the Halloween Month for the entire month. I love Halloween and it happens one night and then it is over. Why not celebrate all month long? Driving along the highway to town I spotted a tall

ghost with a smaller one beside it at the end of a driveway. Somebody else shares our sentiments. Good.

So, the green of summer is disappearing. The one sugar maple located directly across from the end of our driveway has shed most of its brilliant red; the leaves are now more a rust shade and several are beginning to wilt.

More and more I'm hearing the honking of geese, sometimes overhead, sometimes from our beaver pond.

And speaking of beaver ponds, I recalled a couple of winters ago my wife, Laura, and I snowshoeing across our pond and up through some bush only to discover another beaver pond of respectable size hidden away from prying eyes.

I thought I'd try to locate it before the snow falls. Oh for a machete. The trek was very tough with lots of

hidden ditches full of water.

Tag alder and young poplar trees had grown to clog any path through which I might try to thread, making walking very difficult.

But eventually I saw the dam - a very big one - and climbed up to behold the pond. Over to the right was the beaver lodge and since there was no green growth on it, I knew it was inhabited. Two of my three pooches don't like water.

But both of them had slugged along with me on this tramp through the bush avoiding the several water-filled ditches. Dog No. 3 however, is a Black Lab who loves water. Any chance she can get, if there is a ditch with water in it, in she goes. Well, here was this large pond and into it she dove.

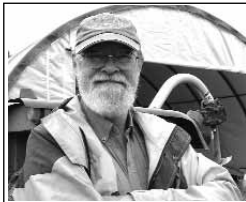
I threw a stick three times for her to swim out and retrieve which she did, but I was well aware that if the

beaver should emerge from its lodge and see this intruder swimming in its domain, it would kill it. I decided it was time to find a route back to the road.

We'd disturbed the pond and its denizens enough. There was a clear path easy to follow through the bush that emerged slightly east of our property line. Good. Now I know a much easier route to follow.

Our next-door neighbours live opposite the pond.

The pond is far enough back from the road that they can't see it, but they told me they can hear it. I warned them at some time they might hear a chainsaw shattering the bucolic peace and not to worry, it's only me. I mentioned my arduous stumbling slog to the pond. "Oh yes," they told me, "we can hear the beavers slapping their tails on the water."



Fred Jones
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Family says thanks after tragic crash

By TB Source staff

The family of Kaitlin Restall, the Thunder Bay woman who died in a collision on Silver Falls Road last weekend, is overwhelmed by the support they've received while they continue to grieve.

A GoFundMe campaign for funds to help her two young sons in the years ahead had raised about \$55,000 by Tuesday morning.

The 41-year-old perished last weekend in a single-vehicle collision on Silver Falls Road in Fowler Township.

Restall's brother-in-law, Nathanael Moulson, organized the campaign.

He says the family is doing their best to cope with their loss by spending lots of time together.

The Runner is a story of conflict

By Linda Maehans - For TB Source

Don't let my title for this review mislead.

The Runner, Magnus' mainstage 2022-23 season opener is a gripping spellbinder. With so great a distance "to run" it is unfathomable to think the end is in sight. There isn't one.

Be forewarned. This visiting production from Toronto-based Human Cargo and by Christopher Morris, both playwright and the runner, is not for the faint-of-heart. This is not a show for children. No, not family entertainment.

Here goes.

The Runner is a brilliant dovetail of minimalist theatre: set-and-lighting-and-sound pitted against yet also magnifying Jacob, our human-storyteller. The dreadful impact Jacob's story thrusts upon us depends as much on those elements, the sound and lighting and set, telling us the story, as do Jacob's own movements, actions and words.

Actually, I'd say the human is eclipsed by those other elements; they are so strong he cannot withstand. Audiences will understand what I mean when they bear witness to *The Runner*. As mentioned, be forewarned.

Darkness

We begin with inky blackness, can't see a hand held up to our faces. Then sound. A low ominous throbbing; surely isn't what we liken to a deep bass-cello, if that's what it is. Have we suddenly forgotten how to breathe?

A feeble yet brave single cone-of-light reveals to us on stage the subject of our rapt attention. Already "rapt" is not enough of a descriptive. We are on a simple rubber-belt, a treadmill. It's moving.

We are with Jacob, who soon enough tells us why he is where he is. We hang on his every forward step; geez, he's not making enough of them, receding and fading as he does, on that treadmill. We don't want the shattering; no, not again! Did the temperature in the theatre just plummet?

The Runner pulls us in like, what? Quicksand? Avalanche? As if any of us would know what that feels like.

The gravity of the storyline comes from its reality: in this world it happens. I'd no idea, inkling, of what it means for people who are "runners", over on the other side of the planet. And think, ashamed to admit, any "headlines" pretty much went in one ear-out the other. The news.

About the unending conflict-war in The Middle East. The Arab-Israeli struggle over territory and "homeland": the whose it is, and whose it isn't. Weekly, yearly, decade-after-decade, I've heard about this my entire life. It has stopped registering as news.



Christopher Morris wrote and stars in *The Runner*. (Submitted)

Yet the storyline of *The Runner* could apply to any number of current conflicts; histories of cultures, peoples who are "believers", claim only to want peace and prosperity during the lifetimes they've been given. By a deity; a ruler; a leader; a guide. Surely we need that.

Modern message

This production is relevant-for-Today. Audiences don't need to be of the cultures and belief(s) involved in *The Runner* to feel the weight of current events. Jacob's story is universal. The Runner is terribly unforgettable, if we take a milder stance about where and what he is.

Christopher Morris, playwright and as Jacob, makes it in some small measure "easier" to encounter. To hear; to watch; to feel. At least try to understand it.

Take a deep breath; take in *The Runner*. On at Magnus until Oct. 15. Visiting credits online: magnustheatre.com.



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ODUC DV." — M. R. XUKE

Uneven LGBTQ rom com

Much is being made of the fact that "Bros" (SilverCity) is the first LGBTQ rom com movie to enjoy studio release, courtesy of Universal.

One may applaud such inclusion by the normally conservative Hollywood studios. Much of "Bros" cast hails from the LGBTQ community.

However, while star Billy Eichner and his co-writer/director Nicholas Stoller ("Forgetting Sarah Marshall") nobly strive to cover much territory here, their over-the-top approach sometimes works against them.

Eichner plays Bobby Lieber, a successful queer podcaster and writer. He's also a director of New York's first soon to open LGBTQ+ historical museum. Bobby, along with his committee members from the LGBTQ community, is dealing with a \$5 million shortfall in their budget.

Bobby is also a 40-ish gay man who has not yet experienced a serious relationship. He seems content with his life until he meets Aaron (Luke Macfarlane), a very fit estate lawyer at a club.

Both are commitment-phobic, their youthful aspirations denied by societal convention. Bobby wasn't "butch enough" to pursue musical theater. Aaron's yearning to be a chocolatier was considered unmanly. They fumble towards intimacy.

The script fires off telling observations about gay life from dating to tweaking gay-themed films and sanitized TV movies. Yet much of the messaging gets undermined by caricatures rather than fleshed out characters.

This is sitcom land where everything gets glib, superficial treatment. Non-stop quips supplant character-driven dialogue. Eichner's museum committee and his klatch of personal pals exist just to check off the representative gender boxes, without feeling genuine. The movie's jumpy editing



Bros has an all LGBTQ cast, and bills itself as the first major studio gay rom com. (Universal)

and scattered script undercuts the cast.

There are some hits, but many misses. There are compensatory cameos by Harvey Fierstein and Debra Messing.

Eichner has a funny bit where he tries to photograph his butt for a Grindr hook-up. In other moments though, he's doing an extension of his infamous Billy in the Streets routine, where he shrieks questions at surprised passersby to elicit impromptu comical responses.

During dinner, Bobby stubbornly challenges Aaron's mother (Amanda Bearse), a Grade 2 teacher, for not teaching LGBTQ+ history to her young students, as if one lone teacher could wield such authority.

Crucially, the 'romance' between the prin-

cipals simply lacks chemistry. Bobby is overbearing, annoyingly self-loathing. Aaron's probate lawyer comes off as nice but callow. The script tries to generate empathy for Bobby in a beach scene where he rails about his troubled past to which Aaron responds with "Wanna beer?" He could've had a more sensitive comeback.

The movie tries mightily to be soulful near the end where Bobby sings a heartfelt country song for Aaron's benefit demonstrating emotional depth otherwise lacking in the film, except that this sequence is stuck awkwardly into the museum's grand opening.

Bros will surely open the door for similar content. One simply hopes for more skillful writing. Ultimately, though it has a moment or two, Bros comes off as a gay Annie Hall minus the charm.



Marty Mascarini
MOVIE TALK

2		1			8	9		4
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7	8			3				
				7	2	4	8	
	6			4				
							9	
		9				1		2

- ACROSS**
- 1 Brother of Jacob (abbr.)
 - 5 Civil Rights Commission (abbr.)
 - 8 In the same place (abbr.)
 - 12 Glass
 - 13 Exclamation
 - 14 Knob
 - 15 Defer (2 words)
 - 17 Growl
 - 18 "Fables in Stang" author
 - 19 Shak. forest
 - 21 Political party
 - 22 Befall
 - 23 Clothing
 - 25 Cossack
 - 28 Aida's love
 - 31 Saracen
 - 32 Honey
 - 33 Millrace
 - 34 In name only
 - 36 Barracuda
 - 37 That which acts (suf.)
- DOWN**
- 1 Sister of Gottfried
 - 2 Origin
 - 3 Poker stake
 - 4 Television channel
 - 5 Tweet

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- 6 Red-eyed carp
- 7 Axis deer
- 8 Participle (suf.)
- 9 Serf
- 10 Scientific name (suf.)
- 11 Skin (suf.)
- 16 Moselle tributary
- 20 Sleep
- 22 Riding outfit
- 24 Rom. helmet
- 25 Prepare leather
- 26 Orinoco tributary
- 27 Larch
- 28 Electric reluctance unit
- 29 Gelderland city
- 30 Clique
- 32 Musical instrument (percussion)
- 35 We (Lat.)
- 36 Cordage tree
- 38 Islamic teacher
- 39 Fraud
- 40 Sayings (suf.)
- 42 Eucalyptus secretion
- 43 Sphinx site
- 44 Nipa palm
- 45 Cow shelter
- 47 Spelling contest
- 49 Russ. community farm

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Winning ways continue for Saints

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Manerplaw Winning hasn't skipped a beat since returning to the SSSAA senior football gridiron.

The St. Patrick running back on Friday ran for 142 yards on just seven carries, three of which landed him across the goal line as the Saints held on to defeat the Westgate Tigers 31-25 on Friday night at Fort William Stadium.

Winning spent last season playing at Royal Imperial Collegiate of Canada prep football academy, earning visits with Dartmouth College and Queen's University, but is back with the Saints and focused on one thing - ending St. Patrick's 21-year championship drought.

It was a grind out kind of win, Winning said.

"We have lots of things to clean up, for sure. We have guys injured, so once we get the starters back, hopefully we can do better. But we'll take the win and reset for Hamm(arskjold)," he said.

The game was back-and-forth for



Manerplaw Winning (15) scored three touchdowns in St. Patrick's 31-25 win last Friday.

much of the first half, the two teams each grabbing the lead multiple times.

The Tigers marched down the field on their opening drive, but

were stopped in their tracks just outside the red zone and had to settle for a 29-yard Parker Mork field goal.

The Saints took the ball on their

own 35 and after Jouni Kempannen had an 18-yard rushing score waved off because of a penalty, Winning took the hand off and wrangled his way 23 yards down the field for his first major of the evening to end the opening quarter.

It was the Tigers defence that vaulted them back into the lead early in the second.

Zach Gothard intercepted an Iene Auger pass and took it 55 yards to the house, giving Westgate a 10-7 advantage.

The lead lasted just two-and-a-half minutes and it was Winning who found the end zone again, running it in from seven yards out.

The Tigers (1-2) have their own all-star caliber back in Eddy Dryhorub and he didn't disappoint in Week 3, rushing for 182 yards, including a 19-yard touchdown run at 9:19 of the second, but the 16-14 lead was shortlived.

It lasted all of 14 seconds, thanks in part to a 57-yard Brett Lovis kickoff return that deposited the ball on the Tigers eight-yard line. One play later

and Kempannen was in the end zone, giving the Saints a 21-16 lead at halftime.

"Our wide receiver and our other slot, they made great blocks. They just pushed the other guys back and it was just open from there," Kempannen said.

Winning scored a 29-yard touchdown late the third and added a 19-yard field goal in the fourth after Kempannen picked off Westgate quarterback Andrew Romeo in the end zone to stomp all over a looming Tigers score.

"I just saw the ball go up and I just went right to it and got the ball," Kempannen said.

But the Tigers weren't done.

Lance Basalyga scampered home from eight yards out in the final minute of the fourth and Nick Battigelli recorded the ensuing onside kick at the Westgate 50. The undefeated Saints (3-0) defence stepped up again, Nathan Welyki intercepting a Romeo pass in the end zone at the buzzer to preserve the win.

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Walleye edge Stars in overtime

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Three-on-three overtime is a different brand of hockey.

There are more chances, and costly mistakes are often exaggerated.

The Thunder Bay North Stars learned that the hard way on Saturday night, a collision between two of their players deep in their own end leaving a loose puck for Kam River Fighting Walleye defenceman Jack Cook to scoop up and race with down the ice.

The Thunder Bay-born blueliner, who spent last season in the Canadian Central Hockey League, bore down on North Stars goaltender Conner Lemieux and buried the puck behind him, earning the Walleye a hard-fought 4-3 triumph, their fourth win in four attempts to



Kam River's Euan Morrison fires the puck past Thunder Bay defender Dylan Bertrand.

open the 2022-23 Superior International Junior Hockey League season.

"I saw the two North Stars guys

down and the puck popped up. The next thing I know it was just me and the goalie and I made a move and that was that," said Cook, who had a

brief taste of the SIJHL two years ago, playing exhibition games during the COVID era with the Thunder Bay Kings.

"We didn't play our best game, but I thought at times we were by far the best team and when we came down the stretch, we capitalized."

The goal came just 41 seconds into the extra frame.

Kam River wasted little time making Lemieux's acquaintance, Jeremy Dunmore taking a quick shot 50 seconds into the first that beat the Thunder Bay netminder.

But it was the Stars (0-3-0) who found themselves in front after one.

Californian Bobby Doukov knotted the game at the 6:36 mark and Edison Weeks, his family in the Fort William Gardens stands, pounced on a Doukov rebound with 4:39 to play in the period, beating Jack

Orchard through his five-hole.

The Fighting Walleye (4-0-0) got even early in the second, thanks to a miscue deep in North Stars territory Ethan Lang grabbed the loose puck and surprised Lemieux with a quick shot, popping it past him to even the score at 2-2.

Kam River and Thunder Bay traded goals a minute apart in the third. Sebastian Biagi ripped a wrist shot from just inside the blueline that evaded Lemieux's reach,

North Stars winger Julian Rutland followed suit, picking a loose puck and blasting it past Orchard.

"We've got a lot of new guys and young guys. We've got to find some guys. We've still got lots of injuries. It would have been nice to win in front of our home crowd, but we'll take it as a learning lesson," North Stars coach Rob DeGagne said.

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Wolves stun Badgers

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The Lakehead Thunderwolves notched an impressive win south of the border on Sunday.

Rookie Olivier Pouliot scored the overtime winner, leading the visiting Thunderwolves to an upset 3-2 triumph over the Wisconsin Badgers.

Geoff Dempster and Josh Van Unen had Lakehead's other goals, each giving the T-Wolves a one goal lead.

Cruz Lucius, a fourth-round pick of the Carolina Hurricanes in 2022, and Carson Bantle, with two minutes to go in regulation, had the Badgers goals.

Max Wright made 40 stops in net for the Canadian squad. Jared Moe and Kyle McClellan split duties in net for Wisconsin, facing 21 Lakehead shots.

Wisconsin, coached by former NHL star Tony Granato, has six NCAA championships in its storied past.

LU hosts Guelph this weekend at Fort William Gardens, their final pre-season games before starting the regular season on the road next weekend in Windsor. York arrives on Oct. 21 for a pair at the Gardens.



Lakehead goalie Max Wright dives for the puck against Wisconsin last Sunday. (Tom Lynn)

It's playoff time

OK, Blue Jays, let's play, ball. October, for his World Series feats, and would anyone be surprised if another New York Yankee, Aaron Judge, inherits the mantle this year?

Reggie Jackson earned his nickname, Mr. October, for his World Series feats, and would anyone be surprised if another New York Yankee, Aaron Judge, inherits the mantle this year?

What a season he's had, with a great shot at a triple crown.

He's my MVP, though it's hard to vote against the Angels Shohei Ohtani. A guy in my Strat-O-Matic league has both of them, so that's gonna be fun next year.

Of course, all of Canada is going to be tuning in to see how the Toronto Blue Jays fare.

The Seattle Mariners gave them a tough go this season, with reigning Cy Young Award

winner Robbie Ray leading a solid starting staff that includes Logan Gilbert, Chris Flexen and rookie George Kirby.

The Jays have Alek Manoah, Kevin Gausman and Ross Stripling to throw at Julio Rodriguez and the Mariners, and a lineup that found its groove against the Boston Red Sox this past weekend, scoring 26 runs over three.

There's not really a weak spot in their lineup these days, other than maybe Matt Chapman.

George Springer, Bo Bichette, Vladimir Guerrero, Teoscar Hernandez are a mighty top five.

Oh right, there's also Alejandro Kirk and the red-hot Danny Jansen in the mix.

Jansen is 25 for his last 71, as of Sunday, a .351 clip.

Chapman is struggling, but his defence at third more than makes

up for his lack of hitting.

Toronto may also be getting Santiago Espinal and Lourdes Gurriel back for the postseason.

Talk about an abundance of riches.

On paper, the Jays should win the wild-card series, but this is a team that last month wasn't showing the maturity of a championship squad, watching deep fly balls instead of legging out doubles.

They'll have home-field advantage in the opening round, which is looking like Seattle, but could also be Tampa Bay, at the time I'm writing this on Tuesday morning.

The Jays secured the top wild-card spot on Monday night, beating Baltimore 5-1, while Seattle lost 4-3 to lowly Detroit.

Toronto was 9-10 against Tampa, and 2-4 against Seattle, but won two of three at Rogers Centre against the Mariners and split 10 games against the Rays at home.



Leith Dunick
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