



Toys for the North /4



No bus cameras /5



Alstom concerns /6



Hackner retiring /18

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Thursday, December 8, 2022



# RIDE SAFE, SOBER

Local police services launch annual Festive Ride program, seeking out impaired drivers over the holidays /13

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# Ten-digit dialing will soon be here

Gary Rinne - TB Source

People with 807 phone numbers will have to dial 10 digits to call anyone as of next May, even if it's just a call to a next-door neighbour.

It's because of an order by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission for all telecommunications service providers in Canada to transition to 10-digit local calling by May 2023.

Northwestern Ontario is one of only a handful of regions where this isn't already in place.

The implementation of ten-digit dialing nationwide will facilitate the introduction in November 2023 of a new 988 dialing code for mental health crisis and suicide prevention services.

"As a result of that, 10-digit dialing is going to be necessary across the country. Northern Ontario is one of the few places left that doesn't have 10-digit dialing implemented, but now we're going to have to go that route," said Tbaytel spokesman Jamie Smith.

Anyone who calls or texts 988 will get access to free counselling.

Adding the area code to all local calls solves the problem created by the fact that some people in Canada already have 988 as the first three digits in

their phone numbers. Without the area code, anyone calling these individuals would be redirected to the crisis line as soon as they inputted these digits.

The CRTC says establishing a 24/7 easy-to-remember number will help reduce barriers to mental health and suicide prevention resources, and allows for more equitable access regardless of geographic location or socio-economic status.

According to the CRTC, telecommunications service providers such as Tbaytel, Bell and Shaw must make some modifications to their networks to transition to 10-digit dialing.





Tbaytel is expected to launch an awareness campaign to give notice to its residential and business customers in the coming weeks.

The Canadian Numbering Administrator, which provides services to the telecommunications industry, revealed some of the rollout plans.

It said that between April 1 and May 31 next year, people placing local calls using only seven digits will hear a recorded message reminding them they need to use the area code as well.

But as of May 31, calls dialed without the area code will not be connected.

## WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			
<b>Partly Cloudy</b>	<b>Partly Cloudy</b>	<b>Cloudy</b>	<b>Cloudy</b>
Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH <b>-4</b> LOW <b>-11</b>	Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH <b>-2</b> LOW <b>-4</b>	Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH <b>0</b> LOW <b>-2</b>	Precipitation: <b>30%</b> HIGH <b>-1</b> LOW <b>-4</b>



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# Toys for the North set to take off

By Doug Diaczuk – TB Source

With the Christmas season just around the corner, an important delivery is being prepared in the city of Thunder Bay, courtesy of several local and national organizations.

Last Friday, a Canadian Forces C-130 Hercules landed at the Thunder Bay International Airport filled with gifts as part of the Toys for the North 2022 campaign to send gifts to children and youth in remote First Nation communities across Northwestern Ontario.

“We are very thrilled. We’ve had numerous requests for toys this year,” said Karen Matson, director of marketing and community relations with North Star Air.

“We’ve targeted three communities we are visiting the week of Dec. 12 to 16 that will be Poplar Hill First Nation, Sachigo Lake First Nation, and Webequie First Nation. We are excited to be going in. We will be bringing Santa with us again and we will be celebrating with the communities.”



Toys, destined for northern communities, are offloaded from a Canadian Forces 130 Hercules.

The Toys for the North campaign was started 12 years ago by the RCMP. Originally local officers would transport the toys up north with RCMP vehicles, but eight years ago, now retired RCMP Staff Sgt. Normand Roy created a partnership

with Gardewine Group and North Star Air to help with the transportation.

“This has been going on for 10 years now and every year we see an increase in the generosity of corporate donors and the work that goes

into it from North Star Air and Gardewine is just incredible,” said RCMP Cpl. Darryl Waruk. “They are really the ones doing the bulk of the lifting here.”

This year, 12 pallets were unloaded from the Hercules, equalling more than 23,000 toys. The toys were collected across the province by the Canadian Toy Association and RCMP.

“The RCMP, Gardewine, and North Star, we are thrilled that we can be distributing these toys on behalf of the Canadian Toy Association. We’ve had so many donors from near and far, locally in Thunder Bay,” Matson said.

“It’s a big effort on the part of everybody and over the years it has grown tremendously. I received an email two days ago saying be prepared because we’ve got almost double the amount of toys we are sending up this week that we had last year. People are in the giving mode and we love it and we are so appreciative of everyone involved.”

“It’s a feel-good event to be a part

of,” Warruk added. “The private sector, the Canadian forces, the RCMP coming together to bring some Christmas joy to the kids up north in remote areas where they don’t have large shopping centres to go to.”

The toys will be transported to the Gardewine warehouse where they will be sorted by age group from zero to 12-years-old. This year, the RCMP also did a fundraising event to raise money to create teen packs for youth in the communities.

After the toys have been sorted, they will be transported to Sioux Lookout and other regional hubs and then flown into the communities by North Star Air along with Santa to help bring a smile not just to all the children’s faces, but everyone involved.

“When we do go up to the north it’s very rewarding to hand these toys out to the children and see the joy it brings them and the goodwill to the entire community,” Warruk said.

JULY 21-23 2023

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# Stop-arm cameras not feasible: City

System called for by several stakeholders

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

Efforts to arm local school buses with cameras to catch dangerous drivers have run into a stop sign, with a City of Thunder Bay staff report saying the step is “not feasible” without more provincial support.

Though the province enabled municipalities to approve stop arm camera programs in 2020, the government hasn’t ensured centralized ticket processing is available, as it is for similar programs like red light cameras.

That has kneecapped municipalities’ ability to implement the cameras, staff found in a report that considered by council on Dec. 5,

noting only Ottawa is “fully participating” so far.

Craig Murphy, head of the consortium that coordinates busing for all three local school boards, said he’s increasingly concerned students will get hurt while governments wrangle over how to tackle the problem.

School bus drivers with the Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay (STSTB) have tracked 471 vehicles illegally passing stopped school buses while students were getting on or off so far this school year through a voluntary reporting program, he said.

That works out to just over eight instances a day, while Murphy believes others go unreported.

“Unfortunately, what we see quite often is many motorists ignoring the law that requires them to stop,” he said. “We’ve been very fortunate that we haven’t had a serious

incident, but it’s only a matter of time.”

He called stop-arm cameras a “great tool” that’s proven effective south of the border.

“We’ll certainly not stop our push to get them on the buses, and hopefully we’ll get there before tragedy strikes,” he said.

City police have previously put GoPro cameras on school buses, but that evidence would not be admissible in court.

Coun. Kristen Oliver (Westfort), who has championed stop arm cameras at city hall, said she’s deeply disappointed but accepts the conclusions of city staff.

She intended to move a motion at Monday’s council meeting to lobby the province on the issue.

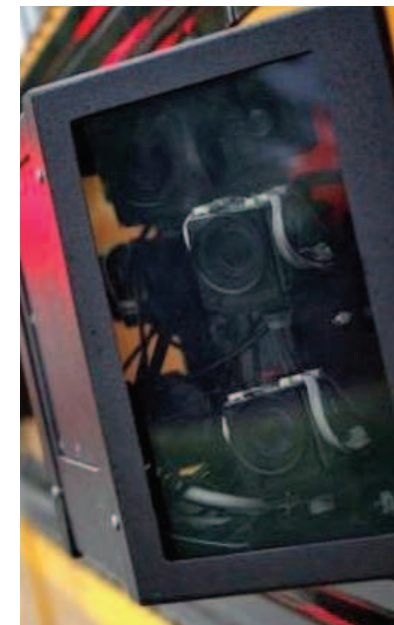
“I think administration really did try to cover off every opportunity they could to see this move

forward,” she said. “What I find really frustrating is the province ... [is] not working collaboratively to have a processing centre implemented so we can see this come to fruition.”

However, Oliver added it’s a problem governments shouldn’t have to address in the first place.

“Quite frankly, I find it incredibly disappointing and shameful that drivers are that reckless that they’re blowing around stopped school buses,” she said. “It’s infuriating to me that we have to look at doing enforcement to break those poor driving habits.

“But until people start to realize they’re putting children’s lives in jeopardy because they can’t wait that extra two minutes behind a school bus, we have to look at every opportunity we can to change that behaviour.”



Stop-arm cameras record driving scofflaws.

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### RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Bring your natural Christmas tree to one of the many Christmas tree collection sites, where it will be chipped and then added to the compost pile at the City's landfill site.

### USE REUSABLE ITEMS WHEN ENTERTAINING

Rather than disposable items, use reusable dishes, glassware, silverware and napkins.

### REDUCE YOUR FOOD WASTE

Meal plan to avoid overbuying during the festive season and freeze leftover cooked meats and vegetables to use another day.

### SEND YOUR HOLIDAY CARDS ELECTRONICALLY

If you would rather send a paper card, use cards with less ink content rather than cards that are laminated, foil-stamped or that have metallic ink.

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Making small changes this holiday season can make a big difference!



Premier Doug Ford visits Thunder Bay's Alstom plant. (FILE)

# Alstom numbers keep dropping

## Plant at all-time low: union

By Gary Rinne – TB Source

The union representing workers at Thunder Bay's Alstom manufacturing plant says the provincial government's awarding of a multi-billion dollar contract to a consortium led by Hitachi Rail has "deeply aggravated" challenges at the local plant.

The government awarded a \$9 billion contract to the Connect 6ix consortium on Nov. 17 for the Toronto rapid transit project known as the Ontario Line. A consortium including Alstom also bid on the contract, union leaders said.

In a statement issued Friday, Unifor said that contract includes \$2.3 billion for light rail vehicle orders that could have been built at the local Alstom plant, if Canadian content rules were in place.

The Ontario NDP has previously criticized the government for requiring only 10 per cent Canadian content for the Ontario Line project, dropped from the 25 per cent minimum stipulated in a 2018 policy.

Unifor says only 150 employees are now working at the Thunder Bay plant. Dominic Pasqualino, president of Unifor 1075 representing local Alstom workers, said that flies in the face of provincial rhetoric.

"It's devastating," Pasqualino said. "We had a lot of promises from Doug Ford and his government to make sure our plant would be full."

"The first time I talked to Doug Ford, there were about 800 people working in the plant. Now we're down to 150."

That number had held steady between 750 and 1,300 from 2011 to 2019, the union said. It added 200 workers had recently lost recall rights after being laid off for three years, and 22 opted for early retirement.

Pasqualino reported important machinery at Alstom is being decommissioned and sold, raising concerns over the plant's future.

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EDITORIAL

# Gouging for groceries

Canada's grocery industry is in desperate need of oversight.

The average family of four is expected to have to pay over \$1,000 more than they did this year for groceries in 2023.

Grocery chains, like Loblaws, are seeing billions and billions in profits, and then have the audacity to ask the public to donate their Optimum card points to help feed the homeless.

All the while, Galen Weston and his stockholders use inflation as an excuse to jack up prices to unaffordable levels.

Gas prices were to blame. They've come back down and food prices continue to climb.

Certainly Russia's invasion of Ukraine and supply-chain issues are playing a role. Weather hasn't helped the lettuce situation.

But it seems a little rich to expect Canadians to buy the benevolent grocer act when shareholders come first. People are choosing to skip meals in order to get by. It's going to get worse. There are too few owners and too many going hungry. It's time for Ottawa to get to the bottom of it.

## Alstom's future

In 2016, with Trump's rhetoric in the U.S. in mind, I attended a townhall meeting Coun. Frank Pullia was having at the Italian Cultural Centre,

I asked him, the new CAO Norm Gale, and the CEDC CEO Doug Murray, what the city had in the way of contingency plans (break glass in case of emergency) for the loss of another major employer (in particular blue-collar employers).

I knew then the Bombardier (Alstom) plant had limited days left building passenger trains.

Why? Because the Canadian market is too small for the riling building capacity the country has.

At present there is the capability in Canada to produce at least nine simultaneous contacts at a time (three in La Pocatiere, three in Thunder Bay, one in Kingston, one in Brampton, and one in Laval).

The response I received from these gentlemen, was underwhelming to say the least.

I was asked what message it would send to these companies? My response? That as a city we are hell bent and determined to maintain good paying blue collar jobs in the jobs of the future and that we will do everything in our

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



power to make that a reality.

Perhaps they thought I was naïve, but look where we are now.

The time is right now for the establishment of a CEDC-led committee to catalog the physical and human resources of the plant (later to be expanded to other businesses deemed critical to the

economic foundations of the city), the industries that utilize such resources, and companies in those industries who are looking for expansion in the North American market.

Our politicians also need to make it clear to Alstom that the support they have enjoyed for years in our

efforts to support contract bids with the TTC, will be turned against them if they refuse to participate in an orderly ownership transition for the plant and it's employees to a new industry.

The days of building trains at Canada Car are ending, but the plant has been here before and survived, what made the difference then and can make the difference now, is inspired political leadership.

Generations of Thunder Bay families have relied on the good jobs at that plant to put food on their tables and money into our economy, there is no reason for this to be the end of the Canada Car story, but we must write the next chapter, or Alstom will write it's conclusion.

We're counting on you Ken Boshcoff, Dom Pasqualino, Brian Hamilton, Trevor Giertuga, Albert Aiello, Shelby Ch'ng, Kristen Oliver, Mark Bentz, Rajni Agarwal, Kasey Taylor Etroni, Andrew Foulds, Michael Zussino, Greg Johnsen, Marcus Powlowski, Patty Hajdu.

*Robin Rickards,  
Thunder Bay*

# Evocative story nominated for Booker Prize

Treacle Walker by Alan Garner was shortlisted for the 2022 Booker Prize. This is another achievement for Garner, aged 88, who is remembered for classics such as *The Owl Service*.

Garner has the ability to build new worlds and populate them with weird and wonderful characters. His stories are charming but also make you feel somehow uncomfortable. They make you want to look over your shoulder while you are reading them, to check that someone, or something, has not crept into the



**John Pateman**  
BOOK BANTER

room while you are deep in its pages.

In this story an introspective young boy, Joseph Coppock, squints at the world with his lazy eye. Living alone in an old house, he reads comics, collects birds eggs and plays with his marbles.

When, one day, a rag and bone man called Treacle Walker appears, exchanging an empty jar of a cure-all medicine and a donkey stone for a pair of Joseph's pajamas and a lamb's shoulder blade, a mysterious friendship develops between them.

Treacle tells Joseph to wet the donkey stone and scrape it on the front door step so that only those who are bidden may enter. When Joseph smears the contents of the empty jar on his face his sight defect is not only cured; he can also see differently.

When he goes hunting for a cuckoo on the marsh, to add its egg to his collection, he awakens Thin Amren from his slumber in the bog.

And when he reads his favourite comic the characters come alive, step out of the page into his room, and disappear through a mirror.

Treacle Walker plays the shoulder blade like a pied piper and asks Joseph permission to enter the

house. They sit by the fireplace and are visited by a reflection of Joseph who has passed through the mirror with the aid of the donkey stone.

The comic characters are after Joe for his donkey stone and empty jar and the only way to stop them is to trap Thin Amren in the bog so that he goes back to sleep.

This fusion of myth, magic and the stories we make for ourselves took me back to my childhood in London. On Sunday mornings the rag and bone man would come calling on his horse and cart: 'Any old lumber'. Children would take him old clothing which he would exchange for a goldfish in a plastic bag of water.

My grandfather was a rag and bone man. This was a traditional occupation of Romany Gypsies, the Indigenous people of England.

Another childhood memory was watching the Owl Service on children's TV. This was broadcast by the BBC as part of its popular Sunday tea time series. The Owl Service was mildly unsettling when watched on a dark winter's night with the wind outside blowing through the trees.

Garner's story writing is cryptic, evocative, sparsely told and deceptively simple. Like many myths, legends and fairy tales it can be read at numerous levels. This is a small miracle.

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# Four-letter words being banned

By JR Shermack

What could be more wholesome than a friendly game of Scrabble between two to four players aged 8 plus trying to increase their word power?

Well, it seems like those 100 wooden tiles, including two blanks, have been hiding a horrible secret among the 225 board spaces, including the double and triple scores.

Players are asked to follow changes in the official word list and use more discretion when placing words on the board to avoid rude and offensive language.

## Bad language

Four letter words and other insults are often heard and read although they have appropriately become the bad boys of conversation, creating shock and outrage when used openly.

For a while these objectionable words had a safe haven and could be used with relative impunity with wooden tiles strategically placed on

a Scrabble board.

Profanity was allowed in tournament play by the North American Scrabble Players Association (NASPA) until 2020, when member players were urged to watch their language.

That year NASPA announced it would be removing a large number of slurs and offensive words from the acceptable list for tournament play.

This is a remarkable development in a game that has remained unchanged since its invention in 1931 by Alfred Mosher Butts, an unemployed architect from Poughkeepsie, New York.

Scrabble legend has it that Mr. Butts analyzed the front page of The New York Times to determine the number and distribution of letters for his board game.

He must have gotten it right because after three generations and billions of games played his reckoning has steadfastly remained in the rules and stood the test of time.

The popular word game was originally named Lexico and later Criss

Cross Words before it assumed its Scrabble identity and was trademarked in 1948.

Scrabble moved around and eventually ended up with Milton Bradley – now over 150 million have been sold worldwide and up to two million are still sold every year in North America.

The game is played in 121 countries in 31 languages, every hour 30,000 games of Scrabble are started somewhere - over a million tiles have been misplaced or lost over the years.

Check under the cushions on the sofa.

Just like the royal flush in poker and a twenty-nine hand in cribbage, Scrabble has its own milestone achievement for aspiring championship Scrabblers.

Believe it or not there is a way to score 1782 points for placing a single word on the board and that word is oxyphenbutazone.

It can be played across the top of the board covering three Triple Word Scores by placing your seven letters among the ones already



Scrabble is becoming more family-friendly.

played while making seven other words down.

Incidentally, oxyphenbutazone is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug in case anybody asks when you

play it – it has never been played but it remains an acceptable word.

Scrabble players already have enough words to think about without the need for profanity, slurs and potty humor.

## Not high scoring

Besides, four letter words don't count for much – it's the two letter words that win games, the short, sneaky, high-scoring words like qi, xi, xu, za and jo

As for me, I have enjoyed Scrabble for years without controversy or rude, insensitive play being a problem although who really knows what may be inferred or implied.

The decision to ban words has ignited furious debate among some players.

The decision whether to slur or not to slur remains with each individual, where it has always been, whether played on the Scrabble board, displayed in print or spoken in conversation.

I have nothing more to say on the subject because just now, I drew a blank.

what's happening  
in and around...

## The Bay

To submit an event, email [ldunick@dougallmedia.com](mailto:ldunick@dougallmedia.com).  
Please include details about the event, including any cost

### December 8-10

#### James and the Giant Peach Jr.

A delightfully offbeat adaptation of the classic Roald Dahl adventure, a boy and his insect friends take an amazing journey across the ocean.

When James is sent by his conniving aunts to chop down their old fruit tree, he discovers a magic potion that grows a tremendous peach, rolls into the ocean and launches a journey of enormous proportions. James befriends a collection of singing insects that ride the giant piece of fruit across the ocean, facing hunger, sharks and plenty of disagreements along the way.

Shows start at 7 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre. Tickets are available on Eventbrite, starting at \$16.83.

### December 10

#### Parade of Lights

The annual Parade of Lights is back and bigger and better than ever. The route begins on Main Street, by



The Parade of Lights will be held on Saturday.

Manitoulin Transport, and continues along Memorial Avenue. A sound-free zone will also be in place for those who are averse to noise.

More information is available on the Parade of Lights Facebook page. Donations will be accepted along the route, or online, to help four local charities.

The fun starts at 7 p.m.

### December 10

#### Hub Bazaar Christmas Party

Come out to the Hub Bazaar's Annual Christmas Party.

The Hub Bazaar is a small business retail space at 507 Victoria Ave East, with 12 full-time shops and eight pop-up vendors.

The Christmas party features a visit from Santa from 1:30-3:30pm, and live music by Equality Rocks Choir at 1 p.m.

### December 10/12

#### Annie Jr.

All the Daze Productions is putting on Annie Jr. at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.

The beloved story will come to life on Saturday and Monday at 7:30 p.m., based on the original Broadway production directed by Martin Charmin.

Tickets for each show are \$20 and they are available through the Ticketmaster website.

### 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.

Address them to: **THUNDER BAY SOURCE**  
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# Five reasons not to forget flu shot

Are you tired of hearing about COVID vaccines? I'm not, but I work in public health, so that's hardly surprising.

But I have some good news for anyone who doesn't want to talk about COVID-19 vaccines, shots, jabs. I'm here to talk about flu vaccines, shots, jabs, etc.

It's time to revisit the classic influenza vaccine. Every year a new flu vaccine appears, and every year only about 40% of Canadians 12 years and over get their flu shot. Or at least that's how many did in 2020-

21. There are many different reasons why people don't get immunized. For me, it was usually because I would forget to go every week until the flu season finally ended. However, this year I remembered, and I had five reasons for doing so:

**1:** I don't usually get that sick from the flu... and I want to keep it that

way.

I'm fairly healthy. I could eat more vegetables, but I don't have chronic illnesses and I'm relatively young.

It's not shocking my encounters with the flu haven't been very serious. As the Canadian Paediatric Society says, "Most healthy people recover from the flu without any serious problems."

Considering the more serious complications can include pneumonia, heart attacks, and death, I would like to boost those odds.

The flu vaccine, which is proven to reduce the number of doctor visits, hospitalizations, and deaths related to the flu, does that.

**2:** There are a lot of people I care about who *are* at higher risk from the flu.

Besides protecting myself, the flu vaccine also helps protect the people around me.

It's simple: if I'm less likely to get the flu, then I'm less likely to pass it on to others.

I'm surrounded by people who are at higher risk of serious complications from the flu than I am: my 71-year-old father, who is a cancer survivor. My nephew, who is just over a year old.

My co-worker who is expecting a baby. I decided to get my flu shot to reduce my risk of unintentionally making any of them sick.

**3:** The flu shot won't protect me from COVID-19, but it can help protect our health care system.

Our flu season has started earlier and we're seeing more cases than normal.

The health care system is struggling to keep pace, especially for the youngest patients.

With COVID-19 and RSV also circulating and our health care system stretched to capacity, the flu shot just made sense. If the vaccine stops me from getting the flu or getting seriously ill, that means more

health care resources for things like broken arms, sick kids, and people with bad COVID-19 infections.

**4:** The flu vaccine won't give me the flu.

The flu vaccines provided in Ontario this year are all inactivated vaccines. That means the virus proteins are dead.

Donezo. Deceased.

Dead virus proteins can't replicate, so they can't give me the flu. I was confident getting my shot knowing it couldn't make me sick - though it did give me a slightly sore arm.

Many people also briefly experience flu-like symptoms, such as chills and a headache, after getting vaccinated.

These are normal side effects, generally last about 24 hours, and they're a good sign your immune system is responding to the vaccine and building protective antibodies.

**5:** It was really easy to get vaccinated.

I have an advantage here; my job had a clinic right in the workplace.

However, even if you don't work with several nurses, it's still easy to get your flu shot.

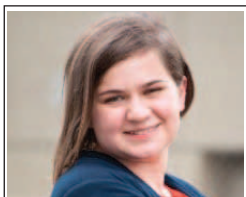
Many health care providers are prepared to give the flu vaccine to their patients, it is widely available at pharmacies, and public clinics are being organized across the area.

To further increase access to the flu vaccine, all TBDHU COVID vaccine clinics in Thunder Bay are now offering the flu vaccine to anyone six months and older on a walk-in basis.

If you need your COVID-19 booster as well, you can get both at the same time. Details about how and where to get vaccinated are shared on the TBDHU website.

My apologies for sneaking the COVID-19 vaccine back in there. I hope you can forgive me... and I hope that one or two of these reasons will help you make a date to get the flu shot this year.

Martha Hunter is a health promotion planner at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.



**Martha Hunter**  
Health Matters

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# Global Fat Bike Day reaches 10

As fat biking grew in popularity, enthusiasts around the world chatted online about having one special day where they would all get outside on their fat bikes and then share their unique experiences with each other on social media. The result was the first Global Fat Bike Day, which occurred on Dec. 2012.

Ever since, the first Saturday in December has been recognized as Global Fat Bike Day, and fat bike enthusiasts continue to meet up to ride, socialize and celebrate.

Global Fat Bike Day is especially popular in regions like ours, where winter weather and snow make riding these husky bikes an especially unique experience. Fat tire fun is not limited to the snow however, and last

weekend the social media channels were flooded with pictures of fat tire bikes riding everywhere and on everything, including sand, mud, ice and pavement.

In Thunder Bay, the Global Fat Bike Day started a decade ago as a grass roots event with a handful of us using it as an excuse to get together and have some fun on our bikes.

Soon after, the Blacksheep Mountain Bike Club and the Thunder Bay Cycling

Club started holding more organized and inclusive annual events. The turnout for these meet-ups always depends on the weather, but over the years we have had group rides in Trowbridge Forest, urban rides around the city, and one year we even



A rider enjoys Global Fat Bike Day in Alaska. (Rich Loftin)

rode out to the abandoned Flett Railway Tunnel northwest of Thunder Bay.

Last weekend, to celebrate Global Fat Bike Day, the Blacksheep hosted a get-together at the Centennial Park chalet where riders of all abilities were able to enjoy some riding, as

well as refreshments and prizes thanks to the sponsorship of Fresh Air, Rollin Thunder and 3Ride Bicycle Company.

Ben Urbanski, organizer of the event, says a big group braved the cold and did a tour of mixed single and double track trails. "It is great to

see the growing number of people fat biking, and the club is excited to announce it will be adding biweekly fat bike rides to its scheduling" said Urbanski.

Chris Jones, a local bike racer, fat biking enthusiast and participant in the ride said it was nice to see all the new people out for the event, noting that it was a different crowd from the usual crew of racers we see at Blacksheep events. Jones added that the conditions were challenging with fresh snow over the icy trails, so low tire pressures were the key to keeping the rubber side down.

While Global Fat Bike Day continues to be a great excuse to meet up with friends for a ride, the quality of the fat bike trails we have here in Thunder Bay is even better reason to get out and enjoy some time on the bike any day you can.



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# Good kitchen help is hard to find

The kitchen brigade is a very fickle thing. When it's constructed well it works like a well oiled machine.

Everyone's weaknesses are made insignificant by others' strengths. It very much is a living breathing organism. I worked with chefs where they were so integral to the team that if they had an off day, the whole team had an off day.

These types of situations are very rare, but they do happen.

I was extremely lucky for the first part of my career. I worked with a team filled with all stars (or soon to be all stars).

While apprenticing I had so much knowledge working with me that there was no reason to have a smart phone. I worked with 10 kitchen encyclopedias.

When I was younger I don't think I appreciated the knowledge and professionalism of these incredible

people appropriately. It was extremely foolish of me to assume every kitchen was like this. Filled with total studs who can put out 500-person meals like it's nothing. 20 years later, I can tell you with complete certainty I miss that level of service and teamwork.

Recently I've been tasked with replacing certain integral members of my own team. Unlike a kitchen brigade, in my business structure I also manage the front of house employees as well.

This has been taxing in the current employment landscape. With a small team, you need some people who can wear multiple hats.

This can be agitating in the "that's not my job" mentality you can sometimes encounter.

Despite all the challenges I have been extremely lucky finding people over the last four years.

My turnover rate is fairly low, definitely lower than most. Partially I'm told because I am in the trenches with my team daily. A little bit of turnover in a restaurant space is healthy. It freshens up the team and can keep people on their toes and especially a hard-working hungry staff member can snap some of your tenured staff from their complacency.

There is no easy way to hire a cook especially.

Anyone can sound good in an interview, but if they can be a productive member of the team is only something you find out via time and experience. Sometimes you

don't find out someone can't hack it till its too late, or they keep some of their personal struggles away from you till you're stuck with them. I've found over time that hiring for front of house can be much easier.

Typically, someone with half a personality can be charming enough to serve food. Doing hiring hands on is best for a chef. Larger operations will sometimes make the HR department do that with varied success. One phrase taught to me at a young age has rang true for 20+ years. "How can you find anyone with a personality if you have none yourself"

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**

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# Festive RIDE program under way

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

Driving under the influence is dangerous and potentially deadly.

Get caught and convicted and it's also costly and could include a night or two behind bars - more if someone is hurt or killed as a result.

It's why three police services from around the Thunder Bay region have joined forces for the 2022 Festive RIDE campaign, that will feature officers setting up in random spots, at random times, to check in with motorists and ensure they're not driving impaired by drink or drug.

According to Thunder Bay Police, impaired charges dropped from 299 in 2020 to 252 in 2021, and 173 charges have been laid in 2021, before the holiday season has begun. That's 48 fewer than prior to last year's Festive Ride launch.



Three local police services will be on the watch for impaired drivers over the holidays.

This counters what the Ontario Provincial Police have seen, where there's been a slight increase this year in Thunder Bay and a whopping increase throughout the Northwest Region, where it's grown from 577 charges laid last year to 815 so far this year, a 41.2 per cent increase.

"We're hoping that with an increased presence across the

region, we can limit those numbers and bring them down," said OPP Const. Marc Nielsen.

Traffic Sgt. Sal Carchidi of the Thunder Bay Police Service said officers will be out on the streets throughout the month of December - though reminded drivers police are also out there all year long.

"You're just going to see an elevated presence in December,

especially around the holidays. Impaired driving collisions, impaired arrests, nobody wants that for their families. It's a life-changing event to get arrested for impaired driving," Carchidi said, as officers from TBPS, OPP and Anishinabek Police Service stopped drivers along Balmoral Avenue to kick off the Festive Ride campaign.

"Your vehicle is impounded for seven days, your licence is suspended for 90 days and you don't want that to happen. We don't want to see any injuries on our local roadways."

The best advice Carchidi has for the public is to plan ahead.

Don't go to the bar with no way home and share the designated driving duties to ensure no one is tempted to grab their keys and put them in the ignition.

While he is concerned that a

program like Operation Red Nose, which used volunteers to drive people's vehicles home in return for a donation to St. John Ambulance, is not being held this year, he said there are plenty of other choices out there.

"It concerning in the sense that it's one less option for people to utilize, but as long as people continue to plan ahead, they still have a variety of options. There's still public transit, there's still the U-Ride or the ride-sharing apps, and there's still the designated driver program," Carchidi said.

"That's the fallback. That's all we had through the year. Plan a designated driver. It's that one day that you're not consuming alcohol. Have pop, have water. There are other alternatives to have that one person as your designated driver."

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# Devotion a low-flying war epic

*Devotion* (SilverCity) dramatizes the real-life heroism and interracial friendship between two US Navy aviators during the Korean conflict, based on Adam Motos' 2017 book. Disregard the trailer: this is not *Maverick: Korean War Years*.

The movie is a well-intentioned but soft-boiled effort in recounting how Ensign Jesse Brown (Jonathan Majors) overcomes racism to become the first Black aviator to complete U.S. Navy training, a distinction that results in Brown getting on the cover of *Life* magazine. Reserved Brown chafes at being the token 'poster boy' for the Navy.

The other aspect focuses on the

friendship that develops between Brown and his white 'wingman,' Lt. Tom Hudner played by Glen Powell who's also the movie's executive producer, and was also one of the swaggering hotshots in "Top Gun: Maverick."

Here, Powell's Hudner exudes genial, All-American confidence, minus the annoying cockiness.

However, the script by Jake Crane and Jonathan A. H. Stewart is scattered, unfocused, and superficial. The film has Brown recalling the ugly racism he encountered rather than actually showing what he endured, softening the impact of his torment.

Even though we see Brown as a loving husband and father, a brave,

able pilot, and an articulate letter-writer the script still shortchanges what makes him tick, despite Majors' charismatic efforts.

Racism within the ranks is confined to just one representative lunkhead Marine in rather tame, sanitized bouts of mockery and fisticuffs. Later, while pinned down in his foxhole, the Marine looks up to incredibly recognize Jesse soaring overhead, coming to the rescue. A trite stretch.

Tragedy befalls one of Brown's comrades in a predictable, sadly unafflicting manner. Brown's wise-cracking buddies are largely indistinguishable. Their commanding officer spouts hokey clichés.

An episode in a Cannes casino

courtesy of Brown's chance encounter with a young Elizabeth Taylor (Serinda Swan), enables bonding and highlights Brown's worldliness but at the expense of advancing the plot.

Requisite friction arises between the two after a heroic bombing run by Brown defies Hudner's orders. But the under-written conflict fizzles.

*Devotion* is more sure-footed on two fronts. The few battle engagements--when the movie finally gets to them--are realistic, with buzzing strafing bullets and anti-aircraft fire pounding around the pilots' creaky aircraft. The CGI aerial sequences are effective.

The other sequence involves one

of our heroes forced to ground his disabled plane in enemy territory. The other follows suit--impressively staged--trying to rescue his friend. This is heartbreakingly tragic thanks to the brotherly conviction exuded by Majors and Powell.

But the resonance of this incident is undercut by the epilogue where President Truman honours both men, bestowing medals posthumously on one, in a speech we don't get to hear!

Even a select excerpt would have helped to frame their exploits, their service to their country, their loyalty. This is one of several questionable choices by director JD Dillard (TV's "Utopia").

Photos in the closing credits generate credibility and gravitas *Devotion* unfortunately lacks.



**Marty Mascarini**  
MOVIE TALK



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# Staal puts points up, ties Smith

One of my favourite things to do during the National Hockey League season is to track Eric Staal's climb up the all-time scoring chart.

Until this past weekend, the veteran Florida Panthers forward hadn't had any movement at all in what could be his final season in the league.

But Staal, now 38, picked up assists in back-to-back games on Friday and Saturday night, moving him into a tie for 77th place with Bobby Smith at 1,036 points.

Growing up, Smith was my favourite player in the pre Paul Coffey Oilers days. He was a native Nova Scotian who went first overall, long before the world knew anything about guys named Crosby and MacKinnon.

I once wrote him a letter and he sent back an autographed picture and a note, saying he had an aunt who lived in Clayton Park (yes, the inspiration for the Thrush Hermit album). Turns out his aunt was my junior high math teacher.

Next up for Staal is recent hall-of-fame inductee Daniel Sedin, at 1,041.

□□□

I have to say I was impressed with Canada's performance at the World Cup. Sure, they didn't win a game, and yeah, their defence wasn't

anything to write home about, but they played well against Belgium in their opener and even had a brief lead against Croatia when Alphonso Davies made history, scoring the country's first World Cup goal. Can't wait for 2026.

□□□

Just heard Molly Carlson, of Red Bull Diving fame, may be in Thunder Bay next weekend for a diving demonstration for young local divers at the Canada Games Complex, her old stomping grounds.

Now 24, she finished second at the 2022 Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series and has 3.5 million followers on Tik Tok.

When I first interviewed her, when she was six, we joked about the Olympics. Cliff diving wasn't even a real thing at that time. Now she's a superstar.

□□□

If there was a Thunder Bay athlete of the week, I'd be hard-pressed not to give this week's honour to anyone other than Spencer Blackwell.

The Lakehead Thunderwolves forward scored a hat trick on Friday night to lead LU to a 6-3 win over Western, and then followed up on Saturday with the overtime winner.

The Thunderwolves finished the first half of the season at 8-5-2, tied for fifth in the OUA West.

The offence is where it needs to be, but to take the next step, the team's defence needs a slight improvement to be considered in the elite camp. It's good, just not great yet.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Lancers topple No. 8 Thunderwolves 99-83

The Windsor Lancers have only lost to Carleton and Ottawa this season, and on Saturday, the Lakehead Thunderwolves weren't able to add their name to that exclusive club.

The unranked Lancers opened a 12-point halftime lead at home and cruised to a 99-83 win over the team from Thunder Bay, improving to 7-2 on the season.

Lakehead, who got 18 points from Michael Okafor and 15 from Laoui

Msambya, fell to 7-3. Thomas Kennedy put up 29 points for Windsor, also grabbing 17 rebounds.

Xavier Ochu added 21 points for Windsor.

Lakehead doesn't return to OUA action until Jan. 13, when they host Toronto at the CJ Sanders Fieldhouse.

### Walleye win in SO

It took five rounds of a shootout, but

Ryan Doucette and the Kam River Fighting Walleye finally prevailed.

Doucette beat Keenan Marks after the Thunder Bay North Stars goaltender had stopped Max Leduc, Jeremy Dunmore, Jack Cook and Euan Morrison in earlier rounds.

Eric Vanska was perfect on all five shots he faced in the shootout, denying Jamie Fuchs, Nolan Desjardins, Edison Weeks, Dimitri Trahiotis and Jake Parker.



**Leith Dunick**  
SPORTS SHORTS

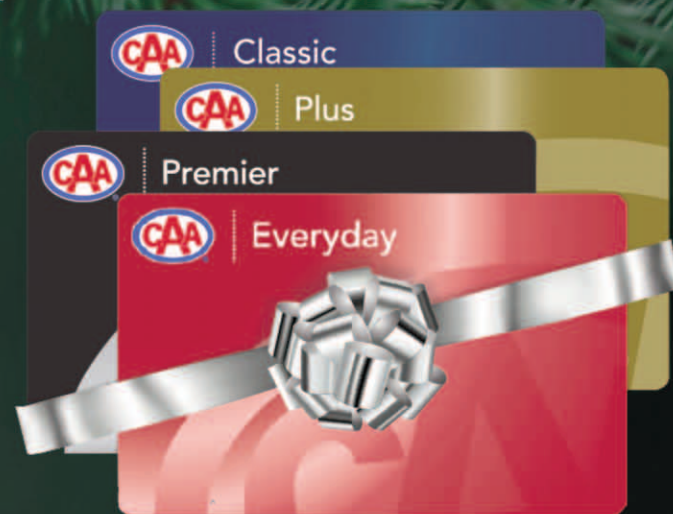


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# Vikings tame host in Tiger Tip-Off

By Leith Dunick - TB Source

The Hammarskjold Vikings are Tiger Tip-Off champions.

Carter Pare had a game-high 22 points last Friday evening and keyed the Vikings third-quarter charge that allowed them to pull away for good after the host Westgate Tigers opened the second half with three straight steals that led to three straight baskets, cutting Hammarskjold's lead to just two points.

Pare had nine of 11 points as the Vikings went on an 11-2 run to close out the period, giving Hammarskjold a 49-35 cushion entering the fourth and said the 59-48 win in the Tiger-Tip off's senior boys championship was a great way to get set to start SSSAA regular-season play next week.

"It's a good feeling. We worked hard and pushed the break. It was a good win. It feels good," Pare said. "We just got it inside, played hard, played good defence and pushed the break."



Led by Carter Pare's 22 points, the Hammarskjold Vikings downed Westgate 59-48.

Teammate Luke Foulds, a force on the boards at both ends of the Westgate gymnasium, put up 14 points and said the win only happened because the Vikings came together as a team and didn't let the

pressure get to them after the break.

"And we got carried by CP3 (Pare) over there. We managed to get into the final and we all turned up," he said.

"They've got some good players,

but we just slowed it down and did what we do best in the paint, like driving to the net. (This win) gives us massive confidence. The next step is beating Iggy."

St. Ignatius, the behemoth in the SSSAA league, winning every senior title since 2015, sat out the Tiger Tip-Off.

It was a chance for both Hammarskjold, who last won a title in 2007, and Westgate, who last lifted the trophy in 2009, to shake off any rust and hit the ground running when the games start to count on Monday.

Vikings coach Ryan Sutherland said winning leads to more winning. Facing adversity also helps build character.

"That was a tough, physical game. Both teams played really well. For our guys to recover from some moments of panicked play, we gained a little more composure by the end and it's a good learning experience for them. We're playing some guys that didn't receive a whole lot of playing time last year,

so we're going through a good learning curve," Sutherland said.

The Vikings leapt out to a 16-8 lead after one, and led by as many as 16 in the second, Pare hitting a pair of free throws three minutes into the period to make it 28-12.

There was no quit in the Tigers, who closed the gap to eight by halftime, Gabe Van Reenan hitting a three-pointer at the buzzer to make it 32-24.

Thomas Baker opened the third with a steal and a bucket, and seconds later Connor Psikla benefited from another Westgate steal, the hoop making it 32-28. The Tigers weren't done and Baker forced yet another turnover, feeding Psikla for a third straight Westgate bucket.

It's as close as the home team would get. Psikla hit a three-pointer in the fourth that cut the Vikings lead from 11 to eight, but Forrester Yaschuk dashed all hopes of a comeback bid, hitting from distance to make it 58-46.

St. Ignatius captured the junior title, downing Westgate 67-43.

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# Hackner retiring

By Leith Dunick - TB Source  
The Iceman is calling it a career.

Al Hackner, a two-time Brier and two-time world curling champion, on Tuesday used the send-off party ahead of his 19th trip to a national competition — the 2022 Canadian Senior's Curling Championship in Yarmouth, N.S. — to announced he's stepping away from competitive curling at the highest level.

The 68-year-old, whose famous, near-impossible, 10th-end double takeout against Pat Ryan in the 1985 Brier final helped Hackner capture his second Canadian title, said it's time to walk away, while he still can.

"It was a little bit of everything," Hackner said. "I know my wife and I want to travel a bit more, so that's part of it. The other thing is my knees have been giving me a really hard time the last couple of years and I've really got to work hard to get my slide down. It's a lot of pain and anguish and if I keep playing, it's not going to get any better."

"I also felt to go out somewhat on top was the way I wanted to go. This will be my 19th national and I think that's a nice round number."

Coming off a recent win at the Canadian Masters Curling Championship in Winnipeg, Hackner will go down as one of the greatest to ever play the sport, the unquestioned skip on the Northern Ontario men's Mount Rushmore of Curling.

Born in Nipigon, where he got his start in the sport, it wasn't until he moved to Thunder Bay that he began his rise, teaming with Rick Lang, Bob Nichol and Bruce Kennedy to reach the Brier final in 1980 and 1981, losing to Rick Folk and Kerry Burtnyk before winning it all for the first time, triumphing over B.C.'s Brent Giles in the 1982 finale.

Moving to the big city was the key, he said.

"That's when I realized I had some



Al Hackner has played in 19 national curling championships in a career spanning five decades.

level of skill and talent here, because I was playing against the top men when I was 18 and holding my own. The rest of the curling career just happened. Everything we did — the first Brier, the first world championship — was all a pleasant surprise," Hackner said.

"We weren't ever saying we were going to win. We all went, 'We won? That's pretty cool.' And then from there, once you reach that level and as I went on in my time, playing seniors and playing masters was just a natural evolution into competition."

Wherever he goes, people still ask him about the Al Hackner Double, made famous 39 years ago at the Moncton Curling Club.

He'll talk about it, but doesn't let the shot define him.

"Obviously that shot got us to a world championship and I'm grateful for that, but my memory of what I've done is the

whole package, the fact that I'm 68 and I'm still competing and still throwing it pretty good is something I'm very proud of and hopefully with one more event to go, we can keep it up."

Lang, who curled with Hackner at seven national championships, including the two Brier and world championship wins, said it's amazing to see him curl so well for so long.

"He's been a legend for over 40 years. There's not many sports you can say that about. For him to stay playing so well and to be so competitive 40 years after we first started is amazing," Lang said. "He loves the game and he's been great for the game and been great for Thunder Bay curling. I wish him all the best as this comes to an end."

Tracey Larocque, who curls out of Fort William Curling Club, will represent Northern Ontario on the women's side in Yarmouth.

## ENIGMA™ CRYPTOGRAM

Enigma cryptograms are created from quotations and proverbs from around the world. Each letter stands for another letter. Hint: "B" = "I"

"BW SMP AYQL AMOLS SMPE DMV, BR  
IBHH FHYDPL SMP HBQL RZL VLCBH."

— ZLOES WBLHVBOD

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9		3		4				

### ACROSS

- 1 Wan
- 5 All points bulletin (abbr.)
- 8 Tablespoon (abbr.)
- 12 Sioux tribe
- 13 Federal Aviation Admin. (abbr.)
- 14 Russ. inland sea
- 15 Gnat (2 words)
- 17 Jupiter
- 18 Hoodwinked
- 19 "Silas Marner" author
- 21 Uncouth person
- 22 Fr. month
- 23 Sea lettuce
- 25 Loyal
- 29 Jap. sword
- 32 Lofty
- 33 Price
- 35 Rawboned
- 36 One of the Harpies
- 38 Fr. salt tax
- 40 Iranian of central Asia
- 42 Buddhist column
- 43 S. Afr. hill
- 45 Salacious
- 47 Internat'l Red Cross (abbr.)
- 50 Spartan king
- 52 Harem
- 54 Slimy stuff
- 55 Hindu title
- 56 Television channel
- 57 Buddhist sacred mountain
- 58 Eur. Economic Community (abbr.)
- 59 Shak contraction

### DOWN

- 1 Bosh
- 2 Hindu soul
- 3 Cargo

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ROTC EMI A FRB  
ECRU VIAL LII  
SHIP ETNA AMC  
CORNU ROGUE  
STYLET LIB  
OSCAN LUCIFER  
AAL FED OTO  
PRELATE STRAD  
ANC BEETLE  
TARSI LASER  
MAA MOAB HELP  
ERG URGE ESAU  
NEA STOL ESCA

- 4 Conger
- 5 Pain
- 6 Vedic dialect
- 7 Body of water
- 8 Mahal
- 9 Upholstery fabric
- 10 Latite
- 11 Rosebud, e.g.
- 16 Cant
- 20 Tender loving care (abbr.)
- 22 Islamic teacher
- 24 Man's servant
- 25 As written in music
- 26 To (Scott.)
- 27 Pimento
- 28 Witch
- 30 Mulberry of India
- 31 Compass direction
- 34 Sword or bugle belt
- 37 Eye
- 39 Weaverbird
- 41 Cup (Fr.)
- 43 Jap. palanquin
- 44 Irish writing
- 46 Pronoun contraction
- 47 "Casablanca" character
- 48 Fit
- 49 Connecticut (abbr.)
- 51 Schuss
- 53 Obtain

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All Persons having claims against the Estate of SHIRLEY ANN DELIN, late of Thunder Bay, ON, deceased, who died on or about November 3, 2022, are hereby notified to send particulars of the same to the undersigned on or before December 22, 2022, after which date the estate will be distributed, with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice and the undersigned will not then be liable to any person of whose claims they shall not then have notice, claims they shall not then have notice.

Dated at Thunder Bay, Ontario on the 24th day of November, 2022.

**KATHLEEN JOSEPHSON**  
 ESTATE TRUSTEE  
 c/o ERICKSONS LLP  
 ATTN: RYAN VENN

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