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LEADING BY EXAMPLE: Sean Bolton, a personal support worker, rolled up his sleeve to receive the first Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in the city of Thunder Bay.

LANDFILL CHRISTMAS HOURS

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20	CLOSED
MONDAY, DECEMBER 21	8 AM – 6:30 PM
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22	8 AM – 6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23	8 AM – 6:30 PM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24	8 AM – 4:30 PM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25	CLOSED
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26	CLOSED
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27	CLOSED
MONDAY, DECEMBER 28	8 AM – 6:30 PM
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29	8 AM – 6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30	8 AM – 6:30 PM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31	8 AM – 4:30 PM
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1	CLOSED
SATURDAY, JANUARY 2	8 AM – 4:30 PM



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LOCAL NEWS



LOCKED DOWN: Premier Doug Ford announced the lockdown on Monday.

Province-wide lockdown coming

All of Ontario will enter a lockdown on Dec. 26 and will be in effect for two weeks in northern parts of the province

ONTARIO

By Doug Diaczuk - TB Source

With new COVID-19 modeling showing the province could see as many as 5,000 new positive cases per day in January, the province is taking sweeping actions to try to slow the spread of the virus.

As of 12:01 a.m. on Dec. 26, the entire province of Ontario will be put into lockdown.

“This is necessary to save lives and prevent our hospitals from becoming overrun in the coming weeks,” Premier Doug Ford said during a media briefing on Monday. “If we fail to take action now the consequences could be dire.”

The lockdown will be in effect in Northern Ontario for 14 days and 28 days in Southern Ontario.

Ontario has reported more than 2,000 cases of COVID-19 per day for the past week. According to Ford, there has been a 70 per cent increase in hospitalizations and an 80 per cent increase in ICU admissions in the past few weeks.

“Above all, we need to preserve capacity in our ICUs and hospitals,” he said. “But because of increased cases of COVID-19 filling up our hospitals, we are on the verge of cancelling more surgeries. And we already have thousands of backlogged surgeries.”

The lockdown will see restrictions on indoor public and social gatherings, prohibiting in-person shopping in most retail settings, though essential services like grocery stores and pharmacies will remain open with limits on capacity.

Retail stores will also be permitted to provide curbside pickup. Indoor and

outdoor dining is also prohibited and restaurant and food services can offer takeout and delivery only.

Students will also see some changes when they return from winter break. All publicly funded and private elementary and secondary schools are to move to teacher-led remote learning when students return from the winter break on Jan. 4. During the period between Jan. 4 and 8, after school programs will be closed and emergency child care for health care and frontline workers will be provided.

“This is necessary to save lives and prevent our hospitals from becoming overrun.”
DOUG FORD

Elementary and secondary students in northern parts of the province, including Thunder Bay, can return to in-person learning on Jan. 11.

“Asking students and staff to stay home a little longer will help control the spread,” Ford said.

Ford is also asking all Ontarians to avoid travel, including inter-provincial travel.

“The risk of inter-provincial travel is a real concern,” he said. “People are moving from region to

region and bringing COVID with them. Province wide action is needed.”

People are being asked to stay home as much as possible and only leave for essential reasons.

And while the COVID-19 vaccine has started to roll out in parts of the country, including Ontario, Ford warned that while there is light at the end of the tunnel, the province is still a long way away from mass immunizations.

“Due to limits and supply, it will be months before we have mass immunization,” he said. “In the meantime, we need to do everything to protect our hospitals and our most vulnerable.”

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LOCAL NEWS



HELP ARRIVES: Jackie Park, Manager of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre's COVID-19 Assessment Centre prepares the vaccine.

First COVID-19 shot

A long-term care worker received the first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine

THUNDER BAY
By Doug Dlaczuk - TB Source

Sean Bolton, a personal support worker with St. Joseph's Care Group, was more than willing to roll up his sleeve and become the first person in the city of Thunder Bay to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

"Being a PSW for as long as I have I feel like I should lead by example and I always have," he said. "To be the first one to get it was actually a great honour and pride and to show everyone else that it will be good and fine and hopefully we'll be able to get over this hump."

The Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre received its first shipment of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine on Monday and began immunizations for long-term care workers Tuesday morning.

The hospital was among several additional sites to receive 90,000 doses of the vaccine, but due to security reasons, the exact amount sent to Thunder Bay cannot be disclosed.

The province's COVID-19 vaccine task-force has determined front-line long-term care workers will be the top priority to receive the vaccine first.

"This is why we are moving forward with long-term care frontline staff first," said Rhonda Crocker Ellacott, president and CEO of the TBRHSC. "It's to support the most vulnerable within our population and we've certainly seen that the long-term care residents are very vulnerable."

Several long-term care homes in the city have reported outbreaks of COVID-19, with Southbridge Roseview Manor seeing more than 70 cases and 14 resident deaths.

"The priority is homes that are not in outbreak," Crocker Ellacott said. "The concern is if you start to vaccinate staff in homes with an outbreak, you may have more issues with staffing for a very short period while you vaccinate."

Tracy Buckler, president and CEO with St. Joseph's Care Group, which oversees Hogarth Riverview Manor and Bethammi Nursing Home, said the

vaccine will be voluntary for all front-line staff.

"We are starting off slowly because it's the prudent thing to do," she said. "We need to work very collaboratively to establish a process to make sure people are coming in and coming back after the 21 days. It really is our hope that the majority of our staff choose to be vaccinated."

"Being able to protect those residents and our staff and their families, the resident's families is very important. It's a very exciting day."

The Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre will also be vaccinating health care workers who will be administering the vaccine in remote First Nation communities.

"Being a PSW for as long as I have and I feel like I should lead by example and I always have."

SEAN BOLTON

"We don't have the direct knowledge of the northern remote strategy," Crocker Ellacott said. "We are working with the provincial and federal government on the strategy. What we know is our hospital will have a role to vaccinate the workers who will deliver the vaccines to remote communities."

Hospital staff are not being vaccinated with this first shipment, as the priority remains long-term care workers, and while there is no delivery date for any more shipments of the Pfizer vaccine, Crocker Ellacott said there will be more vaccines coming to the region during phase two of the roll out.







"The anticipation is the Moderna vaccine will become available in the near future and it is likely that vaccine will be the one that travels to remote northern communities," she said.

And while the vaccine is voluntary, Bolton said he hopes other front-line workers in long-term care will follow his example.

"Trust science. They have some of the best minds in the world working on this. Don't listen to social media. There's so much negativity. Have faith in science and get the shot," he said.

"I think it's an important step in the right direction to get past COVID. The health of the residents is vitally important, as well as my co-workers. All it takes is one person. We want to put a stop to this and hopefully, we don't get any more outbreaks."

Weather Forecast

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 <p>Scattered flurries Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH -3 LOW -9</p>	 <p>A mix of sun and clouds Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH -1 LOW -6</p>	 <p>Scattered flurries Probability of Precipitation: 60% HIGH 0 LOW -8</p>
SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
 <p>Mainly sunny Probability of Precipitation: 20% HIGH -6 LOW -8</p>	 <p>Cloudy with sunny breaks Probability of Precipitation: 30% HIGH -1 LOW -3</p>	 <p>Scattered flurries Probability of Precipitation: 40% HIGH 1 LOW -7</p>

DOUG DLACZUK



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LOCAL NEWS

Firefighters raise alarm over changes

Staffing reductions planned through attrition will negatively impact public safety, the union representing the city's firefighters warns

THUNDER BAY

By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

The union representing Thunder Bay firefighters is raising serious concerns about the city's plan to find savings at the department, warning the proposed elimination of nine positions through attrition will endanger the public and firefighters.

Thunder Bay Professional Firefighters Association president Dennis Brescacin outlined the union's objections to city council Monday night.

The union buttressed its concerns with a more than 100 page report, including a GIS analysis it said showed a new master fire plan would reduce response capabilities.

The presentation ended without any questions or comments from councillors.

A plan presented by newly appointed



KEEP STAFF: The Professional Firefighters Association does not want city to eliminate staff.

fire chief Greg Hankkio last week would offer an estimated \$1 million in annual savings, by eliminating the dedicated "entry control and accountability"

position at Thunder Bay Fire Rescue.

"What we're presenting to you tonight is some long-term savings without a reduction in the level of service," he

told councillors on Dec. 14.

Hankkio expects a responding firefighter or pumper driver could take on those duties without impacting safety, since the change would be accompanied by increased deployment to possible structure fires.

"We are going to increase our deployment to a possible structural fire where we will send an additional apparatus," he has said. "We will have three more firefighters on a scene much quicker than we do now."

The firefighters association categorically rejects that assertion, saying the increased response will only draw down resources elsewhere in the department's coverage area.

"As soon as you do that, you're taking another pumper from another area, and you're leaving that area unprotected, so you are reducing the level of service, especially if another call comes in,"

Brescacin told TbnnewsWatch Monday.

The union also raised concerns about potential changes to the number and location of fire stations, saying all three options suggested by consultants would decrease the department's response capability.

Those changes aren't expected to be seriously considered by the city until 2022, with administration set to report back with a comprehensive recommendation on fire station location in the second quarter of that year.

Asked about the lack of questions from councillors following his 10-minute deputation Monday, Brescacin expressed surprise at the apparent lack of interest in the union's concerns.

"I thought at least some of the councillors would ask questions," he said. "I know we would've wanted to say a lot more, but we didn't have enough time."

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LOCAL NEWS

More COVID-19 outbreaks declared

COVID-19 outbreaks have been declared at two more long-term care homes and the Matawa Education and Care Centre

THUNDER BAY
By TB Source Staff

A COVID-19 outbreak has been declared at the Pioneer Ridge long-term care home, the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and the City of Thunder Bay, which owns the facility, announced last Saturday.

The outbreak has been declared in Area 2 of the Tungsten Street facility, after a staff member associated with that unit tested positive last Friday.

Provincial guidelines require an outbreak be declared at long-term care homes when one staff member or resident tests positive.

"This low threshold for declaring an outbreak ensures that outbreak management measures, including increased infection prevention and control practices, can be put in place



OUTBREAK DECLARED: Matawa Education and Care Centre principal Brad Battiston on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020 stands in a socially distanced classroom at the Thunder Bay school.

LEITH DUNICK

swiftly to contain any further spread," the health unit stated. "At this time, there is no evidence that any spread of the virus has occurred at the facility."

The health unit will be working with Pioneer Ridge to implement enhanced surveillance and testing measures, as well as on-site inspections.

Surveillance testing of residents and staff began Friday, and is ongoing, a representative for the health unit said.

There are now three Thunder Bay long-term care homes reporting an outbreak, including Southbridge Roseview, and Southbridge Pinewood.

A second staff member at the Southbridge Pinewood long-term care home has also tested positive for COVID-19.

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit announced Friday an outbreak had been declared at the facility, after a single staff member tested positive.

Surveillance testing at the home had begun Friday, the health unit said, though it could not immediately confirm when initial testing of all residents and staff was expected to be complete.

It's the second local care home

operated by the company to experience an outbreak, as another at the Southbridge Roseview drags into its second month, claiming a 13th life Sunday.

A COVID-19 outbreak has also been declared at Matawa Education and Care Centre after at least six people tested positive.

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit said it's believed the infection was likely acquired in the facility, the former city-owned Grandview Lodge.

The health unit says it continues to maintain a heightened level of vigilance to identify and support anyone who might have the virus, which will continue until the risk period is over.

Actions were already underway at the centre to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

United Way
Thunder Bay

RECOVER 2020

COVID-19 has put Thunder Bay in crisis conditions. Community service providers are struggling to deliver help to those in need with less staff, volunteers and funds. The United Way of Thunder Bay **RECOVER 2020** campaign is about helping those who need it most.

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Editorial

EDITORIAL

A year like no other

The year 2020 has been a roller coaster for just about every one of us.

A year that started with much promise quickly fell to pieces when COVID-19 struck.

While many of us carried on through the lockdowns and made the best of a new world, working from home, ordering groceries on line and making due without travel or seeing friends and family, many more of us had no choice but to face the virus head on.

From doctors, nurses and other hospital workers who were at Ground Zero, to teachers and education workers who kept our students on track in the classroom, to bus and taxi drivers, hair stylists and retail employees who simply did their jobs, we can't thank you enough.

It's been a tough year, and it would have been even tougher without your willingness to face the fire, to risk your own health to ensure our lives could continue as normal an existence as one could expect in 2020.

Thanks too to our politicians, especially Health Minister Patty Hajdu, who did her best to keep us informed about the big picture, and to the health unit's Dr. Janet DeMille and Thunder Bay Regional's Dr. Stewart Kennedy, who spent more time in front of a microphone this year than the rest of their entire careers combined. We couldn't have done this without any of you.

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Good COVID news needed

To the editor:

Every year, during the winter months at least one of the long-term care homes is locked down for two weeks due to a flu outbreak.

We are being told now that COVID-19 is a concern at long term care facilities.

How do we know definitively that it's NOT the seasonal flu?

Certainly, pre-COVID, we were able to determine without a test that flu was present and spreading in many of our long term care facilities.

What criteria or evidence are we using to differentiate between a seasonal flu or COVID-19 diagnosis?

These are issues that many of us are discussing and seeking answers.

As well, after nine months of COVID restrictions and sacrifices our citizens are deserving of headlines that empower and comfort rather than traumatize us.

Let us not forget the people that have recovered from COVID, hundreds to date. Surely this fact is deserving of equal coverage and attention.

Some good news would be fitting for the season we are in now and I know we could find plenty. Let's try.

Linda Carol,
Thunder Bay

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Novemburger raises \$18.2K

Beefcake's Burger Factory takes title as top fundraiser

THUNDER BAY
By Leith Dunick -TB Source

The second-annual Novemburger campaign was a lip-smacking success for the United Way of Thunder Bay.

The event, which saw participating restaurants cook up a specialty burger of their own and donate a portion of their proceeds to the cause, raised a total of \$18,267 for the United Way, much needed money in a campaign feeling the effects of COVID-19.

Leading the way was Beefcake's Burger Factory, quickly becoming an iconic eatery in Current River, which sold 637 Novemburgers.

Yummy offering

Owner Derek Lankinen and his staff came up with a two-patty offering that featured maple smoked aged cheddar, house-made pineapple zucchini relish, tomato, prosciutto chips and onion chutney with pineapple habanero Heartbeat Hot Sauce.

They sold a total of 637 over the course of last month, resulting in \$1,274



TASTY: Beefcake's Burger Factory created this specialty burger for the United Way.

in donations to the United Way.

"The Beefcake's team is grateful to be a part of the food community in Thunder Bay and appreciates how the city has rallied around locally-owned restaurants in 2020. Events like Novemburger, helps to stir up creativity in the culinary scene, raises much-needed funding, and brings about some friendly competition, which we all love," Lankinen said in a release.

"The United Way of Thunder Bay made it as easy as possible so several restaurants could get involved and we are very happy that so many people enjoyed Beefcake's take on the 2020 Novemburger."

Other participants included Apple Chipotle's, Bight Restaurant and Bar, Bonobos, Daytona's, Java Hut, Mario's Bowl, Neebing Roadhouse, Prospector

Burger Barn, Red Lion Smokehouse, The Eddy, The Foundry, The Sal and The Silver Birch.

"The 2020 Novemburger event generated some sizzling competition, delicious burgers and an amazing funding contribution to United Way of Thunder Bay," said Erika Mikkola, United Way of Thunder Bay's special events co-ordinator.

"United Way of Thunder Bay would like to thank all participating restaurants and the community for making this challenge an absolute success and supporting our local eateries. A special shout out also goes out to the 2020 Novemburger ambassadors who helped us raise awareness and took us for virtual taste tests as they tried all of the burgers."

Much needed

Kelly Gallagher, United Way of Thunder Bay board president, said the money couldn't come at a better time.

"United Way of Thunder Bay understands the on-going effects of the pandemic, and that they will remain long after immediate needs are met. By supporting the recovery process, you are helping critical efforts to get Thunder Bay back on its feet. Thunder Bay cannot do this alone; we have to recover together as a community," Gallagher said.

Perspective

Message for Santa

A letter to Santa during a very different holiday season

OPINION

By J.R. Shermack
Special to TB Source

It has been a long time since I wrote a letter to Santa but I've been thinking about getting in touch again this year.

I don't have any gift requests and I'm not trying to influence the naughty/nice list in my favor – I just want to make sure everything is okay up at the North Pole.

Because one way or another this will be a Christmas to remember and Santa is under a lot of pressure to create some fond memories for us all to share next year.

There is a lot of myth, mystery and magic surrounding Santa's epic journey on Christmas Eve but just like the rest of us, right now he needs love and support.

Many families expect him to be flying in his big red sleigh as usual and some consider this devotion to duty an essential service that Santa must deliver.

The thing is, this year he might not be able to land anywhere except on the roof of his own immediate household.

He might just decide to take the night off this year and hunker down with Mrs. Claus until the conditions improve – it will take more than Rudolph to guide him through the fog this year.

And besides, now is not a good time for anyone to pop in on

millions of households around the world, regardless of who has been naughty or nice.

Why do we expect Santa to do it?

But all the magical mystery notwithstanding, this year will be a challenging one for Santa and Christmas will be something completely different for many Canadian families.

I don't think we should burden Santa with requests for gifts in our stockings, especially if he is setting a good example by staying home at the North Pole.

Besides, everybody's wish list is the same this year as we look forward, hopefully, to better times in the months ahead.

We wish for continued good health for loved ones and we hope for widespread acceptance of the public health measures that keep everyone safe.

We wish for a smooth and rapid rollout of the vaccine all around the world and the patience to wait and act responsibly until everyone is protected.

And let's wish for something special in the Christmas stockings of all the health care workers, scientists and other compassionate Canadian who are

giving us hope for the future.

As for me, I can still recall the thrill as a kid waking up on Christmas morning and I am happy to re-live those moments with family and friends even if Santa can't be there.

Everybody on his list, both naughty and nice, is bound to keep Santa, and everybody else, safe and happy and healthy as possible during the holidays.

We all know Santa has magical powers but he is a senior now and we still can't take any chances – we owe it to him to stay safe and stay on his "nice" list.

The most sure fire way to get on the naughty list for next year is to let him catch you in public without your mask.

This year is different – many things have changed and personal sacrifices have been made while our loved ones remain so tantalizingly close and yet, so painfully distant.

But as the Grinch pointed out many years ago, no matter what happens we can't stop Christmas from coming even if Santa can't make his rounds.

So relax Santa, enjoy a happy, healthy and safe Christmas at home and when you come around next year we will all have some good memories to share.

Merry Christmas to all.

"This year will be a challenging one for Santa and Christmas will be something completely different for many Canadian families."

A SPECIAL GIFT

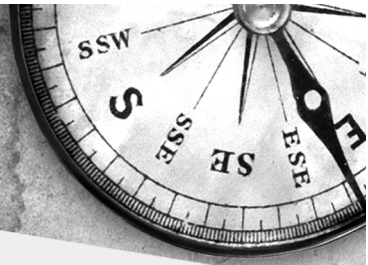


IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON SEIU Healthcare gave out turkeys to nearly 300 local healthcare workers over the weekend

JAY KAUFMAN

A look back in history:
Victoria and May St.

First Lights. Traffic lights were first erected in Fort William in 1920 at the intersection of Victoria Avenue and May Street.



HOW TO WRITE US:

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

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

your VOICE

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YES 24.2% **NO** 70.9% **DON'T KNOW** 4.8%

Christmas during the time of COVID-19

So, now it is Christmas. Not your usual one either due to COVID.

We had to decide that if we wanted the family together, then we'd have to celebrate this past Saturday. Son Doug, and his girlfriend, Ivy, live in town and the plan is that they'd have Christmas Eve supper with her family. For safety's sake, we thought it prudent to carve the turkey, open the prezzies, and pull the Christmas crackers before The Day. Which we did.

Consensus was that this was one of the best Christmases we've had.

Next day, my wife, Laura, said "Let's go get a tree." No, not that tree; we already got that one that is standing tall in our living room and beautifully decorated, a gorgeous sight first thing in the morning before any of the other house lights are on or at night when it is dark and the curtains have been closed. Laura was thinking of all that standing dead



FRED JONES

RURAL ROOTS

balsam, spruce, and jackpine on our property, in many cases easy to see and have access to beside the trails.

So, after feeding and tossing equines into their paddock, then mucking the stalls, we ate brunch and then I suited up in my protective overalls, donned my protective boots, and went out to get the chainsaw that first needed refueling.

The two of us climbed on board our quad towing a cart behind carrying the saw. Then we trundled out of the yard and motored onto the trails. The choice of trees was a bit of a coin toss: on our walks we had identified several likely candidates. I chose to

head to the standing dead spruce fairly easy to get to. There were two, very tall, dead spruce growing out of the same trunk. I fired up the chainsaw and began to cut the chevron piece out of the side I wanted the tree to fall. Then I cut through the other side expecting the tree to gracefully collapse into a clear space, easy to cut into pieces. Didn't happen. The tree got hung up against a very tall poplar that I thought (when I inspected the direction of the intended fall) was well out of the way. Well, the main trunk was; but there was one, single overhanging branch way up at the top that got in the way of the collapsing spruce. Dang! Dang! And double Dang! (or words to that effect) Now what?

I've been here before. Not being a professional logger, sometimes I miscalculate. But this time I was sure that I had got it right. Solution? Motor back to Casa Jones and fetch

Big Red, my ancient tractor and a chain, then return to pull the hung-up tree down. Wasn't a problem; didn't take long. Wham! Tree did gracefully collapse and no one and no machine got hurt.

Laura had returned on the quad and a good thing too. While I had been chain sawing and again when I urged the tree to cease being hung up and fall to the ground, Laura had distracted our two pooches to make sure they weren't anywhere near the action. Now she came to help remove the branches while I bucked the tree into nice, fireplace-sized pieces. We filled both the cart being towed behind the quad and the bucket of Big Red with sawn pieces of spruce and then we broke the branches into kindling and shoved that onto the cart and into the tractor bucket. Spruce and balsam trees produce so many branches. You don't realize how many until you

have to remove them from the tree trunk.

We returned to the house and emptied both cart and bucket. Laura found a couple of cardboard boxes into which she shoved the broken branches - perfect for lighting both fires in the fireplace and in the boiler in the basement. I carried them inside the house trying not to scrape the walls.

"We're both tired and I have to get out to the barn as two of our borders are coming to ride their horses. Me too," Laura announced, "so let's get the companion tree some other time."

Laura went inside and got ready to ride; I went inside and made what I thought to be a well-deserved hot chocolate. I have a lot of splitting to do.

And now, Christmas: from me and mine to you and yours, I wish you a safe and Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

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HITTING THE TRAILS: Charlotte Ailey enjoys a beautiful day of skiing at Lappe Nordic Centre.

Finding joy in the great outdoors during winter

Spending time outdoors can help you get through these challenging times



KEITH AILEY

THE GOOD LIFE

There is no doubt that the past nine months have been difficult for all of us. For many, the key to getting through the global pandemic has been to spend as much time outside as possible. Living in Northwestern Ontario, we have always been lucky to have an abundance of space to play outside, but in 2020 the ability to go outdoors and keep a safe distance from others has been a real blessing. For my family, the chance to spend the summer biking and the last couple months skiing has allowed us to maintain both our physical and mental health in some very challenging times.

As autumn fades to winter, the hours of daylight dwindle and the temperatures drop, it is common for most Canadians to spend more time indoors. However, if we can find a passion that takes us outside, it is possible

to thrive through the winter months, to look at the falling snow with excitement, and to find joy in any number of winter activities. For our family, a renewed passion for Nordic skiing has really helped this year. So far, we have already spent more than thirty days cross-country skiing at Lappe Nordic Centre on the north end of Thunder Bay. As if Mother Nature knew things were already difficult enough, she made sure the rain that fell in town was pristine snow up Kam Current Road and then she gave us unseasonably warm temperatures over the past two months to enjoy it.

While December always offers the best skiing, some things have been different this year. As people spread out and explore the 14km of the extra-wide groomed trails, the chalet remains essentially empty as most people just pop in to pay their fees or grab their skis from their locker. We are not hanging out with friends and enjoying those amazing Finnish pancakes after our Saturday morning workouts and we can't enjoy a hot sauna and a shower before heading home. Nevertheless, we are still

outside, we are still skiing, and though our faces are covered, it is obvious that we are all still smiling.

One unexpected benefit of this strange year has been the fact that we seem to have more time to ski as we limit other pastimes. With an extra day or two of skiing each week and the work of dedicated volunteers who have shoveled snow onto the trails since mid-October I was surprised to find myself on target to log 700km at Lappe by Christmas. What has not changed at the ski centre is how heart-warming it is to see both children and adults learning to ski and families out skiing together. Covid has been the catalyst for many people all over the world to discover the wonders of outdoor endurance sports like running, hiking, cycling and skiing. That fact holds true here in the Northwest as well. At Lappe, there are noticeably more beginners than ever before, and seeing them out enjoying the famous trails that have hosted so many provincial, national and international events is itself one more source of joy at a time when we need it most.



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IN THE bay

arts | entertainment | culture



IAN KAUFMAN

UNIQUE DECORATIONS: Residents inspect a holiday window painting in Westfort Saturday evening.

Paintings add holiday spirit in Westfort

A local artist contributed holiday-themed window paintings to over a dozen Westfort businesses

THUNDER BAY
By Ian Kaufman - TB Source

A group of Westfort shops have come together with a local artist to transform the neighbourhood's small business district into a winter wonderland.

A tradition that started with the former Salisbury Grill was embraced by 15 businesses along the main strip of Frederica Street this year, as artist Wendy Horner adorned shop windows with winter- and Christmas-themed window paintings.

Aaron Gillingham, who took over the grill and revamped it as The Sal in 2017,



IAN KAUFMAN

FESTIVE PAINTING: Westfort business owners say the decorations really create a sense of community.

said it was one way the businesses could spread cheer during the COVID-19 pandemic, in lieu of usual holiday gatherings.

"It's been a very challenging year to promote anything - you can't encourage people to come together as a group, for the safety of our customers

and employees," he said. "This is a nice way for people to enjoy that Christmas-y vibe without jeopardizing their health."

Horner, a Westfort artist and muralist, had been painting the windows of the Salisbury Grill for years when Gillingham took it over. When she asked him about continuing the tradition, it wasn't a hard decision.

"The customers love it, and she does amazing work," he said.

Residents had the chance to experience the paintings in their full glory over the weekend, with participating businesses leaving their lights on throughout the evening Saturday and Sunday to showcase Horner's work, which ranges from serene landscapes to cheeky pop culture references.

For Gillingham, the initiative was one indication of the sense of community among Westfort business owners.

"It's a small little business district, but it's got a big heart," he said. "Everyone's really coming together, especially now in a year like this. There's a lot of communication between the business owners."

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IN THE BAY

Wolfwalkers: Enchanting Animated Folktale

Some movies emerging during the holiday season carry the 'family entertainment' label sometimes elicits a cringing reaction at the prospect of tame, saccharine storytelling.

This is definitely not the case with "Wolfwalkers," (Apple TV) a beautifully rendered Irish folktale that, among its many virtues, offers two young female protagonists who pluckily defy virtually everyone and everything around them, separately or together, often placing themselves in great peril.

It's a tale filled with magic and ominous legends, evil villains, centering on outsiders of various stripes either conflicting or aligning with one another.

Set in 1650, the movie tells the tale of young crossbow hunter Robyn



MARTY MASCARINI
MOVIE TALK

(voiced by Honor Kneafsey) who journeys from England to Ireland with her widower father, Bill Goodfellowe (Sean Bean). Bill has been employed by repressive Lord Protector (symbolizing Oliver Cromwell?) to guard an English colony and rid the forbidden lands surrounding the town's walls of wolf attacks that threaten livestock and farming.

Aside from fearing the wolves, the townspeople also whisper about "wolfwalker" beings who transform from human into wolf form during

human sleep time. They have mysterious healing powers that are often administered to human victims, incidentally wounded.

While trying to assist her father, Robyn befriends one such young shape-shifter, feisty little Mebh O'g MacTire (Eva Whittaker) a wild child who commands the wolf pack and enlists Robyn in searching for her missing mother.

Robyn's alliance with Mebh (pronounced, "Mabe") leads her to transform into the very thing Bill has been sworn to hunt down. Therein lies a conflict that grows increasingly desperate and threatening as Lord Protector loses patience and unleashes destruction upon the woods where Mebh and her pack reside.

Robyn, Bill, and Mebh's mother

are also imperiled by Lord Protector's imperious actions.

Co-directors Tomm Moore and Ross Stewart of Ireland's Cartoon Saloon which produced the award-winning "The Breadwinner," have created a truly captivating, multi-layered story, one that deftly incorporates some traditional elements of the folk tale (magic and mystery, yearning for lost parents, man vs man, man vs nature) with a subtle political theme (England's occupation of Ireland) and outsiders (the 'colonial' invaders, Robyn and Bill, and Mebh, her mother, and the wolf pack.)

Much of the enchantment comes from the figures and backgrounds that are stylized and hand-drawn as if they are springing right out of a picture book. The vivid colour,

dazzling action and emotively voiced characters give "Wolfwalkers" a distinctive, "olde world" look.

There is some comic relief but the filmmakers blessedly avoid low broad strokes. Instead, appeal lies with Robyn and Mebh, outsiders joyfully relishing their new-found friendship.

Bruno Calais' lively soundtrack adds an evocative, Celtic flavour. Ditto the artwork in the credits.

As family entertainment, "Wolfwalkers" comes with a caveat. True to many folk tales, there are dark themes and some intense moments that may be a little much for the younger tykes.

But overall, "Wolfwalkers" is a rewarding film, a delightful seasonal distraction, bound to be heard from come award time.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Christmas
- 5 Energy
- 8 Detent
- 12 Attention
- 13 Lion of God
- 14 Son of Samuel
- 15 Kwa language
- 16 Nat'l
- Endowment for the Arts (abbr.)
- 17 Hereditary factor
- 18 Bar
- 20 Spotted cat
- 22 Recipe
- 25 Forthwith
- 28 Amer.
- Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
- 29 Listlessness
- 33 O.T. sacred lots
- 35 Before common era (abbr.)
- 37 Lofty
- 38 Sire
- 40 Article (Fr.)

DOWN

- 1 Christmas
- 2 Hindu month
- 3 Indian buffalo
- 4 Boat
- 5 Foremost part
- 6 Island (Fr.)
- 7 Cat's cry
- 8 Spectacle
- 9 Son of Adam
- 10 Drunkard
- 11 Freedman in Kentish law
- 19 Poly. beefwood
- 21 Suggestion
- 23 Mortar mixer
- 24 Twin crystal
- 25 Gist
- 26 Metallic rock
- 27 False hair
- 30 Arrest
- 31 Diminutive (suf.)
- 32 Bantu language
- 34 Site
- 36 Conger
- 39 To (Scot.)
- 41 Single lens reflex (abbr.)
- 44 Scales (pref.)
- 45 Same (Lat.)
- 46 P.I. food
- 47 Discharge
- 48 Bridge (Fr.)
- 50 Baseball equipment
- 51 Blue (Sp.)
- 52 To or from a distance (pref.)
- 55 Adjective-forming (suf.)
- 56 Compass direction

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

B	A	P	T	S	E	A	C	A	A	M	
E	P	E	E	I	C	A	U	M	B	O	
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WORD SEARCH

D A R T D I S E A S E H Z P L
I I H R V Q K V D X C F Q M I
S N E T V L A Y F P R L N A T
C T L E C T E R N S E S P C H
O E M U L A T I O N S M A D E
U R S L I S G H K G I I E A
R A N C A H N L R X N T R W V
A C G E T S M A T O C I S E E
G T P R N A E U E H N N R Y M
E S B R E F R D I M D G T I A
M E A L I E E A O R E L N L S
E D G N S C G R E N A D E S K
N I D U A E E G N N E U I I S
T S L D N U R S E D X B Q V F
Z T E T G Z K P S E T A B A S

- Abates
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- Agree
- Aquarium
- Darns
- Decade
- Demeans
- Discouragement
- Disease
- Ditch
- Emulations
- Entail
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- Finds
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- Grenades
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- Lecterns
- Lithe
- Masks
- Minded
- Mixtures
- Night
- Nodes
- Nurse
- Pairs
- Penalty
- Prices
- Resin
- Result
- Sides
- Siring
- Smiting
- Teaks
- Throng
- Tinny
- Ulcer

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

5			2	1	4			
				6	5	3		1
4	9				2			
				5	3			
			9					2
	1					8		5
			8	3	6		2	
6	2							9

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ENIGMA CRYPTOGRAM

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

"MZJ MSGJFM TESH YI NJAVQ NYSV
KAMZ QSJEM DGEPAJAF, AF NJAVQ
NYSV KAMZYGM JVOC."

— PE SYBZJIYGBGPW

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "The written word can be erased - not so with the spoken word." — Author Unknown

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Sports

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Burgess upsets McCarville

CURLING
By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Dallas Burgess was down a player and facing the top team on the Tbaytel Major League of Curling circuit.

The 16-year-old skip, a student at St. Ignatius High School, didn't let the moment faze him, even when his team gave up three in the fourth end at the Kakabeka Curling Club last Wednesday night to the Krista McCarville rink and fell behind 4-2.

With his lead, Brayden Sinclair, sidelined with an ankle injury, Burgess's, second Jackson Dubinsky and third Matt Duizer shrugged off the shoddy end, evened the match with a deuce in the fifth and then stole two more in the sixth to take control of the game when McCarville's draw to the four foot came up short.

The 6-5 win, the first for the team in eight attempts this season, was a huge confidence boost for the under 18 squad. "It felt really good and we played really well tonight," said Burgess, son of long-time local curler Bryan Burgess, who was perched in the dining room above, taking notes as both a proud father and the team's coach.

"We just stuck to our game and came back to our home club and got the job



DOUBLE DUTY: Dallas Burgess sweeps for his shorthanded under-18 squad last week.

done."

Burgess showed nerves of steel in the eighth and final end. McCarville had multiple rocks in the rings and was threatening to steal a point to send the game to an extra end – this year a shot to the button – or to take two and win it outright.

But the young skip made a perfect shot, forcing McCarville to make a diffi-

cult final shot to remove a mostly buried shot stone hugging the four-foot. The eight-time Scotties Tournament of Hearts representative, who entered play at a league-best 6-1, wasn't able to get the angle right and Burgess had the long-awaited victory, downing his opponent 6-5.

The loss leaves McCarville in a tie for first with the idle Dylan Johnston rink at

6-2.

For the rest of the pack, it was a chance to draw closer to top spot and one of the seven playoff positions.

Gary Weiss, in the thick of the hunt found himself in a battle with the winless Britney Malette foursome and was clinging to a 4-3 lead in the sixth, without hammer, when fortune shone his way.

Malette (0-8) was facing four with her final short of the end, but came up short, giving Weiss a steal of four that gave him the 8-3 win.

"They made it really tough on us. In the sixth end, coming home, the ice got really challenging. It just happened that she had to take a shot that was way out in the wings into the frost coming in and it ended up coming up a little bit short," said Weiss, whose team evened their record at 4-4.

"Other than that the end was well curled by both teams and just one shot made the difference here."

The win pulled Weiss into a tie for ninth with Mike Desilets, who scored two in the seventh with the hammer and stole another point in the eighth to earn an 8-4 win over Ben Mikkelsen (5-4)/

In the only other match of the night, Trevor Bonot scored four in the second end and held on to down Mike McCarville 7-4.

Giannis, Raptors not meant to be



the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA finals.

Raptors fans shouldn't be too worried at this stage.

They've got a team that should win 45 to 50 games this season, barring major injuries, especially if someone like O.G. Anunoby or Terrence Davis is able to step their game up to the next level. Or Canadian Chris Boucher, for that matter.

Yeah, the loss of Serge Ibaka, in particular, and Marc Gasol, will hurt. But Gasol was injury prone and really a shadow of his former self last season.

He'll fit in just fine with the Lakers, but he won't be the dealbreaker between success and failure in Toronto.

Ibaka, on the other hand, will be tough to replace.

I got to see most of the Raptors first two exhibition games, and it's clear this isn't the same team that easily stormed to second place in the Eastern Conference.

But they were also without all-star guard Kyle Lowry, so it remains to be

seen what the team can bring to the table in 2020-21.

Fred VanVleet looked pretty good in the second contest, scoring 23 on 5-for-7 shooting from beyond the arc.

Newcomer DeAndre Bembry was also impressive in limited minutes, scoring, putting up nine points and a couple of assists.

But the guy who impressed me the most of the players who weren't on the roster last season was first-round draft pick Malachi Flynn. The San Diego State product had 17 points, was a plus 13 and also had a pair of steals – and five turnovers – in just his second night of NBA competition.

It's really early, but the Raptors may have gotten a steal with the 29th overall pick. He certainly outplayed Charlotte's LaMelo Ball, the No. 3 pick.

Of course, one game does not a legacy make. Let's see how both players hold

up over the course of 72 games.

But if Flynn continues to produce and improve, it could also give the Raptors a little more flexibility when the summer of 2021 comes around.

And while Giannis is no longer a potential target, there are still some pretty big names who could be looking for new teams next summer. On the list are Blake Griffin and Chris Paul, both of whom can opt out after this season.

DeMar DeRozan, a familiar face for Raptors fans, is also a free-agent to be, as is Lowry. DeRozan isn't the answer, as Toronto realized, trading him to San Antonio for Kawhi Leonard in 2018.

Speaking of whom, Leonard can opt out of his contract with the Los Angeles Clippers next summer.

Wouldn't that be intriguing, if Masai could lure him back to Toronto? It's a move I'd be all in for if it happened.



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LU's Sigsworth resigns

Cross-country, track coach leaves post after 16 years

The Kip Sigsworth era at Lakehead University is over after 16 years. The school on Tuesday announced Sigsworth is stepping down as coach of the varsity cross country and indoor track teams.

A former OUA men's cross country coach of the year, Sigsworth also coached Team Canada at the 2016 world university cross country championships and coached four U Sport all-Canadians, eight OUA all-stars and two U Sport medallists.

"It has been an honour to serve as the Lakehead University Cross Country Running and Indoor Track Coach the last 16 years. I have had so many great experiences and have had the privilege of working with countless amazing individuals during this time. I will miss being at practice and interacting with student-athletes on a daily basis but it is time to



KIP SIGSWORTH

move on and explore other opportunities," Sigsworth said in a release sent out by the school's athletic department.

Sigsworth, who starred as an athlete at Lakehead from 1993 to 1997, and still holds the school record in the 600-metre, said he's thankful for his time at the program's helm, in particular being able to guide many young athletes along the way. "I am indebted to all of the student-athletes who have been a part of the program over the last 16 years.

Your dedication, willingness to strive to be better, and hard work have made this an amazing experience for me."

Athletic director Tom Warden wished Sigsworth well.

"I'd like to sincerely thank Kip for his years of service to Lakehead University, the department of athletics and the cross country and track and field programs," Warden said.

The team has not named a replacement for Sigsworth, who did not give a reason for his departure in the release.



HOME ICE: Krista McCarville said she's hopeful she'll be able to represent Northern Ontario at the 2022 Scotties.

ANDREW KLAVNER/CURLING CANADA

Team McCarville says no to Scotties berth

Family, work commitments cited as reasons for turning it down

CURLING

By Leith Dunick – TB Source

Thunder Bay's Krista McCarville will not represent Northwestern Ontario at the 2021 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Calgary.

The 38-year-old skip and her teammates, Ashley Sippala, Sarah Potts and Sudbury's Kendra Lilly, made the collective decision to turn down an automatic berth at the national women's curling championship, offered when the Northern Ontario Curling Association decided not to hold play-downs for the 2021 event – originally scheduled to be played at Thunder Bay's Fort William Gardens.

"It was definitely a very difficult decision. It's one that we stewed over for a few weeks. It just boiled down to basically things happening in our lives," McCarville said.

"A big part of my life is my job, being a teacher, and I have to think about my students and their families. It's something that's really important. I would be taking quite a bit of time off to go to the Scotties and travel there."

Additionally, under current regulations in place at the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, McCarville would be forced to stay away from school properties for an additional two weeks, without pay.

The biggest reason was her family and their safety, she added.

"I have two young children and my husband, he's also a teacher, so thinking about coming back it would be a very big struggle for me."

Potts is the mother of twins who have yet to reach their first birthdays. Sippala also has two young children.

"You just have to think about your family before you think about yourself," McCarville said.

From a curling standpoint, it was one of the toughest decisions she's ever had to make.

McCarville has represented Ontario (four) and Northern Ontario (five) a total of nine times at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts, winning bronze in 2010 and silver in 2016.

That ever elusive title has escaped her so far, a crown she desperately wants to claim.

"Every single season we jump on the ice at the beginning of the year our thought is we want to win the Scotties," she said. "We don't think about making it to the pre-trials or the trials, or how many points can we gain this year.

"No. 1 is we want to go to the Scotties and we want to win the Scotties. To get an invite and the berth to the Scotties was such a big deal and it never happens and it's super exciting. But at the same time, you just have to put curling in perspective to your life and think about what you need to do as a person - and as a team as well."

McCarville said she made her decision relatively quickly, but the other three curlers thought long and hard about whether or not they wanted to pick up the mantle, add a fourth player and accept an invite. In the end, the decision was made to stay home.

McCarville said she's already looking forward to the 2022 event, focusing on earning her way into the event, which is scheduled to be held in Thunder Bay.

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 call 346-9222 or visit www.dawsonprop.com

30. MISC. WANTED
 Wanted to buy - CD+G player and Karaoke machine (not blue tooth), call 475-0995.

\$CASH\$
 On the spot for your scrap cars, trucks, vans and SUV's. Same day pick-up with CASH.
 Call Marcel
624-7242 or 626-0161

WANTED \$ TOP DOLLAR PAID \$
 For Scrap Vehicles
DAN'S EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE
767-3818

53. GENERAL SERVICES
 #1 YARD CLEAN-UPS leaf raking, dump runs snow-blowing, Phone Brian 768-9849 or 474-8870

#1-A Dump runs, anything pick up; city-wide services, odd jobs, general services, snowblowing, call Frank 628-5919

CHRISTINA'S HOME AND GARDEN. Residential & Commercial! Landscaping, grass cutting, lawn maintenance, planting, dividing, weeding, edging, container gardening, patio stone/interlocking stone pathways, hedge/tree/shrub trimming and shaping. Call 621-1505

54. HOME IMPROVEMENTS
 RENOVATIONS: We're Carpenters and Renovators! Kitchens, baths, basements, etc... Call 252-9114

NEED EXTRA MONEY?
 Sell those unwanted items with a classified ad in tbSOURCE
CALL 346-2600

60. HEALTH CARE
 BASIC, ADVANCED AND DIABETIC MOBILE NURSING FOOT CARE. Call Steve 355-3595 to schedule an in-home appointment or visit www.stevesfootcare.com

65. HAPPY ADS
 No one is outside the Circle of LOVE
 -Susan Frederick-Grey & Erika A. Hewitt

It Starts With a Click
 The tbSOURCE Classifieds are online, so it's easier than ever to find exactly what you're looking for.
 MAKE US A PART OF YOUR DAILY ROUTINE.
www.tbnewswatch.com

67. HOLIDAY HOURS

68. DEATH/FUNERALS

A Gift In Remembrance
www.sjftb.net/memorial
768-4411

ST. JOSEPH'S FOUNDATION OF THUNDER BAY ST. JOSEPH'S CARE GROUP

SELLING PRIVATELY?
 Looking to Sell your Home? Advertise Here!
CLASSIFIEDS CALL US 346-2600

67. HOLIDAY HOURS

HOLIDAY SEASON TELEPHONE HOURS
 Office is closed to public.

Thurs., Dec. 24th, 8:30am - Noon
 Closed December 25 - 28
 Thurs., Dec. 31st, 8:30am - Noon
 Closed January 1st, 2021

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Thunder Bay **source**
 Your Community Newspaper

69. HERE'S MY CARD

Dulux Paints
 Decorating Centre | 344-0784

50% OFF PAINT
 Simply present your CAA Card!
 Offer valid until December 31
784 Memorial Ave. (Next to McDonalds)

Good Reasons to Recycle

Recycling saves energy **Recycling uses less space in landfills** Recycling saves trees **Recycling helps climate change** Recycling reduces pollution **Recycling saves money** Recycling creates jobs.

70. ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

ANSWERS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

X	M	A	S	V	I	M	P	A	W	L
M	A	R	K	A	L	I	A	B	I	A
A	G	N	I	N	E	A	G	E	N	E
S	H	A	F	T	O	C	E	L	O	T
N	O	W	A	A	E	N	N	U	I	
U	R	I	M	B	C	E	T	A	L	L
B	E	G	E	T	L	E	S	B	A	A
S	E	P	T	E	T	R	A	B	A	T
A	M	O	I	E	I	N	D	A	Z	E
B	I	N	O	N	A	B	E	L	U	L
A	T	T	N	O	L	E	M	L	L	E

5	8	3	2	1	4	6	7	9
7	6	1	3	9	8	2	5	4
2	4	9	7	6	5	3	8	1
4	9	5	1	8	2	7	3	6
1	7	2	6	5	3	9	4	8
8	3	6	9	4	7	5	1	2
3	1	7	4	2	9	8	6	5
9	5	4	8	3	6	1	2	7
6	2	8	5	7	1	4	9	3

PREVIOUS SOLUTION:
 "The truest mark of being born with great qualities, is being born without envy."
 - La Rochefoucauld

