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# The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



FISHING • YACHTING • CAMPING • HUNTING

*"Published Weekly On the Largest Freshwater Island In The World"*

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Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, December 17, 2025



**NAUGHTY OR NICE?** Definitely nice! During the Little Current Public School holiday drop-in event held last week, Northeast Town Mayor Al MacNevin and Aundek Omni Kaning Chief Patsy Corbiere took the opportunity to tell Santa all the things they hope for for their communities. It was a lengthy list! For more holiday fun, please see pages throughout this newspaper and in the Santa Claus Book insert.

photo by Alicia McCutcheon

## Lake Huron water levels expected to drop by one metre by the year 2030

by Tom Sasvari

GEORGIAN BAY—Conveyance of water in the St. Clair River area continues and is contributing to lower water levels, says the chair of the Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation.

"In 2020, an Environment Canada Climate Change study predicted that by 2030 Lake Michigan/Huron water levels are to fall by one metre below the 2013 level's record low," said Mary Muter in a deputation she made to the Township of Archipelago at a workshop last Friday. "Since Michigan/Huron levels are already 0.5 metres lower than they should be, it means we will see levels down to 174.5 metres. This will devastate the Georgian Bay wetlands, make

navigation hazardous and make it impossible to get to some cottages. It will be an economic and ecological disaster for Georgian Bay for the entire coastline including local municipalities."

Ms. Muter told The Expositor, "We contracted the internationally respected coastal consulting engineering firm again, W.F. Baird and Associates this past fall to determine if conveyance increase in the St. Clair River has continued."

"What was determined is the conveyance is continuing and is caused by US ships going through St. Clair (when the seaway is supposed to be closed)," said Ms. Muter. She explained there is one company that travels up the Missis-

...continued on page 8

## Chi-Cheemaun parent company says it will consider four sailings during the peak season

by Tom Sasvari

OWEN SOUND—It appears that the Owen Sound Transportation Company (OSTC) may consider a request from members of the Manitoulin Municipal Association (MMA) to provide for four sailings of the M.S. Chi-Cheemaun during the ship's peak summer sailing season between South Baymouth and Tobermory.

The OSTC wrote in a statement to The Expositor, "OSTC always evaluates any additional options to increase service where possible."

As was reported in a recent edition of The Expositor, the MMA is requesting the (OSTC) and the province to return to four daily sailings of the M.S. Chi-Cheemaun during the peak summer sailing season. While the M.S. Chi-Cheemaun saw an increase in passenger and vehicle numbers this

past season, the current sailing schedule of two sailings in the summer has made it more difficult for local residents to book a ticket on a sailing, especially if it is not booked early.

Dale Scott, a Central Manitoulin councillor told members of the MMA at a meeting last week that the OSTC will soon be looking at setting its schedule for 2026. "Passenger traffic on the ferry increased 4.7 percent this year, with a 1.4 percent increase in vehicle traffic. With that type of increase the ferry is filled the majority of the time, and pre-COVID 19 there were four sailings in the summer season on the ferry. Once COVID was gone, they (OSTC) never brought the number of sailings per day back to four."

...continued on page 7

## Prov Bay arena, Spring Bay hall recommended for closure in 2026

by Michael Erskine

CENTRAL MANITOULIN—Following a lively committee debate, it will be recommended to Central Manitoulin council to close the Spring Bay Hall and to refrain from putting ice in at the Providence Bay arena in 2026.

The motion to recommend to council closure of the Spring Bay Hall came following an earlier presentation to the committee of the 'Recreation Infrastructure Report' from 3rdline Studio, Perkins & Will and Sierra Planning, the consultants hired to assess the communi-

ty's recreational infrastructure. Adding to the decision was a disclosure that the floor in the hall's kitchen was sloping due to foundation issues and water infiltration that is causing rot in the floor joists.

Although the 2025 budget indicates a \$5,000 capital investment for the hall, those funds were allocated for the building assessment. The actual cost of repairs would rise to beyond the tens of thousands of dollars—even up to \$100,000.

The motion moved by Councillor Rose Diebolt and second-

...continued on page 7

## M'Chigeeng First Nation Chief Morgen Hare reinstated

M'CHIGEENG—M'Chigeeng First Nation Chief Morgen Hare has been reinstated to his leadership position, after a decision in court last week.

In a message to M'Chigeeng First Nation and membership, M'Chigeeng band council, in a release last week reported, "On December 9, M'Chigeeng First Nation council received an interim decision in the legal matter between M'Chigeeng First Nation and Morgen Hare. Council would like to inform the community and membership that Mr. Hare will be reinstated to the office of the Chief immediately."

"Community operations will continue as usual and will not be disrupted," the M'Chigeeng council release states, "This decision is an interim decision until the final hearing about the removal and the call for the general election. The final hearing will be on February 11, 2026. At that hearing, the federal court will examine all evidence and arguments and will issue a decision about whether Chief Hare will be permanently reinstated."

"We appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we follow the court's direction. We remain committed to serving the best interests of M'Chigeeng First Nation and its membership during this period, and at all times moving forward," the notice reads. "We will continue to update the

community on future developments."

"As you may be aware, Morgen Hare challenged the decision of council to remove him from office, (a decision) made June 30, 2025. The challenge has

...continued on page 7

## Sheguiandah First Nation elects Pearl Waindubence as new ogimaa

by Michael Erskine  
SHEGUIANDAH FN—Pearl Waindubence has hit the ground running after being elected Ogimaa of Sheguiandah First Nation in the December 9 band council elections.

"I was very surprised," admitted Gimaa Waindubence, "and happy too!" she adds.

Gimaa Waindubence will be heading up a council that is comprised of new members, with the exception of herself and Councillor Carrie Waindubence. "We have a young council," she said. "I am looking forward to working with the new council and I want to congratulate the old chief and coun-

...continued on page 9



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ryan@manitoulinchrysler.ca



CONNOR WOESTENENK

VEHICLE SALES CONSULTANT

connor@manitoulinchrysler.ca

STAY CONNECTED





# The Manitoulin West Recorder



The Manitoulin Bone Builders First Lego League challenge team are shown in a competition held this past Saturday in North Bay.

## Robotics youths, Bone Builders, named ‘Rising Stars’ at Lego League challenge

MANITOULIN—Three cheers for the Manitoulin Bone Builders First Lego League challenge team! “The team competed in North Bay on Saturday and made us so proud,” said Yana Bauer, mentor of the Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) Manitoulin Metal #6865 robotics team. “Congratulations to their mentors Samuel (Pennings) and Dylan (Kuntsi, the latter who was unable to attend the competition this Saturday), who were nominated by the team for the Youth Mentor Award.”

“The robot and code performed well and consistently. They rocked the innovation presentation,” continued Ms. Bauer. “The team walked away with the Rising All-Star award. This award celebrates a team that the judges notice and expect great things from in the future.”

The team members included Gabe Hillyard, Theo Desjardins, Easton Lauber, Reese Sabourin, Greta Von Schmeling and Olivia McCormick.

There were 19 teams in the competition, with

teams from all over Ontario, said Ms. Bauer. “The team did great, this was the first year we have had a team compete in that division (age 9-13), and this was the first time they had competed as a team,” she said, noting the team had started its season in September.

The name Manitoulin Bone Builders was chosen by the team as the event had an archaeological theme, said Ms. Bauer. “The team competed with the robot, had to solve an archaeological problem, and they made an actual functional app. They had made the app and sent it to an archaeologist for his feedback; and were provided several compliments on their work. We (as mentors) were very impressed.”

“The team had to make a presentation to judges at the competition and be interviewed. Samuel (Pennings) who had helped the team prepare over the last couple of weeks did an incredible job,”

...continued on page 11

## Robyn Yaschuk feted with Award for Excellence by St. Joseph’s Lodge

by Tom Sasvari  
SUDBURY—A St. Joseph’s Lodge (Gore Bay) employee has been named one of 17 recipients of the St. Joseph’s of Sault Ste. Marie Awards for Excellence recipient.

Robyn Yaschuk, infection prevention and control lead and staff educator at St. Joseph’s Lodge was one of the employ-

ees recognized by St. Joseph’s Health Centre (SJHC) as an employee whose work is “inspired by faith, moved by compassion, and driven by hope.”

“Robyn has worked here for over 30 years,” said a co-worker who nominated Ms. Yaschuk for the award. “She started as a PSW (personal support worker) and has moved into many

positions including registered practical nurse (RPN), restorative care, and now as infection prevention and control lead and staff educator.”

“She is always here for the residents willing to do anything they need. If we need a nurse or PSW on the floor, she puts on her scrubs and her smile on and gets right on the floor with us,” her nominator wrote. “Robyn has also taken on palliative care as one of her projects and is trying to make it so important here at the Lodge. She is always smiling and willing to help with staff and residents. If we have a question, she either answers it or goes and finds the answer and comes right back to us.”

“I was very surprised to be chosen for this award. It is really nice to be recognized for the work I have done here,” said Ms. Yaschuk.

Ms. Yaschuk has worked at St. Joseph’s Lodge (formerly the Manitoulin Lodge), “for 31 years as of last June,” she told The Expositor. “I first came here on a co-op program in high school. Once you find something that you love to do, you stay with it.”

SJHC has named this year’s recipients of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie Awards for Excellence. The awards are

...continued on page 10

...continued on page 9

## Trinity United Church in Mindemoya has been sold to Central Manitoulin

by Michael Erskine  
MINDEMOYA—The Municipality of Central Manitoulin has purchased the former Trinity United Church property in Mindemoya.

CAO Denise Deforge confirmed the purchase, noting that the building is well-suited for community use, being fully accessible and compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

“We also use, and have historically shared the cost of plowing, the parking lot at the property to access our fuel tanks for the Mindemoya arena,” she noted. “So it really made sense.”

Former church pastor Rev. Kim Inglis explained in a previous interview that one of the reasons the church was for sale, “is there are no longer enough people in the church to put on community events, the average

age of the congregation is about 78, and putting on events is getting tougher to do.”

Rev. Inglis noted when the church was closing that, “the church includes parishioners from Providence Bay (the United Church there was sold previously) and Kagawong (where the church was given to Billings township in 2018). They all operated as separate churches, and then with Providence Bay and Kagawong parishioners, became one community of faith.”

Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic proved to be the final nail in the coffin for Trinity United Church, as many of the parishioners did not return to the pews when the pandemic had subsided.

“The church is over 100 years old, at least the older part of

...continued on page 9

## Gore Bay residents will see water rates rise by 7 percent

by Tom Sasvari  
GORE BAY—Gore Bay council recently passed a motion that will see its water/wastewater budget increase by seven percent for local water users.

“I understand we need to keep up with maintenance work on the water system, and to build up our reserves for the future and that some of our infrastructure is old. After hearing the presentation here tonight I don’t know what else we can do,” said Gore Bay councillor Dan Forest, at a recent council meeting. He pointed out that even with an increase in the budget for 2026, the Gore Bay water rates are probably the lowest among Island and area municipalities.

Treasurer Michael Lalonde

said, “Why are we looking at November (to set the rates)? Approving the water and wastewater budget for 2026 now will provide residents with stable, predictable rates. This early approval eliminates the need for adjustments, giving residents the clarity and time to plan their budgets without unexpected changes.”

In his presentation to council Mr. Lalonde explained there has been substantial preventative maintenance conducted on the water system for the past two years. He also said it is very important for the municipality to build up its reserves for future maintenance and operations.

...continued on page 9

## Sheguiandah First Nation elects all but one new face to the council table

by Michael Erskine  
SHEGUIANDAH—The Sheguiandah First Nation band election held on December 9 elected Pearl Waindubence as chief along with four councillors, Carrie Waindubence, Valerie Assinewai, Nathan Shawanda and Xoë Roy Peltier. Sheguiandah First Nation elections are held under the Indian Act regulations and positions are held for two years.

Ogimaa Waindubence received a total of 43 votes, 25 in the regular poll and 18 mail-in ballots. Aaron Bowerman received 18 regular poll votes and 19 mail-in ballots. Larry Russell Lemarr received five votes in the regular poll and one mail-in ballot. Former chief Elvis Mishibinijima received 22 regular poll votes and 11 mail-in ballots. Ruby Thompson received 22 regular poll votes and nine mail-in ballots. There were no spoiled ballots.

In the race for a council seat, Carrie Waindubence received a total of 70 votes, Valerie Assinewai received a total of 57 votes, Nathan Shawanda received a total of 56 votes and former youth chief Xoë Roy Peltier received a total of 55 votes.

Of the other candidates in running, Andrew Agunie received a total of 34 votes, Michelle Bond received a total of 0 votes, Josephine Fox received a total of 53 votes, Larry Russell Lamarr (who also ran for chief) received a total of 26 votes, Donna Rainey received a total of 27

...continued on page 10

### Community invited to Christmas dinner at LC United Church

by Michael Erskine  
LITTLE CURRENT—Christmas is a time for gatherings of friends and family, but with family spread out far across the land, many spend Christmas alone. A group of volunteers in Little Current took it upon themselves to organize a community Christmas dinner aimed at ensuring those new to the area, or who will simply be alone, or whatever their circumstances, can enjoy Christmas dinner in the company of others.

The Christmas dinner is free

...continued on page 10



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Alicia McCutcheon  
**publisher**  
  
Tom Sasvari  
**editor-in-chief**  
  
Michael Erskine  
**associate editor**  
  
Jacqueline St. Pierre  
**local journalism initiative reporter**

Sean S.  
**production**  
  
Carrie Green  
**circulation**  
  
Kevin Spikes  
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Kerrene Tilson, Marilyn Harasym  
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**www.manitoulin.com**  
Phone: (705) 368-2744  
Fax: (705) 368-3822  
general email:  
expositor@manitoulin.com  
letters to the editor email:  
editor@manitoulin.com  
  
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**Freelance Staff:**  
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**Specialists:**  
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opinion

editorial

2025 has been a year of many changes and challenges

What a year of changes this has been!  
Looming large over great swaths of Canada is the ongoing trade issue with the United States which, since the re-election of President Trump just over a year ago, has seen that country's industries pushed to "buy American" through a system of punishing tariffs on many foreign (like Canada) supplies.

Nearby Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie will lose 1,000 jobs by spring as a result both of the tariffs costing the company to lose American business because of suddenly higher-priced product and also because the plant is re-tooling and modernizing in order to stay in business and the jobs would have been lost anyway, but not this soon.

This is a nearby example but variations on this theme are reverberating throughout other sectors: auto workers, sawmill and forestry workers, aluminum smelter workers and their bauxite mining colleagues in addition to the myriad of industries that support the steel making, aluminum manufacturing, softwood lumber and domestic car and truck manufacturing sectors.

It's a lot of jobs.  
Will this impact people's holiday plans and so effect Manitoulin's tourism industry? Quite possibly.

But we have been through this before, as a travel destination, and have weathered downtimes in the economy in the early 1980s, early 1990s, the market correction of 2008, the SARS epidemic (largely in Toronto) in 2002 and, most recently, the scourge of COVID.

The Chi Cheemaun keeps sailing, the swing bridge keeps swinging (with a new two-lane model on the horizon) and Manitoulin's industries, tourist and otherwise, keep on humming along. We expect this to continue.

At the Expositor, there have been changes too, as some long-time members of staff left and others joined the ranks.

Kevin Spikes joined The Expositor this spring as Director of Sales and Marketing. Kevin and his wife realized a long-held dream and moved permanently to Manitoulin fairly recently, after having vacationed here since he was a child. For Kevin, a job at a newspaper is coming full circle as he is a graduate of Ryerson's (now Toronto Metropolitan University) famed journalism department, although he has never worked directly in that field and still doesn't but now he is a vital part of an institution that is defined by journalism and journalists. It's interesting that Kevin's circular path from his education to now having a tangential relationship with what he once considered his calling has been echoed by other staff changes in The Expositor.

Robyn McGauley, who Kevin replaced, had spent two years in sales and customer service with the paper and she left this job to return to a career in bookkeeping and financial administration, her long-time work prior to joining us.

And just recently, Debbie Bailey, after 10 years with the paper as circulation manager (and a myriad of other important tasks) has taken a new job with a community support organization.

While Debbie will be working in the administration side of her new employer, the fact is that her post-secondary education was as a social service worker so, like Kevin, she also has a tangential relationship with others who work for the same employer but in a social services worker capacity. Life is funny, sometimes.

While we were sorry to lose Debbie, we are welcoming Carrie Green who is just now learning about the many hats Debbie wore (and Debbie has been generous in coaching Carrie on her own time after work and on weekends). Thanks very much for this, Debbie. We wish you well.

This year we also welcomed back Xoë Roy to the production apartment. This year has seen a lot of big changes for Xoë. She is a new mom to a bouncing baby girl and was also just elected as band councillor for Sheguiandah First Nation. What a year!

Another big change is, in fact, a loss for us and for The Manitoulin Island community.

Petra Wall told us last fall that, as she was approaching a particular milestone birthday, she would be retiring her monthly column, 'Now and Then' in which, for 22 years, she has sat down with individuals, sometimes couples, and has told their Manitoulin stories, complete with illustrations.

This has been an enormous body of work, and it all began when someone sent a letter to the editor suggesting that profiles of older Manitoulin people would be something they would like to read in

The Expositor.  
Petra saw the letter and was moved to call The Expositor Office to say "I would like to do that." And the rest is history, literally, as through Petra's columns we learned much about the Manitoulin of the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s and 1950s.

Thank you, Petra, this was a Herculean effort and irreplaceable.  
This year we also said goodbye to our long-time Manitoulin Secondary School correspondent Alexandra Wilson-Zegil who was not only good at this job but also good at lots of other things as well. She's off to McMaster University now where she is a charter member of a brand-new elite program that has a focus on national and international social and political thought.

We are pleased to welcome Sara-Marie Wassegijig as the new Kids in the Hall correspondent.

Manitoulin is a sporty place and André Leblanc's weekly column 'Manitoulin Sporting Life' (which happens to appear on the front page of the Manitoulin Expositor LIFE second section) does an excellent job of recording the accomplishments of Island athletes, at home and abroad, young and older. All very important news. Thanks André. Well done.

Heather Marshall, for three years, did an excellent job of introducing people who were 'New-ish to Manitoulin.' Heather is still doing this but a little more specifically as her focus is now on introducing serving members of the Island's three police forces and is appropriated titled 'On the Beat.' Thank you, Heather, for helping us to get to know our friends, the policemen/women a little better.

Dr. Joe Shorthouse, emeritus professor of botany at Laurentian University, combs Manitoulin for unique natural finds in the myriad worlds of plants and insects and often shares his insights with readers, usually on page 5. Thank you, Dr. Joe

Claire Cline is the Mindemoya librarian where she also keeps company with Book Mice who share their insights on must-reads at her library and Claire, in turn, passes them on in the pages of The Expositor. It's a good arrangement.

As usual, we will acknowledge Shelly Pearen, who lives in Ottawa but has an abiding interest in all things Manitoulin.

Ms. Pearen is a historian, history is always being created and, last spring, Shelly took on the task of reporting that Manitoulin Island was one of the 'Ten Places in Canada that every Canadian should visit' following a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) initiative that saw citizens nominate places for this distinction and, following a process of elimination, Canadians were asked to choose their Top Ten and Manitoulin is one of their choices.

Thanks, Shelly, for this and all of the other valuable submissions you've made over many years.

Some things do no change, at least not often. In this newspaper, this would certainly include the rural correspondents and they are, by name and community: Karen Noble, Silver Water; Heather Theijsmeijer and Jill Ferguson, Kagawong (Team Fergmeijer); Enid Runnalls, Barrie Island; Elaine Bradley, Meldrum Bay; and Alexia Hannigan, Providence Bay,

Thank you all for the news and thank you as well to the rural mail contractors who deliver it, in addition to our Postmasters and staff.

The Expositor also appreciates the communiques and helpful information from the Island's three police forces who help very much with reporting.

To our advertising friends, our readers in print and online, best wishes for a Happy Christmas and for good health for all of us in the years ahead.

Sincerely,  
  
**The staff of The Manitoulin Expositor**  
Alicia McCutcheon  
Rick and Julia McCutcheon  
Tom Sasvari  
Kerrene Tilson  
Michael Erskine  
Marilyn Harasym  
Kevin Spikes  
Xoë Roy  
Sean Soderman  
Carrie Green  
Jake McColman

Manitoulin Island remains largely undiscovered

That despite being named by CBC as a “must visit” destination

MANITOULIN—Manitoulin Island has been listed as one of the top 12 Canadian Islands most people have never heard of!

The online site of Travel, Culture, Life on December 12 listed, “12 Canadian Islands most people have never heard of.”

“Canada’s coastline stretches for more than 200,000 kilometres, making it the longest in the world. Hidden within this vast expanse are thousands of Islands that remain off the radar for most travelers,” reported Travel, Culture, Life.

“Most Canadians could name a handful of popular islands without much thought. But the country holds far more than the usual

suspects. Some of these lesser-known places have fascinating histories, rare wildlife, or stunning scenery that rivals that of more famous destinations,” continued Travel, Culture, Life.

Manitoulin Island was included in the list of 12 islands including the Sable Island, Nova Scotia, Fogo Island, Newfoundland Labrador, Haida Gwai, British Columbia, Anitosti Island, Quebec, Pelee Island, Grand Manan Isle in New Brunswick, Ile d’Orleans, Quebec, Saturna Island, B.C. Magdalen Islands, Quebec, Lennox Island, Prince Edward Island and Herschel Island, Yukon.

“Manitoulin Island is the largest freshwater island in the world, located in Lake Huron. It spans more than 2,700 square kilometres and contains over 100 inland lakes of its own. The island is home to several First Nations communities and offers hiking trails, beaches, and cultural experiences. Despite its size and beauty, it remains relatively unknown outside of Ontario,” reported Travel, Culture, Life.

On CBC earlier this year, Manitoulin Island was named one of the Must Places visitors to Canada should visit.



# Manitoulin Island communities celebrate Christmas with style



Santa is here! Becky Deeg and her two young daughters had the chance to visit with Santa Claus at Bousquet Realty this past Sunday as part of the Gore Bay business annual Kids Christmas shopping spree.



Lydia Burlein of Spindles Rekindled was one of many vendors on hand for the Gore Bay Harbour Centre Christmas vendor market.



Lynn Osborne of Island General Merchandise store in Gore Bay, had lots of young shoppers visit the store in Gore Bay this past Sunday as the Gore Bay Business' annual Kids Christmas Shopping Spree was held.



Getting artsy with it! There were smiles all around as both kids and adults plyed their hand at some creative endeavours during the Little Current Public School Christmas celebration.



Ada Nicholls, Lauren Musquetier and Charlotte Bussieres were helpful elves at Little Current Public School.



Community Christmas parades put plenty of colour into a white Christmas. These characters were having an absolute ball.



Tree lighting is a great opportunity for community members to get together for a wee bit of caroling.



Debahjemujig Christmas featured Skye Trudeau's build-your-own-cake Sweets and Treats by Skyeanne.



Santa and Mrs. Claus were a hit at the Northeastern Manitoulin and the Island's Christmas Parade in Little Current.



Christmas crafts with Star Newegahbow was a popular part of the Debahjemujig Storyteller's Christmas market.



Former Little Current Mayor John Hodder proves you are never too old to hang with the guy in the red suit.



This 'Mickey Mouse Clubhouse and all Our Friends' float was one of the many in the annual Gore Bay Santa Claus parade.



Stuff the Cruiser a huge success! The UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service held a very successful 'Stuff the Cruiser' food and toy drive raising \$5,600.60 to support the Manitoulin Family Resources Christmas (MFR) hamper and food drive. From left are Sergeant Joe Noakwegijig, Sergeant Desi Beam, Dave Mack sergeant-community mobilization, Detective Sergeant Jeff Teetzel, Colleen Hill executive director of MFR, Staff Sergeant Brad Mack, Deputy Police Chief Dan Despatie, Police Chief James Killeen, Sergeant Dan Bussieres and Administrative Sergeant Todd Fox.



# Friends and Neighbours

*Providence Bay*  
*Alexia Hannigan*

Just like that, we are stocking the pantries, jarring and processing meat from the hunt, trimming the trees, unravelling the ribbons, wreaths, lights and bows, all the while managing the holiday parties, kids' sports, Christmas concerts, cards, calls and office closures. And you're busier than Santa's Elves with the long overdue- glow-ups of your houses, halls, families, elf-on-a-shelf full scale productions and even yourself! Don't forget the impromptu, emergency, cat-dog-squirrel-toddler rescues from in and under the Christmas trees and snowbanks! These are the things that keep the Season bright and downright Squirrelly! We slid unknowingly and toques first from the excitement and bounty of the orange blaze season straight into the blitzed blue, red and greens while driving with the high-beams on and doing light-speed in our millennium falcons at half past four. Wherever you are going this Silly Season, be sure to take deep breaths, to remember that if you can't be with the ones you love, no one will see you eating the six or seventh mince pie/butter tart/pecan pie. Besides, if you made it this far nobody's counting anymore. Not even six-seven. Count only your blessings, your hugs, your kisses, your days, your songs, your stories, because those are the things that really matter. Remember that you are well-loved and that you are surrounded by friends.

Here's what's happening:  
Providence Bay War Memorial Community Arena (5143 HWY 551, Providence Bay). Public skating: Wednesdays and Fridays, 4:30 to 6 pm and Sundays, 1 to 3 pm.

Learn to skate: Sundays 12 noon to 1 pm.

Sponge puck: Sundays 3 to 5 pm.  
The space is available and used for summer markets, weddings and festivals. The winter operating season at the Providence Bay Arena is from mid-December until the end of March and is the host site for the Pearson Brother Memorial and the Bradly McAllister sportsman 4 on 4 hockey tournaments.

Providence Bay Hall: Manitoulin recreational events calendar with class schedules for Providence Bay Hall email [centralmanitoulin.ca](mailto:centralmanitoulin.ca) or contact Alison Sloss at [asloss@centralmanitoulin.ca](mailto:asloss@centralmanitoulin.ca) 705-377-5726.

Providence Bay Public Skating Wednesdays 4 to 6 pm, Saturdays 1 to 3 pm.

Providence Bay Community of Christ Church: Joys and community updates Sundays 10:30 am; Service Sundays 11 am. Check the Providence Bay Community of Christ Facebook page for announcements and updates!

On Monday, December 22 join us for some Christmas carols, a warm fire and bring a DIY decoration to put on the Christmas tree!

Providence Bay Curling Club: Everyone is welcome at the Providence Bay Curling Club! Junior Curling is back Saturdays starting November 8 until the end of March. Ages SK to Grade 8 - equipment provided \$25 per curler. For more info visit: [provcurling.ca/junior](http://provcurling.ca/junior).

Providence Bay Curling Club is selling \$10 tickets for the Providence Bay Curling Club Youth Program for the win booze/beer for a year draw in March. These make great stocking stuffers. For more information on upcoming bonspiels, tickets and events Contact David at [providencebaycurling@gmail.com](mailto:providencebaycurling@gmail.com) or 705-377-4668 to register your team!

The Heavens: Manitoulin Island is a dark sky reserve so find a dark sky spot, bring your telescope and enjoy the wonders of the cosmos. Whether you're a seasoned skywatcher or just love watching shooting stars and auroras.

December 21, Winter Solstice; December 22 to 23, Ursid Meteor Shower; and December 24, Santa's Sleigh.

The Friends: Happy Birthday to all of you Christmas babies! Happy Birthday, Linda!

Go easy out there on the roads. The cold is here and that means more animals are on the move and more hazards and unpredictable conditions on the

roadways so plan ahead of any weather and go easy. If you are visiting Manitoulin Island-welcome!

You can also visit the Central Manitoulin Township webpage at [CentralManitoulin.ca](http://CentralManitoulin.ca) or visit [ExploreManitoulin.com](http://ExploreManitoulin.com) for updates on all the events happening near you. Happy Christmassing and commutes - be safe out there!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS: Wishing you all a wonderful and Happy Christmas season! I will be back here in January! Newspaper Deadlines are as follows: The last issue is December 24, early deadline is December 18.

First paper back is January 7, deadline is January 1.

*Kagawong*  
*Team Fergmeijer*

Trying to get organized for Christmas has made it abundantly clear that Team Fergmeijer are adults in the same way that a tomato is a fruit. On top of this, there are a couple things making us angsty this week. For starters, someone needs to tell the locals that just because we are Canadians, "I have winter tires and heated seats" is not an acceptable pick-up line. Also on the theme of romance - it occurs to us that giving someone six geese (especially a-laying and therefore in full protect-the-nest mode) is NOT a gesture of true love. Never mind seven swans! And yesterday, we saw a woman dressed up like a Christmas tree. Can you believe it?! In this day and age, someone wearing fir.

St. John's Anglican Church is holding its annual community Christmas Eve service on December 24. Join them at 4 pm to celebrate the season with lessons and carols.

If you are alone for the holidays or new to the area, or just looking for some camaraderie during the season, you can take part in a free community Christmas dinner at the Little Current United Church Hall on December 25 at 1:30 pm. Cole Hughson will be providing some live entertainment starting at 11 am, and rides are available for those who need them! Contact The Manitoulin Expositor (705-368-2744) to reserve your spot by this Friday at noon.

With the winter weather showing all the signs that it is here to stay, don't forget that Billings council meetings are all available by remote Zoom link if you are not able to attend in person. You can find more information on their Facebook page ([www.fb.com/billingstownshipkagawong](http://www.fb.com/billingstownshipkagawong)) or contact the town office directly.

Very merry birthday wishes go out to Christine L-M and Darren H who are celebrating their 29th birthdays this week! May your birthday and Christmas presents not be combined.

The Seniors Active Living Program will be taking a break over the winter holidays, but there's still time to get out, join in the fun, and be social! Stop by the Park Centre Thursday December 18 at 9 am for Fitness Class and the Chatter Matters Café at 10:30 am. Stay tuned for new activities starting up in January!

The township would like to remind residents that when you clear your driveway, you should not push, shovel, snow blow, or otherwise place snow onto public roadways as it creates dangerous conditions for motorists. The municipality has regulations around this and can result in fines or other enforcement actions. Help keep everyone in the community safe this winter!

Catch up on old times with the complete archive of Team Fergmeijer columns, all the way back to 2015! Check out <http://teamfergmeijer.blogspot.com> to get your fill of puns and haiku. Did we mention the puns?

Team Fergmeijer holiday top tip: The only thing stopping cheesecake from being a breakfast food is you. Have a great week!

*Meldrum Bay*  
*Elaine Bradley*

Thursday night of last week we went to Silverwater to play cards. Four others from Meldrum Bay were there as well. We had a good time.

Friday night at cards in Meldrum there were 3 full tables + 1 sit out. High lady was Myra Duncanson. High man was Rick Bradley. Lady's lone hands went to Rose VanEvery. Men's lone hands went to Murray Duncanson. Diane McCallum won most euchres. Karen Noble won the 50/50. Lois Wismer took home the juice and also won the door prize. For another week, the money jar is safe. We play at 7:00 PM Friday nights, so come and join us.

Saturday morning we had a fun time visiting friends for breakfast. We've never been invited out to breakfast before and it was quite delightful. They have done some renovations so we got a full tour. Everything looks really nice.

Saturday night we went out again for a potluck dinner at the Meldrum Bay Hall. It was a fundraiser to help with the renovations that we needed to do at the Hall. Food was good, and we had a good time visiting. I particularly liked the homemade bread. Thanks to everyone who brought baking and for their generous donations to the Hall renovations.

My brother and sister-in-law got a new water softener and water purifying system in. We decided to do the same, with a new water softener as well. It was installed this week. A nice job was done. We are really glad to say goodbye to super hard water.

Rose and my brother have each had furnace issues. It is a bad time of year to have home heating act up.

Have a great week everyone and Merry Christmas from Meldrum Bay to the rest of Manitoulin.

*Barrie Island*  
*Enid Runnalls*

It's been a winter wonderland here so far this month and the Barrie Island meteorologist is pretty sure that it will be a White Christmas. At least there is a 50% chance of that.

The farmers are full-on feeding cattle and trying to get things in the right place for winter. The yearling calves have been processed and they are part way through with processing this year's group.

Carolyn Lane-Rock arrived on the island last Friday and stayed the weekend at the home of Scott and Enid Runnalls. From there she was able to visit friends and other family, as well as attend a few seasonal events.

In spite of the snowy weather, the Gordon/Barrie Island Christmas Market vendors welcomed shoppers on Saturday. It was a real Municipal event, with all hands on deck. Greeting the community at the door was Councillor Isobel Harry and our very own local clown MaD HoTdeR. Johnny and Sylvia Fletcher's peanut brittle was sold out in the first few minutes! Carrie the Clerk was circulating in the crowd and along with Morgan the office staffer, served hot soup to hungry shoppers. Enid represented the artist and artisans of Grandview Farms, Barrie Island at her table. Reeve Lee Hayden was there to shop and found a few things to check off of his Christmas list.

Meanwhile, after the Market shuttered for the day, the community braved the snowflakes on the way to Gore Bay and participated either on floats or as viewers of the Santa Claus Parade! Gingerbread-Man-Micah joined a cast of cuties smiling and waving from the Dental Queen's 'CandyLand' float. Also waving from the float were his dad Cameron and Reece (both Lollipops). It truly was the sweetest float of the evening and I hear that it was awarded First Prize! The other floats of the parade must have been close contenders for the prizes: there was the Mickey Mouse Club Float, the well lit Rob Dearing and Sons, Dean-na Hardy riding a reindeer (bale) on Bill Fogal's forklift, as well as a pair of OG goats, Manitoulin Transport's winter

wonderland, Henry Chaytor's school bus, Roger's Dumptruck, Fire Engine, Paramedics, a Teddy bear in a side-by-side, and of course Santa Claus! Please jog my memory if I've left anyone out.

On Sunday, Frances Hore was selling her Jams and Jellies, made from berries in her backyard, and Linda Lane had a table of Christmas decor at the Burpee-Mills Christmas Market. Later in the evening some Barrie Islanders found themselves back in town tucking into turkey dinner at the Annual Lyons Memorial United Church Christmas Party at Waters Edge.

On Tuesday the Campbell Horticultural Society held their Christmas Party in Spring Bay. Enid reports that there are many gardening gurus in the group who generously share their knowledge of native plant species, pollinators, floral design and best gardening practices.

Sending wishes for a good recovery to Garth Baker, who is recuperating at his sister's home in Billings.

Please give me a call if you have any news to share.

*Silver Water*  
*Karen Noble*

Friday, Dec 4 in the morning, I went to town to work for a short time. I did some errands and then headed home. I went with Kay Everett and Myra Duncanson to the funeral for Adeline Sampson in Shesheganing.

We went home in time for Kay to go with Lorna Cambria to the Christmas dinner potluck at the Burpee / Mills Complex.

Myra and I picked up Lois Wismer and went to play euchre in Meldrum Bay.

Saturday morning, Albert Meijer and I picked up Robbie Baldwin and went to the Anglican Church cookie walk in Gore Bay. Everyone that was purchasing cookies was grateful for all the work done by the church members and other volunteers.

We went to the Christmas market at the Gordon/Barrie Island municipal building next. There were a large number of vendors inside and we did some shopping. Soup and homemade rolls were being sold for lunch for \$5 so we had some.

My weekend was spent working on lots of projects including some mittens for Christmas presents. Sunday we made dozens of cookies.

Monday morning I made strawberry pies for the Christmas dinner at the Silver Water hall.

In the afternoon, the recycle bins were open from 1:00-2:00 pm. There was a good turnout.

Monday I took Myra Duncanson to euchre at the Burpee / Mills Complex.

Tuesday I worked from home in the morning and then more knitting.

Wednesday I went to Gore Bay in the morning to do a number of errands.

Thursday Albert and I spent the day making tourtiere pies. Some got handed out as early Christmas presents. Some went in the freezer for later. The extra dough made pumpkin pies.

Thursday evening there was euchre at the Silver Water hall.

Murray and Gladys Duncanson went to Toronto for appointments last week. Their son Craig drove them from Sudbury.

Doug and Brenda Carter went to Sudbury on Tuesday. She said the roads and weather were not that bad.

Happy Birthday to Brenda Carter on Dec 8.

Happy Birthday to Paul Sorbara on Dec 9.

Happy Birthday to Murray Duncanson on Dec 10.



# ...Prov Bay arena, Spring Bay hall recommended for closure

...continued from page 1

ed by Councillor Linda Farquhar reads “That the Property Committee recommend to council that the Spring Bay Hall be closed at the end of the 2026 season with a direction to staff to research the concept of a community group assuming care and control of the building.”

A recorded vote was called for, with Councillors Farquhar, Diebolt and John Bisaillon voting in favour of the closure and Mayor Richard Stephens and Councillor Derek Stephens voting against.

A further motion recommending to council to not fund the ice surface at the Providence Bay Arena, effective November 2026 also went to a recorded vote with the same results in voting, Councillors Farquhar, Diebolt and Bisaillon voting in favour of the closure and Mayor Stephens and Councillor Stephens voting against.

Issues with the arena include the cost of hydro and insurance associated with having an ice surface in the building. The combined 2025 deficit for both arenas was \$229,455.

According to the consultants’ recreational report, the arenas generate a paltry \$42,879 in revenue, costs of building repairs not included.

Not all council members have a vote on the Property Committee, but all councillors will be in position to vote when the recommendations come to council.

The addition of the direction to staff to seek a community group to assume care and control of the building was added at the suggestion of Councillor Farquhar, who noted that approach had been successful with the Big Lake Schoolhouse Hall.

Mayor Stephens and Councillor Stephens had indicated that they were not in favour of moving ahead with the recommendations for the hall closure and Providence Bay Arena ice surface decision without community consultations.

Councillors Farquhar, Diebolt and John Bisaillon voting in favour of the closure and Mayor Richard Stephens and Councillor Derek Stephens voting against.

During the meeting, the Property Committee also received verbal updates on the status of a stage two Northern Ontario Heritage Fund application seeking funding for repairs to the Mindemoya Arena (ongoing) and the status of the Memorial Donation Policy.

At issue with memorial donations was a question from staff on just how many times memorial benches and trees would be replaced when damaged by vandalism. Staff requested the committee create a policy in-



The Central Manitoulin Property Committee is recommending the closure of the Providence Bay Arena in 2026.

formed by staff input. It was noted that trees can cost in the neighbourhood of \$1,000 and that benches are a similar amount.

During debate on the closures and ice surface decisions, Councillor Diebolt noted that keeping those facilities online would result in tax increases of as much as 12 percent.

Reaction to the closure and other changes have been swift and, as might be expected, not entirely in favour of the closures and proposed fee increases.

Providence Bay Community Centre Board trustee and Men’s Hockey rep Darren Dewar said he was dismayed to discover the plan to stop funding the creation of ice in Providence Bay next year. He noted that the board did not learn of the plan before the property committee meeting—and that he only heard about it through the grapevine. “I have to admit, that irks me a little bit,” he said.

Mr. Dewar said that he understands the challenges being faced by council when it comes to the costs of maintaining the aging facilities in the community, but he said he also feels there are options available to keep the building in use.

“I have some ideas,” he said, “look at Kagawong and the outdoor rink they have there that has been very successful. “We could try to do something like that in Providence Bay. Maybe just keep a bit of the heat on and, when the weather is right, put in natural ice.” That would then create a covered ice surface with lighting that could be used for many community events while reducing costs dramatically.

“There could be a partnership between the community and the municipality to lower the costs,” said Mr.

Dewar.  
Mr. Dewar pointed out that the annual Pearson Brothers Memorial Hockey Tournament which takes place at the Providence Bay arena January 10 to 11 is pretty much sold out and the Bradley McAllister, which takes place at the end of March, is also a popular event.  
Whatever the decision for next year, Mr. Dewar has a message for hockey fans for this coming season, “come on out and watch some great hockey,” he said, adding that if you are a referee with some spare time, he would love to hear from you.

# ...parent company will consider four sailings

...continued from page 1

He explained the ferry schedule saw two sailings per day and additional sailings on Fridays. “It is becoming quite difficult for local people to get on a sailing,” said Mr. Scott. “If you are taking a holiday you have to plan far ahead, and if you have to say go to a funeral in Wiarton and only have a few days notice it is difficult to get on the ferry. Do you have to drive all the way around now because the ferry is full?”

Lee Hayden, reeve of Gordon/Barrie Island township stated, “four sailings in the summer was a tradition for many years on the ferry. In the 1980s, everyone knew the times and dates that the schedule was running. The excuse (OSTC) is using is that they are only running one ship and can cover everything in this. But I agree with Dale, it is not convenient for locals who need to book a reservation on the ferry in an emergency, for instance.” He pointed out OSTC had added a second ship, the Nindawayma to its ferry schedule between Tobermory and South Baymouth years ago, but this only lasted two years.

“I agree with Dale that we should make a request for the ferry to be returned to four sailings in the summer,” said Mr. Hayden.

“The ferry is always busy regardless of what sailing time,” said Janice Bowerman, an Assiginack township councillor.

“It would do the residents of Manitoulin Island a lot of good if the sailings were increased to four sailings during the summer,” said Mr. Scott.

Richard Stephens, mayor of the municipality of Central Manitoulin said, “I don’t think it would hurt to make a request to consider adding sailings to the schedule during the summer season.”

“And if they find traffic is heavy even during the shoulder seasons, maybe they could consider having an extra sailing for the shoulder seasons,” said Mr. Scott.

The MMA passed a motion to request the OSTC and the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to consider a return to the traditional four sailings of the Chi-Cheemaun during the peak summer sailing season.

# ...M’Chigeeng Chief Morgen Hare reinstated

...continued from page 1

been proceeding in federal court. As part of that hearing, Chief Hare asked the court to reinstate him until the court makes a final decision. Today’s court decision is about the interim reinstatement. Chief Hare will remain in office until the court makes a final decision about the chief’s removal. At that time, we expect that court will also rule about whether the general election scheduled for May 2026 can proceed.”

As was reported previously, Mr. Hare said he had been dismissed by M’Chigeeng First Nation band council on June 30 and had brought an application to federal court to have the decision declared unlawful. He declared the dismissal was contrary to the First Nations custom election code and is unreasonable. He is seeking



a court order to make sure that council takes no steps to interfere with his fulfilling his duties as chief or to replace him through a by-election. He has previously explained he had taken a medical leave of absence with written confirmation from his doctor, but council dismissed him on the basis of having missed three consecutive council meetings.

Mr. Hare was originally elected in September 2023. The grounds for his application reads, “Gimaa Hare has not been afforded procedural fairness as

it relates to councils June 30, 2025 decision to remove him from the office of chief. Council has not provided the justification and explanation required in communicating the reasons of its decision and Gimaa Hare has not been provided with a full opportunity to respond to the allegations against him as set out in council’s June 30, 2025 decision.”

Mr. Hare said he received a letter from the M’Chigeeng administration office which stated, “As determined by M’Chigeeng First Nation Council on June 30, 2025. In section 11 of the M’Chigeeng First Nation custom election code states the position of a council member will be deemed vacant if, during the term of office, the council member fails to attend more than three consecutive council meetings without, what is in

the opinion of council reasonable excuse.”

“It has been recognized that Morgen Hare has failed to attend more than three consecutive meetings,” the M’Chigeeng council letter continued. “In addition, after reviewing various forms of information, it is also the decision of the council that he did not have a reasonable excuse.”

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# ...L. Huron water levels expected to drop by one metre by 2030

...continued from page 1

sippi River, and continues to Chicago, up Lakes Michigan/Huron and ice gets broken up and goes through Lake St. Clair on the Canadian side with an ice breaker to allow them through.”

“That water erodes the riverbeds,” said Ms. Muter. “Then in the spring the dredging is carried out. This is the only part of the Great Lakes that do not have control gates on them,” she said. “Because of all of this the water conveyance is continuing,” she said noting, “all kinds of people have already been relating concerns due to low water.”

“The water levels could be a lot lower this spring than they were last year,” stated Ms. Muter.

Ms. Muter explained when the original Seaway was designed around 1930 locks and control gates were designed for the St. Clair River. Of the five Great Lakes, Lakes Michigan, Huron and Georgian Bay act as a single lake hydraulically, due to the wide Straits of Mackinac connecting Lake Michigan to Lake Huron. It is known as Lakes Michigan-Huron and is the largest area of freshwater on the planet. On average, 2,100 cubic metres per second (a cubic metre is a ton of water) of water enters Lakes Michigan-Huron from Lake Superior via the St. Mary’s River; 32,000 cms



West Bay during a low water level summer in recent years. Environment Canada is predicting Lake Huron levels will drop by one metre by 2030.

enters as precipitation plus runoff less evaporation; and virtually all of the resulting 5,30 cms drains out via the St. Clair River (91 cms leaves via the Chicago diversion).

In 1909 the International Joint Commission (IJC) was established to prevent diversion of water out of or between the Great Lakes, said Ms. Muter. “While lake levels have irregular cycles, over a century Lakes M/H level has been dropping, while Lakes St. Clair and Erie have been rising.”

Since 1860 on the St. Clair River, sand and gravel was removed to build roads beginning in the late 1800s. It was dredged to deepen the

navigation channel, first to 16 feet, then 20 feet, then 25 foot and finally in the early 1960s to 27 feet for St. Lawrence Seaway navigation. 30 million cubic metres of material was removed with no compensation. In addition, high flows and ice jams have caused erosion, increasing the outflow. This dredging and erosion increased the conveyance capacity of the St. Clair River causing the level of Lakes Michigan-Huron to drop by about 50 centimetres permanently, said Ms. Muter.

She showed a picture to the meeting attendees of the entrance to the St. Clair River at the Bluewater Bridge 2020, where ice booms could prevent

ice jams (similar to the Niagara, St. Mary’s and St. Lawrence Rivers ice booms).

In February, during the years 2021-2023, major ice jams occurred in the St. Clair River with Canadian ice breakers needed to break up the ice. The ice layers were up to 8-16 feet thick and the force of the water eroded the sand and soft sediments on the riverbed, increasing the outflow during these ice jams, Ms. Muter explained. “The International Joint Commission confirmed this in their 2007 Upper Lakes Study, but nothing has been done to compensate for this loss. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regularly dredge the lower

riverbed to maintain navigation depth.

“Georgian Bay is a part of Lakes Michigan-Huron and according to McMaster University’s professor Pat Chow-Fraser its eastern northern shores contain the highest quality, most diverse and most extensive wetlands on all of the Great Lakes, but they are the most sensitive to extreme water levels since they are on glacial till sediments scattered among the Precambrian Shield granite shorelines including the 30,000 islands,” she explained.

These wetlands can only tolerate a range of five feet. Outside of that range they either dry up at low levels or are flooded out and trees take over with very significant loss of aquatic life habitat. GBGLF financially and logistically assist McMaster research, noted Ms. Muter. The coastline navigation channel is the route of thousands of recreational boats from May to October. That channel is maintained by the Coast Guard at a six foot or two-metre depth. A metre below record low will shut down the channel to all traffic except small boats.

“In 2003 Lake Michigan-Huron levels reached a low level of 176 metres. GBGLF was formed and retained an engineering team to investigate the cause. The levels stayed low for 15

years,” said Ms. Muter. “In 2004 GBGLF retained internationally respected coastal consulting engineering firm W.F. Baird and Associates to study the St. Clair River. The result was an additional erosion since the seaway project has caused Lakes Michigan-Huron to drop by a total of 50 centimetres.”

Ms. Muter continued that in 2007 the IJC funded the Upper Great Lakes Study to confirm the Baird study. “The result confirmed increased conveyance due to ongoing erosion. But no action was recommended.”

In 2013, the IJC commissioners recommended to governments that flexible structures in the St. Clair River be studied. These would be used only to raise low-water levels but not interfere with high-water levels. “To date, neither the Canadian government nor the US government has responded to the IJC advice to governments.”

Bill Bialkowski, a retired engineer at GBGLF designed a proposal for flexible structures in the St. Clair River, for hydrofoil gates in the upper St. Clair River, with gates that could be raised and lowered.

“In 2025, GBGLF again retained W.F. Baird and Associates to again model and study the St. Clair River conveyance since

...continued on page 17

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# ...Robyn Yaschuk feted with Award for Excellence by St. Joseph’s

...continued from page 3

named in honour of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie who built the Sudbury General Hospital, which opened its doors to patients 75 years ago.

In 1997, the hospital was renamed St. Joseph’s Health Centre, and the organization began to focus on supporting adults as they age. While the former hospital has come down, SJHC continues to grow. Today, it operates a two-site rehabilitation hospital and two long-term care homes in Sudbury, in ad-

dition to a long-term care home in Gore Bay.

“For 75 years, St. Joseph’s has adapted to the changing health care landscape, always looking to meet unmet needs in the community and serve the most vulnerable with dignity, excellence, service and integrity,” said Kari Gervais, president and chief executive officer. “The Sisters have always courageously gone where the need was greatest and then shifted their gaze to the next need. These awards carry forward that legacy.

They remind us that our mission, to respond to the needs of the whole person, body, mind and spirit is alive today through the extraordinary dedication of our staff.”

The 17 employees at SJHC’s five locations were chosen for the award by a panel of staff, board members, community members and a past recipient.

“These awards are not just recognitions of good work, they are intentional and tangible ways of demonstrating how we as an organization live out our mission,” said Reverend Dr. David Long, director of Mission. “Let us celebrate these Sisters Awards of Excellence not only as a recognition of individual achievement, but as a reminder of who we are called to be, a community inspired by faith, moved by compassion and driven by hope.”



Robyn Yaschuk, a St. Josephs Lodge (Gore Bay) employee has been named as one of 17 employees by St. Joseph’s Health Centre with a Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie ‘Award for Excellence.’ In photo front row from left is, Sister Sarah Quackenbush board member, recipient winner Robyn Yaschuk, IPAC lead and staff educator of St. Joseph’s Lodge, and Sister Frances Carter, board member. Back row from left, Kari Gervais, president and CEO of St. Joseph’s Health Centre, David Long director of Mission, Alexis St. Jean, chief operating officer of long-term care, and Jaime-Lynn Kalmikov, administrator of St. Joseph’s Lodge.



Trinity United Church has been sold.

# ...Trinity United sold

...continued from page 1

the church is,” said Rev. Inglis, and worshipping started in 1915 when the church membership was Methodist. A 100th anniversary celebration was held at the Trinity United Church in September 2018.

The church building will now enjoy a second lease on life as a community asset and, should the community eventually decide to build a new multi-use facility to replace its aging arenas, the property could be incorporated into those plans.

# ...Pearl Waindubence

...continued from page 1

cil, they did their best.”

For her own part, Gimaa Waindubence has 16 years-plus on council under her belt, although her council presence actually stretches back to the 1970s. “I’ve been around for a while,” she laughs.

The band, however, has been without a chief for much of the past year and a half, noted Ms. Waindubence. “The executive director and staff did a good job managing things over the past year and a half,” she said. “Hopefully, we will now be able to relieve some of the pressure.”

“But we don’t want them to let up,” she laughs.

Among her priorities heading into the next two years will be tackling the ongoing drug crisis that



**Ogitmaa Pearl Waindubence**

is hitting so many communities hard, including Sheguiandah, but the new o’gitmaa also has her eye on expanding economic development and developing capital projects in the community.

“Stay tuned,” said Gimma Waindubence. “I will have a lot more to say later. Right now I am pretty busy getting caught up.”

# ...water rates will rise by seven percent

...continued from page 3

The proposed budget would see council taking about \$306,000 out of its reserves, leaving approximately \$200,000 left in its balance. The proposed budget would see just over \$154,000 being added to reserves. “It is important to have reserves in place, so they are in place when needed,” said Mr. Lalonde. He said strengthening reserves ensures the town can leverage external funding and reduce long-term costs.

“This operating budget is presented at a recommended seven percent increase,” said Mr. Lalonde. He explained that although the town asset management plan indicates a combined annual increase of more than nine percent, the reality is many projects are beyond the funding capability of the town without the support of major provincial or federal grants.

“The seven percent increase is a reasonable solution that continues to grow the water/wastewater reserves to support future requirements when funding is available,” said Mr. Lalonde. A one percent increase adds a \$7,500 contribution to the reserve. With a seven percent increase there would be a \$7 per month increase per average household.

“It was a good presentation,” said Councillor Dan Osborne, who chaired the meeting. “As Dan said, the town still has probably one of the lowest water rates on Manitoulin Island for drinking water,” said Councillor Osborne. “We had for years been building up our water reserves, it is just in the last few years that this has decreased. I think the rates are fair, and it could be a whole lot worse.”

Council approved the water/wastewater budget as presented with a rate increase of seven percent for 2026.

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• 2008 Case loader backhoe Call For Quote		Series L6060HSTCC	\$79,999
• 2013 John Deere 12”		• 2023 Kubota SCL1000	\$32,995
post hole digger	Call For Quote	• 2023 Kubota LX10	
• 2014 Case TR320	\$49,000	Series LX2610 Cab	\$49,900
• 2014 Land Pride AFM 4211	\$6,995	• 2023 John Deere 1	
• 2015 Kubota BX25D TLB	\$25,900	Series 1025R	\$36,900
• 2015 Kubota L6060HSTCC	\$69,995	• 2024 Bilodeau Blower	
• 2016 Kubota SVL-90-2	\$69,000	S3000	\$13,995
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• 2018 Kubota KX033			
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# ...Two Island BMO employees are named ‘Best of the Best’

...continued from page 3

BMO said “Deborah is great to work with. She always has her employees’ back and is great with customers. If we are swamped with customers

## ...community Christmas dinner

...continued from page 3

of charge and will feature live musical entertainment by singer/songwriter Cole Hughson starting at 11 am. Dinner itself will take place at 1:30 pm on December 25.

The organizers, who insist on anonymity, stress that “everyone is welcome.”

The Expositor is assisting with the efforts of the community volunteers by accepting reservations for a seat at the table. Simply contact The Expositor at 705-368-2744. Last day to register is Friday, December 19. If you live near Little Current and are in need of a ride, let us know when you register.

The dinner is being held at the Little Current United Church Hall at 5 Robinson Street in Little Current.

at the counter, she always helps. Her efforts make this a good working environment.”

Heather Turner, branch manager at the Little Current BMO said in the case of Ms. MacDonald getting this recognition, “there are a lot of underlying things that contribute to it. She has the ability to make every customer feel valued and respected. Holly always goes above and beyond and treats everyone with the same kindness and fairness.”

“Holly sets the standard of excellence that inspires all of us,” said Ms. Turner. “The Best of the Best recognition is not just an award, it is a testament to the difference employees make every day at the Bank of Montreal. To be recognized as outstanding amongst your peers and so many others is well deserved.”

Ms. MacDonald told The Expositor, “I was surprised in being told I had



Holly MacDonald, a customer service representative, who works at the Bank of Montreal in Little Current and Manitowaning, has been honoured with the BMO annual Best of the Best recognition.

been recognized for this recognition. Absolutely, it was a great surprise.” She has worked with BMO for 19 years, working in both Little Current and



Deborah Woods, branch manager of the Bank of Montreal in Gore Bay was nominated by her peers and recognized with the BMO Annual Best of the Best recognition. In photo from left are bank employees Trevor Wright, Kathleen Violette, Jenna Purcell in congratulating Deborah Woods on her recognition.

Manitowaning office locations.”

“I enjoy my job very much, the great employees I work with and the great customers we have,” said Ms. MacDonald.

The local BMO award

winners will be attending a celebration taking place in Toronto in March, with other nominated peers from the Greater Ontario and Atlantic region.

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# Kenjgewin Teg named an official test site for Canadian Adult Education Credential

M’CHIGEENG—Kenjgewin Teg is proud to announce its designation as an official test site for the new Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC), which has re-

placed the General Educational Development (GED) high school equivalency program in Canada. By hosting CEC testing, Kenjgewin Teg provides a valuable opportunity for individuals in the region to access a high-quality, Canadian-developed education qualification that supports further education, training, and employment opportunities.

“Being a test site for the CAEC is our first step in supporting access to expanding learning; going forward, based on the actual usage and demand for the CAEC by learners in the upcoming year, Kenjgewin Teg may consider expanding its role in this

new credential, in addition to being a test location,” shared Beverley Roy, president. “In prior years, as one of several pathways to post-secondary education, Kenjgewin Teg supported students interested in attaining the GED credential, and we will assess if a similar need exists for the CAEC.”

The CAEC is designed for adults who have not obtained a high school diploma but require an official credential to demonstrate high school-level knowledge and skills. In Ontario, candidates who successfully complete the CAEC will receive an Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate. The assess-

ment consists of five subject areas: writing, reading, mathematics, social studies and science. To pass the CAEC and earn their equivalency certificate, candidates must achieve a minimum score of 55 percent on each of the five tests.

To be eligible to take the CAEC, individuals must be residents of Ontario and at least 18 years of age. This program is an excellent option for individuals who are currently employed and need proof of high school equivalency for career advancement or for those who wish to pursue college, apprenticeship, or other post-secondary education opportunities.

Those interested in writing the CAEC can register through the TVO Independent Learning Centre website at [www.ilc.org.caec](http://www.ilc.org.caec). During the registration process, candidates can select Kenjgewin Teg as their preferred test site. Once a request has been received from TVO, a site administrator will contact registrants to schedule their testing session.

## ...Sheguiandah First Nation

...continued from page 3

votes, Sunset Sagutch received a total of 0 votes, Ruby Thompson (who also ran for chief) received a total of 45 votes, Eric Vautour received a total of 38 votes, Matthew Waindubence received a total of 17 votes, Nevada Waindubence received a total of 15 votes and Sarah Williams received a total of 0 votes.

There was a total of 154 votes cast with no spoiled ballots.

The results were posted by the electoral officer, One-Feather.



## NOTICE BOARD

14 Water Street East (Post Office Building)  
Town of NEMI P.O. Box 608 Little Current, ON POP 1K0

### NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands is now offering hybrid meetings. Come and join us in the Council Chambers located at 14 Water Street or join us via Zoom by using the following:

**Meeting # 489 313 1974 or call 1-587-328-1099**

Our Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday and Thursday of the month. For a full copy of the agenda, please visit our website at: [www.townofnemi.on.ca](http://www.townofnemi.on.ca)

### Recycling Program Changes

Please be advised effective **January 1st** what we recycle has changed. Please visit our website or <https://www.circularmaterials.ca/recycleontario> to see what is new.

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December 25 – Closed  
December 26 – Closed  
January 1 – Closed

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### Tax Arrears

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Please contact Sheryl Wilkin or Melanie Aelick for more information.

### New Year's Eve Family Fun at the NEMI Rec Centre

Free skating, activities, games and snacks in the lobby  
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### Holiday Skating

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December 22nd Noon-1:00 pm  
December 23rd Noon-1:00 pm  
December 27th Noon-1:00 pm  
December 29th Noon-1:00 pm  
December 30th Noon-1:00 pm  
January 4th 9:00-10:00 am Beginners  
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## The Manitoulin Expositor

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# Big names coming to Lone Pine Stage next summer

*Kim Mitchell, The Road Hammers at Prov Fair, Larry Efaw, Bluegrass Mountaineers at Bluegrass in the Country*

**by Tom Sasvari**  
PROVIDENCE BAY—Some big names in rock, country and bluegrass music are headlining two annual music festivals in Providence Bay next summer.



Rock and roll icon Kim Mitchell and his band will be the headliner for the Providence Bay Fair Festival on August 21.



Larry Efaw and The Bluegrass Mountaineers will be the headliner at the Bluegrass in the Country Music Festival, taking place in Providence Bay in June.

## ...Bone Builders robotics

...continued from page 3

continued Ms. Bauer. “It was an amazing event, and the organizers did a great job,” said Ms. Bauer. This age group is now done for the season until the program starts again next summer. Reece has now graduated out of this age group, and we are excited because she will be joining the MSS team next year. She’s been part of our (youth-juniors) program and is bringing an amazing package of skills to the high school team.”



The Manitoulin Bone Builders First Lego League Challenge team won the Rising All-Star award at a competition held in North Bay, last Saturday. The team included Samuel Pennings, a Manitoulin Secondary School robotics team mentor, Theo Desjardins, Gabe Hillyard, Easton Lauber, Reese Sabourin, Greta Von Schmeling and missing from photo, Olivia McCormick.

be the headliners at the Providence Bay Fair Music Festival in August, with Larry Efaw and the Bluegrass Mountaineers will be headlining the long list of performers at the annual Bluegrass in the Country music festival taking place in Providence Bay in June.

“We wanted to make it so more people would come out for the weekend music festival and have something for those that like rock and roll and those who like country,” said Wayne Legge. “Having a classic rock performance and country performance was the way we wanted to go. The feedback we have received so far has been very good.”

“The biggest announcement of the year has arrived, and we’re bringing the heat (and the rock and the country),” the website states. “The Providence Bay Fair festival dates are August 21-22. Get ready for a legendary night of Canadian classic rock! The one and only Kim Mitchell is bringing ‘Patio Lanterns,’ ‘Go for Soda’ and decades of hits to the stage. Prepare for a massive party!”

“Closing out the weekend is Canada’s premier high-octane country trio, The Road Hammers. The Road Hammers will bring the full-throttle, gear-jamming energy for an unforgettable Saturday Night.”

“When we had the opportunity to get Kim Mitchell here, I mean, who doesn’t like Km Mitchell?” stated Mr. Legge.

Mr. Legge explained as well, “We feel having these two great bands performing for the weekend we feel will just add to the Prov. Fair. The fair always provides lots of things for kids and adults to see and take part in, vendors, food, games, rides, the parade and much more. After a day of all this activity they can attend a great concert on

Friday and Saturday.” “We did have camping available, but it was late to the table last year. This year we have 100 campsites available and have already sold 15 in three days they have been available for the weekend,” continued Mr. Legge. Those who want to attend the two concerts, and the fair as well, can secure

your full weekend for just \$80 plus tax. This includes both concerts and full weekend admission to the Providence Bay Fair. As of January 1, tickets will be \$90. Kim Mitchell and his band will be among two bands performing on Friday evening while The Road Hammers and two more local bands will take

to the stage Saturday evening. “Music lovers will have five bands to listen to and a weekend pass to the fair with one ticket.” “Tickets for the two concerts will cost \$100 per ticket at the door. So, you can save \$20 by getting a ticket now. We (Providence Bay Fair board)

...continued on page 14

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# ANNIE is filling seats and delighting audiences at YES Theatre

by Margery Frisch  
SUDBURY—ANNIE, the musical, is having tremendous success in Sudbury. The Expositor had the opportunity to catch a weekday production when the theatre was filled to the brim with students in Grades 5 to 8 from the Sudbury area. It was a noisy, boisterous crowd, but when the lights dimmed, silence fell.  
Well, of course, they'd quiet down, when mean Miss Hannigan, fiercely portrayed by Linda Kash, entered, stage right, glaring down upon them. Her wordless stroll across the stage set the tone. Should they laugh, or did they dare?  
ANNIE is the beloved musical created by Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin pro-

viding music and lyrics with the story by Thomas Meehan. It made its Broadway debut in 1977. Inspiration came from the 1924 comic strip "Little Orphan Annie," created by Harold Gray, who was inspired by the poem "Little Orphan Annie," written by James Whitcomb Riley. The musical, following its debut, ran for nearly six years on Broadway, winning seven Tony awards and spawning countless productions in numerous countries. And now, it has come to the stage at the YES Theatre in Sudbury, with one of Wiikwemkoong's own, Ogeequa Williston Osawabine playing the lead - Annie. Ogeequa shares the lead with Willow Ann Wilcock. "You'll see an incredible perfor-



From left, Ogeequa Williston Osawabine of Wiikwemkoong, Linda Kash as Miss Hannigan and Willow Ann Wilcock on the set of Annie, the Musical. Both girls share the lead role of Annie.

perience with a matinee where the audience did nothing, through the entire thing, didn't do anything but clap, and I was afraid this would be a repeat of that, but it wasn't, it was the exact opposite and it was the best thing ever." In terms of this being her first major part in a major production she said, "It feels great" with a sigh. There's no stopping Ogeequa Williston Osawabine now, acting is in her blood.  
The actors came out for a Q & A with the kids in the audience at the end of the show. Clearly, there were many thespians in attendance, because most of the questions centered around theatre. "How do you get a part in one of these shows?" one student asked. Another asked about the music. And another wanted to know how long it took to rehearse the show. The answer was five weeks, which is truly remarkable, considering the number of cast members (and little ones at that), the number of musical pieces, the choreography, not to mention the blocking of scenes with spoken dialogue. A masterpiece put together in five weeks under the direction of the amazing Peter Hinton-Davis.  
ANNIE is a must-see show for all ages, a perfect Christmas gift, as the show centers around the Christmas season, with a feel-good ending. Because of its great success, ANNIE has been extended an extra week, until December 28. Only nine shows remain, and tickets are selling fast, so better act now. You'll be glad you did.

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mance no matter who's playing the lead," Ogeequa's mother, Christine Williston said, "they're both great," which gives you an indication of the community spirit and family atmosphere at the YES Theatre.  
On Wednesday, December 10, before an audience of her peers, Ogeequa Williston Osawabine played Annie with the energy, spunk and fearlessness that is the character herself, belying the young actor's 12 years. How many times has she sung 'Tomorrow,' and on that day, she belted it

out as if it was a natural extension of herself, her voice clear, beautiful and strong.  
All the performers in this production, from the very young - orphan Molly, played by 8-year-old Lilou Seelig Cash - to the seasoned adults with whom they shared the stage were professional in their acting, their singing and their choreography.  
Linda Kash as Miss Hannigan, the cruel keeper of the orphanage, was a delight to watch. Her timing, her movements, her singing voice, was pure entertainment. Oliver Warbucks, played by veteran actor Jake Deeth, was equally entertaining, with a clear and strong singing voice. The minor characters of Grace, Rooster and Lily, played by Er Simbagoye, Haui and April Perrin,

respectively, the young orphans and the ensemble performers were spot on with their timing, their voices strong, their movements sure.  
The set design was simple and sparse but enough to tell the story. The scene with Franklin D. Roosevelt and his cabinet was inspired. And the final scene, when the FBI agents take the bad guys away was absolute genius. The orchestra throughout the production depicted the era perfectly and they were visible to the audience, above the stage, through the magic of technology.  
There was an opportunity to speak with Ogeequa following the show and she was asked, "Were you nervous performing in front of an audience of kids your age?" "No," she said, "I was at first, because I had a bad ex-

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## RDSB ends year with \$500K surplus

by Tom Sasvari  
SUDBURY—The Rainbow District School Board (RDSB) has a surplus in its budget at the end of the current financial fiscal year.  
Derek D'Angelo, on behalf of the board's auditors, KPMG, presented the financial statements at the school board meeting last week. RDSB received a clean audit on its financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2025. A clean audit is the highest level of assurance that an auditor can provide.  
At the end of the 2024-2025 school year, RDSB had a surplus and added \$560,395 to its accumulated surplus, Mr. Angelo told the school board members.  
Trustee Judy Hunda praised Mr. D'Angelo and board staff for making things relatively easy for the members of the board's audit committee in helping to get the audit completed.  
Trustee Judy Kosmerly reiterated that the RDSB had a surplus of \$560,395 in the fiscal year. "We had thought (previously) that we would be in a deficit position this year."

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# Interactive workshop on ChatGPT and AI is good for local businesses

**by Margery Frisch**  
LITTLE CURRENT—On Wednesday evening, December 10 and Thursday afternoon, December 11, at the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre, a very interesting and quite popular interactive workshop was being conducted by Avery Swartz, founder and CEO of Camp Tech. Her workshop was all about ChatGPT and AI. The program was hosted by Susan Whynott of Northern Ontario Women (NOW), and many women, and one gentleman at the Thursday workshop, came out to hear about and learn through their laptops and other devices, how ChatGPT might help their businesses.

Ms. Swartz is a self-declared tech-nerd, and she began her workshop by having everyone state their name, the company they work for (or not, if they were there out of curiosity), “and, fill in the blank with one word. ‘I feel \_\_\_\_\_ about using AI in my business.’” The answers varied, though there were some repeats: confused, was a popular one, as was conflicted, nervous, uncertain, scared. ‘Opposed,’ came from this writer. That got a laugh. “But you’re here,” said Ms. Swartz, “that’s good.” To which Ms. Whynott informed Ms. Swartz she had asked the press to come to cover the story. More laughter.

“This is my job, teaching people about technol-



A well-attended workshop on AI for business was hosted by Northern Ontario Women at the Manitoulin Hotel last week featuring presenter Avery Swartz.

photo by Margery Frisch

ogy,” Ms. Swartz said. “This is what I love to do. I own a company that’s a tech education company; I’ve been doing this for about 14 years” she said. “I’m here to give you practical advice.”

For two hours, Ms. Swartz did exactly that, she gave advice that was helpful, instructive, informative (what not to tell ChatGPT) and useful. She began by saying, “AI is everywhere,” and, on the screen behind her she produced a list: “In the last 24 hours, have you: Unlocked your smartphone with your face? Used auto complete? Scrolled social media? Used Google Maps of Waze for directions? Logged into online banking? Listened to a song that Spotify suggested? Removed something from a photo? Had an email

go to your spam folder? Charged your smartphone? AI has actually been in our lives, and we have been using it for a very long time,” she said.

She spoke of Generative AI, how it scans its training data for ‘patterns,’ tries to predict what words come next based on patterns, but does not understand the meaning behind what it generates. She warned of “hallucinations.” AI tools will never say it does not know, instead, it will generate a response that sounds confident but is incorrect. In other words, it lies. Generative AI is best used when you can verify the information given, when there’s more than one right answer. Don’t use GenAI when there’s only one right answer, and you can’t check its accuracy.

Ms. Swartz also warned against giving sensitive information to GenAI and because GenAI makes stuff up—always verify the output.

She then took everyone on a tutorial of hands-on activities. Opening ChatGPT was first and foremost, either signing up or signing in, if you already have the app. A few did. She warned, it’s a free app, but with some of the assignments, you may hit a wall and they’ll want you to pay. “You can skip those,” she said.

The first assignment was to have ChatGPT write an email. Then, add context and detail to sound more personal but, she warned, do not give confidential information. Everyone was instructed to have ChatGPT make the email sound more casual, shorten it to two sentences. The assignments continued, all the while Ms. Swartz was instructing, warning and educating about the benefits and the dangers of this technology. She explained how to add tone, voice and style to AI with prompts. Then how to save those prompts in a file on your computer so you don’t have to write them out each time you use AI. The third exercise was to have ChatGPT take a copy of your handwritten notes and turn them into a task list. This was of most interest to those in attendance. It can take a photo of your handwritten notes

and turn it into something useful. Ms. Swartz showed everyone how to use voice rather than written instructions. She asked AI to interview her to create standard operating procedure for recurring tasks. Lastly, she had everyone creating images by typing in prompts – a woman in a suburban setting walking a large dog. Impressive. Many did all the exercises, pleased with the results. Some got lost along the way and others were too skeptical or fearful and did not invite ChatGPT into their laptops.

Ms. Swartz wrapped up her session by covering the pros and cons of AI. It saves time, you can offload mundane tasks, spark new ideas, improve customer service, lower costs and level the playing field. The risks: disinformation, deception, impact on jobs, environmental impact, eroding critical thinking skills, data privacy/security, copywriting and regulatory issues, bias, disclosure and reputational risk. Ms. Swartz concluded by covering the ethical aspects of AI: ‘Is this tool good for this task? Or am I using AI because I’m lazy? What’s the environmental impact of my AI use? Am I taking work away from someone else? It’s important to think about these things and mitigate as much as possible. I want to mitigate ‘hallucinations.’ I want to im-

prove the work; I want to mitigate algorithmic bias. And then there’s accountability. I think about accountability all the time. If I’m not accountable, then I shouldn’t use AI.”

Ms. Swartz showed some technological wizardry at the end of her presentation to demonstrate various ways to enhance one’s business presence on the world wide web. Stressing all the while, the importance of fact checking for accuracy before trusting the AI generated results.

“I attended a workshop of Avery’s down in Parry Sound last fall,” Ms. Whynott said when asked how she came to invite Ms. Swartz to Little Current, “and thought ‘wow, I need to get her up here.’ It took us a while of going back and forth to nail down an opening in her calendar, but I’m very glad we did.” Everyone who attended her workshops was very glad she came. Her presentation was thorough, informative and entertaining. Though better educated about ChatGPT and AI, some who attended are still conflicted, uncertain and scared, but that’s okay. Having listened to Ms. Swartz’s warnings they have an even better understanding of why they’re conflicted, uncertain and scared. Knowledge is power.

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# Toronto Police asking for help in identifying man with Island roots

by **Jacqueline St.Pierre,**  
**Local Journalism Initiative Reporter**  
TORONTO—He was found where the city loosens its grip—near the Don River and Queen Street East—on July 26, 2002. No wallet. No papers. No one pacing the shoreline asking questions. Toronto Police say foul play was not suspected. Just a man, unnamed, carried out of the water and filed into a system


that is very good at holding onto bodies and very bad at holding onto stories. Twenty-three years later, that man still has no name. But the story has begun to speak. Through Investigative Genetic Genealogy, Toronto Police have learned that most of his ancestry is Indigenous, rooted in Manitoulin Island and the Algoma region, braided with French

and Acadian lines. Two-thirds Indigenous. One-third European. A familiar map to many families here. His DNA shares common ancestors with people carrying surnames long etched into Island life: Pine, Corbiere, Toulouse, Migwans, Debassige, Roy, Vincent, Jimagan, Waboose, Picody, and Sissenah. Police caution that his surname in life may have been something else entirely. This is not a family tree you pass without stopping. It is a thicket of relations, doubled and tripled through generations of intermarriage, kinship and survival. According to Toronto Police Service Detective Constable James Atkinson, updated DNA testing has produced many matches—none close enough yet to restore his name. X-chromosome matches point strongly

to Manitoulin Island on his mother's side. On his father's side, the genetic trail leads toward Mississauga First Nation near Blind River. The earliest confirmed maternal ancestors are Marie Roy, born May 24, 1817, and Henri Corbiere, born around April 2, 1823—both believed to have been born on Manitoulin, possibly in Wiikwemkoong, and later passing in West Bay/M'Chigeeng First Nation in 1917 and 1918. Paternally, most matches trace back to descendants of Joseph Vincent and his wife Angelique, who settled around Mississauga First Nation in the mid-1800s. Police have spoken with many families. Several possibilities have been ruled out through close familial DNA

...continued on page 24

APPLICATION FOR CONSENT  
THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWN OF NORTHEASTERN MANITOULIN AND THE ISLANDS  
UNDER SECTION 53 OF THE PLANNING ACT  
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 AT 7:00 PM



File No.: Con 2025-15  
Applicant: The 833 Island Corp  
Legal  
Description: Island TP 833 PCL 345 Inst 9434  
Official Plan: Settlement Area  
Zoning: Residential

PURPOSE OF THE APPLICATION

Purpose of this application is for the creation of a new lot.

CONSENT IS REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

The consent is required for the creation of two new building lots.


ANYONE INTERESTED IN THESE MATTERS MAY ATTEND the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands public meeting concerning this application. If you have specific comments regarding this application, you may submit a letter to the Secretary-Treasurer of the planning authority prior to or at the meeting.

IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND this Hearing, it may proceed in your absence and, except as otherwise provided in the *Planning Act*, you will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceeding.

IF YOU WISH TO BE NOTIFIED of the Decision of the Planning Authority in respect of the proposed Consent, you must make a written request to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Planning Authority at the address shown below.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY THAT FILES AN APPEAL against a decision of the Approval Authority in respect of the proposed consent has not made a written submission to the Approval Authority before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Ontario Land Tribunal may dismiss the appeal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding this application is available to the public for viewing at the Municipal office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday; or you may contact Ms. Pam Myers, Clerk at (705) 368-3500 ext. 228.



Dated: December 17, 2025

Town of Northeastern Manitoulin & the Islands  
14 Water St. E., P.O. Box 608  
Little Current, ON P0P 1K0

A police sketch of a man discovered deceased on July 26, 2002 near the Don River and Queen Street East in Toronto.

## ...Lone Pine Stage next summer

...continued from page 11

wanted to make the fair weekend as affordable as possible for everyone,” continued Mr. Legge. “We didn’t have a VIP ticket last year, but we are going to have 100 VIP tickets this year, at \$250 per ticket, and have sold a quarter of the tickets already.” He noted the tremendous support being provided by a lot of sponsors, businesses and individuals towards the 2026 Fair and music festival. “The Providence Bay Fair Music Festival is definitely growing,” said Mr. Legge. “When the annual Country Fest fes-


tival and Rockin’ on the Rock were cancelled it left a massive hole. We are going to try and fill this gap.” Grab your tickets today at <https://events.frontdoor.plus/event/1835> “Larry Efaw is very well known on the bluegrass music circuit and has played with quite a few big names and bands,” said Ben Lentir, of Bluegrass in the Country. “He has been on the bluegrass circuit for many years. The band he has is almost a completely total new band. They are all great people and great musicians; his grandson is one of the musicians and Gracie Timmermans is also a distant cousin of the Timmermans in Little Current.” “I met Larry a couple of years ago when I played at a festival in Red River, and (the late) Brother John Featherstone had been working with him to get him and his band to play at our festival. But then COVID-19 showed up in 2020, and everything went behind the eight ball. Last year I was performing in River Valley and Mr. Efaw’s band was playing and we got talking about his band coming here.” Duke Street Turnaround, “is a Toronto based band that is new to the bluegrass circuit, but highly recommended by a couple of other bluegrass festivals,” continued Mr. Lentir. “They are new to bluegrass and are another young group, but they are doing really well in bluegrass. We are always open to new people and bands.” Another new performer next year is Onion Honey. “They are more of a traditional lock hammer folk style bluegrass band with wonderful harmonies.” The band Granite Hill has played at the local festival off and on over the years, having last per-

formed in Providence Bay two years ago. The Bender Project, “is a duo group from the Pembroke area. They are new to our festival,” said Mr. Lentir. “They are really excited to be performing here, we saw them in Sault Ste. Marie at the Northern Ontario Country Music Awards, and Carol Gilmore had asked them if they wanted to come to our festival. They played on the Thursday night show and decided they wanted to play at our festival.” Other bands in the musical lineup include the Canucky Bluegrass Boys, “who are a really good band and a tremendous supporter of our festival. They have played here several times and were originally coaxed to join our festival by Austin Featherstone.” Other performers during the June 12-14 weekend include Avery Drive of Espanola, Larry Carriere and Different Picks, along with Ben Lentir. “We are really looking forward to next year’s festival,” stated Mr. Lentir. Ticket information and prices can be viewed on the Bluegrass in the Country website. “All the proceeds from Bluegrass In the Country over the weekend goes to support Manitoulin Special Olympics and our athletes on Manitoulin Island,” said Mr. Lentir. “We really enjoy putting on this festival and hope we can keep it going for many more years.” “With the beautiful new Lone Pine stage at the Providence Bay fairgrounds, it has really been a big benefit, and the bands love it, said Mr. Lentir. He said the event receives tremendous support from local sponsors, individuals and businesses.

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
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**Smiling for a great cause!**

Volunteers and Tim Horton's staff present a cheque for \$5,574 to Manitoulin Family Resources Executive Director Colleen Hill, centre.

photo by Michael Erskine



Folks at the Manitoulin Health Centre Auxilliary are an industrious bunch. This year's Tim Horton's Smile Cookie campaign benefited from quite a few volunteers stepping up to lend a hand.

photo by Michael Erskine



**Little Current Lions Club members Smile Cookie efforts abound!**

Members of the Little Current Lions Club receive a thank you cheque from the Tim Horton's staff at the Little Current branch of the iconic Canadian coffee stop.

photo by Michael Erskine

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# ...Manitoulin Island communities celebrate Christmas with style



Assiginack Mayor Brenda Reid caught the Gingerbread man during the community's tree lighting celebration.  
photo by Kelly Ranta



Author and master potter Jan McQuay was on hand at the Gordon Christmas market.



Gore Bay council and staff were more than barely there during the annual Christmas parade.



Here comes the Manitoulin 348 Sea Cadet Corps! These amazing young men and women are always there for the community.



Candy canes and lollipops are a delightful bit of Christmas kit.



Look out! It's the Grinch all set to scoop up your Christmas ting dingers.



Do you get to be more of a community fixture than Betty's Convenience Store? If so, we can't figure out how.



Now that is taking the ugly Christmas sweater to a whole new level.

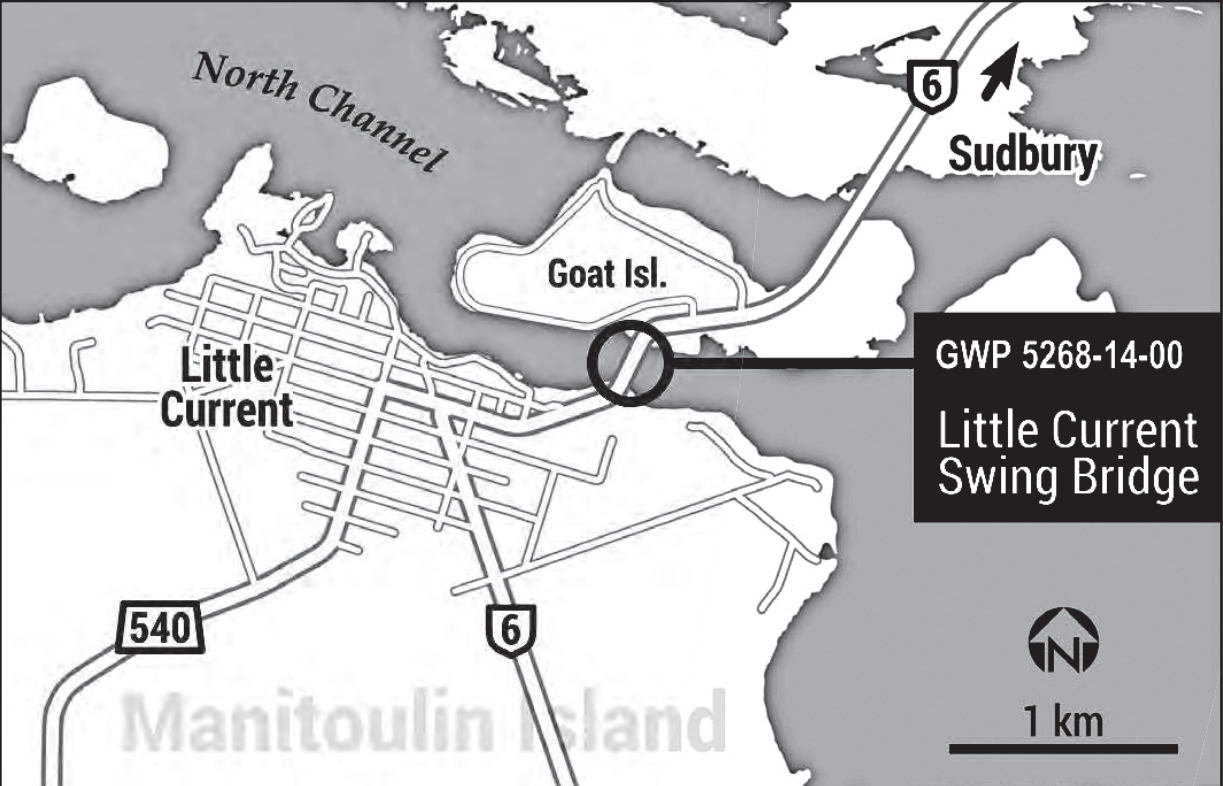


What's a Christmas parade without a reindeer channelling horse? This fine prancer was all decked out at the Little Current Christmas parade.

## Notice of Study Commencement

### Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment Highway 6 Little Current Swing Bridge Project GWP 5268-14-00

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained Stantec Consulting Ltd. to undertake the Detail Design and *Class Environmental Assessment* (Class EA) Study for the replacement of the Highway 6 Little Current Swing Bridge located in the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands in Northeastern Ontario. The bridge provides year-round highway access between Manitoulin Island and mainland areas of Northern Ontario. The preliminary design for the new bridge was confirmed through the Planning, Preliminary Design and Class EA study previously completed in 2023. The Preliminary recommended design includes the replacement of the Little Current Swing Bridge with a new through-truss swing bridge situated on a new alignment, located approximately 80 m west of the existing bridge.



#### THE PROCESS

This study is being carried out as a Group 'A' project under the previous MTO *Class Environmental Assessment* (Class EA) for *Provincial Transportation Facilities* (2000) and includes undertaking environmental and engineering field investigations and seeking input from stakeholders, external agencies, Indigenous communities and the public.

One Public Information Centre (PIC) is planned, and the notice of the PIC will be advertised in local newspapers and sent to the study contact list. Upon completion of the Detail Design study, a Design and Construction Report (DCR) will be prepared and filed for a 30-day public comment period. The DCR will document the Class EA process followed, the detail design study, the consultation program, potential environmental effects and the final mitigation plan. At that time, a Notice of DCR Submission will be published in local newspapers and sent to the study contact list. Additionally, continuous Indigenous consultation will be held throughout the study process, including Community Information Sharing Sessions (CISSs).

#### COMMENTS

You are encouraged to participate in the study and to provide comments in writing to the project team. If you wish to have your name added to the project mailing list or have questions about the study, please contact:

**Lincoln MacDonald, P.Eng.**  
Consultant Project Manager  
Stantec Consulting Ltd.  
300-1331 Clyde Avenue  
Ottawa, ON K2C 3G4  
tel: 613-703-6058  
e-mail: [comments@swingbridgestudy.ca](mailto:comments@swingbridgestudy.ca)

**Melissa Delfino, P. Eng.**  
Lead Engineer, Projects  
Ministry of Transportation Northeastern Region  
447 McKeown Avenue  
North Bay, ON P1B 9S9  
tel: 705-491-7756  
e-mail: [comments@swingbridgestudy.ca](mailto:comments@swingbridgestudy.ca)

You are encouraged to visit the project website, <https://swingbridgestudy.ca> where project information including study notices, background information, PIC displays and the DCR will be made available as the study progresses. You can also submit comments to the project team on the project website. If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please contact one of the Project Team members listed above. Comments and information are being collected to assist the MTO in meeting the requirements of the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act*. Information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. All comments will be maintained on file for use during the study and, with the exception of personal information, may be included in study documentation and become part of the public record.



## ...continued from page 8

In early 2013, the IJC had provided more recommendations to the US and Canadian governments on how to improve management of water levels on the upper Great



*Mary Muter*

It was pointed out, the IJC has already modified its regulation plan for Lake Superior to better stabilize flows in the St. Mary's River month to month. The IJC also

Another recommendation of the IJC was to periodically monitor changes in the St. Clair River conveyance, including conducting bathymetric surveys on

a frequent basis. Another significant recommendation by the IJC was for the governments to improve the monitoring and modeling of hydrologic and meteorologic conditions on the upper Great Lakes, including improving the prediction of evaporation rates. There have been significant improvements in this area already, Ms. Muter added.

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31-32c

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Tfn

**Manitoulin Family Resources** offers programs to support and promote positive family relationships on Manitoulin and the North Shore. Violence against Women Prevention Services: Haven House Shelter, Outreach Counseling Crisis Line 705-377-5160; Toll Free Crisis Line 800-465-6788; Children's Services: Early ON Child and Family Centre, Little Current Child Care, Mindemoya Child Care 705-368-3400; Help Centre: Thrift Shop & Food Bank 705-368-3400; Administration 705-368-3400.

Tfn

**Questions or concerns** about diabetes? We can help. Please contact the MHC Diabetes Training and Care Centre. Individual and group appointments available with a registered nurse or dietitian certified in diabetes education. Clinics in Little Current, Mindemoya, Silver Water, Gore Bay and Manitowaning. Please call 705-368-2300 ext. 2415 for more information. Self-referrals accepted.

Tfn

**Christian Counselling:** Alcohol, addiction, anxiety, children, depression, drugs, faith, grief, illness, marriage, PTSD, salvation, sin, etc. Free and confidential. King James Bible Church, 705-885-8951, [cc.manitoulin@gmail.com](mailto:cc.manitoulin@gmail.com).


Tfn

**Are you concerned** about someone's drinking? Al-Anon has one purpose: Welcoming, giving hope and comfort to help family and friends of alcoholics. Changed attitudes can aid recovery. Stepping Stones Al-Anon Group: Espanola Al-Anon, Tuesdays at 7 pm, Anglican Church, 213 Tudhope Street, Espanola, 705-869-6595. For more information call 1-888-4Al-Anon (1-888-425-2666, M-F, 8 am - 6 pm ET) <http://www.al-anon.org>. For meetings including electronic in Northern Ontario go to [OntarioNorthAl-Anon.com](http://OntarioNorthAl-Anon.com). Please note the only Alateen meetings available in Northern Ontario are on a mobile app. Look for the app under Al-Anon Family Groups.

Tfn

**Narcotics Anonymous** will meet every Monday at the Little Current United Church, 5 Robinson Street at 8 pm. For more information please contact Lori at 705-507-6223.

tfn

 **Coming Events**

**Free Community Christmas Dinner** on Thursday, December 25 at 1:30 pm at the Little Current United Church Hall. Will you be alone? New to the area? Whatever the circumstance, come and join us for Christmas dinner. Everyone is welcome. Live local musical entertainment by Cole Hughson starting at 11 am. To reserve your spot at the table, please call The Manitoulin Expositor at 705-368-2744 and sign up. Need a ride? Please let them know when you register. Last day to register is Friday, December 19 at 12 noon.

28-31p

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** You're invited to attend the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at Lyons Memorial United Church in Gore Bay, December 24 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome. Come share the Christmas story and the warmth of familiar Christmas Carols.


30-32p

**Christmas Eve Service:** Service of Lessons and Carols, 3 pm on Wednesday, December 24 at St. Francis Anglican Church in Mindemoya. Hear the cherished scriptures and sing the beloved carols of the Holy Season.

31-32p


**Community Christmas Eve Service,** Lessons and Carols. December 24, 2025 at 4 pm, St. John's Anglican Church, Kagawong.

31-32p

 **Wanted**


**Donate your old car or truck** or farm tractor, etc., or even an old metal boat to our church. We can send a truck right to you to pick these up, and in return you will receive an income tax receipt for the scrap value of your donation to St. Bernard's Church, Little Current. Please, no smaller items such as fridges, stoves, hot water tanks, etc. Contact Tony Ferro at 705-368-3066 or Jim Griffin at 705-859-2289.

17tfn

 **Services**


**Are you a cancer patient** undergoing or recovering from treatment? Are you a cancer survivor, a family caregiver or supporting someone with cancer? The Manitoulin Cancer Support Group (MCSG) may provide you with resources and opportunities to share experiences as well as give/receive support with others who have travelled this similar cancer journey. This group is open to anyone with any type of cancer, is free to join and will be rotated to different parts of the Island. This group will alternate meetings on weekdays and weekends. The schedule is as follows: Wednesday, December 17, Mindemoya Council Chambers from 2 to 4 pm. For more information please contact: Terry Mackenzie, 705-507-0433 or [tandjmackenzie@hotmail.com](mailto:tandjmackenzie@hotmail.com); Bonnie Young, 705-377-4998; Ann Cranston, 705-282-7531 or [bnannc@gmail.com](mailto:bnannc@gmail.com).

tfn

 **In Memoriam**

**SMITH**—In loving remembrance of Wilhelmina J. (Eadie) Smith, April 25, 1936 – December 18, 2005  
Mom  
A part of you remains with me, That none can take away. It gives me strength to carry on each and every day. At the dawning of each new day, I think of happy times we shared, And then I softly sigh. But this I do know, we will meet again, And never say goodbye. Loved and missed, Daughter Marilyn.

31c

 **Notice**


**Gore Bay United Church** Food Cupboard is open every Thursday from 12 noon to 3 pm. Come to the church side door (facing McQuarrie Motors). You will be invited into the Food Cupboard to choose your food items. If you don't have a bag, there are some available. If you have any questions, please call 705-282-2011. Messages are checked daily. Everyone is welcome.

Tfn

**Death Notices**

**DUANE ALFRED DUXBURY**  
**December 15, 1961 - December 2, 2025**  
Duane Alfred Duxbury of Webbwood passed away on December 2, 2025 at home after a lengthy illness. He was born on December 15, 1961 to Irwin (2018) and Orpha Duxbury. He is also survived by his siblings Debra (George), Dale (Marilyn) and Dennis (Sharon); Douglas predeceased him (1986). Also surviving him is daughter Amy (Luke), two grandchildren (Thomas and Hannah) and several nieces and nephews. Cremation has taken place. Family will gather in the spring for interment.

**LORNE AUSTIN LEESON**  
**April 26, 1945 - December 5, 2025**



It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of Lorne Leeson at the age of 80 years. Beloved husband of Anne (57 years). Cherished father of Angela Bowerman (Kerry), Brad Leeson (Dawn) and Kelly Leeson (Rick). Proud Poppa of Kurtis (Christine), Zachary (Ashley), Kyra (Jayden), Tania (Riley), Keanna, Tahlia, Ellianna, Kenadie and Brinlynn. Great-grandchildren Lyla, Maxwell and Hunter. The family would like to thank the Tehkummah First Response and the staff at Manitoulin Health Centre (Mindemoya) for their care and compassion. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

**Looking for a new career?**  
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 **Church Services**  
**King James Bible Church,** Providence Bay worships every Saturday Sabbath, 10 am to 12 noon. For more information call 705-348-2229.  
30tfn

**KJV Bible Study,** every Monday night, 7 to 9 pm in Providence Bay. For more information, call 705-348-2229 or email [kjc.manitoulin@gmail.com](mailto:kjc.manitoulin@gmail.com). All welcome.  
4tfn

**Death Notice**

**WILLIAM “BILL” JOHN ORR**  
**February 12, 1945 – December 11, 2025**

**W**illiam “Bill” John Orr, a man of exceptional spirit and determination, passed away peacefully in the early morning of December 11 after a long and remarkably courageous battle with cancer. He was 80 years old. Bill now rests, reunited with his wife, Ella, and his son, Scott, who predeceased him.



radiation. A true warrior, Bill was a man with more than nine lives who never gave up, continuing to pursue the things he enjoyed despite his relentless fight against cancer. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by his daughters, Tammy (Miles) and Mandy (Terry).

A genuine Haweater, Bill was a fixture of Manitoulin Island for most of his life. Though he spent his younger years in Toronto and Tottenham from 1962-1976, he eagerly returned to the Island. For 27 years he commuted to Espanola, working as a skilled pipefitter/steamfitter at E.B. Eddy/Domtar from 1976 until his retirement in 2003.

He made some great memories traveling to Cartagena, Colombia, Florida, and various parts of Canada.

Bill was an active member of his community, serving as a Tottenham Lions Club member and a Howland Township Volunteer Fire Fighter from the late 1960s to the 1980s. In his younger days, he enjoyed playing baseball and hockey. Later, he was happiest on the water, fishing and boating across Lake Huron as the proud boat owner of “Tinker Toy” and “Flying Low”. Many fish fries and corn roast parties were enjoyed into his retirement years. He also loved snowmobiling across Manitoulin and Northern Ontario.

In his later retirement, Bill embraced three seasons: golfing, hunting, and curling. His proudest moment in curling was being part of the 100th Anniversary of the Baxter Cup in 2025 (as seen in the photo above). Bill was truly one of a kind. He was an amazing friend with a huge heart who never hesitated to encourage others to live life fully and do what they loved. If you knew Bill, you had likely heard his stories, listened to his inappropriate words of wisdom, and shared laughter with him over a cup of coffee or while enjoying one of his favourite activities. His strength and perseverance were further evidenced by his personal accomplishment of being almost 39 years sober. Bill’s retirement coincided with his first major health battle—a diagnosis of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. Over the years, he endured numerous surgeries and treatments for various skin cancers. In 2019, he faced his toughest challenge with a diagnosis of Stage 4 Melanoma, requiring surgery, more chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and further

to Cohen, Bentley, and Wren.

He will be missed by his sisters Eunice, Maysie (Lyman), and Cathy (Art), and sister-in-law Dawn. He was predeceased by his parents, Grenville and Clara, his brother Wayne, brothers-in-law Stan and Humphrey, and nephew Tim. Bill will also be fondly remembered by his first cousin Marjorie, and by his many nieces and nephew, great-nieces and nephew, great-great-nieces and nephews, great-great-great-niece, cousins, his golf buddies, and his many friends.

The family extends their deepest gratitude to Dr. Arteaga, Dr. Jani, and Dr. Gil at the Northeast Cancer Centre for their exceptional care over the last 23 years. A very special thank you goes to all the doctors, nurses, PSWs, care team, kitchen staff and volunteers at Maison McCulloch Hospice (MMH) for their tremendous compassion and care during Bill’s final chapter. Thank you to his family and friends who were Bill’s chauffeur and travel companions to countless appointments in Sudbury and Mindemoya over the years, when Bill wasn’t driving himself. Finally, thank you to everyone who visited him during his time in the hospital, at St. Joseph’s Continuing Care, and at Maison McCulloch Hospice.

In keeping with Bill’s wishes, cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, May 17, between 1 and 4 pm, at the Sheguiandah Senior Hall. A private graveside service will be held for the family.

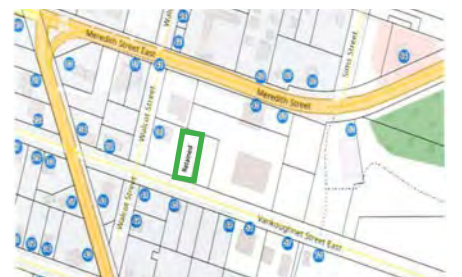
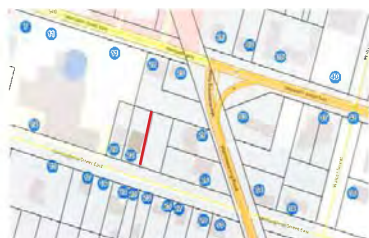
In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Bill’s memory to the Maison McCulloch Hospice - <https://maisonsudburyhospice.org/donate/>, Northern Cancer Fund - <https://www.healthsciencesfoundation.ca/northern-cancer-fund>, or the MHC Little Current Auxiliary - <https://www.mhc.on.ca/>.

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# Toronto Police asking for help in identifying man with Island roots

...continued from page 14

testing. As of December 12, 2025, Detective Atkinson says no one has yet come forward to identify this man or his family.

A renewed call for help has been circulating online with locals sharing the details publicly in hopes they might reach someone in Algoma or on Manitoulin who recognizes the outline of a life gone missing.

Statistics paint a stark backdrop to this case. Indigenous men and boys in Canada face homicide rates up to seven times higher than non-Indigenous men. They are also killed at rates three times higher than Indigenous women. In 2020, 81 percent of Indigenous homicide victims were men—the highest proportion recorded since 2014. Investigations have identified more than 600 missing and murdered Indigenous men and boys since 1974, with researchers cautioning that the real number is likely much higher.

Yet their names rarely anchor national conversations.

Much of the public reckoning around violence against Indigenous people has rightly focused on women, girls, and Two-Spirit people. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People inquiry forced a country to look at what it had long ignored. But even within that necessary reckoning, Indigenous men and boys have remained largely peripheral—acknowledged, yes, but often still unseen.

They should not be.

Indigenous men are victims in the majority of Indigenous homicides in recent years. Many are young—the average age hovering around 31. Many come from regions like the Prairies, but the pattern stretches coast to coast. Studies and investigations

have repeatedly pointed to underreporting, police indifference, and systemic racism as barriers to justice. Families are told their loved ones “ran away.” Files go cold. The urgency drains out of the room.

This man—found in Toronto, with Island bloodlines and no one yet to speak his name—sits squarely inside that silence.

Police note that he was likely born around the era of the Sixties Scoop, a time when Indigenous children were routinely removed from their families and communities, scattered across provinces, and raised far from their relations. If case, it may explain why the genetic map points north while his body was found hundreds of kilometres south. It may explain why no one recognized him right away. Disconnection was policy then. Its echoes are still loud.

Toronto Police have placed his DNA profile on two public genealogy platforms, FTDNA and GEDmatch, and are now working painstakingly through distant matches, hoping someone will opt in, compare, remember. Detective Atkinson stresses that in every one of the roughly 25 cases his unit has solved using genetic genealogy, families had to step forward. Science can open doors, but it cannot walk through them alone.

This is where the Island comes in.

Somewhere in a family album, there may be a man whose story trails off in the late 1990s or early 2000s. Someone who stopped calling. Someone whose ab-



sence was explained away by distance, addiction, shame or the assumption that he simply didn't want to be found. Those assumptions are part of the larger story, too—a story in which Indigenous men are expected to endure, disappear, or be blamed for their own erasure.

If you have knowledge of a missing family member, or believe you may have information that could help identify this man, you are asked to contact:

Toronto Police Service Homicide & Missing Persons Unit (416) 808-7411  
Detective Constable James Atkinson  
james.atkinson@tps.ca

Further information is available through the RCMP Missing Persons database under case number 2006003699.

## Death Notice

### LOYALLE MCDOUGALL



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Loyalle McDougall of Gore Bay, who passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, in his 87th year.

Loyalle was the devoted husband of Alice McDougall for more than 63 years. He will be fondly remembered by his children Scott (Karen), Jamie (Sandra), and Coralee (Marc); his grandchildren Laura (Dan), Matt, Neil, Andrew (Janelle), Jessica, Curtis and Neven; and his great-grandchildren Ella, Olivia and Logan.

He is also survived by his sisters Joanne (Steve) Donaldson, Sharon (Mike) Boyd, and brother Jim (Nancy) Douglas, along with many cherished nieces and nephews. Loyalle was predeceased by his parents, Neil and Stella.

A celebration of life will be held in Gore Bay on Saturday, March 14, with further details to be announced. A family burial will take place in July.

## Spirituality

### Search for truth

Not that long ago the Jehovah Witnesses on Manitoulin had a seminar on truth and the Christadelphians have had one too. And over the years, I have seen advertisements from many other denominations for their truth seminars.

In 1981 I started Search for Truth Biblical Ministries and so for 44 years I have spent my time as founder and president of this organization. I personally believe that The Search for Truth is one of the most important and noble endeavours in life.

With over 45,000 denominations, cults and sects in Christianity with all kinds of conflicting doctrines, it is evident that they cannot be all right (truth).

Christianity is the only religion whose founder claims to be the truth, JOHN 14:6 and who says thy word is truth, JOHN 17:17. As at the time Jesus said this the N.T. was not yet written, so it refers to the O.T. Not that long ago I had a full page article in the Expositor: "The Inspiration of the Scriptures Scientifically demonstrated by Ivan Panin," and I believe that the N.T. in the original Greek is equally inspired by God and is the truth. I have also written about the book "The bible code" by Michael Drosnin in which he explains that in the books (Torah) that Moses wrote about 3,500 years ago, there is a code and if you don't believe Moses wrote the Torah, the code is in the Dead Sea scrolls that scientists believe are about 2,000 years old.

That code fortells the whole holocaust (killing of 6 million Jews during the Second World War, 1939-1945) including every concentration camp, the birth and death dates of every statesman, the assassination of both Kennedys including the date and place of the assassination. The name of the assassinator and the same in truth of the assassination of P.M. Rabin of Israel in 1995 in Telaviv by Yigal Amir.

JOHN 8:22 says: "If you continue in my word, you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free." God wants you to investigate, God wants you to know the truth and God wants to bless you and set you free. After years of investigation, I am still 100% convinced that the Bible in the original Hebrew and Greek is inspired by God and the truth and if you doubt that Christianity or the Bible is the truth, a good point to start your investigation is reading that book "The Bible Code" and what Ivan Panin wrote about the inspiration of the scriptures. Today there are over 200 translations of the Bible into English, and many of them contain some of the bias of the authors or the denomination that supported their printing. One of the typical marks of a cult is that they do not want you to investigate what other denominations say. So, for example Jehovah Witnesses will advise you to only read material that is approved by their denomination. The truth can stand investigation and there is nothing wrong when you investigate what other denominations preach. I believe that conflict on Doctrine is God's way to guide us into the truth.

ACTS.17:11 says: "The Bereans where more noble in that they investigated daily whether the things Paul preached were truth."

I urge you to become more noble like the Bereans and start prayerfully investigating whether what is preached today by the denominations is the truth. Satan does not want you to investigate for he does not want you to know the truth. In my book "The Keys to the Kingdom," which I am offering free to those who seriously want to investigate the truth, I explain a number of doctrines that are false, but are generally accepted by many denominations as truth. So, if you want to be really free start investigating and discover the truth. May God bless you in this coming year.

Hank Reckman  
Prophet of Manitoulin  
Search for Truth Biblical Ministries  
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The shock and pain each and every day was crushing, and that's what remained in the shattered pieces of our broken hearts.

The tribulations of grief and sorrow, often silenced by the struggles of tomorrow.

We had no idea it was your time to leave, we walked and talked so that we could grieve.

Your voice and laughter we hear in every chatter, and your memory now is what really matters

Your kind soul and gentle love remains, but the loneliness is what gives much pain.

Heaven needed you more, and angels greeted you at the door.

We miss you dearly every day.

-By P. D.-  
From Patty and his family

**Miss Me**

Miss me a little, but not for long, And not with your head bowed low

Remember the love that once we shared

Miss me, but let me go. For this is a journey we all must take

And each must go alone. It's all part of the master plan

A step on the road to home When you are lonely and sick at heart

Go to the friends we know. Laugh at all the things we used to do

Miss me, but let me go.

- Christina Rossetti



# Merry Christmas



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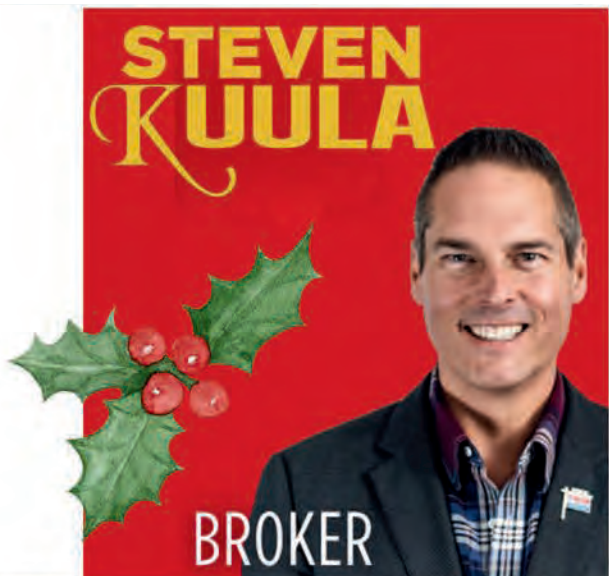


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# MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR

# LIFE

## Styles

• Careers • Sports • Manitoulin People

Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, December 17, 2025



Bonspiel organizer Kyle Chandler, left, is joined by Constable Marc Hovingh's widow Lianne (holding trophy) and members of his rink, Charlie Robert and Allisa Bliss.

photo by Michael Erskine

## Marc Hovingh Bonspiel celebrates legacy of fallen popular police officer

by Michael Erskine

LITTLE CURRENT—Manitoulin OPP Constable Marc Hovingh fell in the line of duty five years ago while answering a call in Gore Bay, but the Island community has not forgotten him. The annual Marc Hovingh Curling Bonspiel attracted 16 teams again this year, providing an evening of camaraderie and laughter for those friends and family left behind—and raising a considerable amount of funds for a great cause.

"This event doesn't happen without you guys being here, right?" said organizer Kyle Chandler in announcing the tournament once again has raised nearly \$10,000 for Manitoulin Family Resources. "So, every year, you guys show up. It's amazing, and that's how we were able to pull this off."

"Thank you so much for being here," said Mr. Chandler. "I don't host the event, I just facilitate some stuff. There's a whole bunch of people: Margo (Bickell), Gord (Bickell) with the ice, the whole executive (of the Little Current Curling Club), Barb Bond and Craig Alston for getting a lot of these prizes donated. It's been four years going, which is awesome. We missed one year, because it's been five years since we lost Marc. Marc's not here to serve the community, and we're able to do it in his name, that's phenomenal."

"Thank you, each and every one of you, for being here," said Mr. Hovingh's widow Lianne. "It's just a beautiful event. I just love the police who are here, it was really nice to see a lot of the retired police who used to work with Marc. I'm super thankful to the sponsors, the Bickell fam-

ily."

Curlers enjoyed a great evening that included a delicious meal and, as Mr. Chandler noted, the bonspiel takes place on Friday and Saturday, perfectly timed to wind up on Saturday evening.

This year, the bonspiel A title was won by the Chandler Rink, Jordan and Kyle Chandler, along with Charlie Robert and Allisa Bliss.

All participants were invited to select items from the prize table, but it was clear that the real prize was a couple of days of good fellowship and fun, while honouring the legacy of Constable Hovingh by supporting community services. Manitoulin Family Resources is an organization that provides support for women fleeing abusive relationships and operates the Manitoulin Family Resources Food Bank.

## Manitoulin Sporting Life

### Ice Chips to Canoe Quips

by Larry and André Leblanc



#### Co-Ed Volleyball

The annual Elementary Co-Ed volleyball tournament took place last week at the Four Directions Complex in Aundek Omni Kaning. The Little Current Public School continued their dominance of volleyball this year. They added to the boys' and Girls' trophies last month by winning both the A and B titles at the Co-Ed.

The LCPS A Team overcame runners-up Central Manitoulin Public School with players: **Boston Abotosaway, Matias Behm, Jack VanVolkingburgh, Kailyn Inglis, Lynndra Madahbee-Peltier, Karmen Atkinson** and **Brenna Pollard**.

The LCPS B Team defeated Pontiac with: **Lauren Musquetier, Ada Nicholls, Xavier Panamick-Eshkawkogan, Finlay Card, Oliver Wilding, Mason Dedman, Callaway Anderson-Esquimaux, Maci McDonald** and **Alivia Callaghan**.

Hats off as well to Coyotes Coaches, **Melissa Mcculloch, Casey Boisvert, Melanie Pollard** and **Carter Abotosaway**.

#### Volleyball continued...

Manitoulin has been developing top volleyball players for generations now. More evidence of that is the success of players looking to improve their games by playing club ball off-Island. Here are a few rising stars in the sport. **Rowyn Kasunich**, 15 plays for the Northern Chill Icebergs U-16's and played in a tournament in North Bay last weekend taking the bronze to add to their silver medal in their previous one the Trillium Cup.

In competition There is also another Island, Espanola, Northshore team that plays called NCVB 16U Blackout. There are some other Island girls on that team including **Amber Brizuela** and **Lexi Fisher** of Mindemoya and **Arabella Otsosquaiob** of Little Current.

**Nova Debassige** plays for the U15 Northern Chill while veteran of Provincial-level volleyball **Mya Balfe** plays for the U-17 Chill. Incidentally, Nova and Rowyn still juniors, also play on the MSS girls Senior Volleyball team. With Nova's Dad, Derek and Mya's Mom, Tina having both played varsity v-ball in university, the youngsters definitely know what they need to do to get to that level.

#### Lady Panthers Battle Strong Competition at Mount Forest Tournament

The Lady Panthers took to the ice this past weekend at the Mount Forest hockey tournament, facing a challenging slate of opponents while showing determination and resilience throughout the event.

The tournament opened with a tough matchup against the Owen Sound Ice Hawks. Despite a strong effort, the Panthers came up short in a 3-1 loss.

Refusing to let the early setback define their weekend, the team bounced back in their second game with an impressive 2-0 shutout victory over the Grand River Mustangs with **Brynn Best** turning

away all shots. Goals were scored by **Lourdes Taukei** and **Emery Watson**, while solid defensive play and disciplined teamwork helped secure the win.

In their third contest, the Lady Panthers faced the host, Mount Forest Rams in a tightly contested game. The teams traded chances throughout, but the Panthers were edged out 3-2 despite goals from **Emery Watson** and **Ava Corbiere**.

The tournament concluded with a matchup against the Waterloo Ravens. Once again facing stiff competition, the Panthers battled hard until the final whistle but fell 3-1. **Ava Corbiere** scored the lone goal for the Lady Panthers.

Although the results did not fully reflect the team's effort, the Lady Panthers gained valuable experience against high-level opponents. The tournament highlighted the team's perseverance and provided important lessons as they continue their season.

#### Panther cubs compete too

The younger of our Panther family, the U-13's competed in the Vipers Pre-Christmas Blast tournament in Astorville. The Panthers kicked off the weekend with a big win, followed by a hard-fought loss, and then a tie in their third game—earning them a spot in the semifinals.

The Panthers battled it out and came away with a huge, 3-1 victory to advance to the championship game.

In the finals, the Panthers played their hearts out. Despite an incredible effort, they came up just short and finished the weekend as tournament finalists, taking home silver medals. It was an amazing weekend of hockey, teamwork, and determination, and this team represented Manitoulin well. By the way, the U-11 Panthers were pumped up to join in the tourney but their division was folded before the weekend.

The U15 Panthers split their weekend schedule with a win and a loss. On Friday, the Panthers edged the Copper Cliff Reds 4-3, with goals from **Landon Armstrong, Adrian Bois, Boston Abotosaway**, and **Matthew Debassige**, who scored the game-winner late in the third period.

On Sunday, the Panthers fell 6-3 to the Sudbury Wolves. **Adrian Bois** scored for Manitoulin, while **Landon Armstrong** added two goals in the loss.

#### Off the Rock, hockey!

Former Panther, Bray Wassegijg now skates for the 'AA' Wolves. In Sault Ste. Marie last weekend, he and the Wolves took two of three games against the tough, Sault Junior Greyhounds with Bray picking up a player of the game. Keep up the good work, Bray!

#### Badminton couple, competes

Congratulations to **Mark** and **Lisa Peltier** who are staying active by putting their badminton practise to the test at the Family Doubles Tournament in North Bay. The pair were very competitive against the younger couples, placing 2nd in the B Consolation bracket. Way to go, you two!

## A good sport is good for sports

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#### An Ice Chips legend!

Recent bronze and silver medalist **Rowyn Kasunich**, front left, with the Northern Chill Icebergs. Rowyn plays right side or outside hitter, sometimes middle.



# Nordic Ski Club reminds folks to sign up for this year’s skiing and snowshoe adventures

by Michael Erskine

HONORA BAY—Manitoulin’s Nordic Ski Club is reminding folks that it is time to sign up for this year’s skiing and snowshoe adventures.

“Our club depends on three elements to keep these trails available,” noted club treasurer Kerene Tilson. “Those are volunteers, landowners and membership revenue. Our adult memberships are \$45 for those age 16 and older, children and youth ages three to 15 ski for free.”

“We appreciate and value all current members and look forward to welcoming new members,” she continued. “Please help spread the word to anyone you know who is new to Manitoulin and might be interested.”

“We will have five cross country ski trails on Manitoulin Island this winter,” notes Dr. Roy Jeffery in the club’s newsletter. “Trail preparation work has already begun! We may have a sixth venue at the old ski club depending on snow conditions in the new year.”

The trails are located near Little Current at 2394 Highway 540 on the EBC Freer Point property where “We have Honora Trails North. Parking is along the Tilson Homestead driveway after it forks to the right around the old barn (look for the parking sign). These trails are fairly level and feature scenes of winter wetland habitat and Burr oak savannah. Snowshoers are welcome but please try to stay to the side of the track. By the time you receive this newsletter the base on the trail will have been groomed—a few more centimetres of snow and it will be ready to go!”

A second trail is located in Mindemoya, notes Dr. Jeffery. “Skiers can park at the far end of the Manitoulin Community Living administration parking lot to access the Maple Ridge trail. They can enjoy two great trails which feature rolling hardwood



Shutterstock

terrain and some great vistas. The trails are maintained by Sam Gilcrest. The beginning of the trail down the lane is often windswept but keep

going and you will be rewarded by beautiful trails through the woods!”

Another trail is located south of Manitowaning. “Halfway down the New England Road on the right, you will find McLeans Park,” notes Dr. Jeffery. “The trails here wind up and down through lovely old growth beech and maple forests. They are maintained by Rob Melan. These trails usually require a little more snow to cover the rough spots.” Members who register as with the Manitoulin Nordic Ski Club will receive a trail report by email.

In Gore Bay, at the Manitoulin Golf Course, a set of Nordic trails has

been maintained for the past few years, notes Dr. Jeffery. “I believe there is a drop box there for donations for the groomer fuel.”

Finally, at Ice Lake’s Ravenswing Farm (off Robinsons Road and turn right along Strawberry Point road) “a trail is maintained when the snow is sufficient—keep tuned to Resilient Manitoulin for further information.”

The first three trails are all accessible on a daily pay-as-you-go basis, but all day skiers are reminded they must sign a waiver at the trailhead or purchase the very reasonably priced annual membership and help support

the club.

Club members also receive an Ontario Nordic Ski Passport that allows them to ski at many locations in Northern Ontario once a year for half price.

There are plenty of ways to sign up for the skiing season, you can go to the Zone 4 registration by going online to the link: [zone4.ca/register](http://zone4.ca/register) or call/text 249-997-0009 to receive a paper form via Canada Post or drop by Breakaway Sports in Little Current to pick one up.

Once you complete your form, mail it to: Manitoulin Nordic Ski Club, 2394 Hwy 540 Little Current, ON, P0P 1K0.



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<b>Land-Based Counsellor</b>  <b>Open until filled</b>	The Land-Based Counsellor is a unique position that combines the skills of an outdoor experiential learning leader with a treatment counsellor. Staff in this position will be living and working in outdoor settings with participants and operate on a three-week rotational schedule. Staff in this position will be responsible for delivering a holistic treatment program with a significant focus on Anishinaabe culture and land-based learning.
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**Employment Opportunity**

## Director of Programs & Services Full-Time

**Job Summary:** The Director of Programs and Services is a senior leadership role accountable for all programs and client service operations at Noojmowin Teg Health Centre (NTHC). Reporting to the Executive Director, this role ensures program managers and Team Leads are supported and accountable in delivering high-quality, culturally safe and community-driven services. The Director ensures effective operations across all NTHC locations, monitors performance data (KPIs) and drives continuous improvement. The role works closely with Human Resources (HR) and Finance to align resources and ensure compliance with policy, funding and accreditation. Guided by the Seven Grandfather Teachings, the Director of Program and Services promotes holistic health and wellness rooted in Anishinabek culture, traditions and values.

**About:** Noojmowin Teg Health Centre is comprised of a multi-team of health care professions providing community-based services through the use of a holistic approach that integrates both traditional and western healing practices. Our unique team includes: Traditional Health and Cultural Services, Primary Care, Health and Wellness and Mental Health and Addictions Services.

*Given the traditional practices of the Anishinabek, from time to time exposure to wood smoke and the burning of sacred medicines, including tobacco, sweet grass, sage and cedar may occur within the work setting.*

*Noojmowin Teg Health Centre is an inclusive employer. Accommodation is available in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.*

**Qualifications:**

- Master's degree in health administration, Public Health, Nursing, Social Work, or related field; or an equivalent combination of education and leadership experience.
- Minimum 7–10 years of progressive leadership in health, social services, or Anishinabek organizations, including direct supervision of managers and frontline staff.
- Strong knowledge of Anishinabek health systems, federal/provincial funding structures and accreditation standards.
- Demonstrated ability to lead multi-disciplinary teams and manage complex programs across multiple sites.
- Proven strength in leadership, communication and problem-solving, with the ability to inspire and guide diverse teams.
- Experience in data analysis, program evaluation and reporting.
- Deep understanding of Anishinabek culture, values and traditions, with the ability to integrate these into service delivery.
- Valid driver's licence and reliable transportation required.

**Submission:** Please submit a cover letter, resume, copy of registration and list three (3) work-related references at <https://noojmowinteg.applytojobs.ca/health+centre/43485> OR [www.nthc.ca](http://www.nthc.ca) - Careers

**Miigwetch/Thank you** for your interest in Noojmowin Teg Health Centre; only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



**M'Chigeeng First Nation**  
Health & Wellness

# HIRING

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- Human Resources Generalist
- Mental Health & Addictions Counsellor
- Child & Youth Mental Health and Addictions Counsellor x2
- Community Connectors
- Shelter Workers
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- Post Majority Support Services Supervisor
- Healing Model Manager
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- STBBI Peer Support Worker
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## M.S.S. Kids in the Halls



**Saramarie Wasegijig**

This week was definitely a memorable one for the halls of MSS.

This Monday our Grade 11 and 12s headed out for another fun week touring Algoma University and the Sault Ste. Marie College. But for the first time I wasn't jealous of them being away Monday and Tuesday because Elliot Lake came down for a basketball tournament!

On Tuesday, our senior and junior teams played hard in their games against Elliot Lake. I didn't hear much about the stats, but they put in great effort and made it to the next games.

Tuesday was also exciting for our business students, who were taking part in an Accounting Case Study Competition in Sudbury. Where they had to solve a real-life business problem's and share their ideas with the judges


Back to sports, Wednesday our junior and senior girls' volleyball teams were on the road for their games. The junior girls had a strong day, coming home with two wins and two losses. The senior girls also played hard throughout their matches, keeping up the energy and showing great teamwork against some tough competition.

On Thursday, the boys' basketball team were back on the courts for another round of games against Espanola high school.

Another amazing week, Mustangs!

A hui hou, Sara-Marie.





**KINA Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services**

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services (KGCFs) is a designated Child Welfare Service delivering Child Protection Services within seven member First Nations in the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin. KGCFs honours and supports our families' and community's inherent authority to care for their children based on unity, traditions, values, beliefs and customs.

**Preference will be given to Anishinaabe Candidates, please self-identify in your application.**

We are currently inviting applications for the following employment opportunities:

**Manitoulin Island:**

- Child Well-Being Worker: Closes January 2, 2026

**Sudbury:**

- Legal Counsel (Open until filled)

**Sudbury/Manitoulin Island:**

- Volunteer Driver: Open Recruitment
- Finance Supervisor: Closes January 2, 2026

To apply, kindly send your application to our Human Resources department at [applications@kgcfs.org](mailto:applications@kgcfs.org), ensuring to specify the position title in the subject line. For comprehensive job descriptions and to access the postings, please visit our website at: [www.kgcfs.org/employment-opportunities](http://www.kgcfs.org/employment-opportunities).

*At KGCFs, we are steadfast in our dedication to fostering a work environment that is accessible to all, in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the Ontario Human Rights Code. Should you require any accommodations during the recruitment process, please do not hesitate to request them. We sincerely appreciate your interest in joining the team; however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. As a condition of employment, the successful candidate will be required to provide the following documents: a Satisfactory Criminal Reference Check and/or Vulnerable Sector Check (dated within three months of the application date), Driver's Abstract and Proof of Liability Insurance.*

**Thank you for considering a career opportunity with us.**



## Public Works Operator

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The ideal Public Works operator will possess extensive knowledge of equipment, maintenance of roads and facilities, good organizational skills, strong work ethic and communication skills, a valid driver's licence (minimum class DZ, AZ is preferred) and the ability to operate all township equipment. Working knowledge of carpentry, welding, metal working, plumbing, electrical, automotive maintenance and repair, small engine maintenance and repair, hydraulics, concrete, etc. are considered an asset.

Salary is based on a 40-hour work week, some overtime and callouts during evening and weekend is required as part of the position. The ideal candidate must be able to attend the municipal garage within 30 minutes of being called in.

A detailed job description is available by visiting the careers page on our website at <https://www.billingstwp.ca/townhall/careers/> or by contacting the Township office at (705) 282-2611

Resumes will be accepted via e-mail or regular mail in confidence to **Véronique Dion, CAO/ Clerk Township of Billings 15 Old Mill Road, Kagawong ON POP 1J0 or [cao@billingstwp.ca](mailto:cao@billingstwp.ca)**. We thank all candidates who submit an application; however, only those individuals identified for an interview will be contacted. This position needs immediate filling; therefore this posting will be available until the position is filled.

The Township of Billings is an equal opportunity employer that is committed to an inclusive, barrier-free recruitment and selection process. If contacted for an employment opportunity, please advise if you require accommodation.

Personal information contained in applications will be used for recruitment purposes and collected as per the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990.



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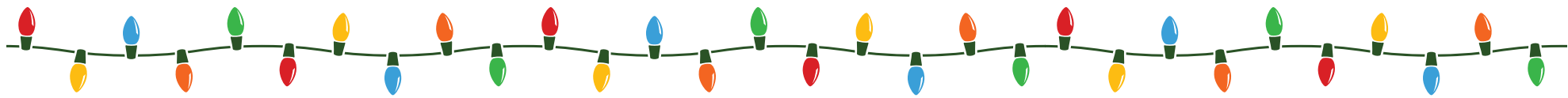


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yearly  
by:

**MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR**







## The light shines in the darkness

One of my favourite lines in the Christmas story isn't actually found in the traditional nativity scene at all—it's in the beginning lines of John's Gospel. Taking a different philosophical and illustrative direction, John writes, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5)." Those words feel especially relevant in our Manitoulin context, where seasonal darkness is not just an idea but something we

literally feel each winter. Days become shorter and nights become longer. We travel down long rural routes where the absence of street lights can feel dark and foreboding in the space between our towns. The cold December winds cut through the doors and windows of our homes, finding a way into bones that need no reminder that winter has begun. But John isn't simply talking about the dark sky, rural roads, and harsh winds. He's

talking about the parts of life that feel heavy, uncertain, overwhelming, isolating, and fearful—the darkness we all meet at different times. And his hopeful message is this: where there is light, darkness cannot overcome. Not because we are strong enough to fight it, but because light is stronger by nature. I was reminded of this while watching 'The Rings of Power.' There's a moment when Celebrimbor (the Elf ring maker who has been de-

ceived and tormented by the dark lord Sauron) says something quite profound to Galadriel as they wrestle with a growing internal and external darkness they can't seem to control. He says, echoing John's words, "It is not strength that overcomes darkness, but light." This is another similar suggestion that darkness is not altered by force, but rather, by the presence of light itself. It is also a reminder that some things in life (like darkness) are un-

changed, and possibly made worse, the harder we swing at them. I think that's why John's introductory comments—though void of familiar Christmas characters—still captures the heart of the Christmas story. God doesn't enter the world with armies, power, or might. The Light arrives as a child—small, vulnerable, and unexpected—shining in the darkness. We are fortunate to have homes with lights that eliminate darkness

with little effort and a lot of convenience—well, except when the power goes out. But even then, I was reminded during our last power outage how well the light from a few small candles suppressed the darkness. It was a good reminder of how Christmas hope is kept alive also—when small lights continue to shine in dark seasons. Not by force, but by their belief that light is greater than darkness. And so, this time of year, we look for small lights in the darkness: for acts of kindness, self-sacrifice, generosity, courage, good cheer, and we look for ways to offer this back. These small lights matter. They add up. They push back more darkness than we realize.

This Christmas, my prayer is that we hold onto the promise John gives us: the light still shines, and the darkness has not overcome it. May this season bring you peace, hope, and just enough light to guide your way.

From our family to yours,

Have a very merry Christmas!

**Pastor Joel Lock**  
Island Community Church

*happy*  
**HOLIDAYS!**

*From Lindsay, Lisa & staff of*  
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*From Brendan & staff of*  
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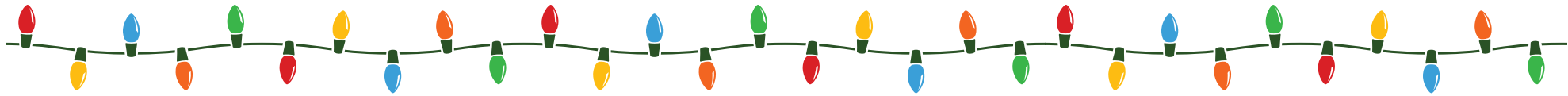
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*Mayor MacNevin  
and Council  
would like to send warm  
wishes of prosperity and  
kindness to one and all  
this Christmas Season.*

**NEMI**  
NORTHEASTERN MANITOULIN & THE ISLANDS





## O Holy Night

I have a scandalous story! In the 1840s, a French Roman Catholic church hired a known atheist, Placide Cappeau, to write a poem for their completed restorations. Cappeau wrote “Minuit, Chrétiens,” and had his Jewish friend Adolphe Adam set the poem to music, giving us the song “Cantique de Noël.” An opera singer preformed it for the first time on Christmas Eve. The song was so beloved that everyone began to play it. It made its way to Québec in 1858 and became a staple for Noël—even if banned by the Canadian Roman Catholic Church in 1930 for its dubious origins. As what usually happens when something is banned, everyone wants to hear it. By the 1950s, you could hear “Midnight Christians” in many denominations (including Catholic) all over. In 1855, John Sullivan Dwight translated the song into English. He was against slavery, and an Unitarian Transcendentalist (that means he rejected the idea of God being 3 in 1; and believes people are inherently good). Therefore, he changed the lyrics to fit his theology. Out were sin and the wrath of God, and in were universal love and “Night Divine.” This version spread too, with its own controversy of now being an atheist-Jewish-Unitar-

ian-Transcendentalist-abolitionist-hymn. What a scandal!

Except... it's not wholly true. Cappeau wasn't atheist. He was a fan of Voltaire and supported ending monarchies. He also changed his lyrics when he stopped believing in original sin. Adam wasn't Jewish; he just was later suspected of being Jewish by Nazi sympathizers. Yes, the Roman Catholic Church banned the hymn, but also many other popular songs, so people could focus for awhile on reviving Gregorian Chant. It

isn't banned now. It is true Dwight changed the lyrics when translating; and is true the song was scandalous at its creation, and at translation, for declaring Jesus doesn't approve of slavery.

The popular story is a mix of truth and half-truths and falsehoods. The same is true of our Christmases. Our crèches are a combination. Matthew says there are wisemen but nothing of a manger. Luke says there is a manger but nothing of wisemen. And in the first century, people said Jesus was

born in a cave! Mark and John don't care about how Jesus was born, but rather what it means: And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. And we saw the glory of it, as the glory of the only begotten Son of the Father, which Word was full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news” (Mark

1:14-15). Nowhere are oxen or doves mentioned. But I like them in my nativity scene. I also have wisemen and shepherds at the same time. The meaning of the story is more important than the historical facts, just like with the origin of O Holy Night (which is my favourite hymn!).

Historically it is messy. But as a story, what is more Christ-like than the coming together of believers and non-believers, Jews and Christians, Trinitarians and Unitarians, Roman Catholics and

Protestants, free people and enslaved, all coming together to make beautiful music and affirm we have much more in common than different? This is a time of peace—a night divine!

May you be able to cross what divides you from others, even if for just a short while, and share a holy night.

**Rev. Whitney LP Bruno**  
**Little Current**  
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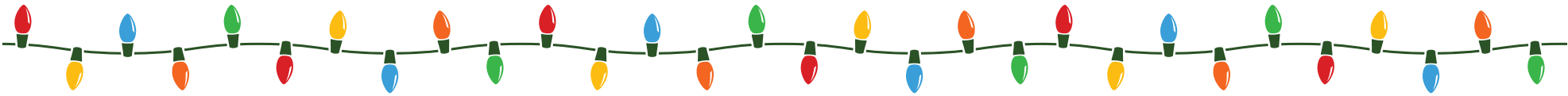
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# Don't let the preoccupations of the holidays take precedence

Let us not take Christ out of Christmas. We might be preoccupied with shopping, decorating, cooking and other necessary preparatory activities to such a degree that no time is left

for reflection on the true meaning of Christmas. Let us not be deprived of the real joy of the event which is celebrated on December 25 (which can never be substituted for by the most sophisticated gifts provided by Santa Claus).

In the weeks preceding Christmas, we might imitate the pondering posture of Mary the Mother of Jesus. She did not understand how the good news about becoming the mother of the Messiah would become a reality, but she trusted in God's Word, especially after being assured by the Archangel Gabriel that for God nothing is impossible. In December, in our thoughts, we walk together with Mary and Joseph. The blessed state of her pregnancy reminds us about the sanctity of life from the moment of conception. We are also grateful for Joseph's faith and trust related to the extraordinary way that Jesus was conceived. He indeed is a perfect source of inspiration for husbands and fathers. Both Mary and Joseph can and should be spiritual reference points for couples experiencing any marital problems.

It is boggling to our minds that God, Creator of the whole universe,

humbled Himself to become one of us. However, for God, due to our cognitive limitations, this was the best way to communicate with us and to reveal His true "face" as the fullness of Love. We might have to ask ourselves why the birth of Christ happened so late in the history of humankind. Yet the incarnation of Christ had to take place in the fullness of time. God had at His disposal even more than artificial intelligence and had to take many factors into account before settling on 0 AD as the year for it. St. Luke, in his Gospel, locates Jesus' birth in a particular time and actual location. It was indeed a real historical event. Thus Christianity is rooted deeply in reality.

We should set aside enough time for joyful pondering upon baby Jesus lying in the manger. The presence of both shepherds and Magi visiting the Holy Family there should not escape our attention. The first group received the great news from the angel about the birth of their Saviour. Let's admire their belief in extraordinary revelation. Their trip to Bethlehem was short, whereas the wise men from the East must have travelled a great

distance. For some of us, Christmas is the time to deepen our faith, but for others it can be the beginning of a longer journey to discover or rediscover Christ who was born for everyone. It is our task to assist and support our brothers and sisters on their way to encountering the infinite

love of God incarnated in tiny, helpless Jesus. We indeed need Christ during Christmas par excellence, and beyond as well.

Fr. Antoni Baranowski,  
S.J.  
Holy Cross Church,  
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## A Christmas Poem

(with reference to Isaiah 9)

"Unto us a child is born,"  
Or will be born quite soon.  
Our homes let us adorn,  
And not be too forlorn,  
But hum a joyful tune.

"To us is given a son,"  
A gift to just receive,  
Not deserved or won.  
So there the shepherds run,  
And risk their sheep to leave.

"His name shall be called"  
Many things, good and bad.  
As king he'd be installed,  
Before Pilate be hauled,  
And leave his mother sad.

"There shall be endless peace,"  
Hostility despite.  
Even wars will cease,  
On life there's a new lease!  
Not only on that night.

Fr. Paul Robson, S.J.  
Holy Cross Church, Wiikwemkoong

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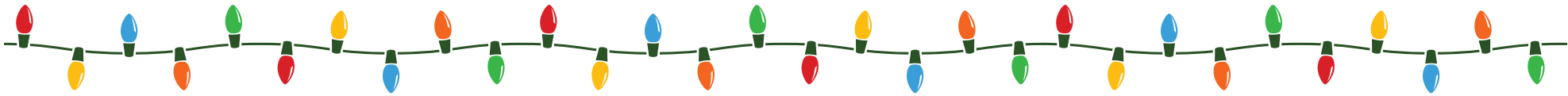
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Mike, Dawn and the team at  
Manitowaning Freshmart wish everyone a

*Merry Christmas &  
Happy and Safe New Year!*





## God is our refuge and our strength

At this time of year, I enjoy looking at the colourful lights and greenery, listening to the joyful music, tasting the delicious treats, and taking part in parties and gatherings. They are a feast for the senses, and a time to have fun just being together. Even more encouraging are the many ways in which people of all ages seek to be generous to their neighbours, particularly those in need of hope or practical help.

At the same time, I have learned to appreciate the silence and darkness that seems to descend on us as the nights lengthen and the winter deepens. Our ways of celebrating this time of year, our holiday festivities, and the scriptures, prayers and carols in our Advent and Christmas services often point out the light shining in the darkness, Good coming down to us in order to bring wholeness and peace and salvation to the earth. But thinking about darkness and light, and good and evil, can be confusing. We might begin to believe that good and evil are equal and opposite, fighting each other, a bit like the Jedi and the Sith Order are in the Star Wars stories. It is not so in the Christian faith. God's goodness and grace are far greater than any evil.

Nevertheless, we are troubled and burdened by vari-

ous kinds of evil in the world, and by their effects on ourselves and our neighbours. When I feel this heaviness and burden, I will often sing a hymn that reminds me of God's goodness, truth, beauty and power. It is also good to read some scriptures aloud, especially in the Psalms. This is one example: "The one who dwells in the secret place of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust' (Psalm 91:1-2). Another one I turn to is this one: 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea (Psalm 46:1-2). I also sometimes imagine visiting the Holy Manger where the infant Jesus lay. We do not often think of a tiny Baby as being at the centre of a mighty divine purpose to rescue and renew the world. This Baby grew up and taught his followers with wisdom: 'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world' (John 16:33).

I extend my thanks to the people of this beautiful Island for helping and encouraging me in many ways, as

I live and minister here. I wish you all a happy holiday season, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.  
**Rev. Catherine Hazlitt, Parish Priest**  
**Anglican Parish of Manitoulin Island**

## Come to the stable again

“Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people” (Luke 2:10).”

So begins the angel's startling proclamation to shepherds tending their flocks on the hills of Bethlehem... a proclamation that prompts an urgent search for a baby in a manger... a proclamation that announces the fulfillment of an ancient promise... a proclamation that fills the world with hope, peace, joy, and love, even today.

We know the Christmas story well, don't we? It's a story we've heard – and we've told – for as long as we can remember. It's a story of mystery and miracle, a story of star and stable, a story of love and life. It is a story of promise fulfilled and hope renewed, despite the most challenging of circumstances. And so we are drawn into the story, to touch – and to be touched by – God, all the while asking ourselves, “If God could be born in the messiness of the stable, couldn't God be born in the messiness of my life, too?”

Skeptics and critics may say that singing “Silent Night,” romanticizing the Holy Family with oohs and aahs, is nothing more than a sappy greeting card moment of escapism that ultimately makes no difference in

the reality of our world. But the story of the angels singing and the shepherds telling and the magi searching is not a story of escapism. It is a story of survival. When we tell the story of the birth of the Christ Child, when we see God in human form lying in the manger, we're hiding neither from the world's pain nor from our own. Rather, we're holding our present reality in one hand, and reaching for new possibilities with the other... dreaming of a future filled with hope, peace, joy, and love. And from that dream we gather the wisdom and strength we need to compassionately and creatively work through today's challenges.

So, as Christmas approaches, come to the stable again. Live into the story again. See the Christ Child again. And let your heart be warmed, encouraged, and transformed by the timeless hope-filled promise of His birth.

On behalf of your friends and neighbours of the Western Manitoulin Pastoral Charge, I wish you God's peace and blessing this holiday season and beyond.

**Rev. Janice Frame**  
**Western Manitoulin Pastoral Charge**  
**United Church of Canada**

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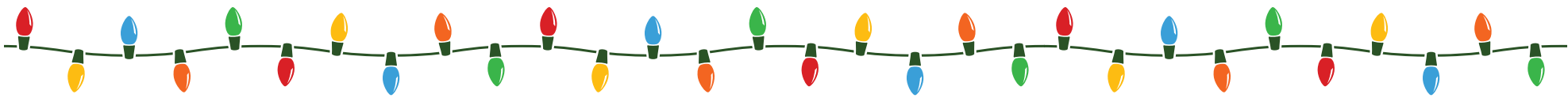
**1428 Lakeshore Road**  
**“On top of the hill” in Kagawong**  
**705-282-CARS (2277)**

## On behalf of all the UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service, may the spirit of the season surround you with peace and joy.



**Please remember: Don't drive impaired.**





## Fake news vs. good news

“I’ve got good news and bad news, what would you like first?” I’m going to change that up slightly and say, I have fake news and good news – let’s start with the good!

“That night, in a field near Bethlehem, shepherds were watching over their flocks. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared in radiant splendor before them, lighting up the field with the blazing glory of God, and the shepherds were terrified! But the angel reassured them,

saying, “Don’t be afraid, for I have come to bring you good news, the most joyous news the world has ever heard! And it is for everyone everywhere! For today in Bethlehem a rescuer was born for you. He is the Lord Yahweh, the Messiah’ Luke 2:8-11.

And now for the FAKE NEWS...

The fake news is the idea that Jesus – the Rescuer, the Messiah, the One announced in Luke 2 as “good news of great joy for all people” — would

ever harm innocent lives or stand on the side of cruelty. The fake news is the claim that the One who came to bind up the brokenhearted and set the captives free would somehow be interested in building empires, protecting wealth, or blessing systems that crush the vulnerable. The fake news suggests that Jesus would turn His face away from the poor, the refugee, the outsider, or the wounded. It creates a Jesus who celebrates power instead

of sacrifice, who chooses dominance over compassion, who values comfort more than justice.

It goes even further. The fake news tries to convince us that Jesus would justify mistreatment of people made in His very image. That He would support voices that demean, exclude, or silence. That He would applaud the strong while ignoring the weak. That He would silently ignore all the lies, racism and hatred done in His name.

But deep down, most of us know this isn’t true. We know this is not the Jesus of the manger, the Jesus of the cross, or the Jesus of the resurrection. We know this is not the Jesus who touched lepers, wept with

the grieving, fed the hungry, and lifted the heads of those the world rejected. We know this is not the Jesus who said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary,” or the Jesus who laid down His life for His enemies.

The fake news tries to remake Jesus in our image, to make Him look like us. The good news reveals

Jesus as the One who came to help us look like Him... and that Jesus is still good news for all people. The good news is that in our worst moments, in our pain or suffering, we are not alone – He is Emmanuel – God with us.

A very Merry Christmas to you and yours!

If this Christmas season, or any time of the year you need prayer support, don’t hesitate to call our 24/7 confidential prayer line (705-805-1715), where one of our prayer partners will be available to pray for you.

**Rev. Ramona Jaggard,  
Manitoulin  
Community Church,  
Tehkummah**



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Safe and Happy Holiday Season  
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## Simple gifts of kindness

Christmastime is filled with traditions. Although these traditions vary in scope and size based on family, culture and location, tradition brings us together as we unitedly celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

As we consider the eternal gifts that come from the Father and the Son, we may wonder how our own gifts we share this Christmas season can appropriately reflect our devotion and gratitude to Them. I declare that perhaps the most meaningful way to accomplish this worthy endeavour is by giving simple gifts

of kindness to those we love. As we follow the Saviour’s example of kindness during this special season, it can be done in many ways: service, charity, love, compassion and forgiveness.

This Christmas mend a quarrel, write a letter, give a soft answer, apologize, forgive an enemy, be gentle, laugh a little more. Speak your love and then speak it again.

Enjoy this Season as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Edgar Sagle, Branch President  
The Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter-Day Saints**

**MERRY  
Christmas  
&  
HAPPY  
New Year**

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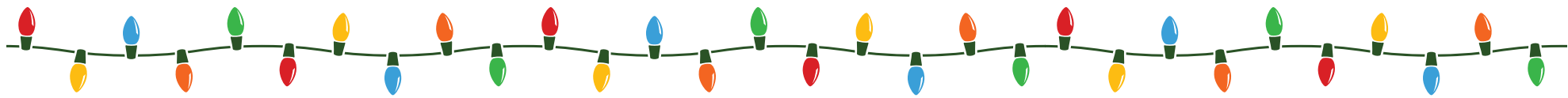
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## The unexpected heroes of Christmas

Every December, the world slows down, if only for a moment, to remember a story that has been told for more than two thousand years. It's a story filled with light, promise, and good news of great joy. Yet tucked within that familiar narrative are some unlikely figures whose courage, kindness, and obedience shaped the very first Christmas. This Advent season at Spring Bay Pentecostal Church, we've been exploring 'The Unexpected Heroes in the Christmas Story,' and perhaps now more than ever, their stories speak to us.

When we think of heroes, and we often picture the strong, the influential, or the powerful. But the Christmas story flips that expectation on its head. Instead, God chooses ordinary people, individuals whose lives looked unremarkable from the outside, to play extraordinary roles in His plan.

Take, for example, the innkeeper. He's often portrayed as the one who didn't make room, the man who turned Mary and Joseph away. But Scripture doesn't paint him as harsh or unkind, only as someone who had no vacancy. Yet even in the fullness of his world, he offered what he could. Space in the stable. Sometimes being a hero simply means doing the best you can with what you have. His small act of hospitality became the setting where the Light of the World was born.

Then there are the shepherds, the night-shift workers of the first century. They were among the lowest on the social ladder, not exactly the group you'd expect to receive an angelic choir. But God chose them first to hear the news that would change the world. They responded not with hesitation but with immediate joy, running to Bethlehem to witness the miracle. Their heroism wasn't found in prestige but in their willingness to believe, to go, and to share what they had seen.

We can't forget Joseph, a quiet hero whose obedience

protected and preserved the Holy Family. His bravery didn't look like a battlefield, it looked like trust, trust in God, trust in the message delivered in a dream, trust in a future he couldn't yet imagine. Mary, too, stands as one of the greatest unexpected heroes. A young woman from a small town, as she said yes to God with a faith that continues to inspire generations.

The Christmas story reminds us that God does extraordinary things through ordinary people. Heroes of faith rarely come with capes or titles. They come with open hearts and willing hands. And perhaps that's the most hopeful part of the story. There is room for us, too. This Christmas, maybe the challenge for each of us is to step into our own unexpected moments of heroism. Choosing generosity when the world feels stretched thin, choosing kindness when stress is high, choosing faith when the future feels uncertain, and choosing to make room for Christ in the chaos of our modern lives.

As we celebrate the season, may we be reminded that God still works through everyday people in everyday places. The same God who moved through a carpenter, a young woman, a group of shepherds, and a busy innkeeper continues to move through you.

You're invited to join us as we continue exploring these themes and celebrate the beauty of Christmas together. Spring Bay Pentecostal Church will hold its Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24 at 5 pm. It's a warm, family-friendly gathering with carols, Scripture, and the story that continues to bring hope to our world.

We would love to welcome you. From our church family to yours, may you experience peace, joy, and the wonder of God's presence this Christmas season.

**Pastor Jamie Greenwood**  
Spring Bay Pentecostal Church



## The joy of Christmas opens our eyes

As Christmas Day approaches, St. Bernard's Parish, Little Current, and St. Gabriel Lalemant Parish, Birch Island, wish the whole community of Manitoulin a season of joy and peace.

On that night when the Son of God was born into the world, angels sang a glorious song to shepherds, a song of good news, that God the Creator of all has come to us, as one of us, to lead humanity out of our darkness, and to make all things right. These shepherds were only a small few of the world's oppressed peoples, seemingly powerless in their poverty and weakness. The good news of Christ's birth was announced to these weary men, flooding their hearts with hope of God's peace that had come. Such good news, that entered the world in the birth of a baby!

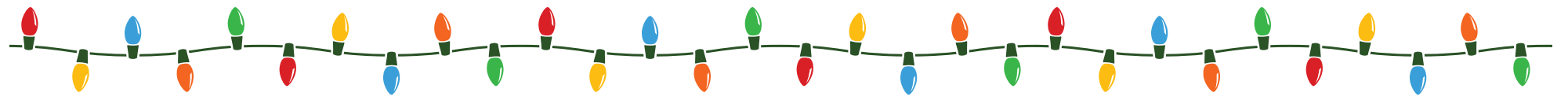
...continued on page 7



**Wishing you  
and yours a  
Merry  
Christmas**

**From  
Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation  
Chief, Council & staff**





## All will be well

We often feel as though we live in a chaotic world of war, hunger, homelessness, corrupt power,

unemployment. We feel all is not well. This is the world we live in as we approach the Advent/Christmas season. It is

our tradition to light a candle each week of Advent as the days become shorter and darker in December to remind us a

new light is about to arrive once again that ALL WILL BE WELL.

We were assured that on the first week of Advent we could look for HOPE in our world. The prophet, Isaiah gave hope to the people of his day by sharing his vision of God's realm. Where all nations turn their swords and spears into tools for growing foods that no one would be hungry again. Hearing this offers us HOPE THAT ALL WILL BE WELL.

On the second week of Advent, we looked forward to PEACE. True peace comes when we are in harmony with God, ourselves and our neighbours. Jesus was called the Prince of Peace and came to show us how to live in this way of peace. We too dream of peace and harmony. We prayed for its coming in the gift

of God's son, Jesus this Christmas. We prayed for PEACE, THAT ALL WILL BE WELL.

The third week of Advent we emphasized JOY. It was a vision of justice. There will be no more fear or grief or sorrow. All creation will sing for Joy. We think of ourselves and many in our country who live in exile of unemployment, poverty, broken relationships. As we journey towards the gift of Christmas, God shows us once again the road to healing and wholeness that JOY may flow throughout the world for all people. ALL IS WELL WHEN WE ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT OF JOY.

The fourth week of Advent we are reminded of the vision of SHALOM or LOVE. 'God so loved the world that to us the Son was given.' God came into the world in

the gift of Jesus, God's son. So too God comes to us in our lives if we are open to the Holy Spirit at work in us and the world. ALL IS WELL WITH THE GIFT OF GOD'S LOVE in the world.

The final stop is Bethlehem this Christmas. God's Son has arrived. In joyous thanksgiving we acknowledge this divine gift of LOVE, this child so generously given to us that we might experience GOD WITH US. ALL WILL BE WELL IF WE ACCEPT THE GIFT OF GOD'S SON THAT GOD IS WITH US this Advent/Christmas season and in the days ahead.

Advent/Christmas Blessings,

**Rev Mary-Jo Tracy**  
Supervising Minister  
of Lyons Memorial  
United Church,  
Gore Bay



## ...The joy of Christmas

...continued from page 7

Today, two millennia into the future, we still celebrate this wondrous coming of God-with-us, not as a distant memory, but as a thanksgiving, of the freedom, peace and justice the birth of this child has delivered, continues to bring forth, and promises to carry to completion. Our remembrance of the birth of Jesus continues to inspire hope within our own hearts, often weary from the sorrows, griefs, and fears of our lives. Don't we know it? Yet even with the oppressions that wear at us every day, Christmas draws us out from the depths of ourselves, drawing us to the manger, where we may gaze at the newborn child of God, pure love, pure light, with wonder, awe and heartfelt inspiration. The joy of Christmas opens our eyes and our hearts to the sorrows and needs of our human family all around us, those near and

those far, here and now, and strengthens our faith and hope that we are not powerless before the darkness. We can do something to stand up and act together as one, yet each in our own way, to bring more love into the world: love that is light in the darkness, love that ends war and hostility, love that feeds the hungry and heals the brokenhearted, love that brings true peace. Christmas joy is the faith and hope that God's love is for all people across the whole world, and that freedom from fear and injustice is not just a possibility, but the promise of God our loving Creator. May our memories of Christmas past and our celebration of Christmas present evoke warm feelings of God's love for each of us and inspire our faith in everyone's innate Goodness as children of God. To each and all, we wish you a very Merry Christmas.

**Father Gerry McDougall, SJ**  
St. Bernard's Parish



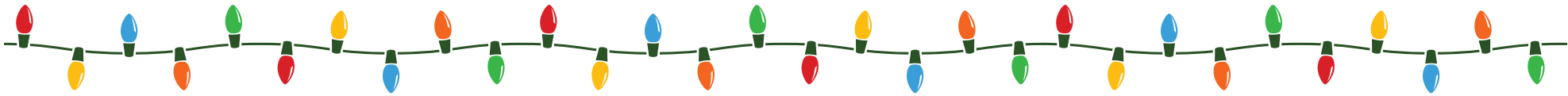
*Best wishes for the holiday season!*



*From the management & staff of*

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## Christ is in the news again

Dear reader, Allow me to begin with a note of thanks to the dedicated staff at The Expositor for their continued news coverage, as well as for the opportunity to share Christmas greetings on behalf of Freshwater Community Church. I continue to be impressed by the space offered by The Expositor's editorial team for local ministers to share Christmas messages with their readership. Perhaps you find yourself wondering if this is merely a practice from a largely bygone era? A lingering tradition, but one that is tied to broader trends that are ultimately in decline? Or, could it be, that this is about the message that will forever stand at the heart of it all?

The Christmas story itself is about the reporting of good news. Luke the physician—after having done his own careful journalist work (cf. Luke 1:1-4)—records those fateful events in the opening pages of his Gospel. He reports the angel's announcement to the shepherds in Luke 2:10-11: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been

born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord."

While over two millennia have passed since that announcement, this Son of David is in the news again! Earlier this fall CTV news ran a morning segment entitled "Why Gen Z is Leading a Religious Resurgence," which you can view on YouTube. This segment reports that after decades of decline, the rate of religious attendance in Canada has now leveled off. This developing trend has been led by Gen Z, those born between the years 1997 and 2012, and dubbed by sociologist Jonathan Haidt as "the anxious generation." It appears

this generation is feeling most acutely the weight of the modern world that we all feel, and that this weight is driving them to search for deeper answers. Is there more to life than this? Does God exist? And is there a purpose for my life?

We have witnessed seeds of this resurgence here on Manitoulin Island, and I am delighted to share some good news with you. On Wednesday afternoons we have been running a youth after school program in partnership with Island Community Church (Kagawong) as well as Grace Bible Church (Little Current). Youth arrive as they are able

after school, and spend the first two hours playing volleyball, hanging out, or even catching up on some homework. We then share a meal together and afterwards devote an hour to a time of learning and discussion. The openness to faith which our team is witnessing among this earlier generation is remarkable. The group is asking great questions, grappling seriously with Jesus Christ and His teachings, and supporting one another

as a community. If you or someone you know is in Grades 6-12, you are warmly invited to join us. The group has paused for the Christmas break but will be starting up on Wednesday, January 7 here at Freshwater Community Church.

Of course, the good news of Christmas is not just for Generation Z! If you are interested in exploring the message of Christ, we'd love to have you join us for our eleven-week Alpha journey

where we explore life's biggest questions from a Christian perspective. Alpha begins on Thursday, February 5 at 5:30pm and is open to all ages. Supper and childcare will be provided.

Wherever you find yourself this Christmas, may the good news of Jesus Christ be made more real to you this year.

**Pastor Josh Wilhelm**  
Freshwater  
Community Church,  
Mindemoya



## THANK YOU



The Little Current Lions Club would like to thank the community for its continued support in our fundraising endeavours, including Catch the Ace.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday and can't wait to see you again.

**Merry Christmas to you and yours and all the best in 2026!**  
**From the Little Current Lions Club**



# Season's Greetings from Andrew and the Team

11 Yonge St, Mindemoya

# FOODLAND

## Special Holiday Hours

*Please plan your shopping accordingly for the upcoming holidays.*

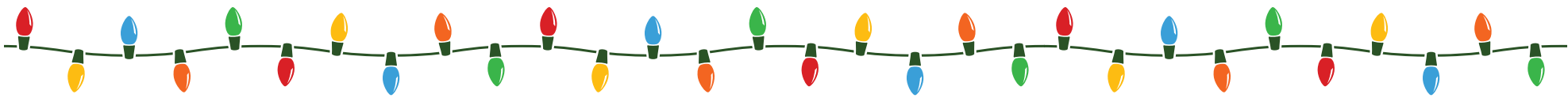
**Regular Hours**  
**Sunday to Saturday**  
**8 am to 8 pm**

Date	Hours
Christmas Eve	8 am - 5 pm
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	9 am - 5 pm
New Year's Eve	8 am - 5 pm
New Year's Day	Closed









# Letters to Santa

...continued from previous page

cats at dad's place, and I think I'm ready for a real kitty.

And also a stuffie of a star with a smile, also I would like a pack of Yum Yum toys. A K Pop Demon Hunter Plushie (Roomie) and maybe a couple other characters if you are able to.

Also one La Boo Boo Mystery Surprise please. A superslide and a Slime Kit.

Thank you.

We will make sure we leave you milk and cookies and leave carrots for the reindeer.

Love Patience  
M'Chigeeng

Dear Santa,

How are you and Mrs. Claus? I hope the reindeer and elves are doing well.

I am very excited for Christmas. Mommy and I have our Christmas tree up. It's my kitty Mac's first Christmas so we have to keep him out of the tree. Could you please bring him a little something?

For Christmas this year I would like a real oven so I can make yummy things.

Thank you for the presents last year. I wish you safe travels this Christmas!

I will leave you some milk and cookies.

With love,

Julia McCutcheon-Case  
Sheguiandah  
Age 4

Dear Santa,

This year is my first Christmas! I am 6 ½ months old. I really like Bluey. This year I would really like some new toys. I just experienced snow today for the first time, and I really liked it, maybe a sleigh too for going for walks with my dog Doug.

Sincerely,

Aria  
Little Current

Dear Santa,  
I want a watch and a morcre

To: Santa  
From Scarlett  
Little Current

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I want a deer stuffie and a Santa stuffie. I'd also like a control car, pretend phone. I would also like new onsies a bluey market spiderman PJs, airplane toy a bending pen, an eden wig. I would also like anything saharina carpenter and a rumi wig and costume a wallet, pencil crayons and I would also like a fish.

Greyson  
Little Current



Dear Santa,

For Christmas this year I would like a laseh sword, a skeleton ring claw xx spot insanity blaster, toy nepins toy tevolvet

Sincerely,  
From Barid

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would like a camo fishing rod, some tackle and maybe a tackle box. I can't wait to go fishing with my Daddy.

Merry Christmas!

Love Maxwell Bowerman  
Tehkummah

Dear Santa,

This year for Christmas I would like my own flower garden toy and some other building games. You should see my tall towers.

Merry Christmas!

Love Lyla Bowerman  
Tehkummah

Dear Santa,

My name is Aliyah, I'm 6 years old. My brother Ryan is 4 years old. We've been really good.

I would like furleys and legos. Ryan wants legos and a car like Grannie Wau-

nita so we can go to Manitoulin and visit relatives. He will settle for Hot Wheels till hes older.

Please bring something special for Mom and Dad.

Remember our grandparents too.

We will leave out some treats for you and your reindeer.

Thanks Santa

Love,  
Aliyah, Ryan Kelly  
Sarnia, Ontario

Dear Santa,

My name is Jay. I'm 5 years old. My brothers and I have been really good. I would like a slime kit. Brother Nash is

...continued on page 14

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## Happy Holidays!

*From Denise, Chris & the  
Anchor team!*

*We would like to thank our hardworking staff and our dedicated customers for another wonderful year!*

*For the first time in two years, we were able to re-open seven days a week, with just enough employees to get by. They sacrificed their guaranteed time off and worked extensively to allow us to open our doors two more days of the week.*

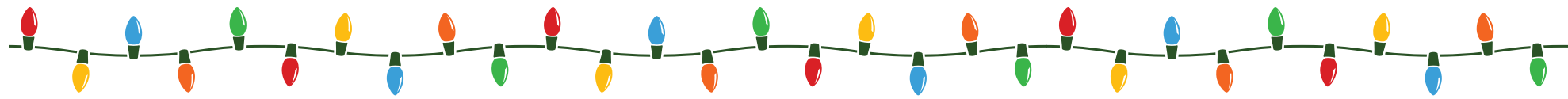
*With that, we will be closed for the month of January. Our staff deserves time off to reset, take a vacation, spend time with family and rest.*

*Small family-owned and operated businesses are becoming smaller and fewer, we are so fortunate to have such a devoted team and customer base. We love what we do and we hope everyone continues to prioritize local businesses that are sustained through community.*

*We look forward to coming back in the New Year well-rested and ready to start 2026 at The Anchor with a bang! Thank you for your continued support, we could not do this without our loyal customers.*







# Island Filipino temporary workers share their favourite Christmas traditions from home

by Michael Erskine

MANITOULIN—For several years the Canadian economy has been the beneficiary of many temporary foreign workers who have filled positions that have been difficult to fill, especially in the hospitality and helping industries. Many of these workers have come from the Philippines and, with the Christmas season fast upon us, The Expositor dropped in on a few of these remarkable people to learn more about the Christmas traditions in their homeland.

We began our journey of cultural discovery at the Tim Hortons outlet in Little Current, where we sat down with Sophia, Christopher and Ben.

“All the families are there,” said Sophie, “We celebrate with our extended families. It’s like a reunion every Christmas.”

“In all our culture, we celebrate Christmas, very early,” shared Christopher. “Like, in September.” “We decorate and then we play Christmas music at that time starting in September,” said Sophia, “while we decorate all our houses.”

“We noticed that here in Canada you celebrate after Remembrance Day,” noted Christopher.

Many of the cultural Christmas practices centre on the religious aspects of Christmas, noted each of the people The Expositor interviewed. Particularly striking is the tradition of Simbang Gabi (or more playfully, Misa de Gallo, aka Rooster’s Mass), where many Filipinos attend a series of nine masses in the early morning hours leading up to Christmas, with the masses taking part well



Filipino temporary workers Sophia and Christopher at Tim Hortons in Little Current, where they work.

photos by Michael Erskine

before the sun comes up. The main language in the Philippines is Tagalog—although there are a host of other languages and dialects throughout the country.

Roman Catholicism is the dominant religion in the Philippines, with over 80 percent identifying as Catholic and some nine percent other denominations—making the Philippines the only country in Asia where Christianity reigns, the closest second, at around 10 percent are Muslims.

“We have the dawn masses,” said Sophia, “it starts on December 16, and it ends on the eve of December 25, so it’s like, a Novena mass for Roman Catholics,” said Sophia. “So, we do it early at around four o’clock



Ben takes a moment out from serving customers at the Little Current Tim Hortons outlet to chat about Christmas traditions.

in the morning.” “Yeah, There is a special motive for the early morning devotions, however.

There is a special motive for the early morning devotions, however.

“If you attend all of them, you get a special wish,” noted Ben. “Because you did a Novena, you did a sacrifice or something, your wish comes true.”

Food, like in most cultures, plays a central role in Philippine Christmas traditions—with a bit of a surprising twist.

“We usually prepare spaghetti,” said Christopher (sweet Filipino spaghetti is a big favourite with many people). “Sweets, a lot of sweet rice cakes (bibingka and puto bumbong), salads, fruit salads and all,” said Sophia. But Christopher’s favourite is the roast beef.”

“I like the sweet ones, like coconut salad,” said

Filipinos tend to do their gift exchange and main Christmas dinner on Christmas Eve.

Sophia, Christopher and Ben have been in Canada for four years now. The past year has been challenging for Ben, as his wife and children were with him in Canada for the first three years. Then the temporary foreign worker program rules changed about a year ago and his family had to return to the Philippines. He is hoping his new application will enable them to come to Canada once more.

Among the strictures with the program are also that the workers on permit must stay working at the same employer. “So,



Street vendors sell special Christmas treats throughout the nine days of Noche Buena feast days.

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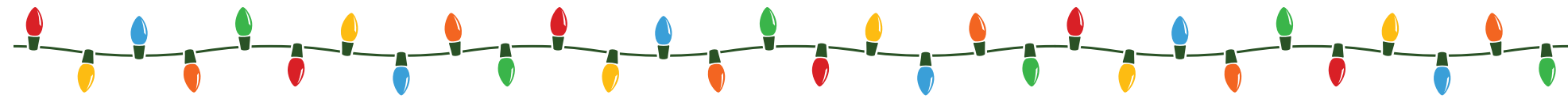
Sophia, “Oh yeah, yeah, coconut is really good,” agrees Christopher.

Bibingka and puto bumbong can usually be found at street vendor stalls throughout the nine-day Noche Buena feast days Noche Buena.

Much like Quebecois traditions (and most Francophone Canadians)

we have to work only one to one employer,” noted Christopher.

Manitoulin Centennial Manor personal support worker John-Ren has been in Canada for around two years. He does have family here, “cousins and an uncle in Edmonton, Alberta,” he said. More than a bit of a jaunt to go visit.



John-Ren also describes his homeland’s Christmas traditions as a vibrant mix of faith, family and festivity, kicking off as early as September with the “ber” months. One of his favourite Christmas gifts as a child was receiving one of the iconic star-shaped lanterns called Parols, along with festive carolling, the aforementioned elaborate Noche Buena feasts with foods like bibingka, but also honouring godparents (ninongs/ninangs) and the exchanging gifts through Monito Monita (a Filipino version of Secret Santa).

John-Ren also looked forward to receiving a special moon-themed decoration each year. “I’m getting my favorite Christmas house decoration because I love the moon so something, so I look forward to receiving something connected with the moon.”

John-Ren’s Christmas message to Manitoulin Island is that “whatever you are, wherever you



Manitoulin Centennial Manor personal support worker John-Ren is over the moon when he receives a “moon-themed” decoration at Christmas.

photo by Michael Erskine

are, or the things that you are experiencing right now, be kind to people, because you never know what they are experiencing,” he said. “So, just be kind and give a smile to everybody, that can make a difference to the people you meet.”

“Spread kindness,” said Christopher, whose message to the Island com-

munity is almost word-for-word the same as that of John-Ren. “That is the most important. You don’t know what the person is going through in life.” “Kindness and generosity,” agreed Sophia. “In the Filipino community we do that a lot. So, whenever someone is new here, so someone is recommending something, if



A young Filipino mom prepares sweet speggetti forone of her family's Christmas feasts.

Shutterstock



Filipino Catholic devotees dance and perform in the Annual Feast of the Child Jesus or Sinulog Santo Nino Parade in Cebu City, Philippines. The Philippines is a very religious country, with nearly 80 percent being Roman Catholic and nearly another 10 percent other Christian denominations.

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Parols are a popular Christmas decoration.

we’re helping find them somewhere to stay for accommodation or something and/or we can stay by them, because sometimes, coming here alone, they need company.”

“Someone to guide you; it’s important,” said Christopher.

## Bibingka is a favourite Christmas recipe from the Philippines

Perhaps the most recognizable Filipino Christmas food is bibingka. If you’re looking for Christmas breakfast ideas, this is a great dish to try because the sweet treat is often enjoyed for breakfast instead of as a dessert.

**Batter:**  
1 cup rice flour  
¼ cup all-purpose flour  
½ cup sugar  
¾ cup fresh milk  
¼ cup water  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
¼ teaspoon salt  
4 tablespoons vegetable oil  
1 egg

**Toppings:**  
grated cheese  
grated coconut  
1 salted egg - cut into 8 to 12 thin slices  
butter - melted at room temperature for brushing

Cut circles from the banana leaves for lining the pans. It should be double the size in diameter of the pans/molds or enough to cover the bottom and sides with a bit of excess as they tend to shrink when heated. Cut another batch of banana leaves for the top cover. Rinse and

pat dry the banana leaves. Run each leaf quickly over the fire to make them limb and pliable.

Line the pans/molds with banana leaves and brush them with butter. Set aside.

Combine all the ingredients for the batter in a bowl and mix well with a spoon or whisk until mixture becomes smooth. The batter should normally be runny.

Divide the mixture into the pans/molds. Be sure not to fill more than half of each pan/mold with the mixture as it will rise while baking. Add 2-3 slices of salted egg on each. Arrange them on the baking sheet and bake at 200°C/390°F in the middle rack for 10 minutes. Remove the sheet from the oven. Place prepared banana sheets brushed with butter on top of each pan/mold with the buttered part facing down. Put them back in the oven but this time on the top rack. If using a gas oven, turn on the top heat (grill/broil function). Bake for another 5 minutes or until nicely charred.

Once done, remove from oven and brush each Bibingka with butter. Then top them with grated cheese and grated coconut. Serve while warm!



This delicious traditional Filipino dish is a must for any Philippine Christmas celebration.

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## The perfect complement for bibingka is puto bumbong

You cannot make bibingka without making another iconic Filipino Christmas food called puto bumbong. This dessert is easily recognizable thanks to its bright purple colour.

More traditional versions of this dessert are made with pirurutong (black rice), but the purple version has become the most common variety. This sweet treat features sticky rice cake that has been stuffed into bamboo tubes and steamed.

Once cooked, it’s usually topped with melted butter, sugar and grated coconut. This is another of the Filipino desserts that may also be topped with grated cheese.

**For the puto bumbong:**  
1 cup glutinous rice flour  
6 tablespoons water  
¼ teaspoon violet liquid food colour or ube flavouring  
Aluminum foil cut into small rectangular shapes (approx. 4 inches long).

**For the Toppings:**  
Butter or margarine for brushing  
½ cup freshly grated coconut or desiccated coconut  
3 tablespoons brown or muscovado sugar  
Grated cheese (optional)

### Instructions:

Prepare the mixture: In a bowl, combine the glutinous rice flour, water, and food colouring. Mix well with a spoon, then use your hands to break up any clumps until the mixture resembles a sandy or coarse grain texture.

Shape the foil molds: Brush the inside of your cut aluminum foil pieces generously with butter or margarine. Shape each piece of foil into a long, thin log or container.

Fill and seal: Fill each shaped foil container with the rice mixture. Gently press down the mixture to form a log shape, but do not compress it too tightly, as steam needs to pass through.

Steam: Heat your steamer until the water is boiling rapidly. Place the wrapped puto bumbong logs into the steamer.

Cook: Steam for approximately 10 to 15 minutes, or until cooked through and firm.

Unwrap and top: Turn off the heat and let the logs cool slightly. Carefully unwrap the puto bumbong from the foil and arrange on a plate or banana leaf.

Finish and serve: Brush the top and sides of each puto bumbong with more butter or margarine. Top with the grated coconut, brown sugar, and grated cheese if desired.

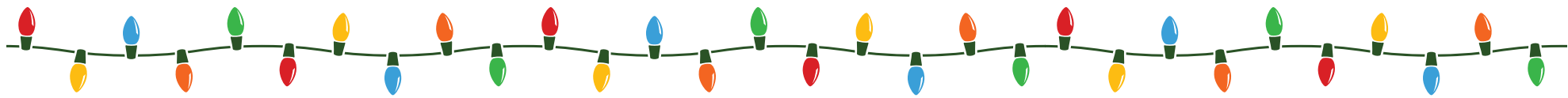
Serve immediately and enjoy this traditional Filipino treat!



Puto bumbong can be recognized by its distinctive bright purple colour. A sweet treat, these delectable Christmas munchies can also be made more traditionally with black rice.

Shutterstock





From all of us at Manitoulin Family Resources

**May your Christmas be**

**MERRY  
AND  
BRIGHT**

*Wishing you peace and happiness this holiday season*



 Manitoulin  
Family Resources



## Letters to Santa

...continued from page 11

4 years old and wants a transformer, brother Hudson is 2 years old and wants playdough, brother Brooks is 1 years old and wants a truck like Grandpa Robert. He will settle for a toy one for now.

Please bring something special for our Mom and Dad. Don't forget our grandparents too.

We will leave some treats out for you and your reindeer.

Thanks Santa

Love

Jay, Nash, Hudson, Brooks

Lamontagne

Espanola, Ontario

Dear Santa,

My name is Katie, I am 8 years old. This year I have been, I tried my best. For Christmas I would like a puppy, puppy food, a cute lamp and it wil be a Dream palz.

Merry Christmas

Katie

AOK

Dear Santa,

My name is Elise. I am 8 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like Barbie stuff, art supplies, slime, 5x of fake nails miny brand.

Thank you Santa!

From Elise

AOK

Dear Santa,

My name is Lillian Bucknell. I love you Santa for bring us presents last year! And this year. I am 8 years old. I live in A.O.K. This year I have been nice (but kinda Naughty).

Thank you for the presents you brough me last Year!

This year I would like to have: nail set, Robux card, mini hockey stick, Labubu, Water botel, Dundy's world plushies, Dundy's world poster, cousins neakless, Tablet, Iphone pro max, Dandy's world coloring book, Hair set, coloring set, sck-etch book, millian dollars.

Merry Christmas!

Love from your friend,

Lillian Buscknell

AOK

Dear Santa,

My name is Hazel. I am 8 years old. I live in A.O.K.A. This year I have been nice.

Thank you for the presents you brought me lst year! I love you for presents and worm hugs. This year I would like to have Labubu, cousins bracelets, 2 moth squishy, curling book.

Merry Christmas!

Love from your friend,

Hazel Inny

AOK

Dear Santa,

How are you? I like to paint. Do you? For Christmas, I would like a dolly.

Love, Sophie Harfield

Sheguiandah

Age 2.5



Dear Santa,

I hope you're having fun at the North Pole! I would really like an orange ball for Christmas. Could I also please have a candy cane and a big bear that talks and beeps?

Love, Henry Harfield

Sheguiandah

Age 4

Dear Santa,

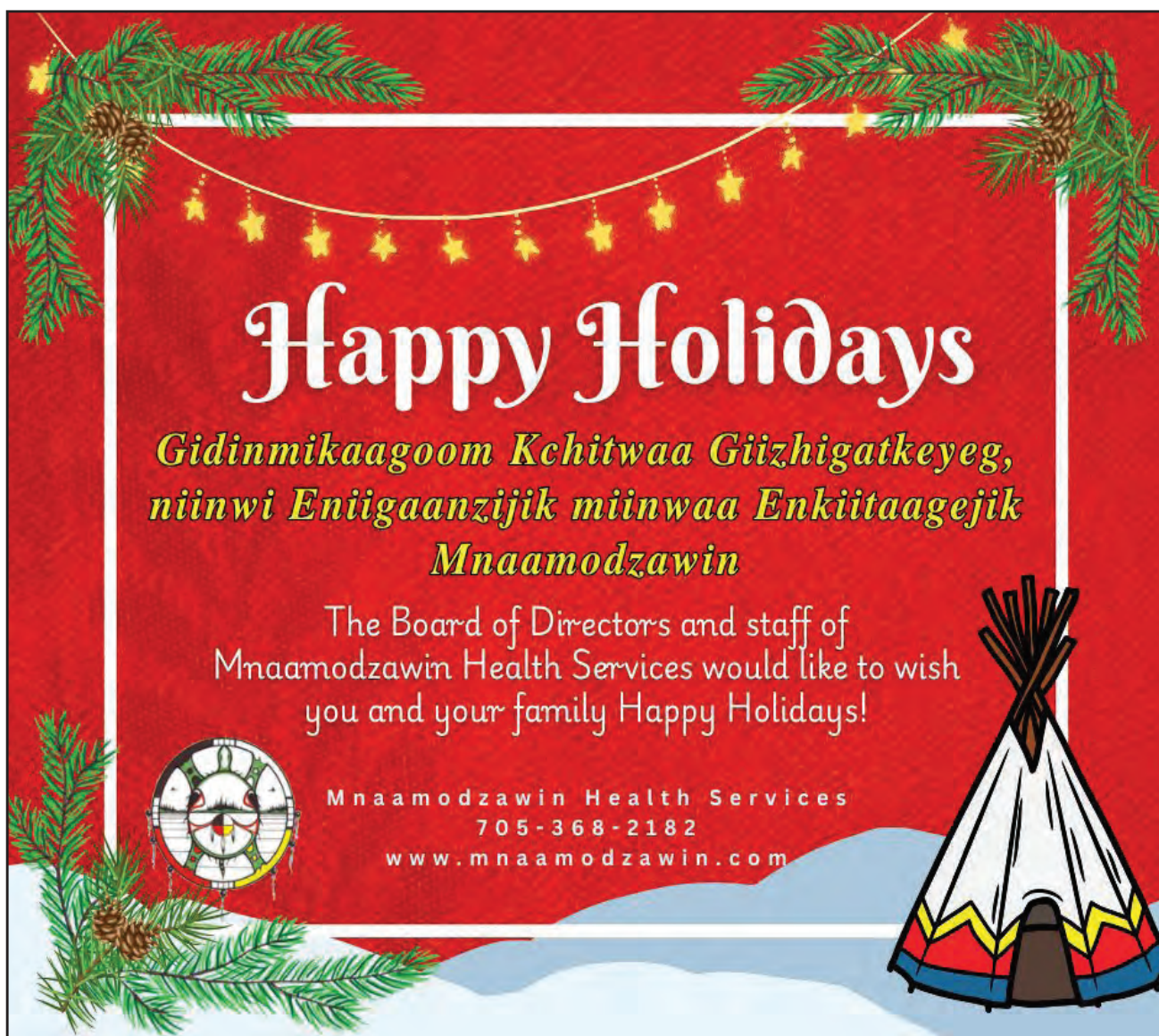
My name is Chelsea, I am 9 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a hamster, hamster cage, hamster pool, hamster toys, hamster balls.

Thank you, Santa,

Chelsea

AOK

...continued on next page



# Happy Holidays

*Gidinmikaagoom Kchitwaa Giizhigatkeyeg,  
niinwi Eniigaanzijik miinwaa Enkiitaagejik  
Mnaamodzawin*

The Board of Directors and staff of  
Mnaamodzawin Health Services would like to wish  
you and your family Happy Holidays!

Mnaamodzawin Health Services  
705-368-2182  
[www.mnaamodzawin.com](http://www.mnaamodzawin.com)

## Har-Cor Greenhouse

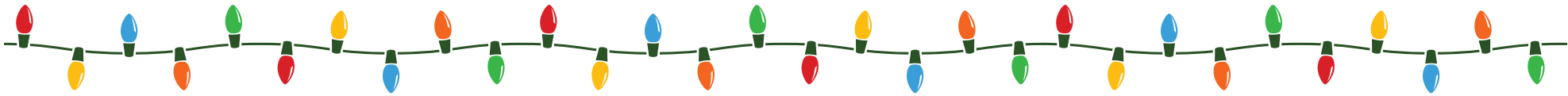
Come visit our greenhouses in the spring!  
Green Bay, ON 705-368-1168

*Santa called us up to say,  
his entourage is on the way.  
Led by heartfelt thanks  
and best wishes, too,  
from all of us, to all of you!*

Greetings from Dave, Cheryl, Jonathan,  
Megan, Rachael and Logan







# Letters to Santa

...continued from previous page

Dear Santa,  
My name is Sydney Esquimamaux, I am 10 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a miffy, Halo kitty, jewelery, hygiene stuff, pjs, candle, a blanckiyt lip bom, and tackies pies.  
Thank you Santa!  
Sydney.E ty  
AOK  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Blossom I am 10 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christ- mas I would like a blanket, candle, lip gloss, phone case, big stuffy.  
Thank you Santa!  
From Blossom  
AOK

Dear Santa,  
My name is Jill Secord. I am 11 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like slime, O.M.G. Doll, art supplies, air dry clay, new markers.  
Thank you Santa!  
From Jill Secord  
AOK  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Kaylan. I am 12 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christ- mas I would like new xbox controller, new headsets, xbox gift controls, new hockey pucks, reces peanut butter cups.  
Thank ou Santa!  
From Kaylan  
AOK

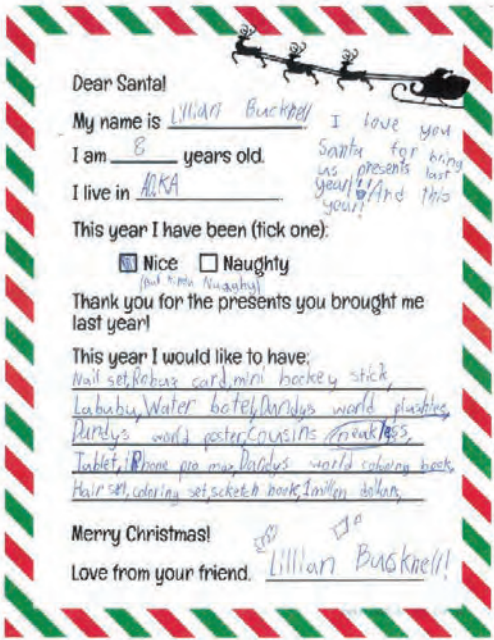
Dear Santa,  
My name is Gabby and I am 11 years old. This year I have been very good. For Christmas, please bring me LOL dolls, stray kid stuff, dolls, stray kids blanket  
Thank you so much  
Gabby, AOK

Dear Santa,  
My name is Robin. I am 28 years old. This year I have been naughty (I can explain!) For Christmas I would like case of Busch Ice Nintendo Switch 2, Mango Vape, La Melodie Perfume and \$20.  
Thank you Santa!  
From Robin  
AOK  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Carrie AKA career. I am 38 years old. This year I have been naughty (I can explain) and nice. For Chritmas I would like World peace, no more drug, no more alchole, love and a puppy.  
Thank you Santa!  
From Carrie  
AOK

Dear Santa,  
My name is Taylor Goodfellow. I am 17 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like money, Fer- rero Rocher Chocolate, hair accessories, makeup brushes, jewelry.  
Thank you Santa!  
From Taylor Goodfellow  
AOK  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Nyaeli Abotossaway. I am 18 years old. IThis year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like money, Fer- rero Rocher Chocolate, hair accessories, make up brushes, jewelry.  
Thank you Santa!  
From Nyaeli, AOK

Dear Santa  
My name is Mandy M. Madahbee. I am 15 years old. This year I have been good, I tried my best, naughty. For Christmas I would like a pretty glass doll.  
Merry Christmas  
Mandy  
AOK  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Ava. I am 12 year old. I live in A.O.K. This year I been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year I would like to have ugg's (any kinds) new perfume, Addidas shoes, Nike Sweaters, more joggers.  
Merry Christmas!

...continued on next page



May you enjoy a glad and glorious Yuletide season. We have truly valued your kind support this year. Thank you from all of us.

 Westland Insurance



40 Meredith St,  
Little Current

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

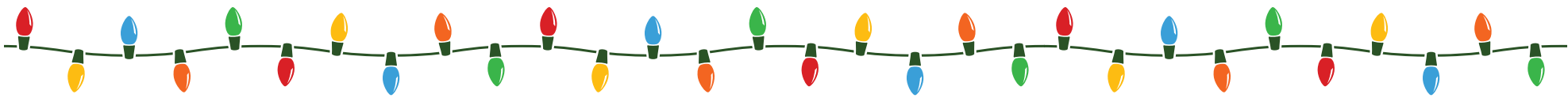
From your neighbourhood grocer!

## HOLIDAY HOURS

<b>December 24, Christmas Eve</b> • 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM	<b>December 26, Boxing Day</b> • Closed
<b>December 25, Christmas Day</b> • Closed	<b>December 31, New Year's Eve</b> • 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM
<b>January 1, New Year's Day</b> • Closed	







# Letters to Santa

...continued from previous page

Love from your friend Ava  
AOK

Dear Santa,  
I've been trying really hard to be good this year. There have been lots of changes and I'm still learning to adjust. I try my best to help my mom, be a good friend, and take care of my puppy.  
For Christmas, could I please have a clock rug so I can do stretches like Loonette on Big Comfy Couch?  
Boop your reindeer on the nose for me.  
Your good friend,  
Casey-Jo  
Gore Bay  
Age 4

Dear Santa,  
My name is Anthony M. I am 13 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like DVD the bad guys 2, Lilo and Stich 2025 DVD. Caroon network.  
Thank you Santa!  
From Anthony M. Madahee  
AOK

Dear Santa,  
My name is Tashina I am 38 years old. This year I have been good, I tried my best and naughty. For Christmas I would like everyone to get what they want/ deserve. A friend for my monkey, my baby girl to be a happy, happiness, peace, everyone to get along, a white Christmas

and a beautiful 2026!  
Tashina  
AOK

Dear Santa,  
My name is Fran and I am 55 years old. This year I have been not so good at time. For Christmas, please bring me some new markers and coloured pens.  
Thank you so much  
Fran  
AOK

Dear Santa,  
My name is Gemma I am 5 years old. This year I have good and I tried my best. For Christmas I would like LOL Dolls Mermaid Miss Sel Polly Pocket, Barbies, New lunch kit, backpack Barbie Camper Gabby dollhouse stuff New water Bottle.  
Merry Christmas  
Gemma  
AOK

Dear Santa,  
My name is Charlie Wright I am 5 years old. This year I have been good. For Christmas I would like anything Mincraft anything super marie mincraft magnetic blocks kpop toys lego toys  
Merry Christmas  
Charlie  
AOK

Sear Santa!  
My name is Parker Wright. I am 7 years old. I live in Aundeck OmniKning. This year I been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year I would like to have anything Clifford the Big Red Dog. Toys that link, connect together and sensory toys.  
Merry Christmas!  
Love from your friend Parker  
AOK

Dear Santa,  
My name is Meadow, I am 5 years old. This year I have good. For Christmas I would like LOL Dolls Biig dollhouse and furniture bunkbed Dreamhouse Barbie lunch box backpack Polly Pockets LOL Mermaid dolls LOL camper and barbie Barbies Playdoh set Gabby Dollyhouse people.  
Merry Christmas  
Meadow, AOK

...continued on next page



Dear Santa,  
My name is Meadow, I am 5 years old. This year I have good. For Christmas I would like LOL Dolls Biig dollhouse and furniture bunkbed Dreamhouse Barbie lunch box backpack Polly Pockets LOL Mermaid dolls LOL camper and barbie Barbies Playdoh set Gabby Dollyhouse people.  
Merry Christmas  
Meadow, AOK



**Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year**  
from  
**Bertha Leeson &  
Elliot Lake Monuments**

Wishing everyone a  
Merry Christmas and  
Peaceful 2026.

Thank you, chi-miigwetch,  
for your generous patronage.

leesonbertha@gmail.com • (705)822-7706





*Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year*

From Moore's Towing  
Wishing you all the best in the new year!



**Moore's 24HR  
Towing & Recovery**  
Ron Vanraes - Owner/Operator

**Best rates on the Island!**

**705-282-4701**



*Serving all of Manitoulin*





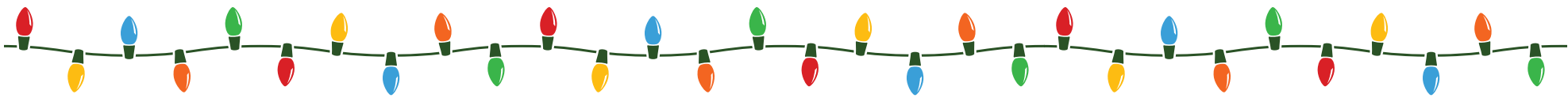
**THE FISH STORE**

54 Vankoughnet St E, Little Current 705-368-3755

*Happy Holidays!  
Wishing you a  
wonderful  
New Year!*







# Letters to Santa

...continued from previous page

Dear Santa,  
My name is Lerorne and I am 6 years old. This year I have been very good and not so good at times. For Christmas please bring me toes.  
Thank you so much  
Lerorne  
AOK

Dear Santa,  
My name is Hudson Gibson. I am 6 years old. I live in AOK. This year I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year I would like to have monster trucks. Nintendo switch. Lego. Motorbike I can ride on.  
Merry Christmas!  
Love from your friend, Hudson  
AOK

Dear Santa,  
My name is Roane and I am 6 years old. This year I have been very good. For Christmas please bring me transformer figure, 6/7 plushie and a shark plushie. My brother Kaiden wants a bus,  
Thanks so much, Roane  
AOK

Dear Santa,  
My name is Kayliana. I am 1 years old. This year I have been mostly naughty. For Christmas I would like Baby Doll and stroller shape sorter, anything that lights up and plays music, laugh and learn DJ table, bath toys.  
Thank you Santa!  
From Kayliana  
AOK

Dear Santa,  
My name is Haysen. I am 1 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like Paw Patrol cars, Nikes, stuffies, candy.

Thank you Santa!  
From Haysen  
AOK

Dear Santa,  
My name is Simon I am 3 years old. This year I have been naughty and nice. For Christmas I would like Paw Patrol toys trucks hot wheels  
Thank you Santa!  
From Simon  
AOK



Dear Santa,  
My name is Danice. I am 12 years old. I live in 90 Virgina cressent. This year I have been nice. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! This year I would like to have a brand-new speaker.  
Merry Christmas!  
Love from your friend Danice  
AOK

Dear Santa,  
My name is Ophelia I am 5 year old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas I would like Mooshroom (Minecraft) Penguin Stuffie with hat a cookie Flowmoo (cow with flowers on their back) Lego's (big) purple set Unicorn keychain. Thank you Santa!  
From Ophelia Witter  
AOK

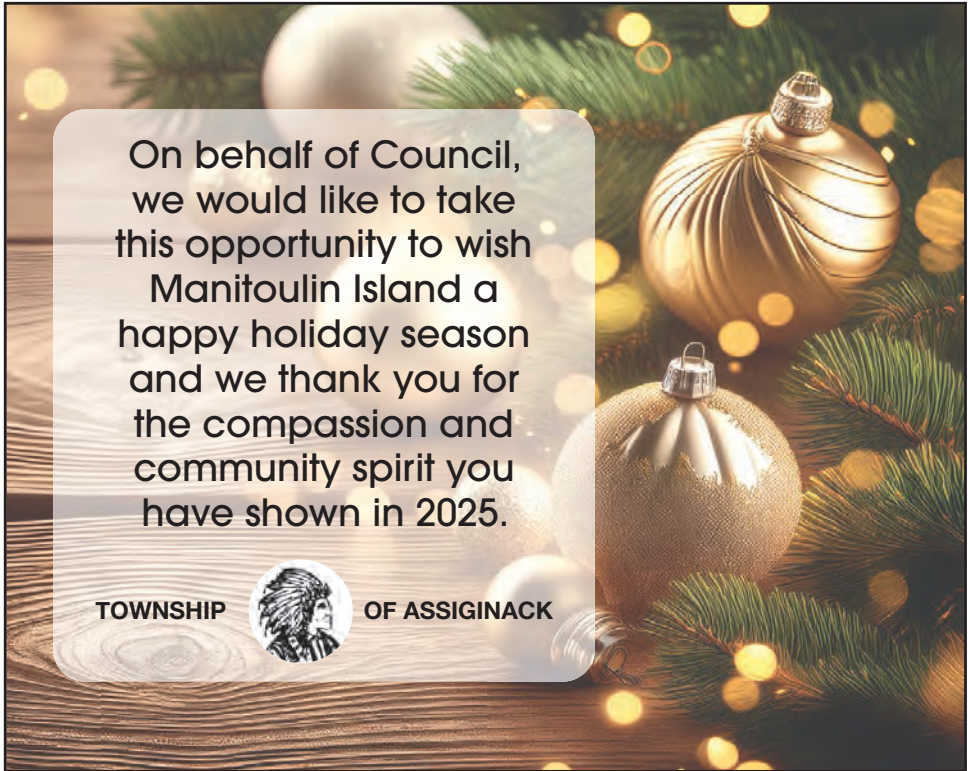
Dear Santa,  
My name is Freya, and I am 8 years old. This year I have been very good and not so good at times. For Christmas please bring me airi puppy/ or fufu squishy/ animal a adopt me stuffy/ a cute dog doll/ a doll house, a faba squishy/ a magic mixya/adopt me fingerling a my sugar fiend/buscicy a robot vacuum/ a cute doll like a kimmon.

Thank you so much, Freya  
AOK

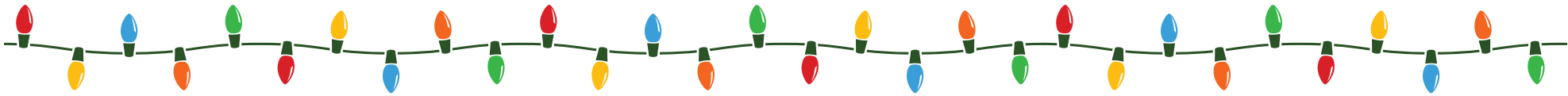
Dear Santa my name is John Esquimaux,  
I am 43 years old. This year I have been trying my best For Christmas I would like, My kids to be happy, healthy food, new location, a safe family, my mom to be cancer free, chief and counsel to be happy, live healthy.  
Love Mandy Rocks

Dear Santa,  
My name is Skyanna, I am 11 years old. This year I have been naughty and nice. For Christmas I would like, blue bear,

...continued on next page







# Letters to Santa

...continued from previous page  
blanket, sentinalls hoodie, jolly ranch-  
ers.  
Thank you,  
Skyanna Behm  
AOK

My name is Parker, I am 6 years old.  
My favorite color is green. My favorite  
food is pizza. My favorite pet is cats &  
dogs.  
For Christmas I would like, tools,  
markers, hula hoops.  
With love, Parker

Dear Santa, my name is Kaideh, I am 9  
years old. My favorite color is green. My  
favorite food is waffles. My favorite pet  
is a budgie.  
For Christmas I would like a tracer,  
etch a sketch, camera and fidget toys,  
With love, Kaideh

Dear Santa,  
It's me Hunter! I'm almost 4, thank you  
for having breakfast with me at church  
that was very special to me. Shark the elf  
says I'm being a very good boy and he is  
very happy to watch me grow each day!  
All I want for Christmas this year is my  
cousin Brantley to have a sleepover with  
me and some Mario toys to play with!  
Mommy and daddy said we are going to

bake you some cookies so I hope you like  
them.  
Love you always, Hunter  
Age 3, Little Current

Dear Santa,  
My name is Vienna. This is my very  
first Christmas. I don't quite under-  
stand it yet, but I enjoy seeing all the  
lights and decorations. People keep  
asking my parents what I want for  
Christmas from Santa, but all I know  
is that I like to chew on everything.  
I'm experiencing what they call "teeth-  
ing." I have a lot of stuff to chew on and  
a lot of clothes and toys to play with.  
If there's one thing I could have for  
Christmas, Santa, it's that my legs will  
help me crawl. You see, I have these two  
big, fluffy dogs that roam around my  
house, and I just want to see who can  
actually move faster. I'm pretty sure that  
I would beat them in a race, you should  
see how good I am at kicking and jump-  
ing. Anyway, I know there's a song about  
wanting your two front teeth for Christ-  
mas, but don't worry, Santa, I already got  
that covered. Merry Christmas, Santa.

Dear Santa,  
I have bin good ol year.  
1. Mini vrsien of my dads truck  
2. toy servie truck  
3. Bean Bag chair  
I would like these for presents  
From,  
Brian Egan, Age 7

Dear Santa,  
My name is Ayda. I am 5 years old.  
This year I have been nice.  
For Christmas I would like: a dol, mir-  
ror, new bedding, walkie talkie and elf  
ears.  
Thank you Santa!  
From Ayda, Sheguiandah

Dear Santa,  
My name is Everlee. I am 3 years old.  
This year I have been nice.  
For Christmas I would like: presents,  
baby doll, brap brap (snowmachine),  
Gabby Dollhouse toys, craft stuff.  
Thank you Santa!  
From, Everlee

Dear Santa,  
My name is Maurika and I'm 9 years  
old and can I have all the bubble skin  
care and can I have iPhone 17 with a  
phone case and some hed phones and a  
ice cream shop that is woodin and a Le-  
mieux pony with all the accessories that  
I wanted and the pelcon.  
Thank you,  
Maurika

Dear Santa,  
Good morning. I've been struggling  
with the lack of nail polish and remover.  
I've been adding nail polish to my cur-  
rent painted naiks as I don't have remov-  
er. When it's nail painting day it's a diffi-  
cult time getting it off so what I'm asking  
for is nail polish ex. light pink, beige,  
light baby blue and nail polish remover.  
Thank you Santa,  
Joyce Martens  
St. Josphe's Lodge, Gore Bay

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas to you. I don't have  
Christmas spirit this year, but nothing  
would be better than getting homemade  
cookies.  
Edna Wright  
St. Josphe's Lodge, Gore Bay  
PS: Gingerbread cookies

Dear Santa,  
I love Christmas. My favourite is hav-  
ing turkey dinner. I enjoy receiving new  
clothes for Christmas. I love seeing the

...continued on next page



## MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

**LAMBAC**  
A Community Futures Development Corporation  
Une Société d'aide au développement des collectivités

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From Your Independent Grocer in Gore Bay

# independent

YOUR INDEPENDENT GROCER

40 Meredith St, Gore Bay



**Regular Hours**  
Mon to Sat: 830am to 6pm  
Sunday: 11am to 5pm

Date	Hours
Christmas Eve	8 - 5 pm
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	Closed
New Year's Eve	8 - 6 pm
New Year's Day	8 - 6 pm



## SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE TEAM AT

# NEW NORTH FUELS INC

HOME HEATING/FURNACE OIL  
DIESEL FUEL  
GASOLINE  
AUTO/INDUSTRIAL LUBRICANTS



## PETRO-CANADA

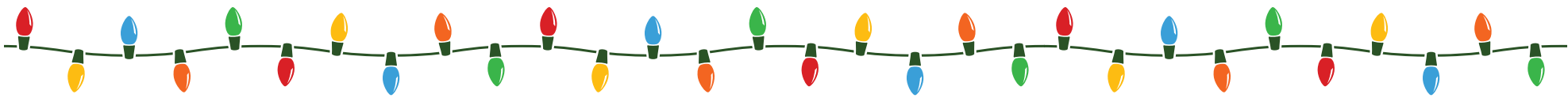


**Let our dedicated New North team look after *all* your fuel needs.**

***We offer automatic delivery and seniors' discounts!***

**If you have any questions, or would like to arrange delivery, PLEASE CALL 705-368-2640 OR 1-800-361-0015**  
**Our service is second to none!**





# Letters to Santa

...continued from previous page

Christmas lights.  
Ruth Low  
St. Jospeh's Lodge, Gore Bay

Dear Santa,  
I'm Denise. I would really like a watch for Christmas this year. Can I please have an answering machine? I'm currently sick. Please help this go away.  
Denise  
PS. Please share your milk and cookies.  
St. Jospeh's Lodge, Gore Bay

Dear Santa,  
I'm glad you're back this year and brought gifts for everyone a the home, which we greatly appreciate! I thank you

very much for past years. I love you very much and I hope you're full of goodies again. Thank you again for your kindness and your generosity.

Love,  
Myrtle  
St. Jospeh's Lodge, Gore Bay

Dear Santa,  
I'm grateful to be surrounded by friends at my home for Christmas. I'm grateful for the staff who take care of me daily. Without my friends and staff I'd be alone for Christmas.

From,  
Mamie  
St. Jospeh's Lodge, Gore Bay

Dear Santa,  
All I want for Christmas is everyone here, staff and residents, to have the best Christmas ever!

Roy Lumley  
St. Jospeh's Lodge, Gore Bay

Dear Santa,  
My name is Jace and I am 10 years old, I've been a pretty good boy this year, or at least I think so haha. This year for Christmas I'd like a survival kit and a remote control truck! I will leave you a yummy treat, thanks for everything.

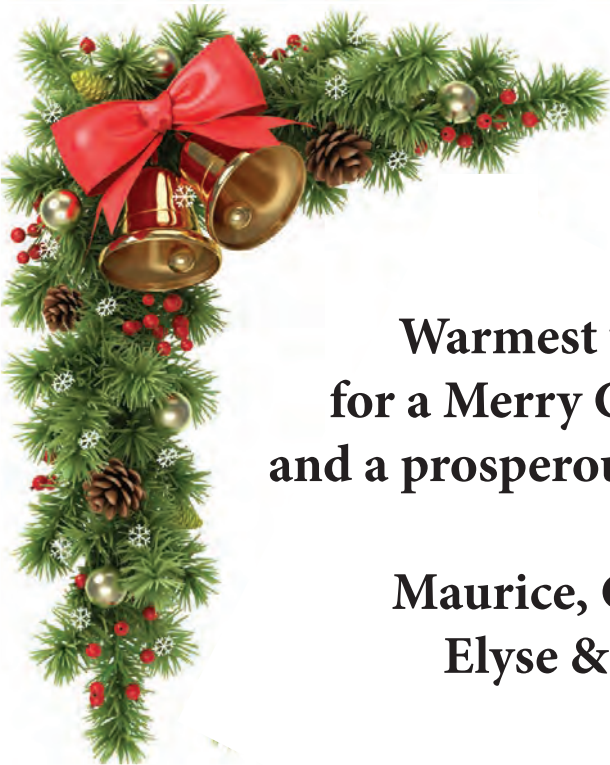
Jace Middaugh

I'd love anything Stitch. I've tried hard to be good. I will leave you milk and cookies( f my daddy doesn't eat them) love you!

Brinley  
Middaugh

Hey Santa!  
Ho Ho.  
My name is Nixon and I am 1.5 years old. I've been a really good boy this year. I love monster trucks, dinky cars and playing outside. I'd love more monster trucks for my collection. I love cookies and milk too but I will try and share with you!  
Merry Christmas,  
Nixon Middaugh

Hey Santa,  
My name is Brinley and I am 7, This year I'm obsessed with lilo and stitch, so



Warmest wishes  
for a Merry Christmas  
and a prosperous New Year!

Maurice, Carole,  
Elyse & Eric

We're saving our best smile for you!



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from all of us at

Manitoulin Denture Clinic  
Leanne Bentley Hon. B.Sc., DD

73 Centre St.  
Espanola, P5E 1S4  
705-869-4544

58 Worthington St.  
Little Current, POP 1K0  
705-368-0723



386 Highway 551 | [uccmcastle.com](http://uccmcastle.com)  
PHONE: (705) 377-5111 | FAX: (705) 377-5113

WE WISH YOU A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A JOYFUL NEW YEAR!



## HOLIDAY HOURS:

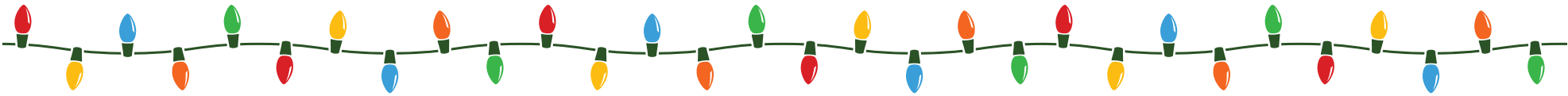
DECEMBER 24: 8AM-12PM  
CLOSED DECEMBER 25-27  
DECEMBER 31: 8AM-12PM  
CLOSED JANUARY 1


## HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY TO FRIDAY: 8AM-5PM  
STARTING JANUARY UNTIL MARCH 31

VISIT US IN-STORE FOR MORE SALES!





★ Dear Santa, ★ 

My name is Elise.


I am 8 years old.


This year I have been:

☐ Naughty ☒ Nice  
(I can explain!)

For Christmas I would like:

1. Barbie Sister
2. art supplies
3. time
4. 5x Of fake dolls
5. my brand





Thank you Santa! ★

From Elise

## MERRY CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

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

### WORDS

ANGEL  
BIRTH  
CAROLS  
CHRISTMAS  
CHURCH  
COMPANY  
DECEMBER  
DINING  
EVERGREEN  
FRIENDS  
GARLAND  
GIFTS  
GREETING CARD  
HOLLY  
MAGICAL  
MANGER  
MERRIMENT  
MISTLETOE  
REMINISCE  
ROAST  
STAR  
TRAVEL  
TREE SKIRT  
WREATHS

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HAPPY NEW  
YEAR**


From all of us at the  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Branch 177

As we reflect on the past year,  
we extend our heartfelt gratitude  
to our veterans, members  
and the wonderful community  
of Little Current.

**We Welcome You!**  
Stop by for a festive visit or to  
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in 2026.  
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**Phone:** 705-368-2661

**Winter Hours:**  
Open Wednesday to  
Saturday from  
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Mino Niibaa Namaang  
Miinwaa Nimkoodaddig

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

May the gift of love, peace  
and happiness be yours this  
sacred time of year.

*Our Children, Our Responsibility*

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**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

**HAPPY NEW  
YEAR**

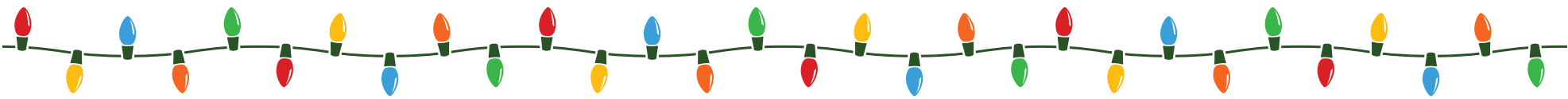
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**BEST WISHES FOR 2026!**





# WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B.



Answers:  
1. Missing ribbon 2. Cookies in place of candy cane 3. An extra ornament in saucer 4. Marshmallows in cup



## Letters to Santa!

Youngsters from Aundeck Omni Kaning dropped their letters off to The Expositor Office in December and can be read in these pages!



Wishing you a warm and wonderful holiday season  
and all the very best in 2026!

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# HoliYAY FUN

## Jokes That Sleigh!

**What do snowmen call their kids?**  
Chill-dren

**What kind of currency do they spend in the North Pole?**  
Jingle bills

**What did the elf use when he sprained his ankle?**  
A candy cane

**Where does Santa keep his money?**  
The snowbank

**How much does Santa pay to park his sleigh?**  
Nothing, it's on the house!

**What do you call a reindeer with bad manners?**  
Rude-olph



*Merry Christmas*  
*from*  
Whitefish River First Nation  
Chief and Council



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE

Manitoulin Hotel  Conference Centre



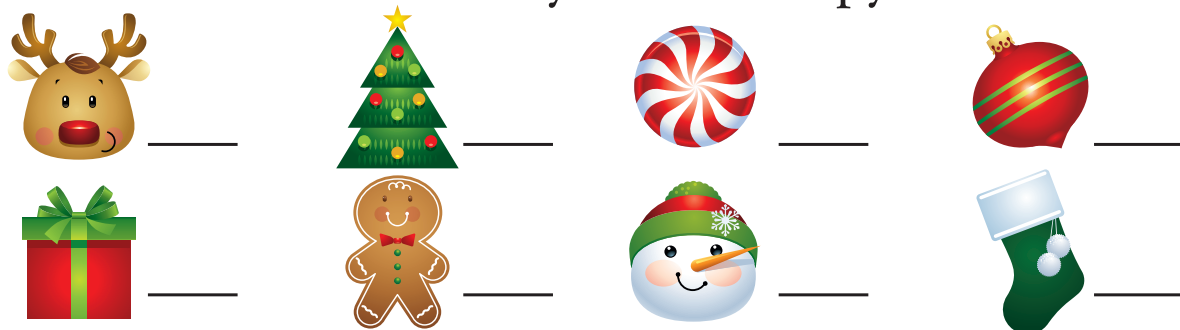
**May your holiday season be filled with joy, warmth and the simple beauty of Christmas.**

55 Water Street, Little Current, ON  
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How many do YOU spy?



## Iced Cinnamon Star Cookies

Makes 24 Servings

For the cookies:

2 1/2 cups almond flour  
1 1/4 cups powdered sugar  
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
2 large egg whites  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

For the icing:

1 cup powdered sugar  
3 tablespoons milk, more if needed  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

For the cookies:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together almond flour, powdered sugar, cinnamon, and salt. Add the egg whites and vanilla and mix until a soft dough forms.

2. Wrap dough in plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

3. Preheat oven to 300 F. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper.

4. On a surface dusted with powdered sugar, roll the dough to 1/3-inch thickness. Cut out stars using a 3-inch star cookie cutter and transfer to the prepared cookie sheet.

5. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes until edges are lightly golden. Let cool on baking sheets for 5 minutes, then transfer to wire racks.

For the icing:

1. Using a fork, combine the powdered sugar, milk, and vanilla. Use a whisk to continue to stir the icing, adding more milk, in teaspoon increments if needed, to reach desired consistency.

2. Once cookies are completely cooled, spoon the icing on top of each star and spread with the back of the spoon or a toothpick. You also can use a squeeze bottle or piping bag. Enjoy cookies immediately or let icing set at room temperature 6 to 8 hours.







# Merry Christmas

**We just couldn't wait one more minute to deliver  
our best wishes to all the kind folk who have  
helped make this past year a merry and bright one  
for us. — Thank you!**



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