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Hungry owls on South Shore attack adults, children and pets

by Warren Schlote

MANITOULIN—People in Providence Bay and Michael's Bay on the southern portion of Manitoulin Island have faced repeated visits from aggressive owls over the past two weeks, which have resulted in the death of a dog and injuries to at least two people in the Providence Bay area alone.

"I'm from the Island and have lived in the North all my life. I've never seen any animals like this one and I hope it's the last time I see one of these," said Greg McFarlane, of Cranston Road in Providence Bay. "It was a bird from hell."

The first owl encounter happened on Thursday, February 11. Mr. McFarlane's wife Sherry Anderson McFarlane, who is also originally from the Island, was sitting in her wheelchair on their covered porch at about 6:45 pm. Suddenly, she suffered a strong blow to her head—enough to cause her to momentarily black out.

As she slowly came to, she thought someone had hit her with a baseball bat, but soon realized she had cuts and scrapes all over her face. One of the slashes was less than an inch from her eye. This was the work of a great-horned owl.

Friday was quiet but as the two were inside on Saturday, they heard a massive bang as the owl returned and slammed into one of their windows. This stunned the creature and it stayed on their deck for about half an hour. Mr. McFarlane managed to take some pictures of the owl as it recovered.

On Sunday evening, the owl returned and brought tragedy. Mr. McFarlane let his dogs out but his 14-year-old Shih Tzu, Asia, did not return swiftly as she normally did. He went out and saw that the owl had returned and held the small dog in its talons.

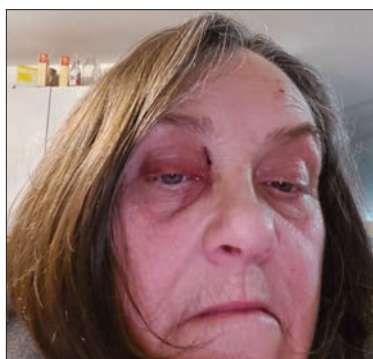
Mr. McFarlane ran over and kicked the owl twice. It eventually

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Michael's Bay resident Alan MacNevin was walking up the road and looking at his phone when an owl knocked him down and, briefly, out. He soon spotted the barred owl staring him down from a nearby tree. Before he stood up, he used his phone to take pictures of the scene, adding the circle above to show the camouflaged raptor.

photo by Alan MacNevin



Sherry Anderson McFarlane was sitting on her porch when the owl delivered a blow strong enough to momentarily knock her out. Its talon gouged her face just next to her eye and left cuts on her forehead.



The great-horned owl attacked Greg and Sherry McFarlane's 14-year-old Shih Tzu Asia on February 14. The next day, after receiving emergency veterinary care, she died of her injuries.

Northern Credit Union closing last Manitoulin branch in Little Current

MANITOULIN—The long and storied history of the credit union movement on Manitoulin Island will soon come to a close with Northern Credit Union (NCU)'s February 18 announcement that effective June 1, the Little Current branch (its only remaining Manitoulin Island location) would close its doors, as well as five other NCU branches across Northern Ontario and one branch in southern Ontario.

For the second time in its brief Island tenure, the credit union announced the closure without any warning to its members nor its 'ambassador' group—a group of individuals from the Manitoulin and Espanola area who helped as brand ambassadors while doling out small amounts of money from the credit union

to community groups in the area—who admit that they have not heard much from NCU in the last almost two years.

In August 2018, The Expositor wrote a similar story with interviews from ambassadors who were "shocked" at the news that the Mindemoya branch would be closing its doors and were disheartened that no one had been given a heads up in the thought process of the branch closure.

History of Island credit unions

In January 1952, Manitoulin Credit Union Limited opened for business, operating between 2 and 5 pm on Fridays at the Department of Agriculture

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UOI governance referendum delayed in many First Nations due to pandemic regulations

by Michael Erskine

NORTH BAY—A second round of voting on the proposed First Nations Governance Agreement (FNGA) between First Nations and the federal government was supposed to be complete by February 27, but like many things upended by the COVID-19 pandemic, most communities have postponed their votes.

The FNGA has been touted by proponents as finally getting their communities out from under the patriarchal provisions of the colonial era-inspired Indian Act.

"For the 47 years I have been involved we have been talking about getting Indian Affairs off our backs. We have an opportunity here now to do this," said Anishinabek Nation Governance Commissioner Patrick Madahbee, himself a past chief of Aundek

Omni Kaning and Anishinabek Nation as he thanked the chiefs for appointing him to the ex officio position.

In conversation with The Expositor, Mr. Madahbee was candid in acknowledging some of the arguments that have been made against endorsing the FNGA, which opponents fear places the sovereign First Nations under the Crown while in return only acknowledging some of the rights and jurisdiction that First Nations communities have by inherent right.

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Friends of Old School produce souvenir coin

by Michael Erskine

MINDEMOYA—The Friends of the Mindemoya Old School are set to mint their first fundraising effort, a commemorative coin marking the historic edifice's centennial, due this year.

"There will only be 100 coins minted," said Jim Smith of Mindemoya, the designer of the coin. "We are framing it as a commemoration coin celebrating the Mindemoya Old School building's centennial, not as an obituary."

The new coins may still be in the "gauging interest" stage, according to Mr. Smith, but with over half of the run already spoken for, their production is pretty much a given.

The gold-coloured coins, which feature a face side image of the Mindemoya Old School and an obverse bearing images of an old school bell, Manitoulin Island

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Following Hope's Path Part XIX of a series

Mary Buie's path to good health continues

EDITOR'S NOTE: In 2013 retired nurse and midwife Mary Buie approached The Expositor with a mission. She had recently been diagnosed with breast cancer and was wondering whether this newspaper would be interested in chronicling her journey as she faced down the disease. It was with some trepidation that this paper agreed as the eventual outcome was far from certain to be positive. What followed was an engaging 18-part series that leavened a very serious health issue with Ms. Buie's irrepressible personality. Last week Ms. Buie informed The Expositor that she would once again be facing down cancer. The Expositor has agreed to restart the series 'Following Hope's Path' to

once again relay the story of her journey. This series picks up where it left off in 2017 as part 19.

by Michael Erskine

After successfully wrestling cancer to the mat eight years ago, the redoubtable Mary Buie is once again facing off against the big C and she makes it clear she has no intention of tapping out to cancer any time soon.

Readers may recall following Ms. Buie's previous bout with breast cancer in the 18-part series 'Following Hope's Path' by writer Robin Burridge that began in 2013, shortly

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Mary Buie poses with a prayer shawl and Valentine chocolates from one of her church family prayer warriors.



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Gore Bay POA Office faces COVID-19 deficit, urges support

by Warren Schlote
GORE BAY—The Provincial Offences Act (POA) local management board in Gore Bay, which oversees the POA for the Island's nine municipalities (including Cockburn Island), is lobbying the Ontario attorney general for funding to make up for COVID-19 budget shortfalls due to the province's pause on collecting fines and the addition of new expenditures to prepare a jury trial space in Gore Bay that complies with public health restrictions.

"The province has given municipalities and companies and everything else a hand with covering COVID-19 costs with grants and (other programs). With POA, there's nothing. It doesn't qualify for anything and it's a provincially downloaded thing, so there should be something there," said POA management board chair Derek Stephens, who also serves as a councillor in the Municipality of Central Manitoulin.

At the end of 2020, the unaudited financial statements showed a deficit of \$22,513.23; outgoing POA manager Annette Clarke attributed this to the pandemic and said the problem was occurring across the province. This is the second time Gore Bay POA has posted a deficit in 20 years.

COVID-19 has led to deficit
The factors going into this deficit, according to a report Ms. Clarke made to the Gore Bay POA board on January 22, included an inability for the POA office to collect and enforce fines because Ontario has extended the time limits for POA appeals until April 12 due to the pandemic.

This means that any person charged has extra time to file an appeal; until that period closes, the POA office cannot move to collect any fines owed, unless the person charged voluntarily pays the ticket.

In addition, any tickets issued after March 1, 2020 have until February 26, 2021 to choose an option for proceeding as per the choices on the back of the ticket. This is a deadline that has been extended a few times. Until that date, the local courts cannot pursue collecting the fines.

Ontario has also closed in-person court sessions, which has further impacted the Gore Bay office's ability to process cases.

Expositor readers will recall the search over the past several months for an alternative space on Manitoulin in which to hold court after the province determined the Gore Bay courthouse could not be

set up with enough physical distancing for jury trials.

The Gore Bay Community Hall became the choice for a larger space and Gore Bay POA has used considerable expenditures to cover supplies for the space, including a desk for the justice of the peace, computer equipment and connectivity utilities, Plexiglas barriers and PPE. Staffing costs at the new space are also higher.

Due to the provincial stay-at-home order, that space has yet to see any use. The province is encouraging a virtual resumption of services first and it allowed early resolutions (meetings before an accused's trial date where the courts will attempt to get a plea in lieu of going to trial) to resume via audio teleconference in October.

Virtual hearings are a considerable challenge in a place like Manitoulin especially, where cell phone coverage is spotty in areas, let alone high-speed internet.

It's been a challenging time for Pam Fogal as she takes over as the new Gore Bay POA manager from Ms. Clarke. Her term officially began on January 1 but she had been transitioning into the role before that date.

"We are in the process of trying to (hold court) virtually with Zoom, but with that said, we have to make sure we have the infrastructure in place," Ms. Fogal said, acknowledging the local connectivity challenges. "Zoom does seem to be a decent platform, though, because you can set it up for audio only."

in prohibited zones on highways, especially near some of Manitoulin's tourist hotspots like Bridal Veil Falls and Cup and Saucer hiking trail.

These issues are separate from the above-described issues the local board is facing regarding collecting fines, but will also contribute to the larger deficit. Parking tickets are considered 'part II' offences, whereas 'part I' offences refer to circumstances when tickets can be issued, such as charges of trespassing, infractions against the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, or violating the Highway Traffic Act through actions such

as speeding.

Part III offences are reserved for more serious proceedings, including animal cruelty, businesses that violate the liquor licence act, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks infractions such as altering shore lands and serious Highway Traffic Act charges such as stunt driving or driving with a suspended licence.

The province has been hampering efforts to advance part II cases because if a driver is not present when their illegally parked vehicle gets a ticket and police do not look up the information them-

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From left are members of Manitoulin Health Centre's supply chain and maintenance teams, including Chris McGaughey, Stuart Setterington, Debbie Graham and Duane Deschamps, alongside the new ultra-low temperature freezer.

MHC receives ultra-cold freezer

Unit can store sensitive Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine
by Warren Schlote
LITTLE CURRENT—Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC) last week welcomed an ultra-low temperature freezer to its Little Current hospital site, a unit that will allow

for stable, long-term storage of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines that have to stay between -80°C and -60°C for optimum quality.

"This serves as a great example

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Federal government unveils its assault-like rifle buy-back plan

Legislation to allow municipalities to ban handguns
by Michael Erskine
OTTAWA—The federal Liberals' long-promised gun control legislation touted during the last election campaign was put on hiatus when the pandemic hit, but on February 16 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau unveiled the launch of a buy-back program for what has been described as assault, or the more nebulous "assault-style," firearms.

The buyback program is part of a bevy of new gun control measures following on the announcement last May of an executive order changing classification on approximately 1,500 firearms that fall into the "assault-style" category to "prohibited." Included in the announcement were plans to allow municipalities to ban handguns.

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Parking tickets also a problem this year
As reported in the February 10 edition of The Expositor, the Island's POA office is having difficulties collecting parking infraction fines from drivers who park

PHSD, partners prep for next vaccination stage

by Warren Schlote
MANITOULIN—Vaccination roll-out plans for the Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD) catchment area, which includes Manitoulin Island, are presently in development. The public health unit stated in a press release Friday that it was expecting to receive more doses this week and be able to start the second phase of vaccinations, for people who are most at risk for having a severe case and for those who care for them.

The first doses have already gone to all consenting residents of long-term care and high-risk retirement homes. This second round will extend to all staff and essential caregivers tied to said facilities.

Also in the second round will be

Indigenous adults in higher-risk communities, 'alternate level of care' hospital patients who have a space confirmed in a care facility, and health care workers deemed highest or very high priority.

Following that phase, residents, staff and caregivers of all retirement homes (at regular risk levels), adults 80 years old or older, people who regularly receive home care, high-priority health care workers and all Indigenous adults will be permitted to get the jab.

PHSD stated in the release that it had not yet finalized plans for vaccine clinics, but said it was planning to use places such as community clinics and health care providers. The details of those locations and instructions on how to make an appointment

will go out to eligible people when it is their time to get vaccinated.

Anyone who is invited to get vaccinated should also bring documentation to prove their eligibility, such as proof of employment in a particular health care role.

Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC) is among the partners with whom PHSD has been collaborating.

"Our VP of clinical services (Paula Fields) sits on the vaccine distribution implementation team, and our chief of staff (Dr. Simone Meikleham). It's a weekly meeting and they certainly have been made aware that we had an ultra-low freezer on order, and we've now received it," said MHC president and CEO Lynn Foster.

She suggested that, as PHSD

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Killarney Cream Ale is taking the LCBO by storm

by Michael Erskine
LITTLE CURRENT—Members of Little Current's Manitoulin Brewing Company could hardly contain their excitement over the past few months as they watched Kil-

larney Cream Ale climb the LCBO stats to become the second-most popular cream ale in the liquor store inventory.

The craft brewery industry has seen small independent brewers

blossom across the Ontario landscape in recent years and competition for shelf space in the hundreds of outlets in the province is fierce, but the Killarney Cream Ale offering has not only held its own, but excelled.

Maybe it's the smooth subtle honey and biscuit malt notes that balance perfectly with the brew's crisp refreshing impact on the palate, augmented by the bright golden way it fills the glass to a creamy head. Whatever the magic, Killarney Cream Ale has become a hit—topped only by the Muskoka Brewery's offering.

"We are proud of that recipe," said Manitoulin Brewing Company co-owner Blair Hagman, noting that their Island-based brewery is a fraction of the size of that of Muskoka. "Manitoulin may be growing in popularity," he said, "but the Island has a long way to

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I'M YOUR NEIGHBOUR

When he's not shredding curbs, Tarrin Grimolfson shreds cheese

Tarrin Grimolfson is a newcomer to Gore Bay. He was born in Winnipeg and has spent most of his years in Manitoba and Alberta. After Winnipeg, his family lived in Dauphin, a community of about 10,000 people. "If you've never heard of it, you may have heard of Dauphin's Countryfest," he said. Dauphin's Country Fest is Canada's longest running country music festival. "It's a big thing around there. I've heard it's a little like Manitoulin Country Fest," he said. You might see him there.

He's been in Ontario for about one-and-a-half years now and in Gore Bay about three months. Tarrin and his girlfriend decided it was time for a change and moved to Ontario together. They have a baby boy named Trevor, after Tarrin's father.

He began working full-time as a cook at The Codmothers' about six weeks ago and loves it. "The people I work with are great," he said. "It's a friendly environment. The food's good, too." He recommends the chicken burger or the chicken Caesar salad.

Tarrin is also a tattoo artist, following in the footsteps of his father who was a tattoo artist in Edmonton for 20 years. "I do a lot of flowers but basically anything a customer brings to me. I



Tarrin Grimolfson

kind of throw my own twist to it," he said. He built a substantial client base in Thessalon when he first moved to Ontario. You can see some of his work in his Facebook group, TNT Body Modifications.

It was a little rough, moving to Gore Bay during a pandemic and knowing few people. He has made some good friends in his short time here. "I'm sure they'll be friends forever. There's good people out here. The scenery's beautiful. It's a lot better than big cities."

He draws all the time and likes to snowboard and skateboard in his spare time, although with a little one there's not much time to spare. He likes just being a dad though.

Remember that when you shop locally, you're helping support your friends and neighbours like Tarrin Grimolfson and The Codmothers' in Gore Bay.



Manitoulin Brewing Company sales manager John Kift has been monitoring sales data and was pleased to see the Killarney Cream Ale data trending upward.

photo by Michael Erskine

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opinion

editorial

Closure announcement invokes sense of betrayal

News of the impending closure of the last credit union branch on Manitoulin reverberated across the Island this past week, eliciting cries of outrage that reflect the sense of betrayal felt by many of its customers who had remained loyal despite the company’s decision to close all but one of its Island branches. It has become clear that the once beloved grassroots financial institution that offered a more community-based alternative to the big banks has itself grown to become just another big institution governed by faceless bureaucrats gathered around a distant boardroom table.

True, that headquarters boardroom is still located in a Northern city, but these latest actions by the company leave one with the nagging question: for how long? What remains of the old community-centred model that once separated local credit union branches from the branch plant persona of the “big six”? In fact, despite the reasoning for closure provided by the credit union’s head office in a surprise press release, two of those big six banks will still have a presence on Manitoulin even as the moving vans depart from the last Island Northern Credit Union branch.

Adding insult to injury in the minds of many Islanders is that the decision to abandon the last Manitoulin site was announced leveraging the steep decline of in-person visits to the Little Current branch during a pandemic lockdown.

Credit union customers in Little Current are now experiencing the sense of loss their compatriots in Gore Bay and Mindemoya felt when the branches in those communities closed in recent years.

For an institution that touts itself as “co-operative to the core” and proudly tells prospective members that “At Northern, you’re an owner and shareholder with a say in how we operate,” the surprise announcement is particularly galling. So-called “ambassador” community members on Manitoulin were apprised, not consulted, just moments before a faceless entity pushed the send button on the general media release announcing the closures.

Viewed through the lens of recent actions, the institution’s website claims provide a bitter taste to the eye. “Locals serving locals?” “Our team lives locally?” Perhaps in the multi-branch community where the head office is located this can still ring true. There are those who recall how the employees were winnowed when amalgamation took place.

As has proven to be the case in The Expositor’s own industry, when corporations acquire small community papers the definition of “local” expands exponentially. Credit union giants are well advised to take heed of how that can turn out in the end. Here on Manitoulin

local still means local, and The Expositor still stands today on a field littered with closed small-town colleagues ruled from a corporate perch on high by remaining true to the word.

We are entering an era when fine words are deemed to be equivalent to actions, but when touched by reality, empty fine words crumble to dust at our feet.

The credit union release announcing the June 1 branch closure states that employees will receive “support” during the transition. Considering recent events those fine words must be providing great comfort to the redundant.

Many Islanders will undoubtedly vote with their feet over the coming months, certainly anecdotal evidence points to many with those intentions, but many loyal customers who are the bread and butter of the institution are locked into mortgages and lines of credit that are not so easily transported—particularly during these challenging times being faced by most businesses.

When the old Espanola and District Credit Union (itself having absorbed the older Island-born community-based financial institutions) was amalgamated into the body of the larger Northern portfolio, there were voices who raised warning of what could soon be lost. Dismissed by some at the time as alarmist, actions soon proved those voices to be prophetic.

Many Island customers of the credit union are elderly and of a generation that remains engaged with the personal and face-to-face interaction with those they entrust with their financial security. It is largely why they joined a credit union in the first place, rather than opening an account at one of the big banks. The distance from Gore Bay or Mindemoya to Little Current might not have seemed like much of an impediment to a remote head office, but even those faceless entities whose hands are at the tiller must realize that increasing the over half-hour jaunt to more than an hour’s expedition will be untenable for many—but do those huddling over the spreadsheets care? Let them use internet? Just another sign of the disconnect that has arisen as the corporation has bloated.

Credibility has long been the foundational bedrock upon which a financial organization will rise or fall.

The steady march of consolidation that has taken place in the credit union ranks has tarnished the very soul of those institutions, turning them into the very faceless entities they were created to replace.

For all the fine words and lofty ideals from which they once sprang, credit unions have clearly become just another big bank.

letter

Disgruntled customer weighs in on Northern CU closure

“I hate dealing with chartered banks but it looks like that’s what I’ll have to do”

To the Expositor:
Disgusting! There’s no other word.
That was my reaction in learning, via Facebook, that the Little Current branch of the Northern Credit Union would be closing in June. And it’s not just one branch in the north, they’re closing seven branches. Then I thought about the inconvenience of it all.
Like many others, I will have to close my account. I have a few small investments that will have to be moved. I will have to contact my ISP, my phone payments, car insurance etc. will all have to be moved. What terrifies me most is trying to contact Canada Revenue Agency to have my Canada Pension Plan deposits moved. It could take three weeks just to talk to someone there!

Like others, I was pretty ticked off when they closed the Mindemoya branch, forcing me to drive 35 minutes to Little Current, but there’s no way in hell I’ll drive to Espanola to do my banking. How many jobs are being lost? And how long before they close the Espanola branch?

The truth is, they can no longer be trusted. I was assured the Little Current branch would look after us when they closed the Mindemoya branch. They lied.

I hate dealing with the chartered banks but it looks like that’s what I’ll have to do. I suspect the bank in Mindemoya will have a good number of new clients as well as the banks in Little Current.

Perhaps what really needs changing is the management at Northern Credit Union. Closing branches is hardly “expanding” service.
Is the Island no longer in the North?

B. Dixon
Mindemoya

Killarney Mountain Lodge bows to community market pressure

by Michael Erskine
KILLARNEY—Killarney Mountain Lodge has developed a well-deserved reputation for top tier tourism experiences, but the popular resort found itself on the wrong side of the creek when it came to a planned Family Day offering—leading eventually to a cancellation of the event.

The Family Day event centred around outdoor activities and the resort had put a number of protocols in place that exceeded all recommendations...except one, the provincial stay-at-home order. To be fair, the Family Day event was planned months ahead of time and in anticipation of the lockdown restrictions loosening up before the resort would be greeting customers.

“At any other time, we think this would be wonderful, a great way to build the winter tourism sector, support the businesses and have a lot of fun,” Killarney Mayor Karen Wirtz said in media interviews. “It’s just the timing right now. It doesn’t seem like the right time to start this kind of event. It’s the idea of people travelling for non-essential reasons and coming into a community like ours that is so vulnerable.”

The municipality went to the length of posting a request on its webpage for tourists to refrain from visiting the community and warning of the potential for out of area travellers to incur fines of up to \$1,000 for not obeying the provincial orders against non-essential travel. Anecdotal claims that the OPP had issued fines to those visiting the resort were dispelled by the OPP detachment’s communications team.

In the end, the controversy shut down the event, with cancellations of bookings making the final call.

The mayor was conciliatory to the resort owners and management, noting that they were not doing anything illegal.

“The issue here is not that the event itself is illegal,” she said. “Hotels and resorts are allowed to be open—and it looks like Killarney Mountain Lodge has gone to all the proper channels in terms of delivering the activities they’d like to deliver in a friendly manner.”

For their part, the lodge admitted they were disappointed with the municipality’s reaction.

“We’re pretty disappointed,” said Kelly McAree, chief revenue and strategy officer of the Killarney Mountain Lodge and Sportsman Inn. “We consider ourselves good, upstanding members of our community and support the community in all sorts of endeavours with donations and employment for a good portion of the community members. We don’t feel that we’ve been treated fairly.”

Mr. McAree pointed out that the resort had worked with Public Health Sudbury and Districts to ensure that all proper protocols were being followed before planning and going ahead with the event, which included three portable ice rinks specially set up for their guests that could be rented privately by the hour by individual family units—who were also advised to bring their own food and beverages and to remain within their bubbles while at the resort.

Added to those precautions were daily temperature tests of staff and a strict program sanitizing rooms and facilities at the lodge. Management pointed out that no incidents related to COVID-19 had occurred during the pandemic. They attributed the pushback against the event to about eight community members who were very vocal in their opposition.

Killarney is a small community of under 400 year-round residents who are primarily older and in vulnerable cohorts, a factor cited by the mayor as the key factor behind the municipality’s reaction.

The management, for their part, while acknowledging the challenges faced by the mayor and council voiced hope that they would listen to what the operators allege is most of the community who are supportive of the business.

In the final analysis, booking cancellations in the face of community opposition led to the cancellation of the event, with both sides hoping that the coming summer season will see better times ahead.

Ted Taylor

These days, Ted Taylor, an unabashed Haweater, resides in Mindemoya where, as president of the local historical society and church warden of St. Francis of Assissi Anglican Church, he can share his keen love for the history of this island. “Right now, we have a special interest in the old Mindemoya schoolhouse, and we are hoping that, being just one year shy of a ‘heritage building’ classification, this edifice known to many Central Manitouliners as their public school, can be resurrected for its potential functionality and historic significance. We also have a historic interest in the graveyards of Central Manitoulin.”

Ted spent much of his early career making ice cream for Wagg’s Creamery and later, producing uranium in Elliot Lake, moving from worker to supervisor, then engineer (first class). He operated and monitored safety gear as well as the equipment used for mining this element so important to the energy and medical fields, among others. He volunteered for several community organizations as well.

Paternal grandparents were William and Edith Taylor. “My dad was eight when they came here to farm in the Kagawong area. Edith was a good cook and great bread baker. William farmed and worked for the Department of Highways where he erected road signs and fixed countless potholes. He was a wonderful gardener too. Uncle Percy ran the early school buses. A fellow named Chancy Berry had built about three of these early buses, mounting a cab on a truck frame.”

“Maternal grandparents are Fred and Daisy Pepper. Daisy had been married in England and had given birth to three children before her husband died. When she emigrated from England, she had to be a single lady, so her sister and her mother cared for her older children. In Saskatchewan, she married Fred Pepper and had triplets. The older children joined the family after the wedding. Daughter Mildred became my mother. Her nickname was ‘Mild Red’ as in mild red pepper. She married Dennis Aubrey Taylor of Manitoulin and had five children. Mildred’s sister Peggy married Richard Taylor (no relation), who built the stone church in Mindemoya.”

“I was the first-born, on November 7, 1936 with the help of Dr. R. B. McQuay in the Red Cross Hospital. Siblings are Cyril, Randy, Lois, ‘Alex’ and Denise. Dad worked for the Department of Lands and Forests, sitting in a lookout tower searching for forest fires. All tower occupants would communicate with each other and establish vector lines to pinpoint the smoke. They would have to walk there, bringing a pump to pull from the nearest water source. Sometimes they had to fill their canoe, strategically placed half-way, and pump to the fire from there.”

“My early memories are being with Grandfather Taylor on his farm just outside of Mindemoya where the Sean Tipper farm is now. That barn is still standing. I remember five little kittens in a box. When the cows were milked, a stream of milk would be aimed at the kittens. As a young tot, I used to love just sitting there and watching the action. I remember putting a harness on Sport, the family border collie. That day I decided to tie him to the pump. Grandfather found him there later, after I had forgotten about him.”

“Driving the tractor was a pre-school adventure too. Uncle Percy would jump on and off the wagon, pitching hay up with the fork. I was slowly driving the tractor



Now and Then

A Celebration of Life on Manitoulin
Mnaachtoong Maadsewin
By Petra Wall



A 17-year-old Ted shows off his car in 1955.



The fearsome line comprised of, from left, Ted Taylor, Ronnie Tann and Don Cooper.



The whole crew at Elliot Lake with Ted kneeling, far right.

with uncle holding down the clutch. When the wagon was full, uncle would drive it into the barn and start removing the hay. I would get the old mare tied to the single tree with a bowline knot. She would help pull off the hay, wait for it to be hooked by the mechanical ‘hay fork’ device and walk away with me guiding her, thus lifting the hay from the wagon bed. That’s also how we got the hay up to the mow where the hook would release it” when someone on the barn floor below would pull a trip rope attached to the hay fork and release the hay. The leverage was by means of a pulley high up in the barn’s roof and the hay fork’s rope passed over the pulley.

“In 1941, dad joined the army and mother, Cyril and I moved to Mindemoya to the white house beside the old hospital, so I could go to Grade 1 in the public school. I walked to and from the school and back. Mrs. Turnbull was my teacher. Mother was expecting little Randy, who was born in January of 1943. Dad was still doing basic training and he got embarkation leave to see his new son in March of 1943. He got to Little Current by train and then jumped on the mail bus, heading for Mindemoya. It snowed that day and the bus got stuck in Honora. Dad only had a two-day leave before shipping out, so he had to return to base without seeing us. Randy was three years when dad finally met him.”

where Jake’s is now. I was so worried I would lose it, but I didn’t. By June of 1943, mother was missing her family in Saskatchewan. Her father had died there, so she decided to move Cyril, Randy and me to that province. I went to Grade 2. My uncle Lloyd had a daughter in Grade 1 and he asked me to stay with them during the week so I could guide her. We each rode horseback seven kilometres to school with strict orders not to run the two horses. I followed that rule.”

“The government was paying one cent per gopher tail in the mid-1940s. Farmers were plagued with too many holes in their fields, holes a horse’s hoof easily found (leading to broken bones). I did this for a while, but I felt a bit uncomfortable doing it. By Christmas 1945, our father had come home from the war. He stopped in Mindemoya and then came for us by train. It was fun coming home on the train. The soot and ash from the steam engine inevitably found open windows, especially going around bends.”

“We came back to the white house in Mindemoya. Dad found work feeding mink and cleaning cages for Jim Burt, the bank manager. A little later, we traded the white house for a 100-acre farm across from the Missionary Church. By 1949, Dad had 350 acres. He was raising shorthorn cattle for beef, but we milked them too. We had a few pigs and chick-

ens. In 1950, a little sister, Lois, was born. That year, the barn from town was moved to where the Gibson house is now. Our home became the log home there and the house in town was sold with one acre of land.”

Hockey was a favourite pastime for Ted. He played for the local Legion team as a 10-year-old and went on to the intermediate and senior levels, playing until he was 24. After Christmas, he played on natural ice for Mindemoya against teams from Providence Bay, Gore Bay, Little Current, Sheguiandah, Manitowaning and Wiki.

“After Grade 9, I worked on the farm and helped with the haying. The day following my 16th birthday, I applied for and got my driver’s



Seven-year-old Ted with hockey stick in pasteurized hand. The photo, snapped near the old milk, made Mindemoya hospital, was kept in Ted’s ice cream, father’s wallet while he served in WWII.

chickens and eggs farmers brought in. I candled eggs too, two at a time. We processed up to 40 hogs each week. The meat was taken to Sudbury and the surrounding area. In my spare time, I delivered milk to various stores in town.”

“I was just 17 when we won the award for the best quality butter in Ontario! We would regularly send seven pounds of butter to Guelph for quality assessment and they made the determination. We had just replaced the old wooden churn with a new stainless-steel version. That award was quite an honour for Wags and for us. Every summer, there was a rush for ice cream. We would be making a ton-and-a-half each week. Butter, eggs, sugar, gelatin and powdered milk were mixed. Each vat contained 3,000 lbs of the resulting custard. Over the next five days, that volume would be aerated and frozen into various flavours and containers.”

“I was in my early twenties when my parents decided to move to Elliot Lake. Dad was 57 and mum, 50. Dad had found work with the water treatment plant there.” Ted continued to work at Wagg’s and run the farm. That same year, Ted had stopped a puck with his ankle. It seemed to be a good time to quit hockey. “I was getting married, looking after cattle and sheep on the farm and working at the creamery.”

On September 16, 1960, Ted, 24, married his high school sweetheart Evelyn Spry, an RNA, trained in Sudbury. Evelyn had been one year behind him in school. She would work at the Red Cross hospital and help on the farm.

Over time, they had three children, Kathleen, Robert and Bradley. Today, Kathleen works at Jean Country in Espanola. Robert

is an electrician in Elliot Lake and Bradley works for Ontario Hydro in their electrical department and he is based in Walkerton.

“In 1966, Dad sold part of the farm to the school board so they could build a new school (Central Manitoulin Public School). After a busy summer making ice cream, our family of four planned a trip to Vancouver to be with brother Randy and possibly find work there. I found out that Harry Roper at Rio Algom, a conglomerate of 11 uranium mines in Elliot Lake, was looking for a truck driver and janitor. I went for an interview and started the job two hours later, shutting down our trip west.”

After the Second World War, the USA had looked for uranium for defense purposes but in the 1960s there was a strong interest in uranium for peaceful uses, such as nuclear power generation with its reduced carbon footprint, and for medicine, to diagnose and treat cancer and other diseases. However, nuclear electric power generation does create waste products that must be dealt with.

“At Rio Algom, Uranium ore was ground to a fine beach sand texture. It was placed into a sulphuric acid steam bath. The uranium left the rock and remained in the water; the impurities sank to the base of the tank. The uranium was then removed from the water.”

“Soon I was off to Toronto to begin my Fourth-Class Stationary Engineering Certificate. This would allow me to run the boiler and the refrigeration system, like the one I had run at Wagg’s, for the New Quirke Mine. After I wrote the Fourth-Class Stationary Engineering Certificate, I was transferred to the power plant where I operated 500 HP electric compressors for sinking the shaft at New Quirke in 1967. After that, it was running three boilers fed by 50 to 60 tons of coal every 24 hours. Later we were burning 8,000 gallons of bunker ‘C’ oil a day, at 250°F over three shifts, resulting in a liquid similar to that used as road asphalt.”

Ted wrote his Third-Class Stationary Engineering Certificate next. He went to night school to finish his high school, taking math, English and other related courses. He also got his Second-Class Engineering Certificate, which promoted him to shift engineer for his four-man group. In 1978 Ted wrote his final First-Class Stationary Engineering Certificate. “It took two tries to get this one.” Ted became the chief power engineer at the New Quirke Mine from the mid 1970s to 1990.

In 1982, Ted built a house in Mindemoya. “In 1985, the mine doubled its production. I supervised the transition as we added more machinery and more pipelines. I was asked to go to the Stanleigh Mine as the chief power engineer. By this time, I was ensuring a safe air supply for 500 men down in the refuge station 3,500 to 4,000 ft down in the mine. The men were less exposed to radiation while in the refuge.”

“Finally, on September 30, 1996, we turned out the lights, locked the gate and ended uranium mining in Elliot Lake. Northern Saskatchewan was getting 50 lbs of uranium per ton from their Uranium City mines, which dwarfed our two to three-pound yield per ton. That day, I retired. After Christmas, we locked our Elliot Lake house and both Ev and I headed our truck and trailer to Sault Ste. Marie and the I-75 to Florida. It was the first time in a long time that I wasn’t on call.”

“By now, our children had their own lives. In 1997, we moved to our cottage which we had built on Big Lake in 1990. We expanded it

...continued on page 15

...Hungry owls on South Shore attack adults, children and pets

...continued from page 1

flew off but left Asia limp and lifeless. She revived a bit once Mr. McFarlane brought her inside but had raspy breathing, was bleeding near her neck and shaking. She spent the night at Island Animal Hospital in Mindemoya.

When the McFarlanes returned from the vet, the owl was perched in the same spot it had attacked Asia. It flew to a few spots on the property before settling into a perch on their deck overnight. Family members who came over to help during the ordeal were afraid to go to their cars, knowing that the raptor was keeping a close watch.

The next morning, Mr. McFarlane let his dogs out at around 8 am and in less than a minute, the owl grabbed Baxter, their male dog, by the neck. He suspects the owl stayed by the house all night waiting for the dogs to come out.

Mr. McFarlane kicked the owl off again but it seemed largely unconcerned with his presence. Fortunately, Baxter was largely unharmed.

At noon, they picked up Asia, who seemed to be in better spirits but still had difficulty breathing and would neither eat nor drink. As the hours passed, she grew weaker and died around 5 pm on Monday, February 15.

That day was the last time the McFarlanes saw the owl on their property.

Family seeks answers, peaceful resolution

When discussion emerged online about the incident, many commenters were quick to suggest that the owl must die. Despite their painful ordeal, the McFarlanes did not immediately suggest dispatching the creature.

Instead, they wished to better understand the aggressive behaviour and sought information from experts. They also contacted Rainbow Rescue's Bleu Fisher, who baited and set three cat traps and a modified dog trap on the property to hopefully capture the animal. Cat traps have been known, on occasion, to capture owls, she said.

After several days of the traps in place, there were still no owl sightings. Ms. Fisher's plan was to take it to Turtle Pond Wildlife Centre in Sudbury for rehabilitation, where it may have further moved to a raptor centre for advanced rehabilitation.

Ms. Fisher praised the McFarlane's desire for a non-lethal solution, if possible. She also cautioned against arm-chair experts who spread theories online such as the owl possibly being rabid (birds cannot contract rabies).

Word of the owl incident reached Garth Baker, a member of Ontario Bird Banding Association and a bird bander (one who attaches a tracking tag to birds' wings or legs for research and monitoring purposes) with Canadian Wildlife Service. The retired Canadian Pacific conductor referred to himself as a citizen scientist, having a four-decade-long passion for birds of prey.

"I've never heard of someone being attacked when they were sitting on their deck. For me it's definitely unprecedented," he said.

Mr. Baker happened to be spending several months with his sister in Billings Township when the incidents took place, and he quickly offered his services to help the family find answers.

"To me, it seems like this is food-driven, or rather a lack of food. I've snowshoed around in the bush and I haven't seen many signs of hares, which are owls' primary food in the bush at night," said Mr. Baker, adding that the recent string of frigid nights may have kept smaller critters burrowed away after sundown, which is when owls are most active and feeding.

He visited the property to search for a nearby nest, a possible motive for defensive owl behaviour, but did not see any nearby. He also played audio owl lures for a half hour on the property and did not hear any calls back, something he said he would have expected if there was a nest nearby especially.

Mr. Baker also praised the McFarlanes for not moving to kill the bird, especially when it was defenceless on their deck after stunning itself on their window. He noted that owls are protected under the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act and killing or harming them could result in fines or charges.

"Sherry and Greg have every right to feel angry because they basically felt targeted for three days, having the owl come back over and over. But (instead, they said) 'we're living in an area with nature and this is what nature does,'" he said. "People need to lose the lynch mob mentality with stuff like this. Once I saw how people were reacting to it, that's what got me more interested in helping out."

After the final incident with Baxter, the McFarlanes have not seen the owl on their property again. But in the midst of their plight, others have faced similar challenges.

Neighbours face owl aggression

On Friday, February 12, the day the owl did not appear at the McFarlane house, it instead flew to the home of Greg Paquet, a few driveways up Cranston Road.

Mr. Paquet was having a bonfire when his friend's four-and-a-half-year-old daughter fell over. At first, they thought she may have tripped on a stump but they soon understood an owl had taken hold of the young girl.

"Her father realized and he stepped in and ripped the bird off. It had latched on pretty good," Mr. Paquet told The Expositor. "I've spent a lot of time in the bush hunting, fishing, and I've seen owls pretty close but never encountered anything like this, which makes it odd."

The girl was fortunately not seriously injured, having only faced scrapes to her head.

After some searching in nearby trees, they could not spot the raptor and called it a night. The next day, Mr. Paquet went outside to clean up the property.

"Within 30 seconds, this bird came down and went at my



The owl slammed into the McFarlanes' window late Saturday evening. It was stunned and spent roughly a half hour on their deck as it slowly came to and eventually flew away.



Following an attack on Alan MacNevin Jr., the barred owl gives him a watchful gaze.

photo by Alan MacNevin



Post attack, the Michael's Bay barred owl takes flight.

photo by Alan MacNevin

dog. Now, my dog's got a bit of an attitude so it took care of it on its own and I later saw the owl up in a tree," he said. Later that night was when the owl mortally wounded the McFarlanes' Asia.

"We were living in Sudbury and we moved back here to be more comfortable. We just started letting our kids walk to the bus but now we're worried about this damn owl. It's kind of a problem, but I'm sure it won't last too long," said Mr. Paquet.

Although he is a hunter and said he had no qualms about shooting the bird if it was attacking him or his family, he said he did not wish to harm it if at all possible.

Biologists say behaviour is rare

Owl attacks of this nature are rare and most often happen when the raptors are trying to protect their nests and offspring from potential dangers, said biologists Annick Gionet Rollick and Brian Hayhoe of The Owl Foundation, based in Vineland Station.

However, when desperate, owls may become aggressive over their territories or potential prey items.

"A healthy owl tends to stick to known prey items that were provided to them as owlets and fledglings. They will go 'off-menu' if they become desperate, like a small pet. A healthy animal does not want to risk injury and will hunt prey items that they are familiar with," the foundation stated in an email to The Expositor.

Further potential reasons for aggression include owls that have been imprinted to humans, if they were raised in captivity and released, because they may see humans as competition for mates, territory and food.

The foundation shared steps people can take to lower the risk of attacks. If it is nest-related aggression, locate the nest and avoid the area if possible. If a nest is near a home, keep watch for the owl when outside and consider wearing a hat with eyes drawn on the back—owls prefer a surprise attack approach. Owl decoys can also divert the raptor's aggression.

Nesting-related aggression can last up to four months, but the nesting period normally begins in mid-March to early April.

If owl aggression is food-related, The Owl Foundation said to never leave pets unattended and keep them leashed. It suggested that people go outside in pairs.

"Never feed an owl. You do not want to habituate or tame wildlife to humans. This will lead to future conflicts. If this is an imprinted owl, intervention may be required, seek help from a biologist or wildlife rehabilitator," it concluded.

Michael's Bay residents have separate owl incidents

Owl incidents also happened beyond Providence Bay around the same time. In Michael's Bay, about 15 kilometres from Providence Bay in a straight line, at least three people have recently faced owl attacks.

The Expositor has learned that people at three separate households in Michael's Bay also faced owl attacks around the same time. On February 12 at around 5:30 pm, Alan MacNevin was walking up the road, looking at his phone, when—like Ms. McFarlane—he was struck on the back of the head.

The blow was strong enough to knock him down and cause a momentary blackout, which he thought may be a very mild concussion.

"I certainly got my bell rung, and I went to get a tetanus shot just in case," he told The Expositor. "It put five holes into me."

Mr. MacNevin said he thought the owl may have been defending its territory because it remained nearby and stared at him as he recovered.

"I grabbed my gloves and my phone to get a picture, because I figured nobody would believe me," he said. "When I got up, it kept coming toward me, so I'm thinking I must have disturbed it."

This creature was a barred owl; Mr. MacNevin said he has seen it several times since he moved into the former Royal Michael's Bay Resort property last summer.

"I feel bad for everybody who's all upset and saying we have killer owls. They're just doing their thing," he said. "I imagine there's a whole lot more commotion here than there was 12 years ago; I suspect he or she didn't do anything unnatural; I was just an easy target walking at night with a hat that might have looked like a squirrel."

As for The Owl Foundation's suggestion of wearing a set of 'eyes on the back of his head,' Mr. MacNevin said he would first focus on keeping more aware of his surroundings as he walked around.

"Maybe it was laying down a warning shot, saying 'you better leave me alone,' which is fine by me," he said. "I'm just going to keep my eyes open; as long as it doesn't bother me or my dog we'll have no problems."

In the following few days, other neighbours reported incidents with owls.

Bird bander responds to Michael's Bay incidents

Mr. Baker said he was not surprised that it was a different individual that had shown aggression in Michael's Bay because of great horned owls' tendency to stay in a limited range of about eight to 10 square kilometres for their whole adult lives. However, he said barred owls tend to start nesting later in March and April, so he suspected this may be more food-related behaviour during the cold snap.

Barred owls are semi-migratory and move much farther than great horned owls. They are somewhat smaller than great horned owls and tend to feed on mice and squirrels, generally preferring smaller prey than the larger raptor.

"I do know that this is a big year for barred owls around Ontario; there's lots being spotted," he said, adding that he caught three this fall at his banding station, his highest-ever total. "They're probably more common to be seen than the great horned owl because (barred owls) are sometimes out in the daytime, sitting in the sunshine basking. We're seeing lots of pictures from people right now because they're being seen more in the daylight."

After the Family Day weekend's incidents, all was quiet on the part of the owls. The Cranston Road residents had not seen the owl from afar, let alone close to any of their homes.

That changed Thursday, February 18, when Elaine Cranston said the people that live upstairs above her spotted it on their property and making noise. It fortunately did not come closer, as those individuals also have a small dog. A trap went up on that property but this newspaper has not heard of any further sightings as of press time Monday.

As for Ms. McFarlane, who first faced the owl, it took nearly a week before she had a peaceful night's sleep after her attack. She thanked Mr. Baker for his help and support as they sought answers.

"I hope (the owl has) found whatever it's after in the last few days, because it's been leaving us alone at night, and that it doesn't come back," she said.

The Manitoulin West Recorder reported on a Providence Bay owl attack in February 2019, though the circumstances were different from this series of incidents. Glenn Black was injured when he removed a great horned owl from his chicken coop after it had killed five of his birds.

Ice Chips and Canoe Quips

Manitoulin Sporting Life



Skate Canada winter session!

The wait is over for Manitoulin people itchy to strap on the blades and work on their skating get physical and have fun as Skate Canada is getting ready to start their winter session. There is a bit of a change this year as the program location will be in Manitowaning, due to the closing of the NEMI Recreation Centre.

For three weeks they will be holding a condensed session where skaters will have the opportunity to be on ice two or three times per week, depending on their skill level. They have ice time booked on Tuesdays from 5 to 6:30 pm, Thursdays from 5 to 6:30 pm and Fridays from 5 to 7:30 pm. Each skater will book in for two time blocks per week and will receive each day: a 20-minute group development class, a 10-minute lesson from a certified instructor (private or semi-private) and then an additional 10 minutes of practice time. By the way, additional time can be purchased. You can see the extended session options below.

All levels are welcome. If this is your first time skating, the standard program is recommended as the best fit. The extended sessions are too long for new skaters. Beginning skaters must be accompanied on ice by a parent/guardian/older (12+) sibling who can assist them. Instructors are not allowed to use hands-on assistance during COVID.

The registration package details (subsidized by JumpStart) are as follows: A. Standard, two days per week, \$60; B. Excel, three days per week, \$90; C. Extended, two days per week with an additional lesson, \$120; D. Extended, three days per week with an additional lesson, \$135.

Assignack is open for activity!

Skate Canada is not the only use of the happening Manitowaning Arena. At just \$40 an hour, you can't beat it! This year they have also implemented an online booking system, which is so great for the public. Now you will be able to see what's available and book right from your device. There is no more need to call or find out what is available, you can see everything online. You simply submit your dates, and as long as there is no conflict, renters get approved with an email back to them with a confirmation.

Assignack is also hosting their dance classes once again. They have **Candice Irwin** who is also teaching an adult jazz class and a senior seated/standing dance class. It's all about getting people active and having fun. Additionally, indoor walking will start up as well on Tuesdays and Thursdays and of course there is still free public skating: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 am to 1 pm and Monday to Friday kids can skate from 3 to 5 pm. Fridays it's 7:30 to 9 pm and Saturdays from 1 to 3 pm. There is to be a maximum of 25 skaters on the ice.

Activities director **Jackie White** has done a lot of work and is "so excited to get the arena/community centre back open and get people in again, all in a COVID-safe environment of course. Also our sliding hill, racetrack and McLean's Park continue to be groomed as well to encourage people to get out and get active."

Central Skating oval

The township of Central Manitoulin's skating oval has been open for a couple of weeks and has seen a lot of use. So much they had to ask skaters to take a day off so maintenance crews could get some more ice down!

When it opened, first on the ice is the **Dewar family!** The town would like to thank all the volunteers for the help getting it going: **Doug King, Travis Dewar, Frank Abbott, Adam Smith, Jay Heins and Darren Smith!** Thank you to **Central Manitoulin Maintenance, Roads and Office staff** for all their contributions.



Travis, Eli and Finn Dewar were lucky enough to be the first skaters on the oval.

photo by Marcus Mohr

I won't be able to write next week's column, so my Dad has agreed to pick up my slack. Thanks, Dad.

A good sport is good for sports
chipstoquips@gmail.com



The Waindubence/Sagutch family enjoyed a beautiful day out on Sheguiandah Bay for a friendly community fishing derby held Saturday.

photos by Michael Erskine

Ice fishing derby melds traditional and modern forms

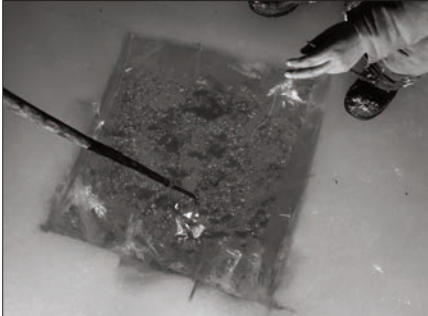
by Michael Erskine
SHEGUIANDAH—Bright sunny skies were joined by a complete lack of wind to create the perfect day for trudging out across the ice of Sheguiandah Bay to check on how folks were doing in the small village of ice huts.

The Expositor was fortunate to follow in the footsteps of Reggie and Dawn (Madahbee) Leach as the Island's favourite power couple headed out for a visit.

"Isn't this great," said Ms. Madahbee-Leach, joining some of the participants for a photo-op. "You couldn't ask for a better day."



Elder Gord Waindubence, above right, offers teachings on the traditions of ice fishing to Sheguiandah First Nation youth.



INSET: A homemade perch lure is jigged in the depths below with a spear at the ready, the same way Mr. Waindubence fished for his supper, literally, as a boy on Heywood Island.

There weren't a lot of fish being hauled up from the depths below, but there were plenty of cookies, smoked fish, coffee and tea available and the smiles were shining almost as bright as the sun.

Across the bay standing somewhat incongruously was a tall dark brown tipi. Nestled within the tent, seated on a round of firewood and peering over the edge of a three-foot square hole, Sheguiandah elder Gordon Waindubence held court—offering up a teaching on traditional ice fishing techniques.

The ice around the hole was so clear, the ice had the appearance of being only a couple of inches thick. "No," laughed Mr. Waindubence. "My (chainsaw) bar didn't even reach all the way through, it's about 18 inches." A closer look reveals what appeared to be clear polyurethane was actually the sides of the hole of the

ice. A young helper holds a cord leading down into the depths which was tethered far below to the back of a very large lure. Mr. Waindubence gently coaches the young bait operator on how to make the lure as lifelike as possible. Poised above, an older student grasps the haft of a forked-headed spear.

"I remember fishing like this with my father on Heywood Island where I grew up," said the elder. "My job was holding the lure; we used live bait or maybe a hollowed out piece of wood carved to look like a perch that was weighted down."

Mr. Waindubence admits he isn't that concerned about the catch. "It's about the teaching," he said. "But when I was doing this as a child it was all about dinner. If you didn't catch something, you didn't eat." Luckily, Mr. Waindubence and his father made a very good team.

"We would be out in all kinds of weather, even a blizzard," he shared. "We didn't have a setup like this," referencing the surrounding tipi as he poured himself a hot cup of tea.

The clear water below makes the bay bottom, littered with quagga shells, seem mere inches away. "It's about 12 feet down,"

...continued on page 13

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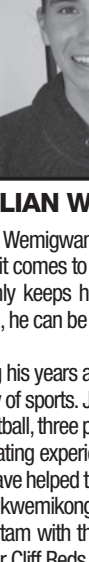
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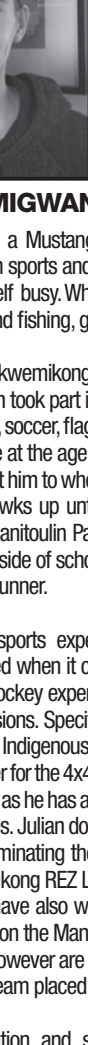
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JULIAN WEMIGWANS

Julian Wemigwans is a Mustang who has certainly accomplished a lot when it comes to both sports and athletics. He is a Grade 11 student, who certainly keeps himself busy. When Julian isn't busy with practices and school, he can be found fishing, gaming and watching NHL games.

During his years at Wikwemikong Pontiac School he participated in a large variety of sports. Julian took part in sports such as cross country, volleyball, basketball, three pitch, soccer, flag football and track and field. Julian began his skating experience at the age of four, from there he learned small skills that have helped to get him to where he is today. He started out playing with the Wikwemikong Hawks up until he was 12, then he played two years of bantam with the Manitoulin Panthers and one year with the AA midget Copper Cliff Reds. Outside of school he takes part in hockey and volleyball. Julian is also an avid runner.

Throughout Julian's sports experience he has achieved a lot, and is especially well rounded when it comes to achievements and skill building. Throughout Julian's hockey experience he and his team have won various tournaments and divisions. Specifically an accomplishment for Julian is at NAIG (North American Indigenous Games) where he received bronze for the 1200m as well as silver for the 4x4 relay. When it comes to running he is very familiar with the sport, as he has also won 1st place at NSSSA cross country and other various races. Julian doesn't just take part in individual sports but can also be found dominating the ice with his teammates, specifically he has won the Wikwemikong REZ League Championship two years in a row, Julian and his team have also won the Manitoulin Championship at least four times, and also won the Manitoulin 3on3 the first year that it was held. Hockey and running however are not the only sports that Julian strives at. In volleyball he and his team placed 2nd at NSSSA.

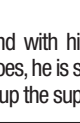
Julian's main motivation and source of encouragement comes from his community. He says that they constantly inspire him because he is always seeing people succeed in life and they give him the drive to keep on improving in sports. Julian has always wanted to play a sport named bandy. It's a game with soccer, hockey and field hockey combined together. He always looks forward to practices because he is able to play the sport he loves, however, if he knows that practice might be something hard like skating, then he isn't so excited. He continued to play sports in high school and in Grade 9 Julian played volleyball in the position of power. In Grade 9 he also ran in the 1200m, 800m and 3000m races for track and field. In Grade 10 Julian played the right side position in volleyball, as well as racing in cross country. For Julian, Grade 9 and 10 were an exceptional start to many more wins to come. In cross country he made it to NSSSA, NOSSA and OFSAA. For track and field Julian made NSSSA and NOSSA, and for volleyball he and his team made it to NSSSA. With Julian participating in a wide variety of sports he is able to constantly adapt to the challenges he faces. He looks forward to playing Grade 12 volleyball, cross country, track and field and badminton. Julian also is looking forward to playing his last year midget in hockey.

Throughout Julian's sports season he is respectful towards his teammates and constantly shows pride in himself and others. His positive attitude never fails to keep him and his team motivated. Julian loves to play hockey because it is a team sport and in the sport he is able to win and lose as a team. He finds that he always has the opportunity to meet new people and create new skill building experiences. Julian certainly shows that he loves the game, as he is always eager to play new people and try his skills. He likes playing sports because they make him feel good and he can stay active. He also looks forward to the adrenaline after a win.

In school, Julian's favourite subject is Gym. He finds that it is his favourite subject because he can improve on his skills in sports while getting good marks in a class. In gym he is able to practice a variety of different sports with friends, as well as be able to practice what he already knows. When Julian finishes high school he hopes to become a powerline technician or something in chemical engineering. He also thinks about considering the idea of maybe being a personal trainer.

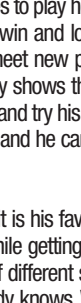
Julian is one of our magnificent Mustangs, and with his hard working person, all round respect, and pride in what he does, he is sure to represent MSS well. Have an extraordinary year, and keep up the super work Julian!

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...Gore Bay POA Office lobbies for COVID-19 support

...continued from page 3

selves, POA has to request driver information through Ontario's attorney general.

Over the past year, the province has not been fulfilling as many of those requests, citing an added workload during the pandemic that has made it difficult to keep up with demand.

Without basic information like the driver's name, the ticket cannot be put into the POA system, which means those tickets will remain unprocessed until officials can research and verify the missing information.

Provincial data also suggests that the total number of tickets is down because police are being called for other matters during the pandemic.

POA system supposed to be profitable

Ontario downloaded responsibility for the POA system to municipalities in November 2000. It was always intended to be a revenue-neutral operation or even a small source of profits for the member municipalities. A budget note stated the year-end profit is normally close to \$15,000, which can either be sent into reserves or redistributed to municipalities.

Gore Bay POA has had positive cash-flow for nearly every year since its inception, with last year's massive deficit showing a direct correlation with the onset of COVID-19.

Fortunately, the office identified a few years ago that it had some expenditures coming up and chose to bolster its reserve fund with any year-end surpluses. When the pandemic hit, it was serendipitously better able to face the \$22,513 deficit with its \$49,848 reserve.

Board members discussed whether to use the reserves or bill the member municipalities for the shortfall; the municipal representatives indicated most Island townships had already used up the bulk of their COVID-19 funding from the province and did not

wish to add the burden on Manitoulin ratepayers.

Gore Bay Mayor Dan Osborne, a POA member, raised the idea of lobbying the province for money to cover the shortfall. Billings Councillor Bryan Barker, another member, agreed and added that the municipal COVID-19 funds came with considerable restrictions and they might not be permitted to go toward POA costs.

Gore Bay POA penned a letter to Premier Doug Ford, Attorney General Doug Downey, Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Mike Mantha, all POAs in Ontario and all Island townships, to explain the situation and urge provincial funding support to all POAs because Ontario had yet to provide any grants to POAs.

The Gore Bay group also approved a draft 2021 budget at the January meeting, with an expected deficit of at least \$6,500 for this year. If revenues continue to be interrupted, though, that number may be higher, but if all public health and fine enforcement restrictions ease, the Island's POA may have a better-than-average year.

"We don't know how (2021) will impact our operations. This year, we took money out of our reserve funds to cover the (2020) deficit. If there's any deficits after that, it will have to be covered by the municipalities," Mr. Stephens, the local POA chair, said.

Politicians respond

Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Mike Mantha, a member of the Official Opposition NDP, received a copy of the letter on Friday, February 12.

"This is something that we've seen with many organizations, businesses, municipalities, and now we're seeing the constraint that the COVID-19 pandemic has put on the Gore Bay provincial offences board and management," he told The Expositor that day.

He vowed that on Tuesday, February 16, he would walk to Attorney General

Downey's office, deliver the letter and hopefully have a discussion about what his ministry would do to help POA courts across Ontario.

"They have been left out, they have been forgotten and are in need," he concluded.

The Expositor contacted the Ministry of the Attorney General for insight into the challenges local POA boards are having with collecting fines, as well as what supports it would be offering to those boards.

Spokesperson Brian Gray said the government has moved to allow more virtual hearings, adjourned all in-person POA proceedings scheduled between March 16, 2020 and January 22, 2021 and adjourned all POA appeals with a judge with the Ontario Court of Justice until April 9, 2021.

"The Ministry of the Attorney General is working with the 59 municipal partners who administer POA courts to facilitate a province-wide recovery plan. Municipalities have received guidance from the ministry to ensure that POA courthouses can safely reopen with health and safety measures in place that are consistent with provincial courts.

"Prior to reopening for in-person appearances, each POA court location will undergo a virtual review by the Public Service Health and Safety Association to verify the presence of appropriate health and safety measures.

"The ministry will continue to work with the Ontario Court of Justice and municipal partners to support the safe and gradual reopening of POA courts," Mr. Gray stated.

He also cited Ontario's existing commitments of \$695 for municipalities in addition to the first phase of the safe restart agreement of \$1.6 billion for partners. Mr. Gray added that municipal safe restart funding can go toward a municipality's highest-priority COVID-19-related needs.

...MBC's Killarney Cream Ale is taking the LCBO by storm

...continued from page 3

go to matching the population of Muskoka." Considering parochial attachments, Manitoulin is punching way above its weight class.

"Our sales manager John Kift has been doing the data analysis and following the growth of all of our products being sold in the LCBO," said Mr. Hagman. "Over the past six months he has been regularly checking where our products stand." When it comes to which brands of cream ale are being snapped up from LCBO shelves, the data doesn't lie and sales tell the story's bottom line, Killarney Cream Ale is the second-most popular in its class.

Currently, Manitoulin Brewing Company's products can be found in

over 300 LCBOs across the province. "We currently have five products listed," said Mr. Hagman. "There are two more coming up."

The brewer was keeping his cards close to his chest when it came to what those two offerings were, but a chance glance indicated that one of those offerings will be announced in the second week of March, while the second is planned for quenching a summertime thirst.

The pandemic hit the craft brewing industry hard, noted Mr. Hagman. "We had just gotten into a groove when COVID hit and the first lockdown happened," he recalled. "(The pandemic) had every craft scrambling." With inventory stocks being

built up to ensure that product would be on hand for delivery to restaurants and bars, particularly kegs of draft, the breweries had to quickly pivot.

"No one was expecting it," said Mr. Hagman. "We had been increasing our stockpile and suddenly had to figure out what to do with that product." Draft beer, he noted, has a relatively short shelf life.

The LCBO sales were a bit of a godsend in that regard and Mr. Kift was kept very busy ensuring that Manitoulin Brewing Company products were top of mind not only for the discerning beer connoisseur, but also right-sized in taste for the tailgate crowd. By all accounts, those efforts have paid off.



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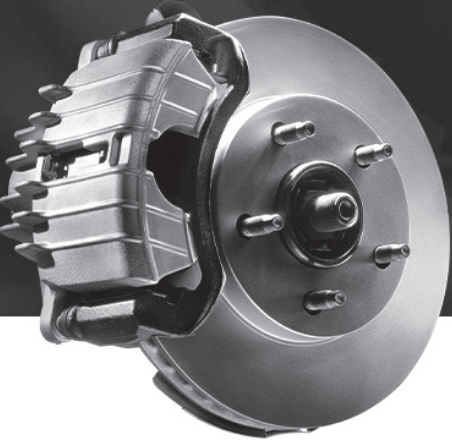
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...continued from page 1
after Ms. Buie was first diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer. The final entry in that series came at the five-year mark and was titled 'Hitting the five-year mark.' It was a seminal moment for everyone involved as hitting that landmark boded well for the future.

"After I got past the sleepless nights and thoughts of death, I realized I needed to pick myself up and use my situation as an opportunity—an opportunity to share what I was going through with others and to raise awareness," she told The Expositor at the time. "I have always used whatever situation I encounter as an opportunity and I decided that this was no different."

"I was lucky, it was just the primary, a tumour in the breast; if it had got to the lymph nodes they would have had to take that as well," she recalled of that first encounter.

“Triple negative is a very aggressive cancer,” said Ms. Buie. “But if it doesn’t come back in five years it isn’t going to come back.” Ms. Buie passed that five-year mark in 2018.

Her regimen would normally include a mammogram every two years. "I do one every January," she said. That and regular chest x-rays.

Ms. Buie kept a close eye on her body and what it was telling her every week—and when something didn't seem right, she did not hesitate to investigate further. What followed was a whirlwind of medical tests and analysis by her health professionals, with her family doctor Dr. Maurianne Reade leading the way.



Mary Buie hard at work as a volunteer in her Kagawong community.

"My faith is very important to me," said Ms. Buie, who credits much of her success in her first bout with cancer to her "prayer warriors."

“When the pathology came back my doctor called me immediately,” said Ms. Buie. “She immediately referred me to the Cancer Centre.” Ms. Buie had just been delisted from the centre last year. “The next day, Friday, I got a call from the Cancer Centre setting up an appointment with a radiologist and chemotherapist for the following Monday.”

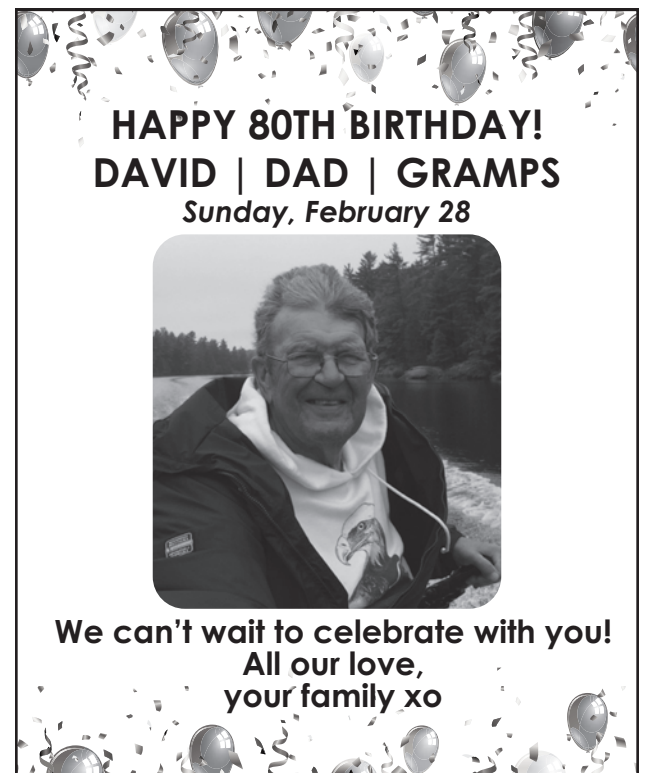
By Wednesday, she had an appointment with the chemotherapist and a bone scan was next on the docket. "The most common places for the cancer to go is to into the bone or lungs," she said.





Then she went nuclear. "They inject you with radioactive material that emits gamma rays," she said. A machine then scans the body looking for hot spots that would indicate an abnormal absorption of the isotopes. "We did all

Her admiration for the medical system we enjoy, even here on Manitoulin, is undisguised. "We are so fortunate to have Health Sciences North, the labs, the Cancer Centre, family doctors," she said. The dedication she has experienced in the care from the attendant health professionals has been universal.

Music also plays an important role in her life

As for cancer, much of the fear it generates comes from the unknown. "There is so much of it out there," she said. "It is important that we educate. That we give people hope."



<div><div><h1>NOTICE BOARD</h1><p>14 Water Street East (Post Office Building) Town of NEMI P.O. Box 608 Little Current, ON POP 1K0</p></div></div>	
<div><h2>PUBLIC TENDER</h2><p>The Town is now accepting tenders for the installation of a concrete sidewalk down Draper Street. Full detailed packages are available on our website. Please submit your tender at 14 Water Street or email (due to COVID-19) to pccress@townofnemi.on.ca.</p><p>Tenders will be accepted until 12 o'clock noon on March 4th, 2020.</p></div>	
<div><h2>VIRTUAL WEEKLY EVENTS</h2><div></div><p>Check out Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands Facebook page!</p><div><h3>Trivia Tuesdays at 8 am</h3><p>Every Tuesday morning, a trivia question will be posted. Answer will be posted in the evening.</p><h3>Thankful Thursday</h3><p>Do you have someone you would like to thank during this crazy time of COVID-19? Submit your story or reason to lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca. We will showcase one or two submissions every Thursday morning at 8 am on our Facebook page.</p><h3>Virtual Cooking workshops on Wednesday evenings</h3><p>February 24th at 6:30 pm Belgian waffles March 3rd at 6:30 pm Pie crust and Puff pastry</p><p>Don't forget you have to register by emailing lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca</p></div></div>	
<div><h2>PLEASE NOTE:</h2><p>As per By-Law 2019-12, all overdue water accounts, with a balance of \$400.00 or greater, will result in having the water account transferred to your property tax account.</p></div>	
<div><p>Just a reminder that the <u>Due Date for Tax Bills</u> (1st Installment) is</p><h2>Friday, February 26.</h2></div>	
<div><h2>NOTICE OF MEETINGS</h2><p>Due to the ever-changing environment that we are all dealing with,</p><p>Council meetings will be held every Tuesday Night at 7:00 pm via Zoom Video Meeting # 489 313 1974 Or call 1-587-328-1099</p><p>Please be advised regular protocol will be in place and members of the public will not have the ability to make comments or ask questions during the meeting. For a full copy of the agenda please visit our website.</p></div>	
<div><p>For information on events, council meetings, municipal information, please visit our website at www.townofnemi.on.ca.</p></div>	
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...Federal government unveils rifle buyback plan

...continued from page 3

Bill C-21 was announced with the goal of banning the use, sale and importation of the 1,500 makes and models identified by the RCMP as falling into the tally of military-grade assault-style weapons.

The bill comes with a two-year amnesty period that began last May in order to allow those who already own those firearms time to comply with the ban. The amnesty ends on April 30, 2022.

Included in the bill are

provisions to not only introduce the buy-back program, but also to allow municipalities to ban handguns outright and increased criminal penalties for gun smuggling and trafficking.

Assault rifles in the full sense, high capacity

firearms with a fully automatic function, have long been prohibited in Canada, along with the high-capacity magazines that feed them.

With a minority government, the Liberals will need another party's support in order to pass the legislation necessary to implement the buyback program and while the party seems to have secured such support, the prime minister stressed that it would still take several months to finalize the details.

"You can't fight gun violence or any violence on just one front," said Prime Minister Trudeau in defence of the plan. Earlier last May the prime minister suggested that both the NDP and Bloc Quebecois were strongly aligned with his party on the ban on assault-style weapons.

The Conservatives have been quick to condemn the Liberal plan, characterising it as "targeting law-abiding Canadians and firearm retailers," putting forward the suggestion the government should be investing in

...continued on page 20

...PHSD plans for vaccinations in district

...continued from page 3

seeks potential mass vaccination sites, MHC has encouraged the use of its field hospital at Little Current-Howland Recreation Centre for such a purpose.

"We have no information at this point about... when we will get the vaccines," she told The Expositor February 18.

Despite the uncertainty of specific timelines, Ms. Foster said MHC and other health care providers have been doing as much advance prep-work as possible so when vaccines become available, which is often on short notice, the health centres can act immediately.

"I know a number of other health care providers out there have started with consent forms with their staff to ensure that when the time comes, (they're ready)," she said

A PHSD spokesperson told The Expositor via email on February 19 that the health unit is actively working with MHC and other health providers, as well as community leadership, to plan for clinics.

They stated final vaccination site determination would be "based on factors such as vaccine product, community logistics, provider availability, program (roll-out) phase and priority population served. PHSD is working with partners to match

sites with these factors to enable rapid decision-making and ramp-up once details are known, enabling local action."

PHSD stated it would limit the number of vaccination sites and work to balance between convenience (closeness to people receiving vaccines) and ensuring the health unit can quickly adjust to changing circumstances and ensure safety.

It added that MHC is working with the Ministry of Health to determine the next steps for becoming a designated hospital storage site.

Some of the special factors under consideration for the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out also include security concerns and maintaining infection prevention and control measures.

As of last week in the PHSD catchment area, six elders' lodges, one high-risk retirement home and all long-term care homes have hosted vaccination clinics, resulting in 1,729 people getting immunized.

Public health cautioned that even though vaccinations are beginning, the public must still follow all provincial and local restrictions because the majority of the population is still vulnerable to the virus, especially more-transmissible variant forms.

...MHC receives ultra-cold vaccine freezer

...continued from page 3

of MHC being true to its vision of 'putting patients first as we lead and collaborate with our partners,'" said MHC president and CEO Lynn Foster.

The health centre reached a purchase agreement with medical equipment provider Fisher Scientific, a regular supplier of equipment to MHC, for a freezer large enough to store 21,600 doses. It is capable of reaching -86°C, beyond the coldest temperature needed for this particular vaccine.

This unit cost roughly \$12,000 and MHC covered that price using surplus funds from last year's very productive ventilator fundraising campaign, as initiated by M'Chigeeng Ogimaa-kwe Linda Debassige.

According to a press release, hospital management and its board of directors knew Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD) was working on its vaccination roll-out plans for the district and it decided early to purchase the freezer using the COVID-19-specific fundraising surplus to beat international demand for such equipment.

The hospital originally anticipated it on February 10 and it appeared on February 17 after a week's delay, fairly close to the target date when considering the supply chain pressure.

Ultra-cold freezers work in concert with a warming fridge to gently warm the doses up. MHC had one of these warming fridges on hand already and it is now in place.

Ms. Foster said a family helped to purchase the fridge for chemotherapy treat-

ments when one of their family members underwent the process on the Island and it was not being used before the vaccination planning began.

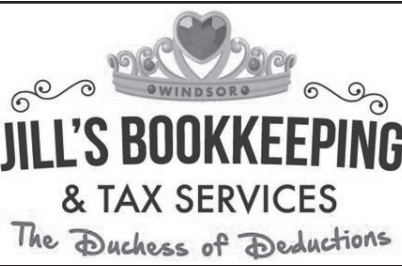
"We're working closely in terms of security requirements, safety requirements and temperature requirements. There's a number of items on the checklist to make sure the fridge is carefully monitored to ensure the viability of the samples," she said.

Pfizer and BioNTech recently applied to the US Food and Drug Administration and Health Canada to loosen the storage requirements for its vaccines. If approved, the countries will be able to store the doses at -25°C to -15°C.

However, it can only remain stable at those warmer temperatures for up to two weeks, as opposed to the six-month window for the colder temperature. The vaccines can stay at refrigerator temperatures for up to five days before being injected, but the vaccines cannot safely move from a warmer state back into a colder state.

As for long-term plans for the equipment, Ms. Foster said she was focused on the short-term needs of getting ready for the vaccine roll-out, which may be imminent or months away depending on numerous factors.

"Who knows, (COVID-19) may be around for a lot longer than any of us want, and we have to remain flexible," she said. "Obviously, we will focus on (long-term freezer plans) but not until after we've got a solid plan in place for vaccine distribution."



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...governance referendum delayed

...continued from page 1

“We can wait for years and years and spend millions of dollars on fighting the federal government through the courts,” he said, noting the result was likely to end up being right in the same place—or perhaps worse, given the unpredictability of litigating Indigenous issues in a colonial-based legal system. “We will win in the end,” he asserted, “but we have to move ahead. There have already been too many lost opportunities, so much damage done to our people, we need control over our lives now.”

“I want to tell you up front that if I personally did not believe in this, I would not be championing this to you,” said Mr. Madahbee in an open letter to the Anishinabek Nation community members. “I have not fought for our rights as Anishinabek all of my adult life to now be taking us down a treacherous path. Besides myself, I have family, fellow community members, and all of you that I respect and care for, that I would never betray by advocating for something if I did not whole-heartedly believe it would move us further down the path to taking greater control of our own lives and restoring our jurisdiction and authority.”

Mr. Madahbee points out that for the First Nations that approve the Anishinabek Nation Fiscal Agreement, it will provide substantially more money for governance-related activities—“seven-times more funding than we receive now under the Indian Act for band support funding. This increase sounds like a lot but remember that our First Nations governance under the Indian Act has been shamefully underfunded for decades. The increased money fills that gap and recognizes that our

First Nations will be exercising law-making translate authorities outlined in the proposed Governance Agreement. There will also be annual increases. No portion of First Nation funding goes to the collective body called the Anishinabek Nation Government or to any other body. What your First Nation-specific offer is translates to the amount your First Nation will get. Also, the funding is a grant. First Nations are able to use the money in whatever way you decide and none of it is returned.”

Mr. Madahbee dismisses the critics opposed to the agreement. “Armchair experts are everywhere,” he said, noting that most opponents are “academics, consultants and critics—most of whom have never been on band council, never lived on a First Nation or ever been involved in operating anything on a First Nation.”

But the two-tier form of the vote has not helped with allaying those fears. Unlike federal, provincial or municipal elections, Anishinabek Nation communities must hit a high bar of participation in order for the results to be certified.

“It’s tough,” said Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Glen Hare. “They are asking for 25 percent participation. They don’t have that kind of rule for other elections. I can understand people being suspicious of being asked again and again. People might think ‘if they don’t get the result they want they just hold another election until they do.’ In their place, I might be suspicious too.” That is not the case, the grand council chief insists—this second round of voting will be the deciding factor, whatever the percentage participation.

Should a First Nation

decide they don’t want to be part of the agreement after five years, they will have the option to opt-out, however.

For the agreement to go into effect, 12 of the 39 Anishinabek Nation member communities must ratify the agreement. “We are closing in on the numbers,” said Grand Council Chief Hare. “Four are going ahead, two are just about to, that puts us up to six, then eight others are putting forward BCRs (band council resolutions) and letters of intent. So, we are strongly going forward.” Grand Council Chief Hare noted, however, that the decision ultimately resides in the individual First Nation communities themselves.

Whitefish River First Nation was the first Manitoulin First Nation to vote on the ratification in a second round of voting, turning it down by a small margin last month. Zhiibaahaasing First Nation has already signaled its participation.

Aundeck Omni Kaning is the next on the line, having announced a restart of its ratification process for the second vote, to take place at the end of May (May 27 for advance poll, 6 to 8 pm; May 30 for the main poll, 9 am to 6 pm) at the community centre. An earlier vote failed to meet the 25 percent threshold and barely failed by four votes.

Many communities are struggling with the challenge of holding votes during the pandemic, noted Grand Council Chief Hare.

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Manitoulin Family Resources is seeking to hire additional staff members in our Child Care Centres, as well as our Violence Against Women Emergency Shelter, to support programming during the pandemic.

The mission of Manitoulin Family Resources is to support individuals and families by providing resources, advocacy and education through the agency’s three program areas of Children’s Services, Violence Against Women Prevention and Food Security.

For further information on position requirements and agency programs, please see our website at www.mfresources.net.

If you are interested in being considered for one of our positions or program areas, please forward a resume to dleblanc@mfresources.net or fax to 705-370-4796 and indicate your area of interest. Please note that a clear Vulnerable Sector Screening will be required of all successful candidates.

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Dawn Madahbee-Leach and husband Reggie Leach, standing, Crystal Madahbee, seated, and Levi Aguonie, kneeling, enjoy the Sheguindah Bay sunshine during the Sheguindah First Nation family fishing derby.

...derby melds traditional and modern forms

...continued from page 7

said Mr. Waindubence. “There’s a drop-off here, that’s why we set up on this spot.”

Should a fish make an appearance, a straight plunge with the spear offers the best hope to capture the fish. “It’s hard to see where the fish really is,” shared Mr. Waindubence. “The fish will come in, but it won’t bite right away. You have to wait until it stops.” Ice fishing is always a matter of patience, but especially so in this case.

Once the fish is speared, the hunter released the spear to travel under the ice. Its weight will help tire the fish and make it easier to haul up into the air. A long bright orange cord is well secured to the fishing spear and is retained by the hunter/fisher.

Getting back onto the land is especially important during these trying times, noted participant Sunset Sagutch. “I was spending way too much time inside,” he laughed. It’s a sentiment shared by Mr. Waindubence who spends much of his time imparting traditional knowledge to younger generations.

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A zoom link will be sent out to each participant via e-mail and a wellness care package will be delivered to each participant before the event. Participants must register by February 26th at noon in order to receive a wellness care package. We can accommodate a maximum of 80 participants.

For more information or to pre-register contact
Manitoulin Family Resources at
705-368-3400 x228

This event is brought to you by the
Mnidoo Mnising Coalition Against
Domestic Violence

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COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

...Friends of Old School produce souvenir coin

...continued from page 1

and a sprig of hawberries are, by all accounts, fully Grand Haw approved.

The price of each coin is set at \$25 and pre-orders are limited to five coins. The coins come with an option of a velvet presentation case at eight dollars or velvet coin bag at \$1.50. Shipping is five dollars, unless the purchaser wants to pick up their order in person at Williamson's Hardware in Mindemoya.

The Mindemoya Old School is a two-storey stone building, one of the very few such historic buildings on Manitoulin Island and slated for demolition by Central Manitoulin council in order to make way for a new multiuse recreation complex that would have replaced the aging Mindemoya arena.

Members of the Central Manitoulin community who wanted to save the venerable building from the wrecking ball have been opposing the demolition for years with little success in diverting the building's momentum toward oblivion, despite the formation of a committee researching alternative uses for the building and several pauses in the process by the municipal council.

The latest reprieve for the Mindemoya Old School came following a presentation to the Central Manitoulin property committee by the Ontario Historical Society which outlined the various means through which the building could be preserved, one of which was the formation of a not-for-profit dedicated solely to the building's preservation and management.

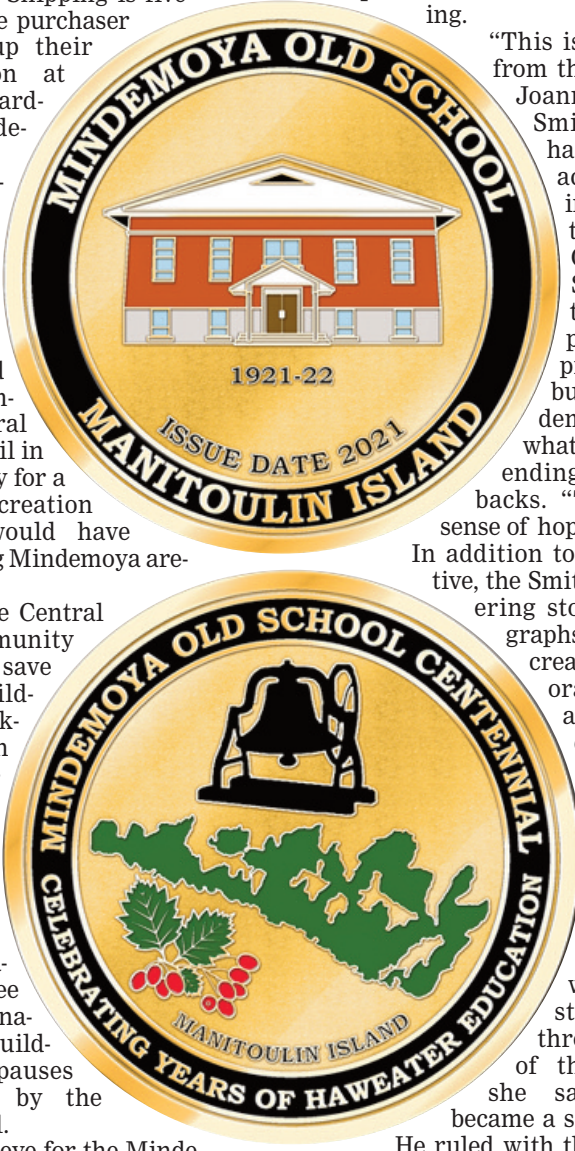
The Friends of the Mindemoya Old School was formed and council agreed to hold off on the issuing of requests for proposals until September to give the group time to find a sustainable model for the preservation of the historic building.

"This is a positive sign from the council," said Joanne Smith, Mr. Smith's wife who has also been very active in promoting efforts to save the Mindemoya Old School. Ms. Smith admitted that many supporters of the preserving the building had been demoralized by what seemed a never-ending series of setbacks. "There is a new sense of hope," she said.

In addition to the coin initiative, the Smiths are also gathering stories and photographs with the aim of creating a commemorative book as another fundraiser.

"There are so many stories in the community that are attached to that building," said Ms. Smith. "Billy Gould was the very first student to walk through the doors of the Old School," she said. "He later became a school bus driver. He ruled with the gruffest voice and we were all terrified of him, but he had the softest heart."

It is memories like these that attach the heartstrings of the community to the Mindemoya Old School and has led to the passionate response of those working to save the building.



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...Now and Then: Ted Taylor

...continued from page 5

into a home because our first house on the island had been sold.” Ted joined the fire department in Sandfield as a volunteer. “I drove trucks for them and did maintenance for Ron Tann on the township trucks and equipment. I quit when I got on council.”

“I served two terms for Central Manitoulin, representing Sandfield. We worked to get sidewalks and streetlights put in. The fire department was upgraded, and a new truck purchased.” Ted also joined the Central Manitoulin Historical Society. For the last 10 years, he has been its president. “They have some farm machinery on display, and as mentioned, they have an interest in rescuing the school and maintaining Central Manitoulin’s burial sites.”

Ted is also the church warden for St. Francis of Assisi, the beautiful Anglican stone church to the west end of Mindemoya, built by his uncle. He is chair of maintenance for the church which includes grass cutting and snow removal. Since 1958, for 62 years, Ted has been a member of the Masonic Lodge in Little Current. He is also a member of the Haweaters Manitoulin Shriners unit too. In 2013, Ted was proclaimed citizen of the year for his community contributions.

“Ev and I did some travelling to Holland, Ireland and Scotland. We found the wartime cemetery where both Ev’s cousin and Doug Wagg were buried. At the time, Doug’s father owned the white house that sits across from me here.”

Sadly, Ev passed away with a heart attack in 2005. In 2014, Ted purchased this home he lives in now. He met Dorothy Gordon and they began a friendship. Dorothy’s son Jeremy builds housing units he rents to seniors in Mindemoya.

On December 29, 2015, before Reverend Canon Bain Peever, Ted and Dorothy tied the knot in the Anglican Church. This ceremony was close to the last service held by the Canon. Regretfully, Dorothy died a few months ago in 2020. “She had COPD and breath-



Ted and Evelyn with their children Bradley, Bob and Kathleen.



Ted gives the Right Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, lieutenant governor of Ontario, a tour of the Mindemoya Pioneer Museum in 2016.

ing was difficult for her.”

“Most of my siblings are retired now. Lois was a legal secretary. Cyril was a member of the military police and later a personal guard. Randy had worked for Consolidated Pulp and Paper in British Columbia. He has died. Denise still works for charity groups in Ottawa.”

“My fondest memories? I boast about my six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. In addition, I enjoyed operating the big machinery, the boilers, and compressors, driving transports and mining uranium in Elliot Lake. Hunting deer and moose from age 16 was enjoyable, but it was more about the camaraderie than harvesting meat. Now, most of my hunting partners have gone. Ice fishing with my son Robert in Elliot Lake also brings warm memories.”

“Favourite pet? Bess, my saddle horse on the farm. We named her after Queen Elizabeth because she was born in 1952, the year the Queen was crowned. I raised her from a colt and used to jump on her back to take the cows to the field after milking and return them again in the late afternoon.”

“Favourite radio show? The Happy Gang which always played ‘You are my Sunshine’ and listening to the war news, trying to figure out how our father was doing over there.”

“My strengths? People say I’m good at building homes and fixing big machinery.” Between Wagg’s and Rio Algom Mines, Ted has spent a solid 44 years of non-stop time, working.

“Regrets? At one time I wanted a bigger farm, and I might have stayed in high school longer to become a large animal veterinarian.”

“What would I still like to do? Go back to England and look up more of my roots.”

“What am I most afraid of? Nothing really. I am well and I have good family support.”

Any new issues due to COVID? “Zoom is changing the way we communicate and where we work from. It will be nice to get the family together again, post COVID.”

“Was there someone I admired? Hewey Lohead, the manager at Wagg’s. He was a good person. My dad and grandfather too; they took the time to show me the little things, like how to



Ted in front of his family window at St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church.

loosen your grip on the hay fork. Uncle Archie Symes too. He was a capable farmer and rancher; he was good to me.”

“Recipe for happiness? Give and take, co-operate, keep an open mind, be honest and fair.”

“Did I realize an early dream during my career? My success was not based on a vision or a plan; it was serendipity.”

“My first wife was always infatuated with Prince Edward Island. We travelled three times to PEI, and she could feel the strong connection with Manitoulin. She saw Anne of Green Gables and the island culture. Here too, all slows down when you cross that bridge. We spent four winters in Florida, but I don’t miss it either. This is home; this is where our family lives. The seasons have much to offer. Spring brings maple syrup, July and August meant ice cream, lots of it. The fall brings out the hunters, and winters

host ice fishing and snowmobiling. We came right back here after 30 years

away. There really wasn’t another option. Manitoulin is where it’s at for me!”

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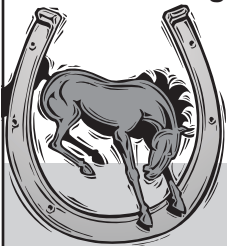


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Parkinson's Disease Support Group. For those affected by the disease and their caregivers, meetings will be the third Thursday of every month, 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Mindemoya Public Library (at the Municipal office building), Mindemoya. Call Marilyn at 705-368-0756, Ext 238 if there are any questions. All welcome.

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**Legion Events**

Renew your legion membership or join as a new legion member. Just contact Judy Miller by emailing jmiller@nemfht.ca or call 705-968-0091. The cost of a membership is \$55. Thank you for your support to our local Branch 177, Little Current.

**Legion Events**

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 177 Wing Night, Thursday, February 25, 4 to 8 pm. Wings, \$1 each (sauces for wings: salt and pepper, sweet chili, sweet and sour, honey garlic, first, second and third degree, parmesan cheese and pepper and Cajun); cheese balls, two for \$1; Jalapeno poppers, \$1 each; cheese sticks, \$1 each; mushroom caps, nine for \$3. Take-out only, pick up at the Legion. To pre-order call or text 705-348-0123. Cut off for all orders is Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 8 pm. Delivery within town limits, Little Current.

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**coming events**

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Gore Bay, ON
POP 1H0
Tel:705-282-2420
Email:scarr@gorebay.ca

All applicants are thanked for their interest. Only the candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Information collected will be used in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the purpose of candidate selection.

The Town of Gore Bay is committed to an inclusive, barrier-free environment. Accommodation will be provided in all steps of the hiring process. Please advise the Town of Gore Bay if you require any accommodations to ensure that you can participate fully and equally during the recruitment and selection process.



Office Administration Position

Permanent Full-Time Position

Education: Diploma in Office
or Business Administration
Generous Vacation Pay
and Benefits Package available.

Email resume to info@cassondentistry.com

AUNDECK OMNI KANING FIRST NATION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION COUNSELLOR COORDINATOR

Job Summary:
The Education Coordinator is responsible for the overall efficient and effective administrative and financial management of the Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation Education Department. The Education Counsellor is under the direction of the Chief and Council for Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation and the supervision of the Band Administrator in accordance with the Band Personnel Policy, Policies and Procedures and the Education Policy.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Advises current and prospective students on educational issues, career planning and personal development, and coordinates the provision of counselling services to students at the Elementary, Secondary and Post-Secondary level
- Implementation and sponsorship of Adult Training Programs
- Ensures the local Education Agreement is maintained for Elementary and Secondary levels
- Works with teachers to provide tutoring for students who are struggling or need extra help
- Maintains all records and files for student information
- Processing and in take of Post-Secondary applications for potential students
- Working with parents (by request) to improve education outcomes for students
- Coordination of financial and administrative tasks under the Education annual budget
- Refers students to appropriate resources for assistance in the areas of counselling with relation to academics or peer support
- Works in partnership with the Indigenous Student Counsellor at Manitoulin Secondary School for students enrolled in secondary studies
- Works in partnership with Little Current Public School for students enrolled in elementary studies
- Works closely with the Education Committee
- Ensures compliance in reporting requirements for funding agencies

Qualifications:

- Social Work Diploma, Native Counsellors Certificate or related field with two years of experience
- Must possess strong organizational and administrative skills and be able to communicate effectively both written and verbally and ability to meet deadlines
- Must be willing to authorize a Criminal Record Search and sign a Declaration Oath of Confidentiality
- Fiscal Management and responsibilities

APPLICATION TO INCLUDE:

1. Cover letter with contact information
2. Resume listing education and work experience
3. At least three (3) work-related letters of reference with contact information

Please forward applications marked **CONFIDENTIAL** - EDUCATION COUNSELLOR to:

Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation
c/o Chief and Council
13 Hill Street
Little Current, ON POP 1K0

Complete job description is available at the Band Office reception desk.
Deadline for applications is March 12th at 12:00 noon.
The successful candidate must provide an acceptable Police Record Check (C.P.I.C.).



MNAAMODZAWIN HEALTH SERVICES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE ONE YEAR FULL-TIME CONTRACT (to cover maternity leave)

Overview:
The Community Health Nurse (CHN) will deliver comprehensive community health nursing services in five First Nation communities, in collaboration with an interprofessional healthcare team. Through consultation, clinical practice, leadership, and by facilitating health promotion and disease prevention, the CHN provides care utilizing in-depth nursing knowledge and skills, clinical expertise and advanced judgment. The CHN will utilize a primary healthcare approach to address overall health needs in Indigenous communities. The successful candidate shall possess:

Required Competencies:

- Integrity and respect cultural diversity
- Dependability
- Work effectively both independently and with others
- Show initiative and be action-oriented
- Adaptability
- Critical thinking
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Continuous learning

Qualifications and Work Experience:

- Experience incorporating physical, mental, social/environment and emotional/spiritual practices in order to meet the needs of individuals, families and communities
- Knowledgeable and respectful of Anishinaabe customs, culture and language
- Minimum of three years' related experience as a Registered Nurse or Registered Practical Nurse, currently registered with College of Nurses of Ontario in good standing
- Current Ontario Driver's Licence (and vehicle)
- Current CPR and First Aid Certification

Deadline: Friday, March 5, 2021 @ 12:00pm

Submissions:
Send resume, cover letter, Vulnerable Sector Check, three references and copies of credentials marked '**Confidential**' in person, by mail or email to:

Human Resources
Mnaamodzawin Health Services
Postal Bag 2002, Hwy 540
48 Hillside Road, Aundeck Omni Kaning
Little Current, Ontario POP 1K0
705-368-2182 ext.271
hr@mnaamodzawin.com



MNAAMODZAWIN HEALTH SERVICES EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Community Health Nurse - COVID Prevention ONE YEAR FULL-TIME CONTRACT

Overview:
The Community Health Nurse-COVID Prevention will work in collaboration with our healthcare team and our five First Nation communities to provide health promotion and disease prevention specifically associated with COVID-19 and other coronaviruses. The CHN-COVID Prevention will provide community and staff teaching on personal protective equipment, community safety plans, conduct contact tracing, administer vaccinations, and stay up-to-date with new coronavirus information. The successful candidate shall possess:

Required Competencies:

- Integrity and Respect cultural diversity
- Dependability
- Work effectively both independently and with others
- Show initiative and be action-oriented
- Adaptability
- Critical thinking
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Continuous learning

Qualifications and Work Experience:

- Experience incorporating physical, mental, social/environment and emotional/spiritual practices in order to meet the needs of individuals, families and communities
- Knowledgeable and respectful of Anishinaabe customs, culture and language
- Minimum of three years' related experience as an RN or RPN, currently registered with College of Nurses of Ontario in good standing, with Public Health nursing experience considered an asset
- Current Ontario Driver's Licence (and vehicle)
- Current CPR and First Aid Certification

Deadline: Friday, March 5, 2021 @ 12:00pm

Submissions:
Send resume, cover letter, Vulnerable Sector Check, three references and copies of credentials marked '**Confidential**' in person, by mail or email to:

Human Resources
Mnaamodzawin Health Services
Postal Bag 2002, Hwy 540
48 Hillside Road, Aundeck Omni Kaning
Little Current, Ontario POP 1K0
705-368-2182 ext.271
hr@mnaamodzawin.com

...Federal government unveils rifle buyback plan

...continued from page 11 anti-gang units and the Canadian Border Security Agency to provide law enforcement with the resources to stop illegal smuggling and combat dangerous criminals and gangs.

Like many government announcements, there was a significant lack of detail in how the buy-back program would work and the costs are only very roughly estimated at between \$400 and \$600 million—but the final tally will depend on how many owners take up the government offer. In truth, the government only has a very rough idea of how many eligible weapons are in the hands of private citizens.

Under the proposed terms, which critics in favour of gun control say do not go far enough, owners can opt to keep their black-listed firearms, but must acknowledge they will not use, import or acquire any more of them or bequeath them to an heir.

The federal government maintained in an Ottawa news conference that they are “not targeting law-abiding citizens who own guns or go hunting or for sport shooting,” but rather crafting measures that are “concrete and practical.”

But the federal Conservative leader, Erin O’Toole, threw cold water on the program, saying he doubted it would impact gun violence.

“I think Mr. Trudeau misleads people when he tries to suggest that buying things back from hunters and other Canadians who are law-abiding is somehow going to solve the problem of shooting and criminal gang activities in big cities,” he said. “It’s ignoring the real problem and it’s dividing Canadians.”

Canadian Sports Shooting Association range captain Robert Paxton of Little Current knows firearms and has looked at the federal plans closely. He remains unimpressed. “Do I think it will be effective? No,” he responds. “Do I think it will be expensive to find that out? Yes.”

The issue of gun violence and gun control is incredibly

bly complex, he noted, but much of the debate surrounding the issue is based on emotion.

Mr. Paxton questions who will be evaluating the firearms that are being bought back. “Is IBM going to manage it? Good luck,” he said. He gives the example of a black powder double-barreled shotgun built by James Osborne and Sons circa 1850. “Yes, it’s on the list,” he points out. “The shotgun is valued for a reserve bid by a reputable auction house at \$10,000. Is Mr. Blair going to give me \$10,000 for that shotgun?” Other examples abound.

Even by conservative estimates (small-c, not partisan) the cost of the buy-back program will be immense. “How are people going to react when they discover what the real cost is going to be?” asked Mr. Paxton. He anticipates the program is crafted as an election issue by the party in power aimed straight at the Liberal urban power base.

An avowed non-gun person, Maja Mielonen of Mindemoya admits she knows little to nothing of gun issues. “I occasionally will read the headlines,” she said. But when it comes to the question of assault rifles, Ms. Mielonen does not hesitate. “Nobody should own a gun where you pull the trigger and a

whole bunch of bullets come flying out.” A complex issue expressed in simple and direct terms.

“Gun control is an incredibly complicated issue,” said Mr. Paxton. “I really don’t know how they will ever solve it.” He posits that increased penalties for gun crimes and illegal possession (yes, he can provide plenty of examples where the term illegal should fit the bill) might work. But he notes that the vast majority of firearms in urban centres come from illegal sources such as smuggling.

The legislation will create red flag and yellow flag laws that would allow concerned friends or relatives to apply to a court to immediately remove someone’s firearms.

Critics of those provisions liken them to squeal lines and suggest they would be open to widespread abuse, while proponents assert they could be used in cases of domestic violence and mental health concerns.

Increased penalties for gun trafficking, smuggling, possession of a loaded prohibited or restricted firearm or possession of a weapon obtained by the commission of an offence from 10 years to 14 years in prison join new offences such as altering a firearm magazine and tightening restrictions on importing

ammunition.

But the introduced legislation falls far short of what gun control advocates have sought, noting that unlike the buy-back programs in New Zealand and Australia, the Canadian version is not mandatory. That program removed more than 56,000 weapons from circulation in New Zealand at a cost of \$87 million, but fell short of denting the 170,000 estimated to be in circulation.

Airsoft enthusiasts have voiced alarm over the bill’s inclusion of some of that sport’s missile launching weapons that are not intended to harm. The cause for concern is a provision targeting firearms capable of producing muzzle energy of more than 10,000 joules. Although some jurisdictions have offset the replica concerns of airsoft rifles, which can look deceptively like the real thing, by the addition of red or orange tips on the barrels, that option was not included—jeopardizing a popular sport that employs thousands.

The details of the latest Liberal attempt at tackling gun crime will come out as the bill moves forward and is debated in committee, but one thing seems clear: Bill C-21 is destined to please neither side of the divide on the issue, but will inevitably provide plenty of fodder for the hustings.

 help wanted

 help wanted



**WORK FROM HOME OPPORTUNITIES
NOW AVAILABLE!**

Manitoulin Group of Companies with their Head Office in Gore Bay, Ontario is looking to fill a variety of positions including Pricing, Customer Service, Accounts Receivable, and more! We are now offering new remote opportunities and the ability to work from home!

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Excellent Customer Service skills
- Ability to work independently as well as part of a group
- Motivated and capable of adapting to the needs of individual customers
- Ability to work under pressure and with some time constraints
- Proficiency in Excel would be considered an asset
- A willingness to learn new tasks and skills
- Work with little supervision
- Attention to detail

In exchange for your efforts, we offer a competitive salary, opportunities for growth and development, a comprehensive benefits program and profit sharing.

Please email your credentials to Janelle Addison at apply@monarchr.ca.

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 help wanted

 help wanted

 help wanted

Anchor Inn Hotel


HELP WANTED CHEF/COOK

We are looking for an energetic and talented chef/cook to add to our kitchen team.

Some experience required, but willingness to learn is more important.

Wage dependent on experience.

Please email your resume to smiley1975@live.ca or drop your Resume off in person at The Anchor Inn Hotel



SHELTER RESIDENTIAL COUNSELLOR
Temporary Full-Time
6 month contract

Manitoulin Family Resources requires one temporary, full-time Residential Counsellor for six months to support women and children in our emergency residence/shelter program. The Residential Counsellor provides supportive counselling, crisis intervention and advocacy to women and children residing at the shelter, as well as telephone counselling and support through crisis line coverage. As a single-staff model of operation in a residential environment, responsibilities pertaining to health and safety in a fast-paced atmosphere and household duties, such as cooking and cleaning are required in addition to the provision of individual counselling, in-house client workshops, safety assessments and linkages to other services.

The successful candidate will have relevant post-secondary education (degree or diploma) and training/experience working with victims of woman abuse. Familiarity with provision of client-led, trauma informed services and harm reduction philosophy is a requirement. The successful candidate will also have excellent interpersonal, planning, and communication skills, experience with data entry and computer skills, and a demonstrated commitment to diversity, cultural competency, and anti-racist/anti-oppressive frameworks. Current CPR/First Aid certification, Food Handler’s Safety certificate, valid driver’s licence, insurable driver’s abstract and Vulnerable Sector Screening are all required. Registration with the College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers is an asset, as is second language fluency in Ojibway and/or French.

This position is a bargaining unit position. Flexibility in scheduling will be required to meet the needs of the shelter including, though not exclusive to, nights and weekends. The temporary, full-time six month position is committed to working 36.75 hours per week, averaged over the scheduling period. Shifts will be both pre-scheduled and on a call-in basis, per the Collective Agreement.

Manitoulin Family Resources welcomes and encourages applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations are available on request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process.

Deadline for applications: **February 26th, 2021 at 4:30 PM**

Please forward applications (letters of consideration and updated resumes) to:

Attn: Megan Gibson
Program Director of Violence Against Women Prevention
Manitoulin Family Resources
mgibson@mfresources.net

 help wanted

 help wanted

 help wanted



COMMUNITY LIVING MANITOULIN

Community Living Manitoulin has immediate openings for permanent part-time and casual staff to work in our homes. Personal Support Workers and/or Developmental Service Worker diploma are the preferred minimum qualification for these positions.

These unionized part-time positions are scheduled at a minimum of 30 hours bi-weekly with a starting wage of \$21.48.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to the attention of Ms. Megan Wickett; Operations Manager by regular mail to:

Community Living Manitoulin
PO Box 152
Mindemoya, Ontario P0P 1S0
or by email to mwickett@clmanitoulin.com
or by fax to 705-377-7175

Applications must be received by close of business on **Friday, February 26, 2021.**

For more information regarding Community Living Manitoulin please visit our website at www.clmanitoulin.com.

M.S.S. Kids in the Halls



Rachael Orford

Everyone is starting to settle into their new routine as we are now two weeks into the second semester. First semester report cards should be arriving in the mail any day now if they haven't already.

A joke for you:
Science teacher: When is the boiling point reached?
Student: When my mother sees my report card!
In order to minimize contact between cohorts, schedule changes have been made to class and lunch times. Each week, the Grade 9 and 10 classes have lunch from 10:35 am to 11:20 am; Grade 11 and 12 classes have their lunch from 11:30 am to 12:15 pm. First period, second period and dismissal bells have not changed.
Starting this semester, the Ministry of Education now requires that secondary schools confirm with students that they have completed the self-screening tool before leaving home daily. This will be done by teachers during first period attendance. A helpful tip is to post a note on the fridge or set a daily reminder to screen for COVID-19 every day before leaving for school. Also, a reminder that masks must be worn outside when not six feet apart.

The postponement of the March Break from March 15 to 19 to now April 12 to 16 has also shifted around professional development (PD) days. A new PD day is scheduled for Friday, March 19 and the PD day on Monday, April 19 has been cancelled. The PD day scheduled for Friday, June 11 has not changed.
Although this semester just started, it is that time of year again where students choose their courses for next year. During the first week of the semester, grade presentations were done to inform students on what courses they will need to take and what is available for the 2021-2022 school year. MSS guidance counsellors went around to classrooms last week to talk to students about more specific information regarding their choices for next year and to ensure that everyone could access MyBlueprint.ca successfully. Once students submit their courses to MyBlueprint.ca, they will need to print off a course signoff sheet for their parents to sign. Those sheets must be given to the student's second period teacher during week two before or on Tuesday, March 2.
It is time for graduation photos! Photo sessions will take

place the week of March 29. Graduating students must book their session online and pay the \$30 sitting fee. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Marshall in the guidance office.
Speaking of graduation, the Rainbow District School Board has come to the decision that graduation for the class of 2021, both elementary and secondary, will be held virtually.
February vocabulary challenges take place in the cafeteria each Friday! For this challenge, students use Quizizz, an online quizzing tool, to help increase their vocabulary. There is one more event to participate in for this month, so make sure you check your school email for information! There are prizes for those who make it onto the leaderboard!
Joke of the week: Why don't you see penguins in Britain? They're afraid of Wales!
Upcoming events include course sign off sheets due, a PD day and graduation photos.
Until next time, "Dream and Believe. Learn and Achieve!"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Janice Mitchell is a veterinarian at Island Animal Hospital and Little Current Veterinary Services, and a beekeeper too!

Smelling the Roses by Dr. Janice Mitchell

Definition of aromatherapy: The use of aromatic plant extracts and essential oils for healing and cosmetic purposes. With the rise of companies such as DoTerra and Young Living, essential oils seem to be one of the biggest trends at the moment. Heck, I love to put a little dab of peppermint oil on the back of my neck in the morning before I go to work, and I know my colleague loves the smell of eucalyptus and birch oil. So, it was the other day when our technician showed me a veterinary site that specialized in essential oils that I realized that we veterinarians still do not know the full 'scent' of the matter. And thus, to the veterinary peer-reviewed sites I went to sniff out the truth.
What are essential oils? Essential oils are extracts of plants that contain a large amount of volatile (easily evaporating) oil. They are extracted and concentrated by distillation or cold pressing. The smell and taste of plants are often determined by the essential oils they contain and are called "essential" as they were thought to represent the very essence of odour and flavour.
Aromatherapy has two main routes of activity, one of which is pharmacologic—volatile molecules are absorbed through the nasal and respiratory mucosa and thus detected systemically. The other is behavioural, where ambient molecules trigger olfactory (smell) receptors to directly stimulate a chemical messenger release in areas of the brain to cause some physiologic change. In addition, a smell can trigger a memory. As an example, the memories people associate with lavender (like Grandma's attic) are likely completely different from any memories a cat may or may not associate with lavender.
Information about essential oil health and safety effects are sparse and often contradictory. Asking, 'Are essential oils safe?' is similar to asking, 'Is medicine safe?' or, 'Are plants safe?' The type of oil, dose and route of exposure all determine the answer to this question. This is especially true when discussing their

effects on cats.
Cats are much more susceptible than dogs to certain essential oil toxicities. Cats' livers are deficient in a process called "glucuronidation," an important step in the metabolism of many compounds. As such, chemicals that are metabolized by other species often accumulate or are broken down into toxic metabolites in cats. This is especially true for compounds called "phenols" which contain an "aromatic" or "benzene" ring. Many essential oils contain phenols and, as such, may be poisonous to cats. These may lead to liver failure, seizures or other serious issues. Cats' small size means they are susceptible to poisoning by smaller volumes of oil and their tendency to groom themselves means skin contact often leads to oral contact. Cats also have a very sensitive respiratory tract, being prone to reactions to inhaled substances such as smoke and are thus more likely to develop respiratory distress when exposed to volatile oils.
Exposure to essential oils may be oral, through inhalation, or even through direct absorption through the skin. Some essential oils can induce a reaction that is not directly "toxic" by triggering allergic reactions. Cats with asthma, chronic upper respiratory disease, skin allergies or other similar conditions may experience an exacerbation of clinical signs when exposed to essential oils. In the case of asthma, these reactions can be serious or even fatal. Cats can also develop watery, irritated eyes and noses from chemical irritation of the respiratory or eye lining membranes, or develop dermatitis from direct skin contact. Other oils may be more directly toxic, causing failure of the liver, kidneys, heart or other organs.
I noticed while researching that the lists of toxic essential oils varied from one source to another. These lists have limited use because potential toxicity depends on the route, rate, amount of exposure, species, as well as the supplier quality and the other compounds that are in the preparation of a brand of oil. There is also a shortage of published scientific studies. Thus, these lists are not very accurate.

Paws for Thought



Heed caution with kitty when using essential oils.

However, I will quote two lists from one reputable veterinary site (essentialoilvet.com). Oils to avoid topically and internally with cats: Basil, citrus oils (bergamot, grapefruit, lemon, lime, orange, tangerine), birch, cinnamon, clove, dill, fennel, melaleuca (tea tree), oregano, peppermint, thyme, rosemary, spearmint and wintergreen. Oils to avoid topically and internally with dogs: birch, melaleuca (tea tree) and wintergreen. Use caution with hot oils such as oregano, cassia, cinnamon, clove, rosemary and thyme.
Some other general guidelines to the use of essential oils include: Only

use therapeutic grade essential oils, not from Amazon or your local grocery store; do not use oils on or near eyes, ears, nose or genitals of your pet; use a

water diffuser for aromatic use and allow your pet to roam freely with an open door to the room; dilute for topical use; avoid the use of essential oils in households with cats with asthma, allergies or similar conditions; never apply essential oils directly to cats or feed oils to cats; and caution should be used around animals that are pregnant, nursing, young, or on certain medications.
If you suspect exposure to a noxious essential oil, take your pet, along with the product packaging, to a veterinarian immediately. Do not try first aid such as induction of vomiting or giving home charcoal therapy. If a cat gets essential oil on its paws or fur (e.g., spilled diffuser or bottled essential oil), wash it off with bland soap and water, rinse well, and call your veterinarian right away for

further advice.
Until next time, I leave you with a science fact: Dogs have 300 million olfactory receptors, cats have 200 million olfactory receptors and humans have six million (who counts these anyway?). Happy smelling!

in memoriam



ELLIOTT—Audrey E. Elliott, February 19, 1927 to February 23, 2018
Mom's Memoriam, February 23, 2021
Mom, I find it hard to believe three years have come and gone.
It was your time I knew, Your earthly journey through. I did not want to call you back,
Your death painless, quick and so exact.
You loved so much, complained so little, Worked so hard like no other.
I'm extra proud to call you Mother.
As your Heavenly journey began, Which was in God's forever plan, You were where you wanted to be, With Dad and Brent and family.
I miss you Mom, and thank you For the love you gave so pure, And so unconditionally too.
So often I go to call you To tell you about my day, Only to realize you're a million miles away, And yet so close in oh so many ways.
Such gentleness there was about you, No one could deny. Without you there are moments, when I feel so very blue. Our family chain is broken And nothing seems the same, But as we all move forward, The family chain we will regain.
Mom, in our hearts you will always and forever be. Love Chrissy, Aaron and family Laura, Scott, Jaida and Chase Joanne xoxooxox

Death Notices

LARRY MALCOLM INCE



Larry Malcolm Ince entered into Rest, peacefully on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 in his 79th year at the West Haldimand Hospital, Hagersville. Beloved husband of 57 years to Ruby Anne (nee Lawrence). Loving father to Greg and to his favourite daughter-in-law Kendel. Adoring Boppa to Jared, Eric and Sean, and nephew to Beverly White. Larry is survived by many cousins and he will be greatly missed by his dear friends and "special brothers." Larry was a long-time (retired) employee of Georgia Pacific/Domtar and later enjoyed a part-time job of hauling water for McTear Water. He was a long-standing member of St. Andrew's Lodge #62 in Caledonia. Larry and Ruby enjoyed travelling to Florida, snowmobiling adventures and many trips to their second home in Mindemoya on Manitoulin Island. Larry will be fondly remembered by their great friends and neighbours there. A celebration of life will take place at a later date once it is safe to gather. If so desired, memorial donations to the West Haldimand General Hospital Foundation, the Caledonia Firefighters Association or the Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation - Juravinski Cancer Centre would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements entrusted to Miller Funeral Chapel, Caledonia.

Memorial donations are gratefully appreciated and can be made at the admitting office to the auxiliaries of the Manitoulin Health Centre and the Renovation Fund in both Mindemoya and Little Current and the Gore Bay Manitoulin Lodge Auxiliary Incorporated, 3 Main Street, Gore Bay, Ontario, P0P 1H0 and the Manitoulin Centennial Manor Fundraising or Manor Auxiliary, Postal Bag 460, 10 Robinson Street, Little Current, Ontario, P0P 1K0. Donations can also be made to the Manitoulin District Cenotaph Fund, Box 656, Little Current, Ontario P0P 1K0 or Pet Save Manitoulin, Box 393, Gore Bay, Ontario P0P 1H0.

notice

Happy Birthday to Sherrie Parkinson! Always happy, her door is open for a coffee and lunch if you wish. She loves your company and a good heart, just like her Mom. If anyone wants to send a card do so by February 18. Big day! Happy birthday cousin, from your friend, C.A.ST.J

Food Cupboard--The Gore Bay United Church is continuing this service during the COVID-19 outbreak with some changes. They will be open noon to 3 pm on Thursdays. Come to the side door (facing McQuarrie Motors) and knock. Food will be packed and passed outside to you. If you have questions, call 705-282-2011. Messages are checked daily.

Tfn

Evansville athlete mulling summer Olympics aspirations

by Michael Erskine
TENNESSEE—Evansville's Joseph Maxwell has been setting varsity records and establishing personal bests for several years, most recently at the University of Tennessee where he is in his final year of studying for his undergraduate degree, but the uncertainty of the future of the 2021 Olympics and a number of recent sports injuries, as well as a couple of tempting job offers, have him evaluating his path forward.
"I have another year of eligibility for college



Joseph Maxwell sports," said Mr. Maxwell, adding that he is finishing up his undergraduate

degree. "I could go on to graduate school, but I am more of a hands-on kind of guy," he laughed. "I am also looking at jobs; I have a couple of job offers."
Mr. Maxwell explained that while he has enjoyed his time at college, "I am really in it for the sports."
Two factors are weighing heavily in those decisions. First and foremost is the endgame—the 2021 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo. "It isn't sure that they will even go ahead," he said. But in the meantime, Mr. Maxwell, who has

set a number of records in the shot put category of track and fields and was elected as team captain at his school last year, said that while he is playing things by ear at the moment, when it comes to a couple of upcoming events he will still be giving it his "best shot."

real estate

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LAKE HURON WATERFRONT w/207 ft. of limestone outcrop shoreline. Forested 8.9 ac. is fully surveyed w/zoning amended to permit a cottage. This off the grid retreat is seasonally accessible via Ocean Point and Poplar Roads. \$119,500 (1513) (MLS #2092202)

GORE BAY HOME w/80.8 ft. fronting Agnes Street on a level lot. Charming 2 storey about 1800 sq. ft., on a full basement, w/4 bedrooms, 2 baths, laundry, back entrance, eat in kitchen & separate dining living rooms plus closed in front porch. New shingles 2017 & oil furnace 2014. Bedroom & full bath on first floor. Within easy walking to downtown. Currently rented so leave over 24 hours to view. \$220,000 (1506) (MLS #2090222)

HIGHWAY 540 ACREAGE just west of Elizabeth Bay Road w/hydro & phone available. Surveyed 17 ac. of mixed forest for home, cottage or camp. \$59,000 (1512) (MLS #2092130)

COCK on a level lot w/ street within walking distance to the public dock. Sheds 8x12 & 8x13 ft. Most contents included. Preferred closing date after May. \$50,000 (1511) (MLS #2092067)

2020 NEW BUILD IN LITTLE CURRENT

ASKING \$499,900
MLS 2090958

ABOUT THE PROPERTY

Sitting in the heart of Little Current, this one level newly built (2020) bungalow is sure to check off your list! Wrapped in Royal Navy siding accompanied by a single detached garage and paved driveway, this 3 bedrooms, 2 bath home offers bright and open concept living with high end finishes. Entry into the home leads you into an entertaining space with large windows with eyes-view of the stunning custom built kitchen. This kitchen is a dream come true - with its navy accent features, modern open shelving, high end appliances and large centre island! A place to sit, entertain and enjoy the company of your family! Next to the kitchen is a large living area with a focal point stone fireplace. All (great size) bedrooms are laid out on one floor including the large master bedroom with an ensuite and walk in closets!

FEATURE HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- 2,139 sq.ft. living space
- Year round living
- Detached Garage

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LEANNE LEWIS
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NORTH CHANNEL LAKE-FRONT ON BAY OF ISLANDS DR. - Building lot in desirable prime residential waterfront community within minutes of Whitefish Falls, ON. Features a driveway, telephone & hydro services available. Year-round road. Enjoy world class boating & sailing. Build your dream home or cottage! MLS#2087533



WELCOME TO PINE STREET - This all brick home will not disappoint in character or location. With 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, & a large Kitchen, working from home will be a pleasure. Close to all amenities, the C4 zoning make the possibilities endless! This well maintained home makes it the perfect choice for a turn key investment. Call for more details, and book your showing before its gone! MLS#2091029



WATERFRONT FARM/ACREAGE - This home farm, known as Pleasant Valley Farms, includes a 5 bdrm house (as is), many out-buildings, & 2 bank barns. 310 acres of Pasture, cleared workable land (80 acres), & wooded areas perfect for hunting. Plenty of deer!! Property also has 2500 ft frontage of private sand beach on Lake Kagawong! Call today!! MLS#2090204



PRIVATE PINE STREET 4 SEASON HOME - Large wrap around deck with spectacular NE view of the north Channel and LaCloche Mountains. Waterfront has a boat launch harbour with small berm. The 3 bed, 2 bath home has vaulted wooden ceiling, hardwood floors, walkout basement and 2-car detached garage. MLS#2090646

Manitoulin Island's oldest active Real Estate Brokerage 1971-2021



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26 Meredith St E., Little Current

1-800-461-0123 or (705)368-2381

AFFORDABLE TURNKEY 4 SEASON COTTAGE!!!!

This affordable turnkey 3 bdrm cottage on leased land is fully insulated, less than 10 years old & can be used year-round. The very large corner lot comes with large decks, many storage sheds & 2 driveways. Access to the sand bottom lake is a very short walk. Almost all contents including pullout couch, quality furnishings, dishes, etc. are included at a price of only \$139,000!!!! MLS#2087348



AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE OVER AN ESTABLISHED EGG GRADING OPERATION - The house has a small orchard out front & has seen continuous upgrades including Geothermal. Two drilled wells provide good potable water. Pasture 70 acres, bush 28 acres, several out-buildings. Owner is prepared to assist in the transition of licence. Properties are separately deeded, farm & chattels can be purchased separately. MLS#2089993



JUST LISTED - A beautiful treed back yard, 91 Queen St. is a budget friendly home for buyers or those wanting to become landlords. Large living room & comfortable kitchen are two more bonuses of this house with charm. A few mins walk takes you to shopping, doctors office, bank, & post office. The Village of Wiikwemkoong is a 15 min drive, & Little Current is a 25 min commute. This one will not last long, call now to view! MLS#2092145



BEST PRICE FOR MANITOU WATERFRONT ACREAGE - Over 35 acres & 610 ft waterfront, driveway mostly in place, great central Manitoulin location & incredible price @ \$199,000! MLS#2090845

THE PERFECT LOT FOR YOUR TRAILER!! - Located on a year-round road in the Twp of Assiginack where trailers are allowed, the almost 1 acre lot backs on to a green space which provides water access to Lake Huron's South Bay. The upgrades on this lot will be completed by early May making a perfect mid-May closing date just in time for the May Run long weekend. Asking \$159,000 MLS#2092304



8 YEAR OLD 2 BDRM COTTAGE ON LEASED LAND!!!! - This modern looking camp with a new roof comes adorned with a vaulted ceiling in the open concept kitchen/living room, indoor flush toilet, water drawn from the lake, a huge L-shaped deck, several outbuildings, a large portable garage & a very large beautifully landscaped lot. Asking \$85,000!!!! MLS#2087341



950 SQ. FT. 2 BDRM COTTAGE ON LEASED LAND!!!! - This cottage located in a park setting at the north end of Minemoya Lake is just a short walk to the nice sand bottom waterfront access which is very kid-friendly. The cottage features a large deck, a forced-air electric furnace as well as a propane free standing metal stove for heating. Asking \$115,000. MLS#2085649



LACLOCHE MOUNTAIN RESORT ON CHARLTON LAKE IN WHITEFISH FALLS!!!! - This resort known as Bearskin Lodge and Outfitters comes turnkey with 9 rustic 2 & 3 bdrm log cabins as well as an owners' residence & another cabin, they allow friends & workers to stay. The housekeeping cottages each have their own hydro panels & each have their own bathrooms & appliances that are relatively new with upgraded wiring. Asking \$975,000. MLS#2077603



Proudly celebrating 50 years of being your island connection!



Jennifer Hooper
Sales Person
Cell: 705-862-1002



Melissa Nicholson
Sales Person
Cell: 705-282-7738



Bob Watson,
Sales Person
Evenings 705-859-3375



Steve Rolston, B.A.
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Cell: 705-869-7568



Rob Norris
Sales Person
Cell: 705-968-0030



THE MANITOULIN MARKET IS HOT AND MOVING QUICKLY!



LARGE HOME OVERLOOKING WATER IN GORE BAY
MLS 2092089 \$450,000



AMAZING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY IN GORE BAY
MLS 2090555 \$485,000



STUNNING WATERFRONT LOT ON MANITOWANING BAY
MLS 2092152 \$139,500



HOBBY FARM IN EVANSVILLE WITH 4 BED, 2 BATH HOME
MLS 2090672 \$689,000



PENDING
OVER 1980 ACRES, 3 BED, 2 BATH OASIS
MLS 2090688 \$1,750,000



GORGEOUS 3 BED, 2 BATH HOME IN SHEGUIANDAH
MLS 2090987 \$299,000



ESTABLISHED INCOME PROPERTY IN LITTLE CURRENT
MLS 2090648 \$770,000



PENDING
PRIME INCOME PROPERTY IN LITTLE CURRENT
MLS 2087115 \$369,000



PENDING
2.5 ACRES OF PRIVACY WITH '247' OF FRONTAGE
MLS 2092153 \$144,500

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24 WATER STREET, LITTLE CURRENT, ON

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Support Local!



Bob Watson,
Sales Person
Evenings 705-859-3375

Born on Manitoulin Island, Bob Watson qualifies as a true Haweater. He later attended and graduated from Ryerson in 1970. Bob worked at IBM in Toronto for a decade and got a taste of big city living. In 1980 Bob, his wife, and twins moved back to his hometown of Sandfield and he took over his parents business, Watson's General Store. Bob proudly ran Watson's General Store for 35 years where he earned a reputation for being gentle and honest. Bob is extremely well known within the community, so obtaining his real estate license in 2003 seemed like the perfect «next step». When's he's not catching lake trout at his beloved home on Lake Manitou, Bob would love to show you all that this beautiful island has to offer.



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