

HAPPY VALENTINE'S!



High school sweethearts Frank and Betty Corbiere share a trip of a lifetime

...On Page 5



Champion Valentine's poem, and many more

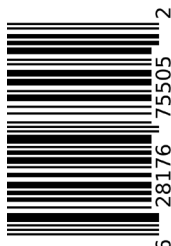
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Ontario votes 2025

Some of the candidates answer

The Expositor's question on
"the most pressing issue facing
Algoma-Manitoulin."

...See Page 3



The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



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Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, February 12, 2025



LITTLE FEATHER TAKES NEW YORK—From left are: Aaron Bowerman, Lena Recollect, Natalie Restoule, Lacey Santana Neboniwat, Demin Eshkawkogan, designer Tashina Migwans Odjig, Chelazon Leroux, Jocelyn Kagige and Keith McCrady.

photo by Bonnie Kogos

New Island-wide 'come-to-you' program for addiction help has saved multiple lives

by **Jacqueline M. St. Pierre**,
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

ONTARIO—When Mikayla Patterson, CEO of Wiidokaage Waabandan, took the stage at the Chiefs of Ontario conference on Mental Wellness and Substance Use on January 28, she didn't just present statistics—she told a story. A story of pain, of resilience, and of community-led solutions that are

saving lives in First Nations across the province.

"Pain is the problem," she said, addressing a room filled with leaders, frontline workers and community members. "And we forget that sometimes. We see addiction, we see behaviors, but we forget the person behind them."

Founded in May 2024, Wiidokaage Waabandan has already saved over 36 lives through an innovative, rela-

tionship-centered approach to mental health and addiction services. Their model is built on a simple yet radical idea: meeting people where they are—literally. Instead of waiting for individuals to navigate complex systems and seek help in clinical settings, the organization trains community members with lived experience to provide support and conduct

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Mikayla Patterson, CEO of Wiidokaage Waabandan, addresses the recent Chiefs of Ontario conference on substance use and mental health.

Family faces multiple tragedies Fundraiser set to help family survive financially

by **Tom Sasvari**

GARSON—The Charlie and Nancy Marinier (nee Pearson of Mindemoya) family of Garson have had plenty of hard luck and heartbreak in the past year, as they deal with another difficult time beginning this year.

"We are doing as well as we can," said Ms. Marinier. "We are leaning on family, friends and neighbours."

The past year has been one filled with tragedy, with several deaths in the family, and then in December Charlie found out he has stage three colorectal cancer.

The couple was married in 2006. "I'm originally

from Mindemoya, the Pearson family," said Ms. Marinier. Her parents are (Alvin) (predeceased) and Eileen (McMurray) Pearson from Mindemoya.

"Last March, my husband lost his best friend of over 20 years, Gary (aged 59)," said Ms. Marinier. "Then in May I lost my oldest son Carter, (age 31) and in July my husband lost his oldest son, Anthony. Eleven days later my husband (who is originally from Sudbury) lost his mother, Rachelle, aged 75."

"It has been a lot, it has been a tough year," stated Ms. Marinier, explaining, "just before Christmas my husband Charlie found out he has stage three

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International Joint Commission calls for Great Lakes plastic waste monitoring plan

22 million pounds plastic pollution dumped in Great Lakes annually

by **Jacqueline M. St. Pierre**,
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

GREAT LAKES—Every year, more than 22 million pounds of plastic pollution enter the Great Lakes, according to a study by the Rochester Institute of Technology. While visible plastic waste is an ongoing concern, an even greater threat lurks beneath the surface: microplastics.

These tiny plastic particles, less than five millimeters in size, have been found in alarming concentrations across the Great Lakes ecosystem. Despite their prevalence, there is no co-

ordinated basin-wide effort to monitor or mitigate their impact, leaving communities like Manitoulin Island at risk.

The Manitoulin Expositor was the first media outlet in Canada to report on initial findings of microplastics in the Great Lakes in 2012 by then-editor Alicia McCutcheon.

A recent report from the International Joint Commission's (IJC) Great Lakes Science Advisory Board underscores the need for systematic monitoring and management of microplas-

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Island snowmobile trails now groomed and open

by **Tom Sasvari**

MANITOULIN—The news is good concerning snowmobile trails on Manitoulin Island.

"As of now most of the trails are open," Darren Dewar, president of the Manitoulin Snowdusters said last Friday evening. "We are very close to

being ready to be full on with all trails being open."

Mr. Dewar said the groomers have been out and "the trails are coming along very nicely. Things are moving forward. We are still working on a land use permit to the West End of the Island, but hopefully this will be on track very soon."

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Early Deadline

Because of the upcoming Family Day long weekend, advertising and country correspondence deadlines for the February 19 issue of The Expositor are, as usual, moved ahead a day to this Thursday, February 13 at noon. Please take advantage of the long winter weekend to enjoy our wonderful Island with your family. The Expositor Office staff will be doing the same and will be closed next Monday!

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Manitoulin votes!

Each week until the lead up of the provincial election, February 27, The Expositor will post a question to each of the five candidates running to be the next MPP of Algoma-Manitoulin. Candidates Maria Legault, Green Party of Ontario, and Bill Rosenberg, PC, have

chosen not to respond to the Expositor’s many invitations to participate. Voters are invited to attend an all candidates’ night today, Wednesday, February 12, at 6:30 pm at the Freshwater Community Church in Mindemoya. The event

will be moderated by Neil Debassige. This week’s question is: *In your opinion, what is the biggest single issue facing the people of Algoma-Manitoulin and what is your party’s plan to address it?*



Maria Legault,
Green Party of Ontario



Michael Mantha,
Independent



Reg Niganobe,
Ontario Liberal Party



Bill Rosenberg,
PC Party



David Timeriski,
Ontario NDP

Chose not to
respond

I’ve lived my whole life in the North. I love this land and treasure the wealth of benefits and opportunities that come with that privilege. But I also know the limitations and struggles of living in this region. For one, Northern Ontario has never been given a fair shake when it comes to healthcare resources. One of the best things about Ontario is the diversity of our regions. Unfortunately, successive governments have failed to understand this truth. They insist on formulating policies and allocating funding with a ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach. Hospitals and primary care teams in the North face unique challenges that the government has failed to address and refus-

...continued on page 7

Chose not to
respond

Algoma-Manitoulin voters tell me that the biggest issue they face is accessing health-care, for themselves, their children, their parents and other loved ones. In our riding, the distances are large and we depend on having emergency medical care close by as minutes can make the difference. That means we need rural hospitals in communities to have functioning, open Emergency Departments with paramedics able to get critical patients to the hospital and where hospital professionals have the tools they need to save lives. Healthcare takes many forms and touches us all. We often think of doctors and nurses first as we interact with them

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The Manitoulin

West

Recorder



Helping Hands Family Missions organized a free food giveaway at the NEMI Recreation Centre on Wednesday of last week which helped fill Island families’ fridges and freezers. Based on the success of the giveaway, which saw two full transport loads of food up for grabs, the organizers promise to be back.

photos by Michael Erskine

Island residents treated to two transport loads of free food, more to come following success

by Michael Erskine
LITTLE CURRENT—The organizers of a two-transport load food giveaway in the parking lot of the NEMI Recreation Centre announced themselves to be “very pleased” with the success of this first event, so much so that they are already planning for the next edition. “We agree the event ran smoothly and are already looking forward to the next giveaway on Manitoulin,” said Ian Gibbons, senior manager food recovery and logistics with Second Harvest, who along with his colleague Dan Collins, Second Harvest senior operations manager were on hand for the event. “Second Harvest recognizes the need to get good food up there on a more regular basis.”

The event was organized by Jamie Fitchett of Helping Hands Family Missions out of Sudbury. Mr. Fitchett had approached the Northeast Town council for permission to hold the food giveaway at the recreation centre at the 11th hour on Tuesday, February 4. Permission was granted, although some concerns regarding traffic were expressed by Mayor Al MacNevin—citing an earlier event that had taken place at the Manitoulin Country Fest grounds. In the event, those concerns did not come to fruition, as traffic did not back onto Highway 6 during the daylong event. The municipality provided a forklift and driver to help unload

...continued on page 7

Facing staff exodus, Assiginack Township hires a private firm for winter roads maintenance

by Tom Sasvari
MANITOWANING—In order to continue normal winter road operations Assiginack Township has entered a short-term contract with a private company on Manitoulin Island following the resignation of three members of the township public works crew. The resignation of members of the public works department falls in line with two other resignations the township has faced recently, with the former clerk having resigned prior to Christmas (since replaced by Stasia Carr) and the pending resignation of township arena manager/events coordinator Jackie White. “We normally have five employees on the public works department, plus superintendent Ron Cooper (the latter of whom, despite rumours, has not resigned his position). The township had three members of the public works department resign in January,” explained Alton Hobbs, chief administrative officer of Assiginack last Thursday. “It was like a chain reaction with the three crew members all resigning within a 10-day period,” said Mr. Hobbs. “You would have to ask those who have resigned why they did so. If any of the employees left for negative reasons or intentions I’m sure they would have called you first as a newspaper.” Mr. Hobbs said it will be

council’s decision as to how to proceed from there, for example hiring three new public works employees. Being down three members of the public works crew, “put us in a position that we might not have been able to fulfill our obligations, because we didn’t

...continued on page 7

The foundations of Midewin teachings brought to life in Debaj’s ‘Maamwi’

by Michael Erskine
MANITOWANING—The Midewin traditions and teachings trace their path far back into the mists of time. Long before contact the Midewin or Grand Medicine Society (not a perfect translation) teachings lay at the foundation of Anishinaabe spiritual life, but following contact with Europeans Christianity became ascendant in Indigenous communities and traditional language, culture and traditions were driven underground in an effort to assimilate First Nations and other Indigenous communities. Still, a hardy and resilient group of knowledge keepers kept those traditions alive.

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opinion

editorial

It is time to retire national anthems from sports events

The spectre of Canadian hockey and basketball fans booing the US national anthem was unsettling to many Canadians, despite the extreme provocation of the current inhabitant of the Oval Office and his assaults on our sovereignty, it just isn’t who we see ourselves. Small wonder that our US compatriots have been returning the favour. The bizarre aspect of this is that, given the integration of our joint “semi-national” sport (baseball is traditionally recognized as the Yank’s national sport, while lacrosse is our own Canadian official national sport), there are plenty of Canadian hockey players on US teams and the same for Canadian teams. In short, “we is integrated.”

When it comes to our economy, we are so intricately linked that it is nearly impossible to imagine The Donald’s tariff tiffs actually coming to fruition—well, impossible to anyone who actually knows how closely linked our businesses are.

Sadly, the current “Buy Canadian” push that is taking place, while good for our economy perhaps, simply increases those very trade deficits cited by the current American ruler as reasons for his assaults on our sovereignty.

Reality is that, taking oil and energy out of the equation, the US already enjoys a significant trade surplus with our country. If they simply stopped buying our crude oil to process and send on, the deficit would switch in America’s favour. Of course that isn’t possible, as the US, despite recent discoveries and the bluster of the POTUS, does actually need our oil.

Booing each others’ national anthems might seem like a handy opportunity to express our dismay, it does nothing to allay mistrust and division being foisted upon us both by The Donald—in fact, it feeds into it, providing deluded MAGA followers with a “justification” for their newfound animosity towards our nation.

letters

An allegorical assessment of US Canada relations

No foreign nation can tell another sovereign nation what to do

To the Expositor:

This little story is about neighbours. Imagine that Bob has moved in next door to your place. The polite thing for Bob to do is to go and knock on the neighbour’s door and say, “Hi, I’m Bob, and I’ve just moved into the place next door. I’d like us to be good neighbours.” You, being the neighbour, may think this is a good way for a new neighbour to introduce himself. What has really happened is that Bob has moved in next door to your place and instead of introducing himself and offering to be a good neighbour, Bob has said to you, “Hey, there are pests and rodents coming into my yard next door that you need to do something about. You need to build a bigger fence to keep the pests out.” So, what has the neighbour with the “pests” gone and done? The neighbour has gone out and hired new border guards, a few helicopters, and some drones to patrol his own yard. Never mind that it was Bob’s responsibility in the first place to keep “pests” out of his own yard.

This next little story reminds me of the situation we (human beings in Canada) are in. It’s about a war in medieval times in Europe. One of the parties in the conflict were backed into their castle by the opposing party. The group on the ground outside the castle effectively locked the opposition in the castle. The folks inside were anxious and worried, not sure what to do. Someone inside came up with the brainwave of “let’s take our one remaining cow, fatten it up, then throw it over the wall at the enemy.” So the folks inside the castle did just that, at the same time as their own food stores were depleting rapidly. Finally the cow was fattened enough so that the folks inside could haul it up to the top wall, and throw it over onto the ground on the other side. The enemy on the ground saw the cow and thought, “how much food, resources and supplies do the people inside the castle have that they can afford to throw a fattened cow out at us?” Whereupon the enemy on the ground withdrew and the war ended.

Indigenous peoples have been in the Americas “since time immemorial.” Indigenous nations across Turtle Island hold creation knowledge about how their peoples came to be. Add to this creation knowledge the archaeological evidence that places Indigenous peoples here from 35,000 to 50,000 years BP (before present). The Anishinaabe nation’s ancestral lands encompass good portions of what are now known as Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, North Dakota, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. There

Now is not the time to be needlessly poking the elephant with whom we share a bed.

Better to put to bed the playing of national anthems before international games. The whole process is a relatively new phenomena, anyway, starting out as a way to show solidarity among our troops during the Second World War. Now, it is becoming a way to sow division between steadfast friends.

Each year, Manitoulin Island welcomes hundreds of US summer residents, folks who meld into our Island life and, potentially, stand as our best ambassadors to their neighbours back home. They are, quite literally, our friends and neighbours.

Let us not treat each other in such a tawdry and shabby way—no matter how unsettling the last few weeks have been for our relationship. It’s embarrassing and very un-Canadian.

Neither of our nations can effectively prevent the tit-for-tat expressions made by a few reactionary souls—so let us remove the opportunity and get rid of national anthems before the games.

In the meantime, we need to understand that the threat evinced by The Donald is very real and a wakeup call for us to get our own house in order on interprovincial barriers, and to seek out new markets for our products. If Mr. Trump doesn’t want or need them, then perhaps others will. That would be a much better reaction to the threats being presented to our nation than any kneejerk cat-calls.

We are coming up on two very important elections, one provincial and currently in play, the other federal this spring with a new Liberal leader in the prime minister’s office. The question that should be on everyone’s mind is—who will best protect our way of life and national interests. Past performance may provide a clue.

are Indigenous nations who still exist and live in North and South America. Some of these are: the Cree (Mushkegowuk), the Haudenosaunee, the Mi’kmaq, the Salish, the Tsimshian and many others.

Indigenous nations may be invisible to “zhaaganaashak,” but we see each other and we are still here. Indigenous nations may not be heard by “settlers”, but we still have voice. Indigenous nations may be located in many places across Turtle Island, and while we may not have big, visible presence in the Euro-Canadian Western world, our ancestors still speak to us, support us and hold us dear. We are still here.

I’m reminded of something my late father, Archie McGregor used to tell us. He said that when he was growing up, his family, his clan and his community used to be able to provide for most of their food needs, through gardening, harvesting natural foods, hunting, and fishing. He said that the only things they needed in town were flour, sugar and tea. What he was really saying was that there were sufficient natural resources in his homeland so that he did not need to purchase most food items from commercial providers.

As to what individual human beings can do about the situation we are in – there are several possible courses of action. We can practice the 5 Rs – recycle, re-use, re-purpose, refuse and repair. For example, I went grocery shopping the other day and bought items with labels like “Made in Canada” or “Grown in Peru” or “Imported from South Africa.” This was an act of refusing—refusing to buy from you-know-where.

Canada’s population is 41,288,599 as of July 1, 2024. This population lives on a land mass that measures 9,985,000 square kilometers of land from coast to coast to coast. It is the second largest land mass in the world. Only Russia is larger. Canada is a sovereign nation, built on Indigenous homelands, using Indigenous resources and consuming waters held by Indigenous nations. No foreign nation can dictate to another sovereign nation what to do.

There is another character from a story that we should remember. It is the story of David and Goliath. And guess who won that conflict?

Gegwa zegziken. Don’t be afraid.

Marie McGregor-Pitawankwat
South Bay

A strategy for lobbying ordinary Americans

Unsettling to know the current American culture has evil intent towards Canadians

To the Expositor:

Your editorial “Betrayal! The hardest stab comes from behind” (February 5, Page 4) really said it all. It is very much a sentiment that all Canadians must share.

However, the good people of Manitoulin Island, specifically Little Current, have the opportunity to let Americans know how everyone feels. A large number of pleasure craft, yachts and cruisers from the USA, tie up at the Little Current docks each summer. How about charging them a 25 percent surcharge along with a message to send them home to really straighten out Donald Trump and his

henchmen?

As a frequent visitor to Manitoulin Island I no longer feel comfortable knowing that the visitors from the USA carry the current American culture, that has evil intent towards Canadians, in their minds and malice in their hearts. They really need to get the message.

Sincerely,

Lionel Rudd
Sudbury

Aundeck Omni Kaning couple enjoy the trip of a lifetime around the world

by Michael Erskine
AUNDECK OMNI KANING—High school sweethearts Frankie and Betty Corbiere love to travel and have taken some amazing voyages in their more than 50 years of marriage—but this past Christmas season the Aundeck Omni Kaning couple outdid themselves with an epic around the world cruise that saw them visit nine countries.

The couple were joined on their trip by Reggie Leach and Dawn Madahbee Leach, also seasoned travellers. Another couple, one of Ms. Madahbee Leach’s colleagues and her husband also joined part of the voyage. We say voyage, because much of the trip was spent aboard cruise ships where the couple enjoyed a decidedly pampered lifestyle.

The Corbieres are retired, he from years of working construction and she after 35 years at the hospital, so travelling for a month can be accommodated even with the busy lives that come with being retired. The couple had a near-death experience on one of their trips to Florida a few years ago after a motorcycle accident put them both in hospital—just as the pandemic was starting to restrict travel. They barely made it across



A little rain couldn't dampen the couple's spirits while visiting Paris' famed Eiffel Tower.

the border in time, despite their injuries. But this trip was a whole different experience.

“We were on cruise ships for 14 days, one 10-day cruise and one four-day cruise,” said Mr. Corbiere. “The whole trip was 30 days in total.” The first stop was Tokyo, Japan for a couple of days before flying to Singapore, then both South and North Vietnam, including sojourns



The Spoonermaker diamond is the third largest in the world.

to the DMZ and Ho Chi Minh Trail. But Phuket Thailand was a true jewel in the Asian leg of the journey.

“We got to see James Bond Island, where the 1974 movie ‘The Man With the Golden Gun’ was filmed,” said Mr. Corbiere. The clear waters and amazing vistas of Phang Nga Bay, a national park were amazing, as was the food. (Ko Ta Pu Island is the actual name of the island, one of many exotic things to see and do in that country.)

Although the couples spent a lot of time on the cruise ships, nearly every one of the 30 days of the globe-spanning trip was packed with whirlwind tours and excursions.

“Every day we were doing something, even on the boat,” said Mr. Corbiere. “There was so much to do on the boat that, you know, we just kept on the go.”

Not every day ended in an exhausted



Frank and Betty Corbiere of Aundeck Omni Kaning share a smooch in Singapore while on a whirlwind nine-country 30-day voyage of adventure.

collapse into bed, however, as the couples also took time to just sit back and recharge. “One day we sat down and played cards for a couple hours,” said Ms. Corbiere, “and that was just a relaxing day.”

Before they set out on their epic voyage, the couple spent an early Christmas with their children and grandchildren as the journey began on Christmas Day.

The couple have always had the travel bug, but first and foremost in their marriage was raising their children. Later, as the children grew more independent, the bug resurfaced. “Once the kids got bigger, you get a little bit more freedom and you can just go and do whatever,” laughed Mr. Corbiere. “We went to California; we went to Vegas with our hockey team. But we got tired of Vegas. So, Betty and my brother and his wife said,



Dinner with good friends.

‘well let’s go for a ride someplace,’ so we rented a car and headed up over the mountains and ended up in California.”

Hockey was a large impetus for their travels three decades ago.

Now, with the children grown into adults and focusing on raising families of their own, the couple decided to go all-in on the trip of a lifetime and explore places further afield. “This was our first

time visiting Europe,” said Mr. Corbiere. Fascinated with old buildings and ancient weapons and armour, Mr. Corbiere was able to indulge his inner paleophile. Having flown (business class no less) from Singapore to Turkey, the couple explored the city of Istanbul, a crossroads of cultures, with its confluence of Greek, Roman and Muslim history.

It was here that the couple had no problem identifying their most romantic experience in the monthlong series of adventures.

“The Turkish bath,” they both exclaim in unison.

“My God, that was the greatest thing,” said Mr. Corbiere. “They took us in the room, the two of us on different cots, and two different girls give you an oil bath. Like, I mean, just deep massage and then they put you on your back and they do your front and then they put—what do they call that—a facial. They put some stuff on your face, it gets hard, they leave you there for five, 10 minutes and then they take you into another room and they just lay a cloth on you, hot water



Frank and Betty Corbiere investigate the wonders of James Bond Island and the wonders of Phang Nga Bay, Thailand.

washing and hot water.”

“We went in first and then Reggie and Dawn went in the other side. When they came out, I called Reggie and I said, ‘I bought the place across the road.’ He looks and said, ‘what do you mean?’ I said, ‘I’m staying, I want that again, tomorrow.’” After that, we watched belly dancing,” shared Ms. Corbiere. “I slept through it,” she laughs.

So much history abounds in that part of the world. The couples travelled up a hill to a castle where they explored Roman artifacts. “We went and seen armor and the castle there, like along the trail up, going up to the castle there was Roman stuff there, like birdbaths and Roman columns. They said they dug that up. Whenever you’re putting a building up, you’d find some.”

At first the archeologists brought the finds from a dig to a storage area near the castle, but then, there was so much discovered that it was decided to just leave it all together in that location.

Besides the knives and armour, gold and jewels (they got to see the world’s third largest diamond), there were plen-

ty of cultural learning opportunities.

“We got to see them make silk,” said Ms. Corbiere. “They started out with these little worms, then they would take the cocoon, soak it, and stretch out this tiny wire and slowly unwind it.” The thread was then woven into colourful scarves. “Five or six women would take the thread and pass it through, from top to bottom. It was amazing. She said it might take anywhere from two to three months to have that done.”

Remarkably, the resulting scarf was not all that expensive. But the couple did not buy one as a souvenir. They were packed very lightly. “Anytime we wanted to bring something home, we had to leave something behind,” laughed Mr. Corbiere. “Our sons wanted hats, but we told them, your mom would be wearing six hats coming home.”

Other wonders included mosques decorated with mosaics made from tiny pieces of porcelain, completely covered from foundation to towering spire.

Visits to Paris and London came next, with the obligatory stops at the Louvre and Tower of London. The trip up the Eiffel Tower gave an amazing view of the ancient city of Paris, but the very top was under renovation, so out of bounds. Still, a stroll down the Avenue des Champs-Élysées offered opportunities for historic photos, including gazing across the River Seine from the same spot as a conquering Hitler a hundred years earlier.

“Did you know the Eiffel Tower almost



The food on board the cruise ship was outstanding.

came to Canada?” said Mr. Corbiere. “The president of France at the time made a deal, they were just going to start tearing it apart to bring it to Montreal and people started protesting. They were tired of fixing and painting it, and the cost, and Canada was going to buy it.”

Visits to Vimy Ridge brought a moment of reflection, as was the trip to where the trenches of World War One are being restored. “We went to the Newfoundland graveyard. Our tour guide said there was only 300,000 people living in Newfoundland when the war broke out, so they couldn’t draft from here because it was too small. So, 11 percent of the boys volunteered because they weren’t including draft people. They went with all their training and the first day, 98 percent of them died. I’d never heard of that, that’s incredible. Sitting Bull had a son who fought, died and was buried over there.”

The monument commemorating their sacrifice was constructed using materials from Newfoundland. “The rocks, even the trees, they all were brought over from Newfoundland. When the war was going on, all the trees had been flattened, so they transplanted all these big trees.”

One of the most amazing discoveries the couples made in their journey was not the huge jewels, the ancient armour and castles, the art or even the food—it was the people and the generosity of those they met on their travels.

In one instance, the tour guide’s vehicle broke down, threatening the rest of their excursion. “One of the people in the village just offered the use of their van. It was a brand-new van, so it wasn’t a real big inconvenience—it was actually more room for us. Then he just took it back that night.”

Along the way, they made new friends. Some from Canada or the US and others from all across the globe.

The couple have no intention of settling in on their laurels when it comes to travelling. They are already making plans for their next great adventure together.

Friends and Neighbours

Providence Bay

Alexia Hannigan

I was listening to the radio the other day and heard that we are now at the halfway point between Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. The early sunrise and longer days conjure Images of Spring's slow trickle into nature's most beautiful dance and song. For most of us, however, this time of year feels something more like the Divine Comedy of being stuck knee deep in snow while waiting for another avalanche. We are all sick, tired, have horrible dry skin, have terrible cabin fever and have major angst about the state of our economy. The trade war tariffs and political strife will all come tumbling down at some point or another so we had better hold onto our Timmys, toques and maple taps and stock up now on any well-priced items while the getting is good. Turn your focus not on the doom and gloom but rather on the positive changes to come given the climate. We are all back to giving back and rallying behind our Canadian friends and neighbours. I have always said support local, and now more than ever we must stand strong and true and in solidarity. We Love you Canada and we will nurture and protect you through and through.

Here's what's happening: Providence Bay Arena, learn to skate on Sundays from 12 noon to 1 pm; public skate is on Sundays from 1 to 3 pm; family sponge puck is on Sundays from 3 to 5 pm. Sponsored by the Spring Bay/Providence Bay Recreation Committee. Helmets required.

McAllister Tourney coming soon! Stay tuned.

Providence Bay Curling Club is hosting their annual ladies' bonspiel from February 14-16. This year's theme is Diamonds and Denim! Email providencebaycurling@gmail.com or call 705-377-4668 to register.

Providence Bay Community of Christ Church Sunday Service: 10:30 am meet-up, 11 am service.

Providence Bay Hall: Save the date! Join us on Friday, February 14, 2025 from 2 to 4 pm for a mid-winter mingle at the Providence Bay Hall! This event is geared to adults 55+ and supported by the Friends of the Mindemoya Old School. For more information, please contact Alison at 705-377-5726 or by email at asloss@centralmanitoulin.ca.

Winter Workouts continue Friday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 am till March 14 at the Providence Bay Hall.

Tai Chi Classes continue Mondays and Thursdays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Contact Jean Pearce at 705-885-8444 for more information.

Gentle Yoga continues with chair yoga and gentle yoga on Tuesdays from 1 to 1:45 pm and 2 to 3 pm at the Providence Bay Hall. Gentle Yoga continues Wednesdays at 6:15 pm at Spring Bay Hall.

The Heavens: February 12 today is the second full moon of 2025 and it is known as the Snow Moon, it will occur at 8:53 am EST, in the constellation Leo.

The Fundraisers: Providence Bay/Spring Bay Lions Club bottle drive continues, drop off your empties next to the arena for a good cause! Check the Lions Facebook page for upcoming events.

As we continue through the seemingly endless winter of our discontent and political discourse, we must remember that to every person, place or thing there is a season and a reason. We may not always know the reason or rhyme, but we must keep moving in time. Always remember to look up and not down; look out and not in; look forward and not back and lend a hand. Keep looking up, eat some Valentine's chocolates, open the good wine and enjoy all the beautiful secrets, miracles and mysteries of this crazy-beautiful life.

Happy Valentine's weekend and happy Family Day Weekend!

Happy Birthday Danny, Michael and

an Ode to Papa Reg, you are missed and remembered with love.

"Love don't make things nice, it ruins everything, it breaks your heart, it makes things a mess. We're not here to make things perfect. Snowflakes are perfect. The stars are perfect. Not us. We are here to ruin ourselves and break our hearts and love the wrong people and die."

- John Patrick Shanley Moonstruck

Kagawong

Team Fergmeijer

Team Fergmeijer is all about life-long learning. This week we learned that we should not write Valentine's Day cards on an empty stomach. We ended up with some, shall we say, unique sentiments: I donut want to glaze over the fact that I love you; I love you s'more and s'more with each passing day; if you were a vegetable, you'd be a cutecumber; I love you a brunch; we were mint to be together; Our love is a hot dog - I relish it; I hope you like breakfast, because I love you a waffle lot. We know we tend to be hopeless ramen-tics and want our friends and family to know that we love them—like, pho real, but these were a bit over the top, even for us.

Kagawong Winterfest is back! Grab your skates and toboggans and come on by the Kagawong River Complex on Family Day, February 17 from 11 am to 3 pm. Outside there will be ice skating, a sliding hill, free pizza and hot dogs, maple taffy, snowmobile display and a fire to help warm up those toes! Inside at the Park Centre there will be some educational and fun activities hosted by Manitoulin Streams and the Manitoulin Secondary School robotics team, a craft and hot chocolate and chili hosted by the Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee and a free Mindful Movement class and dance party hosted by Body Stories Dance Education and Performance. Wintry fun for everyone!

There is no time more suited to poetry than Valentine's Day and so this week's Short Poems for a Short Month challenge leans into the season of love with a selection of adoring verse.

Forget red and blue,
Pizza's the colour of love,
And chocolate too.
I had plans today,
But then you smiled at me and...
What was I saying?

Big news! Billings Township will be offering senior active living programming for 2025. All seniors are invited to drop by the Park Centre at 1 pm on Wednesday, February 19 to kick off the new program and help develop the schedule of activities for the year.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the Old Mill in Kagawong and the museum board is planning a variety of ceremonial events and is looking for additional historical information. If you know of anyone who could help or who worked at the mill/hydro plant, the museum board would be grateful for any information (oldmillheritage@billings-twp.ca).

Break out your dancing shoes for Manitoulin Secondary School's performance of Mamma Mia! You can dance, you can jive and have the time of your life! The Broadway hit will have you dancing, jiving, and having the time of your life, singing along to the songs of ABBA. Shows run over two weekends: Friday, February 14 (7 pm); Saturday, February 15 (2 pm matinée) and Friday, February 21 (7 pm); Saturday, February 22 (2 pm matinée). Tickets are \$20 at the door or in advance at select pharmacies across Manitoulin, or online at bit.ly/Mamma-MiaMSS.

Deepen your connection with your body with the free Inclusive Mindful Movement classes at the Park Centre on Mondays, now through March 3 (8 to 9 pm). Come out for a gentle, joyful movement practice focused on helping you

find more ease in your movement and alignment. No dance experience necessary. Space is limited. Pre-registration is encouraged. www.bodystoriesdance.com (647-213-1497).

All you need is love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt. Have a great week!

Barrie Island

Enid Runnalls

The longest month of the year has finally come to a close! It's snowy and mild today at -5C but the temperature promises to return to colder temps during the first week of February.

Our Barrie Island community has been kept busy by the ice and snow, with the farmers shoveling out barnyards to feed and water their cattle and our local ice fishers out at various secret locations on the bay pulling in fish when they're biting. The rest of us are enjoying the coziness of winter, keeping warm by the fire.

Lance Greenman has temporarily moved to St. Joseph Continuing Care Centre for a bit of physiotherapy. Lil reports that it is a very nice facility with a lot of help available. Daughter, Natalie Hayden is checking in with him daily, but if you're in Sudbury, Lance sure would enjoy a visit, so please stop in to see him.

Last Thursday Oliver Runnalls and Jordan Miller pulled a couple of guys from the ditch. They were employees of a Quebec engineering firm, out assessing hydro poles for fiber optic internet. They could have been stuck there for a week if there wasn't a big tractor handy, they were in that deep!

Bill Runnalls celebrated his 80th birthday on January 22 in Winnipeg. He enjoyed his big day out playing cribbage with friends and then with a fine glass of Jura!

Carolyn Lane-Rock reports that her Christmas amaryllis has multiple blooms! Also, never one to stand still, she is heading to Toronto to visit family and then off to Portugal. Details coming soon!

Local adventurer and kestrel expert, Garth Baker, has been skydiving in Elsinore, California. His most recent jump was made with a group of nine. The pictures are spectacular. As of this morning he is camping out in Red Rock, Arizona.

For those cat-lovers who have been concerned about the little grey stray that was hanging around the cottages of Julia Bay, you can breathe a sigh of relief. Rob Lane has adopted the cuddly guy. That's all I know right now but will provide updates in the next Barrie Island report.

Wayne Jeffkins of the North Line has been attending lots of loppets these days! His three grandchildren Effie, Chesley and Roslyn have inherited their mom's athletic genes and are proving to be quite competitive. Looking forward to hearing more about this family of cross-country skiers!

Mary Anderson and Don Roberts (who lived previously in Aunt Carol's house on 10th Side Road, Barrie Island) have sent their greetings to their friends here. They report that they are thriving in their new community of Elliot Lake and Mary has taken up needle felting as a new creative hobby.

Condolences go out to the families of Mona Lewis (nee Runnalls). Mona had many cousins and friends on Barrie Island and was a wonderful member of the western Manitoulin community. She will be missed.

Mark and Sharon Robbins of Lindsay, Ontario stayed a few days with Scott and Enid Runnalls this past week. They were here to visit their mother, Edna Wright at the Manitoulin Lodge. They brought in a lovely meal from the Water's Edge Restaurant and dined privately in the lodge common room. While here they also enjoyed visiting brother Kevin and Lisa Robbins of Gore Bay.

Silver Water

Karen Noble

On Friday evening we went to Meldrum Bay to play euchre.

On Monday, euchre in Burpee/Mills was cancelled due to the weather.

On Tuesday afternoon there was an exercise class at the Silver Water Community Hall.

Tuesday night's fire practice was cancelled due to the weather.

On Wednesday morning, Albert and I went to Little Current and Gore Bay. The proceeds from the liquor containers we returned will go to the Angel Bus. We went to Stop 540 for lunch when we got home, the dining room appears much bigger and brighter.

On Wednesday afternoon there was line dancing at the community hall.

On Thursday there were 15 people out to play euchre at the Silver Water Hall.

On Thursday, February 6 there will be a UCW meeting at St. Andrew's United Church in Silver Water.

On Sunday, February 9 there is a potluck lunch in Meldrum Bay with the church service following.

On Sunday, February 16 there is a stew and chili luncheon in Meldrum Bay with a euchre tournament in the afternoon.

Condolences to the family of Fred Midgaugh.

Condolences to the family of Ted Fogal.

Condolences to the family of Jack Pope.

Condolences to the family of Mona Lewis.

Condolences to the family of Kim Lentir.

Friday, January 31 I took DonnaKay McDonald and Myra Duncanson to euchre in Meldrum Bay.

On Sunday there were 14 people from the west end who went to Tehkummah to play euchre in the afternoon. All the teams had higher scores than the last several months. Congratulations to Betty Jean Bailey and Dean Sagle who won first prize. Myra and I won second prize.

On Monday I went to Gore Bay in the morning. In the evening, I took Myra and DonnaKay to euchre in Burpee/Mills. The proceeds are going to the MSS Robotics team some weeks and the Burpee/Mills Fire Department the rest of the time.

On Tuesday there was an exercise class at the Silver Water Community Hall. Everyone is welcome. The cost is \$5 per person.

On Wednesday there was line dancing at the hall starting at 1:30 pm.

On Thursday there were 12 euchre players at the hall. Congratulations to Harold Rogers who won the money jar with 91 points.

The construction work has begun at the community hall to create a bathroom upstairs on the east side of the stage. A photograph was found in the wall. So far, the lady has not been identified but hopefully someone will recognize her if we keep asking around.

The weather has been the big topic of conversation this week with piles of snow falling, wind blowing hard, snowplows making many trips past our place to clear the highway and the township roads. There have been some snowmobiles moving around but not much yet.

The deer are still around and crossing the roads a lot.

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone.

Happy 17th Birthday to Jackson Chevette on February 7.

Condolences to the family of Jack Adison.



Manitoulin votes!

...Michael Mantha, Independent

...continued from page 3

es to recognize, no matter how many times and ways they have been informed. I know these problems well from my many meetings with hospital administrators and primary care teams across the riding.

The North lacks family physicians, specialists, surgeons, nurse practitioners and nurses. Hospital administrators have no choice but to rely on for-profit staffing agencies that charge 2-3 times more than permanent full-time workers. This results in staff doing the same job with extreme wage differentials, leading to resentment and job retention issues. Financially, this is just not sustainable.

In addition, Northern Ontario is desperately short of homecare workers like PSWs. Without a permanent local workforce, seniors are not getting the support they need to stay in their homes, further stressing our hospitals with overcrowding.

Northern hospitals lack the funding to meet their communities' needs. Doug Ford and his Health Ministers would have you believe that they have increased hospital funding by 30 percent. However, when you factor in inflation and rising costs, this increase drops to just 20 percent over seven years. In some cases, the funding has not kept pace with inflation.

Let's be clear about what these cuts mean to Northerners: the lack of adequate funding means staffing shortages and service reductions, putting patients' lives at risk. Under this Conservative government,

...David Timeriski, Ontario NDP

...continued from page 3

so often. I want to give a shout out to the many behind-the-scenes workers who support front-line staff—technicians, administrative support, dietitians, cleaning staff, food prep workers and more. It takes a team of top-notch professionals to deliver the physical and mental health care we need in each of our communities.

You may be thinking that all of these qualified workers cost money. Yes, they do. While the Ford government has found the money for pet projects like getting alcohol into convenience stores, healthcare has been severely underfunded—starved in fact. In 2016, under a Liberal government, 1.3 million Ontarians were without a family doctor—177,210 just in Northern Ontario. By July 2024, this rose to 2.5 million. With many of our family physicians being over 65, the Ontario College of Family Physicians predicts that more than 4 million Ontarians will be without a family doctor by 2026.

At the Healthcare Town Hall held by the Algoma-Manitoulin ONDP on January 12 I heard the concerns about closures, staff shortages, and the difficulty of getting long-term/home care loud and clear. These issues came up at the Ontario Health Coalition meeting last week and in Thessalon on Saturday. I appreciate the sharing of personal experiences and, as a paramedic, I have seen these difficulties first-hand.

We New Democrats believe it doesn't have to be this way. We deserve reliable access to health care; it is a core Canadian value. As an Ontario NDP candidate, I am committed to publicly funded, publicly delivered health care. We have a plan to:

Expand Primary Care Access: Connect every Ontarian to a family doctor/nurse practitioner by recruiting more healthcare professionals into community-based primary care teams.

...Assiginack Township hires a private firm for winter roads

...continued from page 3

have the human resources to handle the winter workload," continued Mr. Hobbs. "So, we entered into a short-term contract with Corbiere Brothers of

M'Chigeeng First Nation for winter snowplowing, sanding and salting of roads, and other winter public works duties."

Mr. Hobbs was asked whether hiring the local company and having

three public works will mean a cost to municipal ratepayers. "My answer is that we will know at the end of the winter. Depending on the winter we have and to deliver services. For now, we are saving

the costs on salaries with three crew members having resigned, but we are paying the short-term contract. Like any yearly winter maintenance operation, it depends on how good or how bad a winter we have, for instance wear on trucks and how much Corbiere Brothers is needed to help out to get us through the winter."

...transport loads of free food, more to come

...continued from page 3

the pallets of food on the transport trucks.

Those arriving were directed into a line where volunteers asked how many households and people were represented by each vehicle. Bins containing foods ranging from canned goods to fresh vegetables, to meats and dairy products, were eagerly snapped up by visitors throughout the day.



Ian Gibbons, senior manager food recovery and logistics with Second Harvest (left) and his colleague Dan Collins, Second Harvest senior operations manager flank Jamie Fitchett of Helping Hands Family Missions out of Sudbury during the food giveaway held at the NEMI Recreation Centre last week.

Northern hospitals are operating with growing deficits, leaving them unable to invest and grow with their communities.

In addition to doctor and health worker shortages and across-the-board inadequate healthcare funding, Northerners face challenges in affording travel costs when they must go to larger centres for treatment.

The creation of the Northern Health Travel Grant brought significant relief to people who have to travel for medical purposes. But, after being implemented in 1985, the benefits and support were almost forgotten as rates stagnated. After the initial launch, the mileage rate didn't rise until 2007, when it was brought to 34 cents per kilometre.

When re-elected in 2022, I immediately introduced legislation to review the travel grant to determine how it could be improved with necessary modernization and increased rates. My team focused on raising this issue's profile with the government and rallying Northerners to push for change.

As a result, on December 1, 2024, the grant application was simplified by removing the need to have a family physician sign the application, the number of accommodation nights was raised to 8, the minimum travel distance was lowered, and the 100-kilometer deductible was removed.

Ontario can't afford to continue with this government's policy of deliberately starving the healthcare sector. Their actions demonstrate a clear bent toward the privatization of our public healthcare system.

Cut Wait Times: Create a centralized referral system to reduce wait times and open underused operating rooms on evenings and weekends to clear surgical backlogs.

Ensure Fair Wages: Establish wage parity and fair working conditions for healthcare workers and stop for-profit staffing agencies from exploiting the system. This will keep workers here in Algoma-Manitoulin with good jobs.

Grow the workforce: Increase residency seats and licensing opportunities for internationally educated doctors and healthcare workers.

Stand up for public health care, and reverse Ford's sell-off of our healthcare system to profiteers.

The New Democratic Party has always understood the importance of healthcare: a healthy society is a productive society, where people work to support their families and enjoy a good life. Here in the north, we need access to better facilities that are fully staffed by workers who have the supports they need so we can have: our babies close to home without having to spend three weeks living in another community; our elders are able to live at home for as long as possible with supports far less expensive than being in hospital far from loved ones; and quality medical care in our communities that help us avoid travel on winter highways

Ours is a long-term plan to stop selling off pieces of public healthcare built by past generations. It will take some work to breathe life back into the neglected parts of our healthcare system, but as your Ontario NDP candidate, I am up to the challenge. With Marit Stiles, our team is ready to make good decisions to ensure we have quality healthcare across Ontario. I'm proud to say that bringing a deep commitment to better healthcare in Algoma-Manitoulin would be my top priority as MPP.

To meet the needs of Northern residents, the government needs to drop this one-size-fits-all approach. To rescue our healthcare system, I will push the next government to immediately: Enact the dedicated Northern Ontario Health Equity Strategy, created in 2018 but never implemented; increase base funding for small hospitals in rural communities by 10 percent; recognize that the North faces unique challenges in delivering healthcare (i.e., large service areas and limited public services) and allocate resources to primary care accordingly; and implement legislation to protect our public healthcare system by limiting the use of for-profit staffing agencies and their fees.

Fixing Our Felines Manitowaning

Great News!

We are thrilled to announce that timid, tender Tawny has an adoption pending. Media exposure from the weekly Expositor newspaper and our Facebook page helps all of our kitties find their 'forever' homes.

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 4 PM - 10 PM

...Family faces multiple tragedies

"The goal of the GoFundMe fundraising campaign is \$20,000," said Nancy, who moved to Garson in 2004 and married Charlie in 2006. If things weren't hard enough on the family, Nancy sent an email last Friday, noting "Just a little update. We need a new furnace. Costing almost \$9,000."

Cedar Chalet/Loco Beanz Manitoوانing, Stop 540 Diner, Buzwah Fisheries, Manitouslin Trout Farms Inc., Buie's Grocery, Gamiing, Gas & Convenience, McQuarrie Motor Products, Dr. Bryn Casson Dentistry, Guardian Pharmacy Little Current, Manitoوانing Freshmart, Manitouslin Hotel & Conference Centre. Prepped Manitouslin. White's Shell, plus some anonymous donors.

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...New Island-wide ‘come-to-you’ program for addiction help

...continued from page 1

outreach.

Ms. Patterson, a settler with a background in mental health, acknowledged the systemic failures in Western models of care. “The expectation that people will come to us—that’s a very Western concept. But if we want to help, we have to go to them. We have to build relationships.”

On Manitoulin Island, Wiidokaage Waabandan has conducted door-to-door wellness checks and trained nearly 100 households in Naloxone administration, empowering communities to respond to opioid overdoses immediately. Their success is not just in harm reduction but in rebuilding trust—an essential but often overlooked element of healing.

Empowering Youth
Brooke Debassige, the organization’s youth prevention lead, followed Ms. Patterson’s remarks with an impassioned plea for a shift in how communities support young people.

“Indigenous youth don’t need more guidance,” Ms. Debassige said. “They need support.”

She explained the difference: guidance assumes authority, dictating what youth should do. Support, on the other hand, empowers them to explore their own strengths and make their own informed decisions.

“We tell young people what to do because we think we’re protecting them,” she said. “But real protection comes from creating spaces where they feel safe enough to figure things out for themselves.”

Ms. Debassige spoke about the importance of listening to youth rather than prescribing solutions. “When we sit down and actually listen to what youth are saying, instead of assuming we know what’s best for them, that’s when we start to make a real impact.” She emphasized that many Indigenous youth face systemic barriers that go beyond individual choices. “It’s not just about making the right decisions—it’s about whether they even have access to opportunities to make those decisions in the first place.”

She highlighted how young people often feel unheard and dismissed. “They have ideas, they have dreams and they have solutions. We need to create spaces where they can share those ideas without fear of judgment.”

The Power of Presence and Safe Spaces

Ms. Patterson illustrated the impact of these relationships with a simple scenario: a person in crisis walks into a health centre, yelling, agitated, maybe even violent. The usual response? Security, police,

emergency services. But what if that same person had a familiar face in the room? Someone who had already spent time with them, who had shown up at their home, who had listened without judgment?

“That mere presence can de-escalate a crisis,” she explained. “Because relationships are the foundation of healing.”

Ms. Debassige reinforced this point by discussing the necessity of safe spaces for Indigenous youth. “A safe space doesn’t just mean a building with a sign on it. It means a place where youth know they are welcome, where they know they won’t be judged or punished for being themselves.”

She challenged leaders in the room to rethink



Brooke Debassige is the Wiidokaage Waabandan youth prevention lead.

their approach. “Are we actually making space for youth? Or are we just trying to fit them into systems that weren’t built for them?”

Challenging the System, Changing the Approach

Both Ms. Patterson and Ms. Debassige underscored the importance of challenging outdated policies that create barriers to care. The nine-to-five model doesn’t work for people in crisis. Funding should not be tied to emergency declarations. And hiring criteria must be rethought to include those with lived experience, even if they don’t have formal education or clear criminal records.

“The justice system is a Western system,” Ms. Patterson said bluntly. “And

if you get caught at the wrong place, at the wrong time, that shouldn’t mean you’re unqualified to help others. Some of the most gifted healers I’ve met are people who have struggled themselves.”

Ms. Debassige echoed this sentiment. “We need to stop seeing youth as problems to be solved and start recognizing them as the solutions we’ve been waiting for.”

Their message was clear: change is not just necessary—it’s possible.

And as the room filled with applause, it was evident that their words had not just been heard, but deeply felt.

To contact Wiidokaage Waabandan email mikhaylap@wiidokaagewaabandan.com or call 705-210-1511.



WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION

Wii doo kaa din

Giizhgak Carnival

Tuesday, February 11
6-9 p.m. - Cribbage and Scrabble
Community Centre

Wednesday, February 12
6-9 p.m. - Euchre Tournament
Community Centre

Thursday, February 13
5:30 - 8 p.m. - Carnival Gala
Snow Baby Pageant
Awesome Auntie & Deadly Uncle
Nookomis and Mishomis
Carnival King and Queen

Friday, February 14
5-7 p.m. - Family Skating Party

7-11 p.m. - Casino Night
Community Centre
Adults - 18+

Canteen
Saturday - breakfast, lunch, dinner Sunday
at lunch
**LNHL Fundraising

Saturday: Face painting, candy apples,
balloon animals, popcorn and cotton candy.
Sponsored by Chief and Council.

Saturday, February 15
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Fishing Derby and Poker Run
McGregor Bay

9 am - 11 a.m. - Colouring Contest, Tattoo Booth
and Fish Pond

9 am - 3 p.m. - Tea Boiling at Fire Hall.

2 - 4 p.m. - Slapshot Contest at Community
Rink

12 - 4 p.m. - Backhoe Rodeo at the Fire Hall

12 - 4 p.m. - Log Sawing Contest at the Fire Hall

Anishnaabe Aadiziwin Amazing Race - time to
be determined

7 - 10 p.m. - Family Dance

Sunday, February 16
8:30 am - 10:30 am - Breakfast
(first 150 people)

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Family Prize Bingo

Other: Snow Sculpture Contest, Pet Contest,
Crown and Anchors, and Family Photos

Aambe!!

Manitoulin Secondary School's Musical Theatre Program
Presents

MAMMA MIA!

Friday, Feb. 147pm

Friday, Feb. 217pm

Saturday, Feb. 152pm

Saturday, Feb. 222pm

Tickets \$20

Available at the door or in advance
Gore Bay IDA, Mindemoya, Manitowaning &
Little Current Guardian Pharmacies
Also online
bit.ly/MammaMiaMSS



...Island snowmobile trails open

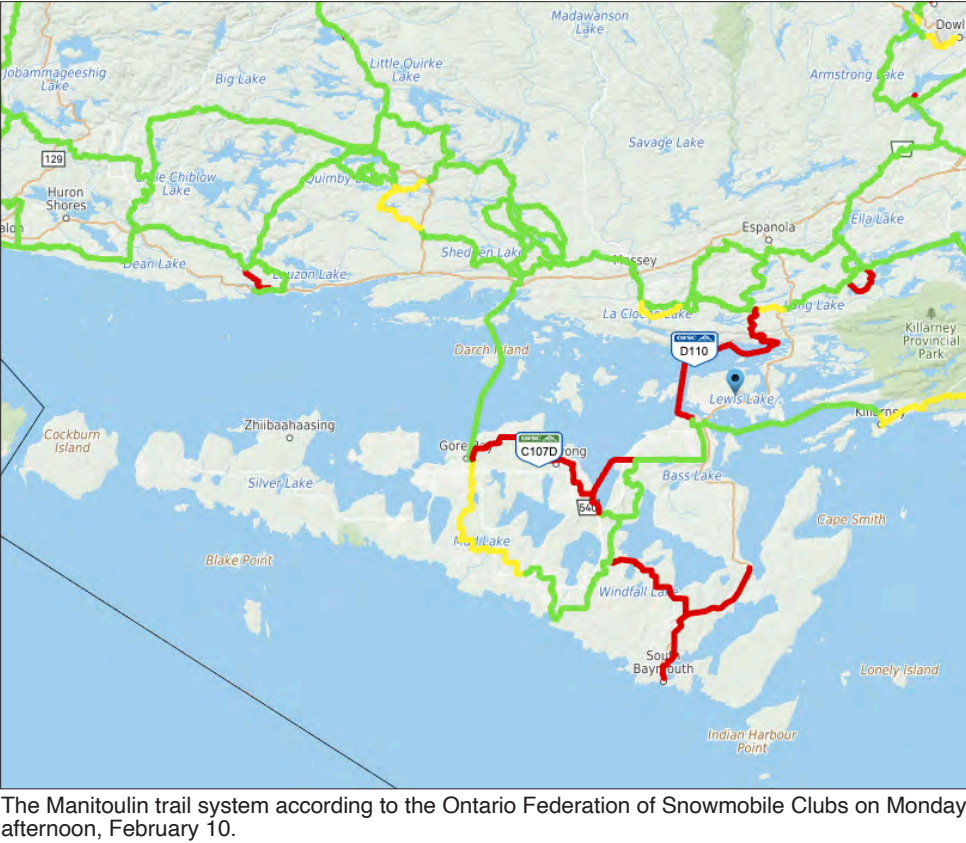
...continued from page 1

Snowmobilers from Gore Bay and area can hook up to the trails in Spring Bay, Providence Bay and Mindemoya, or they can go the Kagawong, M’Chi-geeng route, said Mr. Dewar. He pointed out the east end of the Island is good with all trails being groomed and open.

“The picket line from Gore Bay to Spanish is open and is being given the green light (by the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs), which is big for us,” said Mr. Dewar. The picket line is also in place between Little Current and Killarney, and from the west side of Little Current to Red Deer Village to connect to Whitefish River First Nation and Espanola.”

Mr. Dewar said that while everything is looking good all local and visiting snowmobilers to Manitoulin should check the OFSC Interactive Trail Guide on the Go Snowmobiling Ontario app before venturing out, as trail conditions can change quickly due to weather.

The trails open also presents a good opportunity to take part in the Todd “TC” Corbiere Memorial Poker Chip Run (available by car too). For full details, please see the ad on Page 8.



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Three local women united over their vintage 1940s sewing machines. The three ladies, Nancy Lynn, Susan Hart and Evelyn Santos gathered at the latter's home recently.

Friendship stitched together: Tehkummah women unite over vintage sewing machines

by Jennifer Graham
TEHKUMMAH—Three local women gathered at Evelyn Santos' home in Tehkummah February 1 to breathe new life into their vintage 1940s sewing machines.

"I thought this was neat," stated Jennifer Graham, Ms. Santos' daughter. "Think about men with their car shows and ladies with sewing machines."

Ms. Santos hosted friends Nancy Lynn from Mindemoya and Susan Hart, also from Tehkummah, for an afternoon of sewing, treats and storytelling.

The 'Sewing Circle' transformed Ms. Santos' kitchen room into a cozy workshop filled with colourful fabrics. The centrepiece was their cherished Singer sewing machines, family heirlooms. "These machines have a lot of history," said Ms. Santos.

The group decided to work on individual projects that would symbolize their talents. Each woman contributed unique fabrics, reflecting their stories.

As the humming of the machines could be heard, the ladies reminisced about their first sewing experiences and shared tips. "There's something special about working with a machine that has so much character," Ms. Santos noted.

As the day ended, the ladies admired their progress and discussed future gatherings to inspire others in the community. "We should encourage more people to learn this craft," said Ms. Lynns.

This gathering highlights the power of community and the joy of sewing together. With their vintage sewing machines, Evelyn, Nancy and Susan are weaving a lasting tapestry of friendship.

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THE WEEKLY WORD SEARCH

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SWEETHEARTS WORD SEARCH

Q C H O C O L A T E S T V L C C O M S S

E T H P T N L S R V B Y A B Q Q N V S N

T W U D N E I R F L R I G I U Y G R R C

A R E U D N E I R F Y O B S B F P E R L

R O N T B T V D G R D I O B W F H P B T

B G A C L B H S L N D R B G E L I P F R

E M M I P P E E J I I I Y B I H O P I N

L Y O T A Q W R N F F V R N S F A V D F

E L R N J E L N U Y T R U O N F C T F E S

C N E A J F E M Y T A Q O L A R V S L I

F Q D M O R F V N R S I Q R F A P J N D

S M D O V B O T Y V T E D F L R D V T N

V H I R M M Y Y M A A S G E O Y O J N W

V V Q C S T N N L U W O N P W J R S T Q

W B S M Q R J E R S S T O I N L S T E B

W O S D L A R B B D I S L R Q U O S W S

C H S D T E C U Y N A I M D E M U U D S

M T V O L H M R E L I G M E E O T A V P

C L L P I S E I V O M B J R P N T I H H

O Y P G P B O U Q U E T V S L E A Y D N

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

BOUQUET

BOYFRIEND

CARDS

CELEBRATE

CHOCOLATES

DATE

DINNER

ENAMELED

FEBRUARY

GESTURE

GIFTS

GIRLFRIEND

HEART

JEWELRY

LOVE

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RED

RELATIONSHIP

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We just recently lost our beloved family pet Mama cat of 19 years, so Adele wanted to remember her Valentine:

Memories of Mama Cat

I love my Mama cat, all those memories were amazing!! It was sad to see her getting older. I'm getting colder every time I remember her. She was a good girl, and when her tail would swirl, I would know she was happy. She would shine and I was fine. But on that day I saw her, I knew it was time and she was mine. There for my entire life, she heard me sing, laugh and cry. We were set up for success together. Mama always lifted my spirit. We were there for each other and I will always remember her. Now she's in heaven, and hopefully meeting my Great Grandmas Gladys and Lois who love cats. Goodbye Mama cat, you are the love of my life. Until we meet again, my Valentine.

Adele Bishop, age 12
Espanola

Rainbows

Our mark. Our symbol.
Our quiet way of letting others know
this is a safe place for you
to be yourself.
You are valued here.
One in the sisterhood of many.
God's white light,
dissected into all the colours
of the rainbow.
Each one is unique and special.
Together we shine white
in God's eyes,
Perfect.

Brenda Dewar
Bay Estates



Valentine's Day Special
Pre-order a flower box with your choice of drink for yourself or that special someone. \$30 includes a large drink with the flower box. Flowers will vary with each box. Limited quantity available. Pre orders open today!
Message or call us at 705-368-2261



please join us for
Valentine's Dinner
Friday, February 14
\$38 per person
*Mimosas
*Sweetheart Salad for 2
*3 sisters soup
*Bannock Bites
*Choice of (All You Can Eat Pasta Bar, 10oz Hand Carved Ribeye, Manitoulin Pan Fried Whitefish)
Dessert:
Our Homemade NY STYLE Cheesecake or Homemade "Death By Chocolate" cake
Strawberry Carved Roses
705-368-9966
Manitoulin Hotel - Conference Centre
66 Meredith Street, Little Current

Expositor readers wax eloquent for Valentine's Day

Life's Treasures

My love is like a briar patch
All thorny and prickly is she
But I wouldn't have her any other way
For she's the love for me.
She's my spice of life,
My oregano and thyme,
She keeps me on my toes
And brings me love divine.
Against my foes, fiercely does she defend me
And just as fiercely do I hold her tight;
She warms my bed with love so fine
And keeps my kitchen bright.
She's close beside me when it come to decisions
hard and right.
This love we share will always be
The treasure of my life.

Lorna Cambria
Silver Water

To my lovely Fiance

To be loved by you is leaving the lights low
When you get ready for work,
while I sleep in and you go
To love you is to always know
I never have to do the dishes or take out the trash,
You can handle it all with love in tow.
To know you is to see a future so true,
A day when I'll marry and spend life with you.
To be yours has been the sweetest of days,
Filling my heart in the most loving ways.
Never leaving without a goodbye kiss so sweet.
A love like yours, no other can beat.

Taylor



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VALENTINE'S DAY
midwinter mingle
FEBRUARY 14TH, 2025
COFFEE | MUSIC | SNACKS
2 - 4 PM AT THE PROVIDENCE BAY HALL
11 MUTCHMOR ST., PROVIDENCE BAY, ON
THIS EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY:
Friends of the Mindemoya Old School

Simple Things

Warm cups of coffee,
On a cold winter's eve.
Conversation flows easily,
A connection I gladly receive.
We both love to read,
We compare books for days.
A literary podcast,
On the radio along our way.
In the evening two guitars,
The stress of life music suspends,
A nice way to unwind,
At a hectic day's end.
The beauty of nature eclipsed only by you,
On this Island we call home.
Warmth and joy to my soul,
The sunshine does roam.
The wonder of northern lights,
Reflected on an inland lake.
We walk along a tree-lined trail,
Serenity increases with each step we take.
All the simple things in life we share:
A hot cup of coffee,
A heartfelt tune,
A good book to read,
A walk under a starry sky,
And a frosty winter moon.

by Emily Deegan and Dan Manitowabi

Kissing the Clown

I have commandeered
the step stool
on which my beloved often stands
to negotiate the difference
in our height.
Seated on it,
I wait in her intended path
having framed myself
with the salvaged window sash
I've just restored to bare elements
for a cunning new piece she will soon devise.
I hold it slightly askew,
thinking a rakish angle
will somehow enhance my tableau.
She approaches:
Puzzled first,
and then delighted,
she stoops to plant a playful kiss.
But the aches of a too-long day
suspend her in mid swoop;
and I, freeze-framed
by the immutable laws of portraiture,
cannot rise to meet her.
I call for a dissolve
and we tumble into laughter,
assured that love
holds our disparate lives
together.

Jacob Hogeterp



Join us for a romantic
Valentine's Dinner
at Seasons Restaurant in M'Chigeeng
Prime Rib
Chicken Cordon Bleu
Steak
Dinner from 4pm - 8pm
Regular Menu Available
(705) 377-4344
Call for reservations, but not required

Direction

Plotting and dead reckoning
Where do I head?
Toward the horizon
or the lighthouse instead?
The water is deep
in this vast lake:
I'm in the North Channel
which route do I take?
Head for Barrie Island
or the Jubilee Shoal?
East or North,
Where should I go?
There is a stone pile
where I'll take my position;
I'll head to Cook's Dock
now I'm on a mission.
I'll look at the map
and see where I'm going
to my true love
whose heart I am following.
I'm heading home
to my mate.
I'll mark my log
on course this date!

Melody Hore
Evansville

To Brian

Two hearts
One couple
Two people
One life
Two hope
One family
35 years
One love
A simple concept,
A lifetime of joy.

Love, Karen

Karen McGregor

Wrestling the Ambiguity of Affection

A winter wind blows down the line
while you're left seeing red.
And the scent of summer roses
is easily left for dead.
Yet,
stranded on this shipwreck night
my sky is always blue.
'Cause i think of you
and feel for you.
Nothing
but true love.

Ahhhhh.....

I think of you and feel for you,
Nothing but true love.

Craig Mclean

And the winner is!

Untitled

After years of living in fight or flight,
I had trudged through endless night
With scars that whispered tales of pain
And memories that cut like rain.

Each touch before—a sharpened blade,
Each word a lie, each smile a fade.
I learned to brace, to guard, to fight,
To know the darkness, not the light.

But then you came, like morning's hue,
The quiet calm of a sky so blue
With eyes that saw beyond the scars
And hands that healed from near and far.

You pulled me close, a steady grace,
Rebuilding trust, no need to chase;
In every gesture, soft and kind
You began to ease my mind.

The weight of hurt, the fear, the rage,
Melted away upon your stage.
Each time you spoke, your voice felt like home
Something I had never known

In your embrace the world stood still.
A place where silence always heals.
Your touch, a refuge warm and deep,
A promise made, no need to weep.

You taught me what it means to rest,
To lay my heart upon your chest,
To feel the pulse of love unfold,
A sensation far more tender than bold.

Courtney Pitawanakwat

Happy Valentine's Day

I send this message with
Love, hugs and kisses
to you in heaven that
I Love and miss you.
I'm sharing this message in
loving memory of my son
who has passed away. I miss you,
I think about you and
you are forever in my heart.
Gone but never forgotten
I Love You,
Mom

Bonnie Fogal

Valentines

When you meet that one person,
And a spark is ignited,
As the flame grows stronger,
And you feel delighted,

Your only wish,
Is to be by their side,
The love that you feel,
Is so hard to hide,

You walk down life's road,
Proudly holding their hand,
As the hourglass of time,
Slowly sifts through its sand,

The decades do pass,
But your love never dies,
You both remain close,
As sure as there are stars in the skies,

Ron Zinger



Elliott's Restaurant
Valentine's Dinner
Starter
// Creamy tomato & basil soup with parmesan crisps
// Apple & feta salad
Entree
// Scallops with a creamy bacon sauce, chives, cauliflower puree and peas #37
// Striploin steak with twice baked loaded potato, broccoli & beets \$45
// Heart shaped chees ravioli in a rose sauce with garlic toast \$28
Dessert
// We will have a large variety of fresh baked desserts available all week
705-368-3370

Finding Love Again

We were young, we were blessed,
We found love, had the best!

We built our lives, our families, our homes,
We travelled the world, from mountains to foams.
Life was an adventure with the loves of our lives,
We had it all and more with each of our wives.

We thought time together would never end,
Sadly, not the case for us and our best friends.
The price of love, broken hearts and grief,
How to go on in crushing disbelief.

We know our first loves watch from above,
And orchestrated us meeting with a gentle shove.
Life is a journey and meant to be lived,
The heart is resilient with much love to give.
Thankful are we for the new love we found,
A true special gift for the second time round.

We are older now, still blessed
Found love again, living life to our best.

Laurie Masters and Heather Watts

To my wife with love

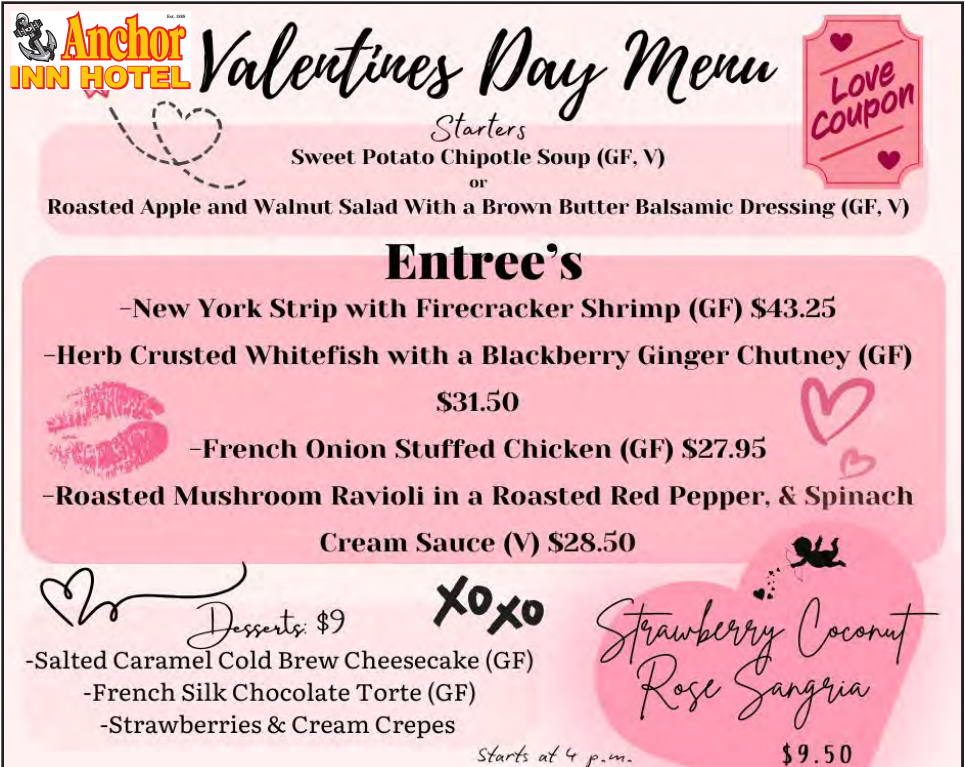
Greeting me always with a smile
You're an excellent mother and wife
So lucky to walk with you mile by mile
Never could have dreamt to have such a life.

For all you do for the children and me
As we age and our hair turns grey
The love in your eyes is easy to see
I'll be with you day after day.

With you by my side, I stand tall and proud.
You lighting up the room is nothing new.
I have feelings I may not say out loud
So happy to be making these memories with you

Nobody else in this world can measure
You in my life is the ultimate treasure!

Chris Kennedy



Anchor INN HOTEL
Valentines Day Menu
Starters
Sweet Potato Chipotle Soup (GF, V)
or
Roasted Apple and Walnut Salad With a Brown Butter Balsamic Dressing (GF, V)
Entree's
-New York Strip with Firecracker Shrimp (GF) \$43.25
-Herb Crusted Whitefish with a Blackberry Ginger Chutney (GF) \$31.50
-French Onion Stuffed Chicken (GF) \$27.95
-Roasted Mushroom Ravioli in a Roasted Red Pepper, & Spinach Cream Sauce (V) \$28.50
Desserts: \$9
-Salted Caramel Cold Brew Cheesecake (GF)
-French Silk Chocolate Torte (GF)
-Strawberries & Cream Crepes
Strawberry Coconut Rose Sangria
Starts at 4 p.m. \$9.50



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at Whitefish River First Nation
in Recognition of
International Women’s Day

Guest Speakers • Luncheon
Self Care • Educational Resources
• Community Partners •
& more



MFR Facebook

Please call or text Grace
to register at 705-348-1072



MFR Instagram

We look forward to welcoming you!
#IWD2025

Little Feather fashions walk the NY catwalk

by Bonnie Kogos
NEW YORK, NY—This past New York Fashion Week 2025 was so busy and exciting, nonstop with presentations on runways and TV and in the newspapers.

For The Expositor, I was thrilled to attend the remarkable and fabulous show produced by RUNWAY 7 at Sony Hall on West 46th Street.

Show producer John Martinez, in his seventh year, brought an exciting array of international and global fashion brands for four busy days. “Our expansive lifestyle marketplace includes designers and guests ranging from fashion and art to design and music and we strive for excellence in representing these must-see shows and performances,” Mr. Martinez wrote in his introduction.

On Sunday, I sat among hundreds of enthusiastic young people, buyers, artists, reporters and photographers from around the world.

Gordie Odjig had phoned me from Manitoulin to tell me his dear daughter Tashina, with her models, would present perhaps 10 or more designs on the runway. Of course, I had to get there!

Yes, what made it especially wonderful and interesting is that charming, young designer Tashina Migwans Odjig, of Little Feather Couture, is one of the fresh new clothing designers whose



This stunning multicoloured coat was a big hit during the Little Feather show on a New York City catwalk. New York has long been the epicentre of American fashion,
photos by Bonnie Kogos

designs were presented on the runway on Sunday.

Tashina grew up on Manitoulin and now lives and works in Toronto. She graduated from The Fashion Exchange Program at George Brown College.

Attending for The Expositor, I was delighted to be in the enthusiastic au-

dience at Sony Hall. While the line was ultra-long to get in, luckily I had a media pass and was able to get right in.

Descending to the auditorium, I passed many beautiful young people, all seeming fashionistas, in elegant clothing, dramatic make-up, many car-
...continued on page 17

Debajehmujig Storytellers Presents



Maamwi

A Traditional Storytelling Production

FEB 12,13,14,15,19,20,21,22 @ 7:00PM MATINEES: FEB 14, 21 @1:00PM

Sliding Scale Admission: \$10-\$50 Recommended: \$25 Per Person

Debajehmujig Creation Centre, 43 Queen St, Manitowaning
Larry E. Lewis Studio

RSVP 705.859.2317 or STORYTELLERS@DEBAJ.CA




Online Reservations Scan QR code



Debajehmujig Storytellers

DEBAJEHMUJIG

storytellers



PRESS RELEASE

DEBAJEHMUJIG THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS: MAAMWI

Debajehmujig Storytellers is proud to present our ensemble creation titled “MAAMWI” (considered “Together” in Anishnabemowin) opening on February 12, 2025 at 7:00 pm. The work will be presented in the Larry E. Lewis studio within the Debajehmujig Creation Centre, located at 43 Queen Street in Manitowaning. The production will run from Wednesday through Saturday evenings, from February 12 to February 22, 2025. Additionally, matinee performances will occur on Friday, February 14 and Friday, February 21, 2025 at 1:00 pm.

This unique work draws on the ancestral knowledge of the Odawa Midewin Foundation teachings, which connect us all as Creators beings, and brings us together.

The work is directed by Bruce Naokwegijig, and will be featuring (in alphabetical order) Daniel Recollet Mejaki, Dustin Trudeau, Richard Ashley Manitowabi, Sapper Wemigwans, Tabitha Peltier and Tyler Pangowish. Set design, props and lighting designed by Cadence Peltier Pangowish, David Plant, David Osawabine, Ethan Mejaki and Quinten Kaboni.

Doors will open 30 minutes in advance. Light refreshments will be provided. The show is approximately 45 minutes to one hour in length, and is suitable for family audiences, with children from 9 years and up.

Debajehmujig has introduced a sliding scale which ensures access to arts is equitable by ensuring varying income levels have a price which aligns with financial situations—which reduce barriers of entry for people. We aim to promote inclusivity and social engagement. General Admission is a sliding scale from \$10.00 to \$50.00 per ticket.

Debajehmujig (Debaj) is a First Nations theatre group and multi-arts organization based in Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, one of seven area First Nations, located on Manitoulin Island, in Northern Ontario. It is known to be the first professional theatre group located on a reserve in Canada. The organization was founded by Shirley Cheechoo, Blake Debassige-ba and a group of like-minded colleagues in the summer of 1984. It has been set up to be a non-share, non-profit organization, with interests to assist Native artist development, preserve and promote the essence of native culture in an arts field.

FOR RELEASE AT 9AM, 01.30.25

8 Debajehmujig Lane
Wikwemikong, Ontario P0P 2J0

lynda.trudeau@debaj.ca
www.debaj.ca

...Wiikwemkoong’s Little Feather fashions walk the New York catwalk

...continued from page 16

rying cameras, all excited to be here.

The auditorium had a long, large walkway in the middle with seats on either side, and such enthusiastic people seated and standing. Lots of noise, chat and music; all happy and excited.

People were colourfully dressed and there had to be hundreds of people with cameras, notebooks and of course, cell phones! Moving through the polite crowd, I was lucky to find a seat at a table next to other reporters and photographers.

While waiting for Tashina’s presentation, I talked to people from Seattle, Detroit, Toronto, and Haiti. I looked through the fancy full-coloured program, which listed every presenter and the celebrity guests who attended each day. Presenters came from many countries, I saw presentations from New Zealand and Mexico, waiting for Tashina from Ontario.

Sitting next to photographer Najee Bell, who had three working cameras, who told me, “I’ve attended every day, and it’s been a great experience. There were so many people the first day, the fire marshal had to clear us out and bring us back in again!” Najee said. “And to see the designs as the models walk down the runway has been inspiring. There’s so much innovation and talent in



Tashina Migwans Odjig gets a big hug from author Bonnie Kogos following Ms. Odjig’s debut on a New York fashion catwalk.

fashion taking place!”

Aha, finally the music began, presenting the models from Little Feather Couture. Oh, to see the distinctively beautiful red jacket, outfits, dresses, skirts and pants on Tashina’s models as each glided down the runway. Her fashions were elegant, (and I, who has bought so many Manitoulin jackets, could “feel” Manitoulin beginnings, I thought happily, in these clothes...) Hmm. could she make that coat in my size?

As the models paraded and ended their walk, Tashina came out to great

applause as we all stood snapping pictures. By five dazzling minutes, it was over.

I was thrilled to be there, sat quietly awhile, and then went upstairs. Luckily, Tashina was in the lobby with her beautiful crew, and I was honoured to meet her. Of course I take a photo.

After, we went out to busy, supremely well-lit Times Square and people gathered in front of them, happy to take their picture. I chatted with her wonderful cousin G’Mewin Migwans, who I loved watching dance last summer at OCF.



The New York catwalk saw as many as 10 of Tashina Odjig (Little Feather) designs greeted with acclaim.

We can be so proud of Tashina and her beautiful, practical designs. With Little Feather Cou-

ture, she has now become an international designer. How we continue to share and grow, from

Manitoulin and Toronto to Manhattan.

On your side
De votre côté

David Timeriski

Algoma-Manitoulin

ONTARIO
NDP  **NPD**

Authorized by the CFC for/Autorisé par le CFC pour David Timeriski



Manitoulin votes!

Meet the candidates of Algoma-Manitoulin


Wednesday, February 12
Mindemoya Community Hall
6:30 pm


Meet the candidates representing our riding in the upcoming provincial election and ask questions important to you.

Moderator: Neil Debassige

Refreshments

Brought to you by:







Seeds are in stock!

Start planning your garden.

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Legion Branch 177 hosts public speaking competition for grade school students

by Margery Frisch
LITTLE CURRENT—Once again, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 177 was filled with students and families, gathered for their annual public speaking event. This year, 13 students took part, all

from the Little Current Public School. Charles Adam was MC while his wife Carmen and Lin Diebel were the scrutineers. The judges, Michael Erskine, Linda Erskine and John Diebel, were given a strict

set of criteria by which to judge the speakers. If they stood rigidly while delivering their speech, it cost them. Going over the allotted time, or under it, cost the speaker (except for those in Grades 1 to 3). There were a few jitters



Little Current Legion Youth Chair Charles Adam with the three first place winners, Junior Rowan McGale, Intermediate Piper McGale and Senior Ada Nicholls.

photo by Margery Frisch

and false starts, but all did their best and were well received. A wide variety of interesting topics, delivered with confidence and flare, made the afternoon an entertaining one. Topics ranged from hunting turkeys, to fishing, to running a half marathon, to being a twin and more. Once the scores were tallied, the four speakers in the grade one to three category ended up in this order: 1st place Rowan McGale; 2nd place

Rose Karn; 3rd place Evie O’Neil, and 4th place Avaryn Chapman. There were seven students competing in the Grades 4 to 7 category and they were: 1st Piper McGale; 2nd Lily Massicotte; 3rd Alvine Burnett; 4th Simon Fessenden, 5th Saviera Maracle, 6th Daniel Thibodeau and 7th Freddy Stephens. In the Grade 7 to 9 group, only two students competed: 1st place Ada Nicholls, and 2nd place Brooke Simon.

Fear of public speaking is real, and according to some statistics, over 77 percent of the population has some degree of anxiety when it comes to speaking in public, so, congratulations to all the brave students who took part. “They are all winners,” Linda Erskine said. The first-place winners now move on to the Lockerby Legion Branch 564 on Sunday, February 23. Best wishes to them in their next competition.

Assiginack events coordinator calls it a day

by Tom Sasvari
MANITOWANING—At a meeting last week Assiginack township council accepted the resignation of arena manager/events coordinator Jackie White. “This is certainly going to be a loss to the community,” stated Deputy Mayor Dwayne Elliott. “Jackie has been a great asset to the community.” “I will miss working with the community,” Ms. White told The Expositor. “I am really going to miss all the kids, adults and seniors in the community. You have no idea how good everyone in the community has been to me.” Ms. White has been the Assiginack arena manager/events coordinator for the past 10 years and said that she has enjoyed her work over the years. “When I have needed any type of help, all I have had to do is ask the community. I will

even have people who are going to Sudbury call me to ask if there is anything I need there, and say they will pick it up for me.” “The Assiginack Minor Hockey Association is one of the many groups I’ve worked with over the years. They are so good to work with,” said Ms. White. “Everyone in the community has been awesome. I know all of the kids from school (Assiginack Public School) and at the arena for hockey and other sports, and they don’t just say hello when I see them. They stop and engage in a conversation. The community has been awesome.” “I have always been very supportive of Jackie’s programming in her job. She also had so many good activities for everyone to take part in, which is good for physical fitness and good mental health,” added Councillor Elliott.

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17tfn

Manitoulin APS#1 School is looking for children's school desks. Please call 226-792-5240 if you are able to help.

37-40c



notice

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

Tfn

Knox United Church Rummage Sale in Manitowaning is open Wednesdays to Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm. Clothing, shoes, household, books and miscellaneous.

35-41p



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39-40p



church services

King James Bible Church, Providence Bay worships every Saturday Sabbath, 10 am to 12 noon. For more information call 705-348-2229.

30tfn

KJV Bible Study, every Monday night, 7 to 9 pm in Providence Bay. For more information, call 705-348-2229 or email kjc.manitoulin@gmail.com. All welcome.

4tfn

NOTICE

Attention

Jason Tappen and Susan Lanier:

Regarding the three boats stored at Hilly Acres Camp in Whitefish Falls, if storage fees are not paid by February 21, 2025, the boats will be **SOLD**.

Contact John Bond, Hilly Acres Camp


705-285-4226



coming events

Come one, come all to the Little Current United Church Hall on Friday, February 21 from 7 to 9 pm to enjoy George Williamson and colleagues for a night of entertainment. Non-perishable donation towards Manitoulin Family Resources Food Bank appreciated.



25tfn



coming events

Sweetheart luncheon sponsored by St. Paul's Anglican Church Women in Manitowaning on Wednesday, February 12. Serving homemade soup, crackers, sandwiches, veggies, pickles and dessert for \$10. Delivered to you within town limit at 11 am and available for pick-up at St. Paul's Church by out of town folks at 11 am. For tickets call 705-859-1212.

38-39p



Alexandra Wilson-Zegil

Happy Valentine's Day, Mustangs!

The first week after Semester 1 exams has wrapped up, so students and staff are settling into their new classes. This is their final semester at MSS for graduates, which means an exciting lineup of events is around the corner, including graduation, prom, and more. It's a bittersweet time,

but there's still plenty to look forward to!

On Friday, February 7, students showed off their school spirit by wearing their favourite jerseys for Jersey Day. It was great to see the halls filled with a variety of team colours and logos, especially with the Super Bowl last weekend!

Headstrong has two fantastic opportunities for students to relax and get creative! On Friday, February 7, they hosted a bracelet-making event at Three Fires common room during lunch. Students had the chance to take a break from their screens, make a unique bracelet and chat with friends.

Looking for another creative outlet? On March 19, during lunch, students can take part in a free watercolour painting workshop with Beam Paints. This event is limited to 15 students, and spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. To attend, students must sign up in Guidance before February 28.

Headstrong reminds students that painting is an excellent way to reduce anxiety and stress. It engages the creative side of the brain and helps focus attention, making it a fantastic mental health booster.

Love is in the air, and what better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than with a musical? MSS is proud to present Mamma Mia!, a performance featuring the songs of ABBA.

Show dates and times: February 14 at 7 pm; February 15 at 2 pm matinee; February 21 at 7 pm; and February 22 at 2 pm matinee.

Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at the Manitowaning, Little Current, and Mindemoya Guardian pharmacies, the Gore Bay IDA Pharmacy, or online at bit.ly/MammaMiaMSS. Don't miss out on this incredible show—bring your friends and family for an evening of music, dancing, and fun!

With so many events happening at MSS, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Whether you're getting involved in school spirit days, exploring your creativity with Headstrong, or singing along to ABBA! Until next time, go, Mustangs, go!



coming events

A luncheon and concert with the Norisle Choristers will be held at Knox United Church in Manitowaning on Saturday, February 15. Luncheon at 12 noon and concert to follow at 1:30 pm. Admission is \$15 for lunch and concert. Reservations are required; please call Donna at 705-859-2746 by Thursday, February 13.

38-39p



BOARD VACANCY
OFF-RESERVE REPRESENTATIVE

The Noojmowin Teg Health Centre Board of Directors seeks an application to fill a Board vacancy specific to First Nation members living off-reserve.

Noojmowin Teg Health Centre is comprised of a multi-disciplinary team of health professionals who provide community-based, integrated and on and off-site services that include: Traditional Healing and Cultural Support Services, Primary and Clinical Care Services, Mental Health and Addictions Services and Health and Wellness Programs and Services to the seven First Nations and off-reserve Anishinabek populations living within the Manitoulin Island District, Espanola and area.

Noojmowin Teg Health Centre is seeking one (1) board member that is interested in making a difference for Indigenous health; specifically, applicants must live off-reserve within the Manitoulin Island District and Espanola area. The off-reserve applicant will have familiarity with board governance, strategic organizational planning, funding and reporting requirements and experience in reviewing budgets is an asset.

The length of each term is four (4) years. The successful applicant must commit to attending monthly regularly scheduled board meetings, and other special meetings (annual general meeting, strategic planning, etc.) throughout the year, participating in up to 15 meetings per year.

For more information about the organization, please visit the website at: www.noojmowin-teg.ca.

Pre-requisites:

Please submit the following:

- Cover letter (outlining reasons for your interest and what strengths you bring to the board)
- Resume or description of experiences relevant to the position
- Three (3) relevant references with contact information
- Current and clear Criminal Reference Check
- Must be able to provide proof of Status

Send "Confidential" to:

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Ph.: 705-368-0083 ext. 235, Fax: 705-368-3922

Or email: debbie.francis@noojmowin-teg.ca

Deadline: Posting is open until filled

Miigwech/Thank you to those who express interest and submit an application. Only those under consideration will be contacted.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
CLIENT & FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Are you a current/former client who has accessed Noojmowin Teg Health Centre programs and services?

Are you a family member/caregiver of someone who has accessed Noojmowin Teg Health Centre programs/services?

Would you like the opportunity to provide your feedback to help improve the programs/services offered by Noojmowin Teg Health Centre?

Are you able to attend a minimum of four (4) meetings per year?

If you answered Yes to the above questions, the organization encourages you to complete and submit a Client & Family Advisory Committee Expression of Interest Application form.

Noojmowin Teg Health Centre is committed to partnering with clients and families to improve our services and care. We are currently recruiting clients and/or care givers of clients to join our Client & Family Advisory Committee to provide diverse insights into our health services delivery, priorities and programs.

Also, as a member of this Committee, you will be able to ensure that Noojmowin Teg Health Centre's work and strategic priorities are guided by lived experiences of Anishnabek peoples.

Individuals will be asked to serve a two-year term and come together a minimum of four (4) times a year to share their advice and insights into what quality health care looks like. Among the many issues the Client & Family Advisory Committee will discuss, its current priorities which include Mental Health and Addictions and Diabetes focused care. An honorarium will be provided for meetings attended.

The Noojmowin Teg Health Centre Client & Family Advisory Committee is currently seeking to fill the following representative roles:

1 – Women's Representative

1 – Men's Representative

1 – Elders Representative (age 55+)

1 – LGTBQ2S+ Representative

2 – Youth Representatives (age 16-29)

For more information or if you have any questions regarding the Expression of Interest process, please contact:


Debbie Francis, Executive Director

Noojmowin Teg Health Centre

Email: debbie.francis@noojmowin-teg.ca

Phone: (705) 368-0083 Ext. 235

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Visit Noojmowin-Teg.ca to obtain a copy of the Client & Family Advisory Committee Expression of Interest form or request one by emailing info@noojmowin-teg.ca.

Manitoulin’s own Al Douglas leads climate resilience efforts with federal funding

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre,
Local Journalism Initiative
reporter

SUDBURY—Communities across Northern Ontario are set to benefit from new federal funding aimed at tackling the growing challenges of climate change. The Government of Canada has announced an investment of over \$2.7 million in five projects designed to strengthen climate resilience, including initiatives led by Manitoulin’s Al Douglas, president of the Climate Risk Institute. The funding comes as part of the federal Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP), which supports efforts to prepare for and mitigate climate-related risks across Canada.

Mr. Douglas, a respected climate expert, is at the helm of three of these projects, run out of Laurentian University’s Climate Risk Institute. His work focuses on equipping professionals, decision-makers and First Nations communities with the tools and training needed to adapt to climate change.

“We are seeing climate change outpacing our efforts to protect people and communities from the harsh impacts of extreme weather,” said Mr. Douglas. “The Climate Risk Institute is grateful for this support from Natural Resources Canada, which will provide examples of best current practices in climate resilience and inspire greater implementation at scale.”

Rainbow schoolboard network disruption due to cyber incident

SUDBURY—Rainbow District School Board (RDSB) confirmed last Friday that its system-wide network disruption was due to a cyber incident.

“When technical issues emerged earlier today, measures were quickly implemented to protect the board’s computer network,” an RDSB release explained February 7. “Information services are working with cyber security experts to conduct a full assessment in order to determine the impact of the cyber incident as well as the origin and cause,” the release explained.

A memo was posted on the board’s website Friday morning which read, “Rainbow District School Board is currently experiencing technical difficulties with its computer network. In an abundance of caution, all computer systems and applications will be turned off at approximately 10 am.”

RDSB stated in the memo that there would be no access to email, voice mail, Google drive, social media or any other applications that Rainbow board schools use on a day-to-day basis. The notice affected the Centre for Education and all schools in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin Island. The board’s website was not affected by the disruption.

Schools remained open during the disruption with all classes and programs continuing. The memo indicated to parents that if they needed to reach their child that they visit the school or contact them on their cell phone, with students being allowed to check their phones periodically.

“At this time, there is no indication that any personal information has been compromised. Should that situation change, we will inform the community,” said Nicole Charette, senior advisor corporate communications and strategic planning with the board.

In an update on Sunday, the RDSB in a release confirmed the board, “continues to experience a disruption in its computer network due to a cyber incident. Schools will remain open, and all classes and programs will continue. Attendance will be taken. Parents will be able to call home for the Safe Arrival program. There is no access to the internet at this time.”

“Our information services staff continue to work with third party experts to assess the impact of the cyber incident.”

Please visit rainbowschools.ca for updates.



Al Douglas delivers a talk during a climate change conference.

Building Resilience in Northern Ontario

The funded projects will focus on multiple aspects of climate adaptation, including the development of training programs for professionals in the forestry, mining and energy sectors, as well as community-led resilience initiatives. One initiative, CANadapt, will serve as a national virtual platform connecting practitioners across Canada to share knowledge, success stories, and adaptation strategies.

“Training materials are essential,” Mr. Douglas explained. “We want to create a space where people can find the right resources for their field of work—whether that’s engineering, architecture, or forestry—so they can build capacity and integrate climate adaptation into their projects.”

A key component of this work is understanding how climate change is altering natural ecosystems. Douglas pointed out that as climate conditions shift, invasive species and competition for resources can lead to the loss of biodiversity. “We need to keep an eye on how climate might be promoting a narrowing of species diversity. If we don’t act, less robust species could be lost, impacting the entire ecosystem.”

Local Action and Economic Impacts

Beyond government-led initiatives, Mr. Douglas emphasized the role of local businesses and municipalities in preparing for climate risks. “Many businesses already factor climate adaptation into their continuity plan-

ning, often without realizing it,” he said. “Supply chain disruptions, road closures, and extreme weather events all force businesses to think outside the box. But as these events become more frequent, adaptation needs to be even more intentional.”

Municipal governments, too, are beginning to integrate climate adaptation into their policies. Douglas pointed to efforts by municipalities like Central Manitoulin and Billings Township, which have conducted risk assessments and begun developing strategies. “The fact that local governments are paying attention is encouraging. The next step is implementation.”

The Role of Policy and Individual Action

While large-scale policy is necessary, Mr. Douglas stressed the importance of community-led climate action. “Both are equally important,” he said. “Local knowledge brings a level of detail that policy-

makers can’t always capture. But at the provincial and national level, government resources can enable resilience efforts by providing funding, guidelines, and regulations.”

As for what individuals can do, Mr. Douglas encouraged people to take practical steps to safeguard their homes. “Homeowners can check their sump pumps, improve grading around their foundations, and take other precautions to prevent flooding,” he suggested. “More broadly, we need to hold our municipal and provincial governments accountable to keep climate resilience on the agenda.”

Despite the challenges, Mr. Douglas remains hopeful. “What gives me hope is that we’re seeing action at multiple levels—government, businesses, communities, and individuals. If we continue to push for climate adaptation as a priority, we can protect our communities, livelihoods, and ecosystems for future generations.”

With the support of federal funding, the Climate Risk Institute and other organizations across Northern Ontario are taking critical steps toward a more resilient future. As climate challenges mount, Manitoulin’s own Al Douglas is leading the way in ensuring that communities across Canada are prepared to adapt and thrive.

Looking Ahead

Death Notices

OOB-KOBIJUN
DONALD TIMOTHY CLARE CADA
Atik n’dodem

Sunrise: May 4, 1947 - Sunset: February 4, 2025



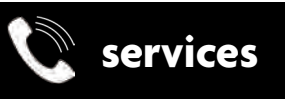
Wii-njimenmongid (in loving memory of) Oob-kobijun, Donald Timothy Clare Cada Atik n’dodem. Don began his spirit journey at sunrise on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at Health Sciences North surrounded by his family. He passed on unexpectedly, but

entirely on his own terms. He was 77 years old. Don was born in Mindemoya and was the son of Theresa Ann and Gus T. Debassige; grandson of Moses and Clara (Debassige) Cada of Shesheganwaning. He was the loving and loved husband of Valerie Bedassigae-Pheasant. Will be sadly missed by his Jackie and Hank. Don spent his life journey using the gifts given to him by the Creator to help so many, not only in his career but along his spiritual journey. To those he helped, know that you helped him as much as he helped you. He was also very proud to have walked in a path of sobriety for over half of his life. But the best job he had was being the father of Wabano, Zheebak (Sandy), KChitwa, Athena, and of Ann Marie who he will be reunited with in the spirit world. He was the proudest Papas of Makohns, Ashtyn, Oha, Chase and Kyra, who he loved so much. Miigwetch to Linda for your friendship. He was the loving brother of Marie (Chris), Terry, Wayne (predeceased), Brian (predeceased), Cecile (Cheyenne), Howard (Missy), Michael (Pam), Keith, Lisa (Meeshenn), Robert Jr. (predeceased) and Audrey. He will be missed by his aunties Hilda Corbiere and Doris McIntyre. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, friends and relatives who he loved dearly. Although his physical time on this earth has ended, his spirit's work will continue and he is now walking toward that beautiful place where he will be reunited with all our ancestors who are waiting on his arrival. While this is a sad time, we hope that everyone who misses Don can find healing and comfort in the beauty and strength of our Anishinaabe ways of life that Oob-kobijun loved so much. Family and friends gathered at the M’Chigeeng Community Complex for visitation on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 from 7 pm. The funeral service was on Friday, February 7, 2025 at 11 am. Please share your thoughts, memories and photos at www.islandfuneralhome.ca. “The tree shows us everything we need to know in life.

It weathers storms, suffers loss, provides a home to us, and gives us nourishment and medicine.
They stand tall and know the Creator's instructions.”

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Is alcohol a problem? AA may be able to help. Meetings 7 days a week - visit www.area84aa.org or call 705-210-2135 for more info.

Tfn

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

Tfn

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

Tfn

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

Tfn



Are you a cancer patient undergoing or recovering from treatment? Are you a cancer survivor, a family caregiver or supporting someone with cancer? The Manitoulin Cancer Support Group may provide you with resources and opportunities to share experiences as well as give or receive support with others who have travelled this similar cancer journey. This group is open to anyone with any type of cancer, is free to join and will be rotated to different parts of the Island. This group will alternate meetings on weekdays and weekends. Sunday, February 23 at the Gore Bay Legion from 2 to 4 pm; Wednesday, March 26 at the Mindemoya Council Chambers from 2 to 4 pm; and Sunday, April 27 at the Manitowaning Family Health Team from 2 to 4 pm. For more information please contact: Terry Mackenzie, 705-507-0433, tandjmackenzie@hotmail.com; Bonnie Young, 705-377-4998; Ann Cranston, 705-282-7531, bnann@gmail.com.

tfn

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

Tfn

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

tfn

Death Notices

CHERYL JULIE STESCO (née Henderson)

June 5, 1945 - January 23, 2025



With heavy hearts, we announce the peaceful passing of Cheryl Julie Stesco on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at the age of 79. Cheryl peacefully departed this world at home, surrounded by her loving family and faithful dog, Miska. Cheryl was the cherished wife and best friend to George for 48 years. Loving mother to daughters Lynn (John) and Shaen (Shawn); proud grandmother to Jacob (Samantha), Anna and Sydney. Beloved daughter of Earl and Blanche Henderson (both predeceased). She was a loving sister to her brother Bob (Brenda) and caring sister-in-law to Terry (predeceased) (Marrion), Steven (Roberta) and Raymond (April). Cheryl’s kind-hearted presence and spirit will be missed by her extended family including nieces, nephews and lifelong friends. Cheryl lived an active and fulfilling life with a love for the outdoors. She found her greatest happiness on the water, whether boating, kayaking or watching breathtaking sunsets on Manitoulin Island or Lake Penage. She was most content surrounded by nature’s beauty and joyfully present in those moments shared with loved ones. After a successful 36-year career with the Royal Bank, Cheryl retired in 2000 and began an exciting new chapter with George. Together they embraced 10 wonderful years on Manitoulin Island before relocating to Lively in 2013. Cheryl’s warmth, strength and enduring kindness left a lasting impression on all who knew her. Cheryl had a unique gift for making people feel seen and loved. She was always impeccably dressed and could brighten a room with her smile. She was confident in expressing herself through fashion, decor and opinion. She kept life’s challenges in perspective, focusing on what truly mattered, staying true to her philosophy of “not sweating the small stuff.” For Cheryl, family always came first and her deep love for them was evident in everything she did. Her beautiful spirit and love of life will shine on in the hearts of those who knew her. Forever grateful for our time together. “We’ll meet again, don’t know where, don’t know when, but I know we’ll meet again some sunny day.” The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the health-care professionals who provided respectful and compassionate care to Cheryl honouring her wishes including Dr. Alexandre Zlotta, Dr. Thomas Urban, Dr. Kaitlin Sheridan, Dr. Jani and the rest of the team at the North East Cancer Centre. In keeping with Cheryl’s wishes a memorial service will be held in the R.J. Barnard Chapel at the Jackson & Barnard Funeral Home, 233 Larch Street, Sudbury on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at 11:30 am. Friends may gather at the funeral home after 10:30 am. For those unable to attend in person, please contact Loughheeds for livestream information. A Celebration of her Life will follow. Internment in the Civic Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Health Sciences North Foundation – Northern Cancer Centre would be appreciated. For donations or messages of condolence www.loughheedfuneralhomes.com.

PAUL JAMES COLLINS April 23, 1970 - January 7, 2025



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of a much-loved younger brother and friend on January 7, 2025, Paul James Collins. James was a generous, fun-loving man. His sarcastic wit and genuine humour provided many of us with smiles and laughter. James carved out a wonderful life in the culinary world in Toronto, finishing his career at the Anchor Inn in Little Current. He loved working there and enjoyed the camaraderie of his Anchor family. Thank you to everyone who played a part in James’ life, especially Jackie, Dee and Caitlin. Son of George Collins and Winifred Fleischauer; James is survived by his sister and brother, his niece and nephew and many extended family members, along with his special Anchor family. A Celebration of a Wonderful Life was held February 2, 2025, honouring James with his preferred camo and Leaf wear. He will be missed.

JOHN “JACK” ADDISON November 5, 1933 - February 4, 2025



John “Jack” Addison, 91, of Mentor, passed away February 4, 2025 at home surrounded by his family. He was born November 5, 1933 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada to the late John Elwood and Dorothy Addison. Jack was a long-time member of the Church of Christ in Mentor and served as an elder for 30 years. He lived a life of service helping others where he was needed and opened his home to many. An avid outdoorsman, he loved to hunt, fish and garden. Jack loved to play the guitar while singing or yodelling with Alice harmonizing right alongside. He was the ultimate family man who loved and sacrificed for his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Survivors include his wife of 71 years, Alice Addison; children John A. (Jean) Addison, Marc (Kathe) Addison, Tina (Ron) May and Jim Addison; grandchildren Melissa Addison, Jayme (Michael) Nance, Leigh Addison, Brandon Addison, Andrea Dudash, Dylan Addison, Alyssa Addison and Karlee Addison; great-grandchildren Braylen, William, Regina, Addison, Jordyn, Jackson, Bryar, Kendall, Nolan, Grayson, Aria and Diego; brother Lyle (Ann) Addison and many other loving family members and friends. Preceding Jack in death are his grandson Shaun Dudash; brother, Ronald “Ronnie” (Betty) Addison and sister, Lorna (Tom) Caley. The family received friends from 2 to 5 pm on Sunday, February 9, 2025 at the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, Ohio 44060. A funeral service was held at 10 am on Monday, February 10, 2025 at the Mentor Church of Christ, 7201 Burr ridge Ave., Mentor, Ohio 44060. Burial in Western Reserve Memorial Gardens, Chesterland to follow. In honour of Jack, memorial contributions may be made to the Mentor Church of Christ, 7201 Burr ridge Ave., Mentor, Ohio 44060. Send flowers and offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

HELENA MIRJAMI HYYTIAINEN (nee Poikajarvi)

April 13, 1953 - February 4, 2025



It is with much sadness, but also with hope of that great reunion day, that we announce the passing of Helena Mirjami Hyytiainen at the Manitoulin Health Centre, Mindemoya on Tuesday, February 4, 2025. Left to mourn are her husband and love of her life, Aarno; stepdaughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Derek; grandsons, who lit up her life, Timothy and Taylor; brother-in-law Hannu (Charlene); and in Finland, her brothers Mauri (Irja-Liisa) and Timo and their families, as well as many other relatives and friends. Helena loved life, people and flowers, most of all she loved her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We rejoice knowing that she is now in His presence. Family and friends gathered for a funeral service in Helena’s honour at the Manitoulin Community Church, Tehkummah, on Friday, February 7, 2025 at 2:00 pm. All family and friends of the family were welcomed. Flowers are gratefully received (she loved them) or donations in Helena’s name to Manitoulin Community Church manitoulincc@gmail.com. Lastly, the family would like to thank the team at the Mindemoya Hospital, Pastor Ramona for everything, and everyone who has reached out with visits, calls, messages, food and prayers. Please share your thoughts, memories and photos at www.islandfuneralhome.ca.

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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.

RONALD ALBERT GOLDEN July 6, 1946 - January 24, 2025



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of Ronald (Ron) Albert Golden, who passed away on January 24, 2025 at Health Sciences North in Sudbury at the age of 78. Ron was born in Espanola on July 6, 1946 to his late parents, Robert Golden and Dorothy (Kenward) Golden. He was a devoted husband to his “sweetheart,” the late Suzanne “Sue” (Lamoureux) Golden. Ron was the very proud father of his two children, his daughter Andrea Lynn Golden (predeceased) and his son Ronald Alan Golden. Ron chose a career in law enforcement where he endeavoured to uphold the law, to serve and to protect. He began his career as an Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officer in 1967 and ended his career in 1997 when he retired as a Staff Sergeant. Ron served many communities and worked in numerous police detachments throughout 30 years of service. In order, these are the postings he held: Sudbury, Gogama, Sudbury, Chapleau, Barrie, Sudbury, Mindemoya, Manitowaning, Gore Bay and finally the Manitoulin detachment. Ron loved his career and wore his badge and uniform with pride. When he retired, Ron and his wife Sue chose to remain in Mindemoya, on Manitoulin Island. They enjoyed the quiet lifestyle and the dear friends they had made. Mindemoya was their true home. (It’s safe to say that Ron’s love of hunting and fishing may have contributed to this decision). Ron is predeceased by his parents Robert and Dorothy, his wife Suzanne, his daughter Andrea, his sisters Linda Lamoureux, Margaret (Peggy) Golden and his brother Alan Golden. He will be greatly missed by his surviving sisters Daphne Golden and Valerie McKenzie. He will be fondly remembered by his surviving in-laws, Adrien Lamoureux (Marie-Paule), Jacques Meilleur-Lamoureux, Pauline Plante, Gaston Lamoureux, and his many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Mindemoya Hospital Auxiliary Inc. or to the Northern Cancer Foundation would be appreciated. In honour of Ron’s wishes, there will not be a service. The family takes comfort in the knowledge that he is reunited with his daughter, his wife, some of his siblings and his parents. May they rest in peace.

RONALD CEDRIC CHATZISSAVAS January 29, 1952 - November 10, 2024



In loving memory of Ronald Cedric Chatzissavas, 72 years, who passed away November 10, 2024. Ron was born on January 29, 1952 in Timmins, Ontario. He was proud to have spent 24 years serving his country in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Beloved father of Ron and stepdaughter Victoria. Cherished grandfather of Isla, Maya and Ariana. Loving brother of Millie. Dear son of Yvonne and Viteslav, stepson of George, brother of Margie, all predeceased. He will also be missed by his beloved Jack Russell Terrier, Stella. Through the years, Chatz enjoyed fishing, golfing, travelling, watching his beloved Leafs, Blue Jays and Raiders, and spending time with friends on Manitoulin Island in his ‘adopted’ community of 18 years that welcomed him with open arms and treated him as one of their own, something he never took for granted. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Gore Bay Royal Canadian Legion on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at 4 pm. Arrangements entrusted to the Loughheed Funeral Home, www.loughheedfuneralhomes.com.

Remember your loved ones fondly in
The Manitoulin Expositor

In Memoriam or Obituaries

Send an email to Debbie at
services@manitoulin.com
or call 705-368-2744

Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service receives funding through MMIWG commemoration fund

WIKWEMKOONG—The Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service (WTPS) is proud to announce the launch of two significant initiatives funded by the Government of Canada’s Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Commemora-

tion Fund. WTPS is hiring three permanent positions dedicated to addressing the MMIWG crisis within the Wikwemikong Unceded Territory (WUT). In addition, WTPS has purchased and is introducing a new Wagoneer community services vehi-

cle adorned with artwork representing missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, boys and the ‘Every Child Matters’ banner combined with Truth and Reconciliation. “We deeply respect families affected by these issues in Wiikwemkoong,”

said Tammy Duffy, staff sergeant at WTPS. “We are dedicated to bringing this platform for education and awareness wherever we go, the violence against our women and children must end.” Data for domestic violence involving police



WTPS is sporting a new community services Wagoneer funded through the funding through MMIWG Commemoration Fund.

occurrences in Wiikwemkoong has risen 11 percent when compared to data from January 2024. Total police occurrences investigated by the WTPS have risen 24.6 percent in just one year, hence our multi-faceted approach to community safety and wellbeing, Staff Sgt. Duffy shared.

The fund’s goal is to support projects that honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and boys while raising awareness about these critical issues.

“Our community has dealt with very serious matters, including domestic violence, trauma, MMIWG, exploitation, addictions and human trafficking,” said Ron Gignac, chief of police. “As a force for good, we hope to educate and support those impacted by this crisis. WTPS is committed to playing a role in meaningful Truth and Reconciliation.”

The new staff and vehicle will play vital roles in MMIWG investigative presentation community events, community services, recruiting drives, college speaking engagements, and school visits on Manitoulin Island, and beyond. The vehicle serves as a beacon of recognition to bring further awareness and engagement for and from our community and beyond. One of our strategic goals is to enrich the lives of our community members, prevent crime, and to prevent our citizens of all ages from becoming victims. It takes full community engagement, mobilization and involvement along with our many combined forces partners including the dynamic relationships that we have with the UCCM Police Service, and the Ontario Provincial Police.

WTPS will share more information in the weeks to come about the three newly funded positions. In the meantime, the new Community Service and Operational Support Vehicle has been introduced into the force’s fleet. The Wikwemikong Unceded Territory’s police force recognizes and appreciates the support and fulsome engagement from Chief Tim Ominika and our band council in our quest to enhance community safety and security on all fronts, Police Chief Gignac observed.

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Waterfront home in highly sought after Maple Point area. The private lot with mature trees is gently sloping to the lake. Outdoor features include detached garage, sauna, vegetable garden, wood shed, dock and boat lift, private boat launch with spectacular views. The three bedroom and two and a half bath home is complimented with pine flooring on the upper level and ceramic and hardwood on the lower level. Pine ceilings along with post and beam give the home a cozy feeling along with the wood stove. Newer windows throughout. The main floor laundry is convenient as is the mudroom entrance way. It is attached to a double garage. This home has all the features and the lot is one of the nicest in the area. Call for your private viewing today.



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Wiikwemkoong band member heading to World Hoop Dance Championships

by Tom Sasvari
TORONTO—Twelve-year-old Emilee Ann Pitawanakwat continues to make waves in the world of hoop dancing.

“Emily Ann is currently training for the World Hoop Dance Championship being held in Phoenix, Arizona from February 15-16,” proud mother Sara Pitawanakwat (Beaudry) told The Expositor. The world championships are open to all Indigenous Hoop Dancers in North America. Emilee Ann will be competing in the 6-12 age category.

“Emilee Ann is training out of a dance studio in the downtown core of Toronto for one-and-a-half to two-hour sessions. Leading up to the worlds, she is in the studio three times a week,” said Sara. She noted “Emilee Ann has received a lot of support from the community, and community members as far as Akwesasne and to British Columbia. She has multiple veteran hoop dancers that are supporting her, from three-time World Hoop Dancer Dallas Archand, Feryn King and Makhena Rankin-Guerin.”

The Pitawanakwats are originally from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. The senior Ms. Pitawanakwat was born in Little Current and raised in Wiikwemkoong. Emilee Ann was born in Toronto but knows the community of Wiikwemkoong very well.

Sarah noted previous-



Twelve-year-old Emilee Ann Pitawanakwat, who has strong family ties to Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory (WUT), will be taking part in the World Hoop Dance championship this weekend.

ly that Emilee Ann was 15 months old when she danced her first powwow, the New Year’s powwow in Wiky. “I knew I had a dancer on my hands. Her coming out ceremony happened at age 3.”

Emilee Ann was in a music video that she helped to direct three years ago that was nominated for, and reached the finals of a competition, helping to direct a music video. The video Freedom was nominated for a Canadian Independent Music Video Award in the folk category, co-directed by Andrea Ramolo. The video for Ms. Ramolo’s song ‘Freedom’ was on her album ‘Quarantine Dream,’ released in 2021. ‘Quarantine Dream’ is all about Ms. Ramolo’s

pandemic experience, with songs ranging from upbeat and happy to sombre. It was Ms. Ramolo’s seventh album.

Emilee Ann and her mother met Ms. Ramolo by chance when they attended a July 1, 2021 Every Child Matters walk in downtown Toronto. Emilee Ann was in her ribbon skirt for the event and Emilee Ann, a fancy shawl dancer and hoop dancer, wore her hoop dancing regalia and brought her hoops and hand drum to the event as well.

When the crowd gathered at Toronto’s Nathan Phillips Square after the march, Emilee Ann, the sole hoop dancer at the event, was invited into the centre of the circle to

dance. Ms. Ramolo had joined the march to bask in the spirit of solidarity. While she was walking, she explained she came upon two ladies and a young girl in dancing regalia. “I was alone but felt such a community spirit. Emilee Ann noticed and struck up a conversation. It was a conversation on a level that was like we had known each other all our lives,” Ms. Ramolo explained.

Emilee Ann worked with Ms. Ramolo on expressing her thought on the word ‘freedom,’ through words, arts and crafts. The video was shot only 18 days after the initial chance meeting. In the video, Emilee Ann leads Ms. Ramolo through a forest. It ended with her

hoop dancing, ‘the most healing of the dances.’

“I have to say that I am in awe of Emilee Ann as she juggles schoolwork and her preparation for the World Hoop Dance competition,” said Sara. “She handles it in perfect balance. As a former middle and distance runner, I am able to help train her with her warm-ups and cool-downs, as well as with visualization and grounding before a dance presentation. This has proven to be an important part of her training and performances.”

Sara noted, “Another important part of her training (in studio) is having fun. So, if it means putting on Michael Jackson’s ‘Billie Jean’ or ‘Chicago’ and having a fun dance improv to the music in between her doing her executing her hoop dance routine, which is five minutes long, then that is what we do. Laughter is important. At times, we invited her best friend, Nathalie or her Auntie Karen to come to the studio with us

so they can dance with her but also to cheer her on.”

“I also take cues from her, if she is not up to dancing as long as we have the studio time: I cut it short as I never want to push to the point of her not loving what she does,” said Sara.

In September, Emilee Ann was in Hilo Hawaii for a week as she had been invited to hoop dance at a powwow held there. She also went into the school there to do a cultural sharing where Emilee Ann shared her love of hoop dancing and fancy shawl dancing.

On February 12, Emilee Ann will be making a 45-minute presentation on her journey into hoop dancing, at the sixth annual Ontario Native Women’s Association “She Is Wise” conference in Niagara Falls. And on March 7 she has been invited as a special guest at Our Music Festival at Great Hall in Toronto.

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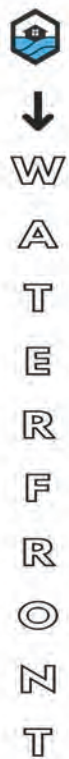
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Mindemoya, \$47,000




REDUCED PRICE | Beautiful 8.5 acres. 225 ft of sandy shoreline on wonderful Honora Bay. Large 3,293 sq ft home with 5 beds, 3 full baths. 1,200 sq ft workshop. Aprox 4 acres of fenced pasture. Extensive windows, stunning views.
MLS #2119224
Little Current, \$985,000




Quiet rural setting of a full-sized, well cared-for home in a popular location, Bay Estates. 4 bedroom, 2 full bath, built in 2010, plenty of green space with water access a short walk through forest trail to Lake Huron.
MLS #2119947
Sheguiandah, \$598,000




REDUCED PRICE | Year-round road in Assiginack, trailers permitted for a fee. Access to water with sandy beach via short walk. Hydro ready, quiet subdivision, 5 minutes from amenities of Manitowaning.
MLS #2113802
Manitowaning, \$69,000




A getaway waiting for your recreational build. A lot of this size is especially uncommon. Private estate-sized lot of 33 acres boasting 627 feet of crystal-clear waterfront. Gravel laneway. Flat water access.
MLS #2116861
Mindemoya, \$499,000




CONDITIONAL PENDING | Newly renovated 3 bed, 3 bath home with separate entranced bachelor apartment. 90 acres! House was taken back to studs and completely updated; spray foamed, replumbed, new kitchen, etc.
MLS #2120103
Mindemoya, \$549,000




Affordable Downtown Little Current commercial retail space. Level entry and large windows fronting onto a busy corner location. Owner would be prepared to hold a mortgage with an agreed upon down payment.
MLS#2120110
Little Current, \$149,000




Located on outskirts of Sandfield on Hwy 542, 0.96 acre vacant property is ready to build on with hydro at the lot line. 2 entrances with culverts installed. Near public boat launch of Lake Manitou for recreation.
MLS #2118123
Sandfield, \$52,900



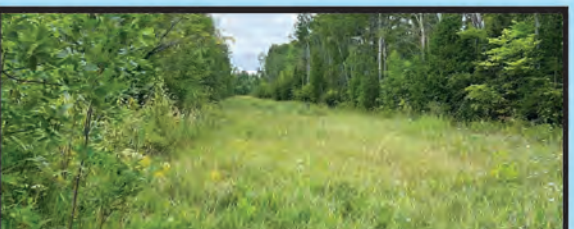
Near Lake Mindemoya, just under 1 acre, treed lot waiting for your home or cottage. Front portion level. Hydro and laneway. A picturesque rock-cut could provide elevated build site. Year-round road. Boat launch minutes away.
MLS #2118483
Monument Road, \$125,000



Waterfront lot on Leask Bay of South Bay. 200 ft of shore on mainly level lot, driveway runs through to shoreline. Renowned fishing area. Bush and wildflower fields. Sheds in place to help start your build.
MLS #2118800
Manitowaning, \$179,000



Build site, 3.53 acres with a mix of forest, pond and open fields. 3 tiers of elevation offering lake views. Year-round access, hydro and municipal water supply. 2 km to beach and boat launch. Build your dream home here.
MLS #2120652
Sheguiandah, \$139,000



Outskirts of Manitowaning, overlooking bay, 3 plus acres. Maintained street with laneway, hydro, good drainage, partially cleared, flat and ready for building. View to the La Cloche Mountains. Assiginack allows licenced trailers.
MLS #2115464
Manitowaning, \$139,000

Stay tuned!

Next week will feature a
**NEW LISTING; an income property
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live on site!**



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705-210-0044

COMMERCIAL

159 Main St, Kagawong
MLS 2119804 | \$285,000

20 Thorburn St, Gore Bay
MLS 2120066 | \$495,000

10558 HWY 540, Ice Lake
MLS 2120605 | \$265,000

COMMERCIAL

86 Vankoughnet St E, Little Current
MLS 2119336 | \$599,000

WATERFRONT

240 Rosewood Ln, Sheguiandah
MLS 2120525 | \$575,000

WATERFRONT

359 Ketchankookem Trail, Mindemoya
MLS 2119733 | \$849,995

WATERFRONT

15 Waterview Lane, Manitowaning
MLS 2119513 | \$584,900

4 Main St, Gore Bay
MLS 2119693 | \$299,000

19 Agnes St, Gore Bay
MLS 2120060 | \$289,900

WATERFRONT

Lot 131M-209 Water St, Meldrum Bay
MLS 2117093 | \$229,000

PT Lot 17, ON-540 HWY, Silver Water
MLS 2119690 | \$29,900

500 Learmont Rd, Spring Bay
MLS 2120001 | \$249,000

WATERFRONT

PT LT 16 CON 3 Perch Lake
MLS 2120524 | \$40,000

28 Bay St, Little Current
MLS 2120452 | \$309,000

502 7th Line, Gore Bay
MLS 2120060 | \$289,000

WATERFRONT

2617 Rockville Rd, Mindemoya
MLS 2120359 | \$249,000

NEW LISTING COMMERCIAL INVESTEMENT

21 Worthington St, Little Current
MLS 2120579 | \$425,000

COMMERCIAL INVESTEMENT

Laidley's Stationery & Office Furniture
17 Campbell St E, Little Current | MLS 2120526 | \$650,000

REAL ESTATE AT A GLANCE

In January 2024 there were

311

Homes for Sales within the Sudbury Real Estate Board.



All data supplied by the Sudbury Real Estate Board as of February 6th, 2025

55%
Of those listings are priced above \$500,000.

SCAN HERE FOR MORE LISTINGS



ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MANITOULIN

104



OUR ACTIVE LISTINGS

23

Market Insights

NEW ON MARKET

16

220.0% increase in new listings

AVG ASKING PRICE

\$269 K

-61.9% decrease in asking price

Avg. DOM - Active Properties

111.54

▼ 9.31% Decrease

Statistics above are calculated on activity within the period from Jan, 02 2025 to Feb, 02 2025
Increase/Decrease activity is compared to the month of December



Espanola Curling Club continues long Baxter Cup winning streak

by Michael Erskine
ESPANOLA-LITTLE CURRENT—The 100th edition of the Baxter Cup, a friendly curling bonspiel between the communities of Little Current and Espanola that outdates the famed Brier by three years, was captured once again by the Espanola teams. The final tally saw Espanola dominate the tournament by a 21-point margin.

tribute salute of raised brooms of the Little Current curlers. The same ceremony was conducted the next day in Espanola. Following the entry, a dinner featuring the popular roast beef of Max Burt (of The Burt Farm) was held in the curling club lounge, where each rink was introduced by their respective skips and the club regaled by each with a joke (most somewhat unsuitable for a family



This year's Baxter Cup teams included: Espanola, team 1, Dave Gallant, Jamie Perlin, Marc Lalonde and Alvin Punkinnen; team 2, Don Farquhar, Keith Stringer, Jeff Sheppard and Mike Dubreuil; team 3, Bill Lewis, Jeff Mooney, Al Emiry and Dennis Shepitka; team 4, Blake Roque, Everett Eadie, Daniel Emiry and Patrick Ramsay; team 5 Dave Cutler, Don Hache, Marvin Tilson and Don Fraser. Spares included Logan Emiry. Little Current's contingent included: team 1, Joe Cooper, Kyle Chandler, Duane Deschamps and John Hodder; team 2, Mike Wall, Ray Beaudry, Gord Bickell and Ron Rosborough; team 3, Rob Norris, Murray McDonald, Sean O'Hare and Dale Baker; team 4, Jordan Chandler, Jack Ferguson, Dr. Roy Jeffery and Evan Farquhar; team 5, Ron McQuarrie, Jim Bickell, Corey Karn and Barry Barnes. Spares were Richard Glaude and Bill Orr.
photo by Carson Nadeau

Things were looking positive for the Little Current Curling Club hopefuls after a first game blowout, but the Espanola curlers went home after the full five Little Current games with a three-point lead. The Baxter Cup comprises 10 games, five in each community. Following the first game, the full Espanola contingent was escorted into the Little Current Curling Club through a



A lifetime achievement award was presented to longtime Little Current curler and stalwart John Hodder by Mike Wall and Ron McQuarrie.
photo by Michael Erskine



A delicious cake celebrates the event.
photo by Carson Nadeau

newspaper, but all in good fun). The head table consisted of Espanola Trustees Don Farquhar and Dave Gallant, Little Current Trustees Ron McQuarrie and Mike Wall, Al Emiry, the president of the Espanola Club and then Joe Cooper, sitting in for the president of the Little Current Curling Club, Margot Bickell, who was busy in the kitchen helping prepare the meal. Longtime curling patriarch John Hodder of Little Current was honoured with
...continued on page 2A



Manitoulin Minor Report

It appears that the interest for a Manitoulin, traveling, house-league team is very much alive! The try-outs for the teams were very well attended and it bodes well for the future! There are some positions overall for bench staff if you are interested. There is contact information on the MMHA website.

The MMHA playoffs are on now or will be. At this point the U-9 standings have Gore Bay 1st, Little Current, 2nd and Manitowaning third. In the U-11 age group it is the Wilky Red squad on top with Gore Bay and Manitowaning 2nd and 3rd. The U-13 division features Manitowaning, Gore Bay, Little Current Blue as the 1,2,3 teams. In the U-15's, Little Current leads Mindemoya who has games in hand and Manitowaning solid in third. In the eldest U-18 division, the Mindemoya Thunder is in first narrowly, over Gore Bay and M'Chigeeng!

Panther Points

The U15 Manitoulin Panthers hosted the Iroquois Falls Eskimos this weekend for 3 games as part of a Crossover Series between the Northeastern Ontario Hockey League and the Nickel District Hockey League. The U15 Panthers swept the series 4-0, 9-3 and 6-1.

In the midst of these games, the U13 Panthers had an impressive showing at home against the Copper Cliff Reds, with goals from **Lynnndra Madahbee-Peltier**, **Brody King** (assisted by **Matthew Debassige**) and **Matthew Debassige** (assisted by **Maximus Panamick**), keeping it a close game until Copper Cliff pulled ahead in the 3rd period.

OHL Player of the Week!

Last week, the Ontario Hockey League

announced that Los Angeles Kings prospect, **Carter George** of the Owen Sound Attack is the OHL Goaltender of the Week for the second time this season, going 2-0 with a 2.00 goals-against average and a .937 save percentage!

Turning aside 59 shots last week, George stopped 30 of the 31 shots that came his way on Saturday in a 3-1 victory against the Ottawa 67's, spoiling Manitoulin's **Kohyn Eshkawkogan's** Ottawa 67's night. (Incidentally, Kohyn did get an assist in the game to maintain his second position in rookie defence-men scoring!) Carter was back in the net on Sunday, making 29 saves on 31 shots to earn second star honours in a 5-3 win over the Brampton Steelheads.

Still just 18, Carter holds a 'not his fault', 8-17-2-3 record this season with a 3.53 goals-against average but with a .902 save percentage over 31 games! You can only change so much in a game, a mantra he very well likely appreciates. The team in front of him at the World Juniors this past holiday season, a prime example! Keep up the good work, Carter.

NOJHL Elder-snipesman!

Holly molly, what a season AOK's **Samuel Assinewei** is having on his Sudbury Cubs squad who are now ranked second in the Canadian Junior Hockey League! Samuel has been a large part of that of course and his contributions include his nearly 2 points a game production! Samuel is second overall in league scoring just slightly behind teammate, Lucas Signoretto (who also played a couple of seasons with the Espanola Paper Kings). Samuel has 70 points in just 38 games and will be putting in important minutes as the intense end of the season is upon them. Good luck, Samuel!

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



Lions Club Winterfest weekend tradition brings top flight hockey

The Winterfest B Division champions were the Espanola Eski Bros. The weekend was filled with some of the best hockey to be found on Manitoulin.
photo by Alicia McCutcheon

...Espanola Curling Club continues long Baxter Cup winning streak

...continued from page 1A

a lifetime achievement award, presented by the trustees of the Baxter Cup and he provided a short history of the Baxter Cup.

George Baxter, a travelling salesman originally from Quebec City, settled in Little Current after marrying an Island girl, Mildred Kingsborough, where he worked in her father's hardware store. An avid curler, he donated the Baxter Cup in 1925.

The friendly competition between the two communities is said to have begun in the upstairs hallways of the Mansion House (now the Anchor Inn) with frozen "thunder mugs" serving as the rocks. By all accounts care was taken not to damage the said chamber pots. Apparently, no clear winner of that engagement could be determined—so it was decided to settle the matter of curling superiority on more official terms.

The first journeys between the local clubs began by invitation in 1925 and travelling was by train and the two teams journeyed with symbolic rocks positioned on the cow catcher at the front of the engine, later to be paraded through the town to the respective curling clubs. Stones were also said to be heated ahead of the travel by frigid rail so that the men had a warm place to perch for the trip.



The winning Espanola curlers! Kneeling from left are Al Emiry, Dave Cutler, Marvin Tilson, Marc Lalonde. Standing L are Don Farquhar, Keith Stringer, Dave Gallant, Logan Emiry, (hidden) Alvin Punkkinen and Dennis Shepitka, Mike Dubreuil, Everett Eadie, Jeff Mooney, Don Fraser, Patrick Ramsay, Bill Lewis, Jeff Sheppard, Daniel Emiry, Don Haché, Blake Roque and Jamie Perlin.

photo by Carson Nadeau

curling fans and inspire people to take up the sport."

"As we celebrate this historic occasion, let us honour the past, cherish the present, and look forward to many more years of exciting competition and cherished memories," wrote Mr. Mantha. "Congratulations once again on this incredible achievement."

"The story of the Baxter Cup tells the tale of the history of curling and the history of our two proud communities coming together for the past 100 years," reads a message from the trustees. "In keeping this tradition alive in the manner that George Baxter intended in the first presentation of the cup in 1925, we keep alive the memories of the curlers, the challenges they have overcome and the friendships that have been forged and maintained over the years in the annual awarding of this venerable trophy."

That camaraderie was on full display during the dinners, as conversations hummed and glasses tinkled in raised in tribute toasts filled the evening.

Following dinner, Piper Al Blondin of Manitowaning led the teams out onto the ice, where Little Current youth curler Ember Bickell threw out the ceremonial first rock.

At the end of the weekend, it was Espanola who once again won the day. The tally of total wins, so far, is not clear, but then who is counting? Well, so low key has been the competition down through the years that some of the winners have been lost to the sands of time, specifically for 1932, 1935, 1940, 1941, 1952, 1954-1960, 1962-1966, and 1972.

This year's teams included: Espanola, team 1, Dave Gallant, Jamie Perlin, Marc Lalonde and Alvin Punkkinen; team 2, Don Farquhar, Keith Stringer, Jeff Sheppard and Mike Dubreuil; team 3, Bill Lewis, Jeff Mooney, Al Emiry and Dennis Shepitka; team 4, Blake Roque, Everett Eadie, Daniel Emiry and Patrick Ramsay; team 5 Dave Cutler, Don Hache, Marvin Tilson and Don Fraser. Spares included Logan Emiry. Little Current's contingent included: team 1, Joe Cooper, Kyle Chandler, Duane Deschamps and John Hodder; team 2, Mike Wall, Ray Beaudry, Gord Bickell and Ron Rosborough; team 3, Rob Norris, Murray McDonald, Sean O'Hare and Dale Baker; team 4, Jordan Chandler, Jack Ferguson, Dr. Roy Jeffery and Evan Farquhar; team 5, Ron McQuarrie, Jim Bickell, Corey Karn and Barry Barnes. Spares were Richard Glaude and Bill Orr.



Little Current Curling Club members hold their brooms high in salute while members of the Espanola teams pass underneath.

photo by Michael Erskine

The Baxter Cup has been played continuously since that storied beginning, including through the Great Depression,



Bill Orr of the Little Current Curling Club enters into the Espanola Curling Club under the club's saluting brooms.

photo by Carson Nadeau

the Second World War and even COVID. "We always found a way to play the games," said Mr. McQuarrie, who noted the clubs returned to their roots playing outside during the pandemic.

A booklet commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Baxter Cup included messages from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Ontario Premier Doug Ford, local MPP Mike Mantha and the presidents of the respective curling clubs.

"I would like to congratulate the athletes participating and wish them the best of luck," wrote Prime Minister Trudeau. "I would like to thank the organizers for their hard work in ensuring the success of this event, year after year."

"Many thanks to the communities of Espanola and Little Current for keeping this wonderful Northern Ontario tradition vibrant and relevant for the current generation of curling fans," wrote Premier Ford. "Tournaments such as this bring the community together, delight




Members of the Espanola Curling Club spirit away the coveted Baxter Cup following the games in Little Current.

photo by Carson Nadeau



Lifetime achievement award winner John Hodder of Little Current delivers some of the history during the dinner at Little Current.

photo by Michael Erskine



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Reaching minds. Touching hearts.

Cleaner - Assiginack Public School

At Rainbow District School Board we are leaders in learning, inspiring success for all students by reaching minds and touching hearts. Together, we prepare students to become lifelong learners, achieving their full potential as confident, caring members of society.

Rainbow District School Board is now accepting applications for a **Cleaner - Assiginack Public School.**

For more information about this employment opportunity, please visit www.rainbowschools.ca/join-our-team

Interested candidates should apply by **3 pm Tuesday, February 18, 2025** and submit a cover letter, resume and names of three (3) references.

David Farrow
Board Chair

Bruce Bourget
Director of Education

rainbowschools.ca



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Athletic Administrator, Co-Curricular Program

At Rainbow District School Board we are leaders in learning, inspiring success for all students by reaching minds and touching hearts. Together, we prepare students to become lifelong learners, achieving their full potential as confident, caring members of society.

Rainbow District School Board is now accepting applications for an **Athletic Administrator, Co-Curricular Program.**

For more information about this employment opportunity, please visit www.rainbowschools.ca/join-our-team

Interested candidates should apply by **3 pm, Friday, February 21, 2025** and submit a cover letter, resume and names of three (3) references.

David Farrow
Board Chair

Bruce Bourget
Director of Education

rainbowschools.ca

Sudbury rink takes first event at Gore Bay Curling Club men’s bonspiel

by **Tom Sasvari**
GORE BAY—The Craig Ramsey rink based out of Sudbury won the first event at the Gore Bay Curling Club annual men’s bonspiel, held January 31-February 2.

Mr. Ramsey’s rink also included Matt Dumontelle, Jay Jewett and Pete Karcz. They defeated the Reuben Allen rink in the final game. For their efforts, the Ramsey rink was presented with the E.F. Priddle Memorial

Trophy, sponsored by the McLaughlin family. Along with Mr. Allen, his rink included Al Lanktree, Darryl Vanhorn and Devin Lockeyer.
In the second event the Gord Loutitt rink beat the Ray Beaudry rink in the final. The Loutitt rink included Randy Skippen, Bill Kiely and Dwayne Wright. The Ray Beaudry rink included Jack Ferguson, Tom Howard and Dale Bigger.
The Lyle Strain rink was the first-place winners in the third event. His rink included Pierre Trudeau, Scott McDougall and Jim Cahill. The runner-up in the third event was the Tim Lloyd team with Alistair Giles, Mark Zwygart and Rico Rinaldi.
Sixteen teams took part in the annual bonspiel.




The Craig Ramsey rink based out of Sudbury, won the first event at the Gore Bay Curling Club men’s annual curling bonspiel. His rink included Matt Dumontelle, Jay Jewett and Pete Karcz.
photos by Tom Sasvari



The Gord Loutitt rink won the second event at the Gore Bay Curling Club men’s annual curling bonspiel. His rink included Randy Skippen, Bill Kiely and Dwayne Wright.



Winning the third event at the Gore Bay mens annual curling bonspiel was from left in photo, Pierre Trudeau, Scott McDougall, Jim Cahill and Lyle Strain.



WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION

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BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Term: Full-time
Salary Range: \$75,120 - \$89,700 (+ group pension and health benefits)
**Offer is subject to education and experience or a combination of both*

The Business and Economic Development Manager is not just a role, but an opportunity for growth and learning. Responsible for developing, coordinating, managing, implementing and evaluating potential economic development opportunities for the Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN), the Business and Economic Development Manager will be at the forefront of innovative economic activities. They will assist with research, inquiries and development of new cultural, traditional and business opportunities that generate revenue for the nation. Working with band members, leadership and external partners, the Manager will identify potential business ventures, create revenue-generating projects, and assist in developing business plans to support sustainable community growth and prosperity. This role is not just about managing, but about learning and growing with the community.

The Business and Economic Development Manager is not just a leader, but a team player, responsible and accountable for promoting business and economic development interests within the WRFN community. Providing guidance to members, businesses and companies on establishing, relocating or expanding their businesses within the territory, this role is deeply collaborative. It includes working with all WRFN departments and assisting in planning and coordinating community development projects, ensuring that everyone's voice is heard and considered.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Identify, lead, and manage community and economic development planning and initiatives; identify and foster community economic development opportunities.
- Promote and champion the WRFN community to expand economic development opportunities. This includes fostering positive relationships with community members, advocating for their needs and interests, and representing the community in external partnerships and alliances.
- Provide expert input and advice on short- and long-term economic development strategies and business plans that align with the WRFN's stated goals, objectives and vision.
- Provide strategic and operational leadership on all WRFN community and economic development aspects.
- Develop the Strategic Business Plan for WRFN based on engagement and input from community members, the public, the Chief and the Council.
- Build alliances and partnerships with strategic external stakeholders, including government representatives, organizations and funders, to advance WRFN's economic goals and objectives.
- Assist local organizations, businesses and individuals with establishing economic development plans and projects.

Projects:

- Initiates and champions special projects for sector-specific development based on the current environment, often in partnership with external organizations. Manages all aspects of developing and implementing economic and business development initiatives and managing project life cycle activities.

Human Resources:

- Provide leadership and direction to the economic development department.
- Supervise and support direct reports to ensure and foster well-being in a cooperative working environment.

Finance and Administration:

- Manage the departmental budget, including identifying new opportunities for revenue and approving spending requests.
- Development of funding proposals, including planning, writing and implementation.
- Complete financial, statistical and qualitative reporting related to budget and funding obligations.
- Manage all funding and partnership contracts related to economic development and reserve lands.

***For a complete Job Description, please email: hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca**

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Degree in Economics, Business, Commerce, Business Administration, or related field, combined with experience in economic development and community planning.
- An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered.
- Minimum of five (5) years of progressive experience in the following areas:
 - Coordinate and implement long-range economic/business development and tourism activities.
 - Branding and marketing.
 - Facilitating partnerships among business, academic and government/agency stakeholders that develop and support innovation networks and hubs.
 - Managed projects with a broad scope and complexity.
- Experience carrying out research and analysis.
- Previous supervisory experience.
- Experience in project management.
- Experience in government relations and advanced funding/reporting obligations.
- One of the following (or equivalent) is ideal:
 - Certified Economic Developer from the Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC).
 - Certified Ontario First Nations Economic Developers Association (OFNEDA).

Skills:

- Thorough knowledge of First Nations economic and environmental initiatives and how they impact the WRFN community.
- Able to navigate and demonstrate knowledge of First Nations bylaws, politics, and specific issues related to development.
- Thorough knowledge of and ability to demonstrate/apply core First Nations values to design culturally appropriate services.
- Working knowledge of governmental policies, programs, services, and procedures related to economic development and reserve lands at the federal, provincial, and regional levels.
- Able to navigate and demonstrate knowledge of First Nations politics and specific issues related to economic development and reserve lands.

Other:

- Must provide a clear Police Criminal Reference Check upon hire.
- Must have a Class 'G' Ontario Driver's License, with access to a vehicle and the ability to travel.

Applications must be submitted by noon on February 26th, 2025.

Interested applicants must submit a current resume, cover letter, two (2) work-related references, one (1) character reference (with contact information) and applicable education diplomas/certifications to:

Confidential: Business and Economic Development Manager
Whitefish River First Nation
c/o Human Resources
17-A Rainbow Ridge Road
PO Box 188, Birch Island, ON P0P 1A0
Email: jobapplications@whitefishriver.ca • Fax: (705) 285-4532

Miigwetch to all who apply; however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.



MUNICIPALITY OF ASSINACK

BOX 238, MANITOWANING, ON, P0P 1N0
(705) 859-3196 or 1-800-540-0179
www.assinack.ca

Requires a
RECREATION DIRECTOR

The Township of Assinack is seeking to fill the full time position of **RECREATION DIRECTOR**.

Reporting to the Chief Administrative Officer, the Recreation Director is responsible for the operations of the Manitowaning Arena, Fairgrounds and Seasonal Marina. The preferred candidate will oversee the operations of the facilities as well as promote and organize various events, classes and opportunities for the community.

A detailed job description, salary range and summary of benefits are available upon request.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a detailed resume no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, February 28, 2025 to:

Alton Hobbs, CAO
PO Box 238
Manitowaning, ON
P0P 1N0
ahobbs@assinack.ca

Information collected for employment is done under authority of Section 29(2) of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the purpose of assessing eligibility for employment.

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

We thank all applicants and advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Invasive reeds proving to be no match for the Manitoulin Phragmites Project

by Tom Sasvari
MANITOULIN—As the Manitoulin Phragmites Project enters its 10th year, it continues to make great strides to control the tall, invasive grass that has been spreading aggressively on shorelines and in wetlands in the Manitoulin Island area for many years.

“We tackled some monster areas that previously were beyond us,” stated Judith Jones, coordinator of the Manitoulin Phragmites Project, relating to work that was carried out in 2024 on Manitoulin Island. “We did the first (brush), cut of one-quarter of the patch in Wiikwemkoong (Unceded Territory). We also fully controlled a large patch in Sheguiandah Bay and continued working across the north side of Lake Wolsey with the Truxor cutting machines from the Invasive Phragmites Control Centre. At Little Thomas Bay (at the south end of Wiikwemkoong) we maintained the area controlled by Truxor cutting in 2023. We continue to follow up at several sites in South Bay (WUT and Assiginack), getting patches down to a size small enough to hand over to volunteer Phrag Watchers to maintain.”

In 2024, a total of 20 sites were worked on (including 14 species-at-risk [SAR] habitats), said Ms. Jones. “This is actually fewer than we normally work on each year. This was due to us putting



The Manitoulin Phragmites Project began work on this large patch of phragmites in Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory in 2024.

more days in at bigger places to carry out work. We have been at this for nine years, and some of the areas we are now working on are tougher places to get to, and we have to use machines, boats and canoes.”

In 2024 nine sites were worked on by partners and volunteers without us, 24 sites were surveyed or control status checked, 44 hectares of habitat controlled or maintained (42 hectares in SAR habitat with 20 hectares at Lake Wolsey, eight sites where volunteers assisted the phragmites team, eight sites where turtles were observed (including Blandings turtles on six occasions). Eight surveys

were done to monitor SAR. A total of 77 sites are now in the hands of volunteer Phrag Watchers, explained the report. “Fewer sites and area worked overall, but larger, more complex sites are being controlled.”

Since 2016, the project has had 117 sites worked on by the Manitoulin Phragmites Project team along with its partners. Due to their efforts, 99 sites with phragmites are under control or eradicated. There are 47 sites in progress or in need of work (including road ditches).

In 2024, “We did our first free ATV wash-down. This was to call attention to stopping the spread by

keeping machines clean. We only cleaned a handful of machines but spoke with over 100 people about stopping the spread,” the report notes. With funding provided by the Invasive Phragmites Control Fund, “We bought a cargo trailer to move all our equipment. Our gear will be portable and shareable in the future.”

Ms. Jones reports, “Lake Wolsey continues to be Manitoulin’s worst Phragmites infestation with numerous patches in 64 ha of coastal wetland habitat. It is a multi-season habitat for all our turtle species that includes overwintering and nesting areas. In 2024, we worked 20 ha of habitat (nine hectares new control) mainly with Truxor machine cutting, 11 hectares manual follow up). Depending on funding

success, we hope to have five or six days of cutting in 2025 and have the worst of this infestation cut by the end of next summer.”

“Our goal is to reduce phragmites across our landscape to a low level that can be maintained by ordinary people with a little bit of annual effort,” said Ms. Jones.

Ms. Jones explained “We have several very hard-working people who make things happen. Multi-year veterans include Sheila Madahbee (since 2018), Joel Trudeau (since 2019) Nathan Madahbee (since 2020) and Anelli Junkala (2022 and 2024) and with us this year Alex Wemigwans and Shawl Eshkibok. Staff from Nature Conservancy Canada and Manitoulin Streams pitched in often, and we have great volunteers who spend days slogging around with us. These people do the bending, lifting, sweating, swatting bugs and they still smile. A big thanks to everyone.”

The Manitoulin Island Phragmites Management Area Working Group has always been a landscape-wide partnership, with municipalities, Indigenous communities, NGOs, landowners, volunteers and government involved. With new funding from the Invasive Phragmites Control Fund, we are formalizing this working group and getting everyone heading towards being able to maintain control of their own areas, said Ms. Jones.

2025 will mark Ms. Jones last year as phrag coordinator. “I’m going to stop being the coordi-

nator, I can’t continue to do 50 hours a week in the summer,” she told The Expositor. “I still love the field work, but not the evenings and weekends doing logistics in the summer,” said Ms. Jones. “In 2025, the Manitoulin Phragmites Project will wrap up and change into the MI_PMA, with greater partner Involvement and NCC as the landscape-lead. This coming summer we will train new people, discuss sites with partners, apply for new funding, and generally get the future rolling.”

Ms. Jones noted on the issue of herbicide, “It takes some soul searching to accept that we sometimes have to use a small amount of herbicide, or we will lose natural habitats. This year, dry weather and the drop in the level of Lake Huron left a lot of phragmites standing on dry land. This allowed us to spray at eight locations. Monitoring at previous years spray sites shows our best practices of herbicide use are working. The ground where phrag has been sprayed is full of new green plants including some sensitive species.”

Phragmites grows into dense patches that can wipe out all other vegetation. It is a serious threat to wildlife and fish habitat, recreation, tourism, property values, and aesthetics. Southern Ontario has lost thousands of hectares of natural habitat to this highly invasive species. “The Manitoulin Phragmites Project was started to make sure this does not happen on Manitoulin Island.”

MAAMWE KENDAASING

CHILD CARE CENTRE

Salary Range:
\$50,490 - \$60,290
+ Group Benefits and Pension

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:
EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATOR

If you enjoy working with children and are looking for an engaging and rewarding career, then a career in early childhood education might be for you!

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Registered Early Childhood Education Diploma or equivalent.
- Valid Standard First Aid Training and CPR Certificate.
- Knowledge of the CCEYA, How Does Learning Happen?
- Knowledge of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.
- Valid Safe Food Handlers Certification.

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

The ECE role at the Maamwe Kendaasing Child Care Centre is committed to upholding the highest standards of care and education. It is responsible for fostering the spiritual, emotional and physical growth of Indigenous children, in accordance with the centre’s mandate and governing legislation under the Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA). This commitment ensures the quality delivery of an early childhood development program focused on cultural and early learning.

Apply now by sending your:

- Resume
- Cover letter
- Two (2) work-related reference names and one (1) character reference (with contact numbers)

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

February 14, 2025 at 12 p.m.

For more information about the position, email:
hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca

To: jobapplications@whitefishriver.ca

www.whitefishriver.ca

MAAMWE KENDAASING

CHILD CARE CENTRE

Salary Range:
\$44,880 - \$53,590
+ Group Benefits and Pension

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:
EARLY LEARNING
COORDINATOR

If you enjoy working with children and are looking for an engaging and rewarding career, then a career in early childhood education might be for you!

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Diploma in Early Childhood Education or work experience delivering programs to children aged 0 – 6 years.
- At least three (3) years of work-related experience.
- Knowledge of and sensitivity to the needs of Indigenous children and families.
- Knowledge of Indigenous culture, traditions, and value systems.
- Knowledge of the Child Care Framework and How Does Learning Happen? Ontario’s Pedagogical document.
- Valid Standard First Aid Training and Level “C” CPR.
- Safe Food Handlers Certification (or willing to obtain).

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

As the Early Learning Coordinator, you will play a crucial role in providing quality and supportive programming for families with children ages 0 – 6. Your work will be instrumental in promoting cultural understanding and supporting the Indigenous community. You will design, develop, deliver, and evaluate programs for children (0-6yrs.) alongside their parents and/or caregivers. These programs will be culturally appropriate, land and language-based, focusing on resilience and positive coping techniques. The Early Learning Coordinator will fill in for other Early Childhood Educators (when required) at the Maamwe Kendaasing Childcare Centre.

Apply to:

jobapplications@whitefishriver.ca

- Include: Resume, Cover letter
- Copies of Certifications
- Two (2) work related reference names and one (1) character reference (with contact numbers)

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

February 21, 2025 at Noon.

For more information about the position, email: hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca

www.whitefishriver.ca

M’Chigeeng welcomes winter with a host of fun events for everyone



One of the many highlight events of the M’Chigeeng Winter Carnival, held February 7-9 was the ‘Backhoe Rodeo,’ held in memory of Bill Debassige. In photo the late Mr. Debassige’s daughter Jolene Debassige and grandson Ryder Brook (18 months old) are obviously having a great time participating in the event.



Even dogs took part in winter carnival events in M’Chigeeng.



UCCM Police Special Constable Matt Bebonang presents a stuffed teddy bear to young Floyd Ense for winning the kid’s nail driving contest.

photos by John Ense

Gore Bay petition seeks new path

by Tom Sasvari
GORE BAY—Gore Bay council will have town staff look into the installation of a safe walking path in town after receiving a petition on this from residents on Wright Street and Doc Strain Drive.
The petition, circulated by resident Vicki Wright and signed by a total of 34 local residents in this area of town reads, “We would like to address the issue of making a safe walking path for residents (young and old) on Wright Street and Doc Strain Drive to have safe travel to town and back home. Currently, the sidewalk abruptly ends at Park Street. Establishing a paved area or sidewalk to go up and down the hill would create a more walkable town. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated by all.”
“First of all, thank you as residents for bringing this issue forward,” said Gore Bay Mayor Ron Lane at a council meeting January 13. “I have thought a lot about the Doc Strain hill over the years

and people having to walk up or down the hill on the side of the road.”
“There are definitely challenges with the hill, it is steep, there are drainage issues and there is a bank on each side,” said Mayor Lane. “We will see what we can do to have a safe walking path established.” He said there would be some costs involved, “but it will be well worth it.”
Mayor Lane pointed out there would be some costs involved for materials, and the town would need to have engineers look at it to make sure it is totally safe. “We will have staff investigate this and see if it is possible.”
“I’m in favour of safety—I walk every day,” stated Mayor Lane.
Council passed a motion to have town staff investigate and provide a report to council as to the feasibility of the request made by the residents and report back to council.



Mr. Spaghetti Legs entertained youngsters of all ages with his juggling, comedy and handing out balloon sculptures.



Adults took a swing at the nail driving contest as well.



Young Floyd Ense Jr. took part in the nail driving competition.



Darlene Bebonang, a teacher at the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation, taught several people to make beautiful leather roses.



KINA Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services
Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services (KGCFs) is a designated Child Welfare Service delivering Child Protection Services within seven member First Nations in the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin. KGCFs honours and supports our families' and community's inherent authority to care for their children based on unity, traditions, values, beliefs and customs. **Preference will be given to Anishinaabe Candidates, please self-identify in your application.**

We are currently inviting applications for the following employment opportunities:

Sudbury:

- Youth Outreach Worker—After Hours
- Youth Cultural Outreach Worker
- Data Entry Clerk
- Child and Youth Worker Full-Time & Casual
- Youth Transitional Home Worker—Casual
- Youth Transitional Home Worker—After Hours
- Housing Support Worker Full-Time & Casual

Manitoulin Island:

- Youth Outreach Coordinator
- HR Administrative Assistant

Sudbury or Manitoulin:

- Child Well-Being Worker
- Youth Cultural Support Worker
- Cultural Enaadmaaget
- Family Support Worker
- Youth Connection Worker
- Volunteer Driver: Open Recruitment


All postings close February 21, 2025 at 4 pm EST

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

At KGCFs, we are steadfast in our dedication to fostering a work environment that is accessible to all, in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the Ontario Human Rights Code. Should you require any accommodations during the recruitment process, please do not hesitate to request them. We sincerely appreciate your interest in joining the team; however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

As a condition of employment, the successful candidate will be required to provide the following documents: a Satisfactory Criminal Reference Check and/or Vulnerable Sector Check (dated within three months of the application date), Driver's Abstract and Proof of Liability Insurance.

Thank you for considering a career opportunity with us.



Inspiring Possibilities

Community Living Manitoulin is looking for dedicated staff with a passion for working with adult individuals with developmental disabilities.

Do you want to play a vital role in inspiring possibilities and creating an environment that fosters meaningful living for all supported individuals?

There are part-time opportunities available within one of our many programs.

Five (5) Permanent Part-time positions

These unionized part-time positions are guaranteed at a minimum of 30 hours bi-weekly and can be scheduled a maximum of 32 hours weekly with a starting wage of \$27.49.

Upon successful completion of probation, these positions qualify for paid sick time, pension, and medical/dental benefits.

You are qualified if you have:

- Post-secondary diploma for Developmental Service Worker or equivalent in the Human Services Field (preferred)
- Personal Support Worker certificate or equivalent
- First Year Developmental Service Worker students may also qualify
- A valid Ontario driver's licence (Class G)
- Vulnerable Sector Criminal Reference Check

Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to the attention of Mrs. 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

For more information regarding Community Living Manitoulin, please visit our web site at www.clmanitoulin.com.

Wiky chef enters the spotlight in first-of-its-kind culinary education role

TORONTO—Joseph Shawana is the newly appointed Indigenous Culinary and Foodways Guide at Centennial College, according to release from the college.

Chef Shawana becomes the first Indigenous Culinary and Foodways Guide at Centennial College, a new role established by the College as part of its commitment to reconciliation.

In the new role, Shawana will have a focus on ensuring the College remains at the forefront of culturally grounded approaches to Indigenous food and food sovereignty. It's work that will contribute to advancing an Indigenous Strategic Framework developed by the College in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.



Chef Joseph Shawana is the first Indigenous Culinary and Foodways guide at Centennial College.

The college's commitments are organized under five pillars within that framework that include Indigenous learning and development for all. One of those commitments is to increase the number of Indigenous employees with hires across faculty, learn-

er-facing and management positions, and provide appropriate onboarding and culturally relevant supports to ease adjustment and transition. As an administrative position, the Indigenous Culinary and Foodways Guide role is empowered to make change across the College.

Chef Shawana is an Ojibwa from the Three Fires Confederacy who was born and raised on Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory on Manitoulin Island. As an accomplished chef, he is known for blending his Indigenous heritage and classical French culinary training.


The newly created role is the second cultural guide position to be established at Centennial, alongside Indigenous Cultural Guide Maureen Hearn. As a link between the College,

the School of Hospitality, Tourism and Culinary Arts, and the communities they serve, Chef Shawana will report jointly to the School's Dean, Damian Goulbourne and Seán Kinsella, director, the Eighth

Fire.

Mr. Kinsella, whose title is a nod to the Anishinaabe Seven Fires prophecy, is a guide in their own right, as a steward of community efforts to decolonize and Indigenize the College.

"In establishing the Indigenous Culinary and Foodways Guide role, the College continues to recognize the ongoing work and sustained commitment it will take if we are to real-
...continued on page 7A



WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION

is seeking a highly organized and proactive:

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Term: Full-time (35 hours per week)
Salary Range: \$49,036 - \$59,800 + Group Benefits and Pension
**Offer is subject to education and experience or a combination of both*

The Executive Assistant will provide executive office leadership to support the Band Manager and ensure that the workload is prioritized to leverage the Nation's priorities and be strategic and effective in a fast-paced environment. The Executive Assistant will also lead, coordinate and support administrative work for the Band Manager on a wide variety of complex, sensitive and confidential matters requiring in-depth knowledge of WRFN programs, services and administrative policies and procedures. The Executive Assistant will also coordinate and provide oversight of the high-level administrative work associated with Program Managers, Chief and Council, and other stakeholders.

Key Responsibilities:

- Act as a contact and respond to inquiries from WRFN band members, Council, and internal and external stakeholders.
- Independently compose, proofread and edit various documents, including emails, letters, memos, reports and minutes.
- Receive, screen, prioritize, direct or respond to incoming communications to the Band Manager, including telephone calls, email and mail.
- Use sound judgment and provide information and direction on sensitive matters or other information of a confidential nature.
- Maintain, organize and manage corporate records and information (e.g. minutes, by-laws, charitable status, etc.) for the Band Manager.
- Ensure the Band Managers calendar is updated to include all meetings and events.
- Assist with communicating related information to other staff.
- Work with the Band Manager to ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and organizational standards.

**For a complete Job Description, please email: hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca*

Qualifications:

- A College diploma in Business Administration or a related field with a minimum of five (5) years of senior administrative experience within a similar role OR minimum Grade 12 education with a minimum of eight (8) years of senior administrative experience within a similar role.
- Experience working with First Nations and an understanding of First Nations' health, social and information management issues would be considered an asset.
- Operational knowledge and understanding of First Nation issues at the local level.
- Thorough knowledge of Anishinabek culture, values and traditions.
- A solid understanding of and sensitivity to the experiences of First Nations and Indigenous peoples in Canada and the impact of the legacy of Residential Schools and the Sixties Scoop upon them is essential.
- Skilled with office operations and administrative support at an executive level.

Skills:


- Extensive proficiency using computers and standard computer software programs (e.g. Excel, Word, Outlook, Publisher, PowerPoint, etc.).
- Demonstrated ability to keyboard at a minimum of 60 wpm.
- Detail-oriented and organized with strong project planning and time management skills that support meeting deadlines.
- Demonstrated organizational and time management skills with the ability to multi-task and set priorities.
- Ability to communicate professionally and respectfully in any situation, including difficult discussions that may arise.
- Conflict-resolution skills and handling situations respectfully.

Applications must be submitted by February 21st, 2025 at noon.

Interested applicants must submit a current resume, cover letter, two (2) work-related references, one (1) character reference (with contact information) and applicable education diplomas/certifications to:

Confidential: Executive Assistant
Whitefish River First Nation
c/o Human Resources
17-A Rainbow Ridge Road
PO Box 188, Birch Island, ON P0P 1A0
Email: jobapplications@whitefishriver.ca • Fax: (705) 285-4532

Miigwetch to all who apply; however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.



WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION

POST-SECONDARY AND ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR

2ND POSTING

Salary Range: \$56,800 - \$67,820 / year + Group Benefits and Pension
(Subject to education and/or experience or a combination of both)

The Post-Secondary & Adult Education Coordinator will provide guidance in the development, planning and execution of multiple complex programs in support of and in alignment with the department's strategic plan to reach the vision and mission of the department and WRFN. The Post Secondary and Adult Education Coordinator will establish and maintain strong internal and external partnerships and strong connections to students and adult learners to support the successful completion of school and facilitate entry into careers.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Post-Secondary Program:

- Administer the Whitefish River First Nation's (WRFN) Post-Secondary Education (PSE) program under WRFN's PSE program policy and guidelines.
- Accept, screen and, once approved, process all WRFN Post-Secondary applications for funding.
- Assist members with post-secondary program support in various areas, including assisting with requests for funding, bursaries or scholarship applications.
- Review, verify and prepare all WRFN Post-Secondary applications for funding, including forecast of student budgets and recommend funding limits for presentation to the Education manager within required time frames.
- Prepare letters notifying students of application results and tuition letters verifying student sponsorship for educational institutions within the required time frames and as needed.

Adult Education:

- Address any challenges adult learners face in overcoming barriers to learning and education to help them achieve their full potential.
- Promote positive attitudes from learners towards education to ensure students benefit fully from the opportunities available.
- Provide assistance with intervention strategies to students who experience barriers to learning or attending school.

Counselling and Collaboration:

- Interact regularly with all students through virtual or in-person meetings.
- Provide advocacy and liaison services to enable students and adult learners reach their academic and career goals.
- Manage the day-to-day project activities, interact with students, Colleges and Universities and other funding agencies as needed.

Administration:

- Develop a list and process for emailing students and/or provide regular information via Constant Contact to Communications personnel for dissemination.
- Maintain an accurate, up-to-date filing system and database for WRFN-sponsored and supported students.

**For a complete Job Description, please email: hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca*

Qualifications:

- Diploma in Business, Education, Social Work or Community Development.
- Experience managing or coordinating a First Nation departmental budget or program over 2-3 years.
- Class G Driver's licence, reliable vehicle and the ability to travel.
- Experience in delivering presentations and in meeting coordination.
- Advanced computer skills in Microsoft Office Suite (Outlook, Word, Excel) and proficiency in promotional computer software.
- Previous experience working within a First Nation education sector would be an asset.
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills.
- Strong organizational and interpersonal skills and the ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Thorough knowledge and understanding of best practices in advising and career coaching.
- Experience developing and maintaining school partnerships.
- Knowledge and appreciation of Anishinabek Culture, traditions, language and history.
- Writing skills to prepare plans, reports, presentations, correspondence and other documents.

Skills:

- Knowledge of Indigenous culture, history and beliefs.
- Lived experience as an Indigenous student and person accessing post-secondary programs.
- Demonstrated excellent organizational and time management skills, attention to detail and accuracy.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills, professional manner, tact, diplomacy and ability to work well with all levels of school staff and students.
- Strong and accurate data entry skills and intermediate skills with databases.
- Demonstrated ability to handle conflicting priorities and deadlines; to interpret and advise on policy.
- Excellent multi-tasking skills under high-stress situations.
- Patience and ability to develop collaborative relationships with internal and external constituents.
- Ability to create a welcoming student environment and provide excellent customer service.
- Sound knowledge of School and WRFN policies and procedures.

**Must provide an up-to-date Police Vulnerable Sector Screening Check upon hire.*

Applications must be submitted by noon on February 14th, 2025 at 4 p.m.

Interested applicants must submit a current resume, cover letter, two (2) work-related references, one (1) character reference (with contact information) and applicable education diplomas/certifications to:

Confidential: Post Secondary & Adult Education Coordinator
Whitefish River First Nation
17-A Rainbow Ridge Road
PO Box 188, Birch Island, ON P0P 1A0
Email: jobapplications@whitefishriver.ca • Fax: (705) 285-4532

Miigwetch to all who apply; however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

...Wiky chef enters the spotlight in first-of-its-kind culinary education role

...continued from page 7A

ize our shared aspirations for reconciliation,” said Mr. Kinsella. “Joseph is a natural teacher, and we are fortunate to have him carving the path forward in this new role facilitating dialogues, connecting with Indigenous communities and conducting culinary foodways training.”

Chef Shawana has been a part of the Centennial College community since 2019, bringing Indigenous cultural events and traditional ceremonies onto campus in the form of Full Moon Feasts. The Feasts, which combine Indigenous cuisine and teachings on the significance of new moons, are a collaborative effort of colleagues across the culinary school and The Centre for Faculty Development and Teaching Innovation including Chef Rodney Bowers, Shannon Winterstein and Harmony Nadjiwon. Chef Shawana has also developed food courses, and has taught courses such as Catering Culinary

Operations, Cook’s Desserts, Local and Sustainable Cuisine, and Restaurant Culinary Operations.

Damian Goulbourne, Dean, School of Hospitality, Tourism and Culinary Arts, said the Indigenous Culinary and Foodways Guide role marks a significant step in creating an inclusive culinary education.

“By integrating the deep traditions of Indigenous culinary heritage into our curriculum, we are fostering a community where respect, understanding, and cultural exchange thrive,” said Goulbourne. “Chef Joseph’s Odawa heritage and his world-class culinary expertise make him the perfect guide to advance this initiative.”

For Shawana’s part, he can’t wait to get started bringing his plans and vision for the role to life.

“I am eager to dig in to the Indigenous Culinary and Foodways Guide role, to build on important work that is happening at Centennial College and expand opportunities to engage with Indigenous practices and teachings across our campuses and community,” said Shawana.

“One example of what this might look like is hosting community seed exchanges, which is how we can sustain plants like the Lakota squash once thought to be lost, but which now grows in our garden beds.

“Indigenous Peoples learn about the traditional value of plants and animals through oral storytelling. We only take the learnings we need and pass these interpretations along to children and youth. It’s similar to how I teach my students recipes. It’s not about replicating the dish; it’s about bringing your own interpretation to the plate. I’m excited about bringing Indigenous ways of knowing and doing to an audience that extends beyond the classroom as Indigenous Culinary and Foodways Guide.”

It’s work that began in earnest this past summer as Shawana stepped into the role.


Little Current Lions Winterfest 2024 champions rock the rink



The Revel Realty Rockets won the 50 plus division at Winterfest. They are, back row, from left, Vic Vuorensryja, Pete Sintal, Terry Morin, Brendan Morin, Bruce Visitor, Brian Rogers, Mike Flabiano, bottom row, Stew Fowler, Todd Yusko, Mike Taylor, Jeff Sheppard and Jason Neva.



The Wolverines took the women’s Winterfest title on Sunday. The champions are, back row, from left, Shanna Landry, Shania White, Nyssa Solomon, Delani Trudeau, Delaney Webkamigad, Angela Green, front row, Danielle Shawana, Savannah Corbiere, Lyric Pitawanakwat-Peltier, Amber Lewis and Kristen Meilleur.



Manitoulin Central Family Health Team (MCFHT)
MCFHT is looking to fill the following position:
1 Full Time - Nurse Practitioner

We are seeking a FT Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner to become a partner within our vibrant health care team. The Nurse Practitioner will work within a collaborative patient care delivery model which includes physicians, nurses, dietitian, social worker and more to deliver comprehensive health care to our community.

A successful candidate will be required to:

Position Summary

- Provide ongoing comprehensive health care across the lifespan within the NP scope of practice, including assessment, diagnosis, counselling, screening, referral, education, treatment and follow-up
- Determine need for ordering diagnostic and lab tests; interpreting and providing appropriate follow-up
- Identify and appropriately consult/refer within the health care team or otherwise; integrate/refer to community resources
- Provide same day walk-in services to FHT patients for acute episodic illnesses
- Provide home visits for patients as needed
- Participate in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of treatment, education, counselling, health promotion and chronic disease management programs and services for individuals, families and in the community
- Work collaboratively within a multidisciplinary team, demonstrating leadership and communication skills to deliver quality integrated patient care
- Adhere to the CNO Nurse Practitioner Standards of Practice

Qualifications

- Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing
- Registered Nurse Extended Class (EC), PHC Certification
- Current membership with the College of Nurses of Ontario
- Current membership with the NPAO
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Satisfactory criminal reference check
- Experience with Electronic Medical Records is an asset
- Cultural Sensitivity Training

Compensation
Salary Range: \$103,822 – \$122,178
Benefits and HOOPP

Please submit your resume to:
Manitoulin Central Family Health Team
PO Box 10
Mindemoya, Ontario
PO Box 150
Attn: Lori Oswald
Fax: 1-855-908-2517
Email: manitoulincentralfht@mcfht.ca

Please reply in writing **no later than 4:00 pm, February 14, 2025.**
Only those selected for an interview will be contacted

SALES MANAGER



Join the Manitoulin Expositor Team!

The Expositor office will have an opportunity for an energetic, creative and driven individual.

If you’re outgoing, are a creative thinker and pride yourself on your organizational skills this could be the job for you!

Applicants should have good computer literacy, be outgoing, have a valid Ontario driver’s licence and thrive in a creative and dynamic atmosphere.

For more information, or to drop a resume by, please email expositor@manitoulin.com or give us a call, 705-368-2744.

We can’t wait to hear from you!

We thank all those who apply. However, only those considered for this position will be contacted.

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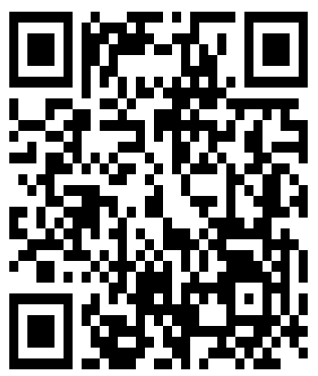
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