response to climate change in the context of the

CANDIDATES' QUESTION:

during the current election cycle.

is Monday

candidates were asked about Canada's absence of much discussion on this issue

Please see the second section for our annual tribute to Manitoulin volunteers.

FISHING • YACHTING • Published Weekly On the Largest Freshwater Island In The World

Vol. 145, No. 49 \$1.90 + GST

Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, April 23, 2025



ICY ROAD AHEAD—Citizen photographer Tammy Bourque came across this nature-based roadblock mid-Monday morning at the Newby's Bay boat launch on the Rockville Road at Lake Manitou where winds had pushed lake ice up and right across the road, causing detours through M'Chigeeng until the Northeast Town roads crew cleared the roadway. Local resident Carol Sheppard told The Expositor that in living in the area for 55 years, she had never seen anything like this before, observing that it was likely the combination of strong east winds and the nearby open creek flowing into the lake and breaking up the ice that caused this phenomenon

Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy

Medical evidence confirms NHLer Chris Simon had CTE when he died

by Tom Sasvari

WAWA—As his family suspected, former National Hockey League (NHL) player Chris Simon was suffering severe stage 3 chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE, caused by repeated concussions) when he died at the age of 52, as a result of suicide in 2024. This was according to a post-mortem brain tissue analysis released by his family and the Concussion Legacy Foundation (CLF) on Monday,

"Chris was suffering tremendously from CTE. We saw him declining but did not know where to turn to for help," Mr. Simon's parents and sister said in a statement to The Expositor. "Chris' short-term memory

issues were ongoing for many lem solve—and he had suicidal

years. We also learned that he had lost most of his hearing, had daily headaches, light sensitivity, paranoia, lack of feeling and emotion, impulsivity, distancing himself from those who meant the most to him, had executive dysfunction-meaning he couldn't plan or prob-

"We decided we would help them to make sure the arena is open," said Ms. Sweeney. "All children matter, and by making

to donate (toward the repairs on

kids played hockey here (Mindemoya arena), so we decided it was time to give back."

thoughts at times."

According to his family, Mr. Simon had "distanced himself from his family and friends the last three years of his life." They said the CTE diagnosis will help bring his loved ones some closure.

"The Chris we knew had been gone for quite some time. Looking back, we now realize that Chris likely started suffering from CTE in his late 20s to early 30s," the family said. "Our entire family suffered for many years as we saw our son, brother, father (of four), husband slip away from us, and we couldn't do anything to help him."

"Mr. Simon had severe CTE pathology in areas of the brain involved with cognition and mood regulation, and it is like-

...continued on page 12

Little Current businessman dies in tragic snowmobiling accident

LITTLE CURRENT—Many across Manitoulin are in mourning with the sudden passing of a well-known Little Current

businessman, Aaron Farquhar, whose adventurous spirit and joie de vivre was known and wide.

On Thursday, April 17, shortly before The 4:30 am, the Farquhar. Manitoulin



late

detachment of the OPP responded to a report of an overdue person who was operating a motorized snow vehicle (MSV) near White's Point

in Little Current. It was determined that Mr. Farquhar's snowmobile went into the water near White's Point in Little Current on Wednesday evening of last week. On the morning of Thursday, April 17, Mr. Farquhar was recovered from the water and transported to hospital by Air Ornge, where he was later pronounced deceased.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Emergency Response Team, OPP Canine Unit, OPP Aviation Services, Manitoulin OPP Marine Unit, OPP Un-

...continued on page 12

MANITOULIN-Two Manitoulin Island volunteer fire chiefs are urging people to get burn permits before setting any type of fire and to use common sense and not burn anything when it is windy after several fires took

"We need to get the message out to people to get a burn permit for any kind of fire, and to use some common sense; don't start a fire when it is windy," stated Rick Graham, fire chief of the Burpee and Mills Township volunteer fire department.

"It will get to the point that we

Island fire

officials warn of dry conditions, grass fire danger

by Tom Sasvari

place on the Island last week.

M'Chigeeng business donates \$10,000 to repairs by Tom Sasvari what's possible when we come

MINDEMOYA—Members of the newly formed Mindemoya Arena Repair Committee (MARC), young Mindemoya hockey players and their parents, municipal council leaders and more were on hand to receive a

significant donation of \$10,000 from the owners of Finn's Gas Bar in M'Chigeeng First Nation on April 16.

"We are thrilled and deeply grateful to announce a generous \$10,000 donation from Basil Panamick and Janice Sweenev." the executive of MARC said. "Their extraordinary gift has brought our total (raised) to over \$22,000 and their generosity has truly energized this

"Basil and Janice's donation is more than just a financial contribution, it's a powerful show of belief in our community's future," said MARC Chair Marie Ford. "It reminds us all together."

Central residents form arena support committee

this donation we are hoping it will encourage other businesses

VAL CARON—Turtle Pond Wildlife Centre is

one of eight Ontario-based wildlife centres that is

sounding the alarm over the growing number of

orphaned wildlife in the region, including Manito-

and many species, including raccoons and squir-

rels, seek warm, secluded places to nest and raise

their young. Attics, chimneys and other undis-

turbed areas becoming prime spots for these ani-

Not only is this an issue for homeowners, it is

As temperatures rise, wildlife activity increases

by Tom Sasvari

the arena)."

Ms. Sweeney noted, "all our

It's spring: Protect baby wild animals

Be careful not to accidentally orphan wildlife

...continued on page 14

centres which are on the receiving end of the hundreds of baby animals that are orphaned every year when homeowners evict their 'moms' from their premises.

also of deep concern for wildlife rehabilitation

"We deal with the same situation every year," Gloria Morrissette, authorized wildlife custodian at Turtle Pond Wildlife Centre, told The Expositor. "We have so many orphaned animals come in that we fill up the space we have, and what happens is that when people call about having an orphaned

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...continued on page 15

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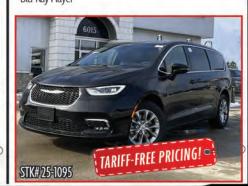
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Canada Votes 2025



Each week until the federal election, April 28, The Expositor is posing a question to each of the six candidates running to be the next MP of Sudbury East-Manitoulin-Nickel Belt. The Expositor did not hear back from the Conservative Party candidate Jim Bélanger by press time Monday.

In this election, in contrast to those of the past 20 years, there has been much less national emphasis on Canada's—and Canadians'—response to the global warming crisis that we know we are facing.

Canada's response to US tariffs and the cost of living have dominated this election cycle. There has been much discussion concerning ways to bring more of

time given to suggesting policies that address a reasonable response to a warming climate. What is your party's fundamental policy on this

Alberta's oil and natural gas resources to our east

and west coasts, and to the US, and relatively little

issue? How would it be implemented and in what time



Jim Bélanger, Conservative

No

response



Andréane Chénier, *NDP*

The climate crisis is not something we can afford to sideline, even when other pressing issues dominate the headlines. It requires bold, immediate action—not just words. While other parties focus on helping big oil and gas companies, the NDP is focused on building a cleaner, fairer future for everyone.

The NDP will stop giving billions of dollars in subsidies to fossil fuel companies and invest that money in renewable energy like wind and solar power instead. We'll make public transit better and more affordable, retrofit homes and buildings to use less energy, and support Canadian innovation in green technologies. These investments will create good, unionized jobs and lower household costs in the

...continued on page 8



Himal Hossain, Green Party

The Green Party's fundamental policy on climate change is rooted in the belief that a just, sustainable, and thriving future is not only possible it's urgent. While other parties have shifted focus away from the climate crisis, we remain unwavering in our commitment to bold, science-based action.

Our policy begins with three key pillars:

Rapid Decarbonization: We aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 60 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero by 2040. This means ending subsidies to the fossil fuel industry, placing a moratorium on new oil and gas projects, and investing massively in renewable energy infrastructure wind, solar, tidal and geothermal.

A Just Transition for

...continued on page 8



Justin Leroux, Libertarian

Climate change is real. But the best solutions don't come from Ottawa-they come from the innovation, stewardship. and resourcefulness of the people.

The Libertarian Party believes environmental stewardship should be guided by science, not political theatre, and implemented through decentralized, accountable, and voluntary means. Federal carbon taxes, corporate handouts to green tech giants, and layers of red tape have only driven up the cost of living while doing little to meaningfully reduce emissions.

Instead of punishing individuals and small businesses, we propose the following:

Phase out the carbon tax entirely—freeing up households and farmers while encouraging innovation, not dependency.

...continued on page 8



Shari St. Louis, People's Party

The PPC does not believe the climate hysteria is real. We believe that Co2 is essential for all life on earth, this is backed by science.

We believe in carbon capture, done by our natural environment through our trees and plants.

We reject the over taxation of Canadians that has been done through this hysteria. Canadians are good stewards of this land, we hunt, fish and farm, we take good care of this nation responsibly and always have.

Canada is the most ecologically responsible oil producer on this earth. We do not believe that Canadians should be taxed in any way because we are bringing the most ethically and ecologically responsible oil to the people of this earth.

All Canadians should benefit from our oil re-

...continued on page 8



Marc Serré, Liberal

You're absolutely right—climate action can't take a back seat, even in an election dominated by other pressing issues. The Liberal Party remains firmly committed to meeting Canada's climate targets while creating good jobs and securing our economic future.

Our fundamental policy is clear: cut emissions, grow the economy, and support workers in the transition. We're the only party with a credible, real, science-based plan to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, I've worked directly on advancing Canada's clean energy strategy and unlocking the potential of our critical minerals—especially in Northern Ontario.

Here's how: Clean en-

...continued on page 8

The Manitoulin West Recorder

Gore Bay council to discuss amalgamation on April 28

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—A notice of motion by the Town of Gore Bay approaching two neighbouring municipalities to amalgamate with the town will be discussed by town council at its next regular meeting.

At a Gore Bay council meeting

Women entrepreneurs to gather at annual **Manitoulin conference**

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre, **Local Journalism Initiative Reporter** LITTLE CURRENT—The Women of Manitoulin Entrepreneur Network will once again bring together the Island's boldest business minds on April 27 at the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre, offering a full day of inspiration, networking,

...continued on page 10

last week, council considered a notice of motion put forward by Councillor Dan Osborne that, "whereas the Town of Gore Bay continues to explore opportunities to improve the sustainability, and delivery of municipal services, and whereas the municipalities of Gordon/Barrie Island and Billings Township share geographic proximity and common services with the Town of Gore Bay. Now be it resolved that council hereby directs Mayor (Ron) Lane to initiate explore the potential for municipal amalgamation with the municipality of Gordon/Barrie Island and the Township of Billings.

on the agenda of our (council) next meeting, and we will have a full discussion on this," stated Mayor Ron Lane at last week's council meeting. "Obviously it will be a very important discus-

"This notice of motion will be

Expositor correction

An April 9 story published in The Expositor, 'Ongoing harassment case involving Island Facebook administrator moves through courts,' incorrectly stated that Bill Concannon was due to be sentenced in April. In fact, Mr. Concannon has not yet stood trial and has not been sentenced. The Expositor regrets the error.



The Buie's Grocery Old Timers hockey group present a donation of \$1,000 to Paula Fields, back row, holding cheque, president and chief executive officer of the Manitoulin Health Centre, prior to their game last week.

Oldtimers team donates to hospital campaign

by Tom Sasvari

M'CHIGEENG—The Buie's Grocery Old Timers hockey group may play hockey for the enjoyment of the game and the camaraderie, but they are very serious about being generous to an import-

"We have a great group of guys, and we all enjoy playing hockey, the camaraderie and friendship, and taking part in a healthy activity," said Rick Niven.

"We decided at a team meeting recently that since we have money in surplus for our weekly hockey get togethers, that we should make a donation to the hospital," said Mr. Niven. "Everyone was in favour of this. And let's face it, we all could or probably will need to use the hospital services someday."

The Buie's Grocery Old Timers Hockey group presented a cheque in the amount of \$1,000 to Paula Fields, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC), last week. "We are very grateful to community groups like this who recognize the importance of supporting our local hospitals and fundraising for essential pieces of equipment."

"It is always great playing hockey and healthy for our lungs and heart," said Mr. Niven, noting the group plays from noon to 1 pm on Tuesdays and Thursday every week at the M'Chigeeng First Nation arena. "I'm sort of the facilitator and bookkeeper for the group. It was Dave Henderson who suggested donating some money to the hos-

...continued on page 8

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of Canada."



"who dares not offend cannot be honest"

One Manitowaning Road opinion

<u>editorial</u> The spirit of volunteerism remains strong on Manitoulin

As we head into Volunteer Week 2025, The Expositor celebrates the many community volunteers who grace our Island with their invaluable skills, expertise and passion. Without their efforts our quality of life would plummet drastically.

Volunteerism is reportedly on the wane across Canada, particularly since the pandemic—which disrupted traditional volunteering models and causing many organizations to switch to online or remote activities.

Also driving down the number of folks volunteering in our nation are the effects of generational differences in commitment. The bright side is that younger generations have higher rates of volunteerism, they tend to prioritize flexibility and short-term projects over the more traditional long-term commitment.

Today, younger volunteers seek deeper connections to the volunteer engagement they want to commit to—looking for those opportunities that provide a direct impact they can see. Younger Canadians (in case you are wondering, they are now labeled as iGens) are more likely to volunteer formally, but tend to offer fewer hours, while older generations may contribute more hours.

That could be good news for youth sports, where the impact is immediate and immense, as noted by one of this edition of The Expositor's volunteers, Geoff Corbiere, whose work with youth in baseball was initiated, as are many parent volunteers, through his own children's interests.

This need for a closer connection to one's volunteer efforts on behalf of organizations or communities tends to fly in the face of those pandemic influenced trends mentioned earlier. Managing to connect volunteers' virtual efforts with the up-close-and-personal bonding that leads to lifelong commitment and engagement will take some thinking outside of the box.

It is a long-standing joke among volunteers being thanked for their time and commitment that their pay should be doubled—the joke, of course, being in that volunteers don't get paid. The very essence of volunteerism.

Volunteerism is much more than just good however. Volunteers add and well-deserved accolades, to the gross national product of our nation in significant amounts, despite the work's unpaid nature. Estimates are that the value of volunteer work is approximately 8.5 percent—a whopping \$55.9 billion in strictly monetized terms. To put that in today's political perspective, The Donald's tariffs are anticipated to trim our nation's GDP by 2.2 percent in the second quarter of 2025—for the auto-centric city of Windsor, the annual impact is estimated for that city alone at 0.6 percent.

 $\bar{\mbox{To}}$ be clear, despite the hyper-partisan nature of today's political arena, there is no strong correlation between affiliation with any political party and volunteering. Every flavour is blessed with volunteers among their ranks—and none are significantly ascendant in that realm. Volunteerism is non-partisan (well, except for the many passionate individuals who volunteer their time putting up signs, making phone calls and taking their party's message door to door—they count too as their efforts are universally aimed at making ours a better world, even if they disagree strongly on how to achieve that end).

It is in our acts of volunteerism that we all find some of the common ground that binds us together—commonalities that we too often overlook in the cacophony of anger and division that too often characterizes current political debate in social media.

Volunteerism shows us that we, as Canadians, are far more alike than we are different—however we mark our ballots.

ASIAN CARP IDENTIFICATION curved line from gill to tail dorsal fin dorsal fin **GRASS CARP BLACK CARP** no barbels anal fin anal fin no barbels dorsal fin SILUER CARP dorsal fin BIGHEAD CARP eye below <--centre of body eye below ... 6 centre of body no barbels pelvic fin no barbels

Invasive Species Centre

Great Lakes Fishery Comm. lauds oval office commitment to stop Asian carp

Meeting yields renewed optimism that prevention project will proceed

MICHIGAN—Members of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC), including a local representative, is lauding a US Oval Office discussion with US President Donald Trump, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Michigan House Speaker Matt Hall about the need to prevent the migration of Asian carp into the Great Lakes. The Commission has been part of a determined, bi-partisan effort to keep the harmful, invasive species out of the Great Lakes, and the meeting held on Wednesday, April 9 with the US president gives renewed hope that key projects, like the (barrier control measure) underway at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, will be completed as planned.

"This is good news," said George Purvis, a member of the GLFC and a Manitoulin commercial fish operator. "There is supposed to be a lot of work carried out to keep the carp out

of the Great Lakes," he said noting that Asian carp, "would definitely have a huge effect on the fishery."

"Asian carp would devastate the Great Lakes fishery if they were allowed to enter the system," said GLFC Chairman Ethan Baker, who is also the Mayor of Troy, Michigan, "We must do everything we can to keep them out (of the Great Lakes). The multi-billion-dollar fishery is at stake."

"Asian carp collectively refers to three species of fish-bighead, silver, and black carp-that are native to Asia and escaped accidentally into public waterways in the southern US decades ago; they have been making their way towards the Great Lakes ever since, with a manmade canal system near the Chicago, Illinois area being the riskiest pathway. The carp were originally raised for food and as a natural way to keep bodies of water free of algae and other aquatic vegetation. An electrical barrier exists near Romeoville, Illinois to impede the movement, and a major project, the retrofitting of the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, Illinois is designed to be an innovative, impenetrable layer of defence.

"We have every reason to be deeply worried about Asian Mr. Baker continued. "The carp have decimated the fisheries in every waterway they have invaded already, primarily the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio Rivers. They eat massive quantities of food, and they reproduce prolifically. Bi-national, peer-reviewed risk assessments conducted by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) have demonstrated conclusively that no Great Lake would be spared and that it only takes a few males and few females for a population to be established. We do not want the Great Lakes

turned into carp ponds."

"The Brandon Road project, led by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), represents the best in design and innovation, which is why the project has received broad, bipartisan support," said Mr. Baker. "Michigan and Illinois, together, have provided more than one hundred million dollars in non-federal, matching funds for this project, for which the entire basin is grateful. I thank Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Speaker Matt Hall, along with Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, for raising this issue at the highest level. Additionally, I applaud Congress for appropriating funds, and President Trump for confirming his and the federal government's commitment to the project. The Great Lakes are the lifeblood of the project, and the Commission is very encouraged by the president's promise to act."

Ground-breaking Pope Francis dies in Rome following short illness

by Michael Erskine

ROME—The 12-year reign of the first Jesuit pope and first pope to be elected to lead the Roman Catholic Church to come from Latin America, Pope Francis, has died at the age of 88.

The pope had been hospitalized for several weeks following a bout of double pneumonia yet had managed to make an appearance (albeit wheelchair bound) at the Easter Mass in the Vatican. His passing came just hours after meeting with US Vice-president JD Vance.

His time at the helm of the Catholic Church ushered in a more open and welcoming Catholic Church, prioritizing empathy for the poor and the disenfranchised. That included Indigenous victims of our nation's church-run residential schools. In the spring of 2022, he made a historic and long called for apology for the deplorable conduct of some members of the Catholic Church during the church's stewardship of much of the residential school system. Just a few months later, he would go on to say that system had carried out a cultural "genocide."

Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires on December 17, 1936, as the oldest of five children of Italian immigrants, Pope Francis' ascension to the head of the Roman Catholic Church on March 13, 2013, came as a surprise when Pope Benedict XVI unexpectedly stepped down-popes usually serve until death.

As a child, young Jorge worked in his family's grocery store, played soccer and danced the tango—all normal activities for an Argentinian youth. He attended church regularly with his family but was not especially religious until he had a powerful experience during confession as a teen.



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In 1969, Fr. Bergoglio was ordained into the priesthood as part of Society of Jesus, the Jesuits, a Catholic order known for education and missionary work. Four years later, he became head of the Jesuits in Argentina, then archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998. In 2001, he was appointed a cardinal by Pope John Paul II.

In June 2013, just three months after becoming pope, the new head of the Catholic Church responded to a reporter's question about LGBTQ+ people in the church by saying, "If a person is gay and seeks God and has goodwill, who am I to judge?" He would later encourage same-sex parents to attend mass with their children and called laws that crim-

inalized homosexuality unjust. Quite a revolution in the usually very staid Christian denomination.

Going even further, in December 2023, Pope Francis authorized priests to provide informal blessings to couples in "irregular" (same sex) unions, creating an exception for Africa after bishops from the continent protested.

In June 2015, he released the 'Laudato si', the first-ever papal document on the environment. A hard-hitting political analysis that focuses on global inequality calls upon world leaders to urgently respond to the climate crisis—eight years later, he issued a follow-up, the Laudate Deum—challenging leaders to commit to binding reduction targets.

The Pope would go on to apologize several times for the Catholic Church's role in colonialism and justifying the seizing of Indigenous People's lands.

His passing will be mourned by Catholics across the globe, while the cardinals



"A chance in a lifetime," say sisters Rosemary Wakegijig and Margaret Jackson, who were part of a contingent from Wiikwemkoong that had an opportunity to meet one-on-one with Pope Francis in Montreal. "Security was tight," say the sisters, "bodyguards everywhere, drones flying above us, codes to get through different secure areas and we had to follow a path, no side stepping from the parameters."

of the church will soon gather to elect his successor—a person who will have huge slippers to fill.

Bishop Oulton serves up more than lunch at Holy Trinity Anglican Church

by Margery Frisch LITTLE CURRENT—Just days before Easter Sunday, Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Little Current hosted an ecumenical gathering to welcome the Assisting Bishop of Algoma, the Right Rev. Michael Oulton. Rev. Catherine Hazlitt, Pastor of Holy Trinity greeted everyone who entered the church hall. When all were gathered, she introduced her honoured guest, explaining that he's the Assisting Bishop of Algoma, his assistance being requested by Archbishop Anne Germond, who became the acting Primate of Canada in September of 2024.

"Bishop Oulton is here to encourage us," Rev. Hazlitt explained, "and he's also taking a tour today of all five of the Anglican churches (on the Island). He's doing some visits and some teaching."

Rev. Hazlitt also introduced Archdeacon Glen Miller of Sudbury, whose job that day was to get Bishop Oulton to all those other Anglican Churches on time. Once she had introduced the Parish Deacon of Holy Trinity, Joyce Foster, and several other members of her parish, Rev. Hazlitt asked the bishop to say grace.

Before grace, Bishop Oulton told a bit about himself and how it came about that he is now Assisting Bishop of Algoma. He had been the Bishop of Ontario, which encompassed the North Shore of Lake Ontario – from Trenton to Cardinal, to Kempel just outside of Ottawa. "I could drive it in about four hours and not break the speed limit but Algoma," he said with emphasis, "is a different kettle of fish." When Archbishop Anne Germond called him, because she was taking on the job as acting Primate, it only took him a few seconds to say yes, he would become Assisting Bishop of Al-

Bishop Oulton thanked everyone for coming. He was happy to see there were people from other Anglican churches, but



Archdeacon Glen Miller, Right Rev. Michael Oulton, Assisting Bishop of Algoma and Rev. Catherin Hazlitt, pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Little Current.

photo by Margery Frisch

also the United Church and the Roman Catholic Church. "All coming together," he said, "this is what it's all about. One of my favourite sayings is from a pastor in the States, he says, 'We find common ground by always reaching for higher ground." Then he mentioned it's never good to get between Anglicans and their food, and promptly said grace.

The bishop, along with Archdeacon Miller, served the meal to all in attendance. Shepherds' pie prepared by Prepped, with pies of all kinds for dessert left everyone well satisfied.

When the meal was finished, Rev. Hazlitt stood and addressed the group. She decided. she said, that she would put the bishop on the spot, with an "Ask him anything" segment before he had to dash off to his next destination. The first question, came quickly, though reluctantly, "I've decided to read the psalms, but I just don't understand what I'm reading. Is it crazy to keep on reading them?" Bishop Oulton's answer was an overwhelming endorsement of the psalms. "They speak of the beauty of our faith. I advise people sometimes, if you're having

difficulties, go out in the middle of your 40-acre field, find one of those good, wailing psalms and go out and read that psalm, it's very therapeutic. Because you're coming alongside people of faith who went through those difficulties and hardships, but they always end by saying, 'but you O Lord, are the Lord and in you I trust.' God wants to hear the innermost desires of our hearts." Someone added how, even hearing the psalms read in the language they were written in they could understand what was being said.

It was a safe space in which

those gathered could speak frankly. The bishop's words were a comfort, and a balm to those who asked questions about difficult times. He did not give pat answers but spoke out of lived experience and strong faith. His humour was interjected throughout, keeping things lively. And all too soon, Bishop Oulton was dashing off to the next church on his agenda. Those leaving the hall after him, did indeed feel encouraged, just as Rev. Hazlitt had promised in her introduction that day.

Gore Bay mayor does not intend to use 'strong mayors powers'

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—The Mayor of Gore Bay has indicated he will not invoke the Strong Mayors Powers.

"We have a letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) on the Strong Mayors Initiative being expanded (to include Gore Bay, the municipality of Central Manitoulin and the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands [NEMI])," said Gore Bay Mayor Ron Lane at a council meeting last week.

"I've read through the document, and I can see where it would be applicable in certain circumstances, for some communities," said Mayor Lane. "And I've read cases where councils are dysfunctional, with the mayor and council, or councillors not getting along and nothing getting done."

"And I can see, for instance, in big cities like Toronto, where they have about 35 councillors and can never get consensus among council," stated Mayor Lane. However, "we (Gore Bay)

don't have a dysfunctional council, tend to invoke the strong mayors powwe have a good working relationship, and I can see this continuing for future councils. This (legislation) would not be something I would be interested in seeing go ahead here."

Town Manager Harry Schlange said, "I have been in cities where the mayor has invoked this legislative power and the rest of council feels segregated and no one on council works together. It just creates tension."

Mayor Lane indicated he does not in-

ers in the town of Gore Bay.

As was reported in last week's edition of The Expositor, the province is proposing to expand strong mayor powers to the heads of council in 169 additional municipalities (effective May 1), including three on Manitoulin Island, to help deliver on provincial priorities, such as building more homes, transit, and other infrastructure across the

...continued on page 23

Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service seizes quantity

of cocaine valued over \$20,000

Members of the Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service (WTPS) acted on information provided to its officers early on the morning of Wednesday, April 16 and were able to successfully conduct a drug seizure in Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory (WUT).

As a result of the investigation police seized a quantity of cocaine with a street value of over \$20,000. Additionally, \$375 in cash was seized. An adult male and adult female from Wiikwemkoong were charged with numerous criminal and drug trafficking related charges.

Jonathan Debassige, 44, was charged with: possession of a schedule one substance for the purpose of trafficking cocaine under the controlled drugs and substances act (CDSA) 5(2).

Katie Ominikamigo, 27, was charged with possession of a schedule one substance for the purpose of traffick-



ing cocaine, CDSA 5(2), resist peace officer (criminal code 129 (a), abandoning a child (criminal code 218).

Both accused were held for bail court on April 16. This investigation is part of the WTPS Drug Enforcement Strategy and Offender Management Program.

Snowmobile operator arrested following suspicious person call

One person is facing impaired-related charges after police were called to a residential address.

On Wednesday, April 9, at approximately 2:30 am, officers with the Manitoulin detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) received a report of a suspicious person at a residence on Lee Valley Road in Sables-Spanish Rivers township. Police arrived on scene

and observed a motorized snow vehicle (MSV) leaving

When police attempted to stop the MSV it fled at a high rate of speed. The MSV was later found in a ditch, and the driver, who fled on foot, was safely arrested. There were no injuries reported.

Additionally, police located an amount of suspected fentanyl with an estimated street value of \$650.

As a result, the driver, Tristan Sago, 41 from Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation, was charged with two counts of obstruct peace officer, three counts of failure to comply with undertaking, dangerous operation, operation while impaired-drugs, flight from peace officer, two counts of personation with intent to avoid arrest, prosecution or obstruct justice, possession of a schedule one substance-opioid, fail to stop for police officer, drive motorized snow vehicle while licence suspended.

The accused remains in custody.

Friends and Neighbours

Providence Bay Alexia Hannigan

Alexia here with your friendly dock and garden fly!

Mid-April is here and everyone Island-wide has hit their panic button press...T-minus a couple of weeks until the masses arrive again in droves. The first Chi-Cheemaun sail is May 2 and then it gets very real folks! All the dockmasters and boaters are getting their game faces on ready for first sail and all business owners and staff are getting in full gear for the mayhem of May on Manitoulin, it's never too soon to get our gardening on. Woot woot! Time to get dirty.

Here's what's happening! Providence Bay arena and fairgrounds: Providence Bay Youth Soccer kicks off again Saturday, May 3 and runs every Saturday at the Providence Bay arena fairgrounds. Please register online before April 25.

Providence Bay Community of Christ Church joys and community updates 10:30 am; service 11 am.

Providence Bay Curling Club: Thanks everyone for another incredible season and for all your support! Keep an eye on their Facebook page for updates and upcoming yard sale events!

Providence Bay Hall: Exercise Classes continue Friday mornings; Tai Chi continues Mondays and Thursdays.

On Saturday, April 26, join us at the Providence Bay Centennial Hall from 8 am to 12 pm for a pancake breakfast fundraiser benefiting Manitoulin Metal Robotics FRC 6865, Providence Bay/ Spring Bay Lions Club.

Lions bottle-drive continues next to

the Providence Bay arena!

Municipality of Central Manitoulin invites residents and user groups to participate in the preliminary public engagement sessions for the municipality's recreation infrastructure master planning process.

Providence Bay Hall, Tuesday, April 29 at 6 pm

The Birds: They're Back! "When Robins Appear, loved ones are near.'

The Heavens: The Lyrids Meteor Shower runs annually from April 16 to 25. It peaks this year on the morning of the 23. These meteors can sometimes produce bright dust trails that last for several seconds. The thin crescent moon will not pose much of a problem so this should be a good show.

Next full moon aka the Flower moon will rise on May 12.

Wishing you clear skies and bright sights! Happy sky-gazing.

The Friends: Happy Birthday to all of you late April babies! Wishing everyone a beautiful season under the sun.

"Now 'tis spring and weeds are shallow-rooted; Suffer them now and they'll overgrow the garden.'

- William Shakespeare

Kagawong Team Fergmeijer

They say finding workers is tough these days - good employees are hard to find. Which is why Team Fergmeijer hides as soon as we clock in at our job. That wasn't always the case though. We once were fired from working at a barber shop. We just couldn't cut it.

Speaking of, are you dyeing for a new look to brush off the negativity in your life? Good news! There is a new salon opening in the village. There is locks to talk about, but long story short, if you see some workers in downtown Kagawong, these jacks of all fades aren't tress-passing, they are updoing the property so this trim-mendous new business can open soon. Stay tuned!

Saturday was an egg-citing day with many Easter enthusiasts willing to eggnore their diet for the thrill of the hunt. Thank you to all the participants and the organizers for another fun event!

We have several Kagawongians (both full-time and seasonal) celebrating birthdays this week. Marilyn P, Kristy C, Jean W, Cameron H, and Gary H are all turning 29 this year! We wish them many happy returns and strongly encourage them to eat cake and just ignore the number of candles.

This Saturday! Join the Billings Climate Action Committee in a Neighbourhood Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 26. If you are cleaning up around your neighbourhood, bring any collected waste in clear bags to the Park Centre parking lot that day where it will be sorted, weighed, and then brought to the landfill. You can also clean up on some deals by coming out to the Park Centre for a "junk in the trunk" community yard sale. If you'd like to book a table for the event, reach out to Vince at vgrogan@billingstwp.ca.

Why did the librarian slip on the library floor? She was in the non-friction section. To protect against this, the Billing's library has recently installed new flooring in key areas of the building. Check out the new additions (and maybe some books, board games, cake pans, or magazines, too) during regular library hours: Tuesday and Thursday 4 to 7 pm; Saturday 10 am to 1 pm.

There's still time to take part in Manitoulin Streams' Great Manitoulin Island Clean Up! With awards for the school, community, business, individual, seniors, and group of four who clean up the most bags of garbage, it's a win for you

AND for the Island environment! Check out Manitoulin Streams on Facebook for full details of how to take part.

Don't yet have the TOWNApp on your phone? It's time to auto-correct that! TOWNApp is a brand new, free app that you can use to stay up-to-date with all the goings-on in Billings, including updates about safety, events, road closures and taxes. It even allows you to directly report road issues, accidents, floods and other concerns. Just download the app and enter "Billings."

If you are feeling down, try drinking a large glass of water before bed. It will give you a reason to get out of bed in the morning. Have a great week!

Meldrum Bay Elaine Bradley

On Friday night, April 11 there were four- and three-quarter tables at euchre, there were 19 people at cards. High lady was Karen Noble with 72 points; high man was Harold Rogers with 70. Donna Kay McDonald won the ladies' lone hands with five and Gene Cada won the men's lone hands with four; most euchres went to Bob Benedict with 10; the door prize was won by Elaine Bradley; Donna Kay was the lucky person to win the money jar with 83 points; the 50/50 draw was won by Diane Jones; and Lois Wismer brought home the juice. We had a great time. Thanks to all who came.

On Easter Sunday, Meldrum Bay St. Andrew's United Church had a sunrise service at the waterfront followed by a breakfast in the hall. Lots of preparations were made.

Many people looked forward to getting together with family for the Easter weekend. Rose was joined by her sister.

Last Friday we enjoyed our coffee hour, soup and cake at Almaz's in Gore Bay. It was a really nice gathering. This week Diane did not bring her grandson and everyone missed him.

The ice is gone out of the bay. The spring flowers are starting. But it's still pretty cold to be on the water. We are looking forward to warmer days ahead. Already Joe has prepared his poster for the Poker Paddle on Saturday, June 21. This is an annual event and is well attended, so come out and join in some fun. I am sure we will have wonderful weather by then and the water will be much

Barrie Island Enid Runnalls

I took Myra Duncanson, DonnaKay McDonald and Lois Wismer with me to euchre in Meldrum Bay on Friday night. There were 19 players.

Sunday afternoon, there was a euchre tournament at the Burpee/Mills complex. It was a fundraiser for the MSS Robotics team and the Easter egg hunt. There were eight tables of players. Congratulations to Paul Sorbara and Ken Duncanson who won first place and to Murray Duncanson and Harold Rogers who were in second place.

Albert Meijer had the recycle bins open on Monday afternoon.

Euchre on Monday night was can-

On Tuesday I spent the day in Little Current taking three sessions of election training.

On Tuesday afternoons, the exercise class will continue until the end of May. On Wednesday afternoon DonnaKay

McDonald, Brenda Carter and Lynn Pickard did their training in Little Current for the election.

I have started walking along the highway to pick up the cans and bottles that can be turned in for money which will go to charity. There seem to be even more

On Wednesday morning I had a visit from Todd Secord. My brother Shawn arrived with some syrup while he was there.

I have had a few people tell me their garbage is not always getting picked up. Please let me know if anyone else has the same issue in this township.

There are a lot of deer back now. We have not seen any in our backyard yet. We do have piles of birds of all shapes and sizes.

On Saturday, April 26 there is a ham and scalloped potato supper at the Silver Water Hall at 5 pm.

The federal election is on Monday, April 28 from 9:30 am to 9:30 pm.

On Saturday, May 3 it is the Snowduster fish dinner in Silver Water starting at 5 pm.

Happy 55th birthday to Tom Burt. Happy 12th birthday to Ronan Callah-

Get well to Amanda Secord.

Manitoulin Sporting Life Ce Chips to Canoe Quip

Manitoulin Selects road warriors

The Manitoulin U11 Selects travelled to Niagara Falls last weekend for the Pete Ross Top Gun Select Tournament. They beat the West Niagara Flying Aces 4-3 and the Belle River Jr Canadiens 7-0, earning a spot in the quarter finals where they came up short against the Paris Wolfpack, losing 7-3.

Team roster for the tournament included: Alexander Woods, Calvin Kaboni, Connor Pheasant, Danika Peltier, Dominic Tomaseli, Emma Souliere, Gazongii Manitowabi, Ginew Pitawanakwat, Gus Spry, Harrison Wright, Rowen Lecuyer, Dawson Hones, Rydell Taibossigai, Trapper Cyr and Zayden McGregor. Backstopped by Reese Roy. Missing players who didn't make the trip south: Vincent Hemstreet, Ryder Varey and Nixon Lane.

Their bench and behind the scenes staff include, Head coach, Leonard Jason Peltier, assistant coaches, Curtis Fox and Chris Cyr, trainer, Bud Spry and man-

ager, Katie Cyr.

Badminton at the **4-Directions!**

The Mnidoo Mnising Elementary School Badminton Championships were held last week, Wednesday April 9 for the senior divisions (Grades 7-8), then Thursday for the Junior divisions (grades 5-6) at the 4-Directions Complex in Aundeck Omni Kaning.

The Senior Boys Singles medal winners included in 3rd Michael Taukei from Lakeview; 2nd Boston Abotossaway from Little Current Public School and Riley Corbiere from Central Manitoulin Public School with gold. Taking home the Senior Girls Singles hardware were: 3rd Sophia Hare from Lakeview: 2nd Myla Edralin from Little Current Public School and first was Nova Debassige from Central Manitoulin Public School.

In the Junior Boys Singles: 3rd Aiden Corbiere from Assiginack; 2nd Noah McCauley from Central Manitoulin Public School and Oliver Wilding from Little Current Public School with gold.

Junior Girls Singles: 3rd Lau-Bomberry from Pontiac; 2nd Addison Page from Assiginack; 1st **Brenna Pollard** from LCPS.

In the Senior Boys Doubles: 3rd Isaac Lock and Cannon Lockyer from CC McLean; 2nd Reid Hare and Devon MacKelvie from CMPS; 1st was Landon Armstrong and Wade Debassige of Lakeview.

Senior Girls Doubles: 3rd Mariah Loucks and Navayah Corbiere from Lakeview; 2nd Iris Spry and Ava Hartley; 1st Lynndra Madahbee-Peltier and Kailyn Inglis from LCPS.

Junior Boys Doubles: 3rd Tate Abotossaway and Callaway Anderson-Esquimaux from LCPS; 2nd Drew Debassige and Parker Johnston from CMPS; 1st Jaden Huang and Eli Van Volkingburgh from Assiginack

Junior Girls Doubles: 3rd Maeve Smith and Brinley Corbiere from CMPS; 2nd Alyeana McDermid and Addison Page from Assiginack; 1st Brooke Varey and Jordyn Corbiere from Little Current Public School.

Senior Mixed Doubles: 3rd Mia Tomaselli and Jack Van Volkingburgh from LCPS; 2nd Tomas Naokwegijig and Ryley Corbiere from Lakeview; 1st Kristin Lee and Ben Daniso from CMPS

Junior Mixed Doubles: 3rd Aya Taukei and Memphis Panamick from Lakeview; 2nd Avery Panton and Shawn MacKelvie from CMPS; 1st Ada Correa and Fin Card from Little Current Public School. Thanks to organizer, Mark Peltier of Noojmowin Teg who hosted a total number of 94 athletes for the two days!

Spring Dance Production Save the date, Saturday, May 24th for an Evening with the Garden Faeries a production by some 110 young dancers of the Body Stories, dance studio. They are eagerly preparing for their spring production at Manitoulin Secondary School with showtimes at 2:30pm & 5:30 pm. Tickets go on sale in early May, so stay tuned.



Lynndra Madahbee-Peltier and Kailyn Inglis from Little Current Public School scored gold in the senior girls doubles



Nova Debassige from Central Manitoulin Public School captured top honours in the

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

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Locations during March & April

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BAR HOURS:
SUNDAY - TUESDAY: CLOSED
WEDNESDAY: 4 PM - 9 PM
THURSDAY: 4 PM - WHEN TRIVIA ENDS
FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 4 PM - 10 PM

...Oldtimers hockey team donates to hospital fundraising campaign

...continued from page 3

pital as they are fundraising for necessary medical equipment. We will probably make a donation to the hospital on a yearly basis now."

Mr. Niven, who is 64, said that Dan McDonald, who played last week, is 80, with Doug Mitchell (who didn't play last week) being 79. "When you reach the age of 79-80 in our group we pay the costs for those players' ice fees. Dan said

today he was playing for free for the first time," he quipped.

The group started playing on a weekly basis in Providence Bay over 20 years ago, and the group members have changed quite a bit over this time, said Mr. Niven. "Mike Campbell was one of the original players and he still comes out to play, and when I started, we played hockey with guys like John and Joe Cranston as well."

"We have a total of

about 20 players in our group, and most of the time during the winter we have about 14 players from all over the Island take part," said Mr. Niven. "Maureen Pearce is one of the goalies we have on the team, she is the only goalie on hand today. So, we have to use 'goalie pans,' frying pans that Don Wright got out of the transfer station and painted, that we hang in the middle of the net. With no goalie in one end, players have to hit the goalie pan

or the goal posts to score a goal in that net." He pointed out Chad Chevrette and Brandon Orford played in

net during the winter as well.

Along with Mr. Niven, other players who take

Island include: Tim Thibault, Norm Jones,

...continued on page 9

...Canada Votes 2025

...Shari St. Louis

...continued from page 3

serves, and that includes increasing our capacity to refine our resources.

Canadians should be applauded for always taking care of this land and should never be reprimanded because we happen to have resources that the rest of the world wants and needs.





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...Marc Serré

...continued from page 3

ergy investments: Billions committed to clean power projects, grid modernization, and home energy retrofits-including in rural and northern communities.

Electric vehicles and critical minerals: We're building a full supply chain—from responsibly extracting critical minerals like nickel, cobalt, and lithium in Northern Ontario, to manufacturing batteries and EVs-creating long-term jobs and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Support for workers and communities: Investing in skills training, Indigenous partnerships, and economic development to ensure Northern Ontario remains a leader in the clean economy.

This isn't a someday plan—it's already being implemented. We've cut emissions while growing the economy, and we've signed agreements with provinces to get clean electricity to 100 percent starting in 2035.

If re-elected, we'll go further and faster-with Mark Carney's leadership, we'll accelerate clean technology adoption, support green industries, and keep Canada competitive in a low-carbon world-while ensuring Northern Ontario is at the heart of it.

...Justin Leroux

...continued from page 3

Remove federal barriers to alternative energy production so communities, especially rural and Indigenous, can develop solar, hydro, or nuclear projects without having to wait on bureaucrats in Ottawa. It does not mean a complete stop to all legislation, but there so many updated laws that need to get out of the way to allow communities to self-sustain and grow.

Incentivize local conservation through property rights, restoration initiatives, and community-managed resource zones—empowering gions to protect what they depend on. This is something the Island has always done very well; look at the clean up of Providence Bay many years back. You are a shining example of communities that care; other communities could easily adapt like

this. End corporate welfare for oil and green tech companies. If a technology works, it should thrive on its own merit in a competitive market—not because of taxpayer subsidies. This pushes for more innovation and allows for more creativity without the many tangled strings from

This plan begins immediately by ending harmful taxes and subsidies. It sets

Ottawa.

the stage for a long-term shift where Canadiansnot politicians—lead environmental progress.

We can—and must care for the Earth without sacrificing our freedoms. our prosperity, or our ability to heat our homes. We fully support green tech and movements, but not government interference.

Let's build a future rooted in trust, local action, and real results-not slogans and penalties.

...Himal Hossain

...continued from page 3

Workers and Communities: We don't leave anyone behind. Workers in fossil fuel industries will be supported through retraining programs, job guarantees in the clean energy sector, and targeted investments in affected communities. This is a transition with workers, not against them.

Resilient Infrastructure and Green Innovation: We'll invest in climate-resilient public infrastructure, from flood protections to sustainable public transit. We will also support Canadian innovation in clean tech and ensure our agricultural practices are regenerative and climate-smart.

Implementation Timeline: Immediately: End fossil fuel subsidies, freeze new oil and gas approvals, and redirect funds into clean energy and transit projects.

By 2026: Launch national programs for building retrofits, clean energy job training, and electric public transport expansion.

By 2030: Reach a 60 percent emissions reduction. powered by a renewable grid and a transformed econ-

The climate crisis is not a side issue—it's the defining challenge of our time. The Green Party is the only party treating it with the seriousness and urgency it demands. We believe Canada must lead—not followin building a livable future.

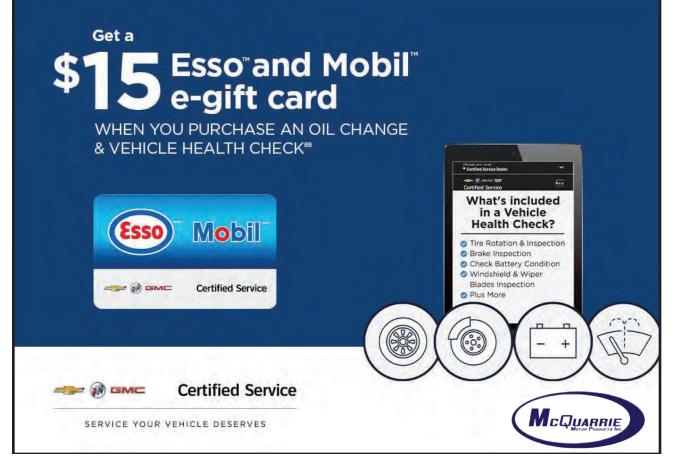
...Andréane Chénier

...continued from page 3

The NDP will make sure no one is left behind. That means helping workers in oil and gas industries transition into new, good-paying jobs in clean energy through retraining, job placement, and income security. We'll also work closely with Indigenous communities, respecting their knowledge and sovereignty in protecting the land, water and climate.

We believe Canada must do its fair share to meet the targets outlined in the Paris Agreement. That means reducing our emissions by at least 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, with a goal of reaching net-zero by 2050. We owe it to young people, future generations, and the planet to act now to meet these targets. The NDP has the courage and the plan to get it done.

Together, we will build a cleaner, fairer future for all.



Assiginack annual egg hunt thrills kids for nearly 80 years

by Michael Erskine

MANITOWANING—For around 55 years Delmer and Leslie Fields have hosted the annual Assiginack Public Library Annual Easter Egg Hunt that attracts hundreds of scampering children who eagerly gather up the gaily coloured plastic eggs bearing goodies inside. But the widely anticipated event has been going on for much longer than that.

"It was started by Mrs. Mastin," said Mr. Fields. "I remember we were four or five years old, in them days we had it down by the lighthouse. That was because they owned the creamery near there."

Like many parents, the date the Fields took on the task of hosting the event is measured in children. "I guess we started while (son) Bill was just a year old. He's 55 now." Mr. Fields himself is now 80

When the tradition started, the egg hunt was truly an egg hunt.

"In those days we used

For the last few decades, Debbie Robinson gives the official instructions of the Assiginack Public Library Easter Egg Hunt. Despite her retirement, Ms. Robinson is still called on by the Easter bunny to perform this very special duty.

real hard-boiled eggs," he recalled. "We hid them up here and then they were taken home they would use them for sandwiches. But then, after a while, you couldn't do that."

"All of a sudden, you can't eat a boiled egg if it's been boiled for over a day," he laughed. "We used to take them in our lunch pail. They would have cracks in them. No-

body cared and nobody got sick."

For a while the event took place in front of the yard by the Mastin's home. "Just on the side street, and we had it there for a number of years, at Mastin's."

In those early days, people in the community would bring their eggs into the school, and the children would decorate them before they were taken out to the field by volunteers.

These days, the event is hosted by the Assiginack Public Library and retired librarian Debbie Robinson has valiantly shepherded the egg hunt for 39 years and counting. The children listened to her instructions with barely contained excitement—and like a pied piper of old, they followed her out into the field in a neat and orderly manner.

The world may have changed, but the event went on thanks to the efforts of community volunteers like Ms. Robinson and her helpers and made possible by the generosity of hosts

like Delmer and Leslie Fields—true icons of Manitoulin community service.



A special area is set aside for the youngest of the egg hunters at the annual Easter egg hunt in Manitowaning.

photos by Michael Erskine

Delmer Fields chats with old friend Al Clark during the Easter egg hunt held annually on the Fields' property in Manitowaning.

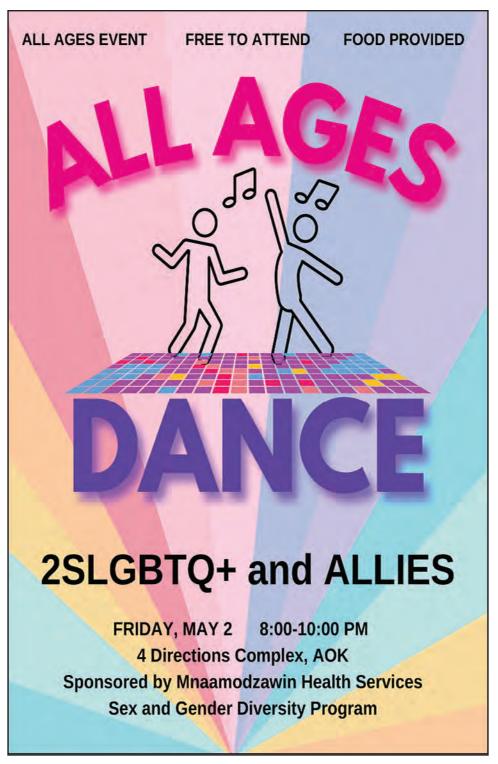
...Oldtimers team donates to hospital

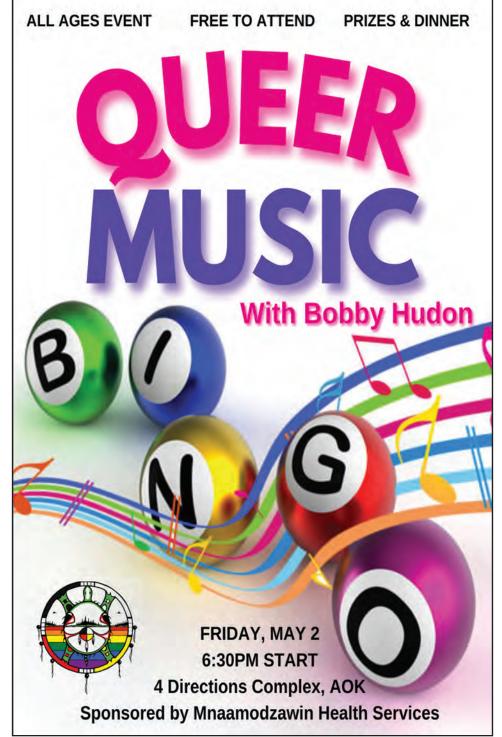
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Gary Kellner, Rob 'Purple' Violetta, Jeff McKenzie, Rick Coker, Dan McDonald, Bill Blackwood, Paul Flanagan, Lee Hayden, John Shamess, Scott McDougall, Don Wright, Keith McKeen, Dave Henderson, Rick Cooper, Doug Mitchell, Mike Campbell, Brandon Orford, Chad Chevrette. "And the guy that got us the ice time in M'Chigeeng when we moved

from Providence Bay, Adam Debassige, is not here today. Adam is one of the originals guys in the group, but is dealing with medical issues."

Between \$166,000-\$168,000 has been raised in the MHC campaign for Smart Pumps at both Island hospitals, with the fundraising campaign continuing until the end of May.





...Island women entrepreneurs to gather

...continued from page 3

and practical skill-building designed to uplift women-led enterprises.

The annual conference, organized by lifelong entrepreneur Barbara Baker, kicks off at 8 am with registration and breakfast at North46 Restaurant. The programming begins at 9 am and will feature a slate of expert speakers—from tax tips to tourism strategies, insurance insights to funding opportunities—all with one goal: to help women in business thrive on Manitoulin Island and beyond.

This grassroots initiative began in 2016 when Baker, having relocated from Ottawa, realized her service providers were still off-Island. "I moved here, and I thought—I should be supporting businesses here," she said. "But when I looked around for women-led businesses, I realized how hidden many of them were. So, I started asking around. Word of mouth turned into a list. That list turned into a conference."

That first gathering saw 86 women entrepreneurs show up simply by word of mouth. Nearly a decade later, the informal network has grown to nearly 400 women-led businesses, and the annual conference remains a cornerstone of connection and collaboration.

This year's speakers include representatives from the Co-operators (Lila Sloss), tax specialist Karen Robinson, and Rosalind Lockyer of the PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise. Experts from the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario (TIAO), Destination Northern Ontario and TD Bank will also present. The afternoon features networking sessions and roundtables where attendees will identify key topics for five upcoming business development events scheduled throughout the Island in 2025.

Ms. Baker's model is simple but potent: listen to what women need and build around that. "At every conference, we hold round tables," she explained. "We ask: What do you need to grow? What tools are you missing? Then we

take that feedback and build our next set of sessions around it. It's practical. It's local. And it works."

While business development is a clear focus, the conference also looks outward—especially toward the tourism sector, which faces fresh challenges in 2025. "Because of the political climate, we're anticipating a dip in American tourism," Ms. Baker noted. "We need to be ready to fill that gap. During COVID, businesses here did well with Canadian tourists, and we need to keep that momentum."

To that end, Ms. Baker has forged a new partnership between the Women of Manitoulin Entrepreneur Network and Attractions Ontario. "We're getting Manitoulin back on the map—literally," she said. Businesses can now access dramatically reduced rates to list on tourism promotion platforms, and Ms. Baker is working to ensure that traffic from Attractions Ontario flows directly into the local Explore Manitoulin site, offering increased visibility for all."

"We need more than two listings under 'places to stay' when people search," she quipped. "We need 108."

The cost to attend the event is just \$15, with attendees covering their own breakfast and lunch at North46, which will offer special menu items for conference guests.

"People can't support you if they don't know you're out there," said Ms. Baker. "This event is about changing that. It's about showing up, being seen, and finding your people."

The 2025 Women of Manitoulin Entrepreneur Network Conference is expected to draw participants from across the Island and surrounding regions. The event will conclude with a networking hour from 4 to 5 pm, leaving space for the kind of conversations that spark new ideas—and partnerships.

For more information or to register, visit www.manitoulinwomen.ca or contact Barbara Baker directly.

Health officials urge protection of vulnerable populations as RSV rises

by Jacqueline M. St.Pierre,

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter MANITOULIN—With only two hospitals and a single point of entry connecting Manitoulin to the mainland, the Island remains acutely vulnerable to seasonal viruses that disproportionately affect elders, immunocompromised residents, and those living in congregate care. Now, as cases of respiratory illness continue to circulate across Northern Ontario, Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD) is urging providers to prioritize vaccinations for those most at risk.

In a notice issued April 14, PHSD confirmed that the adult RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) vaccination program will continue through the spring, while the program for infants and high-risk children has now concluded for the season.

The province's RSV prevention strategy, introduced in 2023 and expanded for 2024–2025, focuses on older adults and people with chronic or immunocompromising conditions. In particular, the vaccine is being made available to those over age 60 who are: Residents of long-term care or elder lodges; patients in hospital receiving alternate level of care; individuals undergoing dialysis; transplant recipients; people experiencing homelessness; First Nations, Inuit, or Métis individuals.

While RSV is often dismissed as a childhood illness, it can pose serious health risks to older adults, especially

in communities like Manitoulin where healthcare capacity is limited and travel to off-Island care can be a barrier.

RSV, a contagious virus that affects the lungs and breathing passages, can cause severe infections such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia. The vaccine offers a vital layer of protection for those most likely to be hospitalized by the illness.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 vaccinations are also being made available for high-risk individuals between April and June 2025, as part of Ontario's ongoing seasonal immunization campaign. Those eligible for an additional dose must have completed a primary COVID-19 series and be at least six months past their last dose, though the province permits administration as early as three months if clinically indicated.

This layered approach to vaccination—targeting both RSV and COVID-19—is seen as critical in shielding Manitoulin's elders, patients in care homes, and others for whom even mild respiratory illnesses can escalate quickly.

Residents are encouraged to contact their local pharmacy or health care provider to verify eligibility and schedule appointments.

For complete eligibility details, consult the Ontario Ministry of Health's fact sheet on the 2024/2025 COVID-19 Vaccine Program.



NOTICE BOARD

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

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

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

Meeting # <mark>489</mark> 313 1974 or call 1-587-<mark>328-1099</mark>

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

Water Users of Little Current and Sheguiandah

Hydrant, valve cycling and water line flushing is scheduled for Little Current from May 5-16 (Monday to Friday 7:30-17:00) and Sheguiandah May 20-23.

Please remember if your water is coloured

Please remember if your water is coloured to let it run for a short time to clear the line.

Workshops at the Recreation Centre

Scone Dogs and Tacos Workshop Pam Roy will teach you her techniques in the kitchen at the NEMI Rec Centre. Cost \$20

Email to register lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca

Home, Cottage, and Culinary Show

Manitoulin's Butter Tart Contest in back.
Do you think you make Manitoulin's Best Butter Tart?
Email hcc-show@townofnemi.on.ca to sign up and for more information.
Contest is Friday, May 30th at the NEMI Rec Centre.

Council Meeting of May 6th is Cancelled.

All items will be moved to the May 8th meeting.

TENDER OPPORTUNITY

The Town of NEMI

is looking for a tender submission for the Recreation Centre Roof Maintenance Upgrades.

For a full package please go to our website townofnemi.on.ca.

Tender submission must be received by:

12:00 Noon of April 25, 2025.

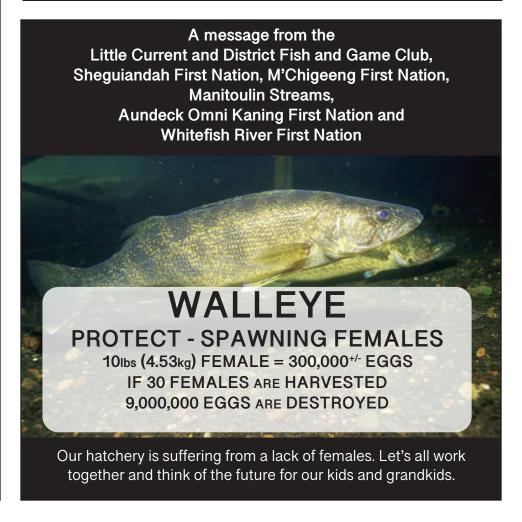
For any questions please contact Reid Taylor @ 705-968-0386.



For fudge orders in the Kagawong, Gore Bay areas, contact Chrisanne, after 6 pm, at (705) 282-1787.

Fudge just \$8 per half-pound piece / \$15 for two pieces /

no HST (Get lots, Great for gifts!)







...Medical evidence confirms NHLer Chris Simon had CTE when he died

...continued from page 1

ly CTE contributed to his memory problems, depression and apathy," Dr. Ann McKee, chief of neuropathology for the VA Boston Healthcare System, said in the analysis as a professional. announcement.

A gritty left winger, Mr. Simon was involved in more than 100 fights in his 15-year professional hockev career and accumulat-

Immediately following his death in 2024, Mr. Simon's family attributed his suicide to CTE. While it is not possible to diagnose individuals with the ed 1,824 penalty minutes neurodegenerative condi-

tion while they are alive, symptoms such as emotional volatility and memory loss can help doctors identify potential cases, The Athletic reported.

Glen Hare of M'Chigeeng, executive director of the Ojibway Cultural Foundation (OCF) and former Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief, Ontario Regional Chief, and Chief of the M'Chigeeng First Nation, is a close friend of the family and he and Pat Madahbee of Aundeck Omni Kaning attended Mr. Simon's funeral, carrying the Eagle

"We went up there for the funeral in Wawa," Mr. Hare told The Expositor. "There was a huge gathering and Chris was given an awesome sendoff. You could feel the love everyone had for him, it was very obvious. He was a very nice guy."

'Very sadly, and very unfortunately, from many years back, the hockey world has had players suffering head and brain injuries," said Mr. Hare.

"I really believe that Chris and other players who were suffering (from CTE) were trying to say something about what they were going through, but were never taken seriously," said Mr. Hare.
"Hockey is a money-making business, and I'm sure he and many other players before him were asking for help but were never heard. And when he left the NHL, no one from the NHL called him, his grandfather told me. Not one. But when he died the calls poured in asking how they could help, which was too late."

"I really hope the NHL finally looks into all the cases of players who suffered head/brain injuries and carries out an investigation," said Mr. Hare. "Fighting still takes place in hockey and players still hit their heads on the ice and suffer concussions. I think the NHL has to ramp up safety."

"On the day of the funeral we felt it, the respect and love everyone had for Chris," said Mr. Hare. "I know the family well and am still close with them. When I was the chief in M'Chigeeng Chris was there three or four times to put on hockey skills

Chris Simon took his own life in March of 2024 after living with the effects of stage three CTE, a result of his days in the NHL.

training camps for kids here, and in other first nations. He was loved everywhere, especially in his hometown of Wiikwemkoong."

"I didn't know Chris real well, but I know the family well. I know everyone liked him," Mr. Madahbee, Anishinabek Nation Commissioner of Governance told The Expositor. "Unfortunately, these type of head/brain injuries are prevalent in a lot of sports. It shows up in a lot of football players, but the National Football League and other professional leagues have taken steps to improve safety for the players, but this isn't

the case with hockey." "One of the problems with all sports and is something I can relate to from my (hockey) playing days is that professional players especially, are supposed to act macho, and shrug off injuries, or coaches get them to play through injuries. If a player gets hurt, team doctors are to freeze the area that is hurting, and the player is expected to continue to play. It is a common thing," said Mr. Madah-

"Because of all the awareness these days of CTE and the effects of concussions, maybe these things will improve," said Mr. Madahbee.

"It is a sad situation that guys like Chris, Stan Jonathan, Ted Nolan, Denny Lambert and many others were prolific scorers and good all-round athletes, who are turned into enforcers by their coaches," continued Mr. Madahbee, who played hockey with Chris' father

John and when he was a young man, Maxie Simon.

During his NHL career, Chris Simon scored 161 goals and added 168 assists. He competed in 75 playoff games, including The Colorado Avalanche during their first Stanley Cup run in 1996, and returned to the Stanley Cup finals with the Washington Capitals in 1998 and the Calgary Flames in

A player known for delivering hard hits and often initiating altercations, the NHL suspended Mr. Simon eight times over his career. He missed a total of 65 games due to suspensions, including a 30-game suspension in 2007 that ranks among the longest in league history, The Athletic reported. Mr. Simon filed for bankruptcy in 2017 and could not work due to CTE and other injuries he sustained during his playing career. He began collecting disability payments earlier that year and joined a class-action lawsuit over the NHL's handling of head trauma. The lawsuit was settled in 2018, although it is unclear how much of that money Mr. Simon received.

In their statement announcing his CTE diagnosis, Mr. Simon's family lamented, "the negligence of a professional league turning a blind eye to CTE and other significant brain injuries sustained

in the sport of hockey."

The CLF explained in the report that 19 of 20 former NHL players brains studied at Boston University's CTE Centre, includ-

...continued on page 15

businessman dies in tragic accident.

...continued from page 1

derwater Search and Recovery Unit, Northshore Search and Rescue, UCCM Remotely Piloted Aircraft System and Canine Unit, Wikwemikong Surveillance, Joint Rescue Coordination Centre and the Manitoulin OPP Crime Unit all assisted with the search for Mr. Farqu-

Mr. Farguhar was the operator of RONA Little Current Home Building

Centre and is survived by his partner Kristin, children Raine, Ayden and Zara, sister Jennifer and brother Evan and families, parents Mike and Marilyn and countless friends and extended family.

A visitation for Mr. Farquhar will be held at the Island Funeral Home in Little Current from 10 am to noon on Saturday, April 26 with the funeral to follow. A reception will be held following the funeral at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch



BECOME A FOSTER PARENTI

KGCFS is actively seeking individuals who are interested in becoming foster parents to support our new homes for Indigenous Children and Youth between the ages of 0-18 located in Sudbury and Wiikwemkoong.

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Manitowaning student named to prestigious SHAD program

by Tom Sasvari M'CHIGEENG

M'CHIGEENG-Manitoulin Secondary School student Dylan (MSS) Kuntsi is one of only two students selected for a scholarship through the Canada-wide SHAD program and will be taking part in the once-in-a-lifetime program experience this summer. The SHAD enrichment program is named after Shad Creek in southern Ontario, which is close to the school where the program originated in 1981. The SHAD offices are now based in Waterloo, Ontario.

"I think it will be a really fun experience," Dylan told The Expositor. He pointed out that although he had been notified earlier that he was to receive a scholarship through SHAD, during the provincial FIRST Robotics competition with his MSS Manitoulin Metal team held in Mississauga earlier this month, "they called me down to the stage to make the announcement, with everyone watching in person and on the big screen.'

"I had applied for the SHAD scholarship and program a few months ago and was notified in January that I was one of only two students Canada-wide to win a \$7,200 scholarship, which is pretty awesome," said Dylan

Dylan, who is 15 years



Manitoulin Secondary School student Dylan Kuntsi, right in photo, is one of only two students selected through the Canadawide SHAD Program for a scholarship of \$7,200. Dylan will be taking part in the month-long SHAD program this summer.

old and in Grade 10 at MSS explained, "to apply you have to answer a whole bunch of questions that they send you (including a couple of essays), and tell (SHAD) about yourself, your experiences and extra-curricular activities you take part in." He also had two MSS teachers provide references and had to provide information as to what his grade point average is in school (it's an impressive 93 percent).

SHAD Canada is an annual Canadian summer enrichment program for high achieving high school students, held in July. The program is open to both Canadian and international students, and the program is offered at about 19 participating

universities across Cana-

Dylan was accepted into the prestigious SHAD program that will take place in July this summer, and received the full scholarship for this program. SHAD is a 27-day long program for Grade 10 and 11 students. Selected students participate in university level STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics). There is also entrepreneur content and participants have access to mentors. Students get to attend one university for 27 days, attend lectures, do labs, work with professors, and participate in group projects, a website explains.

...continued on page 15



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*Prices may be subject to other fees not included in this advertisement



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WORDS

ABSTRACT ALMANAC ARCHIVES AUTHOR BOOKS **BROWSER** CARD CATALOG CIRCULATION CITATION COURSE DESK **EDITOR GLOSSARY** INDEX **JOURNAL KEYWORD** LOAN **MOVIES** PERIODICAL REFERENCE RENEW RESERVE STACKS



INTERNATIONALLY ACCUBINED AND WORLD CHAMPION STEVE MIRLORAS

... Central Manitoulin residents form arena support committee

...continued from page 1

Richard Stephens, mayor of Central Manitoulin said, "We are very happy to see the community get involved in this project. Money is always a necessity for any kind of cause like this. It's demonstrating the essence of community project."

"The people of Mindemoya have come togeth-

er in a powerful way to preserve and restore our arena, a vital gathering space that has served generations of residents for sports, events, and shared community life," shared MARC.

In response to serious structural issues affecting the west wall (of the Mindemoya arena), the newly formed Mindemoya Arena Repair Committee (MARC) led by Chair Marie Ford, Vice Chair Lauren Dewar, Secretary Karlene Scott, Treasurer Steve Shaffer and Media Coordinator Marcus Mohr, has taken the lead on organizing grassroots fundraising efforts, advocating for transparency, and supporting timely repairs. The efforts of this group, alongside incredible input and help from local volunteers, event businesses, organizers, and families, has brought MARC to this point of ac-

"We are incredibly proud to report that MARC has already raised over \$12,000, much of it from a well-supported pancake supper that brought out the best of community spirit from across Manitoulin. Most notably, we are thrilled and deeply grateful to announce the generous \$10,000 donation from Basil and Janice," said Mr. Mohr.

This kind of giving reflects a spirit that has echoed across our entire community, the MARC



The owners of Finn's Gas Bar in M'Chigeeng First Nation, Basil Panamick and Janice Sweeney along with their children, made a donation of \$10,000 to the newly formed Mindemoya Arena Repair Committee, some of the Mindemoya Minor Hockey Association players and their parents and Central Manitoulin council members. The donation will go toward necessary repairs at the Mindemoya arena to restore and preserve the facility.

executive said. "Local businesses, families, volunteers, and individuals have all stepped forward to give what they cantime, money, effort and creativity. From Kyla Lanktree's commitment of a \$1,000 donation from the Mindemoya youth ball tournament food booth, to Justin Lockeyer's offer to donate proceeds from skate sharpening, the outpouring of support has been nothing short of remarkable."

"We were encouraged to see (Central Manitoulin) council approve \$150,000 in municipal funding for proper west wall repairs. We are very happy with the \$150,000 amended motion to properly fix the west wall; however, we are hesitant to celebrate until this work is completed," said Ms. Ford.

"Planned fundraising ideas continue to grow and include a Hillbilly Supper on July 12, a Buya-Block donor recognition wall, spaghetti dinners, porketta bingo, a golf tournament, and more. There is a deep sense of commitment across every generation," the MARC executive said. "At the heart of this movement is a shared desire to keep our arena safe, not only structurally, but emotionally and practically, for the children, families and seniors who rely on it."

"That's why one of the most urgent concerns our committee shares is the need to address the root cause of the wall failure," continued MARC executive. "There have been conflicting reports from engineers and staff regarding snow load levels and snow depth, which has left the public confused and concerned. But for us, the issue is simple; safety must come first."

"We are urging the municipality to make child and community safety the top priority by implementing routine structural inspections, snow load monitoring and timely removal, publicly accessible maintenance logs," said the MARC statement. "We should never again be in a position where the safety of our children and

...continued on page 16

FEDERAL / MONDAY, APRIL 28

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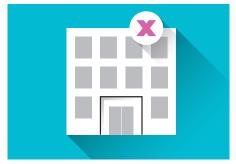


There are ways you can vote early.

You can vote:



At your assigned advance polling station from Friday, April 18, to Monday, April 21, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



At any Elections Canada office until Tuesday, April 22, 6 p.m.



By mail – Apply by Tuesday, April 22, 6 p.m.

Check your voter information card or visit elections.ca for all the ways you can vote.





Island fire officials warn of dry conditions, grass fire danger

...continued from page 1

will all have to be under another fire ban, and it will end up being Island wide." stated Mr. Graham. "The ground and grass is tinder dry. Sometimes people will think it won't happen to me, that they can control a fire, and it won't get out of control, but it happens."

Phil Gosse, Central Manitoulin fire chief said,

a fire taking place, call. I can't stress this enough. And members of the public need to get a burn permit between April 1-October 31. The Ministry of Natural Resources regulations state that there is to be no burning between 6 am and 6 pm. And, if it is too windy don't set any kind of fire, even if you have a permit.

"first off if someone sees As well, people need to make sure that when they set a fire, they remain on the scene of it, and make sure you put it out properly before you leave the scene.'

Fire Chief Graham explained that a fire call came out to the Burpee and Mills volunteer fire department at around 4 pm on Wednesday, April 16. "Someone was burning brush. and it caught the grass on fire, which led to large hay bales being on fire, and it spread into the bush. When the fire was under control it was only 18 inches from the home

on Bailey Line Road. He pointed out the fire department "had to call Gye Taylor to come out with a backhoe to rip up the bales of hay so firefighters could properly douse the flames.

The owner of the home was at work at the time, but tenants were on hand and had set the fire, said Fire Chief Graham. He pointed through Manitoulin Mutual Aid the Central Manitoulin fire department was called to assist, and they had three trucks and seven firefighters on hand, who helped douse the fire and provide water

"Fortunately, the fire damage was minimal, but it could have been a whole lot worse," said Fire Chief Graham.

"If a fire department has to call the MNR in with water bombers to put out a fire, the costs add up quickly," said Fire Chief Graham. He also noted anyone setting any type of fire without a burn permit could be fined. "People need to use a bit of common sense. If it is windy don't light a fire."

"Kudos to the Central Manitoulin fire department for responding to our

mutual aid call. They were a huge help," said Fire Chief Graham.

Fire Chief Gosse outlined that the Central Manitoulin fire department responded to not only the mutual aid call in Burpee and Mills but five others within a 24- hour period. "In one day (Wednesday) we responded to a total of four fire calls, three at pretty much the same time," he said, stressing that even when responding to a mutual aid call in another area, they make sure that enough firefight-

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Chris Simon had CTE

...continued from page 13

ing Mr. Simon, have tested positive for CTE. It noted the diagnoses of former players Bobby Hull, Ralph Backstrom, Stan Mikita, Bob Probert and Derek Boogard were included in a 2024 study by the university that "found the odds of developing CTE increased by 34 (percent) for each year of hockey played." Mr. Simon took his own life at the age of 52 on Monday, March 18, in his hometown of Wawa.

The family of the late Chris Simon would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming support during our incredible loss. We appreciated all the visits, hugs, food deliveries, kind words, shared tears, cards, gifts, donations in his memory and love for Chris. Thanks to everyone who travelled from afar to lay tobacco at his sacred fire and those who attended/watched his celebration with our family."

'Special thanks to Dr. Ann McKee, Lisa McHale, Sophia Nosek and their entire team at Boston University CTE department for their outstanding work in getting us the definitive scientific proof postmortem that Chris suffered immensely from stage three of CTE as suspected by his family," said Charlee Simon.

"Chris was a very kind and gentle soul," Charlee Simon continued. "Chris' children and family were his heart and soul. The family heard many beautiful stories of Chris and are requesting that these stories be sent to his sister, Charlee Simon at P.O. Box 23, Wawa, Ontario, P.O. Box 23, POS IKO as they will be given to his children and family to read during tougher days and to be shared with his future grandchildren.'

...SHAD program

...continued from page 12

"We equip youth to take on social and economic challenges with a STEAM lens. Each campus tackles the same real-world problems and designated design teams with assigned mentors develop STEAM-based solutions, pitches and presentations to panels. This is an entrepreneurial experience with a social impact and one of the most loved aspects of our program," the SHAD website states.

"I will be participating in the (SHAD) program at the University of Western Ontario for the entire month of July," said Dylan. "There will be a whole bunch of different STEAM workshops, classes and activities, a little bit of everything.

As for a future career, Dylan said, "I am focusing on chemical engineering or chemistry. Definitely something involving chemistry.'

Dylan will be among 1,500 students taking part in the SHAD program this summer, and at each university that is hosting the program, between 50-60 students will be participating.

"My sister Jocelyn (also a former MSS student) got the same SHAD scholarship when she took part in SHAD in 2022," said Dylan.

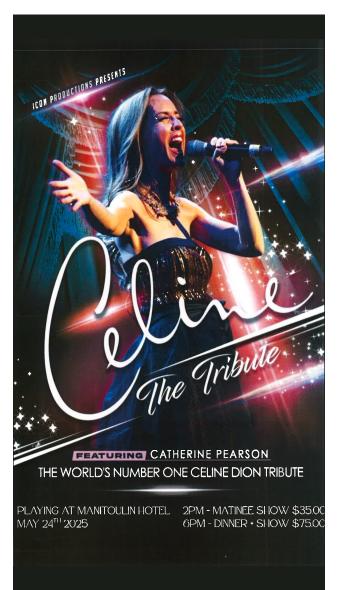




...Island fire officials warn of dry conditions, grass fire danger

...continued from page 15

ers and fire trucks remain in the municipality to fight fires, at all times. We took three trucks, one pumper and two tankers along with seven firefighters to the fire in Burpee and Mills"



The second call was made to the Central Manitoulin Fire Department at 5:30 pm, of a grass fire on Monument Road. "When some of our fire trucks and firefighters went to Burpee and Mills the rest of the fire crew was on standby. They were on the scene of the grass fire within 15 minutes and were able to get this fire under control quickly."

The third call came after the call of the grass fire, of a chimney fire in Providence Bay. By this time, "we were returning from Burpee-Mills and one of our fire captains responded with firefighters and a pumper to Providence Bay and were able to get this under control quickly as well," said Mr. Gosse.

Then, at 11:55 on Wednesday evening, Central

There have been a number of fires on Manitoulin in recent days.

Shutterstock

Manitoulin firefighters responded to what turned out to be a false alarm, a carbon monoxide detector going off at a residence on Monument Road.

On Thursday, "We (Central Manitoulin fire department) responded to a mutual aid assistance call

from Billings Fire Department involving a grass fire at around noon hour," continued Fire Chief Gosse. "We were on our way to that fire when we got stood down, as Billings Fire Department reported they had it under control. Then at about 1 pm, we received

a call for mutual aid assistance from the M'Chigeeng First Nation fire department, reported as a structural fire, "but we were told to stand down by the M'Chigeeng Fire Chief, as they had everything under control after someone had left food on their stove."

...Central residents form arena support committee

...continued from page 14

facility users is in question due to oversight or delayed upkeep. Our families deserve better."

"We also respectfully request that municipal leadership take immediate action on the west wall repair, to avoid delays. Ensure there are no disruptions to summer events or the 2025-2026 hockey season, respond transparently to questions about MARC's role and arena planning, seriously consider the local contractor's proposal to complete the work at a reduced cost, an offer rooted in community pride and practical savings," MARC stated.

With the Community Recreation Facility Study due in February 2026, MARC vice-chair Lauren Dewar emphasized, "we need the arena fully operational while a decision is being made."

"This goes to show we are not just users of the arena, we are contributors," said Mr. Mohr. "We're invested

in its future because it represents who we are as a community."

"At this time, we are not able to issue tax receipts, but we are looking into it with the municipality," said Ms. Scott. "Yet people are already still very generous to give!"

Anyone wishing to support this effort or to send e-transfers can contact MARC at marcvoice377@gmail.com. "Every donation, every idea, every act of involvement is another brick in rebuilding not just a wall, but the foundation of safety, trust and community pride," said Mr. Mohr.

"This campaign isn't just about repair, it's about renewal," said the MARC executive. "It's about safeguarding a space where we've shared memories, raised families, and cheered each other on. Mindemoya is showing what it means to stand together. Now we respectfully ask our leaders to match that strength, with urgency, openness and genuine partnership."



Introducing

Our new Managing Director of Island & Simpson Funeral Homes

Jordan Moore

A licenced Class 1 Funeral Director born and raised here on Manitoulin Island. He began working at Island Funeral Home in February of 2017.

In his first initiative as Managing Director in addition to our full service options, we have introduced a new Basic Direct Cremation package to better help the people of our communities and make it more affordable to keep your loved one on Manitoulin Island.



This new package will take effect on April 2, 2025.

Below is a breakdown of the new package compared to our standard direct cremation package.

New Basic Direct Cremation Package

Standard Direct Cremation Package

DISDORSEIVERTIS	
Coroner's Fee	\$75.00
Cremation at Cooperative Crematorium	
TOTAL PACKAGE PRICE	

...It's spring: Protect baby wild animals on Manitoulin Island

...continued from page 1

animal, we can't help offer them space here."

"This is what we are trying to avoid, making animals orphans," said Ms. Morrissette. "In some cases, these moms will get hit by cars when they are out trying to get food for themselves and their babies. But the majority are situations where people will hear a raccoon for example in their attic and will trap them; not knowing they have babies. This is what we need to avoid."

"It is a horrible situation," stated Ms. Morrissette. "People will bring in these tiny baby animals, so many that our space is filled up and we can't take them. All we can do in this situation is offer euthanasia, which people don't like to hear, and we don't like or want to do."

"People will hear the animals in their attic or see them in a shed or garage and capture or kill them or take them to a community 10 miles over and release it. They don't realize the mother probably had babies. And so, they become orphaned, and people bring them here. This is what happens in the vast majority of cases," said Ms. Morrissette. She said the reality is that wildlife rehabilitation centres throughout Ontario reach their maximum capacity as soon as June, and the calls keep coming in for help with orphans for several months thereafter. This also means rehabbers need to make the heart-breaking decision to turn away numerous baby animals each year.

This tragedy is not only devastating but entirely preventable. In response, the eight Ontario wildlife centres have united in a powerful effort to raise awareness and educate homeowners on more responsible and effective ways to deal with wildlife on their property.

"All eight wildlife centres in the province go through this same problem," said Ms. Morrissette. "And Turtle Pond is the only wildlife centre in Northern Ontario, the closest rehab centre to us is in Parry Sound and they only deal with animals in their district, not from our area (which includes Manitoulin Island)."

"We get a lot of animals from the Manitoulin Island area, such as turtles, raccoons, squirrels, porcupines, birds and many more," said Ms. Morrissette. "Manitoulin is a beautiful place for wildlife, and we get a lot of orphaned and injured animals from the Island at our wildlife rehabilitation centre."

"There are ways people can deter animals from getting into your attic or shed/garage, and keep them out of the house," said Ms. Morrissette.

"We are blessed in Northern Ontario to have nature all around us, and wildlife is an integral part of a healthy ecosystem," said Ms. Morrissette. "Together, we are encouraging the public to view wild animals with compassion and understanding, ensur-

ing baby animals are not orphaned in the process."

"While the majority of individuals can grasp the barbaric nature of a kill trap, many people remain under the wrongful impression that live traps are a humane option,' a release notes. "This is simply not the case. Livetrapped animals experience significant stress, often injuring themselves in an attempt to escape the trap. They are also vulnerable to extreme temperatures and dehydration while waiting to be transported to another location. Some never make it."

If released, these animals face even more challenges. Often ripped away from their young, they are left in an unfamiliar environment struggling to find food and shelter. They may also encounter territorial disputes with oth-

er wildlife, adding more stress to an already traumatic experience.

To minimize the risks to survival and limit the potential for disease transmission, Ontario's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act prohibits the relocation of animals more than one kilometre from their capture site. While this is intended to protect animals, ecosystems and humans, it is not fool proof. In fact, many species have incredibly strong homing instincts and will likely return to their original territory, including to their young. As a result, legal relocation is frequently ineffective.

With these challenges in mind, it's important for homeowners to take a more humane and thoughtful approach to managing wild animals on

their property

Encouraging wildlife to move their babies to alternate locations does work, as attested to by homeowners that have witnessed it on remote cameras. "One Sudbury resident sent us a video of a mother raccoon relocating her babies one by one during the night after following our advice regarding the use of humane deterrents in his attic," said Ms. Morrissette. "He was delighted to see his efforts result in a humane resolution.

If you are aware that the wildlife in your home has babies, the most humane approach is to allow her time to care for them until they are old enough to follow her out of the den on their own (typically around 8-10 weeks old). This prevents orphaning the babies and gives them the best chance at surviv-

al .

al.

It is important to note that before sealing any entry points, ensure all babies have left. One way to determine this is to place a crumpled paper towel at the entrance to track movement. If the paper towel is disturbed it likely means that an animal is still inside.

To encourage wild animals to leave on their own,

experts recommend making the den area less than ideal for a nursing mom by incorporating various elements in or near the den, such as leaving a talk radio station playing (no music), using a non-flammable light source in or near the den area, introducing strong smells, like apple cider vinegar or rags placed in a plastic bag with holes.

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Learn to Fly event at Gore Bay's new terminal was a hit

by Tom Sasvari

GORDON—The Gore Bay Flying Club (GBFC) was able to add another member to the club membership after an open house held at the new terminal at the Gore Bay Manitoulin Airport on Saturday,

"It went very well," stated Andre Probst, president of the GBFC. "Although the attendance was meager for the open house, the end result is that the event was a success. We had a couple of people on hand interested in getting their pilot's licence. I took one of the attendees on a half hour flight around Manitoulin Island and they were really impressed and joined the club and bought a share in the flying club so they will be able to use the club's airplane once they get their licence."

Mr. Probst introduced club members who were on hand for the open house, including Dennis Simo, the clubs pilot in-



The Gore Bay Flying Club held an open house at the new terminal at the Gore Bay Manitoulin Airport on Saturday, April 12. In photo from left are Dennis Simo, the clubs pilot instructor, airport

manager Robby Colwell and flying club president Andre Probst.

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structor (who is from Burlington and has a summer residence on the west end of the island).

> "This was our first open house for the club, and we welcomed all those on hand, and provided information for those that want to learn how to fly, get their pilots licence, meet the instructor, members and view the aircraft.'

said Mr. Probst.

The GBFC has 28 members said Mr. Probst, who pointed out the club aircraft is a Piper Cherokee

The GBFC had an information sheet on hand for all those interested, to take home. "Learn to Fly. What does it take to become a pilot? Learning to fly a plane is basically not as hard as you might think, but becoming a licensed pilot takes a lot of work. You have to take a ground school, do lots of

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training to be ready for a flight test and then fly for many hours to gain experience and really become a safe pilot.' "It also costs a fair bit of money, about the same as a university education and it involves many

photo by Tom Sasvari

studying, get a medical

certificate, take enough

training to be safe for

solo, take a 100-question

written exam, take more

frustrations, cancellations because of weather, and sometimes sacrificing time that you would otherwise spend on the things we all do in normal life. But in the end, it's very satisfying and rewarding to be in control of a plane thousands of feet in the air. You will be the member of a very small percentage of the population that has the privilege of operating an aircraft. How cool is that?" the GBFC information explains.

It was explained, "According to Transport Canada regulations, you have to be at least 14 years old to get a student pilot permit. That also requires you to pass a PSTAR exam with a minimum of 90 percent average to pass. You will also need a medical certificate (category four minimum) prior to solo flying.

"You need to get a minimum of 40 hours of ground school training," said the GBFC. "You can get this a few different ways like a formal in class method, one-on-one with an instructor or through an online program like 'Level Flights' or 'Harv's Air."

You're also required to get a minimum of 45 hours of in-flight training including 17 hours of dual and 12 hours of solo. The average is more like 75 hours total with 35-40 hours of dual and the remainder being solo time before you are ready to take the flight test, GBFC said.

A written test is also required to apply for a licence. This test is 100 questions covering air law, general knowledge, meteorology and navigation. Once you have successfully passed both tests and you are at least 17 years old, you can apply for a private pilot licence and then carry passengers, it was noted. You can get a recreational pilot permit at 16 years old, but it comes with some restrictions (only one passenger, no flights into the US and no night flying).

"The best way to start is to take a discovery flight and try to talk to other pilots about their journey. Come to the airport and ask someone about the process. Read or find informative videos on the internet. The more you know, the easier it is. Hope you have blue skies and tailwinds in whatever you choose to do," the GBFC noted. For more information, the flying club contacts are the Gore Bay Manitoulin Airport at 705-282-2101, or Mr. Probst at 705-859-2933.

MSS is offering electronic waste community collection

M'CHIGEENG—Mani-toulin Secondary School and water tables," a re-(MSS) is hosting its annual electronic waste community collection event from May 26-May 31.

Manitoulin residents are being encouraged to bring any dead electronics, including appliances, batteries of any size, and devices next to the school basketball court (at the back of the school) on the collection dates.

"Join us as we raise funds and ensure the materials inside end-of-life electronics stay out of our

lease states. "The earth is reaching out for our help."

The waste collected help MSS raise funds for the Manitoulin Metal Robotics team, as the school takes the materials to a recyclable plant which pays for these items.

The electronic waste community event will take place May 26-30 from 3-5 pm, and Saturday, May 31, from 10 am to 2 pm.

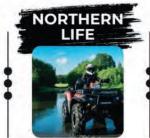




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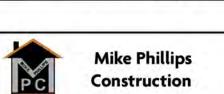








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Are you a cancer patient undergoing or recovering from treatment? Are you a cancer survivor, a family caregiver or supporting someone with Manitoulin Cancer Support Group may provide you with resources and opportunities to share experiences as well 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, April 27 at the Manitowaning Family Health Team from 2 to 4 pm. For more information contact: Mackenzie, 705-507-0433 tandjmackenzie@hotmail. com; Bonnie Young, 705-377-4998; Ann Cranston, 705-282bnannc@gmail.com.



services

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.

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 Care 705-368-3400; Help Centre: Thrift Shop & Food Bank 705-368-3400; Administration 705-368-3400.

services

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someone's drinking? Al-Anon has one purpose: Welcoming, giving hope and comfort to help family and friends of alcoholics. Changed attitudes can aid Stones recovery. Stepping _ Espanola Al-Alon Group: 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



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.

Narcotics Annonymous 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.

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Spring luncheon, take-out only, with free delivery in Mindemoya. Thursday, May 1 from 11:30 am to 1 pm at St. Francis Anglican Church, 6201 Hwy 542, Mindemoya. Soup, sandwiches and dessert, \$15 per person Walk-in or pre-order by phone at 705-210-0409.

49-50p

Afternoon of music with George Williamson on Sunday, April 27 and Sunday, May 18 at the Sheguiandah Seniors' Hall (Townline and Hwy. 6) from 1 to 4 pm. Donations for the Seniors' Hall is greatly appreciated.

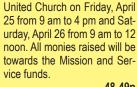


King James Bible Church. Providence Bay worships every Saturday Sabbath, 10 am to 12 noon. For more information call 705-348-2229.

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



Yard sale at the Little Current

yard sale

48-49p

Annual multi-family yard sale on Saturday, April 26 from 8 am to 2 pm at 18 Willow Crescent in Clover Valley, Manitowaning. ATV cart, wheelbarrow, bug light, fabric, tools, small appliances, sleeping bags and other treasures. Something everyone! 49p



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

Tfn







Tuesday, April 29th, 2025 **MINDEMOYA HALL** Wednesday, May 7th, 2025

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Tfn



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

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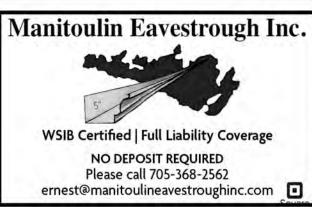
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DEATH NOTICES

JOSEPH ARMOS LANDRIAULT May 21, 1934 - April 4, 2025



Our family is sad to announce the passing of Joseph Armos Landriault on Friday, April 4, 2025 at St. Joseph's General Hospital, Elliot Lake, after a short illness in his 90th year. A beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, great-grandfather, trusted

loyal friend and mentor to many. Joe leaves behind a legacy of kindness, gentleness, compassion, respect, humour and love for his family and many friends. Born in Walford, Ontario on May 21, 1934 to the late Eugene and Olga Landriault. He leaves behind his cherished wife Lynn (late wife Mary); children Brian (Sabina) (late wife Marilyn), Joanne (Raymond), Dennis and Marc (Carmella); sisters Dolores (late John), Lorraine (late Clarence), Jeannine (Wilfred), Lucy (Larry), Annette; brothers Reg (late wife Shirley), Emile (Cindy), Lawerence (Annette); his deceased siblings Cecile (Leonard), Fay, Eugene Jr., Mike (Marion) and Adlore (Lorraine). Joe is fondly remembered by Lynn's children Karen (Tim) and John (Maggie). Retired for many years, Joe enjoyed playing music and would often play with his peers in Elliot Lake to the delight of many. Papa Joe will be dearly missed by his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who he showered with stories, bear hugs, witty humour and silly songs. He will especially be missed on his 8 pm nightly family FaceTime call with his four children as they updated each other on their daily activities, discussing the world events and attempting to solve the world's problems with humour and laughter. "We all knew this day would eventually come, and like many other families who have lost a loved one, we wish it would've never ended..." We will cherish your memory. We thank you for all you were, and we treasure a life well lived. Cremation has taken place. The graveside funeral service will be held on Saturday, May 24, 2025 at 11 am at the Espanola Cemetary, followed by a luncheon at the Espanola Legion.

GARY DONALD LEONARD COOPER

April 5, 1952 - April 1, 2025



In loving memory of Gary Donald Leonard Cooper who suddenly passed away at the Mindemoya Health Centre on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at the age of 72. Loving brother of Albert and predeceased by siblings Grace, Joseph, Eugene and Ivan. Loving son of Ernest and Nora Cooper. Loving uncle of Rose (Ricky),

John, Rachael (Kimball), June, Jeremy and special niece Miranda Loving great-uncle to Tanya, Corey, Keesha, Kallaghan, Michael, Harley, Claire, Jax, Jada, Brayden, Kiera, Kamaro and predeceased by Autum and Liam. He will be missed by many family, friends, cousins, great-great-nieces and nephews. Family and friends gathered at St. Ignatious Church, Buzwah for visitation on Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 5 pm. The Funeral Mass was on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 11 am. Cremation followed.

FUNERAL HOME LIMITED

Island

MARIAN E. AELICK December 22, 1942 - April 12, 2025



The family of Marian E. Aelick wishes to announce her peaceful passing on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at the Manitoulin Health Centre in Mindemoya. She was predeceased by her beloved husband Wilmer "John" David Aelick and her parents Robert South and

Grace (née Wilkinson McCauley). Marian is survived by her two daughters Susan Newson (Greg) and Kimberly Brander (Paul); grandchildren Kyla Newson and Connor Newson (Robyn and sons Avery and Brooks), and Clayton Brander and Ryan Brander and many cousins, nieces and nephews. Marian was a secretary for more than 20 years and in her retirement, found a passion for genealogy, which took her on adventures across Canada and abroad. She also found joy in gardening and walking her dog. She was a member of The Order of the Eastern Star for more than 58 years. The family extends heartfelt thanks to all the staff at Manitoulin Health Centre, especially her oncology nurses Evan and Jennifer and her doctors, Dr. G. Desmarais and Dr. M. Harelnikava, for their compassionate care. Marian will be laid to rest beside her husband, John, her parents, Robert and Grace and other loved ones at Coldsprings Cemetery, Bidwell Township, Manitoulin Island, Ontario in June of 2025 with a Celebration of Life. Details will be advertised. In lieu of flowers, donations in Marian's memory may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Please share your thoughts, memories and photos at www. islandfuneralhome.ca.

Island

FUNERAL HOME LIMITED

AARON FARQUHAR



It is with shattered hearts that the Farquhar family shares the news of the passing of Aaron Farquhar. A visitation will be held from 10 am to 12 noon this Saturday, April 26, 2025 at Island Funeral Home in Little Current, followed by a funeral service at 12 noon. After the funeral, friends and family are invited to gather

at the Little Current Legion to socialize and remember Aaron.

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, 70 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.

Celebration of Life

CHRISTOPHER VOLLICK September 24, 1963 - October 12, 2024



A Celebration of Life will be held for Chris Vollick on Saturday, May 10, 2025 at the Silver Water United Church on Manitoulin Island. Chris' life will forever be celebrated. Those who knew him, knew he was a leisurist outdoorsman. Chris loved to spend time fishing,

exploring, gardening and feeding the birds, and would often share his wealth of knowledge on plants, animals and various arrays of wildlife. Chris loved all animals and had a special knack for training the untameable. It wasn't uncommon for Chris to take in a rescue and love it like his own. Chris had a special love of dogs and created unbreakable bonds with his beloved pups. His best boy Sailor was no exception, they grew to be best friends and final companions. Chris had a brilliant and creative mind and loved working with his hands. He was an especially talented carpenter and chose this trade as his profession. Chris worked as a dedicated employee and maintenance manager for Community Living Port Colborne for 25 years before retiring in 2021. Chris fulfilled a lifelong goal of living on Manitoulin Island. "The Island" was a place he cherished and looked forward to returning to every year. His Island friends and neighbours will attest that he was always willing to lend a helping hand. His sense of humour and quick wit will always be remembered by all who knew him. Chris was predeceased by his life partner and best friend of 34 years Rhonda Acaster, mother Margaret Walmsley, stepmother Marie Vollick, nephew MacKenzie Merritt and brother-in-law Robert Macmorine. Chris is survived by and missed dearly by his father Ronald Vollick, sisters Linda and Patricia, nephew Desmond, beloved stepchildren Natasha (Terry), Trina (Wesley) and Frank, cherished grandchildren Kyera, Alyssa, Tiyanna, Mateya and Becka, and first great-grandchild Sabrina. He will be missed by his sweetheart Denise Fidler and her grandchildren Kayden and Abbey. In memory of Chris and his "best boy" Sailor, the family asks that donations to the Humane Society of Greater Niagara be made in lieu of flowers. Family and friends are invited to join us to share memories of Chris on Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 11 am at the Silver Water United Church - 20336 Highway 540, Silver Water. Lunch and fellowship to follow at the Silver Water Community Centre.

GRANT BAKER

Priends and relatives of Grant Baker, who passed away on November 9, 2024, are invited to share photos, tell tales and adventures from his life with his family at the Barrie Island Community Hall on Saturday, May 10 from 1 to 4 pm. See you there!

...Gore Bay mayor does not intend to use 'strong mayors powers'

...continued from page 6

province.

For Manitoulin Island, the municipality of Central Manitoulin, Town of Gore Bay, and Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands (NEMI) are in-

"I feel we have a high functioning council that works well together, and with staff, and I can't imagine trying to use (the Strong Mayors Powers) it, or why it would be used here. In our situation the council debates issues and we come to the best solution and with strong consensus of the majority of council," stated Al MacNevin, NEMI Mayor. "If you have a good functioning group like we have on council and staff I can never see using this power."

"These additional powers could be used for some municipalities struggling that can't get things done," said Mayor MacNevin. "I'm not against breaking a deadlock on a vote of council. To me, (the legislation) would be a last-ditch thing.'

"In our case the process we have now has served us well over the past 20 years. Everyone on council brings forward ideas or proposals and council debates them and comes to a consensus. We don't always agree on everything, but there is never a battle,

we use common sense. And if there are any concerns raised, our CAO does research, and we bring this forward for further discussion and reach a consensus among council.'

"As long as council is functioning well, it makes no sense to use these powers, depending on the municipality," said Mayor MacNevin.

"I'm not sure what we would ever use this expanded power for," stated Richard Stephens, Mayor of Central Manitoulin. "I guess it would always be nice to have it in our back pocket if it is needed.'

Mayor Stephens said, "I never expected these expanded powers would ever come down to our municipalities. But we are not going to turn it down. And I can understand it being used in big cities if it is involving an important issue like finances.'

"I'm in favour of anything that gives council more power, the mayor works with council and knows the needs in the community and acts accordingly," said Mayor Stephens.

This significant expansion reflects Ontario's commitment to streamline local governance and help ensure municipalities have the tools they need to reduce obstacles that can stand in the way of new housing and infrastructure development. The powers would allow heads of council of single-and lower-tier municipalities with councils of six members or more to support shared provincial-municipal priorities, such as encouraging the approval of new housing and constructing and maintaining infrastructure to support housing, including roads and transit.

Ontario's strong mayor powers, initially introduced for Toronto and Ottawa in 2022, have been gradually rolled out across the province. The province currently has 47 municipalities with these enhanced powers, which have helped to cut red tape and accelerate the delivery of key priorities in their communities. These enhanced powers come with increased accountability for heads of council and maintain essential checks and balances through the oversight of councillors.





The family of the late Chris Simon would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming support during our incredible loss. We appreciated all the visits, hugs, food deliveries, kind words, shared tears, cards, gifts, donations in his memory and love for Chris. Thanks to everyone who travelled from afar to lay tobacco at his sacred fire and those who attended/watched his celebration with

Special thanks to Dr. Ann McKee, Lisa McHale, Sophia Nosek and their entire

team at Boston University CTE department for their outstanding work in getting us the definitive scientific proof post mortem, that Chris suffered immensely from stage 3 of 4 Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) as suspected by his family. Special thanks to Dr. Megan Culina of Sault Ste. Marie; Kerry Funeral Home, Heidi McLaren for the beautiful arrangements and generosity; MFN Chief Tangie, MFN members and volunteers, firekeepers, healers and singers; those who held their air bnb's for our family, Christine Parise, North of 17 for providing meals to our family, those who picked up items out of town for the family, Judy Page and Marcel Provost for catering; Dylan Buckell for the thoughtful display he placed on the ice surface in memory of Chris, we were deeply

moved. To those who played in the hockey tournament and wore #12 on their helmets in support of Chris memory that weekend. To the Chiefs who travelled many miles to guide Chris during his funeral and celebration. Thank you to the pallbearers Jimmy, Marc, Jeff, Jamie, Cliffy, Steve and Dan for accompanying Chris ashes. Thank you to Brett and Scott for clearing the snow that day, and to Carol Ann and Jamie for all their help. To all who honoured Chris's memory from afar. And to all those who helped in any way as there are too many to mention. The love for Chris during that time was palpable and continues to be felt each day.

To Ted and Sandra Nolan for travelling many miles to deliver the eulogy in person. To Cheyenne Kitchikake for the beautiful songs at Chris's funeral and celebration, you moved us all with your powerful voice. The family will forever be grateful to Chris true friend and agent, Paul Theofanous, for always being there for Chris and our family during difficult times the past 15 years. We are especially thankful that Paul attended Chris celebration in person, spent private time with our family and for his continued support. Chris was a very kind and gentle soul. Chris' children and family were his heart and soul. The family heard many beautiful stories of Chris and are requesting that these stories be sent to his sister, Charlee Simon at P.O. Box 23, Wawa, ON POS 1K0 as they will be given to his children and family to read during tougher days and to be shared with his future grandchildren.



SHESHEGWANING FIRST NATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Anishinaabemowin Language Teacher



Sheshegwaning First Nation is currently accepting applications for an Anishinabemowin Langvuage Teacher at St. Joseph's Anishinabek School.

Essential Duties:

- Work under the supervision of the Principal.
- Develop lesson plans, assessments, evaluations and provide Language Instruction for all grades assigned.
- Inspire and mentor students to develop pride in their ancestral language and motivate them to use language in communications within all aspects of their daily lives. • Implement and deliver culturally appropriate Anishnaabe teachings within the school
- and community setting.
- Develop and implement long-range plans.
- Prepare and administer assessments.
- Evaluate the progress of students and discuss results with students, parents and school
- Participate in staff meetings, teacher training workshops, professional development days and other school functions.
- May supervise teacher assistants and student teachers.

Qualifications/Requirements:

- Fluency in Anishinabemowin.
- Member in good standing with the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT).
- Must have knowledge and/or experience of the culture, tradition, history and customs of the Anishnaabe.
- $\bullet \ \text{Excellent rapport with young people in a mentoring role, positive interpersonal skills,}\\$ and willingness to work collaboratively and in cooperation within a team
- Ability to interact with staff and community in a positive and professional manner.
- Maintains and follows internal routines and procedures for child health and safety and
- CRC/CPIC and Vulnerable Sector Screening will be required.

Location: Sheshegwaning First Nation - St. Joseph's Anishinabek School Salary Range: as per salary grid Deadline to Apply: open until filled

Interested applicants may forward their cover letter and resume marked confidential to: **Heather Wilson**

> Director, Education & Life-Long Learning **Sheshegwaning First Nation** 1079A Sheshegwaning Road Sheshegwaning First Nation, ON P0P 1X0 heather@sheshegwaning.org

**Preference will be given to Sheshegwaning First Nation Members.

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



SHESHEGWANING FIRST NATION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY





Sheshegwaning First Nation is seeking drivers responsible for transporting individuals and/ or supplies and equipment, to and from various locations; for operating and maintaining a vehicle for the purpose of transportation for members of Sheshegwaning First Nation, while functioning within legislative requirements, regulations, policies and procedures and the Mission, Beliefs and Vision of the Sheshegwaning First Nation Wellness Centre and contributes to the accomplishment of the strategic priorities.

- Transporting individuals and/or supplies and equipment to and from various locations, which may include weekends.
- Collecting prescriptions, wheelchairs, medical equipment, etc. as may be required and delivering to the appropriate destination.
- Maintaining a logbook of all transportation provided (destination, etc.) and of all deliveries of supplies and completing the required forms and reports.
- Provide auxiliary trips as needed.
- Always maintaining the vehicles in good working conditions.
- Assisting individuals in and out of van.
- Providing emergency First Aid if necessary (i.e. CPR).
- Participating in ongoing development and team activities.
- Contribute to a harmonious team environment within the organization.
- Always maintain confidentiality and professionalism.
- Performing other related duties as may be required and assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Secondary School Diploma.
- Must have a valid "G" Class driver's licence.
- Ability to travel frequently.
- Demonstrated sensitivity to and knowledge to the First Nation cultural values and traditions.
- Must be able to work after hours and weekends.
- Ability to deal effectively with difficult clients and conflicting situations using good judgement in assessing difficult situations.
- Ability to be consistent and display a positive/helpful attitude.
- Flexibility required to keep pace with an ever-changing environment.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively as a member of a team. • Able to report for work as scheduled and to attend work regularly.
- Must provide a clean Driver's Abstract.
- Must undergo a criminal record check (CPIC) and vulnerable sector check annually and prior to employment.

Location: Sheshegwaning First Nation, Health Centre Salary Range: As per contribution agreement. Deadline to Apply: Open Until Filled

Interested applicants may forward their resume and three written references marked confidential to:

Nicole Bush, Health and Wellness Director **Sheshegwaning First Nation** 1079A Sheshegwaning Road Sheshegwaning First Nation, ON P0P 1X0 Nicole@sheshegwaning.org

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

MINDEMOYA HOME HARDWARE

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Come join our team. We are hiring seasonal, part & full-time positions in sales.

5855 ON-542, Mindemoya, ON



SHESHEGWANING FIRST NATION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Governance Officer

Full-Time Permanent - Re-Post



The Sheshegwaning First Nation requires a Governance Officer. The candidate must be self-directed and a motivated individual in order to plan and develop, implement and coordinate a comprehensive Governance Development Strategy for the Nation.

Overview:

- Support the effective implementation of the Comprehensive Governance Development Strategy in support of the ANGA Governance Agreement.
- Develop a work plan to coordinate and administer First Nation citizen engagement activities, including community meetings and door-to-door visits on the Governance Initiative.
- Ensure ongoing communication updates to Chief and Council and First Nation citizens.
- Collaboratively work with Westaway Law Group to support regional engagement sessions with First Nation citizens living in urban centres and attending colleges and universities.
- Support the development of a First Nation citizen engagement databases.
- Assist in addressing First Nation Governance Development issues related to the implementation of the Comprehensive Governance Development Strategy.
- Provide strategic advice to support the effective implementation of the First Nation Governance Development strategy.
- Support community outreach activities for the Governance Main Table (such as coordinating speaking engagements and consultations).
- Keep consistent with Sheshegwaning Kchi-Naaknigwein, our guiding principles and Sheshegwaning Legislative Enactment Regulations.
- Responsible for the effective reporting on the implementation of the Comprehensive Governance Development Strategy to Chief and Council and ANGA.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- 1. Post-Secondary in Governance Development or social sciences and/or a combination of educational, workplace experience.
- 2. Must possess excellent communication skills, experience and knowledge of Governance Development.
- 3. Experience with program design and evaluations.
- ${\it 4. Demonstrate the ability to work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team environment.}\\$
- 5. Demonstrate a commitment to knowledge of Community and resources.
- 6. Knowledge/understanding of Anishinabek language, customs and traditions would be an asset.
- 7. Must hold a valid Ontario Driver's Licence and have access to a reliable and insured vehicle.
- 8. Provide a current Criminal Reference Check.

Location: Sheshegwaning First Nation Administration Office **Salary Range:** Negotiable

Deadline to Apply: Open until filled.

Interested applicants may forward their resume and cover letter, marked confidential to:

Joan Sheppard
Executive Director
Sheshegwaning First Nation
1079A Sheshegwaning Road
Sheshegwaning First Nation, ON
P0P 1X0
joan@sheshegwaning.org

**Preference will be given to Sheshegwaning First Nation Members.

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

CAREERS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Assiginack Museum

Summer Student Employment:

Assistant to Curator – 1 position

July & August 2025 at the Assiginack Museum in Manitowaning.

<u>Duties will include:</u>

Interacting with visitors; handling admissions and gift shop sales; providing orientation and interpretation of local history and exhibits; assisting with events and children's programming; assisting with displays, records and other duties as assigned.

Applicant youth must be between 15 and 30 years of age at the beginning of the employment period. Must be a Canadian citizen/permanent resident with a valid Social Insurance Number and be eligible to work in Canada.

This position is funded as part of the Canada Summer Jobs Program.

Deadline to apply is May 2, 2025.

Please send a resume and cover letter to:
Assiginack Museum Summer Student Application
Township of Assiginack
PO Box 238

Manitowaning, ON P0P 1N0 or email to: assiginackmuseumcurator@gmail.com



SHESHEGWANING FIRST NATION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Principal - Full-Time position

The Sheshegwaning First Nation is seeking a reliable and trustworthy Principal to join our excellent school, who will be tasked with reviewing budgets and school policies, organizing school events and community initiatives, updating student records, handling disciplinary issues and recruiting new staff. You should make valid contributions to the improvement of the school and be a stellar example for both staff and students.

The incumbent reports to the Sheshegwaning First Nation Director of Education.

Qualifications:

- University Degree or College Degree Principal Level 1 and 2.
- Knowledge of First Nation needs and goals in the education of First Nation people and education delivery.
- Knowledge of current First Nations' position on education and training issues at community regional and national levels as it pertains to education and training programs.
- Excellent verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills.
- Proven supervisory skills.
- Ability to manage programs within a limited budget.
- To speak Anishinaabemowin would be an asset.
- Proven computer skills in Microsoft Office Word, Excel and Outlook.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Consult and work with other departments along with Director of Education for the harmonious advancement of our students.
- Work with Director of Education to review budgets, school policies and rules and regulations to maintain a positive relationship with the Education Committee and Chief and Council.
- Attend and participate in meetings with staff, parents and other officials.
- In cooperation with teaching and support staff and administration, work with Director of Education to review departmental needs within financial constraints.
- Help to arrange professional development for school personnel.
- Establish rapport and maintain relationships with parents, staff and students.
- Sit in on disciplinary hearings and provide advice for at-risk students.
- Update student and school records
- Remain active and visible on field trips during school functions.
- Address concerns raised by students, staff and parents.
- Supervise teachers on a day-to-day basis including performance reviews and setting annual goals and objectives.
- Monitor the attendance and progress of the students who are being transported to other communities to be educated.

Interested applicants should submit their resume along with a CPIC, cover letter and three references no later than May 1, 2025 or until position filled marked confidential to the attention of:

Heather Wilson, Director of Education Sheshegwaning First Nation 1079A Sheshegwaning Road Sheshegwaning, ON P0P 1X0 heather@sheshegwaning.org

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be

**Preference will be given to Sheshegwaning First Nation Members.





Alexandra Wilson-Zegil

It's been a big week at Manitoulin Secondary School, filled with wins, events, and plenty to keep students occupied.

A proud moment for

MSS as the Mustangs Badminton Team won the NSSSA Badminton Championship Banner for 2025. Outstanding performances from athletes

across all divisions led to this achievement. Several players have also qualified for NOSSA, taking place next week in Sudbury. Take a look at the

results:

Novice Girls Singles Gold - Amber Brizuela; Silver - Rowyn Kasunich. Novice Boys Singles: Gold - Collin Goodfellow.

Novice Boys Doubles: Gold - Roen Deschenes and Spencer Cortes.

Junior Boys Singles: Silver - Jonah Balfe.

Junior Boys Doubles: Gold - Ethan Ense and Anders Watson.

Senior Girls Singles: Gold - Aspen Debassige.

Senior Boys Doubles: Gold - Jaren Panamick and Ian McCauley.

Congratulations to all players!

Earth week is here at MSS! The SHARE/Go Green committee has arranged a daily activity to help raise awareness about environmental stewardship. Here is the week's itinerary:

Tuesday, April 22 is Community Clean-Up Clean-Up Day: Classes are invited to sign up and help tidy the school ground.

Wednesday, April 23 is Vegetarian Day and Tea Day: Plant-based eating can help reduce an individual's carbon footprint! There will also be tea served in the cafeteria for participants.

Thursday is Eco-Clothing Day: Participants are encouraged to wear vintage, recycled, or upcycled clothing to support sustainable fashion.

Friday is Wild Robot Ticket Giveaway: Students who took part in Earth Week activities will have a chance to win tickets to see The Wild Robot movie buyout happening within the next couple weeks.

MSS's Tennis team is starting back up! Students interested in joining one of the last sports teams of the year are asked to grab their rackets and get in contact with Mr. Theijsmeijer!

Nominations for the Yearbook Hall of Fame are now being accepted. Students can nominate others for a variety of fun categories through the Google Form found in the Guidance Classroom. Voting is open all week. Final selections will be featured in this year's yearbook.

From winning banners to eco-friendly fun, this week was filled with Mustang spirit at MSS! That's all for this week. Until next time, go Mustangs,





SHESHEGWANING FIRST NATION **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Ontario Works Administrator

(Full-Time - Contract to approx. June 2026)

Sheshegwaning First Nation is seeking an Ontario Works Administrator who is responsible for providing all financial and administrative functions to ensure effective, efficient, and accurate financial and administrative operations in accordance with the Ontario Works directives and current legislation.

DUTIES

- Ensure all reports for both client files and GWA Calculator are following applicable policies and legislation.
- Submission of monthly and quarterly reporting requirements ensuring applicability of legislation and accurate of content, to INAC and MCSS, including TSF.
- Develop local policy for Discretionary Benefits and Transitional Support Funds to maximize full usage of dollars to best accommodate OW clients.
- · Regularly conduct interviews with clients to collect all necessary participant information, and documentation is following applicable privacy acts and legislation.
- Handle client requests in a timely manner in accordance with directives, provincial regulations and legislation. • Ensure all reports and related files are accurate and up-to-date. Liaise with external agencies and stakeholders.
- Monitor and verify the monthly client reporting requirements and ensure adherence to applicable policies and legislation, as
- well as ensure accuracy of content.
- Help clients apply for Employment Insurance (EI) and to the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). • Provide current information to clients related to available services including changes to existing services.
- Ensure client information is accurate and up-to-date. Conduct home visits with clients when required.
- Inform clients about the Healthy Smile Program and the applicability of its services for their needs.
- Schedule appointments on behalf of clients to outside service appointments, when required.
- Prepare funding submissions for reimbursement. Provide referral to clients for other programs and services.
- Monitor client's monthly expenditure on bill payments and provide budget assistance if required.
- Order and purchase appliances, beds and other approved items for eligible clients.
- Conduct client interviews to process applications and monitor ongoing client eligibility for Ontario Works. • Professional Development - attend ONWAA training assemblies, maintain a good working relationship with organization,
- regularly complete required training to fulfill duties of Ontario Works Administrator. • Attend meetings as requested and report on information obtained.
- Host workshops/community engagement sessions on Ontario Works and other programming to encourage participation • Build trust and relationships by engaging with community members.
- Increase support for Indigenous dependent adults to better access claims applications for settlement agreements for which they may be eligible.
- Contribute to a harmonious team environment within the organization.
- Perform other related duties as may be required and assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Secondary School Diploma.
- Must have a valid "G" Class driver's licence.
- Demonstrate sensitivity and knowledge to the First Nation cultural values and traditions.
- Must be able to work after hours and weekends as needed.
- Ability to deal effectively with difficult clients and conflicting situations. Ability to use good judgement in assessing difficult situations maintaining confidentiality and professionalism.
- Ability to be consistent and display a positive/helpful attitude.
- Flexibility required to keep pace with an ever-changing environment.
- Ability to work under pressure to meet deadlines. • Ability to work independently and collaboratively as a member of a team.
- Must provide a clean Driver's Abstract.
- Must undergo a criminal record check (CPIC) and vulnerable sector check annually and prior to employment.

Location: Sheshegwaning First Nation, Administration Building Salary Range: As per contribution agreement. Deadline to Apply: Open Until Filled

Interested applicants may forward their resume and three written references marked confidential to:

Joan Sheppard, Executive Director 1079A Sheshegwaning Rd.

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



Summer Student Needed

Please send your resume to: Central Manitoulin Public Library P.O. Box 419

Mindemoya, ON P0P 1S0 or email: mindemoyalibrary@gmail.com



TOWNSHIP OF TEHKUMMAH is accepting applications for a **FULL-TIME Public Works Operator**

- Assist in maintaining municipal infrastructure, including roads, landfill site
- Responsible for operating equipment, routine maintenance and equipment repairs and performing other tasks as required
- Ability to operate heavy equipment
- Grader and snowplowing experience an asset,
- DZ licence required
- 40 hour work week possible flexible scheduling due to seasonal demands

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 – 3 PM

Interested applicants please forward resume to: Clerk-Administrator

Township of Tehkummah 456 Hwy 542A, P.O. Box 24 Tehkummah, ON POP 2C0

Deliver in person to Township office between 8:30 - 4:00 pm By fax: 705-859-2605 By email: clerk.administrator@tehkummah.ca

**Preference will be given to Sheshegwaning First Nation Members. Sheshegwaning, ON P0P 1X0 joan@sheshegwaning.org



Financial Analyst - Capital

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 Financial Analyst - Capital.

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

Interested candidates should apply by 3 pm Friday April 25, 2025 and submit a cover letter, resume and names of three (3) references.

Bruce Bourget Director of Education

rainbowschools.ca



SHESHEGWANING FIRST NATION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Estates Management

(Full-Time)



Sheshegwaning First Nation is seeking a Estates Manager who is responsible for working jointly with Land, Resources Environment and Membership and Estates developing capacity for the management of estates. The applicant will help resolve old estate issues as well as new ones that arise. Education for members of Sheshegwaning First Nation, on Wills and property guardianship. While maintaining the Mission, Beliefs and Vision of the Sheshegwaning First Nation.

- Update information on membership land possessions with historical back up, digitizing file for membership nd estates.
- Creating educational materials, to promote the importance of Last Will and Testament and
- Developing governance capacity for management of membership and estates.
- Exploring, developing or advancing alternative management of estates.
- Work in collaboration with lawyers, consultants and community members to coordinate engagement sessions.
- Update current system and data input for historical record keeping.
- Education to community members on MRT (Matrimonial Real Property) land holdings on reserve, non-member relationship rights, etc.
- Design tools to provide information and training about estates management, being a property guardian, estate planning and/or substitute decision making planning.
- Attend training and workshops and team activities to build capacity of the department. • Increase the number of wills written by First Nation Members.
- Host workshops/community engagement sessions on estate planning and how to complete
- estate forms and submit settlement agreement claim forms. • Build trust and relationships with community members.
- Develop community capacity to better support Indigenous dependent adults living on a
- Contribute to a harmonious team environment within the organization.
- · Always maintain confidentiality and professionalism. • Perform other related duties as may be required and assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Secondary School Diploma.
- Must have a valid "G" Class driver's licence.
- Valid CPR and First Aid Certificates would be an asset.
- Ability to travel frequently if necessary.
- Demonstrated sensitivity to and knowledge to the First Nation cultural values and traditions.
- Ability to deal effectively with difficult clients and conflicting situations.
- Ability to use good judgment in assessing difficult situations.
- Flexibility required to keep pace with an ever-changing environment.
- Willingness to accept changes in work practices and technology. • Ability to work under pressure to meet deadlines.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively as a member of a team.
- Able to report for work as scheduled and to attend work regularly.
- Must undergo a criminal record check (CPIC) and vulnerable sector check annually and prior to employment.

Location: Sheshegwaning First Nation, Administration Building **Salary Range:** As per contribution agreement.

Deadline to Apply: OPEN until filled.

Interested applicants may forward their resume and three written references marked confidential to:

> Jessica Sampson, Human Resources Director **Sheshegwaning First Nation** 1079A Sheshegwaning Road Sheshegwaning First Nation, ON P0P 1X0 Jessica@sheshegwaning.org

*Preference will be given to Sheshegwaning First Nation Members. We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



Join Our Team in Little Current!

Great Canadian Dollar Store is looking for Store Clerks to join the team at our new store in Little Current. These are part-time positions with a starting wage of \$17.20 per hour.

Responsibilities include:

- Greet and assist customers
- Work at cash
- Unload trucks
- Stock shelves
- General cleaning and tidying

We require individuals who are available to work a rotation of day, evening and weekend shifts.

No experience? No problem! We will train you.

You can email your resume to:

440@greatcanadiandollarstore.ca, or bring your resume to the store anytime between 9 a.m - 5 p.m. We're located at 37 Meredith St. East in Little Current.

We don't use AI to evaluate applicants. Each resume we receive is reviewed by a real person. We'd love to meet with you!



WIKWEMIKONG TRIBAL POLICE SERVICE

Detention Guard / Matron (On-Call)

Position: On-Call Guard Location: Wikwemikong Unceded Territory Responsible to: Chief of Police, Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service

The Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service is accepting applications from all suitable and qualified candidates to apply for the position of On-Call Guard/Matron.

Summary: As a WTPS Detention Guard, you will be monitoring and safeguarding persons in custody, documenting prisoner movement/activities, as per WTPS policy guidelines. Physical handling of prisoners is not a job requirement. Any movement/ transfer of prisoners will be conducted by the WTPS.

Key Duties/Responsibilities:

- Hours are variable and at an on-call basis.
- Observe and check prisoners frequently and regularly.
 Monitor all prisoners to ensure their security and well-being.
 Assist WTPS Officers when required to search prisoners. Training to be provided.
- Record and report any damages or repairs to cells.
 Conduct search of cells prior to occupation and when cells are vacated.
- Maintain cell block security by ensuring cell doors are locked at all times.
- Ensure that cell block keys are tagged and stored safely.
- Ensure all personal effects removed from prisoners are properly secured.
- Monitor fire safety and be fully conversant with fire orders.

Basic Requirements:

- At a minimum, Guards must possess the following educational and training qualifications prior to commencement of guard duties, Ontario Secondary School
- Ability to maintain confidentiality a MUST.
- Must possess a valid class G Ontário Driver's Licence.
- Be of good moral character, no criminal record and must pass background and investigation check. Must provide a signed WTPS Consent to Security Clearance Investigation Form. Must have awareness of First Nation culture and traditions, conversant in the
- Anishinaabemowin language an asset.
- Possess current First Aid/CPR Certificates. First Aid training is a condition of employment for Detention Guards and must be obtained by the candidate prior to
- Basic computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft Outlook and Office.
- Be physically able to perform the duties of the position, able to use both hands and occasionally manipulate/lift up to 20kg, able to bend at the waist and climb stairs without restrictions or the use of assistive devices.
- Be prepared to take an Oath/Affirmation of Office and Secrecy.

Employment packages are available for pick up at the WTPS office or can be emailed to those interested. Interested applicants are to forward their completed electronic employment package, letter of interest/cover letter, detailed resume, copies of relevant diploma/certificates to:

Attn: Richard Flamand, Human Resources Manager Email: richard.flamand@wtps.ca

Please note, applications will be screened. We thank all candidates who apply, however, only those who are considered will be contacted. Duty specific Guard Training is provided to successful candidates prior to the commencement of duty. Refresher training will be provided on an annual basis.

CAREERS



WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EDUCATION MANAGER

FULL-TIME

Salary Range: \$74,120 - \$89,700 /year + Group Benefits, Pension and more! *Depending on education and experience

Whitefish River First Nation is seeking an experienced Education Manager to oversee and manage WRFN's educational programs and services. This pivotal role is instrumental in developing, implementing and evaluating education initiatives to ensure our members' highest level of learning outcomes and success. The ideal candidate will play a crucial part in

shaping the educational landscape of our community. These responsibilities include ensuring that the education system aligns with the cultural values and needs of the band members, implementing educational policies and initiatives, coordinating curriculum development and delivery, managing the budget and resources for education, and collaborating with various stakeholders such as teachers, parents and government agencies. The Education Manager works towards providing quality education and promoting the academic success and well-being of all students within the First Nation community with the support and guidance of the Education Committee.

Strategic Planning & Community Engagement

- $Develop \ and \ implement \ strategic \ \bar{p}lans \ and \ educational \ initiatives \ in \ consultation \ with \ the \ Education \ Committee.$ Engage the community in the development of programs and services, ensuring alignment with cultural values
- and local needs.
- **Program Coordination & Support** Oversee all education programs and services, including early childhood education, elementary, secondary, post-
- Support language revitalization initiatives and immersion programs in partnership with language speakers and community experts.
- Ensure coordination of transportation services for secondary and elementary school students is implemented.

Compliance & Financial Management

- Ensure compliance with applicable legislation, funding agreements and regulations.
- Develop, manage and monitor annual budgets, financial projections and reports, ensuring effective financial stewardship.
- Identify funding opportunities, write proposals and manage funding agreements and financial reporting. Policy Development & Implementation
- Lead in developing, revising and implementing educational policies and procedures.
- Provide advice and support to the Education Committee on policy matters and educational best practices.
- Coordinate monthly Education Committee meetings and ensure accurate documentation of discussions and

Staff Management & Development

- Supervise key education staff.
- Coordinate staff meetings, performance reviews and employee training programs.

Community Relations & Student Engagement

- Foster positive relationships and effective communication with parents, guardians, students, teachers, Elders, community leadership and external stakeholders.
- Develop and implement strategies to enhance student engagement, retention and success.

Monitoring & Reporting

- Analyze data on student achievement, attendance, and other educational indicators to identify areas for
- Prepare and submit reports, including annual work plans, briefing notes, monthly updates and quarterly progress

Professional Development & External Collaboration

- Participate in local, regional and national committees and conferences to stay informed on trends and best
- practices in Indigenous education.
- Coordinate with external partners to enhance educational opportunities and resources available to community members.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- A bachelor's or master's degree in education, business administration or a related field.
- Proven experience in educational leadership and administration, particularly in Indigenous communities.
- Knowledge of Anishinabek culture, history and educational issues, focusing on local community needs and
- Familiarity with Canadian education legislation, policies and funding mechanisms, particularly in relation to
- Experience in program development, evaluation and implementation, particularly in First Nations educational

- Strong interpersonal, communication and facilitation skills, with the ability to engage diverse stakeholders,
- including community members, teachers and government agencies.

 Exceptional organizational and project management abilities, including budgeting and resource management.
- Proficiency in data analysis, reporting and performance evaluation.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively with a team
- Flexibility to manage multiple priorities and meet deadlines in a dynamic environment.
- Sensitivity to cross-cultural diversity and commitment to fostering an inclusive educational environment.
- Excellent problem-solving, decision-making and conflict resolution skills.
- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to work flexible hours and travel as required.

KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS

- Knowledge of the Anishinabek Education System and Kinoomaadziwin Education Body.
- Understanding federal and provincial legislation, regulations and programs affecting Indigenous Education and First Nations students
- Familiarity with Indigenous peoples' history, culture, traditions and socioeconomic conditions and the ability to integrate traditional and mainstream practices.
- Experience with Education Service Agreements and working with provincial education authorities to support First Nation students' learning success.
- Understanding of community development principles and strategic planning in an educational context.
- Must provide a clear Police Vulnerable Sector Check upon hire.
- Must possess a valid Ontario driver's licence, access to a dependable vehicle and valid automobile insurance. *For a complete Job Description, please email: hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca

Open until position filled.

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: Education Manager** Whitefish River First Nation

17-A Rainbow Ridge Road, PO Box 188, Birch Island, ON POP 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.



Deputy Clerk Full-Time/Permanent (35 hours per week)

The Township of Billings is seeking a highly motivated individual to fill the vacant position of Deputy Clerk.

Working under the direction of the CAO/Clerk, the Deputy Clerk will assist the Clerk in the effective administration and operation of the Clerk's Department. The Deputy Clerk will act as the Clerk in the Clerk's absence, and will be responsible for taking minutes, vital statistics and records management. This position will assist with the development of policies, administer licencing and permitting and administer the Township Cemetery.

The ideal candidate will have a background in municipal administration, with training through the AMCTO in Municipal Administration. The position involves working in a fast-paced, deadline-orientated environment while maintaining a high level of accuracy and confidentiality. The salary for this position is currently set at \$56,000 to \$65,000 with a comprehensive benefits package and pension through OMERS.

A more detailed job description is available by visiting the careers page on our website at www.billingstwp.ca or by contacting Véronique Dion, CAO/Clerk (705) 282-2611 or cao@billingstwp.ca

Resumes will be accepted via e-mail or regular mail, in confidence to: Véronique Dion, CAO/Clerk Township of Billings 15 Old Mill Road, Kagawong ON P0P 1J0 or cao@billingstwp.ca

until 12:00 pm, Friday, May 2, 2025. Please indicate: "Deputy Clerk Position" in the subject line.

Township of Billings thanks all those candidates who submit an application; however, only those individuals identified for an interview will be contacted. Personal information contained in applications will be used for recruitment purposes and collected as per the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. R.S.O. 1990. The Township of Billings is an equal opportunity employer that is committed to an inclusive, barrier-free recruitment and selection process. If contacted for an employment opportunity, please advise if you require accommodation.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

DAYCARE COOKS

Department: Education Classification Level: CW-2 (\$40,955.20 – \$50,055.20) Employment Status: Regular Full-time (7.5 hours/day – 37.5 hours/week)

M'Chigeeng First Nation is seeking a caring, friendly, and enthusiastic Daycare Cooks, who strive to deliver well-balanced meals provide the essential nutrients needed for brain development, improving memory and learning abilities.

Do you believe in a team approach and have excellent communications? Then you will be a great fit at the Binoojiinh Gamgoonhs Childcare Centre.

DAYCARE HEAD COOK Employment Status: Regular Full-Time (7.5 hours/day – 37.5 hours/week)

Reporting Relationship

The Daycare Head Cook reports to the Daycare Supervisor. The Daycare Head Cook is responsible to plan, prepare and monitor nutritious meals provided to the children enrolled in the M'Chigeeng

Essential Functions

- Plan a menu for the meals that will be served to the children at the M'Chigeeng Daycare
- Prepare grocery list which includes ordering or picking up food items.

 Prepare and serve meals on a daily basis ensuring that the meals are nutritious.
- Clean and disinfect lunch area after lunch meals are completed.
- Clean and disinfect cooking area and dishes after each meal. Prepare and maintain financial documentation for food and kitchen supplies ordered for the
 - M'Chigeeng Daycare. Other duties as required.

DAYCARE ASSISTANT COOK Employment Status: Regular Part-Time (4 hours/day – 20 hours/week)

Reporting Relationship

The Daycare Assistant Cook reports to the Daycare Head Cook. The Daycare Assistant Cook is responsible for assisting the Head Cook in preparing nutritious meals provided to the children enrolled in the M'Chigeeng Daycare Centre.

Essential Functions

- Assist the Head Cook in preparing and serving meals on a daily basis.
- Set up lunch tables.
- Prepare desserts that will be served the next day.
- Assist Head Cook in cleaning and disinfecting area after lunch meal is completed. Assist Head Cook in cleaning and disinfecting cooking area and dishes after each meal.
- Take additional responsibility of planning and preparing meals when the Head Cook is not
- Other duties as required.

Qualifications and Requirements

- Minimum Educational Requirements: Cook Training, Safe Food Handling Certificate, Workplace Safety. First Aid/CPR is also an asset (or willing to obtain).
- Ability to maintain confidentiality at all times.
- Health Assessment with a copy of UTD Immunizations. CRC/VSS required must be thirty (30) days current original or certified copy.

CRC/VSS Rationale: M'Chigeeng First Nation and its agents are in a position of trust in services to band member children and/or vulnerable adults, so a safe and secure working environment is mandatory. Applicants must provide a clear VSS Certificate, and the CRC must have a record clear and/or dated of any convictions relating to alcohol, drugs, assault, violence and theft. The CRC and VSS must be current (30 days) and must be an Original.

Closing Date: OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Interested applicants must specify the position applying for and submit COVER LETTER, RESUME, THREE (3) CURRENT REFERENCES (2 Work-Related references from a direct supervisor/manager and 1-character reference that will be contacted upon a successful interview) and education certifications to:

Daycare Cooks

employment@mchigeeng.ca c/o Human Resources P.O. Box 333, M'CHIGEENG, ON POP 1G0 (Fax 705-377-4980)

INCOMPLETE applications will not be considered. Preference will be given to Anishinabek people. Miigwetch to all interested applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be

contacted

Travel cuts threaten Indigenous climate voices on global stage, says Island advocate

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre,

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

MANITOULIN — A quiet move by the federal government to end travel support for Canadian scientists contributing to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has raised alarm bells across the country — but for Kim Neale of Manitoulin Island, the consequences hit even closer to home.

Ms. Neale is an environmental engineer with specialties in ecological economics and conservation finance who currently works as vice president of Resilient Habitats at WWF-Canada and partners with several national Indigenous organizations. "I'm checking in with some of them to ensure their funding hasn't been cut too."

The federal government's decision to withdraw funding — which historically covered flights, accommodations, and meals for Canadian scientists volunteering their time to the IPCC — effectively places a financial barrier between Canadian experts and the world's leading climate science process. The implications are steep. With IPCC participation requiring four to five international meetings per cycle, scientists now face the prospect of paying out of pocket or diverting grant funding intended for research and students.

But Ms. Neale says the policy shift threatens more than scientific collaboration. It jeopardizes the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge keepers and community voices in climate policy at the highest levels.

"I know several Indigenous scholars, practitioners and knowledge keepers who've been invited to participate in IPCC assessments but had to decline because of financial barriers," she said. "Even when travel was covered, the work goes far beyond attendance. Indigenous participants often spend more time than their peers, because our representation in these forums is

still so limited."

Canada, which is warming at nearly twice the global average, is experiencing the impacts of climate change acutely — from devastating wildfires and across the North to melting permafrost and rising coastlines. Yet decisions about how to respond are increasingly made without the people who live on and steward these lands.

"These IPCC assessments influence everything from international climate finance to local land use policies," said Ms. Neale. "When local leaders and Indigenous experts are sidelined due to financial barriers, the resulting policy often fails to reflect what's actually needed to protect our lands and waters."

The shift arrives at a time when global climate leadership is under scrutiny. While the government previously spent \$424,000 over the last IPCC cycle—much of it during the pandemic when travel was restricted—a new statement from Environment and Climate Change Canada confirms the department is "not able to commit to providing long-term travel funding for academics."

York University professor Dr. Deborah McGregor, a leader in Indigenous environmental justice, echoed that concern. "Ten years ago, I couldn't have participated," she said. "I wouldn't have had the funds."

Dr. McGregor—who has served on national and international climate committees—pointed out that many Indigenous academics work in underfunded disciplines like the humanities or traditional ecolog-

ical knowledge, where travel budgets are scarce and workloads are already heavy. Even for those who are invited, the lack of financial support creates a two-tier system of access.

"These IPCC assessments influence everything from international climate finance to local land-use policies," Ms. Neale added. "When local leaders and Indigenous experts are sidelined due to financial barriers, the resulting policy often fails to reflect what's actually needed to protect our lands and waters."

Dr. McGregor agrees and has long advocated for the meaningful inclusion of Indigenous governance and knowledge systems in climate policy. "When Indigenous voices are absent from these global processes, the policies that follow often reproduce the same colonial dynamics that got us into this crisis," she said.

For Ms. Neale, this moment is a call to action — and a reminder of where real support comes from.

"This is why I support organizations that raise funds for Indigenous and local leaders to be at these 'expert' tables," she said. "Because too often, those tables are filled with well-funded academics, not people with lived experience."

In the absence of federal commitment, advocates are turning to grassroots networks, foundations, and coalitions to fill the gap. But the question remains: If the Canadian government won't back its own experts — especially those closest to the climate crisis — who will?



Yes! We have cookies!

Youth Leta Wood and Roslyn Aelick were joined on the Girl Guide Cookie trail by mom, Amelia Wood, and customers Melanie and Brenna Pollard. The cookie vendors were ensconced in a booth outside Lavish's Your Independant Grocer in Little Current. Apparently business was brisk.

photo by Alicia McCutcheon



705-282-7738



Anishinabek Nation Chiefs symposium sparks renewed commitment to health transformation

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre,

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

SAULT STE MARIE—On March 25, the Anishinabek Nation's Chiefs Symposium on Health Transformation drew together a diverse gathering of leaders, advocates, and citizens united by a singular cause: reimagining a health system that truly serves the Anishinabek Nation. Among the shared lesson and stories of struggle, one thing became abundantly clear—there is a determined drive for change.

Patrick Madahbee, Anishinabek Nation Commissioner on Governance, underscored the urgency of the issue: "There are so many issues right now that need collective strength. We can't afford to waste time on this."

With approximately 60 people in attendance and 15 joining virtually, the symposium offered more than just discourse; it was a call to action. The day began with powerful words from community leaders, including Mishomis Jack Trudeau of Serpent River First Nation and Nookomis Donna Debassige of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, alongside Mishomis James Mishquart of Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek.

Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige reflected on the pivotal contributions of Tom Bressette-baa and the critical need for unity as Anishinabek communities navigate the complexities of Health Transformation. Speaking candidly, she acknowledged the flawed system that has failed our people for far too long.

"We cannot inherit a broken car and expect to drive it down the road," Chief Debassige stated. "We cannot simply sit back and say we'll take on that responsibility in the same fashion it's been delivered because we know that does not work. We know that our people have a difficult time accessing healthcare services."

Her words were a challenge to the collective will of the assembly: Health Transformation is about more than patching up an existing system—it's about building one that reflects Anishinabek values, respects traditional knowledge, and delivers real, tangible solutions. She went on to highlight the risks of navigating a system not designed by us, but emphasized that these risks, though daunting, should not be a deterrent. "The whole design of colonized systems is to divide and conquer," Chief Debassige warned, pointing to the ongoing need for unity in the face of these challenges.

Deputy Grand Council Chief Chris Plain welcomed the attendees, and Lake Huron Regional Chief Scott Mc-Leod urged leaders to actively engage in the upcoming elections, choosing wisely in the pursuit of meaningful change.

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The first keynote address came from Doug Kelly, former chair of the BC First Nations Health Council, whose personal health struggles painted a vivid picture of the gaps in the current healthcare system. "You can't call the health system in Canada a health system because it's not," Mr. Kelly remarked. "You have to be there, and you have to advocate. The abstinence model doesn't work ... We have to go to harm reduction. I know that because that's where I was."

Richard Jock, former CEO of the BC First Nations Health Council, followed with a discussion on lessons learned from the BC First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), where he shared insights on how community-led health programs can work, even when transitioning from a colonial system.

The day's discussions emphasized a clear theme: the path to Health Transformation involves returning control of healthcare to the communities it serves. Monika Konrad of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, during a panel discussion, spoke to the frustrations of navigating a system that constantly shifts priorities. "Health transformation is about taking back control so that you're not going to somebody begging for pennies to do what you know needs to be done," Ms. Konrad said, echoing a sentiment shared by many.

Mr. Kelly and Mr. Jock also spoke about the importance of engaging communities early in the process, acknowledging the fears that arise with change and creating spaces where those fears could be addressed openly.

Later in the day, a session on health governance took place, with contributions from R. Martin Bayer, a lawyer and negotiator for the Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement, and Tracey O'Donnell, along-side Patrick Madahbee. The panel explored the critical role of negotiation in shaping the future of health governance, emphasizing that chiefs and councils must provide clear mandates and direction for the process to succeed.

Health transformation, as outlined by those involved, is not merely about reforming existing structures or allocating more resources. It's about creating a health system designed by and for the Anishinabek, integrating traditional knowledge, holistic healing practices, and culturally relevant services. This transformation promises to honour our values, strengthen our communities, and ensure that future generations will not inherit a broken system, but one that they can trust and rely upon.

As the symposium concluded, there was a renewed sense of purpose among those present. The road ahead will undoubtedly be fraught with challenges, but the collective commitment to health transformation is clear. It's a process that demands collaboration, trust, and an unwavering commitment to ensuring the well-being of the Anishinabek Nation for the next seven generations.

The Anishinabek Nation's journey toward health sovereignty continues, but as was evident in Sault Ste. Marie, the flame of self-determination burns brightly.



Mindemoya Auxiliary make \$14,000 hospital donation

Members of the Mindemoya Hospital Auxiliary has made a donation of \$14,000 to the Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC) Smart Infusion-Smarter Care Pump fundraising campaign for its two Manitoulin hospital locations. In photo from left is MHC hospital board chair Dennis McGregor, auxiliary members Leila Thureson, Judy Michlouski, Ronda McDonald, (president) Margaret Cadieux, Paula Fields MHC president and chief executive officer (CEO).

Manitoulin@KuulaTeam.com

photo by Tom Sasvari





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Private estate-sized lot of 33 acres! 627 feet of crystal-clear waterfront. Gravel laneway. MLS #2116861 | Mindemoya | \$499,000



Recreational waterfront lot on South Bay. Trailers permitted for a fee. Driveway approved. MLS #2121382 | Clover Valley | \$164,900



3.53 acres, mix of forest, pond & open fields. 3 tiers of elevation, lake views. Year-round, hydro, municipal water. MLS #2121293 | Spring Bay | \$239,000



North Channel views. Minutes from Gore Bay. Year round access, hydro. 1.5 acre, well treed site, 175 ft frontage.



SHEGUIANDAH BUILDING SITE. 2 acres of land. Less than 200 meters from Sheg Bay. Highway 6 and Sydenham Street frontages. MLS #2121353 | Sheguiandah | \$75,000



0.96 acres, hydro, 2 entrances with culverts installed, near boat launch of Lk Manitou.



Year-round road in Assiginack, trailers permitted for a fee. Hydro, quiet subdivision, 5 minutes from amenities.



1 acre, deeded access to Lk Mindemoya, treed, stunning views, year round road, hydro. MIS #71184831 Monument Rd | \$775.000



3+ acres, overlooking Manitowaning Bay, laneway, hydro, partially cleared, ready for building. Trailers allowed. NLS #1154641 Manitowaning 15189.00

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Fourplex, two 2-bedroom and two 1-bedroom units, meticulously cared for (2 lower and 2 upper units with balconies). Private storage units. Common laundry facilities. Fully detached garage. Durable metal roof and individually metered utilities maximize returns while minimizing costs. In a desirable neighbourhood, great views over the North Channel. Strong rental demand, this turnkey investment offers reliable income with minimal maintenance.

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Downtown Little Current on Manitoulin, prime commercial property at 15 Water Street. 5 commercial units as well as a 2-bedroom residential apartment on the second floor. Main floor is a restaurant and a retail tenant, second floor houses professional office spaces and a residential unit. \$55,000 in recent renovations.

MLS #2121031 | Little Current | \$489,000



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



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MLS #2121065 | Little Current | \$78,500

Located within walking distance to the famous Bridal Veil Falls. Half an acre of land, 2 commercial units and high-end residential dwelling. Residential unit fully renovated, 2 bedrooms, I large bathroom, laundry facilities, large entrance with built-ins, open concept living space, modern kitchen, dining and living area. 2-piece bath and full kitchen.

MLS #2120813 | Kagawong | \$629,000

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MLS# 2120910 | Manitowaning | \$1,485,000



Modular home only. 2021 Maple Leaf, saw very light use, 42' x 15.75', 2 bedrooms, attached deck, propane furnace. MLS #2121637 | Whitefish Falls | \$150,000



WATERFRONT | VALUE LEADER | SOUTH BAY WATERFRONT COTTAGE | Two bedrooms with 1 bath, 2 sleep camps/bunkies, one with 2 separate sleeping areas & kithcnette. Sauna. Mostly level and well-treed site offers a private setting on South Bay, Manitoulin Island. Nestled in a quiet natural setting, it's the perfect place to relax, enjoy the water and experience true cottage life.

MLS #2121214 | South Bay | \$359,900



15 Bay Street, raised ranch style home, split entry, close to amenities of Mindemoya. Recreation space with custom bar. 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms including a jetted bath tub. Stainless steel appliances, laundry, fibre internet access, SMART thermostats and Lifebreath residential heat recovery ventilators (HRVs). Large back deck with BBQ. Large lot, If fx 200 ft, just under 0.5 acres, with apple trees.

with apple trees.
MLS #2120893 | Mindemoya | \$499,000



Full-sized home in rural setting with water access only a short walk away. Well cared-for family home, tasteful main entry and open-concept kitchen, dining and living rooms with patio door walk-out to back deck. Principal bedroom has a large walk-in closet plus a 4pc en suite bathroom! The detached 28' x 32' double garage is insulated, wired with 100 amp service (including a 30 amp receptacle for welder/compressor) and even has a wood stove! Property also includes storage buildings!

MLS #2119947 | Bay Estates | \$539,000



WATERFRONT | Tranquil, breathtaking views of Manitowaning Bay, raised ranch-style side-split home, 3+1 bedrooms and 2+1 bathrooms. Open-concept kitchen, front deck with BBQ. Spacious living room, cozy family room with propane stone fireplace and sliding doors leading to deck and hot tub. Primary bedroom with ensuite bathroom. Lower-level self-contained in-law suite with private entrance. Attached double-bay garage and a detached garage.

MLS #2121261 | Manitowaning | \$850,000



Steve Rolston, B.A. Broker of Record Cell: 705-348-2381



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Alan Mihelchic Agent Cell: 705-282-4602



Lori Edwards Office Manager 705-368-2381



Meredith Morris Marketing & Rentals Manager 705-368-2381





In October 2025, Leanne will be heading to Cambodia alongside like-minded colleagues in support of the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation. She must raise \$10,000, 80% of which will be directed to a local women's shelter, and 20% will fund national domestic violence prevention.

Please scan the QR code to consider donating.



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MLS®#: 2121039 | \$649,900



















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433 Cross Hill Rd,

M'Chigeeng

MLS®#: 2118846 | \$85,000

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M'Chigeeng

MLS®#: 2119986 | \$249,995

544 Ketchankookem Tr,

Mindemoya

MLS®#: 2120323 | \$1,150,000



110 Johnny's Park Drive,

M'Chigeeng

5570C Hwy 540, **Billings** MLS®#: 2120507 | \$669,000

190 McQuarrie Road,

Kagawong

MLS®#: 2121095 | \$849,000

1278 Ice Lake Dr,

Gore Bay

MLS®#: 2119624 | \$549,999

10 Campbell St,

Little Current



1301 Mason Line,

Silver Water

968 Robertson Rd, **Gore Bay** MLS®#: 2118363 | \$949,000



Gore Bay MLS®#: 2118250 | \$625,000



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20 D.R. McLay Drive \$849,900 MLS 2121181



320 Maple Point Rd, Kagawong \$729,000 MLS 2121185



Lot 131M-209 Water St, Meldrum Bay \$199,000 MLS 2117093

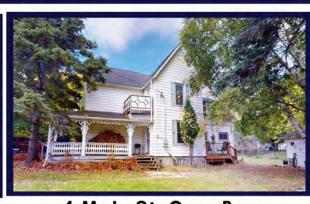


2617 Rockville Rd, Mindemoya \$249,000 MLS 2120359

YEAR ROUND HOMES



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Manitoulin celebrates its volunteers

Dale and Holly Scott believe that a community is as good as its volunteers

MINDEMOYA—Dale and Holly Scott are two of the more prominent volunteers in their home community of the municipality of Central Manitoulin.

'A community counts and needs everyone helping out," stated Holly. "We all need to work together. Volunteering is really important; a community is as good as its volunteers.'

"All communities require volunteers to help out," said Dale. "You can't get a lot of projects or things done in the community without volunteers. Northern Ontario is remote and all communities, large or small, need volunteers that are committed, want to help out the community and are in it for the long-term.'

"There is no lack of need and opportunities to volunteer, especially in small

communities," said Dale.
For about the last 10 years Holly has been on the Central Manitoulin beautification committee for Central Manitoulin. "I help care for the flowerbeds in the community, growing flowers and making sure they are maintained and to take care of them in the winter," she said noting this includes about 100 flowers.

I, along with Kathy Jewell and Julie McDermid, started Manitoulin Pet Rescue in 2019," said Holly. "I do the finances as the treasurer for the group.

"My favourite job as a volunteer is sewing and mending of clothes for residents of the Manitoulin Centennial Manor in Little Current," stated Holly. "I wanted to do something different, and the residents need someone to sew and mend clothes. I do this every couple of weeks for the residents (at no cost), to help make sure the clothes they wear last a little longer. I started doing this well before COVID, about 10 years ago."

"I did all of this when I was working at Scott's Veterinarian Service, looking after the (financial) books," said Holly. "I also did the (financial) books for the Freshwater Community Church for a couple of years."



Dale and Holly Scott are prominent volunteers in their Central Manitoulin community.

group and used to teach piano. While she has retired from teaching piano, "Once a month I play the piano at the Grace Bible Church in Little Current," she said.

'We host house concerts at our house, about two or three times a year," said Holly. There is space for about 45 people to attend the concerts. "I like to try and encourage local musicians, and so we provide the space for them to hold concerts in our house. Everyone who attends purchases a ticket at the concert and all the money goes to the musicians.

Holly also helps out with her husbands annual Tour de Meldrum bicycle ride to raise funds for the Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC). She drives the support vehicle which is stocked with food and equipment needed for riders.

'When we first came to Manitoulin Island 50 years ago, I had just graduated (Veterinarians College School) and I was prepared to spend a couple of years working for Dr. Ken Tipper and then move on.

"Part of the attraction of Manitoulin Island to me is volunteering," said Dale. "I saw the value of volunteering early in my career and it has always been important to me to help out."

He helped a large group of volunteers in putting the addition on what used to be the Missionary Church and is now the Freshwater Community Church in Min-

"This year will mark the 27th year of

our 'Tour de Meldrum,' continued Dale. The first year he rode the route solo from Mindemoya to Meldrum Bay and back in the same weekend, to raise funds for the Island hospitals. "Over the years we have had a lot of riders take part. I take pleasure of how this got started," he said noting as well, "I have also always participated in the annual Farley Ride that provides financial help for people who own pets but face financial challenges, be able to get necessary veterinarian work done on their pets, in Northern Ontario. This ride started in about 1987-1988 n Northern Ontario and about 10 years later it moved to Milton where the Ontario Veterinarians Association is housed. "I am still involved in the Farley Ride, and I volunteer with the Farley Foundation."

Dale also served as a director on the College of Veterinarians Ontario but for about six years before switching over to the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association. "I was president for them for one term in 2012," and was presented with a Lifetime Membership Award a few years ago from the latter.

Dale is a member of the Central Manitoulin committee of councils for Wagg's Wood Trails committee. "It is incredible that we have developed these beautiful trails right in the community of Mindemoya. I've been on the Waggs's Trail committee for about 5-6 years. He is also a volunteer for the Misery Bay Trail system in Burpee and Mills township.

As well as being a long-time member of the Central Manitoulin Lions Club, Dale has been president of the club for the past three years. "We try to keep all the funds we raise on the Island, for instance to help out with student bursaries at Manitoulin Secondary School, the MSS robotics teams, groups and individuals in Central Manitoulin and around the Island, as well as for example providing donations to help children who are patients at the Sick Kids Hospital in

Ms. Scott sings with the Island Singers vehicle which is stocked with food and "This year will mark the 27th year of Volunteering has always been a part of life for Silver Water's Murray Duncanson

SILVER WATER—Whether it has been his home community of Silver Water or when he lived in Walden, volunteering has always been a big part in the life of Murray Duncanson.

"I was involved in the student council in high school, when the high school was located in Gore Bay where the Manitoulin Lodge Nursing Home is located now," said Mr. Duncanson. "It was after I left high school that Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) was built."

And even before high school, "I was a member of

the Young Peoples Group in Silver Water, run by the United Church, but with kids from all church denominations being involved," said Mr. Duncanson. "It was a very good organization, and it was a great experience," he said, noting, "we organized functions for ourselves." He pointed out the United Church in those days had the young people's group on the Island and in Sudbury.

"We would hold meetings and events on weekends." One time we were at Treasure Island for a rally there," said Mr. Duncanson. The event always involved United Church ministry and administrators (on hand to supervise), "and when we held meetings in Sudbury, we were billeted by the hosting group."

He still volunteers with the Anglican Church in Gore Bay, and helped with construction of the United Church in Silver Water. He also helped with repairs of the former Anglican Church in the community.

After high school Mr. Duncanson took a welding course in Toronto, and he started working at Inco in

'Some of my volunteering work in Walden included with the Walden Minor Hockey Association (WMHA) as one of its founding members," said Mr. Duncanson.

"I was involved in the WMHA for 25 years in various positions, coaching, managing, and was the Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA) convenor for quite a few years," continued Mr. Duncanson. He was also involved with the Nickel District Hockey Association for a number of years, in various capacities.

'I helped start the Snowmobile Club in Walden, and have worked for, and been a director on the Manitoulin Snowdusters Snowmobile Club since I retired and came home, about 30 years at least," said Mr. Duncanson. "I was here in Silver Water a lot on weekends, when I lived in Walden."

"I guess I've been a member of the Robinson Township Fire Department for between 25-30 years," contin-



Volunteer Murray Duncanson, (centre in photo) is shown helping to serve pancakes and sausages at the Gore Bay Anglican Church pancake supper held recently.

ued Mr. Duncanson.

He retired from Inco in Copper Cliff in 1992. I served an apprenticeship in Trade apprenticeship and was involved in boilermaking, plate work, and did lot of layout, building and repairing plants, he said.

"I still volunteer with the Manitoulin Snowdusters and the (Robinson) Fire Department. I still go to fire

Mr. Duncanson also served on the Local Services Board (LSB) in Robinson township for 16 years, 12 of those years as chairman. "I left because I felt it was time for younger people to take on these positions.'

photo by Tom Sasvari

'I remember a saying my day would always say, 'if a person feels that they can't be replaced, it is high time they were. I had that in the back of my mind when I resigned from the LSB," he quipped.

Former Expositor editor named as MAID advocacy group ambassador

by Michael Erskine

STRATFORD—There have been many accomplished and exceptional people who have lent their talents to The Expositor over the years and few, if any, have climbed to the pinnacles of accomplishment like Diane Sims, who worked as the editor for several years.

The Expositor has recently learned that Ms. Sims has been named as National Honourary Champion for Bridge C-14, a network of peer-to-peer connections and community supports through all stages of medical assistance in dying (MAiD).

Ms. Sims has decided to take advantage of MAiD when she becomes unable to chew her own food or talk. Her voice, in many respects, has been her world. These days, her always softspoken tone is weaker than some days past, but her passion for life still resonates in her words.

Ms. Sims has lived a life that would prove insurmountably daunting to just about anyone. Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis as a teenager, she was told she would soon be confined to a wheelchair and dead by the age of 35. Her response to the doctor who gave her that dire prognosis was a familiar phrase of defiance that begins with the letter f and ends with a "you." That story was chronicled in a book of remarkable stories and an article, 'How I plan to die' that was published in the national magazine McLeans.

She went on to be an author, journalist, tireless volunteer and accessibility advocate of such note that she will be invested with the Order of Canada in a June 24 ceremony, joining a select group of 8,000 remarkable Canadians.

As a celebrated writer and accessibility advocate, Ms. Sims' publications include the internationally distributed 'An Ovarian Cancer Companion,' as well as candid writings about her lifelong perseverance through medical hardships and her personal journey with medical assistance in dying.

"I am very passionate about what I do," she told The Expositor in a recent phone interview from her home in Stratford where she lives with her husband Dennis.

Ms. Sims' latest volunteer efforts have focussed on promoting Bridge C-14. "It is a peer-to-peer community that offers grief counselling to families of those who have chosen MAiD," she notes, a service that "I imagine Dennis will be one of them."

"I am very humbled to be named the Honourary Champion for Bridge C-14," she said.

Ms. Sims will be in her original hometown of Sault Ste. Marie in early May to take part in Fresh Eyes 2025, an event that brings together local and foreign photog-



Author, journalist and advocate for ovarian cancer, multiple sleriosis and medical assistance in dying Diane Sims signs books, her autobiography, during a launch at the Manitoulin Expositor last December. Books are still available for sale there.

raphers to "capture the city and engage the community." The event runs from May 7-11. Following the event, writers will use photographs as a commencement point for any style of writing, all of which will be published online—select works will then form a book.

The writer also plans to hold a book signing in Otta-

wa when she officially is invested in the Order of Canada for her advocacy work on behalf of ovarian cancer and MAiD—but it opened another door of advocacy. "You wouldn't believe how hard it was to find an accessible book store in Ottawa, my publisher Bryan Davies called 12 stores to find one that could work," she said.



Nolunteer Appreciation Week

Mayor and Council
would like to take this time to thank
everyone who volunteers their time
to make this community a wonderful
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Aundeck Omni Kaning wishes to recognize the contribution of our community's volunteers.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

From the Aundeck Omni Kaning Chief and Band Council.

MIIGWETCH!

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Ashley Manitowabi brings volunteer work to the stage

by Michael Erskine

MANITOWANING—On any given week, the incomparable Ashley Manitowabi might be found onstage as part of the Debajehmujig Storyteller's troupe, peering through the lens of a camera for his online channel, or setting up sound systems for charity events—oh, and he is a master of the art of ledger main, with a magic act that enthrals children and adults alike.

Mr. Manitowabi's home community of Wiikwemkoong benefits from his strong community spirit, and each year he assists with the hockey banquet—while the whole Island community is served by his work with Local Food Manitoulin. "We will be starting the cookie campaign at Tim Hortons (in Little Current) on April 28," he notes.

As a land-based artist, it is a natural progression in his volunteer work to roll up his sleeves and get his hands dirty, literally, helping with the Amikook Community Garden.

He can be found along Manitoulin's roadsides during the annual cleanup efforts. The talented thespian can also be found assisting with Alcoholics Anonymous and in the volunteer treatment programs offered in his community.

The talented videographer can often be found



Ashley Manitwabi serves up food at an Indigenous Tourism Ontario booth.

at special events, setting Volunteeris up sound systems or the result of

event's reach online.

When asked as to why
Mr. Manitowabi offers
his volunteer services to
his community, he seems
genuinely puzzled by the
question. "People ask,"
he said, noting that they
seem to like his efforts.
"After a while, it just became a normal part of my

livestreams to extend the

life."
Mr. Manitowabi said that he has seen a disturbing drop in the number of volunteers over the past decade. "I see a low turnout of volunteers," he said, adding that drop comes when the need has never been greater.

photo by Michael Erskine

Volunteerism is often the result of family tradition, with community service being one of those things that children learn from observation.

"My mother used to volunteer at community events," he said. "I started volunteering at Debaj when I was just a kid back in the '90s, before I got a job there."

Volunteerism can have some pretty serious benefits—and in Mr. Manitowabi's case, it can become the start of a career path. But the reward, he notes, comes from the joy of making a real difference in his community—a people helping people.

Volunteers are the heart of our community.

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Thank you, miigwetch, for all that you do to make the world a better place.



Happy Volunteer Week



Wikwemikong Nursing HomeWikwemikongNursingHome.ca
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Inspiring Possibilities



This is Terry Mandigo,
a compassionate
volunteer who comes
to visit her mother at
least three to four times
a week and helps with
activities.

Thank you, Terry!



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The volunteers at Manitoulin Centennial Manor combine their skills, knowledge, talent and experience in order to enhance the lives of our residents.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life.
From our resident art program, to our pastoral caregivers, and our wonderful auxiliary members, every volunteer is valuable and valued.

Our volunteers are the backbone of our programming department, providing one-on-one visitation, library visits, pet therapy visits and assisting with general programs and social activities, just to name a few of their contributions.

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In Billings Township our volunteers make a vibrant and successful community.







National Volunteer Week

Mayor, Council and Staff thank all of our volunteers for your many contributions.

Fundraising is one of the most helpful ways to volunteer

by Margery Frisch

LITTLE CURRENT—Volunteering is all about giving of one's time and talents. Well, June McConnell's talent is in raising funds for organizations that are near and dear to her heart. It all began with the Circle of Hope, the Cancer Society group Ms. McConnell joined as a breast cancer survivor. She was diagnosed in 1990, having chemotherapy, surgery and radiation treatments. "We moved back here (Little Current) before those radiation treatments were finished. I don't even remember packing," she said.

In 2000, Circle of Hope, decided to take part in the Dragon Boat races on Ramsey Lake in Sudbury. 'Hope in a Boat' is what they called themselves – they were breast cancer survivors from Manitoulin Island, Espanola, Eliott Lake and Sudbury. The entry fee was steep, but they raised the necessary \$3,000 and went on to exceed all other groups' fundraising efforts – their charity, of course, was breast cancer. Hope in a Boat's registration fee was waived at the Dragon Boat races the following year, "because they wanted us to come back," Ms. Mc-Connell explained. Overall, in the three times Circle of Hope took part in the races — they managed to raise close to \$30,000. Ms. McConnell raised the most money overall, at \$11,000. "I canvased from Gore Bay to Espanola," she said. She was named volunteer of the year that first year. "I have a plaque somewhere, but don't ask me to find it," she

So began June McConnell's prowess in raising funds for important causes. "When we moved back (to Little Current), I got involved with the hospital auxiliary and pretty much all I've done is raise money for them, selling tickets on different things. We even sold tickets on a 4-wheeler. We raised a lot of money with that! And it all goes back to patient care at the hospital. So those were the major things I've worked on, until this 'Rock-a-thon.'" As with her Hope in a



June McConnell with her faithful companion Teddy.

Boat fundraising days, Ms. McConnell went above and beyond the abilities of most of her fellow auxiliary members. "Those have been the last big ones that I've done. Raising \$1,800 in the first one and \$1,200 to \$1,400 in the second and third. And I imagine we're doing it again next year. They're going to hate to see me coming," she added with a laugh.

Fundraising is vitally important to keep most organizations afloat, yet it's a task that does not come easily to many. "It's a bit of work," Ms. McConnell admitted with a shrug, "but I don't mind, and I don't feel I've done anything that anyone else wouldn't do." And this is why this life member of the Little Current Hospital Auxiliary is essential to



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Ethel Newburn makes things happen

by Sharon Jackson

KAGAWONG—The word volunteer per Cambridge dictionary's definition is "a person who does something, especially helping other people, willingly and without being forced or paid to do it."

When an opportunity presented itself several years, Ethel Newburn along with fellow vendor Karen Free, assumed the role of organizing and running the weekly summer market from Lois Linley (who took a step back to focus on other responsibilities).

When the duo took over the market, it was small (30 tables) and not growing at the time. Ms Newburn undertook the challenge as she was confident, they "could do it together."

In 2018 (and years prior), the market was held at the covered pavilion on Old Mill Road. Twelve tables were set up and vendors sold their wares. Fast forward to 2025, Ms. Newburn now manages between 65 and 70 vendors who set up at the Park Centre parking lot and the Kagawong River Complex. The market has exploded and there is a waiting list.

The market is a wonderful way to meet people, Ms. Newburn calling it a "very friendly market." Volunteering increases one's social skills teaching you to work with others through communication and it also brings fun into your life. Ms. Newburn always has a warm ready smile when you meet her.

Ms. Newburn did not have opportunity to volunteer as a kid growing up on the family farm, however as an adult, managed her youngest son Jessey's Midget hockey team, and like many parents, helped at school bake sales.

She organized a community Easter egg hunt for several years in Kagawong and assisted through a church organization helping at a soup kitchen and at another delivering food hampers at Christmas time

When asked what she would say to someone who does not see the value in volunteering, Ms. Newburn shared that "if you have the opportunity, try it. What are you losing? It can make you feel good about yourself. It makes things happen



Ethel Newburn is one of those people who get things done.

that otherwise would not."

For those who are newly retired and say, 'I'm bored, I have no friends,' Ms. Newburn suggests try it one day a week, you can make your own choices; the reward is meeting and working with new people who may become new friends.

In her spare time, Ms. Newburn can be found gardening, (she inherited a green thumb from her paternal grandmother), going for a run, travelling, or spending time with her grandchildren.

The Kagawong market kicks off Wednesday June 25, running weekly, with the last market being held on Wednesday, September 3.

The sharing of time, skills, empathy, and creativity is vital to the inclusivity, strength, and well-being of our communities. By coming together, committing support, and increasing our collective efforts and impact, volunteers contribute exponentially to the quality of life we all strive for.

National Volunteer Week is a chance to highlight the value of volunteers and their positive impact on society.

Thank you, Ethel!



Newspapers, like this one, rely on far more than our "in office" staff to bring you the variety of materials we publish.

Here's our own list of much-valued volunteers, to all of whom we say a giant "thanks!" We couldn't do it without you!

CORRESPONDENTS

Kagawong - Team Fergmeijer Barrie Island - Enid Runnalls Silver Water - Karen Noble Meldrum Bay - Elaine Bradley Providence Bay - Alexia Hannigan

COLUMNISTS

Newish to Manitoulin - Heather Marshall Ice Chips and Canoe Quips - Andre Leblanc MSS Kids in the Hall - Alexandra Wilson-Zegil Butterflies and Such - Joe Shorthouse Now and Then - Petra Wall Paws for Thought - Dr. Janice Mitchell Mindemoya Library Book Mice - Claire Cline

And also to anyone else we may have forgotten to mention, who contributes in any way.

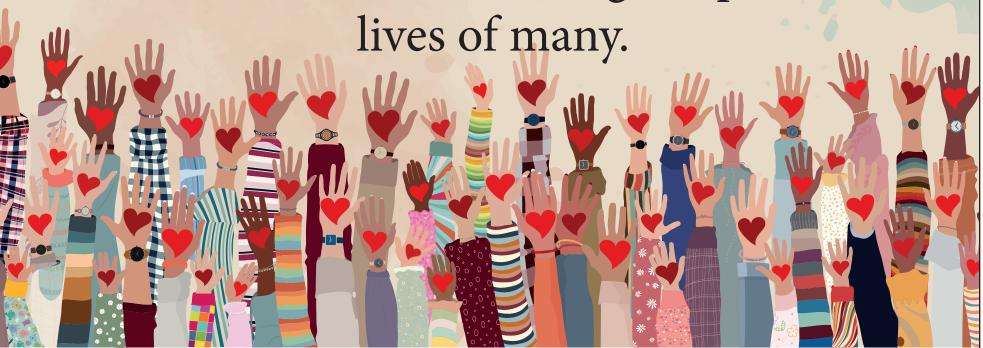
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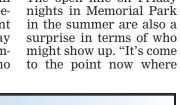


Island musician George Williamson sings the praises of volunteering

by Margery Frisch LITTLE CURRENT—As with so many who volunteer, George Williamson has been giving his time to groups and causes for most of his life. These days his volunteering always involves music.

"Now, pretty much all I do is music," he said. All winter he did the coffeehouse at the Little Current United Church on Friday nights - George Williamson and Friends, but who

those friends would be was always a mystery. The open mic on Friday nights in Memorial Park in the summer are also a surprise in terms of who might show up. "It's come







Island musician George Williamson is a familiar face at many volunteer events and locations. His regular summer musical series became a fixture at Little Current's Soldier's Park on Friday evenings, moving into the United Church during the colder months.

they know they can come. I've encouraged some new people. Sometimes people don't feel comfortable at the start, but the whole intention is to give musicians an opportunity to play, have an opportunity to perform. I feel it's important to be able to play in front of people. I always say, 'When you practice at home, play like you're performing in front of people." By encouraging young people to come out and perform, he's helping them build confidence and, "once people know who you are... well, I've gotten gigs from volun-

teering," he said.
Mr. Willianson admits

it does take a lot of time. "I treat it like a business. I rent a mixer, a better one than I have, that's my contribution to the thing." This is tenth year of open mic (if you count COVID, it would be the 11th year). The donations of perishable food items and money go to the foodbank. "We've raised a lot of money, but it's mainly about \$5 or less that people will donate, seniors mostly come out, but boat people will sometimes join us too. I've seen people dancing on the docks. It's a nice comfortable atmosphere - come as you want, go as you want. I did try to get the cruis-ers – the old cars in Gore Bay to come and join us - the atmosphere would be even better. It would be nice too if I could get some of the shops to stay open till about 9 on a Friday night, like they did for Ladies' Night in the fall. That would get more people out. A lot of people don't even know there's music yet.'

The original idea for the open mic came from Sagle, Mr. Williamson's sister, who saw an open mic in Florida and mentioned it to him. He researched it and figured out how to run one and now it's going on 11 years of operation.

Mr. Willianson's first volunteering experience came in his 20s. It was with the Heart and Stroke Foundation – he didn't know in what capacity he could help, and in the end, he found he was helpful in chauffeuring people around, guests who made appearances at the various events put on by Heart and Stroke.

His thoughts come back to music once again, "I've gotten so much out of music, so many friendships, so many opportunities, and it's good for the island, live music, I try to encourage people to pay

for musicians, on top of the volunteering. open mic is an opportunity for musicians to play, and musicians love to play! They love to have people listen. It's rewarding to have people say, 'I really love your music.'

"I was a boating instructor too, with Canadian Power and Sail Squadron in 79 I took the course. After the 3rd course they asked if I would teach the courses. By the end he was an executive officer, and through that experience he met a lot of interesting people. Having been with the organization for over 20 years, he is a life member of Power Squadron. This was all before getting into music in such a big way. "The biggest hurdle to

get over, when you're volunteering is that you're doing it for nothing 'Why am I doing this?' A person should never look for money." Mr. Williamson's advice for those looking to volunteer: "Just come up with something you think would be neat for the community - ask permission first if that ed. Whatever you think of – just do it. We need to talk about it more in the schools," he said.

George Williamson's experience has made him a huge proponent of volunteering - the many benefits that come from it personally — friendships, experience, confidence and purpose, for the community the benefits are endless. He would like to see the schools get kids involved in interacting with their elders, interviewing them about their lives: he'd like to see businesses create job descriptions for volunteer jobs. He has endless ideas as to how these things should be carried out, all stemming from his love of and his belief in volunteering.



MANITOULIN LIFESTYLES — PAGE 7A Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Carol Sheppard is NEMI Volunteer of the Year

by Michael ErskineLITTLE CURRENT—The upper hall of the NEMI Recreation Centre was packed with volunteers being celebrated by the municipality for their efforts on behalf of the community on the evening of Wednesday, April 9—but there was one very special individual in attendance. Longtime community volunteer Carol Sheppard was honoured as Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands' Volunteer of the Year.

Northeast Town Mayor Al MacNevin presented Ms. Sheppard with a certificate of appreciation recognizing her for a lifetime of volunteerism and longstanding contributions to Island communities. Although Mayor MacNevin said he would keep the nominee secret until he finished "my twohour speech," there were few in the room who did not twig to who the honouree would be shortly after he began.

"So, this nominee for volunteer of the year works endlessly to make NEMI a better place for all of us," said Mayor MacNevin. "Whether it was in helping to set up the horse show ring in Little Current beside the rec centre, which continues to be used for different events, volunteering with the museum committee in Sheguiandah with various events as well as help-



Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands Mayor Al MacNevin presents Carol Sheppard with a certificate recognizing her as the municipality's Volunteer of the Year

photos by Michael Erskine

ing with planning many events and maintaining the flowerbeds each year. She's also a volunteer at the Sheguiandah Seniors' Hall, helps with events that happen there and has played an integral part in the preservation of the Rockville Hall."

"As I go along, I'm sure you're going to figure this out—she has organized fundraising events

NATIONAL

WEEK

annually to help cover the maintenance cost of the hall, and she doesn't mind getting your hands dirty in terms of helping spruce the place up every vear," the mayor continued. "She plants and takes care of flower boxes in front of that hall and has successfully applied for several grants to help cover the costs of structural repairs. She also organiz-

es garbage cleanups from the ditches on Rockville Road—that's your last clue. She welcomes new members to the community and brings fresh baked goodies to neighbors on a regular basis. I'm sure there are other organizations or events that she volunteers with that I'm not aware of-she's always busy helping our community but still finds lots of time to spend with their grandchildren. Carol is a very kind and generous person who could do anything for anyone. And I believe she's a great candidate for the award that was the nominator, and as Carol Sheppard wouldn't mind coming up here." Mayor MacNevin then presented Ms. Sheppard with her certificate of recognition on behalf of the communities of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands.

"I would like to thank you for your selfless dedication to improving the lives of others and the countless hours you've contributed through your volunteerism, helping build our strong and vibrant communities," he

Ms. Sheppard was obviously surprised by the presentation and declined to say anything more than a humble "thank you," before sitting back with the friends and family who had come out that evening to witness her honour.

Baseball is a passion that drives **Geoff Corbiere's volunteerism**

by Michael Erskine AUNDECK OMNI KAN-

ING—When the boys of summer, three-pitch youth division, step out onto the baseball diamond in Aundeck Omni Kaning, it is often under the careful and watchful eye of Geoff Corbiere.

Three-pitch baseball, he explains to The Expositor, is a form of baseball in which the teams pitch to their own players. "You only get to throw three pitches, then you are out if you don't get a hit," he

While he works with children of all ages, Mr. Corbiere's charges in the

teers are very much needed," he said. Especially now, as his own work commitments are limiting the number of tournaments that he can attend and assist with.

Tournaments take place in Mindemoya, Espanola and many other communities over the summer ball season, he notes.

Mr. Corbiere said that he was extremely fortunate in that he has a co-organizer for the sport, Vanessa Atchinson. "She has really taken on the lead," he said.

One of the most rewarding parts of volunteering



Geoff Corbiere's volunteerism comes finds its roots in his

Manitoulin Family Resources is grateful for its volunteers.

Our volunteers include those who work in our food bank and thrift store and our Board of Directors...

MFR could not exist without them, and our work is done through their dedication and support.

Chi-miigwetch! Thank you!

If you are interested in becoming a MFR volunteer, please go to www.mfresources.net or call 705-368-3400, ext. 242.

Mission statement: To support individuals and families by providing resources, advocacy and education through the agency's three program areas of Violence Against Women Prevention, Children's Services and Emergency Food Assistance.



three-pitch realm are usually from 12 to 16 years old. "It can be a pretty wide range," he said.

As to how he became involved in volunteering with youth sport, the answer will be familiar to any parent. "My kids asked me," he laughs. That was four years ago. As to what keeps him going, Mr. Corbiere doesn't hesitate. "It's a lot of fun," he said.

It is also wonderful to see youth start out with a lack of confidence but over the course of a summer season develop confidence in their own ability. "They might start out saying 'I can't do this' and they may have never held a ball before, but then they discover they can do it and that builds confidence," said Mr. Corbiere—a confidence that will help them to achieve results in life, long after they have left the field.

Mr. Corbiere also noted that there is a huge need for volunteers in every area of sports. "Volunfor Mr. Corbiere is the joy it brings to the children, especially in an end-ofseason tradition where the children play against their parents. "They really like playing against tneir parents and siblings," he said.

In the end, it is for the love of the game and the children



Geoff Corbiere throws out a pitch during a game at Aundeck Omni Kaning.

Small towns thrive with volunteers

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—Being a member of a small community like Gore Bay means helping out by volunteering where it is possible, says volunteer Jeff Hietkamp.

"Volunteering is what you do in a small community," stated Mr. Hietkamp. "It is easy to get involved in stuff and I enjoy it."

"I think volunteering is part of a small community and I see so much of it in Gore Bay and the rest of Western Manitoulin," said Mr. Hietkamp. "It takes my breath away with some of the things people do to help out others in the community."

"A couple of years ago the Angel Bus needed to raise funds quickly to purchase a new bus to transport seniors around Western Manitoulin. The fundraising quickly came together and in a matter of days \$35,000 was raised," said Mr. Hietkamp

"Then there is the case of the little girl in Evansville, Sarah (Graham) who is battling cancer, and had to go to Toronto with her parents for a long period of time while she undertook treatment. The amount of money that was raised for this little girl and her family is heartwarming," said Mr. Hietkamp.

"And the annual Frosty Cup Benefit Fundraising hockey tournament is held each year, with close to \$20,000 raised through the tournament. All of these funds go to people in need," said Mr. Hietkamp. "When it comes to these sorts of things, people have money in their pocket that they are ready and willing to share."

As for his own volunteering efforts, Mr. Hietkamp explained, "I am currently a member of the Gore Bay Rotary Club



Jeff Hietkamp volunteers whereever he can. and have been an executive member of

the Gore Bay Curling Club forever."

Mr. Hietkamp is involved in many of the activities of the Lyon's Memorial United Church in Gore Bay, including the Food Cupboard and yard sales for example. "After the recent fire at the Woods Lane Apartment Building, where the tenants were burned out of their apartments, the church provided \$200 to each resident to use at Island General Merchandise for what they needed there. The church wants to support local business and the help the church provided to the residents of the apartment building checked a lot of boxes."

Mr. Hietkamp was one of the people who spearheaded, and is still involved in putting on the vendors' market held weekly during the summer on Meredith Street in the town of Gore Bay.

"I was also a member of the Community Living Manitoulin board for a couple of years," said Mr. Hietkamp. "This is another fabulous organization, and the people that work there and that they support are amazing."

The management and staff of Manitoulin Lodge Nursing Home

We are so proud of the many, many volunteers who help our residents in so many ways.

The residents, management and staff appreciate the time, energy, dedication and care that so many of our community members and volunteers far and wide have devoted to our home.

YOU do make a DIFFERENCE in our lives.

We would not be the same without you and we honour you on NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Sincerely,

Manitoulin Lodge





Volunteers help make the world go round

Community spirit is alive and well in Central Manitoulin, with events, celebrations, festivals and community suppers always coming up soon. Perhaps more than anything else it's these friendly, volunteer-led events that build the memories that create a sense of community.



The Municipality of Central Manitoulin wishes to express our sincere gratitude to the volunteers who take the time to volunteer for the betterment of our community.





is proud to acknowledge its many volunteers who help to make Assiginack a vibrant and caring community.

We acknowledge that without these efforts, our community would not be the dynamic and spirited one that it is.

We appreciate this opportunity to say



