# 22 days until Christmas!

Shopping/dinner options ...Pages 18-19

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Little Current, Ontario

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

LET THERE BE LIGHT! The downtown Mindemoya Shopping Spree and Kickoff to Christmas event drew hundreds to the corner of Yonge and King Streets Saturday evening following the Santa Claus parade. Island Home Outfitters once again played host to the lighting of the community Christmas tree complete with a hot chocolate bar and visit from the man in red himself. Dayne Tipper got the honourary task of flipping the switch on the lights following a raucous countdown from the crowd.

photo by Alicia McCutcheon

# Hospital facing \$1.5 million deficit

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN—Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC) is projecting a significant deficit in its

"Like most hospitals across Ontario, we are facing financial pressures that have resulted in a projected deficit this year," stated Paula Fields, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of MHC, after a hospital board meeting last week.

We are looking at a deficit, something that everyone is hearing among hospitals all over the province," said Ms. hospital in an impossible task Fields. "There is a lot of uncerto balance."

tainty in funding of hospitals."

Ms. Fields explained, "the deficit as of October 31, 2025 is \$1.15 million. Contributing to this deficit includes historical one-time funding seen in prior years (from the provincial government) not being funded this year. Previously, the hospital received structural adjustments funding to offset pressures caused from inflation, arbitration awards and simply a lack of appropriate base funding. These challenges have not gone away and now leaves the

# MMA adds its voice to those against proposed additions to provincial park lands

by Tom Sasvari

MINDEMOYA—The Manitoulin Municipal Association (MMA) has voiced its opposition to lands being added to protected areas in two areas in Burpee and Mills township. The proposed additions are made up largely of road and shoreline allowances.

"I would like to put forward a motion from the MMA stating that it does not agree with the road and shoreline allowances being added to protected areas being proposed by Ontario Parks/Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks," said Ken Noland, reeve of the township of Burpee and Mills township at an MMA meeting held last week.

These areas are under municipal control," said Richard Stephens, mayor of the municipality of Central Manitoulin.

Ontario Parks/Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks, "is looking to add road and shoreline allowances for a Misery Bay Provincial Park addition protection and Mac's Bay Conservation Reserve," explained Mr. Noland. "They had contacted

...continued on page 8

She said there is a lot of uncertainty around government funding, and the ministry is working across the province with different committees and reviews being set up.

With no increase to funding this fiscal year, the deficit for March 31, 2026 is forecasted to get worse," explained Ms. Fields. "While the hospital has drastically reduced costs for agency nurses, right-sizing the funding envelope is still need-

Ms. Fields said although a is projected, assure our community that we are doing everything possible to protect and preserve rural healthcare. Our team continues to work closely with Ontario Health, the Ministry of Health and the Ontario Hospital Association, participating in both regional and provincial meetings focused on stabilization and sustainability.'

"Our board of directors and senior leadership are strong advocates for maintaining access to care close to home, and we are actively pressing for solutions that reflect the unique realities of rural and Northern communities," said Ms. Fields. "At this time, there are no service reductions or closures planned. Our priority remains clear: to ensure that the people we serve continue to have dependable, high-quality hospital services in their own community.'

# Islanders' food bank usage up over 2024

## Mirrors rising provincial average

by Michael Erskine

MINDEMOYA—The release of the Manitoulin Hunger Report shows a number of disturbing trends as rising numbers of children are among those seeking food support—reflecting the social challenges unveiled in the Feed Ontario Report and the normalization of hunger.

"MFR's food bank is experiencing the same increase in usage as the rest of the province and country," said MFR Executive Director Colleen Hill. "Early in 2025 we saw a slight decrease, however for the last six months we are seeing those numbers climb higher than

The change in who is accessing the food bank is particularly unsettling, she notes.

"Many of the families and individuals who need our support are working full time and still can't make ends meet because wages have not kept up to the cost of living," said Ms. Hill. "We are always able to help because of the incredible generosity of our volunteers, Island businesses and the community at large. Without all of them we wouldn't be able to do what we

Worse yet, the age cohort is even more disturbing.

"What is most heartbreaking

# **Municipal Association** seeking additional sailing during ferry's peak season

### Worry Islanders aren't able to use the service with increase in tourism

by Tom Sasvari

MINDEMOYA—The Manito-Municipal Association (MMA) is requesting the Owen Sound Transportation Company (OSTC) and the province to return to four daily sailings of the M.S. Chi-Cheemaun during the peak summer sailing season. While the M.S. Chi-Cheemaun saw an increase in passenger and vehicle numbers this past season, the current sailing schedule of three sailings in the summer has made it more difficult for local residents to book a ticket on a sailing, especially if it is not booked early.

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

He explained the ferry schedule saw three sailings per day and additional sailings on Fridays. "It is becoming quite difficult for local people to get on a

sailing," said Mr. Scott. "If you are taking a holiday you have to plan far ahead, and if you have to say go to a funeral in Wiarton and only have a few days notice it is difficult to get on the ferry. Do you have to drive all the way around now because the ferry is

Lee Hayden, reeve of Gordon/ ...continued on page 8

#### **Dr. Chantal Boucher** a great proponent of preventive medicine

by Michael Erskine

CURRENT—The LITTLE Northeast Family Health Team has been enjoying significant success in attracting new doctors to the Island. Dr. Chantal Boucher is the last of three new doctors to be interviewed by The Expositor.

Dr. Boucher hails originally from La Belle Province, Montreal to be specific, and it was at the University of Montreal where she undertook her studies in medicine. And no, she is not one of the current diaspora from Quebec seeking a less draconian environment in which to practice.

<sup>•</sup>I just missed it," she laughs.

...continued on page 8

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# The Manitoulin West Recorder



SOUNDS OF THE SEASON-The Manitoulin Community Choir held a concert at Lyons Memorial United Church in Gore Bay on Friday, November 28. Janelle Addison conducts the choir in a tune.

#### Kenjgewin Teg launches Waawaaskonenh Foundation

by Ed Prudhomme

MNIDOO MNISING—A new chapter in Indigenous education began last week as the Waawaaskonenh Foundation was formally launched during Kenjgewin Teg's Mshkogaab-Affirming Sovereignty in Education celebration Sudbury. The announcement brought excitement and a shared sense of possibility among Elders, leaders, students and community members alike who had gathered to celebrate the institution's strides towards greater services, excellence and independence for First Nations' educational programming and delivery.

Foundation's board shared highlights from its newly completed Strategic Plan and introduced Dawn Madahbee Leach as the first E'gaanjidaget, a role meaning "one who leads or guides the way forward."



as the first E'gaanjidaget of the Waawaaskonenh Foundation.

person of the Foundation, spoke to the vision guiding this work. "I am honoured and excited for the opportunities ahead as we inspire hope and change in Anishinaabek education," she said. "With the strength of our Board and our students, we can become the changemakers of

The Waawaaskonenh Foundation (waawaaskonenh means

"flower" in Anishinaabemowin) was created by Kenjgewin Teg to help learners blossom. Incorporated in 2018 and newly recognized as a registered charity this year, the Foundation provides scholarships, bursaries and programs that reach beyond the current funding models. Its function is to nurture lifelong learning, well-being and healing through Anishinaabemowin and Anishinaabe teachings. In partnership with Kenjgewin Teg, the Foundation aims to realize holistic learning environments which connect learners to culture, language, and community support, ensuring their growth and thrive close to home.

The introduction of Ms. Madahbee Leach as E'gaanjidaget was met with great applause. An Anishinaabe-kwe from Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation,

...continued on page 10

# MNR charges down in 2025 rifle hunt

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN—The number of charges laid by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) during the annual deer gun hunt decreased significantly over the 2024 rifle hunt.

Overall, things went really well, and it was a successful Manitoulin Island deer gun hunt," stated Iain McGale, staff sergeant with the MNR district office.

Staff Sergeant McGale explained, "the number of contacts conservation officers made over the hunt was just over 600. A total of 21 charges were laid and several investigations are continuing.

Conservation officers issued 30 warnings to hunters over the annual hunt, said Mr. McGale. "Three deer were seized during the hunt, with one ruffed grouse seized." In the latter, an individual shot the ruffed grouse but did not have a small game licence.

'Most of the charges were made under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, and most were hunting related but there were also a couple of others, including one charge of an individual fishing without a licence."

"One of the most common charges had to do with hunters failing to invalidate a (deer) tag immediately after a kill," continued Mr. McGale. "There were also several charges of unlawfully have a loaded firearm in conveyance (including trucks, cars, all-terrain vehicles and side by side vehicles)."

In the 2024 Manitoulin rifle hunt season COs laid a total of 56 charges during the season, while 53 charges were laid in 2023.

As was reported in last week's edition of The Expositor, one person was taken into custody by the Manitoulin detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) after a standoff on Monday, November 17. The OPP had received a request for support from the MNR, which had been involved in an investigation of an individual who had a firearm, in the area of Bidwell Road and Pine Lake

# **Gore Bay contemplating** council number change

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—While the number of representatives on Gore Bay council will not be decreasing at this time, council will strongly consider putting the question as to whether residents would like a reduction in the size of council to be put on the ballot for the municipal election next fall.

Currently, council is made up of six councillors and a mayor, but at a meeting October 14 council passed a resolution to defer the decision to debate council size to a later date this year with a more comprehensive report to be presented.

Councillor Dan Osborne said, "in my opinion, if something works it should remain the same. If we were to decrease the number of councillors (by two) it would mean we would be losing two opinions when making decisions on issues. And sometimes a meeting can stray off course, and it is at this time

that usually someone with prior knowledge on council brings things back in focus."

Earlier this year, Gore Bay Mayor Ron Lane indicated he was not in favour and would not impose Strong Mayor powers. "Ron (Lane) had chosen not to put this in place, and if he did, I would be resigning; I would be leaving and I hope other councillors would feel the same."

Councillor Osborne said the last time he had run in the Gore Bay election for mayor, he had been acclaimed and prior to that a vote had been held with other candidates vying for the posi-

As for population and the size of council, "in my opinion our town population's numbers mean nothing. It doesn't matter. If you look at the list of towns versus townships, there are usually five members of council in townships. We are a

...continued on page 23

# Gore Bay welcomes new owners of Your Indepedent Grocer store

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—The new owner of the Loblaws Your Independent Grocer Store in Gore Bay said moving to Gore Bay and taking over the local business is something that he is very excited about.

Gore Bay? I was looking this type of opportunity, and items) but keeping the same I had talked to Paul, my busiphilosophy; for me it's about

Pearl Waindubence.

ah Williams.

ness manager, and he said there would be no better place than Gore Bay for me and my family. I see nothing but opportunities and being able to contribute in many ways to the community,' said Unni Ramachandran.

"When the store banner hanges people will see more for a place that would provide options and choices (in food

more than just presenting a nice store, but also good products, good food and prices," said Mr. Ramachandran. "And I always want customers to provide me feedback, good or bad, we want to have a store that people want to come into and shop. My office is going to always be open to everyone. We want feedback. It is how we will grow."

"I am passionate about the community and finding ways I can help the community. I am more than willing to help where I can," said Mr. Ramachandran.

Mr. Ramachandran and his wife Sree Lakshmi and their two-year old son moved to Gore Bay in October.

"I will officially become the owner of the store as of November 30," said Mr. Ramachandran, the Loblaws Your Independent Grocer. "I came to Canada as a student in 2017 and worked at a Real Canadian Superstore, working in the bakery department after working as a store clerk at Bulk Barn in Cranbrook, British Columbia."

In 2019 after college (business) studies he moved to Fernie, BC to work as an overnight operations manager at Eldho's YIG in Fernie.

...continued on page 23

### Public encouraged to take part in UCCM Police Stuff-a-Cruiser event for Manitoulin Food Bank

MANITOULIN—The United Chiefs and Councils Anishnaabe Police Service (UCCM APS) is holding its annual 'Stuff the Cruiser' food and toy drive.

"We have been holding the stuff a cruiser event for quite a few years," said Sergeant Dave Mack of the UCCM APS, last week. "We are encouraging people who wish to donate, to provide non-perishable food items, toys for children and clothes."

Sergeant Constable Mack explained, "Everything that is collected will be going to the Manitoulin Family Resources (MFR) food

Local people were able to drop off items beginning in November, and this will continue until December 10-12 when all the items will be collected. Items can be dropped off at the following collection sites: UCCM Police Station, UCCMM Tribal Council office, Kenjgewin Teg, Ojibwe Cultural Foundation, Noojmowin Teg, Mnaamodzawin, and the Aundeck Omni Kaning, M'Chigeeng, Sheguiandah, Sheshegwaning, Zhiibaahaasing and Whitefish River First Nation band offices. These locations have drop off boxes set up.

Sergeant Mack said, "we also hold one collection of items in conjunction with EMS and OPP (which was held at Island Foodland in Mindemoya last Friday), with all the food and toy items going to the MFR food bank."

#### for chief about their platforms, but only received two replies by Polls will open from 9 am to 8 pm on December 9. Mail-in ballots

The Expositor attempted to reach out to each of the candidates

Five running for chief of Sheguiandah

SHEGUIANDAH—The final list of candidates for the December 9

band elections in Sheguiandah First Nation are Aaron Bowerman,

Larry Russell Lemarr, Elvis Mishibinijima, Ruby Thompson and

Of the original 18 nominated for the four band councillor posi-

tions, 16 remain standing. They include Andrew Aguonie, Valerie

Aguonie, Michelle Bond, Josephine Fox, Larry Russell Lamarr,

Zoë Roy Peltier, Donna Rainey, Sunset Sagutch, Nathan Shawan-

da, Ruby Thompson, Eric Vautour, Carrie Waindubence, Matthew

Waindubence, Nevada Waindubence, Pearl Waindubence and Sar-

can be brought to the polling station either in person or through a trusted individual. By the time this edition of the paper hits the stands and/or mailboxes mailing may not be an option.

The electoral officer for the December 9 Sheguiandah band election is OneFeather and can be reached at nominations@onefeather.ca or toll free by telephone at 1-855-923-3006.

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"who dares not offend cannot be honest"

# One Manitowaning Road opinion

#### <u>editorial</u>

# Hunger reports highlight Canadian travesty

Politicians of all stripes and flavours in this country will hold numerous photo-ops celebrating the great strides their governments have made in reducing child poverty and hunger, and some progress has admittedly been made, but the Feed Ontario and Manitoulin Family Resources Hunger Reports tell a disturbingly different

Much is made in the media about the ongoing affordability and housing crisis being faced in this province, and across the country, as well as the ever-present challenge of inflation. Those issues are front and centre in the reports.

Certainly, inflation appears to have been tamed, somewhat, despite the continuing threat of tariffs imposed on our exports by the current US president. But the main reported figure this past October of 2.2 percent year-over-year inflation only tells part of the story. Food inflation, the price attached to filling the weekly family grocery order, remains around 2.4 percent in stores and 3.4 percent  $\,$ in restaurants. In fact, food inflation continues to top the list of Canadians' financial concerns.

According to the Agri-Food Analytics Lab at Dalhousie University in its inaugural Canadian Food Sentiment Index 84.1 percent of respondents identified food as one of the expenses that have increased the most in the past year, with many adjusting their shopping habits to manage rising costs.

Moreover, the public has little faith in the government's reported statistic of 2.4 or 3.4 percent food inflation, believing the real numbers to be much higher. On the bright side, Canadians continue to have high confidence in the safety of the food system. So, in food we trust, but in governments, not so much. Small wonder since the evidence is right before our eyes on the shelves.

Aligning with the data in the annual food reports, child poverty in Canada is on the rise after a decrease during the pandemic, with the rate reaching approximately 13.2 percent in 2023, while the newest report from September 2025 estimates 1.4 million Canadian children were experiencing poverty at the end of 2024.

In 2023, according to Canada's Official Poverty Line, the poverty rate stood at 10.2 precent, which is nearly four million people experiencing poverty (according to Statistics Canada, 2025b). This represents a 30 percent decrease in the overall poverty rate compared to 2015 (14.5 precent) and roughly one million fewer people living in

poverty in Canada since that time.

But while the overall poverty rate has decreased compared to 2015, the poverty rate increased for the third consecutive year in 2023. The 2023 poverty rate was also up 3.8 percentage points from 2020, when poverty was at its lowest point. This means that 1.5 million more people were experiencing poverty in Canada in 2023 compared to 2020.

That in one of the richest nations on Earth.

Only Alberta and Quebec see poverty rates below double digits. Ontario's 2023 rate stands at 11.1 percent, up from 10.9 percent in

While some initiatives, such as the Canada Child Benefit (CCB), have helped, rising costs of living have offset any progress being made, and too many families are struggling just to afford basic needs. The federal government also announced new measures in its own 2025 report, including a permanent National School Food Program and Canada Revenue plans for automatic tax filing that the government hopes will ensure more families receive benefits like the CCB and the new Canada Disability Benefit.

But these measures will likely not move the bar in a positive way very far, at least in the short term.

Manitoulin Family Resources estimate that they will need to purchase \$100,000 worth of food for their 2025 Christmas Basket campaign, most of that coming by way of donations from those of us who are able to fill our pantries with seasonal goodies.

The Expositor is trying to do its bit, as we do every year, with our Christmas Business Challenge where people drop off toys and non-perishable food items to our Little Current and Gore Bay offices for Manitoulin Family Resources to distribute.

But the dire situation facing too many families calls for more.

This Christmas giving season, perhaps each of us can forgo purchasing a present or a favourite food item and instead send those funds to Manitoulin Family Resources to help defray the rising costs of providing a bit of Christmas cheer to struggling individuals and families.

Manitoulin Islanders are famous for their caring spirits, rallying around those who are facing tragedy and hardship. In unity and with determination, we can accomplish just about anything.

# David Farrow acclaimed chair of Rainbow schoolboard

SUDBURY—Rainbow District School Board (RDSB) trustee David Farrow was acclaimed to a third team as chair during the board's organizational meeting held November 18. Trustee Alex McCauley was acclaimed to a second term as vice-chair of the board. Members on board standing committees were also approved.

Mr. Farrow thanked his colleagues on the board for their vote of confidence. "It is an honour for me to serve as chair of the Rainbow District School Board," he said, "Together, we have made significant progress on our priorities and have much to celebrate. Staff, students, and

dent achievement and well-being," said Mr. Farrow. "When we put students at the centre of decision-making, we give them every opportunity to achieve their full potential as confident, caring members of society.

David Farrow joined the board in the fall of 2022 as the trustee in area one which encompasses wards one and two in the City of Greater Sudbury. An educator and administrator with the board for 30 years, he has long been a champion for children.

Mr. Farrow was appointed a school administrator following 15 years in the classroom. He served as a principal with



by trustees for his third term as chair during the board's organizational meeting

of 2023. He has worked in many positions of progressive responsibility, ending his career with the Greater Sudbury Police Service in an executive leadership role as police chief.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues on the board as we continue to support staff and students in Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin," said vice-chair McCauley. "It is an honour to serve, and I welcome the opportunity to give back in this leadership role."

"Our administrators, educators and support staff are doing amazing work as instructional leaders, mentors and role models. We are also engaging parents/guardians and members of the community as partners in education. When we work together, we make great things

happen for students," said Mr. McCauley. He serves as trustee in area four which encompasses wards 7 and 8 of the City of Greater Sudbury as well as the municipalities of Killarney, French River, Markstay-Warren, St. Charles, and the unorganized townships of Burwash, Cox, Davis, Eden, Hawley, Hendrie, Henry, Janes, Laura, Loughrin, Secord, Servos, Street and Tilton.

Manitoulin Island trustees who will serve on RDSB standing committees include: trustee Lisa Corbiere-Addison on the audit, First Nation Advisory committee, special education advisory committee. Trustee Linda Debassige will serve on the First Nation advisory and strategic planning committees.



Trustee Alex McCauley has been acclaimed as vice-chair of the Rainbow District School Board.

schools continue to make us proud each and every day."

'We will remain purposeful and intentional in our governance role as we focus on stuRDSB from 2000 to his retirement in 2018.

Trustee Alex McCauley was selected to fill the trustee vacancy on the board in the fall

# National Addictions Awareness Week offers solutions with Anchoring Hope

**by Margery Frisch**LITTLE CURRENT–November 16 to the 22 marked National Addictions Awareness Week and M'Chigeeng First Nation had a week of activities centering on the theme - Anchoring Hope. Their main event took place on Wednesday, November 19 and, due to unforeseen circumstances, it was necessary to move the conference from M'Chigeeng to the recreation centre in Little

Sixteen community services were set up and eager to connect with each other and share about their programs with the public. The Manitoulin Legal Clinic was on hand in addition to the many service providers dealing with mental health, addiction, housing and childcare.

Mark Forsythe from Health Sciences North was MC, and Katrina Wilhelm, Brad Wilson and Brittany Badger were the organizers, moving things along seamlessly.

Public educator, Joyce Keating, with Angels of Hope Against Human Trafficking was the morning's speaker. Her presentation on human trafficking was brief, but powerful. Her organization is dedicated to the care and the support of the community, working to help survivors and their families.

Ms. Keating chose to give her own land acknowledgement, saying "Every single time I have been on this island I have been met with care, love, kindness, and smiles. It speaks to the joy and the friendship that is on this island. It speaks to the kindness, to the care of all the community members and all the services that exist here. I am more than humbled by the



Joyce Keating from Angels of Hope delivers a talk on human trafficking. photos by Margery Frisch.

knowledge of the elders and the knowledge keepers and inspired by the youth that are growing up around this island, and around such wonderful people who are inspiring them to be better, generation by generation. So, for that, I will continue to support and do my best to show up in any way that I can, to ensure the longevity, the health and the growth of each generation to come."

Ms. Keating listed the programs and services of their organization: mental health and addictions counselling, support for sex trafficking survivors, Indigenous counselling and human trafficking education. "All of our programs are based on our survivors, based on their feedback," she explained. "We wanted to ensure we were not duplicating services but were providing what the survivors were truly looking for." This includes the families too, because human trafficking does not only affect the individual, but also their loved ones.

Ms. Keating listed the four primary types of human trafficking. The one most familiar to everyone is sex trafficking, but there's also forced labour, domestic servitude and organ harvesting. She apologized for taking everyone by surprise with the fourth type. She then asked her audience. "How do you stay aware, there are three different types of awareness that we should have. So, I'm going to have everyone guess." Spatial awareness – being aware of the space around you. Awareness of others - their behaviour, their tone of voice, where you feel uncomfortable and unsafe. Awareness of yourself - how



Naloxone kits for everyone.

are you feeling? These answers were drawn from the audience, with Ms. Keating's help. She wrapped up by urging anyone who needs help to call their office or go to their website.

Before a lunch that was provided by Prepped, there was plenty of opportunity to visit the many booths and learn about the programs and supports available to the public. OAHAS – Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy - Ontario's only Indigenous-led provincial aids service was present. M'Chigeeng's mental health and addictions clinic was set up. An organization called Go-Give, which has



Brad Wilson talking about harm

an innovative approach, meeting people where they are, on the streets, especially during the closure of other community resources. Noojmowin Teg was on hand, sharing their many services. Sexual and Domestic Violence counselors were present as well. Alcoholics Anonymous was sharing information

There were two personal presentations of lived experience. One of the presenters mentioned Go-Give, saying, "that's what you need to do - go to where the people are. Most of them will not be willingly to come to you." Since both these presenters struggled with alcohol addiction, the person manning the AA booth remarked that AA is an organization that the other service providers should pay greater attention to; become more familiar with, to help those struggling with this addiction.

Brad Wilson, systems navigator for M'Chigeeng First Nations for the mental health and addictions clinic brought the day to a close with his presentation on harm reduction, a cause near and dear to his heart. "I know sometimes it's a hot button issue, some people feel they don't agree with it, but a lot of people don't really understand truly what it is." The aim is to minimize the negative health, social and legal impacts associated with drug use. Naloxone kits, clean needles and supervised consumption sites are the tools used in place of traditional abstinence only policies. Supervised consumption sites prevent overdoses, while also providing access to healthcare, housing and treatment, when trust is gained and the person is

Naloxone kits were distributed to everyone in attendance, and all were given a demonstration on how to use the kit and administer to the overdosed victim. "It's important to know you cannot overdose on Naloxone," Mr. Wilson said as all opened their kits, regarded the paraphernalia and the instructions provided.

"It's important to remember that many people who use drugs, have experienced significant trauma. Staff working in harm reduction learn to create environments that promote safety and trust, rather than replicating controlling dynamics that may echo past traumatic experiences," Mr. Wilson said. And he ended by quoting Benjamin Franklin in saying, 'One ounce of prevention is worth a pound of a cure.' An apt expression considering his audience, and the health care workers that surrounded the room.

### HAM radio operators officially now a part of national emergency response

#### Manitoulin's own Al Boyd is Radio Amateurs of Canada national president

by Michael Erskine

LITTLE CURRENT—The Expositor sat down with Radio Amateurs of Canada president, Alan Boyd of Little Current to discuss important changes to the way the organization works with emergency services, especially in the far North.

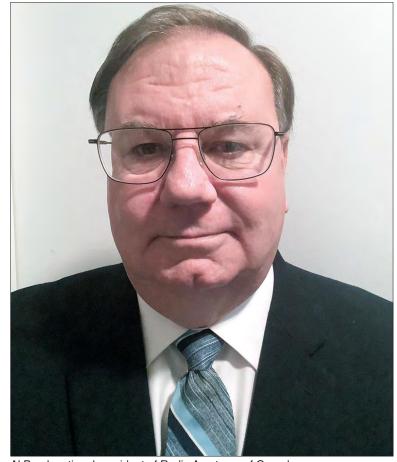
Mr. Boyd is probably best known as the former Manitoulin OPP detachment community services officer where he met most Island youth in the classroom, but over those years he was also a dedicated amateur shortwave radio operator, having qualified for his licence in

"Next year will be my 40th year being licenced," said Mr. Boyd, who is president of the Manitoulin Amateur Radio Club. That organization serves Manitoulin and the North Shore and maintains seven repeaters on the Island.

Over those years of being an amateur radio aficionado, Mr. Boyd the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), taking on ever greater responsibilities over the years, most recently being elected president of that organization. There are some 80,000 licenced operators in Canada, with around 6,000 belonging to the RAC.

While being part of the local organization, Mr. Boyd was not only able to socialize and work with fellow hobbyists (they can often be found holding meetings at various restaurants across Manitoulin), he also became involved in some very serious work in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) pro-

ARES is a corps of trained amateur radio operator volunteers who are organized to assist in public service and emergency



Al Boyd, national president of Radio Amateurs of Canada.

communications and is sponsored by the Radio Amateurs of Canada. Since the 1930s, ARES members across the globe have provided vital communications links when disasters have knocked out most communications. From hurricanes, floods and terrorist attacks, they have provided links for emergency services and the public. During the Katrina hurricane, more than a thousand volunteers assisted the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army and individuals in the relief efforts. Here on Manitoulin, their services were important during the 2016 microburst and amateur radio operators were standing by to assist when the spectre of Y2K threatened global turmoil.

"When communications fail, we are there to assist," confirmed Mr. Boyd.

Part of the challenge faced by emergency services first responders is that each of them operate on different radio frequencies. Mr. Boyd gave an example of when he was a police officer in need of an ambulance

for an individual. "I could see an ambulance just down the street, but I would have to call my dispatcher, who would then contact the Northeast Region office, who would then contact the EMS dispatcher," he said. "It would be like that old kid's game of telegraph.

But there were also issues in the collaboration with local and national emergency services, primarily among those issues being the word "volunteer" in their name which was poorly understood by police and other emergency services, Mr. Boyd explained. "We found it wasn't very effective with first responders. They considered the word 'volunteer' was something of an oxymoron when it came to dealing with emergencies."

To that end, the program is changing its name to Auxiliary Communications Service

ACS will "assume the original function of ARES, but its focus will shift to recognize that disaster response management and telecommunication standards are now mandated by Canadian federal, provincial and territorial legislation and regulations and by international agreements."

While the focus of non-government organizations will continue to be disaster relief operations, the role of the new ACS will be to "provide certified communications operators to supplement communications for local emergency management groups and non-government organizations and provide backup radio operators when required. ACS teams are in essence an integrated unpaid member of the sponsoring agen-

Those teams might be work-

ing locally, as they do now, or become part of a team inserted into a disaster zone to set up communications.

While being "unpaid" the costs of deployment and equipment being sent into a disaster zone will be covered by the sponsors and the operators being inserted will have received standardized training that will enhance their integration with the relief teams efforts.

RAC will provide "a foundational guideline of best practices for training to meet the obligations of today's disaster response management teams. This training program is in development with the education/ training committee directed by the National Training Coordinator Peggy Foley."

Another important aspect of the ACS approach is that amateur radio operators living in the community being struck by disaster may well be out of commission—equipment destroyed and/or other concerns. "We have families ourselves, and they must be our first priority," said Mr. Boyd.

So, having trained teams that can come in with equipment designed to deal with the challenges of a disaster is a big step forward for emergency communications.

The program is still being set up and local ARES groups that are functioning well in their areas are still in place in the interim, noted Mr. Boyd, but when it comes to emergency communications, especially in Northern Ontario, the future looks brighter thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group of radio operators.

Mr. Boyd also serves as deputy mayor of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands.



#### Drug charges laid as a result of search warrant

On November 24, officers with the UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service. with the assistance of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), executed a controlled drugs and substances act warrant at a residence on Sheguiandah

During the search police located and seized the following: thirty-five grams of psilocybin (magic mushrooms), 30.6 grams of cocaine, 34 grams of fentanyl and \$1,125 of Canadian currency.

As a result, Jason Caruso, 44, stands charged with several counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking, possession of proceeds of crime, as well as failure to comply with an undertaking. He was held in custody for a bail hear-

The UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service remains committed to proactive enforcement efforts targeting the trafficking of controlled substances within our First Nations communities," Dan Despatie, deputy chief of police stated.

"Community safety is a collaborative effort with our communities. UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service would like to remind the public that we need to work together to ensure the safety, protection and overall health and wellness of our communities. We need your help, your information, and your assistance to affect change," explained Deputy Chief Despatie.

He explained that "drug trafficking invites residual and lateral violence

into your communities, such as home invasions, serious assaults and homicides and leads to the erosion of our communities through addiction, homelessness and overdose deaths. We need to speak directly with the people who have the information that we require to ensure the safety and protection of our communities. Remember, information is best protected and utilized when the police can receive the information firsthand."

The UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service, OPP Community Street Crime Unit and Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service remain committed to working collaboratively and will continue to focus on major crime operations that pose a direct and elevated threat to the safety, security, and wellness of our communities, the UCCM APS says.

The integrated street crime unit is a joint force operation and aims to identify and disrupt organized crime on Manitoulin Island through innovative technology, collaborative partnerships and traditional police work resulting in the arrests of those involved, holding them accountable for their criminal activities and the seizure of illegal drugs, prohibited firearms and proceeds of crime.

If anyone has further information regarding any criminal activity, drug trafficking and/or organized crime, please contact UCCM Police at 705-377-7135 or Sudbury Rainbow Crime Stoppers at 705-222-TIPS (8477) or 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit an online tip at sudburycrimestoppers.com.



Wilkwemkoong giving back!

The 18th annual Stuff the Cruiser event, organized by the Wikemikong Tribal Police Service, Wikwemikong High School and the Wilkwemkoong Child and Family Services and Prevention department took place on Thursday, November 27. "What an amazing community effort today! We're collecting toys, food and cash donations until 5 pm at Andy's parking lot,' read a WTPS release. Cash donations, toys, gifts, non-perishable food items and teenage items were collected. In photo are representatives of each of the host-organizing groups along with Santa Claus shown with some of the items collected.



Winter surprise
Not only did last Saturday snowfall surprise snowy the unsuspecting but some people who left their vehicles on the front street in Little Current overnight were left with tickets (representing fines) as they were in the way of snow removal equipment and so in contravention of municipal bylaws prohibit overnight parking in that area during the snowy

# Friends and Neighbours

#### Providence Bay Alexia Hannigan

lexia here with your December AFly! Yes, believe it or not it's December! I am certain there is some slippage in the time space continuum because my mind and body are still on Providence Bay beach at the end of August. Did this year go fast? Absolutely! Was this past year a game changer? Aren't they always? The lessons and life experiences granted to us with the passage of time are always meant to guide and transform. We don't always know which way the tide will turn or if we will come out on the other side unscathed. The important thing is that we are living, breathing and breaking through every wild card, wipe, whiff, walk-off, wheelhouse; web-gem; warning-track; WAG; wraparound; wrist shot and waffle. We are all in this together, remember that. Take care of each other, take care of yourself, take care of our environments, try to make the world a better place for you, for me and for the next generation that will follow. Remember if you keep an open mind and heart and go forward with grace and gratitude, you can and will learn something new every single day and live your life well.

Here's what's nappening:

Providence Bay: The operating season at the Providence Bay War Memorial Community Arena is from Mid-December until the end of March and is the host site for the Pearson Cup and the Bradly McAllister sportsman 4 on 4 hockey tournaments.

Providence Bay Hall:

Manitoulin recreational events calendar with class schedules for Providence Bay Hall visit centralmanitoulin.ca or contact Alison Sloss at asloss@centralmanitoulin.ca 705-377-5726.

Exercise classes continue Monday and Friday mornings 9 to 10 am at the Providence Bay Hall through until Monday, December 15.

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

Providence Bay Curling Club: Everyone is welcome at the Providence Bay Curling Club! Junior Curling is Saturdays until the end of March. Ages SK to

Grade 8 - equipment provided, \$25 per curler. For more info visit: provcurling. ca/junior.

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

The Lions Club: The Lions bottle-drive continues next to the arena. This program is open to the public and we encourage everyone to drop off their used bottles and cans. Your empties help fund great local initiatives. The Providence Bay and Spring Bay Lions progressive 'Catch the Ace" lottery continues to benefit the Mindemoya Hospital Auxiliary Inc. Weekly draws are broadcast live on the Providence Bay and Spring Bay Lions Facebook page. Thanks to everyone for all of their hard work in making this fundraiser happen and for all the community support!

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

The full moon in December 2025 will occur at 6:14 pm EST. This full moon is known as the Cold Moon/Oak Moon or Little Spirit Moon. It is a significant event; the moon will appear full the night before and after its peak.

The Friends: Happy Birthday to all of you early December babies!

Go easy out there on the roads, the hunt is on, the cold is here and that means more animals are on the move and more hazards and unpredictable conditions on the roadways. Plan for any weather and go easy. If you are visiting Manitoulin Island - welcome!

Countdown to Christmas:

Wishing everyone a joyous and wonderful holiday season with friends and

Minobimaadizin. Live your life well.

#### Kagawong Team Fergmeijer

 $\mathbf{I}$ t's hard to believe that Christmas is just three weeks away! Yours truly really got caught up in the whirlwind of holiday events last year, it can be overwhelming. This year we are opting for a quiet, unfussing Christmas. No extended family over, no expensive gifts, no elaborate meals. No need to worry about whether we got the right thing for this person or that person. Just time by ourselves with the dog, hangin' in our little home on the mountain overlooking Whooville...wait a sec...

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

Team Fergmeijer loves to celebrate birthdays with Kagawongians (current, former, adjacent, and in-spirit). Although we do spend an inordinate amount of time peering through windows and rifling through mail looking for signs of someone's big day, it is a lot easier if you just give us a heads up. Send us your birthday info, or the info of your friends (or enemies... no judgement). We'll give them a proper birthday shout out in the column.

The library's annual silent auction fundraiser was the biggest and best ever! The library board wishes to thank everyone who took part through donations and bidding. Gentle reminder that auction winners can pick up their items by Saturday, December 6 at the library (Tuesday and Thursday from 4 to 7 pm; from Saturday 10 am to 1 pm).

Get the ultimate stocking stuffer for your little ones: sign them up for free books mailed right to your door! Billings families can register their children (under 5) for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Each month, your child will receive an age-appropriate book in the mail, at absolutely no cost to you. To take part, complete and return the registration form found on the library's Facebook page (FB.com/kagawonglibrary), or visit the library in person for a paper copy and more information!

We hope all the hunters are satisfied with the results of hunting season this year. We are not deer hunters ourselves. but we do try to stay informed about the topic. For instance, we learned that in fact, a deer's favourite snack is not fawndue, nor is it cookie doe. And while they will eat sour doe bread, it's not good for

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

It was so embarrassing - we misplaced Dwayne Johnson's cutting tool for the origami workshop. Can't believe we lost the Rock's Paper Scissors. Have a great week!

#### Silver Water Karen Noble

n Friday, November 21, I took Robbie Baldwin to Gore Bay to pick up her car at Al's Garage. I went on to Little Current to do some errands. In the evening, I took Myra Duncanson and Lois Wismer to play euchre in Meldrum Bay.

Saturday, we took a load of liquor containers to the recycling centre in Mindemoya in the morning. Our recycle bins were open in the afternoon.

Gladys Duncanson arrived home on the weekend after spending a week in Espanola.

On Monday, I spent the day working in Gore Bay. I was home in time to get ready to take Myra and Ken Duncanson to euchre at the Burpee/Mills Complex. We were one person short of eight full

On Tuesday, I worked on a knitting project that needed to be delivered for a Christmas present.

Wednesday, I went to work in Mindemoya for the day. I did a little shopping and then attended the Manitoulin Municipal Association meeting in the

There was yoga class at the Silver Water Community Hall on Wednesday afternoon.

Thursday, I went back to Mindemoya to finish the bookwork.

Hydro One called late afternoon to say there was going to be a power outage to deal with an emergency repair. The electricity was back on about 10:30 pm.

There was euchre at the Silver Water Hall Thursday night. The Generac was

Happy Birthday to Kate Duncanson on December 1.

### Noojmowin Teg hosts Candlelight Vigil on National Day of Remembrance

MINDEMOYA—On Saturday, December 6 at the Mindemoya Pavilion, from 11 am to 1 pm, Noojmowin Teg's Sexual and Domestic Violence Services (SDVS) will host the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, honouring the 14 women killed in the Polytechnique Massacre in Montreal on December 6, 1989. Saturday's event will include drumming, an opening prayer, speakers from the staff of SDVS, a candlelight vigil and a walk in solidarity.

Local service providers and community partners have been invited to attend, including Manitoulin Family Resources, Mindemoya town council, police services, Victims Services and Mnaamodzawin Health Services.

"Vigils are held annually during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a global campaign that runs from November



All of the Queen's Park MPPs donned purple to mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

25 to December 10 each nous communities, this year. These 16 days encourage communities to raise awareness, honour survivors, and take action to end gender-based violence. For Indige-

period also holds deep significance as we continue to address the national crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and

2SLGBTQQIA+(MMI-WG2S). The vigil serves both as a moment of remembrance and as a call for action, continued safety, justice, and healing," explained Debbie Francis,

executive director of Noojmowin Teg Health Services.

A press release from the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH) stated: "During the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Based Violence, the OAITH has released the Annual Femicide List 2024-2025 to educate the community about the realities of femicide. Over the last 52 weeks, there have been 43 women killed here in Ontario. There have been 101 charges reported by media, laid against 45 men accused in relation to these femicides, while another three cases were deemed a femicide-sui-

Marlene Ham, executive director of OAITH had this to say: "The headlines this past year continue to make public the heartbreaking stories of femicides that have occurred nearly every week in Ontario. Most of the men accused in

est to them and most often women were killed in their home or another residence. Men's violence against women this past year demands public attention to educate communities because we know femicide is preventable and change is possi-

On December 6, come honour the women whose lives were lost to violence in Montreal in 1989, and those who continue to lose their lives to violence today, here in Ontario. "Come to the Mindemoya Pavillion (near the baseball fields) as we begin with an opening prayer, drumming, candlelight vigil, light snack and a walk in solidarity to honour those who have been lost or harmed," said Ms. Francis. "This event is open to all community members who wish to show support.'

# Islanders' food bank usage up over 2024

...continued from page 1

is that over 30 percent of our food bank clients are children," continued Ms. Hill. "In a country as rich as Canada, no one should have to go hungry. It will take all of us working together to end hunger.

The food bank model is one that is fundamentally designed to respond to an emergency need, but emergencies are supposed to end," notes Feed Ontar-io CEO Carolyn Stewart in the report. "Instead, hunger is becoming an accepted 'new normal' in our province and food banks are becoming a way to subsidize governments' balanced budgets and corporations' profit margins. This is not sustainable. While a high level of food bank use is unacceptable in and of itself, we are at the precipice of something much worse. As a province, we cannot let 'hunger' be normal. This is not acceptable today and it is not the future we want for our children and their families.'

"Food bank use is on the rise all across the country and our community is no exception," notes the report. "From April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, the Manitoulin Family Resources Food Bank served a total of 4,588 individuals (that's 1,635 households). This represents a seven percent increase over 2022-23 and a 46.2 percent increase over 2018-2019 (pre-COVID times)."

Of the 1,635 households who visited during that period, 28 percent had never visited the food bank before (a 1.4 percent increase over newcomers in 2022-23). "This number is similar to our pre-COVID rates, where approximately 28 percent of our clients each year would be first-time visitors," continues the report. "As with last year's Manitoulin Hunger Report, the communities least represented in percentage of food bank visits are those located furthest from the MFR Food



Christmas hampers are packed and ready to go during last year's campaign.

Bank in Mindemoya."

The report suggests that factor is most likely due to transportation barriers.

Manitoulin Island's First Nation community members made up 72.42 percent of all food bank visits in 2023-24 (that compares to 68 percent in 2022-23). Self-identified Indigenous clients represent 52.2 percent of the food bank's clientele, that despite making up only 40.6 percent of Manitoulin's total population.

"It is safe to say that our Indigenous community members are vastly overrepresented in our food bank statistics," notes the report.

"The three age groups most highly represented amongst food bank visitors were visitors ages 25-35 (17 percent), ages 7-13 (16 percent of visitors) and ages 36-50 (15 percent of visitors). The least represented age brackets were teenagers aged 14-17 (seven percent) and young adults aged 18-24 (eight percent). Nevertheless, children and youth still represented over one third (36 percent) of all food bank visits in 2023-

The date is consistent with provincial and national averages and represents an unfortunate reality for youth from which the Island is not shielded.

Over 50 percent of food bank clients visited only once or twice over the course of a year, high-

lighting the stopgap nature of its use. While food bank support is normally available to clients every 28 days, that can change as needed, dependent on urgent situations such as separation of family, the impact of unexpected expenses or other household emergencies.

"While some of our clients require consistent support from our food bank, many simply need help making ends meet when expenses get too tight to bear," notes the

While donations from the public and provincial agencies are important sources of food aid, one in seven of Ontario's food banks purchase 20 percent of the food stuffs they distribute. MFR depends heavily on monetary donations than most, with purchases making up almost half of the items filling the shelves (49.3 percent).

Things are not getting any better. From 2022-23 to 2023-24, there was a seven percent increase in individuals served at MFR's food bank, that's 4,588 visits. The report points out that the busiest month for the food bank was in August 2023, which saw a total of 495 visits. The 2023-24 year represented a 46.2 percent increase over our pre-COVID rates of food bank usage, and the report points out that this trend is showing no sign of slowing down.

There is some hope on

the horizon, although the report asserts that Canada is the only G7 country without a national school food program, that changed in the 2024 federal budget. An initial investment of \$1 billion allocated over five years (2025-29) in that budget, the National School Food Program will receive permanent funding of \$216.6 million per year starting in 2029/30. That helps leverage \$108.5 million in Ontario thanks to an agreement between the federal and provincial governments and will roll out over the next three years to help fund a school food program in the province.

But the need is still there now. The causes of what appears to be a growing crisis would be no surprise to most-food inflation, the high cost of housing and the lack of public transportation are all contributing factors.

The Expositor Business Challenge gathers non-perishable food items and toys for the annual MFR Christmas Basket campaign, which is separate from the data contained in the report.

Monetary donations to the MFR Food Bank can be made online through CanadaHelps.org, by email transfer to finance@mfresources. net. If you indicate your name, mailing address and contact number in the message box you can receive a tax receipt. You can also mail a cheque or money order to post office Box 181, Mindemoya, ON, P0P 1S0.







Dining • Bar • Catering • Rooms Downtown Little Current • 705-368-2023

7 DAYS A WEEK

RESTAURANT HOURS:
MONDAY - SUNDAY: 9 AM TO 8 PM

BAR HOURS:
SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY: CLOSED 《WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY: 4 PM - 9 PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 4 PM - 10 PM

# MMA seeking additional sailing during ferry's peak season

...continued from page 1

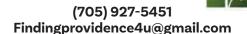
Barrie Island township stated, "four sailings in the summer was a tradition for many years on the ferry. In the 1980s, everyone knew the times and dates that the schedule was running. The excuse (OSTC) is using is that they are only running one ship and can cover everything in this. But I agree with Dale, it is not convenient for locals who need to book a reservation on the ferry in an emergency, for instance." He pointed



### Finding Providence

Mental Health Therapy, Counselling & Consulting Allan Chislett M.S.W., R.S.W. **EMDR Certified Psychotherapist** 

- Specializing in Complex PTSD and childhood trauma for adults, using EMDR & Internal Family Systems
- Treatment of Anxiety & Depression
- Relaxation Training
- · Insurance Coverage
- · Coverage with status number





The Chi-Cheemaun has not resumed four sailing per day during the peak season since the COVID-19 pandemic

out OSTC had added a second ship, the Nindawayma to its ferry schedule between Tobermory and South Baymouth years ago, but this only lasted two years.

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

"The ferry is always busy regardless of what sailing time," said Janice Bowerman, an Assiginack township

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

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

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

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

#### ...against proposed additions to provincial park lands

...continued from page 1

us two years ago on this and we said we were not interested." He told the MMA he had contacted Patsy Corbiere, chair of the United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising and informed her that all of this proposal is part of the 1990 land claim that has not been settled.

UCCMM chair Corbiere had informed The Expositor, as reported in the November 12, 2025 edition that the UCCMM opposes the MECP proposal.

"Expanding protected areas in Ontario is an initiative with funding from the federal government to accelerate the expansion of Ontario's

protected areas system by proposing to regulate new areas under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 (PPCRA)," Will Kershaw, senior protected areas planner, expanding protected areas project, Ontario Parks Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks told The Expositor in an email November 12.

Mr. Kershaw noted, "three areas are proposed in the Manitoulin region that Ontario previously acquired from third-parties or identified to enhance conservation in existing protected areas. These areas include: adding 55 ha (132 acres) to Misery Bay Provincial Park, adding 101 ha (250 acres) to Mac's Bay Conservation Reserve, both on the south shore of Manitoulin Island and the new Cockburn Island Addition Provincial Park that includes 193 ha (477 acres) Cockburn Island's south shore.'

"Ontario's objective under this initiative is to provide more local recreation opportunities, support tourism and economic development and biodiversity conservation without posing substantive impacts to commercial and industrial entities," explained Mr. Kershaw.

Mr. Kershaw had exthese assessment concludplained in part in a letter ed that there are no anticito Burpee and Mills Reeve pated negative impacts on Noland dated October 20, commercial or industrial "I'm following up on some activities for these prodiscussions you and I had posed sites.' a few years ago that has Mr. Noland pointed out been officially announced as a new regulation proposal notice to the Envi-

the UCCMM has indicated it is opposing the addition of the lands as protected The comment period

deadline on the proposal was November 24, said Richard Stephens, Mayor of the municipality of Central Manitoulin at the MMA meeting November

Anyone (municipalities) with lakefront or road allowance would be affected by this type of proposal, said Lee Hayden, reeve of Gordon/ Barrie Island.

The MMA passed a motion opposing the MECP proposal adding shoreline and road allowances being added to the protective area for Misery Bay and Mac's Bay.

# ...Dr. Chantal Boucher

...continued from page 1

ronmental Registry of On-

tario (ERO) on October 10,

2025. Two sites proposed

in the ERO are additions

to existing protected

areas on Manitoulin Is-

land in Burpee and Mills

township. These proposed

additions are made up

largely of road and shore-

line allowances. For site

7: Misery Bay Provincial

Park, 55-hectare addition;

and site 13: Mac's Bay

"MECP assessed these

sites for potential im-

pacts, including through

with the Ministry of Nat-

ural Resources and the

Ministry of Energy and

Mines. The results of

101-hectare addition."

Reserve,

reviews

Conservation

inter-ministry

Dr. Boucher chose to do her residency at the Northern School of Medicine. "But I don't expect the province to reach out to me to move back to Quebec.'

She explains that the University of Montreal has a small medical school campus located in Trois-Rivières.

Dr. Boucher admitted to being a little nervous about the transition, but the efforts of NOSM soon had her feeling right at

"I was paired up with a supervisor in Sudbury who was bilingual so we could speak in French," she said. "And then we would have days where we would talk in French together, but then talk in English. It was Dr. Levesque in Sudbury, and he still has a practice with a lot of French speakers. "So, I find that it eased my transition."

Dr. Boucher should have no concerns on her English skills, however, her Quebecois accent is actually quite slight.

Coming to Manitoulin to practice was not too hard a decision for Dr. Boucher, her spouse Ben actually grew up on Manitoulin and the couple still has family in Manitowan-

"We have been visiting



Dr. Chantal Boucher

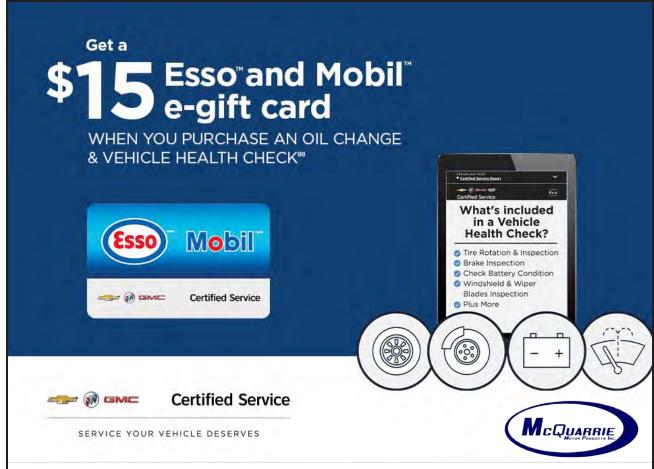
every year for the past 15 years or so," she said. So, she is a new doctor, but not new to the Island. Her husband has retired from the military in 2023 and is happily filling the role of house husband at the mo-

"He takes care of the kids, two boys, four and six," supplies Ms. Bouch-

As to what brought her to family medicine, Dr. Boucher thought for a minute. "I think I like having a broad practice as a goal," she said. "And it's really something that's special to the Island as well. I like meeting my own patients and being their family doctor. But I also cover some of the emergency room shifts as

...continued on page 9





# Ministry of Natural Resources charges down in 2025 rifle hunt

...continued from page 3

Road in Assiginack. The individual then barricaded themselves into a trailer. The issue was safely resolved later that day with a 39-year-old male from Assiginack being charged.

"The incident took place on Monday, November 17, after a check on the individual by a conservation officer with the MNR with a deer hunter, which turned into a weapons call," said Staff Sergeant McGale. "I would like to thank other COs who attended and backed up the COs on the scene, the UCCM Anishinaabe Police and the Manitoulin OPP backing up as well

...continued from page 8

here "she said

risk of static care and prenatal care."

"They've enjoyed it. Lots of green space."

as the paramedics who staged on site to assist if there were any injuries."

Mr. McGale said, "I am not aware of any injuries occurring during the hunt related to hunting or shooting incidents."

As for the deer harvested during the season Mr. McGale said the MNR will get a good indication with the hunter (mandatory) reports submitted and a full review of the hunters' harvest of deer during the season. However, "I think it was a good hunt and harvest, and the deer seen are very healthy.

A total of 17 conservation officers assisted with the Manitoulin hunt. A road check coordinated

Dr. Chantal Boucher

well. In the local ER, and then I do a little bit of a low

As to Manitoulin, "it was good to be with some fam-

ily members. So, my spouse and family, it's been a re-

ally nice, quiet and safe place to raise kids," she said.

Dr. Boucher graduated in June, but she was already

starting some clinic days in July and she was doing

some work with Dr. Mike Bedard and Dr. Dan Daniels

in Manitowaning during her placement, Little Current

as well. "I was kind of split in between Sudbury and

said "people that are looking for a family doctor, if

they are in the area, we do have a catchment area, but

As to her message to the community, Dr. Boucher

"I am a strong believer in the preventive medicine

that we do," she said, "and I think the clinics on the Island are well equipped to support people to that end."

between MNR and OPP took place on November 19 for the MNR to monitor for hunter compliance and the OPP to monitor vehicle drivers on Highway 6 at the Swing Bridge. "We (MNR) had a high compliance rate, a much higher compliance rate than we have seen in recent years.'

Mr. McGale also com-

mented on a report from a member of the public of three fawn having been harvested during this year's bow hunt season on Manitoulin and were then dumped and left to rot in a ditch in the Evansville area. "The MNR received a tip through the (MNR) tipline, and this incident is currently an active in-

# **Ontario's First Nations** should not be left out of Buy Ontario policies

NIPISSING—The government of Ontario's recent focus on the new Buy Ontario Act, 2025, underscores its commitment to prioritizing Ontario-made goods and services in public procurement, ostensibly to protect local workers and bolster the economy. However, this narrow emphasis on immediate procurement policies reveals a significant oversight: the failure to recognize and capitalize on the substantial economic potential of First Nations procurement strategies, the Anishinabek Nation states.

"First Nations represent a multi-billion dollar economic opportunity that Ontario has just ignored. Indigenous owned businesses and suppliers possess the capacity to contribute significantly to Ontario's infrastructure, manufacturing, forestry, and resource sectors," stated Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige. "By not actively integrating First Nation procurement into its broader economic and infrastructure plans, the province of Ontario is missing out on a chance to foster true First Nation economic development, create sustainable jobs and build lasting partnerships that can benefit all Ontarians.'

A dedicated First Nation procurement strategy would align with principles of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, reconciliation and economic inclusion, ensuring that First Nations are not sidelined but rather active participants in

...continued on page 23



The Ministry of Natural Resources is currently investigating an incident of three fawns having been harvested in the recent bow hunt season that were dumped and left to rot in a ditch in the Evansville area



Advertorial

I strongly encourage that they reach out to the clinic to put their name on the waitlist if they are looking for a family doctor, '

# We regulate the Dental Hygiene profession...

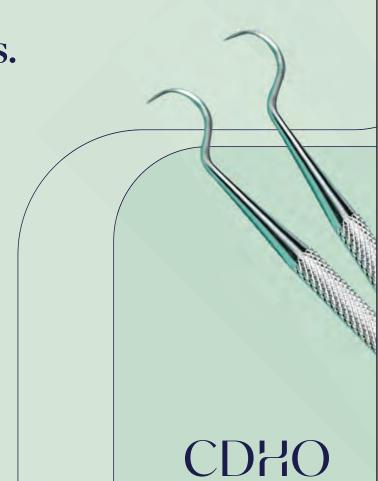
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We set the requirements for becoming a Registered Dental Hygienist so that only qualified individuals can practise. We set standards and rules that keep you safe and protect your interests, and we run programs that help RDHs keep their knowledge and skills up to date. If you have concerns that an RDH isn't meeting these standards, you can contact us, and we will investigate. And, if you're wondering if someone is authorized to practise Dental Hygiene or need to find an RDH in your area, check out the "Find a Registered Dental Hygienist" feature on our website.



Learn more and visit cdho.org/explore



# ...Kenjgewin Teg launches Waawaaskonenh Foundation

...continued from page 3

Ms. Madahbee Leach has long been a key figure in championing Indigenous economic and social development. Ms. Madahbee Leach's many honours include the 2023 Business Lifetime Achievement Award (CCIB), the 2020 Indspire Award for Business and Commerce, and recognition as one of Canada's Most Powerful Women (2018). She holds a B.A. in Political Science and Law from Laurentian University. For 37 years, she has served as general manager of the Waubetek Business Corporation and is the Founder and CEO of Indigenous

Business International. She has chaired the National Indigenous Economic Development Board and played a crucial role in shaping Canada's first National Indigenous Economic Strategy. Her accomplishments span finance, mining, business, and energy sectors, and she has been honoured with numerous national distinctions, including Indspire's 2020 Award for Business and Commerce and the CCIB's 2023 Business Lifetime Achievement Award.

Reflecting on her new role, Ms. Madahbee Leach said, "I feel that I have come full circle in supporting the Waawaas-

konenh Foundation to assist in the good work of Kenjgewin Teg. It is gratifying to know that many students have achieved higher education because of this Anishinabek-led place of learning. And now the Waawaaskonenh Charitable Foundation will help them soar even further." Ms. Madahbee Leach was involved in the very early days of Kenjgewin Teg.

In a significant milestone, the Foundation recently received its first donation in the form of a transformational \$10 million gift from the Mastercard Foundation. Jennifer Brennan, Senior Director of Canada Programs at the Mastercard Foundation, emphasized the importance of Kenjgewin Teg. In the official press release, Ms. Brennan is quoted as saying, "Built on Anishinaabe principles and worldviews, Kenjgewin Teg equips young people to learn, work, and lead in ways that strengthen the self-determination of their Nations. We are committed to walking alongside young Indigenous people as they transform post-secondary education. This organization is contributing to that change and to a stronger

country for us all."

The timing of the launch aligns with the spirit of Giving Tuesday, the annual global movement that encourages generosity, community support, and connection. As year-end giving begins, the Waawaaskonenh Foundation now becomes another avenue for people to help local learners flourish.

For Kenjgewin Teg, the launch symbolizes transformative opportunities which they hope to use to continue their impressive social momentum. "This is an incredible time for Kenjgewin Teg to begin thinking of new possibilities," said President Dr. Beverley Roy. "With the support of the Waawaaskonenh Foundation, many ideas we've been waiting to bring forward will become closer to reality. It's time for us to dream even bigger."

To learn more about the Waawaas-konenh Foundation, or to support its work in helping learners grow and flourish, readers are encouraged to visit www.waawaaskonenh.ca.



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

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

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The following Council meetings have been **CANCELLED**. December 4th and December 18th.

#### Winter Parking Reminder

Please be reminded that, as per our Traffic Control By-law, parking on all municipal roadways is prohibited effective November 1st of each year until March 31st of the following year between the hours of 2 and 7 am.

PARKING TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED

#### **NEMI RECREATION CENTRE**

The ice is in and we are ready for your ice rentals.

Please contact the arena at
rtaylor@townofnemi.on.ca to book your time.





#### Workshop....

Snowflake themed paint night with
Local artist Debbie Whatling
December 9th at 6:30 pm
At the NEMI Rec Centre
Everything included \$30
Register by emailing debwhatling@gmail.com



#### SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN!

NEMI Annual Christmas Parade will be December the 6th starting at 6 pm.

Don't forget to enter your float, call to register.



# Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY One Year Contract - Full-Time: Truck Driver Labourer

Interested parties are invited to submit their resume for the position of Truck Driver Labourer. Applicants shall possess a minimum DZ driver's licence and have the ability to operate most types of town equipment at an acceptable level of competency.

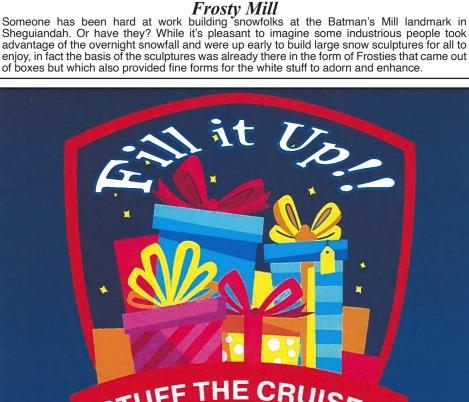
A job description is available at the Municipal Office.

Rate of pay will follow the Union Contract.

#### Application Deadline: Friday, December 5, 2025 Forward Application to: Pam Myers, Clerk

pmyers@townofnemi.on.ca Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands Box 608 LITTLE CURRENT, ON POP 1K0

**For Sale by Tender:** 2011 GMC Chev Sierra, 4x4, 8' box, approx. 140,000 KMs, sold as is and where is. Can be viewed by contacting Reid at 705-968-0386 Monday to Friday between 7 am and 3 pm. Closing date: December 8th at noon. Only sealed tenders accepted.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOOD & TOY DRIVE

COLLECTION THROUGHOUT DECEMBER 10 - 12, 202

Gifts can be dropped off at the following collection sites:

- UCCM Police Station
- UCCMM
- Kenjgewin Teg
- Kina Gbezhgomi (M'Chigeeng location)
- Ojibwe Cultural Foundation
- M'Chigeeng Band Office
- Noojmowin Teg
- Mnaamodzawin
- Aundeck Omni Kaning Band Office
- Sheguiandah Band Office
- Sheshegwaning Band Office
- Zhiibaahaasing Band Office
- Whitefish River Band Office



Calling all Santa's Helpers...
It's a Christmas Emergency
and we need all hands-on deck!

If you have any questions, call 705-377-7135

# Kenjgewin Teg celebrates accreditation milestone at Mshkogaabiwin: Affirming Sovereignty in Education event

by Ed Prudhomme

SUDBURY—On Tuesday, November 24, Kenjgewin Teg celebrated a momentous milestone by bringing together a diverse group of community members, students, Elders, partners, and educators in Sudbury. The event, Mshkogaabiwin: Affirming Sovereignty in Education, highlighted the significant achievement of obtaining accreditation for its Indigenous Studies Program - Certificate II by the Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council (IAESC). This accreditation not only acknowledges the program's commitment to quality education rooted in Indigenous culture and values but also reinforces the importance of sovereignty in educational practices. Attendees shared stories, cultural performances, and insights, further enriching the celebration and emphasizing the role of education in strengthening Indigenous identities and communities.

The event was guided by Master of Ceremonies Brent "Mooselegs" Edwardson, whose energetic presence kept the evening lively and warm. Mr. Edwardson engaged the crowd with humour and movement, encouraging attendees to dance, playing musical introductions for honoured Elders, and reminding everyone



Mshkogaabiwin: Affirming Sovereignty in Education keynote speaker Dr. Dan Longboat delivers his address on 'Indigenous Knowledge is Higher Education: Reclaiming, Revitalizing, and Leading Our Own Learning Paths.'

photos by Robin Anderson

of the gathering's significance. "Let's understand that tonight is all about celebration for a terrific accomplishment by the dedicated people at Kenigewin Teg" he said

igewin Teg," he said.

The Black Bull Moose Singers delivered an evocative cultural entrance to the proceedings, accompanied by a vibrant staff processional and soulful travel songs. Their voices together with tribal drumming began the festivities paying homage to tradition and spirit, infusing the celebration with

a deep sense of reverence and connection to heri-

A number of respected Elders took the stage throughout the evening, speaking from the heart about the meaning of this victory for the community. They shared that accreditation is not only a formal recognition but also a continuation of the work their ancestors envisioned, rooted in protecting Indigenous identity, language, and knowledge systems. Several Elders reflected on their own ex-

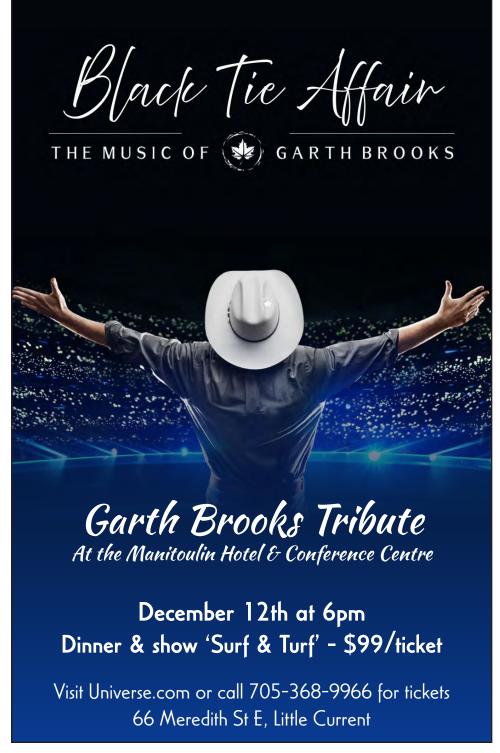
periences with colonial education and expressed pride in seeing an institution built by their people, for their people, receive this level of recognition. They emphasized that accredited Indigenous-led education ensures future generations will grow up with access to learning that honours who they are and where they come from.

The evening's keynote speaker, Dr. Dan Longboat, added significant depth to the celebration with his insights and expertise. As a distinguished professor Trent University and the founding director of the groundbreaking Indigenous Environmental Science/Studies program, Dr. Longboat has been a vocal advocate for the incorporation of Rotinonshón:ni Knowledge and Indigenous epistemologies within postsecondary education. He addressed the audience emphasizing that the emergence of accredited Indigenous education signifies not just an academic advancement but a transformative shift in how knowledge is recognized and valued in academic spaces. His remarks informed the guests of the importance of honoring Indigenous perspectives, which enrich both educational curricula and broader societal understandings.

"This development provides a fundamental chance for us to change education to serve our communities," he said. "Education is important because it has to do with

...continued on page 12







# ...Mshkogaabiwin: Affirming Sovereignty in Education event

...continued from page 11

language. Language is the foundational component of any culture. If we lose our language, we lose our culture. If we lose our culture, we lose our ceremonies. If we lose our ceremonies, our ways of life end."

He described the program's accreditation as a commitment to cultural continuity. "This type of education means the continuation of our culture along with the creation of more leaders, more Elders, love, and kindness. It ensures the survival of our people."

Turning to the evening's theme, Dr. Longboat added, "We are gathered here tonight to talk about sovereignty in education. Some say sovereignty means independence or autonomy, but

many scholars now say it is an entity's right to exist. Through this accreditation and the delivery of this type of education, we are ensuring that very thing for our culture and people."

of Indigenous-led postsecondary education. "This is because Indigenous educational institutions 'get it,' many of the faculty have been where many of our students are." This type of understanding

IAESC Director Sean Monteith also addressed attendees. Known for his decades of work improving educational access for marginalized students, he spoke passionately about the positive impact of Indigenous Institutes across Ontario. He began with a simple question: "What is 82%?"

"That's the percentage of graduates Indigenous educational institutions have produced every year," he said. "And 65%? That's the graduation rate of domestic students at other Ontario colleges." The comparison, he noted, speaks to the success

Please join

Madeleine (Maddie) Becks

at the Manitoulin Centennial Manor

in the upper dining room on

Monday, December 8th at 2 pm for her

**BIG 105th BIRTHDAY.** 

We are hosting a come and go tea with

birthday cake to celebrate this miletone!

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Questions? Call Julie, Activity Director,

at 705-368-2710 x322

ondary education. "This because Indigenous educational institutions 'get it,' many of the faculty have been where many of our students are." This type of understanding leads to a greater sense of appreciation from both the students and the teachers. Mr Monteith also said, "I also believe that the reason for this high success rate is that Indigenous schools are truly in the business of students. Each student is seen as unique and important to the success of the whole. As such, they teach to the whole of the student." "This differs a great deal from most Western educational institutions, who increasingly have only been concerned with enrollment rates" a practice he says has led many First Nations students to falter due to a lack of supports and cultural awareness from these institutions.

"It's time to put action to the big ideas we've been working toward," Mr. Monteith said. "I am proud of our students. Before these opportunities, our learners had to navigate being of two worlds. This accreditation is the beginning of realizing a theory of change that has been long coming. This education can transform our communities for the better and guide our youth toward becoming good human beings."

Following the celebration, The Expositor spoke with Kenjgewin Teg Pres-



Monteith (Executive Director, Índigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council), Marsha Josephs (Executive Director. IIC), Stephanie President, (Former Kenjgewin Teg), Mary Wabano-McKay (President and CAO of Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig), Beverley Roy (President, Kenjgewin Teg), and Dr. Dan Longboat (Keynote Speaker, Mshkogaabiwin: Affirming Education Sovereignty celebration)

ident Dr. Beverley Roy, who reflected on the significance of the milestone and the work behind it. She noted that as Kenjgewin Teg continues to develop and accredit its own certificates, micro-credentials, diplomas, and degrees, its reputation will continue to grow across the province.

"There is a great opportunity for Kenjgewin Teg to help others who are also doing great work in education and training," she said. "Balancing the accreditation of our own programs with supporting others will positively impact the results we collectively have in Anishinabek lifelong learning."

Dr. Roy said students will benefit from expanded opportunities, including the future possibility of offering credentials in Anishinaabemowin and co-developing accredited programs with existing postsecondary partners. She explained that the accreditation process lasted approximately 2 years and involved internal teams that examined policies,

air guitar skills during a dance break.

practices, and areas for der
improvement, including ers
establishing new policies ech
to meet IAESC standards pre
for learner wellbeing.

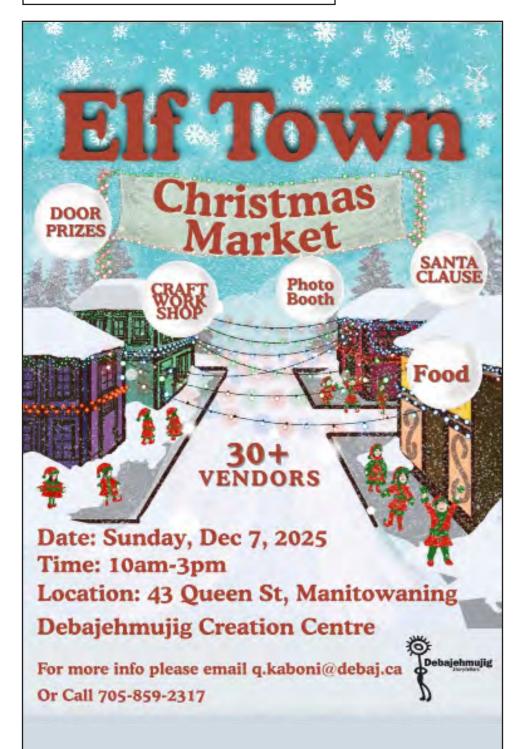
Kenjgewin Teg board member James McComber shows off his

She emphasized that while accreditation often suggests external validation, the foundation for this achievement began long before provincial legislation. "Even before the Indigenous Institutes Act of 2017, the First Nation members of the United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising supported Kenjgewin Teg," she said. "The Tribal Council issued its own charter resolution supporting our ability to issue our own certificates, diplomas, and degrees. This achievement has been a long-standing vision.'

As the evening unfolded and the last notes of celebration lingered in the air, attendees departed with a profound sense of pride, unity, and an unmistakable optimism that seemed to envelop the gathering. The heartfelt words spoken by the El-

ders, educators, and leaders throughout the night echoed in the minds of all present, making one thing undeniably clear: the accreditation of the Indigenous Studies Program – Certificate II represents not just a hallmark of academic excellence, but a powerful reaffirmation of identity, sovereignty, and the enduring resilience of the Anishinabek people.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Roy captivated the audience, her voice resonating with the shared emotions of her esteemed guests. She concluded her speech with a stirring quote from the revered Indigenous figure Murray Sinclair: "Education got us into this mess. Education can get us out of it." The weight of the evening's significance hung in the air, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those who gathered to celebrate this considerable achievement





# Great Lakes Cruising Club shows municipal appreciation for 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary presentation

by Michael Erskine

LITTLE CURRENT—Cochairs of the Great Lakes Cruising Club (GLCC), Jib and Debby Turner, joined Cruisers' Net host Roy Eaton in presenting a framed aerial photograph of the Little Current waterfront to Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands Mayor Al MacNevin in appreciation of the reception and support of the municipality during the club's 60th Anniversary Rendezvous held July 13 to 17 in the Port of Little Current.

"I think it's a beautiful photo of the downtown waterfront and the

GLCC," said Mayor Mac-Nevin. "It was a wonderful event, and I got to eat a beautiful dinner. People were very happy to see all those boats in our community and we're always happy to see the rendezvous hosted here." "It was wonderful to see all of the boaters from both sides of the border getting together in friendship," said Ms. Turner. "The fellowship that's developed through the GLCC is simply amazing."

"Americans, and everyone, felt welcome, and there were no issues with anything," she noted.

Ms. Turner noted that

the GLCC started in 1934. "This rendezvous is the 60th anniversary rendezvous, but it wasn't the 60th anniversary of the club," she said. "The reason the first rendezvous was ever held here was to honour Jib's grandfather, Grant Turner, who was one of the founding members of the GLCC, and he did so much for the club to get boaters to join the club, who cruised here both Canadian and American."

"My grandfather went around with boxes of film to Masonic Lodges and Kiwanis Clubs, wherever else people gathered to show people what it looked like here," said Mr. Turner. "Then he arranged to get them here and it just sort of kicked off."

The reception the GLCC receives whenever they gather in the Port of Little Current made the town an obvious choice for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, not to mention the reputation that Georgian Bay and the North Channel have as the best freshwater boating destinations in the world.



on Thursday, December 25 at 1:30 pm at the Little Current United Church Hall.



Will you be alone? New to the area? Whatever the circumstance, come and join us for Christmas dinner. Everyone is welcome.

Live local musical entertainment by Cole Hughson, starting at 11 am.



Need a ride? Please let them know when you register.

Last day to register is Friday, December 19 at 12 noon.



Great Lakes Cruising Club 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rendezvous co-chair Debby Turner, left, Cruisers' Net host Roy Eaton and co-chair Jib Turner present Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands Mayor Al MacNevin, second from right, with a framed aerial photograph of the Port of Little Current waterfront in gratitude for the town's welcome and support for the event.

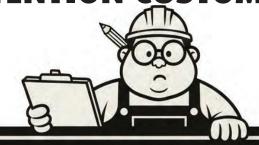
photo by Michael Erskine





# RONA Little Current Building Centre

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**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH** 

**FOR ANNUAL INVENTORY** 

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9130 HWY 6, LITTLE CURRENT 705-368-2090 **VISIT ONLINE AT RONA.CA** 







#### Anchored Inn Christmas!

Things were hopping at the Anchor Inn bar on Saturday, November 29 thanks to a wide selection of Christmas gifts and goodies.
photo by Michael Erskine



#### Eyeing big guy in the red suit!

Sometimes moms have to get in on the action with Santa when little ones are not so sure about the guy in the big red suit during the Knox United Church Christmas Market. photo Alicia

McCutcheon



#### Medicines from the land make great gifts!

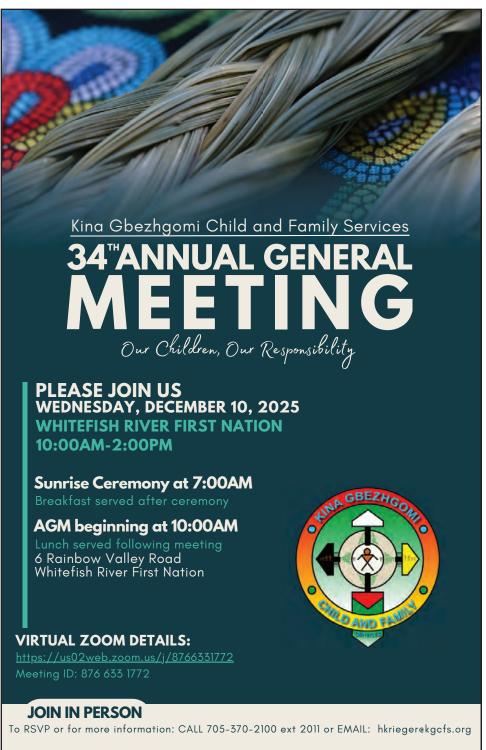
Hunter Cascagnette of Medicines from the Land displays one of the wares she had on hand at the Centennial Museum market. photo by Alicia McCutcheon



#### All in Compass-ing

Folks at the NEMI Public Library stand ready to celebrate the Compass Compass Seniors programming.

photo by Michael Erskine



### Manitoulin celebrates Christmas with parades and tree lightings



Is that an airboat?

Businesses get a chance to show community Christmas Parade. photo by Alicia McCutcheon



Mindemova visitor!

My Ol' Blues is longstanding Island business that enjoys on the putting photo by Alicia McCutcheon



It's Santa!

highlight of a Christmas parade is Santa's



They come in all shapes and sizes!

Who doesn't love a parade. It is a great opportunity for the kids to take part as well. McCutcheon



Hot stuff!

Red Bow's reindeer had its work cut out for it hauling this fabulous Christmas present around. photo by Alicia McCutcheon





#### Hot chocolate delight!

Lineups at the hot stand chocolate long were during the lighting in thirsty Mindemoya. photo by Alicia McCutcheon

What's a

parade without

horses?

There were lots of equine floats and

their riders at the

bv McCutcheon Alicia

Mindemoya parade.

photo



Dayne at the switch!

Mayor Al MacNevin

the

lighting duty during

photo by Michael

**Erskine** 

celebration in

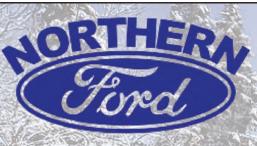
does

downtown

Special Dayne Manitoulin Olympian Tipper gets ready to light up the night at the Central Manitoulin lighting celebration. photo by Michael



Joyous Christmas



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# Municipalities to see five percent increase to public health budget

by Tom Sasvari

SUDBURY—Public Health Sudbury and District (PHSD) continues to receive provincial government funding that does not even match the cost of living as it continues to focus on maintaining, and even enhancing service levels to patients.

At a meeting last Thursday, the

board of health for PHSD approved the cost shared 2026 operating budget for public health in the amount of \$32,029,390. The budget, with the smallest growth in three years, maintains services through 2026, while making a robust \$2,413,088 investment in technology to realize long-term efficiency and sustainability of services.

"Over the last 10 years, we've seen an 18 percent decrease in funding when adjusted for inflation," said Mark Signoretti, chair of the board of health for PHSD. "As public health strives to deliver on the growing needs of the community during this period of fiscal constraint, our top priority remains to support innovation and excellent service delivery in a sustainable and affordable way, so we can help people live healthier lives.' "With growing pressures across

The overall budget increase is 3.2

percent with the municipal share in-

crease set at 5.49 percent.

many health issues, including the complex drug crisis and resurging infections, life expectancy has declined in Canada in recent years, a stark change from two centuries of almost continuous growth," said Dr. Mustafa Hirji, acting medical officer of health and chief executive office for PHSD. "The need for public health's work is clear. In the absence of adequate provincial funding, we need to leverage technology so that we can build the capacity to deliver for our community," said Dr. Hirji.

With provincial funding shortfalls for several years, PHSD carefully assesses how best to use valuable resources to ensure the most beneficial impact is achieved. While major changes in programming have been avoided for 2026, staff needed to be reallocated to help address current needs. Without a change in fiscal context, provincial underfunding threatens the loss of programming in future

"Provincial funding remains at one percent, which is lower than the cost of living," said Mr. Signoretti. "It makes it difficult to provide the same level of services while trying to maintain the same amount of municipal funding levies.'

"I can assure you as chair of the board and being on the finance committee we have looked at all other options," said Mr. Signoretti. "And Dr. Hirji brought forward options and the board has taken funds out of our reserves as a one-time expenditure (\$2.4 million) toward technology that will provide for new administration systems, roadways and structures that makes it easier for staff to be able to get information at their fingertips and cut down on administrative hours.

Mr. Signoretti said all services going into 2026 provided by PHSD will be maintained and a focus of service to

clients increased.

In 2026, public health will continue focusing on efforts that have the greatest positive impact on the public's health. To make services sustainable for the long term, the agency will leverage technology by embracing artificial intelligence to work more efficiently, by digitizing data through an electronic medical record (EMR) and new administrative systems, and by embarking on a transformative information technology (IT) roadmap that will enable continuous innovation. The 2026 budget also prioritizes the recruitment and retention of skilled professionals, helping advance strategic priorities. Led by the board of health, PHSD will also strengthen advocacy to the province for adequate funding that protects health and prevents disease for everyone.

Mr. Signoretti said the board has taken \$2.4 million from its reserves. "We still have a healthy reserve but if we don't receive some movement on support from the province at least to match the rate of inflation, it is a slippery slope. We can't keep going back to municipal taxpayers and increasing the amount of funds they provide, knowing and having to continue to point out to the province how important public health is in the communi-

"There are still lingering effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, and more pressures coming up," stated Mr. Signoretti. "The province needs to realize that with healthier communities there are less hospital beds being utilized. We can prove the benefits of keeping members of the community healthy; it provides for savings and healthier communities long-term." He said PHSD continues to look at efficiencies and is not leaving any stones unturned to make sure services are maintained and delivered. With further funding support from the province it would allow PHSD the opportunity to look at more efficiencies and services that would benefit the community and benefit health care overall and enhance services and service delivery.

"We are hoping for more for advocacy of the province to realize how important public health is to the province (and by not increasing funding provided to health units it could affect services provided in the future)," said Mr. Signoretti.



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# Mindemoya Book Mice by Claire Cline

Claire's Top 5

1. 'Framed in Death' by J. D. Robb

2. 'The Secret of Secrets' by Dan Brown

3. 'Rage' by Linda Cas-

4. 'Return to Sender' by Craig Johnson 5. 'The First Gentle-

man' by James Patterson & Bill Clinton

'Framed in Death' -Death imitates art in this new crime thriller starring homicide cop Eve Dallas (one of my favourite characters). New York is filled with galleries and museums and deep-pocketed collectors who can make an artist's career with a wave of the hand. But one man toils in obscurity, his brilliance unrecognized while lesser talents bask in the glory he believes should be his. Come tomorrow, he vows, the city will be buzzing about his work. And so it begins for Lieutenant Eve Dallas speeding towards the home of two gallery owners whose doorway has been turned into a horrifying tableau overnight. A good read

'The Secret of Secrets' Robert Langdon, esteemed professor of symbology, has travelled to Prague to attend a groundbreaking lecture by Katherine Solomon a prominent noetic scientist with whom he has begun a romantic relationship. Katherine is on the verge of publishing a breakthrough book that contains explosive scientific discoveries about the nature of human consciousness... revelations that threaten to disrupt centuries of established belief. When a brutal murder catapults the trip into chaos, Katherine suddenly goes missing - and her manuscript is destroyed...

'Rage' – Chief of Police Kate Burkholder investigates a brutal double murder that takes her into the dark underbelly of society and exposes the dangers of Amish lives gone wrong. Summer has arrived with a vengeance in Painters Mill, and a macabre discovery by three Amish children brings the quiet to a grinding halt. To solve the case, Kate must delve into the most sordid corners of her community, but when she gets too close, the killers target Kate herself.

'Return to Sender' -Walt Longmire is back and encounters one of his most baffling cases in Wyoming's brutal and unforgiving red desert. When Blair McGowan, the mailperson with the longest postal route in the country, covering more than three hundred miles a day, goes missing the question becomes, where do you look for her? Sheriff Longmire mounts an investigation into her disappearance, posing as a letter carrier, he follows her trail and

finds himself enveloped in the intrigue of an otherworldly cult.

Although Craig Johnson normally writes westerns this is a good mystery.

'The First Gentleman' The President of the United States is up for re-election. Her husband is on trial for murder. Is the First Gentleman a killer? A pair of brilliant investigative journalists sets out to answer that burning question about the NFL-star-turned-political-spouse. This novel has all the twists and turns and authenticity one can expect and causes the reader to read far into the night. This is the 3rd novel written by these two and I have thoroughly enjoyed all three! You will find all three here at your library.

Knitting and crocheting class is going strong Tuesday afternoons as is Mahjong Wednesday morning. Everyone is welcome to attend.

It is that time again to wish all our patrons and supporters of our library a very Merry Christmas and a very strong thank you for helping the library become the success story it is. Thanks also to the Mindemoya library board who keeps us all on our toes and a special thank you to my staff. We may not always agree but we always want the best for our library.



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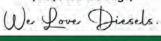






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Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 6 from 9 to 11 am at Little Current United Church. Serving pancakes, sausages, juice, fruit and coffee, \$5 per person.

26-29p

All Saints Anglican Church, Gore Bay will be holding their annual cookie walk on Saturday, December 6 from 10 am to 3 pm at the church at 38 Meredith Street, side door entrance. Let us prepare your favourite Christmas cookies for you! You choose your cookies. Large box, \$25; small box, \$15. We look forward to seeing you there no matter the weather!

27-29p

Breakfast with Santa at the Tehkummah Seniors' Hall on Sunday, December 7 from 9 am to 12 noon. Adults, \$15; under 12 years, \$7; under 5 years, free. Pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, fruit, tea, coffee or juice. Take your picture with Santa. Sponsored by the Tehkummah Seniors' Triangle Club.

29c

Gordon/Barrie Island Christmas Market is Saturday, December 6 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Community Centre, 29 Noble Sideroad. Shop for unique gifts, art and handcrafted items. Have lunch and enjoy the country ambiance! Please bring a nonperishable food item for the Gore Bay Food Cupboard. Vendors call 705-282-2702.

27-29c



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

8-31p



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

Tfi

The Little Shoppe Around the Corner at Knox United Church in Manitowaning will remain open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm until December 13 at 3 pm

27-29p

# Please come to my official OGStudio launch!

At The Harbour Centre, 40 Water Street, Gore Bay Saturday, December 6th from 10am - 4pm, during the Christmas open studios.

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# **NEWS TIP?**

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### Don't forget to include your name!

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27-2

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27-29



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17tfn



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

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

ti



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.

4tf

#### Wiikwemkoong Annual Diabetes Conference held in Little Current

by Michael Erskine LITTLE CURRENT—

LITTLE CURRENT—The annual Wiikwemkoong Annual Diabetes Conference has always been a popular gathering for those living with diabetes to learn more about the disease that disproportionately impacts Indigenous peoples but is a scourge afflicting many communities.

"This is my sixth year having this conference," said Sue-Ann Oshkabewisens, the Naandwechige-gamig (Wiikwemkoong Health Centre) Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative Worker. "Every year we have it in November on Diabetes Wellness Awareness Month. We try to have it in November and the way we set the themes, or the



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Tfn

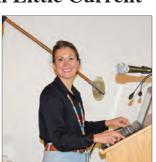
Manitoulin Family Resources offers programs to support and promote positive family relationships on Manitoulin and the North Shore. Violence against Women Prevention Services: Haven House Shelter, Outreach Counseling Crisis Line 705-377-5160; Toll Free Crisis Line 800-465-6788; Children's Services: Early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

Tfn

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

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Dietician Laural Conte delivered great information on food for diabetics.

photo by Michael Erskine way we have our layout, is every year or at the end we ask everybody in attendance what they would like to see for next year. So, next year's conference is going to be based on what they give me back for feedback this year."

"We're trying to rotate within communities not always necessarily having it in Wiikwemkoong because we do have community members living here." Ms. Oshkabewisens explained as to why the conference was held in Little Current this year. "We have community members living everywhere, but we want to make sure that the programs or the facilitators that we do have are people that you can access within Manitoulin Island and to make sure that they know that there is support in their communities as well."

The conference began with a healthy breakfast, opening prayers and remarks, followed by a series of talks that included 'What is Diabetes' with Kendra, 'Flow and Glow' with Denise, 'High Blood Pressure' with Christina, 'Eye Health' with Caitlyn and 'Healthy Eating' with dietician Laurel before lunch and then 'Foot Care' with Taylor McGregor and 'Mental Health and Wellness' with Naomi after the meal.

"Whether you're newly diagnosed or a veteran diabetic, medicine is always changing," noted Ms. Oshkabewisens. "There's always things that you need to learn, and you should learn and pass on that knowledge to people who are curious, because when I was newly diagnosed 17 years ago, diabetes was taboo. You wouldn't tell anybody you were a diabetic, but here, now, I share my story openly, and when I've done that, I've actu ally had two people make changes in their life." She shared that she had one individual client who dropped 73 pounds.

"Just by learning things, coming to workshops, you learn a lot about how to manage your diabetes." she said. "A lot of times, when we go to doctor's appointments. it's 'how's vour sugar? How are you doing' then it's 'okay, get the next patient'. You have a 45-minute window and by the time you get in with the doctor, you got maybe 10 minutes. I always tell people, learn what you can, and ask, ask questions. It's your health it's your responsibility, vou have to make sure you're okay."

Tfr

# ...Gore Bay contemplating council number change

...continued from page 3

town and the majority of municipalities (in Ontario) have a total of seven council members (including the position of mayor). In my opinion having a total of seven on council has worked for many years. It provides for seven opinions and better decisions."

"For as long as anyone can remember the town has had a total of seven council members," said Pam Fogal, deputy clerk. She noted in a report to council prepared by town staff there are no defined principles or policies used to determine the composition of councils. There is no timetable that requires a municipal council to review the number of council seats. The Municipal Act 2001 does state that the minimum size of council is five 'one of whom shall be the head of council.' However, it is responsible practice to conduct a periodic review to ensure fair and effective representa-

Ms. Fogal explained the Town of Gore Bay currently has a population of less than 900 but has a bold plan to double the population in the next 20 years. For that reason, a comparison of municipalities of less than 2,000 population was used. Of the 76 Ontario municipalities with a population under 2,000 there are only eight municipalities that consist of seven member councils.

Within the Manitoulin region, only Gore Bay, Central Manitoulin and NEMI have more than five council members. Gore Bay is the only municipality of the three that does not have wards.

While the seven-member council for Gore Bay has been in place for as long as anyone can remember, the authority to change the number of councillors can be determined with the current council, said Ms. Fogal. Factors that could be considered when making a decision are encouraging voter participation, effective decision making and strong mayor powers.

It was explained that in terms of encouraging (increased) voter participation, in 2018 there was no municipal election—all candidates were acclaimed. For the 2022 election there were two candidates striving for one mayor position and seven candidates for six councillor positions, noted Ms. Fogal. In the last election, "There was very low participation from ratepayers with only 261 ballots cast (of a potential 785). The majority of the voters didn't mark six candidates for council on the ballot, and there were very few younger voters casting ballots." she explained. With fewer seats to be filled it could allow for a more competitive election, council was told. A smaller composition

of council could improve decision making and efficiency, discussions stay more focused and collaborative. There can be fewer misunderstandings and consensus achieved quicker. Less time would be spent deliberating.

Ms. Fogal explained, there is currently no mechanism under Municipal Act that designates strong mayor municipalities based on council size. Rather, the six-member threshold is a provincial policy decision implemented through the list of designated municipalities in O.Reg 530/22. If a municipality changes the size of its local council, the minister may change its designation as a strong mayor municipality. Strong Mayor Powers consist of the mayor having authority to hire/fire senior staff, prepare the municipal budget, veto council bylaws and decisions, act unilaterally and direct resources during an emergency and have authority to set strategic priorities. Strong mayor powers greatly reduce councils influence and their ability to represent the residents. This further creates inconsistencies and lack of accountability and authority with one individual having these powers. It also decreases the democratic authority and blurs the lines of political and administrative duties that can create tensions within municipal

governance.

"This issue is important to discuss because it impacts everyone in town' that after 135 years whether we should lower and change the size of council," said Mayor Ron Lane.

Councillor Dan Forest said he was in agreement with Councillor Osborne's thoughts and noted that in looking at the current council, there are three relatively new council members in place who are still learning as they go. Having less councillors could potentially mean having less council members with experience to help form the best decision by council on an issue. "This is one of the main reasons I would stick with seven council

members."
Councillor Aaron
Wright said the current
size of council is working. "We have a lot of joint
committees and having six
council members makes it
easier to have councillors
go to these meetings instead of reducing council
to five." He also agreed
with the point concerning
the potential for a reduced
size of council having less
previous experience.

"I agree with what everyone is saying," stated Councillor Taryn Strain, who suggested that the issue of possibly reducing the size of council could be put on next falls election ballot in a referendum of local voters.

"I agree with the sev-

en-council member distribution," said Councillor Stephanie Steele. "In terms of the lack of young people coming out to vote, I think a lot of them don't think their vote matters. If we can get them to realize their vote does matter it might get them out to vote." She said if the mayor used the strong mayor powers, "I am out."

Mayor Lane told council in doing research on strong mayors powers. "In our society municipalities can't always agree on everything. This was on the news the other night, with the conflict going on in North Bay with their council. I think things get bogged down and councils don't focus and do the job they are supposed to." He told council he has run for mayor twice that the major position was contested and the third time the position was acclaimed. "For the last election seven people ran for the six council seats and now we have four new councillors, and out of the six members of our council. four were not on the last election ballot."

To decrease the number of councillors from six

to four, it might actually mean people will not run for council in an election because there would be less opportunity for them to be elected, said Mayor Lane. "All of these issues are good reasons why I feel it is not time to change the size of council," said Mayor Lane. However, he felt it would be a good idea to have the size of council be put on the next election ballot to see what local residents think of having a smaller council.

Mayor Lane also stated that if council reduced its size, "once we reduce the number, after 135 years it would be harder to go back. I certainly wouldn't support a reduction in council size at this point." He also noted that with the strong mayor powers, "Council still has the right to veto any decision made by a mayor. Council still has to approve any changes being made. The designation creates more battles and will start more conflicts.'

Council agreed that the council size information report be accepted as information at this time.



Unni Ramachandran and Sree Lakshmi and their two-yearold son are the proud new owners of Unni and Sree's Your Independent Grocer in Gore Bay.

### ...new owners of YIG

 $\dots$ continued from page 3

"Working at Eldho's was a turning point for me," said Mr. Ramachandran. "Eldho Thankachan motivated me; he brought out my passion for this type of business. I worked with Eldho for two years, as a store manager and in 2024 part of the Franchisee Development Program with Loblaws."

"I moved to Canada on November 22, 2017," said Mr. Ramachandran. "My family and I are here for the long run; we want to live and work in Gore Bay for a long time. Gore Bay and Manitoulin Island is beautiful. I had only seen the town in pictures prior to moving here. We arrived here on October 9 at the end of the fall season. It is a beautiful place, and we are really excited to see what the summer is like in Gore Bay."

"We made the decision to move here, trusted the place and my senior manager with Loblaws," continued Mr. Ramachandran. "I came from the countryside, so I can relate to most things here. So far we have received a lot of good feedback, and some bad, and there are things we still have to work on in the store. My focus is giving back to the community, and we want to grow with the community."

### ...Buy Ontario policies

 $\dots$ continued from page 9

Ontario's growth. Ignoring this potential undermines efforts to create a truly resilient and diverse economy, one that recognizes the importance of first nation sovereignty and economic independence.

"While the government of Ontario's policies aim to protect and promote local industries, they failed to acknowledge and recognize the unique and vast economic contributions that first nations can offer," said Grand Council Chief Debassige. "The province's failure to develop and implement a comprehensive first nation procurement strategy reflects a missed opportunity to harness a significant, untapped economic resource, one that could drive sustainable growth, foster reconciliation and position Ontario as a leader in first nation economic development. Without this strategic inclusion, Ontario risks leaving billions of dollars on the table and in the ground and perpetuating economic disparities that have long perished for First Nations."



Snowy street

A peaceful Sunday morning street in Sheguiandah where the only traffic so far had been the municipal snowplow.

Expositor staff photo

## **Death Notice**

#### CHARLES ROBERT BECKS 1955 - 2025



With deep sorrow, the family of Charles Robert Becks announces his passing in Mindemoya on Monday, November 24, 2025, at the age of 69 years. Son of the late Cornelius Becks and Francis Becks (née King). Beloved husband of Fay Becks (née Wark) and devoted father of Evan (Emilie). He will be sadly missed by his grandchildren

Kevin and Lyla. His siblings Mary, Margaret, Allan, Floyd and Christine will remember him always with smiles, laughter and lots of stories. Predeceased by his brother Herb. He will be lovingly remembered by many nieces, nephews and friends. Charlie provided a safe and welcoming space for family, friends, neighbours and creatures to drop in or stay for a while. He was a dependable man of action who wholeheartedly lived his life and retained his optimism and wise-cracking sense of humour to the end. Many thanks to the angelic nurses at the Manitoulin Health Centre for their compassionate care in his final days. Charlie had huge hands and a huge heart and used them both to serve others. A Celebration of his Life was held at the Community Hall in Providence Bay on Saturday, November 29, 2025 from 2 to 4 pm.

## **Celebration of Life**

#### DANY (DANIELLE) EDWARDS

A Celebration of Life for Dany (Danielle) Edwards will be held at the Whitefish Falls Community Hall on Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 1 to 4 pm. Tributes and messages may be shared at the event or sent in advance to sophieanneedwards@gmail.com.

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.

Whether it's classroom wins, club highlights, or action on the courts and fields, this week brings plenty to talk about.

Starting us off this past Monday, nervous jitters and bathroom mirror checks were in full swing as students lined up for picture retake day. I was mid-sneeze when the camera flashed so waiting to see my photo is torture, but we all tried our best to pose and hope for the best.

Speaking of swinging, gymnastics practice has taken place after school

During Smile Cookie Week at Tim Horton's, our auxiliary members were busy helping the Little Current Lions Club put smiles on thousands of cookies.

Speaking of cookies, the

M.S.S.園
 Kids in the Halls



Saramarie Wassegijig

until five. If you have Grade 11s and 12s went to the applying for college spare time, maybe give it session which was packed a go? Every Monday and Friday, the gymnastics with information and, team gets together and luckily enough, if you do has some fun, and beginend up applying now you ners are totally welcome can get early acceptance no matter your age or skill to wherever you are aplevel. plying!

Tuesday may have been Meanwhile, Manitoulin the busiest but definitely Metal had its regular pracnot the most boring day of last week.

tice from three to five pm and even hosted FLL Lego year we were down to broken cookies and crumbs

We are so grateful to the

community robotics! But if you have no idea what FLL robotics is, don't worry that's what I am here for. Basically, high school students on the Robotics competition team help mentor students from the ages of five to 13. Our robotics team teaches kids design, innovation, teamwork and coding, hoping to spark a love for coding from even a young age. On Saturday, December 6 at MSS from 11 am to 2 pm, the public can come check out the FLL team's festival where they will

demonstrate their robots and present about their process. There will also be hand-on activities for families

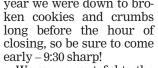
Girls' junior and senior volleyball teams are working hard to get season-ready with their first tournaments just around the corner. The senior girls even travelled to L'Horizon for an invitational tournament. The basketball teams bovs' are also developing their skills and teamwork with their season starting soon.

Also on Thursday, our

Comm Tech Grade 10, 11 and 12 students participated in the creative challenge hosted by Sudbury's Cambrian College. One of our students who worked hard in the graphic design program, Evalana Mainprize, won a \$500 entrance scholarship to Cambrian during the event. While they were away, MSS was seeing double, with many pairs dressed for Twin Day.

Great job, Mustangs! An awesome week all around. Au revoir!

Auxiliary is gearing up and baking up a storm for the annual Cookie Walk which is happening on Saturday, December 13 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. 'Let us do the baking for you.' Last



Little Current Lions Club.



#### **Manitoulin Health Centre Auxiliary News**

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They presented us with a donation of \$25,000! We turned around and donated the same amount to the hospital for their smart infusion pump fundraising campaign. Win/win. As auxiliary member Lin Diebel said in a letter of thanks to the Lions: "Your thoughtful contribution directly supports our mission to help fund essential

equipment for our community hospitals. This support is invaluable, and your kindness enables us to aid in the continued campaign to purchase new IV pumps for our Island hospitals. The generosity of the Lions Club is truly appreciated. Thank you for being such a vital partner in our community's well-being. We hope the generosity of the Lions Club will further inspire others to help the MHC to reach their final goal." The final goal was reached, the hospital has ordered the pumps, and they are due to arrive early December. A very successful campaign all around.

Our Christmas party took place on December 1 this year at the Anchor Inn, which is always a treat. Our gift exchange is a wild time, nothing store bought, but things from home 'regifted.' Gifts are allowed to be stolen from others, unless you've chosen a gift no one else wants, then much hilarity ensues. And it did. It's never dull when the auxiliary members gather.

In the New Year, we will begin to plan for our fourth annual Rock-a-thon; a dinner to be held in the bleakest part of winter, and we'll be working on other fundraising ideas, so stay tuned.







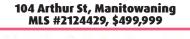
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**EVENTS • IN CASE YOU MISSED IT • WHAT** WE'RE WORKING ON • WEEKEND WEATHER





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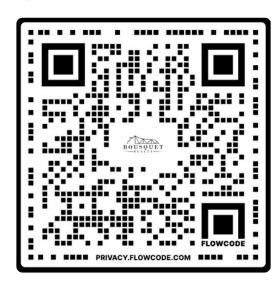


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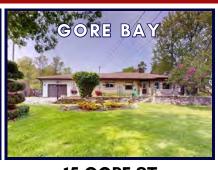
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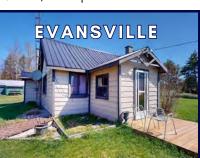
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# 

Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, December 3, 2025



Sudbury Five basketball team members DeVante Jamison and Nervens Demosthene, centre, came out to assist Noojmowin Teg Health Services' Mark Peltier put on a basketball camp at the Four Directions Complex in Aundeck Omni Kaning recently. Joining them on the court from left were Greyson. Alex. Kayden. Brooke. Ryder. Owen and Afa.

photos by Michael Erskine

# Members of the Sudbury Five join Noojmowin Teg program in AOK

**by Michael Erskine** AUNDECK OMNI KAN-

AUNDECK OMNI KAN-ING—For several years Noojmowin Teg Health Centre healthy youth program coordinator Mark Peltier has been running a series of recreational sports events for youth on Manitoulin, enticing semi-pro athletes from hockey and basketball teams to come and interact with the youth. This year, Mr. Peltier was able to host a one-hour basketball clinic featuring two members of the Sudbury Five basketball team.

Through his program, Mr. Peltier helps provide programming for youth in several sports, including hockey, soccer, golf, basketball, volleyball,



There was plenty of action on the courts.



The Sudbury Five players took attending youth through a scrimmage following several drills.

bowling, swimming and badminton. His success in attracting athletes to assist with his work comes from knowing the power of picking up the phone and simply asking.

"I reached out to the Sudbury Five this year and they said they would be happy to help," he said. The result were two outstanding players coming

to the Four Directions Complex in Aundeck Omni Kaning to help Island youth up their basketball chops.

DeVante Jamison, a 5'8" point guard from Dorchester, Massachusetts, signed with the Sudbury Five for the 2025/26 Basketball Super League season. He joined Nervens Demosthene, a 6'2" guard from Terrebonne, Quebec who is returning to the Sudbury Five for the 2025/26 season in taking Island youth attending the November 24 workshop through several drills and a scrimmage.

Judging from the excited interplay between the youth and their instructors, the event was an outstanding success.

# **Manitoulin Sporting Life**



Local runner, top-10 in the nation!

Congratulations to **Brodie Pennie** running for the University of New Brunswick Reds, hailing from Assignack on his fabulous, 10th place result in the U-20 division at the Canadian Cross Country Championships in London over the weekend!



Brodie Pennie runs in the U20 division of the Canadian Cross Country Championships.

Elementary Volleyball Championships

The annual volleyball championships took place at the four-Directions Complex in Aundeck Omni Kaning last week. After the day of play it was Little Current Public School winning both the boys' and girls' divisions

On the girls' side the runners-up were the CMPS Eagles. Congratulations to: Lynndra Madahbee-Peltier, Kailyn Inglis, Lauren Musquetier, Ada Nicholls, Aysia Fisher, Brenna Pollard, Alivia Callaghan, Maci McDonald, Haleigh Simon (out injured), Karmen Atkinson and Coaches Mel Pollard and Carter Abotossaway.

The boys prevailed over the CC McLean Colts thanks to: Boston Abotossaway, Matias Behm, Xavier Panamick-Eshkawkogan, Jack Van-Volkingburgh, Finlay Card, Oliver Wilding, Mason Dedman, Callaway Anderson and Coaches Melissa Mcculloch and Casey Boisvert.

The Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament is next week, Tuesday, December 9, also at the 4-Directions Complex.

#### Rocking the Rockfest

The event was a U15 Rockfest qualifier in Sturgeon Falls. There were 10 partic-

ipants from the Providence Bay Youth Curling program: David Joyce, Sarah Joyce, Charlie Orford, Alice McIntosh, David Cooper, Laura-Lynn Cooper, Shawn MacKelvie, Devon MacKelvie, Parker Johnston and Spencer Johnston.

There were a total of 24 participants at the event. It was an individual skills competition where each curler throws 12 curling shots and are scored on the outcome. The top 4 female and top 4 male scorers qualify to participate in Curling Canada's U15 Rockfest East, which is in January in Mississauga. Providence Bay had all the top four males: Shawn MacKelvie, Devon MacKelvie, Parker Johnston and Spencer Johnston.

**Manitoulin Minor Spotlight** 

I hope, as in previous seasons, to focus on one of our local Manitoulin Minor house-league teams each week to recognize all of the players who are practising each week to improve and their coaches and helpers that allow them to even ice a team. If you would like to see your team in next week's spotlight please send your details to chipstoquips@gmail.com.

details to chipstoquips@gmail.com.

This week in the spotlight are the M'Chigeeng U-15 Thunderbirds, who have had to recruit new and younger players from Little Current, Birch Island, Wiikmemkoong to fill their roster. With players not as familiar playing together as others, they are just starting to gel as a team and are looking to improve their tally into a winning record.

Congratulations to players: Azaleah Anaya, Brooklyn Ense, Carter Shigwadja, Charlotte Ziegler, Dominic Tomaselli, Harlem Osawamick, Hope Moore-Migwans, Jaxon Panamick, Kewadin Osawamick, M'Koonhs Corbiere, Mia Tomaselli, Mike Taukei, Navin Corbiere-Williams, Noah Enosse, Patience Assiniwe, Tomas Naokwegejig and Wade Debassige.

Thanks as well to the following Staff who made this team possible. Head Coach Joe Naokwegejig, Assistant Coach Hudson Hare, Trainer Noah Hare and Manager Ashley Debassige.

#### Panther Points

The U11 Manitoulin Panthers hosted the Nickel City Sons at home on Sunday. The two teams battled back and forth all game with **Alexander Woods**, **Nixon Lane** and **Bryce Debassige** scoring three goals in a tough 4-3 loss.

The U13 Panthers traveled to Blind River to play the North Shore Thundercats. The Panthers fell 8-4 with goals from Brody King, Howard Desjardins, Ayleanna McDermid and Aiden Corbiere

The U15 Panthers were at home facing the Sudbury Wolves. The Panthers were down 4 goals by the beginning of the second period but made a strong effort to come back with goals from Ryley Corbiere, assisted by Joshua McComb and Landon Armstrong from Adrian Bois.

The U18 Lady Panthers had no games this week, but have been busy practicing and gearing up for their next tournament in Mount Forest on December 11th.

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

### Little Current Curling Club rink does well at the National Championships

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN-The team representing the Little Current Curling Club at the recent National Curling Club Championship attained their

"Overall, we did well; we were there to compete and win," stated Ron Mc-Quarrie of the Little Current Curling Club rink, as he reflected on the local rink's strong showing at the National Club Championship held in Winnipeg two weeks ago. "We finished with a

three-win, three-loss record in the round-robin format of the nationals to qualify for the playoffs," Mr. McQuarrie explained. "And in the three games we lost, it was on the last shot of each game.'

Little Current rink, which was made up of skip Jordan Chandler, vice Kyle Chandler, second Ron McQuarrie and lead Jim Bickell, beat the British Columbia rink (which won the championship) in the round-robin part of the tournament.

The local team had, "set a goal to qualify for the playoffs, and we did," said Mr. McQuarrie, not-

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ing the team played very well and realistically had a chance to win the tournament.

The National Curling Club Championship was held in Winnipeg, with games in the venerable Granite Curling Club. "It is a pretty historic club," said Mr. McQuarrie. "It has been described as being the mother club of curling," he said, noting the club was founded in

"The Granite Club did a fantastic job in putting the tournament on," said Mr. McQuarrie. There were about 90 volunteers that helped put on the

"The ice we played on was very good, but it was very fast and had lots of curl, eight feet," said Mr. McQuarrie. "Being that fast we struggled a little at first. But overall, we did well, we are happy with our performance.'

The nationals included curling club teams representing provincial and territorial areas in Canada. This was the first time the Little Current Club had qualified for this event, and the first event Jim Bickell and Mr. McQuarrie had played in



A Little Current curling club team took part in the recent National Curling Club championship. Team members included from left to right in photo, Jordan Chandler, Kyle Chandler, Ron McQuarrie and

a national championship. In March, the Little Current rink won the Northern Ontario Curl-

ing Association (NOCA) men's provincial curling club championship, held in Espanola.

"We are now going to be training up until the men's provincial cham-

pionships taking place in January in North Bay at the North Bay Granite Club," said Mr. Mc-Quarrie. "If we win the provincials, it qualifies us for the Brier championship," pointing out winning there will not be easy with big name teams like the John Epping rink on hand.

Mr. McQuarrie praised the Winnipeg Granite Club for doing such a good job hosting the national club championship, and the support the rink received from local curlers, Island residents, NEMI and the Little Current Curling Club, the latter of which got the ice in early for the rink to practice, and everyone who came to the curling club fundraising event held for the local team in No-

# Carter George seeking berth on Team Canada

by Tom Sasvari

SOUND—Owen Sound OWEN Attack (Ontario Hockey League) goaltender Carter George, who has strong family ties to Manitoulin Island, has indicated one of his big goals is to make the Team Canada World Junior Hockey Team this

"Carter definitely wants another shot at the (World Juniors)," stated Mike George of his son in an interview with the Expositor last week. This comes after Team Canada did not qualify for the medal round in the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Junior Championships held in 2024-2025.

"It is a big goal of Carter to make the team this year," said Mr. George. "The tournament is going to be held in Minnesota, and being from Thunder Bay Carter played a lot of his minor hockey in Minnesota. He really wants to play for Team Canada and represent his country. And if he makes the team there will be a lot of people from Thunder Bay that will be there to watch. Fingers crossed he makes the team.'

Carter George will be among the four goaltenders taking part in Team Canada training camp beginning December 12.

Hockey Canada has announced that the road to the 2026 IIHF world Junior championship in St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, will begin with training camp at the

Nov 2025



Gale Centre in Niagara Falls on December 12-22.

Canada's National Junior team will take part in a camp that will lead into a three-game pre-tournament schedule ahead of the World Juniors.

We are thrilled to host the National Junior Hockey team training camp at a worldclass facility like the Gale Centre in the Niagara Region," said Benoit Roy, director of hockey operations for Canada's team. "The staff and community have gone above and beyond to make us feel

welcome and supported every step of the way, and we look forward to the next phase in our preparation for the World Juniors in Minneso-

"Our management group and coaching staff are excited to finalize the plans for training camp in Niagara Falls, in preparation for the 2026 IIHF World Junior Championship," said Alan Millar, general manager of the National Junior Team. "Our group is moving forward without the traditional December selection camp, bringing a smaller group of players to Ontario and prioritizing preparation over further player evaluation and selection. We remain committed in our goal to be best prepared for Boxing Day (when Canada will play its first tournament game) and bringing a gold medal back to Canada."

"Generally, in the past if the tournament was taking place in Canada, they would take two goalies, and in the US, they usually select three goalies," said Mr. Carter.

"It would be a pretty big milestone for Carter to make the team, and he's really looking forward to the training camp," said Mr. George.

The Canada team will play a trio of exhibition games against Finland, Sweden and the United States in preparation for the 2026 IIHF World Junior Championship, December 26-January 5 in Minneapolis and St. Paul.



POP IWO

#### KINA Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services

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

We are currently inviting applications for the following employment opportunities:

#### **Manitoulin Island:**

Child Well-Being Worker (Open until filled)

#### **Sudbury:**

• Legal Counsel (Open until filled)

Family Support Worker: 1 year contract (Closes December 12, 2025)

#### **Sudbury/Manitoulin Island:**

- Volunteer Driver
- After Hours Worker: Casual (Closes December 12, 2025)

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

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

Thank you for considering a career opportunity with us.

### Great Lakes Islands Alliance Summit held on Beaver Island in Lake Michigan

by Joe D. Shorthouse

The sixth annual Summit of the Great Lakes Island Alliance (GLIA) was held September 21-24 on Beaver Island, Michigan where about 75 attendees from various islands in the Great Lakes met to discuss issues common to all occupied islands in the Great Lakes.

The Alliance was initiated in 2017 with a meeting on Beaver Island where the attendees saw the need to encourage relationship building, foster information exchange, and leverage resources to address shared challenges and embrace opportunities to benefit islands.

Alicia McCutcheon, Ed-



The Lake Michigan ferry 'Emerald Isle' connects Beaver Island with Charlevoix on the mainland. photos by Joe Shorthouse



Community of St. James on the northeastern coast of Beaver Island.

itor of The Manitoulin Expositor, attended the first meeting in 2017 and has encouraged members of the Manitoulin community to participate in GLIA and attend it's Summits whenever possible. Participants are volunteers who share a passion for their islands.

There are 20 Great Lakes islands in the Alliance with the stipulation that membership islands are occupied by yearround inhabitants.

Summits are held each fall to bring together islanders to share insights, explore solutions and strengthen partnerships. Highlights usually include, among others, sessions on health care, education, infrastructure, natural resources, housing, employment and culture.

Each summit is hosted by a different island community. Past venues were Beaver Island (2017), Madeline Island (2018), Mackinac Island (2019), four Lake Erie islands—Kelleys, Middle Bass, Pelee, and South



Typical sandy beach on the eastern shore of Beaver Island.

Bass (2022), and the archipelago of Les Cheneaux Islands (2024).

Each Summit exemplified the strength of community collaboration, highlighting the unique challenges and opportunities faced by island residents while celebrating their rich cultural heritage and shared commitment to island life. A common theme is the importance for islands to have strong leaders with passion, drive and persistence in promoting is-

Many of the topics discussed are common to all islands such as enhancing tourism (and balancing it with environmental and social community needs), offering affordable workforce and senior housing, attending to ageing populations, stewarding the natural environment, building adequate infrastructure, and maintaining readiness for natural disturbances. While GLIA does consider the visitor experience, what makes it stand apart is its focus on the perspective of the



#### St. Joseph's Lodge Long Term Care Home in Gore Bay

#### Join our growing team!

We are currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- Co-Director of Care (RN) Permanent Full Time
- Co-Director of Care (RPN) Temporary 14-20 months

For more information visit www.sjsudbury.com or call St. Joseph's Lodge at 705-282-2007 and speak with the Director of Care of Administrator. community cohesiveness has enhanced its feeling of 'islandness'. With a two-hour ferry ride (51 km off-shore), it is the most remote of the year-round islands in the Great Lakes. There is strong collaboration among island communities to coordinate island-wide initiatives.

School teachers encourage the students to think about their connections to the island and the land. Some of the students wrote a poem entitled 'Our Island Pledge' which describes the importance of keeping the island sustainable. The pledge is part of tourist information.

There is an active Beaver Island Association with representation from all walks of life from business owners to retirees.

designed for island-wide coordination including sharing of community events. The community library is open to a variety of uses and events.

At the Summit, attendees heard about many initiatives on Beaver Island that could be explored for Manitoulin Island.

For example, there is a 'Message from the people of Beaver Island' posted at entry points and in tourist literature for the benefit of visitors to the island. Here there are answers to questions on issues such as how many people live here year-round, where people are employed, private land ownership, protecting the environment, tourist activities, fishing and hunting, accommodations, restaurants, winter activities, etc.

Unique to the previous ...continued on page 4A

Wikwemikong Property Management Co. Ltd O/A Rainbow Ridge Golf Course

# **Employment Opportunity Golf Course Manager**

The Wikwemikong Property Management Co. (WPMC Ltd.) o/a Rainbow Ridge Golf Course is seeking a highly motivated and well-organized individual to fill the position of Golf Course Manager. The Golf Course Manager reports directly to Enaadmaagehjik Management and Board and will be responsible for all Golf Course operations, including but not limited, to Restaurant, Pro Shop, Golf Course maintenance and administration.

#### **General Duties:**

year-round island com-

Beaver Island is somewhat different from the

in that its isolation and

GLIA members

munity.

other

- 1. Develop, maintain and administer a sound business and organizational plan for the property which includes an operating/capital budget and marketing plan.
- 2. Hire, develop and supervise all key employees of the property and ensure that all employees have the necessary certifications.
- 3. Consistently assures that the property is operated in accordance with all applicable local municipal, provincial and federal laws.
- 4. Oversee the care and maintenance of the property's physical assets and facilities.
- 5. Development and implementation of the Rainbow Ridge Golf Course marketing strategy and annual business plan.
- 6. Work with management team to ensure the highest standards for food, beverage, sports, recreation activities and other property services.
- 7. Analyze financial statements (income and expenses) relative to budgeted goals and takes corrective measures as necessary.
- 8. Prepare and present financial and operational reports to the Enaadmaagehjik Board and Shareholders on a Quarterly and Annual basis.
- 9. Responsible for hiring, scheduling, supervising and directing the work of all Golf Course employees.
- 10. Participate in outside activities to enhance the presence and brand of the Golf Course in the local community.
- 11. Other applicable duties/responsibilities as assigned.

#### Qualifications:

- Must have 3-5 years related management experience in the hospitality industry and/or golf operations/club management with a proven track record of leading a professional, efficient, high quality, service-oriented operation.
- Post-secondary education in business, commerce, hospitality/tourism management or hotel and resort management is preferred.
- Must possess excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Must be highly organized, efficient and detail-oriented.
- Must have excellent interpersonal/relationship skills.
   Must be proficient in the use of accounting/database
- Must be proficient in the use of accounting/database software and point of sale systems.
- Must have extensive human resource background in supervisory, coaching and staff development experience.
- Must have a strong business aptitude and passion for the golf industry.

#### Salary Range:

\$75,000 base salary plus performance incentives and benefit package

Please submit cover letter, resume, three (3) current work-related references to:

Wikwemikong Property Management Company Ltd. PO Box 96 Wiikwemkoong, Ontario P0P 2J0

For more information and/or job description, contact John Dube, Business Services Manager at jdube@wikydevcom.ca

Deadline: December 12th, 2025 at 4:00 PM

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Wikwemikong Property Management Co. Ltd o/a Rainbow Ridge Golf Course is an equal opportunity employer.



# ...Great Lakes Islands Alliance Summit held on Beaver Island in Lake Michigan

...continued from page 3A
Summits was a project
addressing affordable
housing for people in the
work force, seniors, and
indigenous people. Beaver Island has a problem
with the construction of
housing because all supplies must be imported
on barrages, there are few
carpenters, and concrete
is not available on the island.

A solution was to construct 10 sturdy modular homes on the mainland and ship them on barges to the island.

The plan, which was close to finalization, is to restrict these rental units to people with an annual income of \$42,000.00 to \$60,000.00 (U.S.). Rental cost will be between \$960.00 to \$1,200.00 per month

We met the architect of the project and were given a tour of the homes. The Units are small – each is one floor about 5 X 13.5 m with one bedroom, front room, kitchen and bathroom – but tidy and well built. The cost to construct the homes off

island, transportation by barge, installation, and wells and septic fields was approximately \$50,000.00 (U.S.) per Unit.

Crucially, this housing project has the backing of the island township. At the Summit, significant time was spent discussing the development and approval process of the structures themselves.

Equally important, the architect is a seasonal islander who understands the community. He has decades of experience around the United States and acknowledged how this island project had to be different. While every island situation is different, he concluded that the basic process could be transferred and modified for other islands.

Beaver Island has a year-round population of about 620 residents and swells to several thousand in the summer with seasonal residents and visitors. It is about 145 km2 in area, about 21 km long and 5-10 km wide.

The island is basically flat and mostly sand with



Booklet entitled "Natural Features of Beaver Island: A Landowner's Guide', displayed by co-author Shelby Harris, a descendent of Ottawa and Chippewa First Nations People of the Grand Rapids Band.

#### photo by Joe Shorthouse

owners Guide".

The 57-page booklet with hundreds of colour photographs describes the 12 plant communities on the island and the steps needed to protect them. The project was funded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service through a grant in 2019.

Each landowner on the island is given the booklet to help them understand the natural environment on their property and the kinds of plants and animals present.

To learn more about GLIA, visit glialliance. org. Membership is free. Join via a simple form on the website. Additional participation from Manitoulin Islanders, both year-round and seasonal, in appearanced!

is encouraged!

Joe Shorthouse has been a member of the Steering Committee of GLIA since 2018. He has a summer home on Manitoulin Island, spends the winter in Sudbury, and regularly writes articles for The Manitoulin Expositor

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story is being reprinted due to a misprint in the November 26 edition of the Manitoulin Expositor.

#### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

# LEGAL COUNSEL FOR GENERAL ELECTION IN MAY 2026

Sealed tenders marked as to the contents will be received by the undersigned up until <u>November 28, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.</u> for the provision of Legal Counsel Services as per the Election Code 2019 for M'Chigeeng First Nation General Election.

**PURPOSE**: Guide, administer the M'Chigeeng First Nation Election Code 2019 and its regulations by offering advice, training, guidance and support.

**REQUIREMENT**: M'Chigeeng First Nation is currently seeking a legal firm to support the Election Appeals Committee in the upcoming Elections. The Election Appeals Committee oversees the conduct of the elections.

A legal firm with First Nation Governance and First Nation Law (Code) Expertise. As Legal Counsel, your responsibilities will include:

Adherence to the Custom Election Code and guide the Election Appeals Committee and Electoral Officer to conduct the General Election including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1. Adherence to the Election Code 2019: Strictly adhere to the Election timeline as per Band Council Resolution, MFN Custom Election Code and Regulations.
- Advise, provide training and review of the Code with the Elections Appeals Committee and Electoral Officer.

#### Specific Qualifications:

- Qualified to practice under licence by the Law Society of Upper Canada.
- Demonstrated experience dealing with Aboriginal and/or treaty matters in the Canadian Court System.
- Demonstrated knowledge of and expertise in resolving Aboriginal and First Nation issues and/or development of First Nations Codes.
- Expertise in Aboriginal Law, Governance and the Indian Act.
- Perseverance, effective case management and strong interpersonal skills.
- Flexible, excellent communication and analytical abilities.

To request a copy of the **M'Chigeeng First Nation Custom Election Code 2019**, Timeline, and/or to ask questions, please contact Shannon Bebamash Enaagdenjged at (705) 377-5362 ext. 1202 or via email at enaagdenjged@mchigeeng.ca or Marlene Debassige, Office Administrator at 705-377-5362 ext. 1203 or via email at marlened@mchigeeng.ca.

Proposals will be accepted by the undersigned up until November 28, 2025 at 3:00 pm

Attn: Chief & Council c/o Enaagdenjged M'CHIGEENG FIRST NATION 53 HWY 551 M'CHIGEENG, ONTARIO POP 1G0



Modular housing units built on the mainland and taken to Beaver Island on barges.

extensive forests. It was logged in the 1800's and so much of the forest today is secondary growth.

Besides the ferry that runs from Charlevoix on the mainland during the warm season, there are two small locally owned commuter airlines with crossings taking about 15 minutes.

Historically, the primary industries on the island were fishing, logging and farming. Presently the economy centres on governmental services, tourism and residential and cottage construction.

Recreational opportunities abound in the insular harbor, beaches, inland lakes and the state forest that includes much of the

island. A golf course, nature trails, restaurants, hotels, a marina and other amenities are available.

Central Michigan University owns and operates a large research facility on the island, known as the "CMU Biological Station". This is one of the largest biological field stations in the United States educating students from the mainland on issues related to waters of the Great Lakes and terrestrial ecosystems and undertaking vast amounts of research.

An amazing booklet, the likes of which would be valuable on all GLIA islands, including Manitoulin, is "Natural Features of Beaver Island: A Land-

