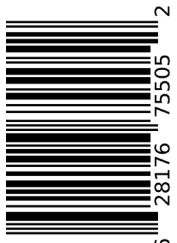


Christmas

WISH LIST and DINING GUIDE

For all your Manitoulin Christmas planning needs! ...On Pages 16 and 17

- Breakfast with Santa in Little Current ...Page 22 • Santa Claus parades in Gore Bay, Little Current, Mindemoya this Saturday • Market at OCF this Saturday ...Page 15
- Anishnaabe Christmas craft market in Wiikwemkoong ...Page 19 • Gore Bay cookie walk ...Page 22 • Christmas at the Harbour Centre in Gore Bay ...Page 19
- Christmas market at Debajehmujig ...Page 19 • Christmas market at the Manitoulin Hotel Sunday ...Page 19 • Breakfast with Santa in Tehkummah ...Page 22



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Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, December 4, 2024



COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS—On Thursday, November 28 the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands hosted a Christmas tree lighting event in downtown Little Current at Soldier Park that came with a family scavenger hunt, carolling and a light up countdown. The event marked the start of the season in the municipality.

photo by Alicia McCutcheon

MHC board hires doctor recruiter

by Tom Sasvari

MINDEMOYA—Thanks to the support Manitoulin municipalities and the assistance Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC) has received from First Nations communities and organizations across the Island, the MHC now has a doctor recruiter.

“A lot of communities in areas of the province are providing for

,\$100,000 bonuses for recruiting doctors for their hospitals and then they might leave after two or three years. We want doctors to come to Manitoulin Island because they want to live and work here,” said Paula Fields, president and chief executive officer of the MHC at a Manitoulin Municipal Association (MMA) meeting last week. “And Dawn Noble

McCann is the perfect person to recruit doctors to the Island.”

Ms. Fields explained that for upwards of a decade, Island municipalities have supported the MHC and worked in partnership with the North Shore area in trying to recruit doctors to hospitals and health care facilities. Currently the Island is dealing with a shortfall of 11 doctors with another doctor leaving in the next few weeks. With the previous recruiter for the North Shore and Manitoulin, Craig Matheson, having stepped down, Al MacNevin, mayor of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands (NEMI) and others felt that the Island needed its own doctor recruiter. “But he knew we (MHC) couldn’t do this on our own. So, we have been

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Ontario bonuses Northern, rural municipalities to offset OPP hike

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN—Manitoulin Island municipalities, along with those around the province, are welcoming the news that the province is offsetting Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) cost increases for small and rural municipalities. As was reported previously, the increase in OPP costs to Island municipalities was projected to average 22 percent.

“The Town of Gore Bay was hit the hardest on the Island at a 28 percent increase and since we have one of the lowest assessments, therefore the town would be taking the largest hit on our property tax,” stated Harry Schlange, town manager and clerk for Gore Bay. “It seems the province has recognized that. It looks promising. Any relief is welcomed.”

He pointed out that recently the province had indicated that the annual Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) will see a substantial jump in

funds for 2025, which would in some cases cover the shortfall caused by the huge increase in OPP billing costs, “but this has nothing to do with it. They are two separate things.

by Tom Sasvari

M’CHIGEENG—UCCM Anishinaabe Police Service representatives and members of the communities of Sheshegwaning First Nation (and Zhiibaahaasing First Nation) and Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN) are all looking forward to police satellite offices being opened to service their communities. The office in Sheshegwaning is being developed first with the second in WRFN to be carried out later in 2025.

“It is very good news,” stated Alana Endanawas, chief of the Sheshegwaning First Nation after a meeting was held in the community to allow local residents the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas about the new UCCM Police satellite

office. “We’re pretty excited about it, with the new office, the police will be able to cover the Sheshegwaning and Zhiibaahaasing areas.”

“This facility will be a prefabricated commercial/residential building designed to serve as a permanent satellite office for both Sheshegwaning and Zhiibaahaasing First Nations,” said Chief Endanawas. “The building will include office space, washroom, a meeting area and quarters for officers, greatly enhancing their capability to respond to service calls on the West End. This permanent presence will not only assist officers in their duties but also foster stronger communi-

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New Kina Gbezhgomi Child, Family Services home in Sudbury aimed at children exiting care

Life skills instruction, cultural instruction for youth leaving foster homes

by Michael Erskine

SUDBURY—Dignitaries from seven Island First Nations and federal and provincial government agencies, along with social service agencies, gathered at a refurbished female youth correctional facility on Bancroft Drive in the Minnow Lake area of Sudbury where they cut the ribbon at the grand opening of Enji-maajiigawat Mina-waadiz-iwin, a seven-bed transitional youth home aimed at assisting youth between the ages of 16 and 25 transitioning from child care.

Denise Morrow sat down with The Expositor recently to discuss how the project came about and the aim of the facility.

“This project initially began in 2022,” shares Ms. Morrow, noting that youth have actively taken part in planning for the project. “The majority of youth and families being served by KGCFS reside off reserve and 69 percent of youth who signed onto voluntary youth agreements (ages 16-21) live in Sudbury.” In addition, 67 percent of KGCFS services to families and youth are provided off reserve.

Ms. Morrow noted that an extreme youth housing gap was identified with Sudbury partners and KGCFS initiated a Safe and Affordable Youth Housing forum with Sudbury partners to take a collaborative approach regionally.

“KGCFS has joined housing networks in Sudbury to support youth,” she noted, pointing out that her organization focusses on land-based cultural service delivery, with cultural services being provided to all youth and families served and broader Indigenous urban community.

“We had been unable to secure an appropriate and affordable space for land-based cultural services in Sudbury,” said Ms. Morrow, but that search finally proved fruitful after searching for over two years.

“The project will address the current gap for KGCFS by providing a land base for consistent, accessible and equitable cultural service delivery in the District of Sudbury for families, in addition to addressing the

...continued on page 9

Central defers Official Plan changes after debate, until mail strike over

by Michael Erskine

CENTRAL MANITOULIN—A provincially mandated update to the municipality’s zoning came under fire at a proposed third reading before Central Manitoulin’s November 28 council meeting.

A significant group of property owners attended the public meeting held prior to the council meeting to voice their concerns over their properties being removed from an agricultural zoning and redesignated as rural. At odds are the restriction on property uses that come under the rural rubric.

One particularly egregious issue was that a map of the zoning changes being proposed that was posted online on the town’s website was incorrect. That map, originally proposed by a consultancy firm hired to help the municipality navigate the changes, had been sent back to the firm for revision after it was realized that many of the agricultural to rural designations were inaccurate according to council members.

Attendee Patricia Meehan, a lawyer, offered that the entire process had been tainted by the inaccurate information and

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UCCM announces satellite stations Birch Island, Sheshegwaning will have police presence

by Tom Sasvari

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The Manitoulin West Recorder

Gayle Payette given inaugural award by Hockey Federation

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award

by Tom Sasvari
TORONTO—With over 30 years of involvement in hockey administration, dedication and commitment in helping in the lives of countless young people, Gayle Payette of M’Chigeeng First Nation has been awarded the first ever Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) ‘Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award.’

“Gayle’s background in the game and in providing support for First Nation peoples is significant,” said Jason Marchand, executive director of the OHF, who nominated her for the award. “In addition to being heavily involved in the game on Manitoulin Island, from a member of the Manitoulin Panthers organization to director representing the Island on the NOHA (Northern Ontario Hockey Association) board, she has also been significantly involved with M’Chigeeng First



Gayle Payette of M’Chigeeng First Nation, centre, was awarded with the first ever Ontario Hockey Federation ‘Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award’ at a ceremony held this past Saturday in Toronto.

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Kenjgewin Teg’s Rhonda Hopkins receives Honorary Doctor of Laws from Queen’s U.

by Tom Sasvari
M’CHIGEENG—Rhonda Hopkins, Anishinabemowin Professor at Kenjgewin Teg was recently bestowed with an Honorary Doctorate from Queen’s University.

“Rhonda definitely deserves this award,” said Beverley Roy, president of Kenjgewin Teg to Ms. Hopkins receiving the honorary doctorate, given the title Doctor of Laws. Rhonda has been part of Kenjgewin Teg for over 10 years and has shared her Anishinaabe knowledge with our various teams. We don’t honour people like Rhonda who have contributed so much, often enough. That is why I and her other nominators wanted to do it, to show how thankful everyone is for everything that she has done.”

“I am very happy and hon-



Rhonda Hopkins makes a speech at a ceremony where she received an Honorary Doctorate award from Queen’s University.

oured to have received this award,” said Ms. Hopkins. “I actually knew about the award about a year ago and kept it under wraps. I received an Honorary Doctor of Law award.”

This is the second honorary doctorate award Ms. Hopkins has received in her career. The first was an honorary doctorate award of Education and Indigenous Education in July 2021 through the World Indigenous National University.

Mr. Roy, Stephanie Roy, Liz Oswamick and Jessica Shonias had all nominated Ms. Hopkins for this latest award in February 2023.

“Some may wonder why I and the other nominators chose to have an institution, such as Queen’s University, other than ours for example,

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Manitoulin Island Cycling Advocates named Tourism Innovator of the Year

by Tom Sasvari
MINDEMOYA—The Manitoulin Island Cycling Advocates (MICA) has won a 2024 “Tourism Innovator of the year Award.”

“Industry Leader Awards are presented to recipients in several different categories at our annual Destination Northern Ontario Tourism Summit,” said David MacLachlan, executive director of Destination Northern Ontario. The Northern Ontario Tourism Summit took place November 19-21 in North Bay. The event draws together tourism businesses, organizations, and suppliers, as well as government representatives to find solutions to challenges facing the industry. It’s a joint initiative of Destination Northern Ontario, Nature and Outdoor Tourism Ontario, and Tourism North Bay.

The Tourism Innovator of the Year Award, “recognizes an organization or individual that created a new innovative product, policy or service to promote and enhance tourism in their local community, region or the province of Ontario.”

“We gave out the award at the summit,” said Mr. MacLachlan. I imagine this is not the first Industry Leader award MICA has received for all the good work they have done to promote cycling

and tourism on Manitoulin Island,” said Mr. MacLachlan. “Maja (Mielonen, MICA president) has been a driving force for cycling on Manitoulin Island for a long time.”

“We have received the Destination Northern Ontario (DNO) Industry Leader Tourism Innovator of the Year award for the Manitoulin Outdoor Digital Experience Museum,” said Ms. Mielonen. In 2019 MICA received an Industry Leader Product Development award.

“MODEM is a tour guide of story driven tours with well over 100 points of interest written and produced by MICA, partnering with APP Developer Driftscape,” said Ms. Mielonen. “We engaged seven Indigenous and non-Indigenous story writers to create stories, focussing on such things as flora, fauna, history, myths.”

MODEM offers new and innovative ways for visitors to Manitoulin to discover the Island through a series of story driven tours. These excursions can be viewed by all visitors, including cyclists, hikers and motorists alike.

The tours are an in-depth collection of writing, images and videos, comprising over 180 points of interest (also called ‘stops’) that can be

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Two people arrested in Rabbit Island shooting

WIKWEMKOONG—The Manitoulin Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have two people in custody following a shooting incident in Wikwemikong Unceded Territory.

On November 28 at approximately 7:30 am, the Manitoulin OPP, Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service (WTPS) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responded to reports of a shooting in the area of Rabbit Island Road and Tomas Lane in Wikwemikong Unceded Territory. The altercation resulted in one person sustaining serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

Earlier in the day, police had issued a hold and secure for residents of the Rabbit Island area as well as the three Wiikwemikong schools and hub centre. WTPS issued a Facebook notice asking residents to remain vigilant and not approach police during an active investigation. “If suspicious male on foot is observed in area, do not approach and please contact police.”

Assisting with the investigation was the OPP’s North East Region Canine Unit, Emergency Response Team and the Manitoulin OPP Crime unit.

As a result, two people have been safely taken into custody and there is no threat to public safety. Members of the community can expect to see an increased presence of OPP personnel and vehicles in the area as the investigation continues.

The investigation is being conducted by the WTPS and the Manitoulin OPP Crime Unit, under the direction of the OPP Criminal Investigation Branch.

The victim was taken to hospital with serious but non-life threatening injuries.

Any person with information regarding this investigation should contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or ontario.crimestoppers.ca.

Manor board wrestles with sliding hill concerns

by Michael Erskine
LITTLE CURRENT—The board of Manitoulin Centennial Manor was faced with an interesting concern during their November 28 meeting—one that encompassed potential concerns about the popular sliding hill behind the Manor.

Administrator Don Cook outlined the issue. An agency staff member (a temporary employee hired from outside to fill a mandated vacancy in the staff roster) parked in the lot behind the Manor building. “Instead of coming in the side back door, she decided to go down the stairs and there’s a back door to the staff lounge (located on the bottom third floor). She started to go in and she got down to the bottom and I guess she lost her footing on the bottom step and slipped down one step and ended up breaking her leg.”

“So we called the Ministry of Labour because it was a serious injury,” he said. “They came and investigated, so there wasn’t really any findings out of all that.” But what did happen was a teachable moment for the administration. The ministry was fine with the decision to block off the stairs leading to the lower floor for the winter months.

It turns out that even if an injury was not to a worker, if it could

have been, then it still has to be reported to the Ministry of Labour. “So that kind of got us thinking more about the hill, too,” shared Mr. Cook. “If somebody else is using the hill, potentially, there could be a staff member out there.”

Mr. Cook sent a missive to the Extendicare insurance manager asking about the property liability. “And whether if we put any signs up, ‘use at your own risk.’ Does that help or hinder? Or is that really do anything or not?”

If someone were to get injured on the hill, and then the Manor does not report it to the Ministry of Labour—“then are we in trouble?”

The concerns contain many levels, as the sliding hill is very popular, not only with the people using it in the winter, but also for the residents who enjoy watching the fun transpire.

It was noted that a sliding hill at the golf course in Espanola was also very popular, but the golf course had to suspend sliding when Domtar closed its doors and no longer paid for the insurance.

The administrator will keep the board updated on the results of his inquiries. No immediate decision was made about public access to the sliding hill.

Wikwemikong Tourism, Expositor say farewell to Manitoulin Ice Showdown

MANITOULIN—After careful deliberation with its parent company, the Wikwemikong Development Commission, Wikwemikong Tourism has decided to no longer host the Manitoulin Ice Showdown.

Wikwemikong Tourism founded the event in 2008 as the Wikwemikong Ice Fishing Derby which had evolved into the Manitoulin Ice Showdown following a partnership with The Manitoulin Expositor in 2018. The last Manitoulin Ice Showdown was hosted in 2020 before the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event brought in record breaking numbers with over 700 anglers coming from across the province, injecting much-needed returns into the local economy. In 2024, the organizers attempted to bring back the event, but the unseasonably mild winter forced the event to be canceled.

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Tom Sasvari
editor-in-chief

Michael Erskine
associate editor

Jacqueline St. Pierre
local journalism initiative reporter

Sean Soderman
production

Debbie Bailey
circulation

Robyn McGauley
advertising sales

Kerrene Tilson, Marilyn Harasym
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www.manitoulin.com
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general email:
expositor@manitoulin.com
letters to the editor email:
editor@manitoulin.com

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Specialists:
Andre LeBlanc, *sports*
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One Manitowaning Road

opinion

editorial

Better uses could be found for \$200 or \$250 election bribes

Both the provincial and federal governments have announced plans to give taxpayers back some of their hard-won lucre in moves that, are hard not to see through the lens of ballot box bribes. Both levels of government are expected to see elections in the coming year.

Premier Doug Ford was first out of the election bribe gate when he announced that sometime in the spring of 2025, he would be sending \$200 to all eligible Ontarians who filed a 2023 tax return—with a bump up of \$200 for each child under 18. Not to be sneezed at, an “eligible” family of five will haul in a cool \$1,000.

Not to be outdone, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has suggested his government will be providing a GST holiday on a wide variety of goods and services through the Christmas season and into the commercial doldrums of the early part of the new year, as well as ponying up a tax-free \$250 Working Canadians Rebate. The latter is far from being a sure thing, however, as the NDP have demanded the rebate be extended beyond working Canadians to include seniors. The rebate would have gone to an estimated 18.7 million Canadians who filed their 2023 tax return by December 31, 2024 (along with a few other filing caveats).

While who wouldn’t like a nice little boost in the old bank account in these trying economic times, this current bit of politically motivated chicanery begs a number of questions about our provincial and federal budgets—both of which are currently wallowing in red ink, despite their rising inflation-induced revenue.

Opposition leader Pierre Poilievre has called the Liberal rebate “inflation inducing,” as might be expected—after all, everything bad under the sun is “Trudeau’s fault.” Oddly, he did not issue such a statement when his fellow traveller, Ontario Progressive Conservatives, first entered the rebate lists. Ah poly ticks—it’s a sticky wicket at best.

Which brings us to the big elephants in the room—and there are many bumbling about in that herd.

Let’s pick on Premier Ford first—after all, he was the first to set foot on the path (yes it’s a Pink Floyd reference). Premier Ford famously promised to end hallway medicine, yet under his watch, waiting lists continue to rise unabated and it is more the rule than the exception that heart patients waiting for lifesaving surgery

must languish in recovery rooms waiting for a bed—let alone their actual surgery. That list goes on and on in just about every category of provincial jurisdiction that comes to mind—well, with the exception of southern Ontario highways and booze.

As for Prime Minister Trudeau, while we don’t accept that everything bad is “Trudeau’s fault,” the aforementioned health issues first and foremost being a provincial bailiwick, in our current global atmosphere the dismal state of our defence spending envelope comes easily to mind—as does the issue of overenthusiastic immigration. Far too little is being done to rein in the federal deficit. That being said, the federal government has a vital role to play in building our national infrastructure—which, like our cousins to the south, is starting to crumble from too long a neglect.

While many of the issues facing Ontarians fall well within the purview of the province, such as health, housing as well as provincial and municipal infrastructure—federal transfers to help deal with these crises would be more than welcome by all and sundry.

Apparently, potential short-term political gain trumps any other consideration.

Neither of our benighted leaders seem to be able to set their sights on long-term planning and sustainability, being instead focussed on short term gain. Little wonder that Canadians, like their counterparts in nearly all Western democracies, are losing faith in their institutions. While some of that disillusionment is being goaded along by the autocratic enemies of democracy, that interference is hardly needed given the number of self-goals our leaders seem to be bent on making.

There are so many areas where the billions of dollars that these “rebates” will cost would be better applied there simply isn’t enough room to list them all in this editorial. But among them would definitely be the current opioid crisis that is taking down Canadians on a scale usually not seen outside of global conflicts.

Sadly, changes in the current leadership will not likely solve any of these issues as our challenges lie, not in those leaders themselves, but in their reaction to the systemic shortfalls of our political system and the lack of attention and civic education of our electorate.

The problem, at the end of the day, is us.

Board of health passes 3.2 percent increased budget

by Tom Sasvari
SUDBURY—The Board of Health with Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD) has passed a 2025 budget increase of 3.2 percent over 2024. PHSD has confirmed that the municipal per capita cost increase in 2025 will be \$3.96 (per taxpayer) or a total cost per year of \$69.40. PHSD has received a very slight increase in funding from the province, while an increases in employee salaries has helped lead to the increase in the budget.

Rene Lapierre, chair of the Board of Health for PHSD told The Expositor last week, “our operating budget for 2025 is \$31,036,499, an increase in spending of \$963,000 (in the 2024 budget of \$30,073,079).”

The budget amount includes a funding increase to address rising operation costs and needs in the community, make investments in the agency for long-term efficiency and improvement and ensures sustainability of services. This budget increase is, however, outpaced by public health funding, inflation and growing local needs and health challenges which necessitates focused spending on core responsibilities under the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS).

“The biggest reasons for the increases have been due to our collective agreements with our employees, with most of the employee’s agreements being for three years with between a 2.5-3.0 percent increase every year,” said Mr. Lapierre. “And our funding has again been flatlined by the province. We have received an annual one

percent increase since 2019, with some years public health receiving a zero percent increase for operations.” He pointed out PHSD did receive one-time COVID funding from the province.

“There have not been any significant funding changes to public health units from the province for probably the past 10 years,” continued Mr. Lapierre. “And the cost of everything else has gone up significantly, and the number of services we to provide has increased as well.”

“Our board is part of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) and ALPHA, along with all public health units have submitted letters to the province requesting increased funding for services and delivery. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has also asked for a fairer and larger increase in funding to health units, and not having this put on the backs of provincial municipalities.”

Mr. Lapierre explained that while no one’s job has been eliminated, “in our budget we have eliminated the equivalent of 3.1 full-time equivalent positions. And to provide for some savings to reach our budget a few service changes have been made to eliminate some services that the province or other organizations can provide. We are pushing this work on to the province so we can maintain and deliver the most important services we provide.”

Public Health will responsibly reduce or discontinue certain programs that fall outside its mandate and are the responsibility

of other agencies, or where the impact on community health is relatively small, to ensure resources are concentrated where they can achieve the greatest impact on community health.

“Part of our mandate has been air quality testing in arenas because (ice resurfacers) are used in an enclosed area,” said Mr. Lapierre. However, “Many municipalities now use electric (ice resurfacers) so the carbon is not produced and others have HVAC systems that monitor the air quality, something that the HVAC’s did not do in the past. Things have gotten much better in the past 35 years or so, so we don’t require a person monitor these carbon levels.”

“As we face tighter budget realities, my top priority remains protecting and promoting the health and health equity of the communities we serve,” Dr. Mustafa Hirji, acting medical officer of health and chief executive officer for PHSD, said in a statement. “While public health has historically offered services beyond its core mandate, this is no longer sustainable. We are committed to make the best use of our resources by carefully focusing on services that will have the greatest positive impact on the public’s health,” said Dr. Hirji.

As for the overall budget Mr. Lapierre said, “I think its decent. Last year we were looking at a five and a bit percent increase to provide the important services we do, follow our strategic plan and keep residents safe and healthy.”

Health minister pressed on Northern Health Travel Grant by MPP Michael Mantha

QUEEN’S PARK—During Question Period November 26, Algom-Manitoulin MPP Michael Mantha pushed the government to provide an update to Northerners on the enhanced Northern Health Travel Grant (NHTG) provisions that were announced earlier this year.

“Almost seven months ago, the Minister of Health announced that the government would be enhancing the North-

ern Health Travel Grants,” MPP Mantha said. “Why are Northerners still waiting?”

“Over a yar ago, I introduced legislation to improve NHTG,” said MPP Mantha. “I heard from hundreds of Northerners who want equal access to healthcare and who want this government to address the program shortfalls.” His office has sent multiple requests to the MOH on behalf of constituents who want to

know when they can access the additional program provisions.

Ontario Health Minister Sylvia Jones replied to MPP Mantha’s pressing on the issue by indicating the grant improvements were slated to be in place as soon as December 1 or very soon thereafter.

“Starting December 1, we have an additional enhancement that says 200 kilometres is going to 100 kilometres and

for costs of accommodation expanding of eligibility for medical travel companions accompanying a patient,” said Minister Jones.

These enhancements including increased reimbursements for overnight accommodations, reducing travel distance requirements, digital receipt submission and expanding travel companion eligibility.

Little Current United Church decarbonizes by installing heat pumps

by Michael Erskine
LITTLE CURRENT—When it comes to being ahead of the global climate change curve and the need to get off of fossil fuels, Little Current United Church has long been ahead of the curve. The church is now about halfway through its solar power contract with Hydro One, the cells being installed in the spring of 2011, but was still locked into oil heating. The church has now bid adieu to oil with the installation of two heat pumps, one of which will heat the main church, while the second will provide heat for the hall.

The Expositor sat down with church members Scott Mosher and Ivan Edwards to chat about the process and where the church finds itself in the heating mix today. Although the heat pumps have allowed the church



Little Current United Church Council Chair Scott Mosher stands by one of the hot water boilers that provides hot water to the coils within the forced air heating ducts.

photos by Michael Erskine

“So, those foundations have been around for a long, long time.”

The basement provided an interesting bit of history during the assessment and planning for the new heat plant.

“When I was downstairs looking around, I saw a horseshoe tucked up in one of the floor joists,” recalled Mr. Mosher. “And I thought like, ‘how did that get there? Who put it there?’”

Mr. Mosher investigated the history of placing horseshoes under the foundations of new construction, sharing what he learned with Mr. Edwards and pastor Reverend Whitney Bruno.

“What’s really interesting is, with respect to the old tradition, there was Bishop Saint Dunstan back in 969 AD who apparently became the Archbishop of Canterbury and who’d been a black-

threshold. Further, horseshoes have seven holes with which nails fasten it to a hoof—and seven has long been viewed as a lucky number and the early Chaldean Christians believed its crescent shape protected against the curse of the evil eye.

“There’s probably some kernel of truth associated with it,” said Mr. Mosher.

“I would like to know who the devil it was he shod,” laughed Mr. Edwards.

“We took the vendors downstairs and they looked at our old oil-fired furnaces,” said Mr. Mosher. “They copied down the sizes and just duplicated that.”

There were some necessary changes as to how the church would be heated, however. “We used to cycle the temperatures, when the facility was not used and the temperature was taken down to like 12°



The twin heat pumps stand outside the church building in Little Current. One heats the main church building, while the other heats the hall.



A horseshoe was nailed to the rafters of the church following one of renovations following a fire—probably seeking the intercession of St. Dunstan to stave off any future conflagration.



One of the two duct systems that heat the buildings. The massive slab is not subterranean pagan sacrificial altar but stood as a base for an old massive oil furnace.

to retire its massive oil furnace, there is still a small tether to fossil fuel in the form of propane.

“We went through some fits and starts,” said Mr. Mosher of the multi-year process of changing over the heat plant. “In terms of the project and in terms of supplemental heat, because we know that the heat pumps will extract energy out of the air until -10°C to -20°C, so we had to have some backup here and initially one of the guys was proposing electric induct heaters.”

That presented significant financial challenges, he noted. “That was going to require us to go from a 200-amp service to a 400-amp service,

not three phase but necessitating new power lines into the church.”

“The cost just went through the roof for the electrical side of this thing and we thought we just can’t afford to do this,” said Mr. Mosher. “So then, on a positive note, one of the vendors we were dealing with came back and said, ‘I have a different solution for you.’ He said rather than have electric in-duct heaters, we install in hot water in-duct heaters. When we first read this, the mistake I made was I thought, ‘okay, it’ll be electric hot water.’ But no, it’s propane. So, if you look, we’ve got two small propane tanks on the other side of the church. We’ve got an on-demand



The United Church roof serves host to a collection of solar panels installed back in 2011 as part of the province’s initiative to create distributed green energy.

boiler downstairs in the basement that works to provide in-duct hot water heaters which will provide the energy input to keep the temperature up.”

“So, our kitchen now is also propane,” said Mr. Edwards.

The basement of the church is much like what one would expect of a building whose construction began as a Methodist Church back in 1881, completed in 1882. The foundations, in fact, the entire original church building, was constructed from locally quarried limestone and measured 60 feet by 40 feet. That original build-

ing was destroyed by fire, but work began quickly to rebuild it in a more robust form that has lasted to the present day—albeit not entirely successfully, as the building again burnt in 1929. The walls were then restrengthened, with a foyer and balcony being added.

Over the years, renovations and minor additions continued to be made—including a steel roof in 1993.

“The foundations are a throwback to when the place was built,” said Mr. Mosher, who noted the hall portion of the current church was built in 1923.

smith before entering the church,” said Mr. Mosher. “The way the story goes, St. Dunstan tricked the devil by shoeing him (the devil being depicted as a hooved creature in the medieval period).”

But the devil apparently didn’t care for being iron shod (iron was believed to be imbued with magical power against the fae and the devil’s minions), “so he took the horseshoe away and since then the horseshoe has provided good luck.” According to legend, the devil cannot enter a home that contains a horseshoe over its

Celsius and when it was in use, we cranked it up to 18° Celsius. And now, because the heat pumps can’t handle that, they like to stay in a very tight range, we’ve got it set right now at about 20° Celsius.”

As a bonus, the new heat pump system also provides air conditioning.

Although the church does not tend to get too hot in the summer, humidity is a big issue.

Funding for the change-over came largely from the United Church of Canada through one of their programs, but there were also local donations—including some sizable ones. “Even somebody that doesn’t go to our church heard about us putting in the heat pumps and gave



Control panels regulate the transfer of energy into the grid.

us a very generous donation as well.”

Funding also came from the Little Current Lions Club Catch the Ace lottery as the church’s hall is deemed a useful community venue.

Drug enforcement remains a top priority in Wiikwemkoong

Drug enforcement remains a top priority for the Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service (WTPS) which has charged four people with drug related charges involved in recent incidents.

On October 12 WTPS received a call for service on an assault. WTPS officers attended and arrested one male and upon arrest officers located suspected drugs. The male was arrested and charged.

As a result of this incident, the following charges were laid against Nathan Trudeau, 27, from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory (WUT). He was charged with possession of a schedule one substance for the purpose of trafficking cocaine (he also had prior charges on file).

Mr. Trudeau was released on an appearance notice with a court date of

December 3.

On October 19, WTPS were on general patrol when a person wanted by the police was observed in Wiikwemkoong.

WTPS followed the vehicle within the village of Wiikwemkoong to a local store and confronted the accused. The accused tried to escape by foot, but an officer gained control of the accused with the assistance of another officer.

As a result of this incident Michael Bell, 34, from Wiikwemkoong was charged with possession of a schedule one substance for the purpose of trafficking cocaine and possession of a schedule one substance for the purpose of trafficking other drugs (having other charges on file).

The accused was remanded into custody for a bail court hearing scheduled to take place December 4.

On November 16 WTPS received a report of a suspicious person in Wiikwemkoong.

Law & Order



WTPS officers responded and located a female to be under the influence of suspected drugs. Upon further investigation, Heather Mahgagah-bow, 51, from WUT, was charged with possession of a schedule one substance, cocaine, for the purpose of trafficking and possession of a schedule one substance for the purpose of trafficking, opioid. The accused was released on undertaking with a court date set for December 17.

On November 21, WTPS received a report that a male youth was selling drugs. WTPS officers spoke to the complainant and the 14-year-old male from Wiikwemkoong was charged with possession of a schedule one substance, cocaine, trafficking in schedule one substance, cocaine, and fail to comply with sentence.

The male youth attended bail court and was re-

manded into custody.

Police are requesting anyone with information regarding this investigation to contact police at (705) 370-3141. Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at (800- 222-8477 (TIPS) where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

Impaired driver charged after calling police on themselves

One person has been arrested and charged after they called police to report their location following a traffic complaint of a possible impaired driver.

On November 23 at approximately 4:30 am, the Manitoulin detachment of the OPP received a traffic complaint in the area of Wood Street in Espanola regarding a possible

impaired driver. Shortly after, the driver called police to report their location. Police attended the location provided, and further testing on scene resulted in the driver being arrested for impaired operation.

As a result, the driver, Merek Manninen, 24, of Espanola was charged with operation while impaired by alcohol and operation while impaired blood alcohol concentration of 80 plus.

The driver's licence was suspended and the vehicle was impounded for seven days.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Espanola on January 6.

The OPP wants to remind the public that if you suspect an impaired driver on our roads, waterways or trails, don't hesitate to "Make the Call" and dial 911. Your phone call could save someone's life.

OPP winter driving

Manitoulin OPP en-

courages safe winter driving

The Manitoulin detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is urging all drivers to prioritize safety as the winter driving season begins. With the first snowfall of the season, the Manitoulin OPP has already responded to several collisions.

To help keep our roads safe the OPP is requesting drivers to consider the following tips: Monitor weather conditions. Check the weather forecast before travelling. If severe weather is forecasted, give yourself extra time and consider delaying non-essential trips. "Before heading out, we encourage you to check the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) Ontario 511."

Winterize your vehicle. Make sure your vehicle is ready for the winter by checking your antifreeze, battery, tire pressure and tread, brakes, headlights and windshield wipers.

...continued on page 15

Friends and Neighbours

Providence Bay Alexia Hannigan

Alexia here with your Friendly Frozen Fly!

If the deer were not on the move last week, they certainly will be now that snow is on the ground. Hunters and families are busy processing and preserving for the long winter ahead. The turkey supper has come and gone, and the first bonspiel of the season is a sweep that can only mean one thing! Christmas! What? Yes, I said it! Christmas. While the reindeer are at the North Pole training camp prepping for their 2024 world tour, Santa and his crew will be in Mindemoya this weekend for the grand parade and tree lighting ceremony. Guess what kids? Today is also Santa's list day and National Cookie Day. So, take a deep breath, bake some sugar cookies or gingerbreads, trim the tree with your family and make a list for Santa. You don't have to worry about the postal service strike. A little birdie told me that if you tuck your letter to Santa into your Christmas stocking or place it near a bell or angel decoration on your Christmas tree the elves will be sure to find it and whisk it away to Jolly Old St. Nick himself! Or better yet - just send Santa a dm via text.

Here's what's happening: Providence Bay Arena, I smelled ammonia the other day and have seen a few more trucks parked out front so that can only mean that yes finally the Providence Bay Arena is ready to roll soon for sponge puck and public skates. Check the Providence Bay/Spring Bay Recreation Committee Facebook page for updates. Last year they opened it up on December 6 with the first skate on December 10.

Providence Bay Curling Club: The first bonspiel was amazing, the curling club season is popping and well underway! Youth curling continues Saturdays, and regular league meets continue in the evenings. Check out the Providence Bay Curling Club Facebook page for regular updates and events.

Providence Bay Community of Christ Church Sunday Service, 10:30 am meet-up; 11 am service; December 20 Christmas Fireside Sing-along social.

Providence Bay Town Square and Hall: Final Friday exercise class, 10:30 to 11:30 am this Friday, December 6. Contact Alison Sloss at 705-377-5726.

Tai Chi Class continues Mondays and Thursdays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Contact Jean Pearce at 705-885 8444.

The Horses: Keep an eye on the Manitoulin Horse enthusiasts Facebook page for fun winter events and activities. We will be happy to see all our horse friends in the Christmas parade!

Fundraisers: Freshwater Community Church presents Island Singers on Sunday, December 8 at 3 pm.

Manitoulin Pet Rescue Operation Santa Paws pet food and supply drive is in full swing. Check the Facebook posts for details on where to donate and what items are needed!

Providence Bay/Spring Bay Lions Club bottle drive continues. Drop off your empties next to the arena for a good cause!

The Heavens:

The next full moon will occur on Sunday, December 15 at 4:02 am. It is also known as the Cold Moon. The next meteor shower is the Geminid meteor shower which is active till December 24. It will peak overnight on December 13 to December 14. Clear nights on the Island are always a delight, keep your eyes to the skies! Be sure to check the NORAD tracks Santa Facebook page to keep an eye on when Santa is close to you! Check out the fun games and videos at www.noradsanta.org.

Mentions: Congratulations MSS Robotics on yet another successful fundraiser! Doughnut deliveries are tomorrow! Thank you all, shout out to everyone who participated in local food drives for Manitoulin Family Resources. Vanessa and crew said the extra food has helped them tremendously. Always give back and donate whenever you can!

Shout out to the volunteer fire fighters who helped us when we had an old dryer fire, you are all amazing! Shout out to Lance Baptiste for his BB coaching and mentoring, you make a difference! Shout out to our Postie Pam, we miss you and we are rooting for you. Hope the strike comes to a resolve soon in favour of the hard-working Postal Services Reps. Christine Lee McNaughton you are a champion of courage and a beacon of light! Linda Gilchrist you are such a beautiful and loving soul, wishing you the happiest birthday and Christmas ever surrounded by your family and friends who love you.

Happy and safe Christmas everyone! See you all at the tree lighting.

"You better watch out, you better not cry, better not pout, I'm telling you why-Santa Claus is coming to town." Haven Gillespie

Kagawong Team Fergmeijer

Every once in a while, Team Fergmeijer gets questions from our loyal readers and by far the most popular one is "where do you get your jokes from?" The answer is that we are always on the lookout for the most groan-inspiring puns

and bad jokes. When we come across one, we make a note of it and file it away in our well-organized online dad-a-base (for all our "dad" jokes, you see). It lives there until we find just the right column to include it in.

With the winter weather seemingly settling in on us, 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 directly.

The township is now accepting applications for those interested in joining the new Senior's Advisory Committee (SAC). If you are interested in this opportunity, check out the town website for more information and submit your application by December 11 at 4 pm to tmills@billingstwp.ca.

All the snowfall this week really makes it feel like winter for most people. For us, it is the switch to winter landfill hours. You can now access the landfill Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 6 pm, Saturdays from 1 to 4 pm and Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm.

Another question Team Fergmeijer often gets asked is "if you could go anywhere (other than Billings) where would you go?" We've actually been discussing taking a trip to Rome this year! Of course, we can't travel in the winter for work reasons, and while the spring and summer of Rome is appealing, it is peak tourist season and we don't relish the experience of all those crowds. It probably goes without saying that we really don't want to experience the fall of Rome either.

Any other questions you want answered by your intrepid reporters? Email us at fergmeijer@gmail.com.

The Island Singers (which includes many Kagawongians) are hosting their holiday concerts this weekend! Join them on Saturday, December 7 at 3 pm at the United Church in Little Current and Sunday, December 8 at 3 pm at Freshwater Church in Mindemoya. Tickets for either concert are \$10 and are available at the door.

Got birthdays? Want to make someone you love feel special? When you send their info to us to include in the column, you can ensure they will get that warm feeling inside. Could be joy, could be embarrassment, but the point is, we can make it happen!

The library wishes to thank everyone who took part in the annual silent auction fundraiser, and to remind you that auction winners can pick up their items by Tuesday, December 10 at the library (Tuesday and Thursday 4 to 7 pm; Saturday 10 to 1 pm). Contact the library directly if you need to arrange a pickup outside of regular library hours.

Any items not paid for/picked up by the deadline will be offered to the next highest bidder.

'Tis the season to appreciate family. Not many people know that one of our parents was born a conjoined twin, though they were separated when they were kids. It's true! Of all our uncles, our favourite is on our father's side, once removed. Have a great week!

Silver Water Karen Noble

On Monday, November 25 in the morning, Doug and Brenda Carter went to Little Current with a load of liquor containers to return to the Beer Store. The proceeds were \$110 which is for the food bank. Thank you to all the hunt camps and residents who donated their empties. Thank you to the gentleman who gave Brenda his proceeds right at the store.

On Monday evening we went to Burpee/Mills to play euchre. There were 26 players.

Tuesday evening was fire practice with 10 people in attendance.

Wednesday evening was the Local Services Board budget meeting. It went very well, the tax levy will be the same as the prior year. Thank you to everyone who attended.

On Thursday afternoon, three Ontario Fire Marshal representatives arrived at the fire hall with a load of new equipment. It was a full afternoon's job to remove the old hoses, etc. and replace them. Thanks to all the volunteers who showed up to assist.

On Thursday evening there were 13 euchre players out.

The next UCW meeting is on Thursday, December 5. It is the Christmas party which is starting at 12 noon with a potluck lunch at the Silver Water Community Hall. There will be a Loonie table full of items to bid on. DonnaKay McDonald is collecting donated items for that. All ladies are welcome to join in.

On Saturday, November 7 and Sunday, November 8 there is an estate sale at the Arthur and Jean Addison house on Burnt Island Road, starting at 9 am.

The community turkey dinner for all residents of Robinson and Dawson Township is on Saturday, December 14.

Condolences to the family of Fred Hunter.

...Gayle Payette given inaugural award

...continued from page 3

Nation in many different roles (councillor, health services committee chair, etc.), not only looking out for First Nations peoples, but always focusing on the best for all. Through her work in hockey, she has opened doors for many participants to play the game. She also has brought her experience and expertise into the boardroom as a means to educate others as well. As principal at the local elementary school (Lakeview), she continues to be a leader in her community.”

“When John Kastner, chair of the OHF called to tell me I had been selected for the award I was shocked,” Ms. Payette told The Expositor.

An OHF video outlining the award, which was presented to Ms. Payette on Saturday evening in Toronto states, “a true leader in Northern Ontario hockey and a pillar in her community for over 30 years of dedicated experience she has made a difference in the lives of countless young people. In her influential role, she has helped create an environment and commitment to fostering growth and inclusion.”

“Gayle has a constant belief in each player,” the OHF video states. Ms. Payette has “worked tirelessly for First Nations representation in the game and advocating for participation by players and is a trusted leader in the community of M’Chigeeng First Nation.”

“I initially became involved in hockey when my husband was a referee,” Ms. Payette told The Expositor. “I attended games that he officiated and was really disappointed in the way that people treated officials overall. The secretary position was vacant on the Manitoulin Minor Hockey Association and my husband encouraged me to be a part of the board because he knew that I would commit to the volunteer position with integrity. I was part of a board that had a vision for change and development in minor hockey. The president at the time advocated for all players and officials and lobbied for safety and participation of all.” Ms. Payette explained, “my identify as a First Nation person from M’Chigeeng has me see everything with an open mind and heart. I advocate for everyone on the premise that roles, policies and regulations are being followed for the inclusion of all players and volunteers. I advocate based upon the need for mental well-being as I know that the impact of residential schools, the 60s scoop and the White Paper, has First Nation players dealing with past trauma and their healing process has to be understood. Being involved in hockey is a great venue to build inclusion, mutual respect, and understanding of all teammates and where they come from.” “One major challenge that

I have faced over the years is being female,” continued Ms. Payette. “When I first become involved in hockey, I was not treated the same as the male counterparts, my opinions did not seem to matter at that time, which pushed me harder to do my best and demonstrate that I knew rules and policies and that I could come up with practical solutions. I believe with the support of my husband, people began to understand that I was a person that would not back down or be intimidated. I have also been subject to racism, as a volunteer in hockey and as a hockey mom. That was hard to deal with,

ant to understand how we deal with these hardships, how we cope, how we inspire, how we support, and how we are accepting of others, in order to live a good life.”

“I believe it has been important for me to be that First Nation female role model in the sport, to increase awareness regarding the roles that females have to play in and out of hockey and to increase awareness regarding the impact of inclusivity in a sport that is in need of change for the benefits of players to be involved, educated and aware of what they are able to contribute on and off the ice,” Ms. Payette

taken in hockey has increased my awareness regarding open-mindedness and ensuring that all perspectives are taken into consideration before a decision is made while ensuring that the best decision is made following pertinent policies that act in the best interests of the players, not necessarily what is in the best interest of the parents or caregiver. Our ultimate responsibility is to the players.”

“My involvement in hockey has added to my educational repertoire as well,” said Ms. Payette. “I encourage students to be active in all sports, to be respectful at all times, to congratulate others on their successes and to reflect on a daily basis on how to improve their personal well-being and for a healthy lifestyle.”

“There have been many occasions when I do not agree with the opinions or decisions of people or boards,” continued Ms. Payette. “However, I always demonstrate respect to them regarding their opinions or decisions. It’s so important to walk the talk, to listen with an open mind and heart, to act in the best interest of the players, to fully commit to a position when elected or volunteering and to be able to walk in another person’s shoes to fully understand who they are, and to make meaningful connections.”

Ms. Payette said, “My hockey journey has allowed me to meet many great people; volunteers, coaches, officials, fans, association members, and most importantly, players. The players have always been a part of my passion for the sport, ensuring that they have a place to play and are treated with respect.”

In her over 30 years involvement in hockey, Ms. Payette has served over this time as secretary of the Manitoulin Minor Hockey Association, novice team manager, president, secretary, vice-president, acting president/registrar and vice-president/registrar, and bantam team manager with the Manitoulin Panthers Hockey Association, vice president of the M’Chigeeng Minor Hockey Association, Nickel District Hockey League director/convenor, Prospects Youth Ball (15-17 year old) team manager, Legends men’s fastball team manager, District 7 council director and second vice-president of the Northern Ontario Hockey Association and director of the Ontario Hockey Federation.



because they are like personal attacks on me and my family. My son encountered it on and off the ice. Encouraging him to be the better person was difficult. What does being the better person actually mean? For me, it was not that we were better than anyone else, it meant that we would do our best not to take it to heart and to not retaliate. When encountered, I would address the issue directly with the person and the hockey association, in a good way, allowing them to understand the impact that racism has on people, the mental health aspect especially. Over the years, I have always stressed the importance of mental health well-being.”

“I always advocate for awareness and understanding,” said Ms. Payette. “I encourage people to see things in other perspectives encouraging them to put themselves in certain situations and finding ways to cope and be able to move forward in a good way. I always promote success stories and I always support and guide when requested and I keep a positive mind set for the benefit of all.” As for how Ms. Payette integrates her cultural background and values into her leadership across the board as a school principal, hockey administrator and community volunteer, “It is especially important to ‘walk the talk’ being able to act and be the person that I encourage others to be is important, being a good role model, sharing cultural knowledge openly without forcing it upon others to develop an understanding of where I come from and who I am is important. We all have hardships, it is import-

continued. “My involvement has allowed governing organizations to develop an understanding of the dynamics of First Nation, Metis and Inuit communities and how to create a collaborating relationship for the benefit of all players.”

“While I was the president of the Manitoulin Panthers, I would include First Nation communities in opening ceremonies in tournaments and invite singers to sing O Canada in their traditional language, providing tournament participants and fans with the opportunity to open their minds and hearts to see and understand various cultural norms, rather than make fun of them,” Ms. Payette said.

“Systemic changes that I believe are important to move forward are for people in general, to see each other as equals regardless of race or financial standing. Educating people regarding the barriers that underprivileged people face daily and providing opportunities to be involved in a way that is inviting rather than condescending,” said Ms. Payette. “I believe it is also important to continue to focus on mental health well-being, providing opportunities for counselling, support services, and meaningful team building activities inclusive of traditions or cultures of the variety of players or volunteers on teams. Understanding each other and recognizing cultures builds character amongst teammates, which they will carry with them for their lifelong journey.”

Ms. Payette said, “Bringing my background as an educator into the various roles that I have

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Manitoulin Expositor

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SUNDAY: 9 AM - 8 PM

MONDAY & TUESDAY: CLOSED

WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY: 9 AM - 8 PM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 9 AM - 9 PM

BAR HOURS:

SUNDAY - TUESDAY: CLOSED

WEDNESDAY: 4 PM - 9 PM

THURSDAY: 4 PM - WHEN TRIVIA ENDS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 4 PM - 1 AM

...Rhonda Hopkins receives Honorary Doctor of Laws from Queen’s U.

...continued from page 3

bestow this recognition and award to Rhonda, who is representative of so many of our Anishinabek knowledge holders and keepers, and fluent speakers of Anishinaabemowin,” said Ms. Roy. “I would offer this as part of some insight: we also nominated Rhonda several years ago to the World Indigenous Nations University (WINU) for consideration of an honorary doctorate award as it was important to us as the nominators that we as Indigenous people recognize and honour our own people first, those who have done the work before us and often alongside us too as Indigenous peoples.”

“A practical reality is that we are in a world of ‘two-eyed’ seeing, and we continue actioning the vision of the dream of ‘First Nation Control of First Nation Education,’” said Ms. Roy. “As we continue to grow our teams and the

work that we do, Kenjgewin Teg will soon reach that milestone too, when we will soon be honouring our own Knowledge Keepers and Holders in a similar way.”

“Rhonda returned home to Mnidoo Mnising (Manitoulin Island) in 2013 to begin her employment with Kenjgewin Teg after her work with other Anishinabek/Ojibwe communities in Michigan,” the nomination letter reads. “The history of colonization in Canada and the geographical borders and limitations have not prevented Rhonda from supporting Ojibwe/Anishinabek people across these imposed country borders between Canada and the US.”

“Since moving back to Manitoulin, Mnidoo Mnising, Rhonda has continued her involvement and continues to exude her passion for Anishinabemowin (Ojibwe language) learning and revitalization, and has been a crucial part of several



Rhonda Hopkins, right, with Beverley Roy, president of Kenjgewin Teg, was one of several people who nominated Ms. Hopkins for the award.

programs, activities, and strategies to do so, both within her formal employment with Kenjgewin Teg and as an active and passionate member of the Anishinabek Nation broader community for language initiatives. Rhonda’s knowledge of Anishinabek teachings and their interconnectedness to language, origins and original meanings of our alive, motion-based and living language interpretations have been learned for her many years of living and learning from her traditional teachings that she has grown up with, and teachings that she also learned from various Elder teachers and mentors in her lifelong journey.”

“Rhonda is humble when it comes to sharing her traditional teachings and readily shares that

she ‘does not know too much’ a quality that most traditional knowledge holders will often state in their humility,” the letter reads. “Both personally and professionally, Rhonda is a person often sought out for her advice, knowledge and Anishinaabe teachings by people of all ages and groups, and it is her humbleness in ‘sharing what little she knows’ (her words) that gains her the respect of her community and peers. Rhonda is consistently sought out as a mentor and teacher for new language learners. Rhonda has a positive outlook in all she does, and her Anishinabek humour and laughter make her a treasured mother, grandmother, and work colleague. With her personality and passion, she influences many around her.”

“Her work with Kenjgewin Teg has allowed her to continue to flourish and bring forward our local Anishinabek worldview in teaching and learning, all the while still being creative within the continued lingering of colonized boundaries that Kenjgewin Teg will often find itself in as a result of limited scope funding arrangements and agreements,” the letter reads. “Rhonda is a strong advocate of Indigenous education based on our Anishinabek worldview and often finds her-

self stretching the limits and boundaries between these two worlds in her work and community involvement.”

“The future outlook, however, on greater control of our Indigenous/Anishinabek education seems promising and in sight at Kenjgewin Teg, and this reality is still unfolding,” the letter continues. “Kenjgewin Teg is an organization that will soon be in the position of granting its credentials (certificates, degrees and diplomas) within an Indigenous quality assurance framework recognized by the Province of Ontario. As an essential Knowledge holder of the Anishinabek philosophy and worldview helping to guide Kenjgewin Teg, Rhonda will continue to be a crucial part of how and what this good work and exciting work ahead will be undertaken.”

It was explained, “The University of Victoria hosts a project and brings together nine Indigenous communities and organizations from across Canada. Each partner independently submits and monitors their respective research idea, that supports adult learners in learning their heritage language. As an institutional partner, Rhonda has been leading this SSHRC project on behalf of Kenjgewin Teg. Specif-

ically, Kenjgewin Teg’s research project is developing an Indigenous language proficiency instrument, psychometrically validated, which includes working with an external consultant expert in the mechanics of innovative instrument development for Anishinabemowin (Ojibwe language) progression and assessment.”

“In 2016, Kenjgewin Teg and Canadore College launched Ontario’s first immersion-based Early Childhood Educator’s diploma program. As a fluent speaker and an immersion specialist with experience in various immersion programs in Canada and the states of Michigan and Kansas in the US, Rhonda was critical in designing the curriculum and course learning outcomes for this unique diploma program based on our Anishinabek worldview of children. In this ECE-A program, one key distinguishing feature Rhonda ensured within this new post-secondary program is the holistic development of the Anishinaabe child. Early childhood educator students in the ECE-A program learn and begin to implement with greater confidence the Seven Grandfather teachings and other practices of the Anishinabek, all within an Anishinaabemowin learning environment.”

Let’s Talk



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...MICA named Tourism Innovator of the Year

...continued from page 3

instantly accessed on a smartphone through the App. Even better, the tours boast audio recordings that auto play after starting a tour and when you are near a stop, which allows cyclists and motorists to safely enjoy a hands-free experience while exploring Manitoulin. The routes highlight the Island’s multicultural history, local stories, its wide variety of fauna and flora as well as geological facts and quirky anecdotes. MODEM tours are

available in English and French, both in written and audio format.

“There are currently over 10 cycling tours that start in different Island locations, with some more suitable for leisurely riders and others ideal for hard-core adventurers. There are vehicular itineraries that make for cross-Island road trips.”

“The Driftscapes App has had over 10,000 views,” said Ms. Mielonen. “Certain businesses advertise on that site with us. It is a tourism guide offering a guide at their fingertips 24/7 every day.”

Ms. Mielonen said representatives of Driftscape were in attendance at the conference as well. “They were surprised at how popular the engagement tours have proven to be in the winter by visitors from all over. It can be accessed by someone using all forms of transportation. And it has shown to be a service that tourists can discover the Island and can lure tourists to the Island. She pointed out “we have created a scavenger hunt on the App for our annual Manitoulin Passage Ride. It is something municipalities can also use to advertise if they are having major events in their community.”

“The MODEM is a super platform that everyone can use,” said Ms. Mielonen.

“People can explore the Island from their living room,” said Mr. Nielen.

The Northern Ontario Industry Leader Awards recognize excellence in the province’s tourism industry. Recipients provide outstanding leadership, exemplify best business practices, innovative marketing and deliver tourism experiences that contribute to the success of Ontario’s tourism industry, which generates over \$36 billion in economic activity and supports more than 400,000 jobs.


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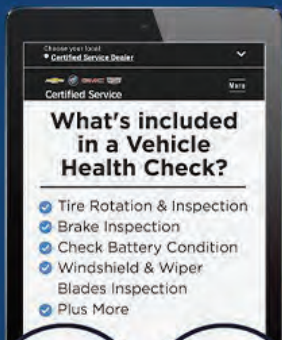
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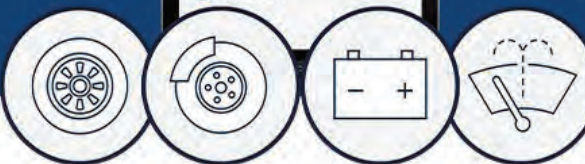
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Manitoulin Cycling Advocates (MICA) won a 2024 ‘Tourism Innovator of the Year’ award at the Northern Ontario Tourism Summit, held in North Bay. In photo accepting the award is Guy Nielen and Maja Mielonen of MICA.

...Kina Gbezhgomi home in Sudbury aimed at children exiting care

...continued from page 1

housing crisis for youth in transition who require safe and supportive transitional housing and outreach-based services,” shared Ms. Morrow.

Ms. Morrow noted that the broad level of support KGCFS has received, and the plethora of funding streams involved in the project actually makes it difficult to answer the question of exactly how much the final tally on the project was.

“There was certainly a significant investment from indigenous Services Canada” she said. “They funded some of our programs and also the renovations for the building.” She noted that the renovations cast alone were

“near a million.”

The ministry maintains title on the building. “So they’re allowing us to utilize the building without rent,” said Ms. Morrow. “We pay the services.”

“We’re leasing it from Northern Youth Services right now until they sever the two properties,” explained Ms. Morrow. Currently, Tulloch Engineering is working out a number of crossed water lines and the like. “Once they sever the property, we will have one hectare of land, and then the building is 7,785 square feet.”

The outdoor property is key to the provision of land-based ceremonies and programming, notes Ms. Morrow. “The ministry funds some of our programs, youth and housing

youth, youth transition worker and the housing support and an education liaison position. So, they fund three positions and they’ve also invested some minor capital in the building.”

“It’s been very much a collaborative effort with support from both the funders, the Ministry of Children and Community Social Services and Indigenous Services Canada,” said Ms. Morrow. “We had both at the grand opening which was great.”

Ms. Morrow explained that youth in care with KGCFS are able to sign onto Voluntary Youth Service Agreements. In the past, youth would age out of the system and basically find themselves adrift. Now, 16- and 17-year-olds

that have signed voluntary agreements can access service and financial support from the organization.

“We currently serve 91 youth residing off their First Nation in the in the City of Sudbury,” noted

Ms. Morrow. “And then there is a program called Ready. Set. Go. funded by the Ontario provincial ministry and it’s for 18 up to 23 years old.” That program used to end at 21 and was referred to as Continued Care and Support for

Youth from the province. “Now it also includes 21- and 22-year-olds.”

Currently, KGCFS is serving 61 youth in the Ready. Set. Go. program and 77 residing off of their

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From left are, Councillor Jake Agoneh (Sheguiandah First Nation); Councillor Marie McLeod (Sheshegwaning First Nation); Councillor and Deputy Chief Ross Armstrong (M'Chigeeng First Nation); Ogimaa Rodney Nahwegahbow (Whitefish River First Nation); Ogimaa and UCCMM Tribal Chief, Patsy Corbiere (Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation); Councillor Bernadine Francis (Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory), and Councillor Bobbi-Sue Kells (Zhiibaahaasing First Nation).

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HOURS OF OPERATION:
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 5:00 pm
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Sunday CLOSED

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...Manitoulin Health Centre board hires doctor recruiter

...continued from page 1

talking to the UCCMM (United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising) and chiefs and councils in AOK (Aundeck Omni Kan- ing), Whitefish River First Nation, M'Chigeeng, Noojmowin Teg, and with their contributions and support from the municipalities we have been able to hire Dawn (Noble McCann) as a physician recruiter."

"I already know some of you here tonight," said Ms. Noble McCann. "I am originally from Gore Bay and spent 19 years in education teaching and three

in administration leadership as vice-principal at Manitoulin Secondary School. There are lots of transferable skills from education that I can bring to this position, such as identifying, attracting and supporting healthcare professionals to meet the needs of medical facilities and communities. Fostering connections linking local residents, businesses and organizations to help physicians feel welcome and integrated and showcasing the benefits of rural living like showcasing first-hand the benefits of rural living on Manitoulin in such a close-knit community, work-life balance and the natural beauty of the Island."

Ms. Noble McCann explained her responsibilities as a doctor recruiter include recruitment and outreach, sourcing and recruiting physicians for hospitals, clinics and medical centres across Manitoulin; identifying and targeting physicians who are a good fit for rural healthcare settings; building relationships with medical schools, residency programs and professional networks to attract candidates; conduct ongoing outreach to Island healthcare facilities to understand their needs and requirements. She will be attending conferences, recruitment events and career fairs to present Manitoulin as a desirable place to work, live and play.

Ms. Noble McCann will engage with physician candidates, coordinating meetings and site visits, showcasing the Island's healthcare facilities and ensure a good fit between the physician and the community by fostering open communication and alignment of expectations. She will assist physicians and locums with housing options, relocation logistics



Paula Fields, president and chief executive officer of the Manitoulin Health Centre, left, welcomes Dawn Noble McCann as the new doctor recruiter for Manitoulin Island.

and settling into the community. She will also act as a point of contact for new hires and their families, addressing their questions and concerns during their transition as well as organize events or introductions to help physicians and their families connect with the local community and highlight recreational, cultural and education opportunities on the Island to enhance their integration.

"I will be attending recruiting events like one put on by NOSM (Northern Ontario School of Medicine) recently where there were 37 residents in attendance, we talked to five doctors who are interested in coming to the Island," said Ms. Noble McCann. She said this type of exposure has had a ripple effect because she has been getting inquiries and emails from doctors potentially interested in Manitoulin from other areas of the province such as Toronto.

"We have a lot to offer on Manitoulin and in my role I provide detailed information about the lifestyle, amenities and benefits of living and working on the Island," said Ms. Noble McCann.

"In our recruiting efforts, once we have new physicians here we make sure they and if they have a family that they are happy as well and satisfied with the accommodations, schools, daycare, fitness centres or other things they would like to access. We monitor the physicians' satisfaction to identify areas where additional support may be needed and foster long-term relationships with physicians to encourage retention and a positive work and living experience."

"Earlier Paula (Fields) was going to meet with us (MMA) to discuss the fact we no longer had a doctor recruiter, one that we had been sharing with the North Shore. At that time, we didn't know how we would be able to fund a new recruiter," said Mayor MacNevin. "The idea was brought up that it would be good if the Island had its own recruiter. Paula visited as many First Nations as she could, and they all knew the challenges the island is facing with primary care and emergency department services. The First Nations are helping the municipalities in contributing to having a recruiter here for the Island. I want to acknowledge Paula for her great work and the First Nations for supporting this as well."

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Donation forms are available at the Expositor office or by visiting manitoulincentennial.ca/fundraising.



NOTICE BOARD

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

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

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

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

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

NEED TO PAY YOUR TAXES OR WATER?

Here are some options:

1. You can drop by our office at 14 Water Street, Little Current

2. You can drop off a cheque in our drop box by the front door

3. You can etransfer payments – call to get details 705-368-3500 ext 222

4. You can make an online payment through your bank

5. You can make a payment at the bank

6. You can log onto "My Town" and make a credit card payment

If you require help with any of these methods or have questions, please feel free to contact our office.

COMING EVENTS

Santa Claus Parade

Saturday, December 7 at 6 pm

Starts on Meredith Street to Red Mill Road, through Manor parking lot, to Robinson Street to Water Street where Santa will get off his sleigh to greet everyone

Meat Pie Workshop

Perfect time of year for this workshop. Join Pam Roy as she shares her knowledge.

December 10 at 6:30 pm

NEMI Rec Centre

Cost: \$20, includes everything

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be reminded that parking on the side of **ANY ROAD** is prohibited from: November 1 to March 31 of every year. Tickets will be issued.

TAX ARREARS

Please be advised that the municipality is taking payments for taxes and water in person and electronically. The municipality has 29 properties that will be going into tax registration on January 2, 2025, if payment is not received. We encourage you to contact our staff as soon as possible to make arrangements for payment.

For further information please contact Melanie Aelick at 705-368-3500, ext. 225.

Be a Santa to a Senior

Adopt a Senior this holiday season and help spread Christmas joy to Manitoulin Centennial Manor residents.

Visit the Manitoulin Centennial Manor front entrance, pick a gift tag from the tree any time and get a gift off the resident's wish list!

Please drop off your gifts at the Manor by Wednesday, December 18.

If you wish to send a monetary donation and have us shop for you, please send e-transfers to: donationsmcm@extendicare.com In the memo line, please provide the details "Be a Santa to a senior."

If you wish to have a charitable receipt above \$20, let us know!

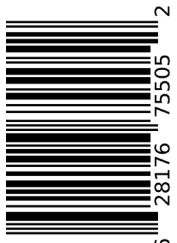
For more information please contact Julie Omnet at: (705) 368-2710 x 322 or julie.omnet@exeassist.ca

Christmas

WISH LIST and DINING GUIDE

For all your Manitoulin Christmas planning needs! ...On Pages 16 and 17

- Breakfast with Santa in Little Current ...Page 22 • Santa Claus parades in Gore Bay, Little Current, Mindemoya this Saturday • Market at OCF this Saturday ...Page 15
- Anishnaabe Christmas craft market in Wiikwemkoong ...Page 19 • Gore Bay cookie walk ...Page 22 • Christmas at the Harbour Centre in Gore Bay ...Page 19
- Christmas market at Debajehmujig ...Page 19 • Christmas market at the Manitoulin Hotel Sunday ...Page 19 • Breakfast with Santa in Tehkummah ...Page 22



Vol. 145, No. 29 \$1.90 + GST

Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, December 4, 2024



COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS—On Thursday, November 28 the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands hosted a Christmas tree lighting event in downtown Little Current at Soldier Park that came with a family scavenger hunt, carolling and a light up countdown. The event marked the start of the season in the municipality.

photo by Alicia McCutcheon

MHC board hires doctor recruiter

by Tom Sasvari

MINDEMOYA—Thanks to the support Manitoulin municipalities and the assistance Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC) has received from First Nations communities and organizations across the Island, the MHC now has a doctor recruiter.

“A lot of communities in areas of the province are providing for

,\$100,000 bonuses for recruiting doctors for their hospitals and then they might leave after two or three years. We want doctors to come to Manitoulin Island because they want to live and work here,” said Paula Fields, president and chief executive officer of the MHC at a Manitoulin Municipal Association (MMA) meeting last week. “And Dawn Noble

McCann is the perfect person to recruit doctors to the Island.”

Ms. Fields explained that for upwards of a decade, Island municipalities have supported the MHC and worked in partnership with the North Shore area in trying to recruit doctors to hospitals and health care facilities. Currently the Island is dealing with a shortfall of 11 doctors with another doctor leaving in the next few weeks. With the previous recruiter for the North Shore and Manitoulin, Craig Matheson, having stepped down, Al MacNevin, mayor of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands (NEMI) and others felt that the Island needed its own doctor recruiter. “But he knew we (MHC) couldn’t do this on our own. So, we have been

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Ontario bonuses Northern, rural municipalities to offset OPP hike

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN—Manitoulin Island municipalities, along with those around the province, are welcoming the news that the province is offsetting Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) cost increases for small and rural municipalities. As was reported previously, the increase in OPP costs to Island municipalities was projected to average 22 percent.

“The Town of Gore Bay was hit the hardest on the Island at a 28 percent increase and since we have one of the lowest assessments, therefore the town would be taking the largest hit on our property tax,” stated Harry Schlange, town manager and clerk for Gore Bay. “It seems the province has recognized that. It looks promising. Any relief is welcomed.”

He pointed out that recently the province had indicated that the annual Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) will see a substantial jump in

funds for 2025, which would in some cases cover the shortfall caused by the huge increase in OPP billing costs, “but this has nothing to do with it. They are two separate things.

by Tom Sasvari

M’CHIGEENG—UCCM Anishinaabe Police Service representatives and members of the communities of Sheshegwaning First Nation (and Zhiibaahaasing First Nation) and Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN) are all looking forward to police satellite offices being opened to service their communities. The office in Sheshegwaning is being developed first with the second in WRFN to be carried out later in 2025.

“It is very good news,” stated Alana Endanawas, chief of the Sheshegwaning First Nation after a meeting was held in the community to allow local residents the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas about the new UCCM Police satellite

office. “We’re pretty excited about it, with the new office, the police will be able to cover the Sheshegwaning and Zhiibaahaasing areas.”

“This facility will be a prefabricated commercial/residential building designed to serve as a permanent satellite office for both Sheshegwaning and Zhiibaahaasing First Nations,” said Chief Endanawas. “The building will include office space, washroom, a meeting area and quarters for officers, greatly enhancing their capability to respond to service calls on the West End. This permanent presence will not only assist officers in their duties but also foster stronger communi-

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New Kina Gbezhgomi Child, Family Services home in Sudbury aimed at children exiting care

Life skills instruction, cultural instruction for youth leaving foster homes

by Michael Erskine

SUDBURY—Dignitaries from seven Island First Nations and federal and provincial government agencies, along with social service agencies, gathered at a refurbished female youth correctional facility on Bancroft Drive in the Minnow Lake area of Sudbury where they cut the ribbon at the grand opening of Enji-maajiigawat Mina-waadziwin, a seven-bed transitional youth home aimed at assisting youth between the ages of 16 and 25 transitioning from child care.

Denise Morrow sat down with The Expositor recently to discuss how the project came about and the aim of the facility.

“This project initially began in 2022,” shares Ms. Morrow, noting that youth have actively taken part in planning for the project. “The majority of youth and families being served by KGCFS reside off reserve and 69 percent of youth who signed onto voluntary youth agreements (ages 16-21) live in Sudbury.” In addition, 67 percent of KGCFS services to families and youth are provided off reserve.

Ms. Morrow noted that an extreme youth housing gap was identified with Sudbury partners and KGCFS initiated a Safe and Affordable Youth Housing forum with Sudbury partners to take a collaborative approach regionally.

“KGCFS has joined housing networks in Sudbury to support youth,” she noted, pointing out that her organization focusses on land-based cultural service delivery, with cultural services being provided to all youth and families served and broader Indigenous urban community.

“We had been unable to secure an appropriate and affordable space for land-based cultural services in Sudbury,” said Ms. Morrow, but that search finally proved fruitful after searching for over two years.

“The project will address the current gap for KGCFS by providing a land base for consistent, accessible and equitable cultural service delivery in the District of Sudbury for families, in addition to addressing the

...continued on page 9

Central defers Official Plan changes after debate, until mail strike over

by Michael Erskine

CENTRAL MANITOULIN—A provincially mandated update to the municipality’s zoning came under fire at a proposed third reading before Central Manitoulin’s November 28 council meeting.

A significant group of property owners attended the public meeting held prior to the council meeting to voice their concerns over their properties being removed from an agricultural zoning and redesignated as rural. At odds are the restriction on property uses that come under the rural rubric.

One particularly egregious issue was that a map of the zoning changes being proposed that was posted online on the town’s website was incorrect. That map, originally proposed by a consultancy firm hired to help the municipality navigate the changes, had been sent back to the firm for revision after it was realized that many of the agricultural to rural designations were inaccurate according to council members.

Attendee Patricia Meehan, a lawyer, offered that the entire process had been tainted by the inaccurate information and

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UCCM announces satellite stations Birch Island, Sheshegwaning will have police presence

by Tom Sasvari

M’CHIGEENG—UCCM Anishinaabe Police Service representatives and members of the communities of Sheshegwaning First Nation (and Zhiibaahaasing First Nation) and Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN) are all looking forward to police satellite offices being opened to service their communities. The office in Sheshegwaning is being developed first with the second in WRFN to be carried out later in 2025.

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...UCCM Anishnaabe Police announces satellite stations

...continued from page 1

ty relations.”
“We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity to better serve our communities,” said Chief Endanawas.
Rodney Nahwegahbow, chief of WRFN, said, “Absolutely, this is good

news. We haven’t fully engaged members of the community on this project yet but council earlier this fall endorsed having a satellite office open.” He noted that while site preparation work is still being carried out the new satellite office, which will be developed in the new year, will be housed in the new subdivision area in the community. “It will provide security and peace of mind by having a police presence.”
“Local residents will have the opportunity to walk up to and report any incidents to the police,” said Chief Nahwegahbow. “It will provide for something like storefront po-

licing and be an asset in bridging communication between the community of police and peace of mind with crime escalating in all communities these days.”
Brad Mack, UCCM APS staff sergeant and detachment director of operations said, “We are going to be breaking the ground on the new site (to be located on Sheshegwaning Road just as you enter the community).” The Sheshegwaning band allocated the property for the new satellite office.

“The foundations for the new modular building will be in place by around mid-December, and since it is a modular building it will not take long construct, and will include finishing touches like a garage that can handle 2.5 vehicles. I’m hoping that the new satellite office (in Sheshegwaning) will be open late spring or early summer, in the May/June range,” said Staff Sergeant Mack.

The WRFN location work will begin in earnest next summer, said Staff Sergeant Mack. “The satellite office for Birch Island) will be located in the new subdivision area, close to the highway.” The UCCM APS is using its own funding sources for the new offices with the land being allocated by the First Nation communities.

“Currently our office headquarters is located in M’Chigeeng, which is basically an hour drive from Sheshegwaning and Zhiibaahaasing, resulting in a huge lack of police presence in the West End communities,” continued Staff Sergeant Mack. “I’ve been around the UCCM APS for 32 years, and we have never really had strong police enforcement on the west end of the Island.”
“I’m pretty excited and proud that we have the opportunity to put these satellite offices in the communities. This is long overdue,” said Staff Sergeant Mack. “Every community on Manitoulin Island deserves to feel safe. And when there is a sign on a building that says police, if a person in a community or visiting has any ill intent, this might help dissuade them. A visual and physical presence means a lot. And there is no doubt communities all over Manitoulin have issues dealing with drugs and addictions. Our goal is to help serve all of the Island.”

“The offices and police presence will improve community engagement,” said Staff Sergeant Mack. “With an office in the communities, officers will be able to visit schools, band offices, businesses. It is all about building relationships in the community.”
Staff Sergeant Mack explained that the UCCM APS will not be housing officers permanently in the satellite offices but

will have 5-6 officers on a platoon at one time, and will provide zone type policing, depending on where the calls are coming from in their detachment area.

As for the public meeting held in Sheshegwaning on November 25, “There was a good response from the community. I was surprised at the number of elders in attendance,” continued Staff Sergeant Mack. “It speaks to them wanting us there. I felt a really welcoming feeling and I sensed there is a lot of buy-in from members of the community to have the office and the presence of officers in the communities. Sheshegwaning and Zhiibaahaasing will benefit. And if, for example, there is an incident taking place on the West End of the Island, say in Silver Water, and the Manitoulin OPP is investigating we will be able to assist them. It will be a win-win for everyone.”

Staff Sergeant Mack said, “as far as scheduling, starting (this) week the UCCM APS will be providing 24 hour a day policing. Right now we provide 20 hours daily, from 8 am to 6 pm and from 6 pm to 4 am. We will now be going to two 12-hour shifts,” noting both the Manitoulin detachment of the OPP and the Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service already has around the clock service.

...Ontario bonuses municipalities

...continued from page 1

“This is good news,” stated Richard Stephens, mayor of the municipality of Central Manitoulin. “Some people thought that the increase in OMPF funding would take care of the OPP increases and in our case it would. But I didn’t see the correlation between the two, it didn’t make sense to me. Obviously the province is listening to the municipalities concerns,” said Mayor Stephens.

Dave Williamson, CAO of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands (NEMI) said of the provincial announcement last week, “this is great news. I’m not sure how this will take place, but we appreciate anything as these (OPP increases) would have impacted all of us. I am anxiously waiting to see what the numbers look like, but whatever the province is going to provide will help us.”

“This would be great news,” said Alton Hobbs, CAO for Assiginack Township. “The devil is in the details, but this is nothing that we’re going to sneeze at, every little bit helps.”

The Ontario government announced November 29 that is proposing to provide over \$77 million in financial relief to municipalities to help offset the increased cost of municipal police services provided by the OPP. This investment will help these predominantly

small and rural communities address the budget impacts resulting from the collective bargaining agreement that was reached between the province and the Ontario Provincial Police Association in July.

“Our government is working closely with our municipal partners and our women and men in uniform to keep communities across Ontario safe,” said Solicitor General Michael Kerzner. “The financial relief we are proposing will help municipal leaders balance their budgets and invest in their communities while ensuring no change to the policing provided by the OPP that keeps families and businesses safe.”

The government’s proposal would support small and rural municipalities by offsetting the 2025 impacts of OPP salary increases. This includes a 3.75 percent bill reduction on 2023 total reconciled costs, a 44 percent bill reduction on 2023 reconciled overtime costs and a 10 percent bill reduction on amounts invoiced for 2025 policing costs. In addition to these changes the province is continuing its annual \$125 million Court Security and Prisoner Transportation Transfer Payment Program for the 2025 calendar year. The province will also be examining options for reviewing the OPP billing model to ensure that it meets the needs of communities

...continued on page 23

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...Central defers Official Plan changes after debate, until mail strike over

...continued from page 1

that council should “go back to square one.” That was a position that council was not prepared to follow, citing that the process of three public meetings, ongoing for several years, was intended to iron out such issues.

Among the specific issues outlined by Ms. Meehan was that the plan originally published on the town’s website, since corrected, did not provide for parking at Wagg’s Wood Park limiting public access. Ms. Meehan also pointed out that the provincial Planning Act “specifically delineates that notices on municipal websites was not sufficient notice to the public of a proposed zoning bylaw change.

Council agreed that the situation warranted a step back, although balking at a return to the absolute beginning of the process.

It was pointed out that getting a change made to a property on the zoning map was anything but easy and required considerable effort.

Following the public meeting, council moved the bylaw motion to the beginning of the council meeting.

“There’s been a lot of talk here tonight and I understand the frustrations—somewhat,” said Councillor Bissaillon. “Communications is key and everything, but I don’t know where that goes to. What I’m not prepared to do is to start this process from the beginning. This process has been going on since before I started council about two years ago—there have been other meetings. They were attended, maybe not as well as they should have been. I remember the first one over here and first

in council and the map got changed. I remember that. It was such an uproar from the people that were there.” In the end things were “pretty much put back to where they were.”

“I want to see all the agriculture land protected after seeing what happened down around Barrie,” he continued. “I found it was very disheartening there were some prime agricultural land down here just ripped up and used for subdivisions. I found that very, very disheartening every time I went down there.”

“I was under the impression that pretty well everything got put back to agriculture,” said Councillor Bissaillon. He was adamant that the process not go all the way back to the beginning. “I’m prepared to say, ‘let’s hold it,’ hold it for another 60 or another 90 days. Let everybody put their input again have another public meeting and we go from there.”

It was pointed out that 60 days would not accommodate summer residents and further, that with the current mail strike at Canada Post, informing property owners by mail was itself problematic.

“I think that’s one of the prime reasons why I always say we shouldn’t give something three readings and pump it through,” noted Councillor Derek Stephens, who had pointed out the inconsistencies in the previous map that resulted in it being returned to the consultant for a second look. “This has been a long process—there’s two councils that have worked on it now and there were a fair amount of people at the meetings. Now, all of a sudden, we’ve got a lot more people coming to a meeting. All because a couple colours were wrong on the map, one, you’re facing those problems. You put the actual thrust of the wording of the official bylaw—nothing’s changed in it yet—just colours on the map. I am quite content to give it another 90 days and we can look at this again. I don’t have a problem.”

Ms. Meehan pointed out that the Planning Act requires that everyone attending a public meeting be given the opportunity to be heard—something she alleged had not taken place. Mayor Richard Stephens suggested that was not accurate and that everyone who indicated they wished to speak had been given the opportunity to do so.

It was suggested that sending a notice with the municipal tax bill would be a good option.

Following more discussion and debate from the floor, council passed a motion to hold off on the third reading of the zoning bylaw changes until 90 days after letters could be sent out in the mail.

Mayor Richard Stephens suggested that, at that time, council could determine if there had been enough time

for everyone to ensure their property was zoned accurately.

In Ontario, rural land is defined as being located outside of settlement areas and prime agricultural areas, while agricultural land is primarily used for agriculture and farm-related activities: being located outside of urban communities, rural settlement areas and areas designated for urban growth. Agricultural land includes productive farmland, woodlots and other natural features.

The Ontario Planning Act requires that land use decisions made by municipal councils and other bodies be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement. The Provincial Policy Statement provides guidance on protecting and designating prime agricultural areas and establishing criteria for non-agricultural land uses in prime agricultural areas.

The Canada Land Inventory (CLI) system classifies areas with mineral soils based on their ability to grow common field crops. Prime agricultural areas are large, contiguous blocks of land that include: specialty crop areas, CLI Classes 1–3 lands, CLI Classes 4–7 lands, areas with a local concentration of farms and agricultural areas with organic soil.

The crux of the issue came about when the land inventory classification of the properties in question did not match with the current or planned future use of the properties that were proposed to be rezoned as rural from agricultural.



A Gore Bay Christmas

Brad and Aria Wright of 10th Line Lumber were just one of 52 vendors on hand for the annual Gore Bay Christmas market held at the Gore Bay community hall. The family owned business in Gore Bay provides custom milling, jewellery, wood products, engraving and more.

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National Addiction Awareness Week Conference seeks to forge connection, solutions for change

by Margery Frisch
LITTLE CURRENT—National Addictions Awareness Week (NAAW) runs from November 24 – 30 this year, and Noojmowin Teg Health Centre organized a conference on Wednesday, November 27 at the Manitoulin Ho-

tel and Conference Centre. This event brought organizations and people together to focus on the issues associated with and the consequences of addiction. Eighteen organizations took part, displaying banners, providing reading material

and available to speak of their work and the services they offer to all interested parties. Allison Dodge, mental health and addictions counsellor at Noojmowin Teg, was the main organizer of the event, though she stressed there were

many people involved in putting the program together. “I think the conference went well and I was happy with the turn out, especially with the bad weather,” she said. Booths were set up around the perimeter of the conference hall and each organization provided materials to promote their services, but in a room that size, it’s impossible to connect with everyone. “By hav-

ing someone from each booth stand up one at a time to provide an explanation of their services, I think everyone was able to gain more knowledge and information on what is available and how to enhance our collaborations as agencies,” Ms. Dodge said. Following lunch, the afternoon program consisted of a panel of four speakers whose topics, though varied, dealt in one way or another with

addiction. “Having a person with lived experience was important, as their stories are powerful and inspiring,” Ms. Dodge said of the first speaker, whose story was very powerful and touched everyone in the room. “We wanted to bring awareness of how homelessness impacts addictions and the efforts being made by the By ...continued on page 24



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...farewell to Manitoulin Ice Showdown

...continued from page 3

The uncertainty of climate change on our winters, combined with the financial risks of hosting an event of this caliber has forced the organization to discontinue the Manitoulin Ice Showdown. “Wikwemikong Tourism is grateful for the partnership we’ve created with The Manitoulin Expositor. That partnership helped propel this event to the next level,” states Tourism Manager Luke Wassegijig. The partnership with The Manitoulin Expositor allowed Wikwemikong Tourism to expand the event from a one-day tournament on Manitowaning Bay to a two-day event on Manitowaning Bay and Lake Manitou. “We certainly accomplished our goals to create a premier destination event that increased shoulder season tourism,


increased visitor spending and more importantly promoted Manitoulin Island as an ice fishing destination in Northern Ontario,” Mr. Wassegijig added. Wikwemikong Tourism thanks all the participants over years that have supported the event and more importantly the local businesses and sponsors that have contributed to the success. “Lastly, chi-miigwetch to the host community of Wiikwemikoong Unceded Territory for showing the world their warm hospitality and generosity,” Mr. Wassegijig said. “Wikwemikong Tourism understands the importance that this event has had to the local economy and hopes that other groups will see the events value and carry on the success of the Manitoulin Ice Showdown.” Be safe and fish on.




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- November 29 at 29 Nixon Rd. in Mindemoya from 11 am to 1 pm.
- December 18 at 3 Water St. in Gore Bay from noon to 2 pm.

...Law and Order

...continued from page 6

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Drive with caution, by reducing your speed, increase your following distance, and avoid sudden maneuvers to prevent yourself from losing control in the snow or ice.

Stay focused. Keep your attention on the road and avoid distractions such as mobile devices.

The OPP recommends driving being prepared for emergencies. Carry an

emergency kit in your vehicle. This should include a shovel, blanket, warm clothes, high-energy food, booster cables, flashlight, matches and a first aid kit. It is important to dress for winter even though you will be in your car; This prepares you or if you become stranded.

Use full headlights. During winter months, consider using your full headlights. Daylight running light do not engage the taillights, and this makes it difficult for the drivers behind to see you.

Avoid stopping suddenly. If you need to stop, find a safe place off the road to do so. Stopping in the middle of the road, especially in poor visibility conditions, can cause serious accidents.

Look out for each other. Remember that everyone on the road is just trying to reach their destination safely. Be patient and considerate with other drivers as they navigate through

severe weather this season.

For more information about safe winter driving, please visit www.mto.gov.on.ca

Fire destroys vacant house in M'Chigeeng

A vacant home in M'Chigeeng First Nation was totally destroyed in a fire that took place this past Saturday evening.

Andrew Corbiere, fire chief of the M'Chigeeng Volunteer Fire Department said the fire took place on 44 Bebonang Street in M'Chigeeng on Saturday, November 30.

"We don't know what caused the fire," said Fire Chief Corbiere. However, he said the blaze is being deemed suspicious and the UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service is investigating, and the Ontario Fire Marshal has been notified. M'Chigeeng Fire

Department received the call of the fire just after 6 pm on Saturday.

Through the Manitoulin Mutual Aid Fire Service Fire Chief Corbiere had contacted the Central Manitoulin and Billings fire departments, as a precaution, as there was a large propane tank in the area of the fire. "Their assistance was much appreciated." He wasn't sure who had requested support from Gore Bay and NEMI fire departments, "but their response was very much appreciated as well," said Fire Chief Corbiere.

Firefighters from NEMI, Central Manitou-



A house fire in M'Chigeeng destroyed a vacant home.

lin, Billings and Gore Bay responded to the call. One firefighter said that 12 fire trucks were on the scene at one time with about 40 volunteer firefighters answering the call. "It shows the support of the mutual aid agreement works when called upon in time of need," said fire chief Corbiere.



A very Gordon Christmas!

Gail Andrews, prolific Evansville photographer, displays her framed prints at the market and in a draw of local artists' work.

photo by Isobel Harry

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Hey Kids!

WRITE A LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS
c/o The Manitoulin Expositor

We'll print as many of your letters as we can so that Santa can read them in The Manitoulin Expositor.

Don't forget to include your name!

Deadline for Santa Letters is Monday, December 9.
Santa Claus, North Pole c/o Manitoulin Expositor Office
Box 369, Little Current, ON P0P 1K0
expositor@manitoulin.ca

Dear Santa: _____



Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus

Saturday, December 7
Little Current United Church Hall
9:00 am - 11:00 am
\$5.00 per person

Breakfast Menu:
Juice, fruit, sausages and pancakes with maple syrup.

Parents and children come and enjoy a morning with the Claus family that will always be remembered!

There will be a surprise gift from Santa for each child!



WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
LOVE, SANTA & MRS. CLAUS

Bring your own camera to take pictures!

RECRUITING EMPLOYEES?

Our online job board and the 'Life' section of the Expositor is waiting to advertise your employment opportunities!

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coming events

Annual Christmas Cookie Walk at All Saints Church, Gore Bay on Saturday, December 7 at the church from 9 am to 2 pm. An opportunity to have your Christmas baking done with a wide selection of cookies to choose from. All proceeds for outreach. We look forward to seeing you.

27-29p

Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 7 at the Little Current United Church from 9 to 11 am. Serving pancakes, sausages, juice and fruit for \$5. A small gift will be given from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

27-29p

Come one, come all to the Little Current United Church Hall on Friday, December 13 from 7 to 9 pm to enjoy George Williamson and colleagues for a night of entertainment. Non-perishable donation towards Manitoulin Family Resources Food Bank appreciated.

25tfn

Free Community Christmas Dinner on Wednesday, 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. 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 your register. Last day to register is Friday, December 20 at 12 noon.

28-31p

The Tehkummah Triangle Seniors' Club is having a Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 8 from 9 am to 12 noon at the Tehkummah Hall. Santa will have surprise treats! Photo with Santa available. Come enjoy pancakes with maple syrup, bacon and eggs, sausages, fruit salad, tea, coffee and juice. Adults, \$15; children under 12, \$7; children under five, free.

30tfn



church services

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

30tfn

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

4tfn

Estate Sale/Indoor Yard Sale

39 Burnt Island Road, Silver Water

Saturday, December 7
9 am - 4 pm
AND
Sunday, December 8
9 am - 2 pm
No early birds please!

Household goods priced to sell!



• Gigantic • Humongous • Totally Insane •

Garage Sale

Humongous indoor workshop/garage sale
for the late Grant Moffatt
1870B Red Deer Village Road, Whitefish Falls
December 6th, 7th and 8th | 9 am - 3 pm daily

Consisting of a full working workshop of brand name tools, pick up, skidoo, household, Canadian coins, etc. To include 2010 Ford Ranger pickup, 2016 Polaris 550 sled, new snow blower, generator, wood lathe, chop saw, radial arm saw, 12 V winch, table saw, ladders, grass trimmers, large vise, air tanks, air compressor, 1920s oak machinist chest full, bench grinders, woodstove, drill press, welder, bandsaw, hose reels, Dewalt and Makita tools, socket sets, two cords of wood, milk can, air cleaner, many rolling tool chests, tree trimmer, yard tools, blowers, router and bits, racks with blue totes for screws/bolts, car jacks, large assortment of wood clamps, lumber, men's workwear, fence posts, water pumps, large battery charger, LARGE ASSORTMENT OF CANADIAN COINS, etc. This workshop is full and it's a once in a lifetime opportunity to purchase many tools like new.

Rain/snow or shine. No presales.
Follow signs in from Hwy 6. For pictures or more details, please call 905-691-7355 or email rrtarp@hotmail.com. Follow Robbie White Milton on marketplace Facebook for pictures.





wanted

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

17tfn



help wanted

Knox United Church in Manitowaning and St. Andrew's United Church in South Baymouth are searching for a pianist/organist to play on Sunday mornings. Music students are welcome to apply as well. For details, contact Rev. Peverley at 705-859-3257 or at knoxchurchdsl@eastlink.ca.

26-28c



services

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

Tfn



services

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



notice

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

Tfn



notice

Knox Church Rummage Sale in Manitowaning has closed for the season and will reopen sometime in the New Year. It would be appreciated if donations could be held until further notice. Thank you.

28-29p



notice

The Little Shoppe Around the Corner at Knox United Church in Manitowaning will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm until December 15 and will then close for the season.

28-29p



services

Narcotics Anonymous will meet every Monday with a start date of December 2 at the Little Current United Church, 5 Robinson Street at 8 pm. For more information please contact Lori at 705-507-6223.

tfn



services

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

Tfn

...Ontario bonuses rural municipalities to offset OPP hike

...continued from page 12

across the province.

Chelsea McGee, director of communications and issues management of the Office of the Solicitor General told The Expositor, “The financial relief is designed to offset the costs of the collective agreement in the OPP union contract settlement (that saw a 4.7 percent retroactive increase in salaries, while 2024 will see a 4.5 percent

increase). The wage increase for 2025 and 2026 is at 2.75 percent.

Robin Jones, president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) said in a release, “AMO is pleased that the government has listened to concerns about the increase in Ontario Provincial Police billing recovery costs with this proposal. Without the provincial action, the rise in OPP costs would have significant-

ly impacted small, rural and Northern communities serviced by the OPP. Municipal fiscal sustainability is under pressure



across Ontario, and municipalities struggle to balance their budgets. This proposition is an important recognition of this challenge and will help support quality of life for residents across the province.”

Christa Lowry, chair of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and mayor of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills said, “ROMA welcomes provincial action to reduce

the impact of increasing OPP costs on rural municipalities. In the context of inflation, infrastructure pressures, and a growing homelessness crisis, rural municipalities simply cannot afford a 20 percent increase in OPP costs. This provincial investment acknowledges the escalating fiscal challenges municipalities face. We look forward to ongoing partnership to put rural municipalities on a sustainable path.”

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Death Notices

COLLEEN BONAS



Colleen Bonas, 81, passed away peacefully while in the care of the Manitoulin Health Centre in Little Current on November 21, 2024. She is predeceased by her mother Bonnie Bonas (Gagnon), father Herman Bonas and her brother ‘Bub’ Ron Bonas (Betty). Colleen was a beloved aunt to Kim Bonas (Georges Groulx), Heather Bonas (Ezio Costanza) and Wayne Bonas (Gwen). She will be sadly missed by extended family and friends, especially her neighbours in Whitefish Falls including Alice, Marion and Laurie. Born in Espanola and raised in Whitefish Falls, Colleen first went to school in Whitefish Falls and then onto Espanola for high school. It wasn’t long before she set her sights on bigger places, so she packed her bags and left, stopping first in Sudbury and then landing in ‘The Big Smoke’ AKA Toronto when she was 20 years of age. Colleen secured a job and then a career with Citadel Assurance in Toronto where she lived and worked for 30 years. During her time in Toronto she made many friends including Shelly, Norman, Jimmy and Nancy, to name just a few. Colleen returned to Whitefish Falls in 1993 to help care for her Mom and to enjoy a more gentle/quiet lifestyle. Never one to sit idle, Colleen worked at Winkel’s Independent Grocery Store for 12 years. It was a job well suited for her because she got to greet everyone who came into the store, if you knew Colleen you know she liked a good visit and was quick to make friends. We are so very grateful to the staff at Manitoulin Health Centre in Little Current as well as Dr. Mickelham for the many years of excellent personalized healthcare. In keeping with our aunt’s wishes there will be no funeral service. But we know that our aunt would love everyone to mix themselves a Greyhound and toast a life well lived.

BARRY J. BARNES

May 15, 1935 - November 22, 2024

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Barry J. Barnes of Spring Bay in his 90th year. A husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who passed peacefully at the Mindemoya hospital surrounded by loving family members. Barry shared many great years with his predeceased wife Lillian Barnes (2003) and their four children, Nadine (Jerry), Lorne (Catherine), Kim (Craig) and Danielle (Gino). Barry was lucky to spend his remaining years with his wife Dorothy Sloss, and her daughter Lila (Richard). Barry was a grandfather, known as Pa to Kirt (Melinda), Bryce, Gavyn (Allison), Quinn, Cash, Cheyenne, Amanda, Kelsey (Steven), Brittney (Bobby), Steffen (Lily) and Cobin. Barry was a great-grandfather to 10 great-grandchildren, which he was fortunate enough to spend time with all of them. Barry had a long career owning his own construction business. When he retired, Barry and Lillian moved from Lindsay, Ontario to Evansville in 1999 into the house that Barry and Lillian designed and built together. Barry enjoyed hunting and joining the euchre club in Spring Bay with Dorothy. Barry and Dorothy enjoyed spending as much time together as they could and always kept busy. Barry was talented in making furniture and wood toys or anything from leftover lumber. Christmas was always the most favourite time of the year as his enthusiasm was so contagious that Barry left great memories for his family to cherish. Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will be announced at a later time.

GLEN ERIC ANDREWS

November 3, 1949 - November 25, 2024



In loving memory of Glen Eric Andrews, November 3, 1949 to November 25, 2024. For all who knew him, knew him as a friend. It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of our beloved father and Gigi, Glen Eric Andrews, who left us suddenly on Monday, November 25 at the age of 75. He was a man of immense humour and wisdom, cherishing every moment spent with his loved ones. He spent his final days doing what he loved the most, entertaining and enjoying the place that he loved the most, his happy place, his home away from home, the closest to the sunset and rainbows where he fondly remembered and honoured his late wife Donna on Manitoulin Island. Born November 3, 1949 in North Bay, Ontario. Glen was always a go-getter and looked for projects and adventures even as a young boy. In his early 20s, Glen made the big move to Sudbury where he had a successful career working for Bell Canada and Expertech, first as a lineman and later as a front line construction manager. While in Sudbury, Glen met the love of his life, Donna (nee Carver), and they married in November of 1977 and made Lively their home. Glen and Donna shared their lives together for 29 years until her passing in 2007. They were truly soulmates and the loves of each other’s lives. Glen was a genuine soul and loved and cherished every relationship that he made in his 75 years. Glen is predeceased by his mother Eileen (nee Giles), father George and his wife Marjorie (nee Glendinning), his brother Michael, sister Lana, beloved mother-in-law Mary Carver and special brothers-in-law Brian Cooke, Doug Howard and great-niece Mya Cooke. Glen is survived by his sister Susan Greene, brother Brett (Anna), sister-in-law Shannon, brothers-in-law Ron Carver (Joanne), Robert Carver (Bonnie) and sisters-in-law Irene Cooke, Linda Howard, Carol Langille (David) and Barb Marcon (Brent). He will be fondly remembered and loved by many nieces and nephews who knew him as Uncle Glen. Glen’s favourite role was being a father. He is survived by his two daughters, Kathryn and Kendra (Ferguson), who were his pride and joy. He was a true girl dad, took them absolutely every where and gave them both the love of fishing, hunting and exploring the outdoors. Even in adulthood, he loved nothing more than spending time with his girls and his extra special son-in-law Kris (Ferguson). He was always there for them, always waiting with a warm hug and excitement of spending quality time together. Family was everything to Glen. Glen will be sadly missed by everyone but especially his four grandsons, Karson, Kolton, Kameron and Kashton Ferguson. He was blessed with all of these little boys that just gravitated to him like no other and beamed with smiles every time he was with them or heard his voice

on their daily phone calls. They were the lights of his life and he enjoyed spending time with each of them, sharing his passions, stories and time - whether it was in the side-by-side at his lot letting them drive, or in the truck going back and forth to hockey practices. He was there, teaching them all of his knowledge and sharing his love of his many passions. Glen, better known as Gigi, also had a special following of so many honorary grandchildren and held a special magnetic force that children embraced. He had a way about him that allowed any child that he spent time with to love and enjoy his fun loving nature. With this he became Gigi to everyone, and he loved each and every one of them. He had made so many meaningful relationships and friendships that have become his extended family. Glen and Donna always wanted to share their special place with others, and he sure did an amazing job making every individual that he crossed paths with feel important and included, always making sure to give a little extra guidance, advice or life’s teachings in his own special way. Glen enjoyed fishing and hunting with many special friends throughout his lifetime. He was a treasured friend of Ken Taylor. In his early retirement he decided he only wanted to work on jobs for himself and through finding meaningful projects that he did for others, just like Gigi, became good friends with Bruce Diplock, who we are sure he met in heaven and both are now catching up on all the years that they missed together - sharing all of his deer camp stories. Over the years he built his own camp, made many knives and canoes. He loved his time on Manitoulin Island and made his life in retirement fulfilled with so many projects. He was the ultimate “do-it-yourselfer,” always making a list, always adding his sense of humour along the way and always beaming with pride to show and share the legacy he built. He loved a great sing-a-long with a whiskey around a campfire, and cheering on his grandsons at all of their hockey games. He was truly their biggest fan! Most of all, he loved making others smile. He made special friends anywhere he went. Special thanks to all of his neighbours who he created a community of friendships with, especially his maple sugar bush buddy Moe Dakin. Our hearts are filled with joy that he has been reunited with his special fur babies - Maddie and Addie. Their friendship was one in a million. We do not know what life is going to be like without our father but we know that we are truly better because of him. Donations to the Little Current Fish and Game Club in Glen’s memory would be welcome. To honour Glen’s memory, a Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, December 9, 2024 at the Holiday Inn in Sudbury. Friends may call from 2 to 7 pm, with special words held at 5 pm. All stories welcome! A private gathering will take place with his immediate family at the Island Funeral Home on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 where they will join in a convoy to return him back to his residence where he will be fondly celebrated and remembered by so many.

Island
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...National Addiction Awareness Week Conference seeks to forge connection, solutions for change

...continued from page 14

Name List to end homelessness,” said Ms. Dodge. Dana Crane from Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board explained, “A By Name List (BNL) is a real-time

list of all people experiencing homelessness in your community.” Her statistics covered not only those who consent to be on this list, but also those having trouble keeping up with rent payments, in fear of losing

their homes, those living in conditions needing major repairs and a national statistic of 36 percent of the population who have been homeless or know someone who has been. “These stats were put together a couple of years ago,” Ms. Crane said, “I can guess that things have only increased in the last couple of years.” Her news, overall, was grim, but by compiling a BNL, her agency can better direct those on the list to partner agencies for the help they need. “We wanted to bring awareness of how homelessness impacts addictions and the efforts being made by the By Name List to end homelessness,” Ms. Dodge explained.

Matt Maracle was the next panelist. Mr. Maracle is Director of Operations at Gwekwaadziwin Miikan. “When Allison asked me to speak, I thought it would be a great opportunity to share about the work that we do, our land-based healing. Then she mentioned that she wanted it to be about HR... everybody’s favourite topic,” he said. “Job recruitment can be challenging in rural areas and the shortage of workers can have an impact on addiction services and wait times,” Ms. Dodge explained.

Debbie Debassige is Dean of Post Secondary Education and Training with Kenjgewin Teg. She



Allison Dodge, mental health and addictions counsellor and organizer of the National Addictions Awareness Week Conference.



Elder Josh Eshkawkogan concludes the conference with his insights.

photos by Margery Frisch

spoke of education pathways available through courses at Kenjgewin Teg, to any of the participants at the conference interested in pursuing a career in which they could make a positive difference.

Elder Josh Eshkawkogan was the final speaker, providing his perspective and teachings. “A lot of people are affected by the lack of love in the household,” Mr. Eshkawkogan explained. “Sometimes, addiction comes from low self-esteem, lack of relationship within themselves, within family, within community.” Mr. Eshkawkogan concluded by saying, “I think what we need to do a little bit more as helpers is engage in more seminars like this—it’s about sharing, it’s about networking... It’s very important that we share, and to be able to acknowledge each other and to better understand how we move forward.”

“Every year NAAW is given a theme by the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction. This year’s theme is ‘Forging Connections,’ this theme was chosen to focus on the importance of building strong relationships between individuals, families, communities and organizations to address the challenges surrounding addiction,” Ms. Dodge said, “and that is exactly what we did here today.”



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It is officially December! Winter is here, and snow is finally on the ground. With Winter Break just three weeks away, the holiday spirit is in the air. MSS students will begin their two-week holiday on Friday, December 20th. Until then, MSS remains as busy as ever. Let's take a look at what students were up to this week!

The week kicked off with a Battery Drive organized by the MSS robotics team. Students and staff were encouraged to bring in used batteries for proper disposal. This initiative aimed to prevent harmful chemicals from polluting the environment and to promote recycling. Call2Recycle, the organization Manitoulin Metal is collecting batteries to take the zinc out of the batteries to resell with profits going towards children's hospitals. Manitou-



lin Metal will soon count the batteries collected and ship them off, keeping them out of landfills.

A sweet highlight of the week was the Krispy Kreme fundraiser also organized by Manitoulin Metal. The students sold 400 boxes of doughnuts, raising \$3,200 dollars for the team. This is a significant contribution and will aid the team in the costs associated with building a new robot.

Want to see more of the robotics team? They have several upcoming events! Parents, community



Students on the field trip pose in front of Science North.

members, kids, and sponsors are all invited to visit MSS on Tuesday, December 17 from 3-6 pm to meet the build team, the coding team, the business team and hear about the initiatives they have in place for the 2025 season.

Manitoulin Metal has started a podcast! Their first episode will be out Thursday, December 5 on all podcast streaming platforms. The podcast is called BEEyond Robotics.

The robotics team is hosting a FIRST LEGO League explore tournament on Saturday, December 7 from 11 am to 2 pm at MSS. Watch the two teams, composed of kids ages 6 through 10 compete against each other with

the robots they have spent the last 12 weeks creating! The event is open to the public and everyone is welcome!

On Tuesday, November 26, MSS students travelled to Science North in Sudbury. The purpose of this field trip was to watch a live-streamed knee replacement surgery. The surgeon on the live stream took questions during the surgery and explained each step of what he was doing. After, the students got to explore Science North before heading back to Manitoulin.

A fun twist to the week included PJ Day on Thursday, November 28. Students and staff got



Students in their PJs!

to enjoy a day of comfort while attending regular classes. Hopefully, no one dozed off!!

Excitement is building among the students and staff involved in the upcoming Europe trip. This educational tour will take students to several European countries including France, England, and Italy, providing them with a unique opportunity to experience different cultures and historical sites firsthand. Preparations are in full swing, with meetings and fundraising plans to support the trip. Students are in the process of getting passports and preparing for this 10-

day trip. The plane to Europe will take off on Tuesday, March 4 and extend into the March Break.

Rounding off the week was the end of the Purdy's Chocolate Student Council fundraiser. Selling a variety of Purdy's chocolates, the Student Council successfully raised \$2,116.50. The funds will support various student initiatives and events throughout the year. A round of applause for all students who helped to fundraise!

That's all for this week! Until next time, go, Mustangs, go!



A fitting tribute to a fallen comrade!

OPP officers are joined by MNR Conservation Officers and other volunteers in collecting food and monetary donations at a Stuff a Cruiser event held outside the Mindemoya Foodland. "I think this is wonderful," said Foodland manager Andrew Orr. "It is really an honour to be able to help out with this effort."

photo by Michael Erskine



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Manitowaning, MLS #2113802 \$79,900

-1 acre lot, hydro, year-round road, water access, nicely treed, picturesque rock cut could provide elevated build.
Monument Road, MLS #2118483 \$125,000

GET TO KNOW OUR TEAM MEMBERS!

Al Frank – Agent



Al Frank was born and raised on a Fleckvieh dairy farm in Germany. Al went to trade school, became a mechanic and worked for six years in a factory. In those years Al realized that he wanted to be his own boss and farm. In October 1980 at the age of 23, Al came to Manitoulin Island and made an offer on an abandoned farm six kilometres south of Manitowaning. Al, his wife Anita and their 12-week-old daughter Anna became landed immigrants in April 1982.

Those early years farming were difficult, so Al started to work at the local Freshmart store making sausage, a hobby he still enjoys today. Al and Anita opened a bed and breakfast on their farm in 1991. In 1998 they bought Red Lodge Resort. While renovating the lodge they raised four children, Anna, Sarah, Kathleen and Daniel. During his tenure at Red Lodge he met Al Rolston who encouraged him to get a real estate licence which he completed in 2003.

Al's wife Anita passed away from cancer in 2008 and he sold the lodge in 2009. Currently, Al and his second wife Laura, with their son Mathis and loyal farmhand Dale, are farming together at their beef cattle farm at Hilly Grove south of Manitowaning. Al brings a wealth of farming, hospitality, renovation and building experience to the table. If you're ready to buy or sell a farm or business, make use of Al's expertise in these specialized real estate fields.

New Listing: Bay Estates Beauty



Bay Estates 4 bedroom, 2 full bath, built in 2010, plenty of greenspace with water access only a short walk through the forest trail to the shores of Manitowaning Bay, Lake Huron. This home has spacious rooms, tasteful main entry with open concept main floor kitchen, dining & living area with patio doors leading to back deck and private yard with fire pit. Principal suite boasts a large walk-in closet with en suite bathroom. Finished basement with woodstove. The detached double garage is insulated, wired 100 amp service (including a 30 amp receptacle for welder/compressor) and has a wood stove. Property also includes a storage shed and chicken coop.

MLS #2119947, Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, \$598,000



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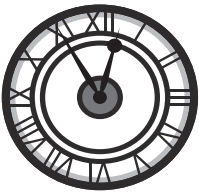
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Little Current, Ontario Wednesday, December 4, 2024



Now and Then
A Celebration of Life on Manitoulin
Mnaachtoong Maadsewin
By Petra Wall



Liz Hercun-Grigull
Liz Grigull is a very lively, capable lady with a strong flair for independence and a good sense of humour that both help her navigate her connections to the workplace, and to her friendships. She lives in the Gore Bay area, with her husband Rupert and two loveable canine pets, Reuger and Hickory. She has expertise in the details of running a sophisticated butchery, a pharmacy and a health food store. Liz began her life in Poland at eight pounds and ten ounces, on July 28, 1961. "In my first year I developed a tenacious case of meningitis. My grandparents in Canada sent the medication I needed and saved my life. They also sponsored us to come to Canada and having had the meningitis helped with that exodus." In 1963, Liz, at 18 months, and her family flew to Canada.

Liz has few distinct memories of her homeland, but she recalls her paternal connections. "My paternal Grandfather Joseph Hercun from Poland worked for Dempster's Bakery in Toronto. He and Grandmother Tekla had come to Canada to escape the communistic governments that were taking over in Poland. Mother's three sisters and two brothers stayed behind in the old country."

"We settled on Bellwoods Avenue, near Queen and Bathurst Streets, in



Liz Hercun-Grigull today.

enough because, after a while, I was asked not to read aloud to the students at all, as neither the students nor the teacher were able to keep up. My favourite teacher was Mrs. Smith. She was kind to me and each year she bought me tickets to the amazing Nutcracker Ballet."

"Grades seven and eight were at the Givens Public School and high school was at Parkdale Collegiate. I found the



A family fish fry.

downtown Toronto. My dad, Michael (Mihal) a kind gentle man, started working for Inglis, later General Electric. My mother Jenny, (Eugenia) found work in the food services department of the University of Toronto. I started school at Charles G. Fraser, at Bathurst and Queen Streets. I recall the teacher telling me I was reading too quickly in front of the class. I guess I didn't slow down

courses to be interesting and I was able to do well. I managed to get all my credits six months early in Grade 12, my last year, so I left early. However, I did return for the graduation ceremonies. Shaw Business College, was next. I registered for a program but changed courses mid-stream. We were given the challenging task of working with an international...

...continued on page 2A



Canadian Cross Country!

The Athletics Canada, cross country championships were held over the weekend in London with several Island runners competing. **Brodie Pennie** and his University of New Brunswick Reds team showing they are one of the top teams in the nation. Brodie finished 17th overall, helping UNB to the Bronze medal!

Manitoulin Secondary's **Xavier Mara** and **Wyatt Williamson-Wright** ran for their other team, Sudbury's Track North Athletic Club in the Forest City.

Coach **Gerry Holliday** put his own advice to good use competing in the Master 6K race. He finished fifth in his age group. His team, the Newmarket Huskies finished second overall to the tough, Runners Choice side from Alberta. Congratulations to all!

Carter Catch-up!

Carter George, is one of four goalies of the 32 total players that have been selected to the selection camp for this year's IIHF World Junior Championships! The camp starts next week in Ottawa at TD Place. Those moving on will play several pre-tournament games before the 'traditional' Boxing Day, first game, of the Tournament also to be held in Ottawa. Carter of course has an impressive resume and success on the international front with National team Gold in the latest U-18 and Hlinka-Gretzky Tournaments.

In his regular season he continues to put up impressive numbers despite stats, less-than-so, from the team in front of him. The young Los Angeles King is putting in his dues, gaining experience on his OHL Owen Sound Attack squad.

The Attack, is struggling among the bottom-dwellers of the league with a 7 and 14 record. Carter on his end, has faced the second highest number of shots and made the second overall number of saves in all of the OHL. Amazingly, he still has a plus-900 save percentage and a glass-half-full-view is that he is seeing more 'training-shots' than almost every goalie in the 'O'!

Off the Rock, Hockey!

The Ottawa 67's **Kohyn Eshkawogan** is tied for the lead now with nine points among rookie D-men although Kohyn has six games in hand.

The 67's had a tough afternoon against a projected Memorial Cup contender, the London Knights on Sunday. They got a bit of a spanking, 10-3 although Kohyn was one of the bright spots, being +1 in the loss, even with the team being down to five defencemen after the first period!

Panther Points!

Here is a quick update on our Panther teams. The U18 Lady Panthers were busy practicing this week in preparation for next weekend's double header against the Lady Wolves in Sudbury on Saturday.

The U13 Panthers have been gaining valuable experience although it is not translating to a lot of wins yet. They met the Sudbury Cubs and the North Shore Thundercats this weekend.

The U15 team headed to Levack on Sunday to beat the Sudbury Cubs with a score of 5-1. Both the U13 and U15 teams are heading to North Bay Next weekend to play in the East Nipissing Pre Christmas Blast. Good luck, Panthers!

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

Associate medical officer of health appointed

SUDBURY—The Board of Health has appointed Dr. Emily Groot as acting associate medical officer of health (AMOH) for Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD), starting January 6. She will fill the role in an acting capacity until her appointment is approved by the Minister of Health.

"We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Groot to our team as associate medical officer of health on a part-time basis to contribute to strategic leadership and evidence-informed decision making. This recruitment will significantly strengthen public health's local capacity and responsiveness," said Rene Lapierre, chair of the Board of Health.

"Dr. Groot is an accomplished public health physician, and I am excited to work with her to maximize the public health services and promote health in our service area," said Dr. Mustafa Hirji, acting medical officer of health and chief executive officer for PHSD. "The breadth of Dr. Groot's professional



The Board of Health has appointed Dr. Emily Groot as acting associate medical officer of health for Public Health Sudbury and Districts. experience and community service will benefit our agency and bolster our focus of creating healthier communities for all."

Having successfully recruited a highly experienced part-time AMOH, recruitment efforts will continue for an additional part-time AMOH to achieve the equivalent of the recommended capacity of one full-time AMOH for local health agencies, which would ensure the agency has critical surge capacity.

Dr. Groot grew up in Northeastern Ontario and is passionate about

improving the health of Northern Ontarians. She previously served as Associate Medical Officer of Health for the Thunder Bay District Health Unit as well as for Niagara Region Public Health. She has also worked as Regional Supervising Coroner for Northeastern Ontario and most recently as Medical Director of Sudbury's supervised consumption site. Dr. Groot will maintain her part-time roles as Program Director with PHSD and Preventive Medicine Residency Program at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) University, as well as Medical Director of Reseau ACCESS Network's Treatment and Prevention clinic.

Dr. Groot completed her medical education at McMaster University followed by specialty training in public health and preventive medicine at Queen's University. She also holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Toronto.

...Now and Then: Liz Hercun-Grigull

...continued from page 1A
al student didn't speak English. I found that too difficult, so I switched my focus to Business Administration, which didn't include this requirement."

"Later, our family moved to a house with a back yard in Etobicoke. I stayed there until my first marriage in 1984. Unfortunately, this partnership only lasted one year due to irreconcilable differences." Liz began to work as a recruiter for the Keith Bagg Association. It was a company that enrolled employees for other major organizations. After five years, a fellow employee, Meva Yee, left to start her own company and several employees, including Liz, joined her in the new 'recruiting' enterprise.

"About this time, I met Rupert. It was 1990 and I was still in the process of getting divorced. My younger sister Helen and her husband took me out for dinner one night. A Spanish guy in the restaurant was annoying me when this nice man, Rupert, stopped by, and I asked him to discourage the Spaniard. At first, Rupert thought I was referring to my sister's husband and we had to redirect that target to the Spaniard, whose advances were finally dissuaded. That was how I met Rupert."

"After that, Rupert and I started to date. He was a gentleman. A genuinely nice person, intelligent, with a great sense of humour. We decided



Liz and Rupert in 2024.

to move in together and buy the 'Village Butcher,' a gourmet butcher shop in the heart of the Lakeshore area of Toronto. We had many clients and enjoyed 25 years of successful business in Toronto. After that quarter of a century, we decided it was time to elope."

"After Jim Carey's sister worked at a radio station in St. Catharines. The radio station advertised 12 couples could be wed at the Hernder Wine Estates as part of a celebration they were hosting. Each couple would pay \$600 to cover all costs: ceremony, pastor, photos, flowers, lunch, and dancing. It was a wonderful celebration, and we became husband and wife, officially. We still stay in touch with one man who wore his hunter camouflage for his renewal of vows. He

became a friend and a client at our butcher shop. My first wedding had set us back \$30,000 and this one just \$600. On our way home we stopped at the liquor store and got a surprise congratulatory bottle of champagne from the owner."

"When Rupert's son James, from his first marriage, was nine, he moved in with us. We were living in a condominium at the time. It was almost Halloween and after James had been trick and treating he spilled his bounty on the floor. Liz helped him organize it. In doing so, she managed to abscond with all the Mars bars. When James complained to his dad that Liz had taken all the Mars bars Rupert claimed that Liz "would not do that." However, she had indeed taken them, so they came

to a mutual agreement about the future ownership of the Mars bars."

"We ran that successful butcher store until 2009, when health issues arose for Rupert. We sold the business that year, just before Christmas, and opened a farm store on a recently purchased farm in Cayuga, about 100 km from Toronto. We ran that successfully until we moved to Manitoulin in 2015. Rupert already had some history on the Island. He had worked here with his father at Island Ford in Gore Bay, and he had owned a grocery store in Little Current. Our original plan was to live on the island in the

summer and return to the farm for the rest of the year. We did that the first year, staying at the farm from September to April but then we decided to sell the farm in 2015."

"We moved to the Island and built a house at Lucar Point Road on Lake Manitou, in Rockville. It was a one-story retirement home with three bedrooms. Rupert's old cottage in Rockville had been taken over by his brothers and sold. I found work running the garden center for Foodland and later I became assistant librarian for the Mindemoya Library for six years."

"On a more personal note, I recall losing my di-

amond wedding ring in Lake Manitou. It had fallen off while I was in the water. Thankfully, I spied it shining in the water, on top of the sand. It was about ten feet down, so I got my snorkel gear and dove down to retrieve it. Another event was the loss of my bracelet, which had set Rupert back several thousand dollars after we had sold our business. I remember trying it on in the jewelry store. After spending some time admiring it, I couldn't get it off. Finally, we did get it off my wrist and drove home. Rupert went back later and bought this beautiful 8.5 karat brace-

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Manitoulin Hotel Conference Centre

Now Hiring!

Food & Beverage Servers
Bartenders
Laundry Attendant
Housekeeping
Line Cooks

Please apply in person at the front desk with a resumé and be prepared for an interview.

Wages are negotiable.

Manitoulin Hotel & Conference Centre
66 Meredith St. E.
Little Current, ON P0P 1K0



Conseil des Services du District de
Manitoulin-Sudbury
District Services Board

210 boul Mead Blvd
Espanola, ON P5E 1R5
Telephone/Téléphone: (705) 862-785C
Fax/Télécopteur: (705) 862-780E
<http://www.msdsb.net>

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) is looking for a self-motivated & energetic individual to join our industry-leading organization which works towards the delivery of high-quality services and programs to the residents of Manitoulin-Sudbury districts. Created by the provincial government, the DSB is responsible for overseeing and managing a range of services divested to the municipal order of government, including Ontario Works, Community Housing, Paramedic Services (Land Ambulance), Non-Urgent Patient Transportation, and Early Learning and Child Care Services.

At Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, we welcome new and diverse talent! We are currently searching for our next Integrated Program Assistant.

What You Offer

- Effective oral and written communication, organization and problem-solving skills
- Exceptional knowledge of Microsoft 365 Applications
- Ability to understand and interpret provincial statutes, regulations and policies
- Ability to work with computer programs relevant to client files, third-party inquiries and data collection.

What We Offer

- Competitive salary
- Employer-matched pension plan, group health benefits which includes vision, dental, drug and extended health benefits, and a wellness program that is available to spouses and children
- Career growth
- Diverse and inclusive work culture
- Continuing education for staff

For more information on this position and how to apply please use this QR code.



While all responses are appreciated, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

MUNICIPALITY



OF ASSIGINACK

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

seeks MUNICIPAL CLERK

The Township of Assiginack is seeking to fill the full-time position of **Municipal Clerk.**

Reporting to the Chief Administrative Officer, the Municipal Clerk is responsible for a wide range of legislative, administrative and customer service oriented services.

Preferred Education and Experience:

- Completion of post secondary studies in public administration or similar discipline
 - CMO designation or willingness to obtain
- Minimum three years working experience in municipal office with progressive experience
 - Working knowledge of municipal and related legislation
 - Effective communication skills
 - Organizational and time management skills
 - Highest level of personal integrity

A detailed job description and salary scale are available upon request.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a detailed resume no later than 4:00 pm, Friday, December 20, 2024 to:

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

We thank all who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be acknowledged. Applications will be held in confidence. Accommodation shall be provided for applicants with disabilities upon request in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

...Now and Then: Liz Hercun-Grigull

...continued from page 2A
let for me.”

“One day I was walking the dog on a lead. He yanked me into a bushy area and the clasp came undone, tossing the bracelet into the bush. We stayed put until we found it again. We decided to pay a young person to clean the yard for \$200 and he did an excellent job. It would be easier to find the bracelet now if I

happened to lose it again. Nevertheless, I only wear the bracelet for special occasions, and it is kept safely in a bank’s storage box. I recall Mike Erskine did a story about the loss of the bracelet for the Expositor at the time.”

“In 2019 we sold our Lake Manitou house and moved to the Gore Bay area. The 400 acres we live on now were purchased with another owner. To-

day, we are arranging to break off 100 acres and own them outright. We are also planning to build a new house on our land. I found work at Kidane and Almaz’s health food store and pharmacy in Gore Bay. I stayed for two years.”

“I love morels. One day, in 2007, we decided to pick these mushrooms for Mother’s Day. We wanted to surprise Rupert’s

mother. In addition, we had just been at a funeral and needed to change the mood. We spent two hours looking for the tasty mushrooms and were overwhelmed with black flies the whole time. The back of my neck was

bloody. Unfortunately, we didn’t find any morels. The same thing happened when we were trying to sell a hunting property at Maple Point. The truck filled with black flies and again, I was badly bitten while driving home.”

“In 2021, I took one year off to be home with Rupert and help him with his health issues. He’s had several brain tumors that have been successfully removed. I lost my parents four years ago. My moth-

...continued on page 3A



WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
POST-SECONDARY &
ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Term: Full-time (35 hours per week) | Salary Range: \$56,800-\$67,820/year plus group benefits and pension (subject to education and/or experience)

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

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Post-Secondary Program

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

Adult Education

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

Counselling and Collaboration

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

Administration

- Develop a list and process for emailing students and/or providing regular information via Constant Contact to Communications personnel for dissemination.
 - Maintain an accurate, up-to-date filing system and database for WRFN-sponsored and supported students.
- *For a complete Job Description, please email: hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca*

QUALIFICATIONS:

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

SKILLS:

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

Applications must be submitted by noon on December 13th, 2024

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

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

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



WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION
is seeking a dynamic and experienced
HEALTH MANAGER ^{2nd Posting}

Salary Range: \$75,120-\$89,700 (including group pension and health benefits)

** Subject to education and experience or a combination of both*

The ideal candidate should have senior management experience working in the First Nation field and outstanding organizational, communication and leadership skills. This is a rewarding opportunity if you have an appreciation for First Nation culture and a desire to participate in the enhancement and growth of Whitefish River First Nation.

The Health Manager will continually ensure that the Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN) community members can access efficient, quality healthcare services. This position reports to the Band Manager and is responsible for the operation and management of the WRFN Health Centre. It requires substantial operational and planning oversight and planning and healthcare service delivery to the WRFN community.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Develop and coordinate continual access to efficient and quality healthcare services and programs for the Whitefish River First Nation community by:

- Providing leadership and direction for the Health Centre and staff to continually meet the goals and objectives.
- Promoting and emphasizing people-centred care in partnership with the patient, family and healthcare team.
- Developing, implementing and maintaining an active human resources plan.
- Plan, organize and monitor the programs and health services to ensure all activities are consistent with legislation, standards, regulations and needs.
- Develop and review program indicators, goals and outcome measures.
- Develop, coordinate and provide training for the Health Unit, particularly the health staff.

Relationships and Team Building

- Work collaboratively and cooperatively at all levels to support the use of strength-based, community-focused practices while assisting team members in building their capacity to provide safe and nurturing environments for the WRFN members.

Human Resources

Provide guidance, direction and support to staff:

- Supervise, coach and direct staff.
- Monitor and address employee performance and conduct performance reviews.
- Coordinate staff professional development and address any training needs.

Financial Management

To assist in the preparation and monitoring of the Health Unit Budget:

- Assist in developing the yearly Health Budget and review, monitor, coordinate and plan the allocation of resources for staff within the authority limit.
- Review, monitor and approve financial expenditures for health staff.
- Apply for funding opportunities and complete funding requirements.

Interagency Participation

To actively participate in internal, external or local committees or groups in support of coordinating health programs and services to the WRFN community:

- Actively participate in the Health Team, WRFN Management and other internal committees supporting all WRFN programs and services.
- Collaborate with internal and external agencies to monitor and assist in developing the Health Unit’s program and services.

Administration

To complete administrative functions and adhere to all WRFN policies, procedures and standards of practice:

- Develop and submit a yearly work plan with goals, objectives and measurable indicators of success.
- Review and approve various forms to be used, i.e. Monthly Report Forms, Intake Forms, Medical Forms, Liability Forms, etc.
- Prepare and submit comprehensive monthly and quarterly reports to the Band Manager and Leadership (when requested).
- Ensure confidentiality and safekeeping of all WRFN files and records.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Degree in Health Sciences, Public Health, Public Administration or a related field.
- A master’s in public health would be an asset.
- Minimum of three to five years of managerial experience, preferably in healthcare, including staff supervision.
- Must understand and adhere to General Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) and Funding Contribution Funding Agreements.
- Strong proposal writing skills.
- Work experience working with First Nation people, organizations and communities would be an asset.

KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS

- Knowledge of First Nation communities and structures and the ability to integrate traditional and mainstream practices as a central and vital part of health service delivery.
 - Knowledge of local services available to the WRFN community.
 - Knowledge and understanding of the Canada Health Act, Non-Insured Health Benefits Program and Indian Act.
 - In-depth knowledge of health/wellness challenges, relevant historical factors and trauma, i.e. residential schools, intergenerational trauma, colonization, etc.
 - Knowledge, understanding, respect and sensitivity of the Anishinabek culture, language and traditions.
- *For a detailed job description, please email hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca*

Applications must be submitted by noon on December 16th, 2024

Interested applicants must submit a current resume, cover letter, three (3) work-related references (with contact information) and applicable education diplomas/certifications to:

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

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

...Now and Then: Liz Hercun-Grigull

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er had developed Alzheimer's for several years. I still have my sister Helen in Toronto. These days I have been doing some work at the Valu Mart in Little Current, for their new owner."

Were you named after anyone? "No." Any specific responsibilities that you had as a child? "My parents spoke no English after we first moved here. I soon became their translator. I was only nine years old, but I helped them with all their tasks, including their financial transactions." Favourite family outing? "Going to Allison Park, north of Toronto, with my parents." Favourite television shows? "Tiny Talent Time every Sunday afternoon, when I was younger. They had kids dancing, singing, and displaying many other talents. To watch television, we always had to get permission from dad. That was an unspoken rule."

Favourite sport? "In high school it was basketball, despite my five-foot two-inch height. We won a lot of tournaments. Also, I have always enjoyed fishing for bass, trout and pickerel, with good success." First hourly wage? "The Concession stands for the Blue Jays team for two years. I made \$15 an hour serving food and cleaning up after the game. Later, I worked in the kitchen at the Univer-



Rupert and Liz's Village Butcher in Toronto just after it was sold.

sity of Toronto for three years. That job was fine, until another employee put live mice into the hoodie I was wearing. I freaked out."

What is your most memorable event? "The day I met Rupert was a special day and that day will always be etched in my mind." Any other memories that stick in your mind? "I recall fishing on Bass Lake. We had a successful trip but coming back to shore was eventful in a unique way. I had to go into another boat to get to shore. As I jumped in the boat began to sink. Also, to get back to shore, I had to extricate myself from the mud I wound up in. It was not a good ending to our happy fishing excursion."

First home as a couple? "A condominium in Toronto for Rupert and me, then the farm with the store, the Lake Manitou home and lastly, the Kagawong property." What are you most proud

of? My two puppy dogs." What are you most afraid of? "Nothing in particular. I tend to accept life as it comes." If you could go back in time, is there anything you would change? "No. So far, I have lived my life as I wished. I tend to roll with the punches, get up after a fall and keep going. You need to play the cards you are dealt." If you could keep only three things from your current life, what would they be? "In addition to Rupert, my dogs, jewelry, and my cell phone."

What is your favourite time of the year? "Fall, I love the colours of the leaves and the coolness of the weather." "What are your strengths? I like management, having a good sense of humour: being positive, and taking care of our dogs. They always get excited when they see our truck approaching. Recently I bought five kg of dog treats in a store, and when the lady said, 'You must have a lot of dogs' I smiled and responded, 'these are dessert for my husband.'"

Any role models you would like to mention? "My dad was a good man. I learned a lot from him. When we bought the farm, we had the \$1000 deposit, but we needed his help. He took back the mortgage and asked us to pay what we could each month."

Associations you were involved with? "As a recruiter, I belonged to the

Human Resources Professionals Association. I was also a volunteer for the Business Improvement Association 'BIA.' I was Treasurer, Events Coordinator and President for two years. On Manitoulin I was part of the library board while I was the assistant librarian." What problems are still likely to be around 100 years from now? "Welfare and the Liberals." Greatest hope for the future? "World Peace." Your personal recipe for happiness? "Having a peaceful world and tasty food to eat."

Is there something you would like to accomplish that has evaded you in the past? "Win big in the

lottery. I did win \$1000 in an instant pick once." Is there anyone in your past that inspired you? "My grade three teacher, Mrs. Smith who also bought the ballet tickets." Is there something you dreamed as a child that you wanted to be as an adult? "I wanted to be a teacher and although that specific training has not occurred from academia, I find myself teaching others every day." Is there anything you would like to say to the youth of today? "Get a job and do it right."

"The people of Manitoulin are phenomenal. The lakes are pristine and the 'peace and quiet' are real draws to the island.

I can imagine this is true for many visitors. The seasons are uniquely different here too, tempered perhaps by the surrounding water. The weather can change so quickly. The fall colours are a treat and I love this environment here. We intend to stay here. We haven't been to Toronto for at least three years. The last time we were there to trade in our truck, we were close to a nearby shooting. We quickly traded our truck and headed back to Manitoulin. Here, we live more securely and happily, with dogs Hickory and Reger. We intend to spend the rest of our lives in this beautiful place."



Rainbow Schools

Reaching minds. Touching hearts.

Speech Language Pathologist

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

Rainbow District School Board is now accepting applications for a **Speech Language Pathologist**. For more information about this employment opportunity, please visit www.rainbowschools.ca/join-our-team.

Interested candidates should apply by **noon Monday, December 16, 2024** and submit a cover letter, resume and names of three (3) references.

David Farrow
Board Chair

Bruce Bourget
Director of Education

rainbowschools.ca

THE TOWN OF GORE BAY VACANT COUNCILLOR SEAT POSITION

The Town of Gore Bay is seeking applications from qualified persons who are interested in filling this Council Seat Position.

To qualify you shall be at least 18 years of age, a Canadian Citizen, a resident of the Town of Gore Bay or the owner or tenant of land in the Town of Gore Bay or the spouse of such owner or tenant.

For further details regarding qualifications for this Councillor Position, please contact the undersigned.

Applications will be accepted by the undersigned until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, 2024.



Aly Niemi, Deputy Clerk
Town of Gore Bay
(705) 282-2420 ext 4
aniemi@gorebay.ca





MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL MANITOULIN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Customer Service / Receivables Clerk

Salary Range \$45,000-\$60,000

The Municipality of Central Manitoulin is seeking applicants for the position of Customer Service/Receivables Clerk.

Further information, including a job description, is available on our website at www.centralmanitoulin.ca.

Resumes will be received until the position is filled. Please hand in your resume at the office address below or email to Denise Deforge at ddeforge@centralmanitoulin.ca.

**Denise Deforge CAO/Clerk
Municipality of Central Manitoulin
6020 Highway 542
P.O. Box 420
Mindemoya, Ontario P0P 1S0
ddeforge@centralmanitoulin.ca
Phone: (705) 377-5726 Fax: (705) 377-5585**





Conseil des Services du District de Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board

210 boul Mead Blvc
Espanola, ON P5E 1R5
Telephone/Téléphone: (705) 862-785C
Fax/Télécopieur: (705) 862-780E
<http://www.msdsb.net>

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) is looking for a self-motivated & energetic individual to join our industry-leading organization which works towards the delivery of high-quality services and programs to the residents of Manitoulin-Sudbury districts. Created by the provincial government, the DSB is responsible for overseeing and managing a range of services divested to the municipal order of government, including Ontario Works, Community Housing, Paramedic Services (Land Ambulance), Non-Urgent Patient Transportation, and Early Learning and Child Care Services.

At Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB, we welcome new and diverse talent! We are currently searching for a Communications Officer/Executive Assistant.

What You Bring

- Proficient computer skills
- Web content/social media experience
- Experience dealing with the media
- Excellent interpersonal and public relations communication skills
- Excellent oral, written and interpersonal skills

What We Offer

- Competitive salary
- Employer-matched pension plan, group health benefits which include optical, dental, drug and extended health benefits, and a wellness program that is available to spouses and children
- Career growth
- Diverse and inclusive work culture
- Continuing education for staff

For more information and how to apply, use the QR code below.



SCAN ME

While all responses are appreciated, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.