

Island youths making their marks



Steve Paikin, left, the host of the TVO show The Agenda, listens to 16-year-old Ellie Maxwell sing an original song, 'Lucky' during the taping of a show featuring an interview with Ellie and her mother Mary Mendes de Franca.



Bryce Debassige of M'Chigeeng was the Toronto Maple Leafs flag-bearer at its January 11 Indigenous celebration game.

Agenda host Steve Paikin discovers Ellie Maxwell at Kagawong Market, invites her to TVO debut

by Tom Sasvari
EVANSVILLE—Steve Paikin, host of the TVO show The Agenda can now count himself lucky, just like all those who have heard the voice of 16-year-old Evansville singing sensation Ellie Maxwell.

"I was attending one of the weekly farmers' markets held in Kagawong (in 2024) when I could hear this voice singing. She sounded so much like Ella Fitzgerald. When I found out where the voice was coming from and that it was Ellie that was singing, I was thinking, 'more people need to hear this kid sing,'" Mr. Paikin told The Expositor.

Mr. Paikin and his family spend the summers in their Island home in the Kagawong area.

Ellie and her mother Mary Mendes De Franca appeared in a taping of The Agenda with Steve Paikin which aired December 19. As part of the show, Ellie sang an original song, 'Lucky,' which outlines her story of being adopted by her parents (Mary Mendes de Franca and Steve Maxwell), having been abandoned by her birth mother as a baby in South Africa and how she was adopted by her new family and moved to Evansville on Manitoulin Island.

"I think about that still, I don't know what would have happened to me," Ellie said in the interview with Mr. Paikin. "I wouldn't have my brothers and sister who I love, parents that love me so much and the home I have. I have so much gratitude and love for my parents."

"It was pretty neat being on the show and how this all came about," said Mary. "Steve (Mr. Paikin) has a place in Kagawong and he was at a farmers' market in Kagawong in 2024. Steve (Maxwell) was with Ellie, who was busking, and Mr. Paikin said he could hear someone singing, but he couldn't see who it was."

Ms. Mendes de Franca explained, "The Agenda does a musical show ever year." Steve wanted Ellie to be on the show, and he contacted us in the fall and told us the show would have to be taped in Toronto."

Due to copyright laws and the cost it would be for TVO to pay to have Ellie sing an Ella Fitzgerald song on the show, "I told him (Mr. Paikin) Ellie has a couple of original songs that she has been working on," said Mary.

"Ellie and I went to the TVO studios in November for the interview," said Mary. "It was a wonderful experience," she said, noting the almost 18-minute interview delved into the story of Ellie and the Maxwell family adopting her and how she came to live on Manitoulin Island.

"It is an uplifting story," said Mary. Mr. Paikin, "is a very skilled interviewer, and the film crew was great. (Mr. Paikin) is so great in what he does, you forget there are camera crews around. It was like the interview was taped in our living room."

In the interview Mary explained, "Ellie came to

...continued on page 8

Bryce Debassige, U10 Sudbury Wolf, carries the flag as Leafs affirm

Indigenous culture
TORONTO—On January 11, Bryce Debassige of M'Chigeeng First Nation had the opportunity to participate in the opening of the Toronto Maple Leafs Indigenous celebration game against the Vancouver Canucks. This young hockey player was invited to carry the Leafs flag around the ice and skate to the center of the ice and wave the flag prior to the game. It was an honour that Bryce was proud to do as he is a Toronto Maple Leafs fan himself.

Before the game, Bryce had an opportunity to rehearse as he needed to ensure his timing was right. He was also quite nervous prior to being told to "Go!"

He said, "I was nervous, especially when I looked out into the crowd of people but, when they said, go, I focused on the boards

...continued on page 8

Other national First Nations group seeks own negotiations with Canada on child welfare, similar to Ontario

ONTARIO—Cindy Blackstock, executive director of the Caring Society, told APTN News January 14 that she has filed a motion with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) to force Canada back to the table to negotiate with First Nations outside of Ontario on a deal to reform the on-reserve child welfare system for First Nations outside Ontario.

"Chiefs have said they want to negotiate, but they want to negotiate in a way that they have representation at the table. And that's a fair argument," Ms. Blackstock said. "And in my view, Canada's not doing either. They're not listening to First Nations rights holders and they are not negotiating in good faith."

The CHRT had, in 2016, ordered the federal government to renew the child welfare system after it had ruled that Canada had discriminated against on reserve First Nation children in care by chronically underfunding services, compared to other children. The agreement was for \$47.8 billion over 10 years.

However, the agreement was rejected by a majority of chiefs at an Assembly of First Nations Special Assembly, twice.

Ms. Blackstock said the filing of the motion before the CHRT should not impact the negotiations with Ontario but calls for

...continued on page 9

UCCM Police chief applauds community help in Branco verdict

M'CHIGEENG—The UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service (UCCM APS) said it is pleased to learn that Victor Branco has been sentenced to 12 years in federal prison for trafficking drugs in the Sudbury and Manitoulin area.

"This result is because police receive firsthand information, and it is this type of information that aids in our investigations and leads to outcomes like this. Reporting suspicious activity in our communities may help save lives and put responsible behind bars—report, report, report!" stated James Killeen, UCCM APS Chief of Police in a release.

In early 2022, Project Hewson, a drug trafficking sting, netted 107 charges. Victor

...continued on page 9

Gordon/Barrie Island offer falls short of Gore Bay arena support ask

by Tom Sasvari
GORE BAY—The Town of Gore Bay has expressed some disappointment in the amount of funding one of the three Western Manitoulin municipalities (which had been requested to increase their share of funding provided and contribute on an annual basis) has agreed to provide under the proposed shared service contribution plans for the Gore Bay Memorial Arena.

As was reported in last week's edition of The Expositor, on November 27 a Western Manitoulin shared services meeting was held with officials from Billings, Gordon/Barrie Island and Burpee and Mills in which Gore Bay requested that each council consider a contribution change from an

annual donation to an annual contribution based on participation rates of residents in the three, in support of the arena. The townships were informed that currently Gore Bay provides \$89,000 or 89 percent of the costs in operating the arena on a yearly basis and are looking to have this, based on participation rates from each of the four communities, decreased to \$50,000 or 50 percent, Gordon Barrie Island currently provides \$7,000 or seven percent and the proposal was to see this increased to 23 percent or \$23,000, Billings from 2.5 percent or \$2,500, to \$11,000 (11 percent), and Burpee and Mills from 1.5 percent or \$1,500, to eight percent or \$8,000.

"We have received a response from one

of the townships (Gordon/Barrie Island), which decided to increase the annual donation to \$8,000 (for 2025) which is not as much as we had hoped," said town manager/clerk Harry Schlange. "This is a great facility that is used and enjoyed by all residents on Western Manitoulin. The cost to operate the arena is \$100,000 per year and currently we (Gore Bay) are paying 89 percent of the costs, with the other municipalities paying a share of 11 percent."

Mr. Schlange said he had originally been asked to do research as to who uses the arena (from each community) and he talked to the Western Manitoulin Minor Hockey As-

...continued on page 10

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The Manitoulin *West* Recorder

UCCM Police welcomes first Island-based canine unit

M’CHIGEENG—The UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service has established the first ever full-time canine unit on Manitoulin Island.

“The UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service (UCCM APS) is excited and proud to welcome the first ever full-time canine unit on Manitoulin Island,” stated James Killeen, UCCM APS Chief of Police on January 15.

“UCCM would like to send out a chi-miigwech to Sault Ste. Marie Police Service and in particular Chief Hugh Stevenson and Deputy Chief Brent Duguay for making this transition seamless,” said Chief of Police Killeen in a release. “It was truly appreciated. UCCM would also like to thank the OPP (Ontario Provincial Police) for their continued support in

...continued on page 7



The UCCM Anishnaabe Police is excited and proud to welcome the first ever full-time canine unit on Manitoulin Island. Pictured are UCCM Constable Nick Beaudry and his police service dog Ben.

‘Fuel the Fire’ moving to YouTube broadcasting for its eighth season

by Michael Erskine
M’CHIGEENG—Neil Debassige is an educator, like his parents Ann and Bud Debassige before him, and he followed that path to a career that took him from teacher to principal with a steadfast passion. Over the past eight years, Mr. Debassige has taken his passion for teaching and melded it with his love of the outdoors to create ‘Fuel the Fire,’ a television program that takes aim at bringing that love of the land to audiences across the globe.

Mr. Debassige is unapologetically passionate about the outdoor lifestyle and the con-

nections to harvesting one’s own food from the land. But the television channel broadcast route has some serious setbacks when it comes to reaching, and teaching, the broader public.

“We started in 2016 and for the first two years we aired on WildTV,” he said. “The last six years have been on the Sportsman Channel.” But those venues are paid subscription channels that essentially preach to the converted. The people who pay to watch the shows are already, for the vast majority at least, already engaged in the

outdoor lifestyle. Mr. Debassige and his team want to reach out to a broader audience.

Currently, the eighth season of ‘Fuel the Fire’ is in reruns on the Sportsman Channel, with each season consisting of 13 episodes and running five times a week. This eighth season marks the 100-episode milestone for the show. “My original plan was to get through one season,” he laughs. “Back then I didn’t know anything about producing a television show. It got bigger than us really fast. It was a very

...continued on page 7



Neil Debassige and Jesse Beaudin with a black bear harvested on Fuel the Fire TV.

New pastor comes to St. Bernards and St. Gabriel

by Michael Erskine
LITTLE CURRENT—The Catholic parishes of St. Bernards in Little Current and St. Gabriel Lalemant in Birch Island have a new pastor as Fr. Gerry McDougall SJ has taken up the role in both communities. This is not Fr. Gerry’s first assignment on Manitoulin and the Island is familiar territory for the Jesuit cleric.

Fr. Gerry came to the priesthood later in life as he related to The Expositor.

“I received the call in my twenties and it took me a few years to answer,” he said. “I was sure that God was leading me somewhere, but I had no idea where. A good friend told me that I needed a spiritual director to help me to pray in a listening way, and to teach me how to discern God’s call. So, I called around and found a spiritual director who was a priest living in my home diocese. After about two years, investigating different options, and praying for guidance, I discovered my calling. So, I applied to enter the Society of Jesus (Je-

suits). I entered on August 29, 1989. My past employment had been as a computer tech, a grocery store clerk, and a newspaper carrier.”

As to why he chose the Jesuit order, “The simple answer is that I felt then, and still feel today, after 35 years, that God calls me to be a Jesuit. As a member of the Society of Jesus, I belong to a Catholic religious order of men, who come from over one hundred countries and regions around the world. The founder of the Jesuits is St. Ignatius of Loyola. St. Ignatius and the first companions sought, in prayer, to find God’s will for them, so that they might give God the greatest glory that they possibly could. It is still our way of proceeding today. As Jesuits, we live in communities. My local community is known as Great Lakes North, and we are a part of the Jesuits of Canada.”

Fr. Gerry was ordained to priesthood on June 3, 2000. “My first mission (assignment) was to Thun-

3 Cows spearheads MSS Living Well Locker donation campaign

by Tom Sasvari
M’CHIGEENG—The Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) Living Well Locker has received a significant donation thanks to the support of the business 3 Cows and a Cone and the generous Manitoulin community.

“At the end of November or beginning of December we reached out to the community advising the public we were going to be taking donations for the MSS Living Well Locker,” said Judith Wright of 3 Cows and a Cone. “In putting it on, the support from the community was fantastic.”

“We accepted donations for six weeks,” said Ms. Wright. “There was a fantastic outpouring of support from people in providing donations.”

“It has been a big help to the program,” said Sarah Aube, coordinator of the MSS Living Well Locker Program.

“We dropped off the donations at the school (on January 14) of items like non-perishable food goods, toiletries, hygiene products and school supplies,” said Ms. Wright. “Along with

the items that had been donated, \$375 in cash donations had been provided, and Phil Blake (owner of 3 Cows) bumped that up to \$500.”

Ms. Aube explained that the Living Well Locker program “is a safe place for students if they need food such as fresh or frozen fruit, vegetables and other food items, personal hygiene and toiletry items they can access at the school.”

“It is very important, especially at this time of the year when students may not have a lot of access to all of this,” said Ms. Aube. She noted Noojmowin Teg donates single sized portions of chili to the school on a monthly basis, “where we can keep in the freezer and when a student wants lunch they can take out, heat up and have.”

Ms. Aube said with the Canada Post strike MSS was not able to send letters to the groups it normally requests donations of fresh fruit and vegetables from. This made the support from the community and 3 Cows even that more important this year.



From left in photo, 3 Cows and a Cone owner Phil Blake, Jordan Williamson, Niomi Tomaselli, Abraham Halote, Cole Laidley and Sarah Aube, all of Manitoulin Secondary School, display the many items of non-perishable food goods and other members of the generous Manitoulin community provided to the business on a request for donations to the MSS Living Well Locker Program. Ms. Aube is coordinator of the Living Well Locker Program.

Deputy chief of Sheguiandah First Nation unexpectedly begins his spirit journey

by Michael Erskine
SHEGUIANDAH—Orville “Ray” “Bugsy” Aguonie Biidaabino Nimki (Thunder Before the Dawn), the deputy chief of Sheguiandah who was due to step into the chief’s role on the band council after current chief Jason Aguonie became unable to fulfill his mandate, was discovered deceased at his home last January 12 at the age of 59—just a few days short of his 60th



The late Orville Aguonie.

birthday on January 19.

Mr. Aguonie suffered an unheralded heart attack after wrestling with diabetes for several years.

A member of the Martin Clan, Mr. Aguonie twice served as chief of Sheguiandah First Nation and a number of stints on the band council as a councillor.

He is survived by his wife Alison Aguonie (nee Manitowabi) and siblings, Ron, Carol, Chris, Jake, Marlene and Garfield. Brother Lyman and sister Brenda White duck preceded him in their spirit journeys.

Chair of the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHTLF) Mike Restoule issued a statement of condolence to the deputy chief’s family, friends and community.



Two new councillors sworn in for Gore Bay council! Dan Forest, left, and Taryn Strain take part in swearing in ceremonies at a council meeting last week.

...continued on page 8

...continued on page 7

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opinion

editorial

Spectre of an unnecessary provincial election unsettling

Never one to let an opportunity to pass Ontario Premier Doug Ford and his ministers are floating trial balloons on calling an early provincial election in order to fight the good fight against the threat of crippling US tariffs. The argument is that he needs a new mandate in order to do so—and throwing the provincial government into limbo as that threat looms over our nation is the way to do it.

Never mind that Premier Ford currently enjoys a strong majority at Queen’s Park and that his traditional opponents are currently challenged by the public antipathy to their current federal counterparts.

The argument that he needs a new mandate is, of course, complete and utter hooley.

Like former provincial leader David Peterson, Premier Ford and his advisors see a looming catastrophe in the form of The Donald’s tariff threats (in Mr. Peterson provincial Liberal case it was a looming dip in the business cycle that he wanted to avoid wearing) and the perfect opportunity to leap over the next four years.

It is not, however, despite enjoying the levers of a resurgent Canadian nationalism of which Ontarians stand first and foremost in the ranks, a slam dunk—calling an early and unnecessary election can bring a backlash from the electorate—which Mr. Peterson discovered to his dismay and to then NDP leader Bob Rae’s delight.

Mr. Peterson cynically gambled that his strong lead in the polls and a sleepy summer doldrum electorate would prove the magic ballot bullet. He was wrong. The voters of Ontario rebelled in a big way—leading to the first (and at least until now last) NDP government. History knows how that turned out.

letters

Let’s be rid of inter-provincial trade barriers

The time is now for local politicians and bureaucrats to act

To the Expositor:

The inauguration of Donald Trump as president with his foolish promise of trade tariffs certainly highlights the crucial importance of your most timely editorial regarding the nonsense of inter-provincial trade barriers here in Canada (‘Inter-provincial trade takes on new importance with tariff threats,’ January 15, Page 4).

Let us hope and pray that local politicians and bureaucrats are paying attention and will act, at last, to get rid of long outdat-

It’s time to make demands of our federal government

The ‘little guy’ should be granted the same tax breaks as corporations

To the Expositor:

We are still a democracy, right?

Well now, if that is really true don’t, we the people, deserve a little fairness and equality. Yep, I, myself think so. What about you?

Let me see now what the pecking order for Canadian governments is. Top dog the federal government, boss to number two provincial and or territorial governments to boss to number three is regional governments. Boss to number four, municipal governments. Boss to, yes you guessed it, you and me, the little guy the citizen, the taxpayer.

Now that you’ve got this far without falling asleep. You are probably wondering where is this all going.

The answer plain and simple. New Years big and I mean big resolution. It is gosh darn Jiminy Cricket about time we demand our rights if we are still a democracy. It is time to tell our elected officials at all levels that hey, you know what? Businesses and corporations got to deduct their municipal taxes from their federal taxable

Rainbow board enrolment increase leads to surplus for year

SUDBURY—Several factors have come into play that has allowed the Rainbow District School Board (RDSB) to close the 2023-2024 fiscal year with a surplus, after the board had earlier anticipated a projected deficit.


The RDSB ended the 2023-2024 fiscal year with a \$2.2 million surplus, and increasing its accumulated surplus to \$28 million. An increase in student enrolment and an increase in investment income along with a mild winter, led to the board surplus for the year.

The board had originally projected a deficit of \$1.6 million for the fiscal year ending August 31. Then in January 2024 the board had updated its projections to a slight surplus of \$330,000 because of the changes in enrolment.

Board trustees approved the financial statements for 2023-

2024 at a meeting December 11 after a presentation by KPMG, its external auditors.

The board is projecting a deficit in the 2024-2025 fiscal year of around \$700,000 and have indicated they will balance their books by pulling



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funds from its reserves.

Derek D’Angelo of KPMG, who presented the audited financial statement for 2023-2024 to the board at a meeting December 11, explained the board saw an increase in revenues of \$240 million and expenses of \$241.6 million. With an increased average daily enrolment at RDSB schools, an increase of 223 students, it

The auguries for Premier Ford look better than even Mr. Peterson’s, of course. His Liberal opponents are barely out of the gate with a new leader, Bonnie Crombie, the NDP official opposition under Marit Stiles remain challenged to find traction despite the odour surrounding the current government’s plans to (allegedly) reward their wealthy developer donors. But, perhaps even more important in his advisors’ political arithmetic is the historic trend where Ontarians prefer their provincial government to be of a different flavour than the federal.

With Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre poised to ascend to a majority in Parliament by this October, at the latest, waiting until after the federal election is fraught. Striking while the federal Liberals are still at the helm would dodge that particular political albatross even while (hopefully) bridging the incoming four years of chaos promised by the incoming POTUS.

Calling an unnecessary and expensive provincial election when our province is facing economic turmoil on an unprecedented peacetime scale is nothing short of irresponsible. At this point in our history, with existential threats looming for humanity on so many fronts and for Canada in particular, the cost of taking cynical political coin runs the very real risk of buying electoral payback.

We call on Premier Ford to put his personal ambition on the back-burner and instead to focus his attention and political acumen on safeguarding our province, and our nation, from those existential threats. That is the mark of true statesmanship. Ontarians have punished political opportunism in the past—we may very well do so again.

ed rules and regulations which have such negative and damaging effects on our collective wellbeing! It will certainly take time to do the job but hopefully we have enough sense to start movement towards the obvious and necessary goal—the end of trade barriers here within Canada.

Sincerely,

Eric Balkind
Gore Bay

income.

We need to demand. Yes, demand that we the little guy as private citizens be given equal treatment as businesses and corporations.

The feds need to allow for private citizens to deduct their municipal taxes from their federal taxable income. I think that’s fair, don’t you?

If you agree please contact your elected officials at all levels (especially the federal) and say do what is right and treat us little people fair and equal.

They all say they want to represent us and make life better for us. Well, now it’s time to put up or shut up.

Michael S. Loker
Cambridge, Ontario

P.S. Out veterans died for democracy and fairness. It’s time our elected officials remember that and give us a fair deal.

provided for the increase in revenues. Mr. D’Angelo told trustees there was also an increase related to the provinces Bill 124 wage restraint legislation being found to be unconstitutional.

“There was an increase in instructional costs of around \$33 million this year, ending the year at just under \$200 million, with \$31 million of that relating to the Bill 124 collective agreement increases, as well as additional staffing required to accommodate the increased enrolment,” Mr. D’Angelo told the board. He explained there was an increased administration expense of \$374,000, again

mostly due to salary increases related to Bill 124 and its agreements.”

Mr. D’Angelo also told the board there was a \$300,000 increase in investment income, that brought in a total of about \$1 million, and an increase of just under \$500,000 increase in school fundraising revenue. Expenses increased by \$37 million.

“You can see that the expenses will follow a lot of the funding increases that we saw above,” he told the board. He added that transportation costs increased by approximately \$1.5 million due to cost escalations. On the positive side there were savings derived in board operations because of the winter of 2023-2024 being mild, and there were lower snow removal costs sustained by the board.

Crystal gazing

Crystal Shawanda launches a new single with blues and country roots

by Michael Erskine
NASHVILLE—It may be some time before Wiikwemkoong’s favourite songbird, Crystal Shawanda, gets to come home for a visit as she is currently setting out on a cross country tour, but Island fans can console themselves with a new single, ‘Would You Know Love,’ launched this past Friday.

“I am so excited,” said Ms. Shawanda when contacted by The Expositor at her home in Nashville. She describes the genre of this new release as being “somewhere between the old and new, country and blues, sort of Etta James and



Crystal Shawanda’s new single, ‘Do You Know Love,’ is out now.

Patsy Cline.”

The new single is being released on her revamped New Sun Music label and was written by famed songwriter Sonny Tachett.

The new single was supposed to be released earlier this year but was delayed due to the loss of Ms. Shawanda’s longtime manager and agent Rob Pattee to cancer and another close friend to an overdose.

“I needed to take some time to heal,” she said. “The single was supposed to be released last spring, but I took some time off to mourn. It still hurts.”

Like for many people, this

past year has been filled with loss and pain, but also a tremendous gratitude.

“Rob came into our lives when we needed him the most and we didn’t even know it at the time,” said Ms. Shawanda. “He believed in us, he was our friend, our family and our champion. If other people didn’t believe in us, he would make them, and when he couldn’t convince them, we thrived anyways. We reached many milestones together including winning Juno awards and countless shows which was our greatest accomplishment.”

In the meantime, Ms. Shawanda

will be touring extensively over the next few months and has been kept very busy paying it forward my mentoring and supporting other artists in fulfilling their dreams with her record label.

‘Do You Know Love’ can be downloaded from any of the streaming services online, and she still sells CDs and records at her shows.

“I find a lot of country and blues fans like to be able to buy the records and take them home with them, so we still make them available,” she said.

Crystal Shawanda opens Blues Revue to adoring fans at storied Massey Hall

by Gina Gasongi Simon
TORONTO—Life is sometimes about chance and opportunity. This particular evening in Toronto was a moment of serendipity—a delightful surprise that seem to happen by chance but felt almost magical. After a long day at The Gathering conference, I was seeking a space and place to just unwind. Theatre and music have always been a favourite choice and I was on my way to watch the famous Moulin Rouge at the Ed Mirvish Theatre.

Many had agreed to join me and as show time neared; I realized it was lots of talk but no action. So, consequently I had to make the dash through the streets of the concrete jungle and as luck would have it, ended up at the wrong theatre. After my 15-minute jaunt, I reached the front wicket anxious and out of breath. I asked to purchase one ticket and the teller replied, “For what show?” I stood there confused while she placed a poster in front of me and there on the poster, I see Crystal Shawanda’s name in

the line-up for the 37th Annual Women’s Blues Revue.

Well, that settled it for me, I knew exactly what show I was going to see (where I’d gone by serendipitous accident). With ticket in hand, I made my way through the \$184 million renovated Massey Hall, Toronto’s legendary music venue with its legendary acoustics. As I walked through the grand hall with its deco brass banisters and iron columns, it all seemed surreal and even more eye popping was the experience of entering the cavernous main hall.

I made my way to my plush red velvet balcony seat, dead centre, one of the bonuses when you buy a single. I could feel the electricity in the air and knew I was in for an unforgettable experience.

Lights dim. A hush falls over the audience. Then, with a burst of brilliance, the lights go up and the backup band begins a steady rhythmic blues beat. The spotlight shines down and Crystal stands centre stage at Massey Hall. In that instant, the magic of the entire stage unfolds and comes to life.



Crystal Shawanda, far left, in pink sequin jacket, sings her final song “Let It Be” with the entire list of Canada’s renowned top blues performers. The back up vocalists and musicians featured Alison Young, Angelique Francis, Carrie Chestnut, Dale Anne Brendon, Elena Kapeleris, Emily Burgess, Jenie Thai, Marie Goud and Selena Evangeline.

Wow! I jumped to my feet and joined in the uproar of emotion as adoring blues fans clap in unison. Crystal brings the crowd to life belting out her opening number. Tears well up in my eyes, I cry joy for this little girl, living her dream. It’s amazing to think about. From the dusty back roads of Wiikwemkoong’s South Bay community to Massey Hall—there’s Crystal, standing exactly where some of the greatest legends like U2, Gordon Lightfoot, Justin Bieber, James Brown and Glenn Gould performed.

Now stood Crystal singing with such emotion and power. Her unique voice and style have captured many hearts and her albums are selling to a whole new audience. Since her top selling country song, “You can let go now, daddy,” she has now made her mark in the blues music history. She has worked hard and earned her Juno for Best Blues Album, entitled ‘Church House Blues’.

Her story is filled with numerous challenges along her journey, but she has remained undeterred. She is the first Indigenous woman to perform the opening act at the annual 29th Women’s Blues Revenue. Other evening powerhouse performances included some of Canada’s well-known women in the blues circle featuring Diana Braithwaite, Tanika Charles, Kellylee Evans, Rebecca Hennessy and Meghan Parnell.

As the evening rolled on, the most impactful chorus was when all the women joined in for one last unique mix of women singing blues, combined with jazz and gospel. As the lights sweep across the concert stage, I watched in awe, as Crystal soaked up the entire evening, every moment real and precious to her. From my balcony perch, I watched her, with her camera in hand, documenting her story and memories to create another song. Undeniably, Crystal has set unprecedented standards for other Indigenous blues singers on Manitoulin Island and far beyond.

letter

Let’s be rid of inter-provincial trade barriers

The time is now for local politicians and bureaucrats to act

To the Expositor:

There is a big misconception out there that Canada is open to becoming USA’s 51st state. There is an even worse misconception that the USA can make Canada its 51st state. Here’s why these are misconceptions:

There are about 1.67 million Indigenous peoples in Canada. About 600,000 of these are status Indians. Status Indians are Indians who are entitled to be registered under Canada’s Indian Act, federal legislation brought into being in 1876. This was done without consultation with the “Indians” for whom the legislation was created. The reason there is separate federal legislation for “Indians” and “lands reserved for Indians” is that the British Crown at the time recognized “Indians” as sovereign nations with whom they had to make treaties.

Treaties are internationally recognized, legally binding instruments, along with covenants and conventions. So, if the British Crown made treaties with “Indians” they recognized that “Indians” were sovereign nations. As far as I know, treaties have not been undone.

However, if the terms of the treaties have not been enforced, then the lands over which treaties were made, still belong to “Indians.” Let’s see now, how much land are we talking about? How about this: Canada’s land mass is 9,985,000 square kilometers from coast to coast to coast. It is the second largest land mass in the world, second only to Russia.

Let’s look at how Indigenous nations have been treated, even with still existing treaties. How many Indigenous communities still have boil-water advisories? How many Indigenous nations have not had the terms of their treaties honoured? How many Indigenous nations have had their lands confiscated by Indian agents and sold to settlers? How many Indigenous women have been murdered, gone missing, or drawn into human trafficking? How many Indigenous men are incarcerated, many illegally, only because Indigenous men don’t know how the legal system works and that they are entitled to legal representation?

How much land did Prince Rupert ask his cousin

King Charles II for, and King Charles II made up a document “granting” lands to Prince Rupert, without consulting the owners of the lands, without paying for the lands, and without producing a receipt for the purchase of those lands? Those lands were known as Prince Rupert’s land, later Hudson’s Bay Company lands. These were eventually “sold” by the Hudson’s Bay Company to the government of Canada. Since the original Indigenous owners of Hudson’s Bay Company lands were never consulted, did not agree to sell the lands to King Charles II, and did not receive a purchase receipt for those lands, then the lands still belong to the Indigenous peoples.

During one of our conferences about Indigenous allodial land title, one of the presenters posited that “the highest honour of the Crown is its fiduciary duty to Indigenous peoples.” The highest honour of the Crown does not include Canada’s head of state scampering off to the home of he-who-shall-not-be-named, even before he was sworn in as the USA’s 47th president. Big mistake.

Another mistake was made when a provincial premier went scurrying over to Mar a Lago to meet with he-who-shall-not-be-named, bypassing the federal head of state for Canada. The boundaries of the provinces do not surpass the boundaries of the federal government.

The treaties made between Indigenous nations and the British Crown did not talk about the waters. The waters were provided by the Great Spirit to the plants, trees, animals, birds, fish, insects, reptiles, and human beings for sustenance, and, in return, for these beings to take care of. One of our teachings is that we human beings, particularly women, have been given the responsibility of taking care of the waters. That was one of the most important roles that Josephine Mandamin-ba exercised.

Another thought that was expressed on social media and circulated around was this: Someone or somebody can make a weapon that can destroy the Earth many times over. But they can’t prevent a forest fire from happening and burning down homes. They can’t stop

the winds from roaring in from the ocean. It is much easier to destroy than it is to create.

A sovereign nation has responsibilities to its people. One of those responsibilities is to protect the people inside its borders. The USA does not have the right to dictate to Canada when, if, and how to safeguard our borders. If the USA is concerned about illegal drugs entering their country, then that is their responsibility to see that their border is defended, from their side of the fence. If the USA is concerned about illegal immigrants entering their country, then it is their responsibility to see that their border is protected, from their side of the fence. Canada has said that it will provide additional border guards, surveillance helicopters and drones to oversee its borders. Big mistake. It’s the USA’s job to take care of their borders, not Canada’s.

As for the resources inside Canada, there is an internationally sanctioned obligation on Canada to enter into talks with Indigenous nations inside Canada exercising free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). If the Indigenous nations enter into those talks, they decide which resources are under discussion, where those resources are, how they will be extracted, if at all, when, by whom, and for how much. If the Indigenous nations do not want to release any of the resources within their ancestral territories, then that is their prerogative.

There is a misconception that Indigenous nations are under Canada’s umbrella. It is the other way around – Canada is under the Indigenous nations’ umbrella. Always was, is now, and will continue to be. When we travel on our home territories, we see in our minds’ eyes that this is our homeland. We feel in our hearts that this is our homeland. We sense in our spirits that this is our homeland. And we exercise tribal memory when we walk on the land, that this is our homeland. No matter how high the skyscraper, how thick the concrete barriers, or how loud the yellow-and-black ‘No Trespassing’ signs are—these are still our homelands.

Mii sa iw.

Marie McGregor Pitawanakwat
South Bay

Vehicle stop in Wiikwemkoong results in drug seizure

The Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service (WTPS) successfully executed two significant drug and weapons seizures, highlighting its steadfast commitment to proactive policing and addressing the critical issues of illegal drugs and firearms within the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory (WUT).

“In these two specific incidents, both of the individuals arrested are repeat offenders,” said Chief of Police Ron Gignac. “As your police service, WTPS will continue to crackdown on recidivist crime, implement our comprehensive drug strategies and do everything that we can do to prevent the flow of illegal narcotics and firearms from entering our territory.”

These successful operations are a result of WTPS officers conducting proactive community safety patrols and targeted enforcement activities around the clock. Community safety patrols are part of the force’s ongoing commitment to enhancing proactive policing measures around the trafficking and use of illegal drugs and in fulfillment of the force’s drug strategy aimed at improving community safety and security.

On Sunday, January 12, officers with the WTPS were on duty in the main village area of Wiikwemkoong.

At approximately 3 am, officers initiated a traffic stop of a vehicle. The driver was positively identified and was known to have an outstanding warrant. The male driver was placed under arrest and upon search, a quantity of suspected illegal drugs was located on his person.

Upon search of the vehicle, a large amount of suspected drugs was also located along with several firearms. The driver was then advised of the arrest for the drug and firearm offences.

Suspected cocaine was seized with a street value of \$230,000, suspected fentanyl was seized with a street value of \$4,500. Several firearms and ammunition



Law & Order

were seized as well as an amount of Canadian currency.

Wiikwemkoong resident Luke Flamand, 37 years old has been charged with the following: three counts of possession of a schedule one substance contrary to section 5(2) of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA), three counts of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, contrary to section 88 of the Criminal Code of Canada (CCC), three counts of unauthorized transportation of firearms, contrary to section 86(1) of the CCC, three counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm, contrary to section 91(1) of the CCC, one count of possession of proceeds of crime, contrary to section 354(1) (a) of the CCC.

Mr. Flamand was held in custody and was to appear in bail court on Monday, January 13 to answer to the charges.

On January 13, WTPS officers observed a person wanted on an outstanding warrant attempting to flee during their community safety patrols. After apprehending the offender following a foot pursuit, they seized several quantities of suspected fentanyl along with a 357-magnum replica pellet revolver. The offender was arrested for new offences and held for court appearance.

“I want to thank the officers and staff for their exceptional public safety focus here in Wiikwemkoong,” said Chief Gignac. “I also extend my gratitude to Chief Ominika, our band council members as well as community partner agencies supporting us. Specifically, to policing we recognize our combined forces public safety efforts. We are grateful for our steadfast relations and outstanding combined forces efforts that we have with the Ontario Provincial Police and the UCCM Anishnaabe police service. We are all working towards tremendous community safety enhancement on Manitoulin Island and in Wiikwemkoong.”

Municipalities seek answers on new police board costs

by Tom Sasvari
MINDEMOYA—While they are preliminary numbers at this point, the estimated overall cost to Manitoulin municipalities with the establishment of the new Manitoulin Police Detachment Board will be approximately \$10,000.

“It’s very vague at this stage,” said Bryan Barker, chair of the Manitoulin Municipal Association (MMA) and a member of the police detachment board after an MMA meeting last week.

“I had just asked for the estimated and proposed membership dues to be put on the agenda here tonight, so municipalities will have a bit of a heads up before the budget is finalized,” Mr. Barker told MMA municipal representatives. “The board held a preliminary draft meeting of the budget. What you have before you are suggestions set out at the meeting.”

Mr. Barker said the board is looking to have the stipends municipal and community members receive for attending members, “to be the same (as they had been for members of the community police advisory committee). We know this is an expense to municipalities so we will keep them as close as possible to what they are now.”

The province will be naming two more local members to the board, however, at this point Mr. Barker said they have not yet been appointed, and he said the board is unsure if their stipends will be paid by the province or through the board (municipalities).

Mr. Barker explained the new Manitoulin Police Department Board has held one meeting, noting that legislation was passed by the province in April of last year changing from a community police advisory board to an OPP (Ontario Provincial Police) detachment board

...continued on page 7

Friends and Neighbours

Providence Bay Alexia Hannigan

Alexia here with your friendly winter fly.

I remember dreading this time of year during my adventures as a Montessori French Teacher for the simple reason that January is Germaggedon as far as the cold-loving flu and viruses are concerned, it’s no picnic for parents either. As we send our kids to school and daycare and venture out to run errands, we assume the worst will latch on and follow us home. OCD handwashing and avoiding public places can help, but it ultimately seems futile when viruses are holding their own version of the Calgary stampede right now. So, we must work from the inside out. Take vitamins, load up on immune boosting superfoods and teas and take probiotics! Or perhaps, follow the cat/dog around as they seem generally immune and impervious. As the dog days and winter of our political discontent and general malaise continue, we will try, with all might and mane to keep our spirits, immunity and guard up. What’s next? Keeping a close eye and ear on socio-economic, post-inaugural, post PM - resignation fallout on the general health of our country. We love you Canada. Sticks and stones, we stand on guard for thee.

Here’s what’s happening:

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

McAllister Tourney coming soon! Stay tuned.

Providence Bay Curling Club: The curling club season is popping and well underway! Youth curling continues on Saturdays and regular league meets continue in the evenings. Check out the 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.

Providence Bay Town Square and Hall: winter workouts are back! Friday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 am till March 14 at the Providence Bay Hall.

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

The Fundraisers: Providence Bay/Spring Bay Lions Club bottle drive con-

tinues, drop off your empties next to the arena for a good cause! Check the Lions Facebook page for upcoming events.

The Heavens:

Don’t miss the spectacular astronomical event in January 2025! January 21 to 25: A spectacular planetary parade will occur as several planets appear to line up in the night sky from earth’s perspective. Don’t miss this rare and awe-inspiring event.

Mentions: If you have a birthday or someone special you want to shout out to, please send me an email homeonehannigan@gmail.com.

“Let go of certainty. The opposite isn’t uncertainty. It’s openness, curiosity and a willingness to embrace paradox, rather than choose up sides. The ultimate challenge is to accept ourselves exactly as we are but never stop trying to learn and grow.”

- Tony Schwartz

Kagawong Team Fergmeijer

Please forgive us if this week’s column is not quite up to par. We’ve had a difficult couple of weeks. You see, we are pretty sure our house is haunted by a chicken. A fowl spirit. Possibly a poultrygeist! We plan to call an eggorcist to help it cross over to the other side.

Deepen your connection with your body with the free Inclusive Mindful Movement classes at the Park Centre from Monday, January 20 to Monday, (8 – 9 pm). Come out for a gentle, joyful movement practice focused on helping you find more ease in your movement and alignment. No dance experience necessary. Space is limited. Pre-registration is encouraged. www.bodystoriesdance.com (647-213-1497).

We wanted to give a shout out to a former Kagawongian who is living it up in Calgary these days. We are sure you already know this, but we’ll say it anyway just in case you need the reminder: both age and glasses of wine should never, under any circumstances, be counted. Happy birthday, Susie!

Fantastic news for winter sport enthusiasts - the Pickledome...er... Kagawong River Complex is open for skating. Community members are reminded to take the nets off the ice after using them and to turn off the lights before leaving. Otherwise, enjoy the ice!

This year is the 100th anniversary of the Old Mill in Kagawong and the museum board is planning a variety of

ceremonial events and is looking for additional historical information. If you know of anyone who could help or worked at the mill/hydro plant, the museum board would be grateful for any information. You can email oldmillheritage@billingstwp.ca.

A friend was telling us she wasn’t able to put a chicken coop in her backyard because of a new bylaw in her town. We told her to make sure it had four doors. Then it would be a sedan.

New year, new puzzles! Billings Library will host another free puzzle swap this Saturday, January 25 (10 am – 1 pm). Bring a puzzle, take a puzzle (or 5). No puzzles to bring? No problem. There are always lots to go around!

Is your new year’s resolution to stay up on local politics? You can attend Billings township council meetings virtually! You can find more information on their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/billings-townshipkagawong) or contact the town office directly for the Zoom link.

Calling all dancing queens and super troupers - save the date! Manitoulin Secondary School is presenting the jukebox musical Mamma Mia! February 14, 15, 21 and 22. Ticket information will be available soon.

Self-appointed Kagawong pun laureates, Team Fergmeijer, invite you to catch up on all our past punny columns in our archive at <https://teamfergmeijer.blogspot.com/>.

With everything going on at home, here’s hoping we have the endurance to get through another week.

Meldrum Bay Elaine Bradley

We’ve had a quiet week other than a trip to Espanola for an appointment. The roads were snow-covered at this end of the Island but well plowed and there was a fair amount of sand, so driving was a bit slow but no hassles. It took us a bit longer to get there but we had allowed for the weather and were there in time to spend 30 minutes at the highway charging, ate out lunch, then went to the appointment. We do appreciate the snowplow drivers.

Welcome home to Rose Van Every who had been visiting family for Christmas. She said that she had a wonderful time. But we missed her and it’s nice to have her back.

Friday night at cards, we missed, due to a sick friend. We ended up spending the evening in the Emergency Depart-

ment in Mindemoya, visiting with all the other people who were waiting their turn. Anne and Karen were wonderful to fill in for us at cards and they forwarded the scores to me.

Condolences to the Nelder family. My cousin Blaine Nelder has passed away and he will be missed.

On January 10 there were two tables and one sit out. Ladies’ high score went to Lisa Townsend with 77 points; men’s high score went to Karen Noble with 76 points; ladies’ lone hands went to Myra Duncanson with three and men’s lone hands went to Bob Benedict with three; Diane Jones won for most euchres with nine; the door prize and the 50/50 draw went to Brenda Carter; the money jar is safe for another week.

Silver Water Karen Noble

On Thursday, January 9, Murray and Gladys Duncanson went to Sudbury to stay with their son, Craig. On Friday, the three travelled to St. Catharines to celebrate Clarke’s birthday. They travelled home on Saturday.

On Friday we went to Meldrum Bay to play euchre.

Monday afternoon, we had the recycle bins open. There were many residents out to fill up both bins which were emptied on Wednesday and Thursday mornings by GFL.

Monday evening, I took DonnaKay McDonald, Brenda Carter, Myra Duncanson and Heather Wilson to euchre at the Burpee/Mills Complex.

Stop 540 Diner opened Tuesday morning after being closed for several weeks to have a holiday and get some renovations completed.

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

Fire practice was held Tuesday evening with a good turnout of team members.

On Wednesday I went to Mindemoya to attend the Manitoulin Municipal Association meeting.

There was euchre at the Silver Water Hall on Thursday evening.

Happy birthday to Anne Boyd.

Condolences to the family of Phil Dan-gerfield.

Condolences to the family of Robert Geick.

...welcomes first Island-based canine unit

...continued from page 3

making this canine unit a success through continued ongoing training within their canine program. UCCM would not have been able to establish our canine unit without the support from both the SSMPs and OPP in making this a reality.”

Chief of Police Killeen told The Expositor, “Without the support of the SSMPs and OPP it would take three to four years and double the price we paid in order to establish a canine unit, plus training officers and be ready to go on the road.”

“By working with the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service, we are able to have a fully functioning canine unit ready to hit the road,” said Chief of Police Killeen.

“UCCM is grateful to be able to continue to establish specialized units that will benefit the safety of not just our Mnidoo Mnising communities, but all of Manitoulin Island. Specialized units were previously not permitted for Indigenous police services under tri-partite agreements with the federal and provincial governments,” explained Chief of Police Killeen. “However,

UCCM Police is part of an ongoing Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) complaint that was filed by the Indigenous Police Chiefs of Ontario (IPCO) against the federal government. A federal court ruling by Judge Gascon in June 2023 allowed for these specialized units to be established as it was ruled there are discriminatory clauses in section 6 of the terms and conditions of the FNIPP. The eventual goal of the CHRT complaint is to change the First Nation Inuit Policing Policy (FNIPP) that governs Indigenous Police Services, so we can run our organizations to meet the needs and demands of our communities and offer equitable services that align with mainstream policing.”

Chief of Police Killeen explained, “Constable Nick Beaudry comes to UCCM with a wealth of past and current experience that includes the military reserves, summer student with the OPP Marine Unit, Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service as an auxiliary constable, as well as close to 10 years of experience as a constable with both the Greater Sudbury Police Service and Sault Ste. Marie Police Service where he was cur-

rently working as a full-time canine officer. Nick was born and raised on Manitoulin Island and is excited to be back home with family, friends and familiar faces.”

“The police service dog (PSD) is a Belgian Malinois named ‘Ben.’ Constable Nick Beaudry and PSD Ben, previously graduated from the OPP Academy Canine Training Centre in Orillia, Ontario after a grueling 18-week training course that included suspect apprehension and searching for evidence. Nick and Ben also took a five-week training course in drug detection,” continued Chief of Police Killeen.

Chief of Police Killeen said, “Canine Units are an immense asset to law enforcement. Police service dogs, such as Ben, have a keen sense of smell which can assist in quickly detecting suspects or evidence that a regular officer could miss.”

“Manitoulin Island will see Nick and Ben out and about working and training in our communities, attending schools and community events to offer educational presentations on what the UCCM Canine Unit has to offer,” added Chief of Police Killeen.

...‘Fuel the Fire’ moving to YouTube broadcasting

...continued from page 3

high learning curve.”

Luckily, Mr. Debassige was able to tap into some very accomplished local talent in the form of Weengushk Film Institute and, in particular, Weengushk managing director Nano Debassige. “He was integral to helping us with the back end technical pieces,” said Mr. Debassige. “Especially when it comes to what they call ‘post-production’. He was able to get us up to speed.”

The most challenging part of that period was in cutting and trimming the vast amount of footage down into something that would fit coherently into a television program format. It took him some time to come to terms with leaving so much great footage on the cutting room floor. “You have to let the visual do the talking,” he said.

Mr. Debassige has also managed to integrate pro-



Neil Debassige and daughter Aspen on a turkey shoot.

ducing the television program and some outstanding family time—a good thing given how much of his life is consumed with the passion project. Both his daughters have been on the program and even his late father Bud starred in a couple of episodes.

Although the show has enjoyed eight years in its current broadcast milieu, the time has come

to take a different course. The television market is decidedly cutthroat and the interests of the cable industry channels do not necessarily coincide with those of the program.

So, after this run, Mr. Debassige intends to move the show onto the show’s YouTube channel. The plan is to reach out to a much wider audience and introduce them to the

joys of harvesting your own food from the land.

Mr. Debassige is adamant that he is not a one man show. “I have an incredible number of people, volunteers and sponsors who help make this possible,” he said. Sponsors for the show have been Manitoulin Chrysler, Wikwemikong Tourism, Indigenous Tourism Ontario, Ramakos Source for Adventure, Island Sunrise Cottages, The Manitoulin Expositor, Wesley Bow Guides, JR Wetlands Outfitters, Manitoulin Phragmites Project, Bestech and Ten Point Archery.

“It has been amazing how small businesses have gone above and beyond to assist us in making this dream come true,” he said.

The active Pro Staff list for ‘Fuel the Fire’ includes: Warren Corbiere, John Ainslie, Jesse Beaudin, Jonathan Zagula, Dianne Glasby, Darci Debassige, Aspen Debassige, Naomi Naokweijigig, Cody Hunter, Kaliegh Hunter, Stacey Rayner, Scott Saunders, Greg Cotnam, Rick Wesley, Larry Wesley, Sean Leduc, Kerry Paquette, Luke Wassegijig, Josh White, Rob Seifried and Al Strader.

The call to action for those with a love of the outdoor and conservation lifestyle is simple. Tune into the Fuel the Fire YouTube channel, subscribe and, very important like and share. “That would be great!” said Mr. Debassige. “Fuel your passion, fuel the fire, and Get Outdoors!”

...Orville Aguonie begins his spirit journey

...continued from page 3

“As chair of the RHTLF, I have had the opportunity to share discussions with Orville in the ongoing priorities and planning for our people-Sheguiandah members,” he said. “Please join me and the members of the RHTLF management committee in remembering the commitment and work of Deputy Chief Aguonie through his life.”

“On behalf of the United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising (UCCMM) and Aundeck Omni Kaning I offer our condolences to his family and the Sheguiandah community,” said UCCMM

Tribal Chair and Aundeck Omni Kaning Chief Patsy Corbiere, who Mr. Aguonie had come to see for advice just a few days before his passing. “It can be a thankless job, and I know there was a lot of stress on him.”

The passing of Deputy Chief Aguonie leaves Sheguiandah band council with only two remaining members. The community will now have to find their way forward through uncharted waters as they mourn the loss of a longtime leader.

Deputy Chief Aguonie rested at the Sheguiandah Band Office from Thursday, January 16 until his traditional funeral service on Sunday, January 19.

...seek answers on new police board costs

...continued from page 6

and includes more responsibilities of board members in policing in an area.

Under the preliminary membership dues for 2025, a total of \$9,704.15 is needed, and the costs will be shared using both a weighted assessment of each municipality and half cost based on population. Under these preliminary numbers for the budget the shares to each Island community include: \$1,090.55 from Assiginack; \$466.51 from Tehkummah; Burpee and Mills \$421.66; Cockburn Island \$34.13; Gordon and Barrie Island \$751.28; Billings \$2,375.38; Municipality of Central Manitoulin \$2,375.38; Town of NEMI \$2,986.76; and Town of Gore Bay

\$647.64. These costs include an administrator for the board and the stipends being provided for members.

Mr. Barker cautioned that this is just a preliminary draft budget and there may be some deductions or additions as the budget is finalized.

“In March we will provide more clear numbers. In the meantime, this is what we are anticipating in costs,” said Veronique Dion, secretary of the MMA.

“This is why we brought this up here tonight,” said Mr. Barker. “We’re (municipalities) all in budget deliberations. There shouldn’t be much difference in these numbers and the final budget. We just wanted to bring it the members as a heads up.”

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...discovers Ellie Maxwell at Kagawong market, invites her to TVO debut

...continued from page 1

us in the fall of 2008 from South Africa to live with Steve and I and her four siblings, three boys and a girl (including Robert, Katherine Joseph and Jacob). Ellie is 16 years old now. It was a really good interview, and Manitoulin Island is mentioned on the show.”

Mary told Mr. Paikin, “Ellie came into our lives in 2008 at the end of what

seemed to be a long adoption process. I had retired from my nursing job and Steve and I had been hearing about the strong need for adoptive parents and how many abandoned babies there are throughout the world.”

Mary and her husband Steve decided they wanted to adopt a child from South Africa. “All of us were excited about including a baby from South Africa into our family,” Mary told

Mr. Paikin. She quipped, “Although our daughter Katherine said if we brought in another boy she would run away.”

It took two years of paperwork and the process of adoption that the family was able to officially adopt Ellie. “We received a photo of Ellie from the wonderful adoption agency we were working when she was just a few months old. She had been abandoned by her biological parents in a small

village in South Africa at an auto repair shop. They had taken her in, and advertisements were put in the local newspapers asking if the parents would come forward. Ellie ended up going to an orphanage.”

“The adoption was finalized and we had to go to South Africa to pick her up, and made arrangements for someone to take care of the rest of our children,” said Mary. “Ellie was a perfect match for our family.”

Ellie told Mr. Paikin that when she was old enough, she wanted to know who her birth parents were. “I have such a wonderful family, and they love me, and I love them so much. And Manitoulin Island is so much fun to live on,” said Ellie. “The winter is cold, but the people on Manitoulin are so kind.”

As for when the family discovered Ellie was such a talented singer, Mary said it was recognized “as soon as she started speaking. One of our sons, who is musically inclined, said ‘she is absolutely on key and pitch’ in her singing. We were able to find a retired music teacher. He took Ellie on when she was about eight to help develop her voice, but later he said ‘Ellie needs more support than I can give her.’ When COVID started, we found a wonderful vocal teacher, Charmaine, from the US who Ellie was able to work with via Zoom.”

When he first heard Ellie singing last summer Mr. Paikin noted she was singing ‘from the great American song book.’ She was singing Ella Fitzgerald and from other performers from the past. He asked where she got her interest in music of Ella Fitzgerald and other talented singers.

“My interest came from my dad. Every evening after supper he would play jazz,” said Ellie. “I got to know the songs, and I would sing or dance along. When I got my first iPod I copied all his jazz songs to my list,” she said, noting she loves musicians such as Ella Fitzgerald, Whitney Houston and Barbara

Streisand.

In coming to terms with being abandoned by her birth parents, she had received a poem written by her aunt. “It is a beautiful poem, and I thought I can do something with this. We contacted my producer Rick Cameron, and recorded ‘Lucky.’”

After hearing Ellie sing the song ‘Lucky’ on the show Mr. Paikin stated, ‘Oh my goodness, Ellie you are so amazing.’

He asked Mary what she thinks when she hears her daughter singing. “I tear up. It makes all the long adoption process and concerns we had before bring-

ing Ellie into our family disappear. It makes it all worthwhile to hear her voice and know the person she has become.”

Ellie said when she sings she is hoping to touch the listener and stir up emotions in them. “I want to bring joy to people,” she stated.

As for whether she is hoping for a career in singing, Ellie stated, “Yes, I’m working on it.” She said to reach her goals she needs to be steadfast in practicing every day and noted that her parents are such an inspiration to her every day.

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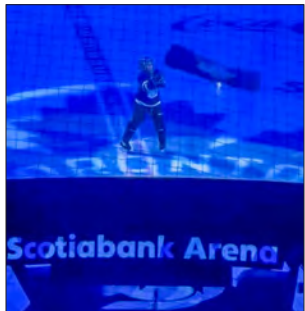


...Bryce Debassige carries the flag

...continued from page 1

and just went.” The crowd cheered loudly when he waved the flag to open the game, and before he knew it his flag carrying duties were over. After he was finished Bryce was able to take in the game. Even though the Leafs lost this avid hockey player knows that when you lose it’s an opportunity to work hard and come back. Bryce Debassige currently plays for the U10A Sudbury Wolves team.

Bryce was requested to complete the flag duties after he had the opportunity to participate in the Leafs Next Gen game on December 23, 2024. The Leafs Next Gen game is a yearly celebration where they introduce young hockey players as the next generation of Toronto Maple Leafs hockey. During this game Bryce was able to skate on the ice prior to the game and then watch the Winnipeg Jets come out to skate. During this game he also stood with the Winnipeg



Bryce Debassige waves the Leafs flag proudly before the puck dropped at the January 11 game.

Jets players during the national anthem. The opportunities that Bryce has had through the Leafs Development team has been incredible and he is very thankful and knows that this will shape his future.

Bryce is looking forward to continuing his season with the Sudbury Wolves, and also partaking in the Little Native Hockey League, a long standing successful tournament where his great grandpa the late James (Jim) Debassige was one of the cofounders.



Fr. Gerry McDougall SJ

...New pastor comes to St. Bernards

...continued from page 3

der Bay; then to Winnipeg (where I pronounced my final vows on November 29, 2009); then to Manitoulin region from 2015 until 2020; then to Thunder Bay again; now back to Manitoulin region, once again. While in Thunder Bay I worked in up to five parishes at the same time as pastor. I was, at one time or another, the pastor of every parish on Manitoulin Island, except St. Bernard’s. I also served in Sagamok and Serpent River First Nations. In Winnipeg, I was pastor of St. Ignatius parish. With the exception of the years in Winnipeg, I have been mainly working with Indigenous Catholic parishes, on First Nations, and in urban settings. My last home was on Fort William First Nation, but I have lived in Wiikwemkoong, and in M’Chigeeng.”

As to his thoughts on returning to service on the Island, “I am hopeful. I guess I am coming up to 25 years as a priest and a pastor. I have learned that every day is a new adventure, and that I should strive to be humble. I still have a lot to learn. God is the best teacher of all. I pray to be able to accept the love and grace that God has in store for me, and the strength to follow God’s call for me today, in Little Current and Birch Island.”

Fr. Gerry delivered his first mass on Sunday, January 11 in the company of Fr. John McCarthy, who had been filling in temporarily in recent months following the passing of Fr. George Gardner.

Mass at St. Bernard’s in Little Current takes place each Sunday at 10 am. Mass at St. Gabriel Lalemant in Birch Island takes place at 12 pm.


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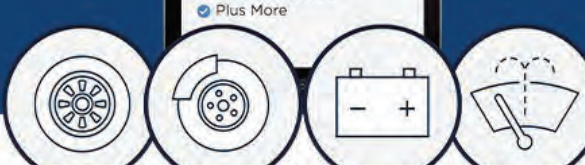
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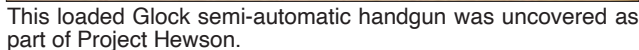
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...continued from page 1

“UCCM APS first identified Victor Branco as



a person of interest in the M'Chigeeng drug subculture in the fall of 2020," said Chief of Police Killeen. "During the spring of 2021, Victor

Branco was subject of multiple complaints, but not enough evidence was brought forward to lay charges until June of the same year. The UCCM

APS' Crime Unit acting as primary agency, along with assistance from the Ontario Provincial Police officers, Community Street Crime Unit, Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau, Emergency Response Team, Tactical Rescue Unit and K-9 unit successfully executed a warrant in M'Chigeeng which resulted in Victor Branco being charged and released with conditions not to return to the community of M'Chigeeng."

Information began to come forward that Mr. Branco had, against his conditions, returned to M'Chigeeng, continued

Chief of Police Killeen. UCCM APS then requested the assistance of the OPP Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau, who began a collaborative undercover operation (Project Hewson). During the investigation, both UCCM Crime Unit and OPP officers worked diligently in sharing information which showed increasingly that Mr. Branco played a large role in the M'Chigeeng drug subculture. Mr. Branco made multiple large and potentially lethal sales to undercover officers and was identified as the primary subject of the investigation.

“In January 2022, the investigation (Project Hewson) was drawn to a close. UCCM APS and OPP units mentioned above, executed a con-

trolled drugs and substances act warrants in the community of M'Chigeeng and affected the arrest of Victor Branco in the City of Sudbury. During his arrest he was found with a large quantity of fentanyl and a loaded Glock semi-automatic handgun," continued Chief of Police Killeen.

“UCCM APS is committed to making efforts to improve the safety and well-being of our communities and this is a prime example of what we can achieve when we work together, police, our policing partners, and our community members,” said Chief of Police Killeen. “Chi-miigwech for the tireless efforts of all officers involved in this investigation.”

...continued from page 1

the federal government to be at the table with the rest of the First Nations across Canada to either include them or negotiate separately.

Earlier this month, the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) and the federal government announced the continuation of the work in Ontario as partners for transformative change on the long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program. COO and NAN supported and ratified the reforms set out in the final agreement on the long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program, reached in July 2024. Other jurisdictions had rejected the funding model.

The two Ontario First Nation chiefs' groups have stated that they don't have to consult with other groups in the country on negotiating a new child welfare reform deal with the federal government, as a Page 1

story in the January 15 edition of *The Expositor* explained, breaking with Indigenous groups in the rest of Canada regarding funding child welfare.

Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict of the COO and Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler of the NAN said in a joint response last Thursday, "We as COO and NAN are engaging in productive and positive discussions with Canada on moving towards a reformed system for our children and families. We have been mandated by our chiefs, who have the right to make their own informed decisions about their children, and child and family services, without being required to consult with other parties on these decisions."

“This agreement seeks to shift control and authority over child and family services funding from child welfare agencies to First Nations where it rightfully belongs. While we are disappointed that the Caring Society (First Nations Child and Family Caring Society) has brought a motion

claiming that Canada must consult with them about our regional agreement, we will not allow this to derail our process and distract us from the work that needs to be done,” the joint COO-NAN release notes. “The Caring Society has opposed this agreement from day one, and we do not want their latest procedural interruption to disrupt our progress towards a regional agreement they have already deemed to be ‘deeply flawed.’”

“Our chiefs have rejected the status quo and given us a strong mandate to reach an agreement to reform what continues to operate as a broken system for our children and families. We expect that the jurisdiction and authority of our chiefs as rights holders will be respected throughout any process and ask outside parties to respectfully allow us to move forward, as is our right, and we have been mandated by our leadership,” the joint statement reads.

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...Gordon/Barrie Island offer falls short of Gore Bay arena support ask

...continued from page 1

sociation (WMHA), adult hockey, Charles C. McLean Public School and others.

“And beyond the town paying the majority of the operating costs, it’s also paying all capital costs on the arena,” Mr. Schlange told council at last week’s meeting. “We are just looking for fairness,” he said, noting that the town

has been informed that Burpee and Mills council will consider the request in its budget deliberations for this year, while Billings will be considering it at their budget meeting at the end of this month.

“I want to be clear to council and local residents that we are just looking at a fair deal for the town and our residents,” said Mr. Schlange.

When council looked at

the motion passed by Gordon/Barrie Island council at a council meeting held earlier this month for the \$8,000 donation, Mr. Schlange said, “you can see the township’s participation rate is 23 percent and they have decided to make a donation of \$8,000. Anything is appreciated, but this does not meet the rate of participation (members of the township who use the arena).”

“It is what it is,” stated Mayor Ron Lane, who asked if any member of council had any comments or input.

“I have to bite my tongue,” stated Councillor Dan Osborne.

Mayor Lane said, “we haven’t given up on the conversation, and other areas of discussion as well as to the long-term future of working together on an arena on this part of the Island.”

Mayor Lane asked if council should send a note

to Gordon/Barrie Island thanking them for the contribution they have made.

“You can,” said Mr. Schlange, noting his ‘disappointment’ with the township not providing more financial support.

Lee Hayden, reeve of Gordon/Barrie Island told The Expositor, “The town had provided statistics of usage by residents in each community. Our council doesn’t agree with the numbers that were provided. Not a lot

of people in our township would use the arena, maybe 50. Our council felt that our annual contribution that has been increased to \$8,000 would be an adequate amount for the number of residents that use the arena.”

“Council’s position is that if it comes to the town having to charge user fees, maybe that is the way it has to be,” said Reeve Hayden. “We still feel the arena is a valuable asset for all the communities.”

Northern Ontario residents brace for changes amid healthcare funding boost

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

NORTHERN ONTARIO—The federal government has announced a significant investment aimed at bolstering healthcare services across Canada but for residents of Northern Ontario, the implications of this funding come with mixed emotions.

On January 10, the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs, revealed that the federal government will provide \$103.8 billion in major transfers to provinces and territories in the 2025-26 fiscal year, marking a 4.4 percent increase compared to the previous year. Among these funds, the Canada Health Transfer will see an increase of \$2.6 billion, bringing the total to \$54.7 billion. This includes a top-up payment of \$713 million, thanks to a guaranteed annual increase established under a 10-year healthcare package announced earlier this year.

While the increased funding is a positive step, many Northern Ontarians remain concerned about the persistent healthcare disparities in their region. With limited access to primary care

providers and resources stretched thin, the realities of healthcare in Northern Ontario can often feel starkly different from those in urban centers.

Despite these federal investments, Northern Ontario residents still face overwhelming challenges in accessing timely and effective healthcare services. Emergency rooms are overcrowded, and many residents struggle to find family doctors. The promise of increased funding does not automatically translate to better outcomes for our communities.

The funding announcement also highlights the federal government’s commitment to improving home and community care, mental health and addiction services, and early learning and child care, with \$11 billion allocated over the next ten years for these critical areas. However, the effectiveness of these initiatives will depend on how well they are implemented at the local level.

In a separate statement, the Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health, acknowledged the strain on Canada’s healthcare system, stating that collaborative efforts among all levels of govern-

...continued on page 16



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Island fines collection authority, POA, posts first recent surplus: \$180,000

Funds will be returned to municipalities

GORE BAY—For the first time in several years the Provincial Services Act committee is projecting a surplus in its budget for 2024, which means that funds will be given back to Manitoulin Island municipalities.

“After our final audit this year (2024) we are expecting to be looking at a projected surplus of \$180,000 that we can give back to municipalities,” stated Derek Stephens, chair of the committee after a meeting last week. “There may be a change in the numbers once the audit is complete, but it shouldn’t affect this number much.”

One of the reasons for this surplus over the previous year is, “the POA had a good year with enforcement and fines having increased (which in turns brings in more revenues) with an increase in the number of police officers in the Manitoulin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachment through a pilot project, and the officers are supposed to be staying at that complement. The officers are doing a good job and it’s making a difference with lots of busts being made on Manitoulin and Espanola,” said Mr. Stephens.

“It’s good to see the

finances having been brought back around after the past few years,” said Mr. Stephens. Last year the POA saw a deficit of \$11,554.

POA manager Aly Niemi confirmed the POA is looking at a surplus of \$180,000 which would be paid out to municipalities. “We are holding back a little surplus, just in case, for next year,” she said.

She also confirmed one of the reasons for the surplus this year is due to the increase in OPP enforcement and subsequently the increase in fines collected, but said there “has been other changes that have also helped to make a difference.”

Since COVID, the POA has been operating at a deficit, but there has been some revenue increases due to procedural changes and improved enforcement. Ms. Niemi said staff is continually learning and connecting with the extensive network of POA offices throughout Ontario, and by leveraging all available resources the POA has streamlined its processes and ensured that it is meeting all its requirements.

Other improvements include a “customer service focus” with timely access to justice, increased ear-

ly reductions and trail backlog clearing, a move to follow up on failure to respond to issues daily and the keying of tickets as they come in. There have been improvements with removing barriers to payment by adding an online option. Ms. Niemi also noted that a part-time POA position has been eliminated (although severance costs at the board have hidden some of those savings). She has also been working with Temiskaming Shores on the replacement of the POA servers. She has met with the Espanola POA office and attended a number of conferences and delegations, including an Association of Municipalities of Ontario meeting with the Attorney General where ongoing sustainability issues were discussed with the province.

The proposed POA surplus payments for each township for 2024 include: Assignack \$20,030.97; Billings \$11,827.12; Burpee and Mills \$7,222.30; Central \$42,606.71; Cockburn Island \$218.12; Gordon/Barrie Island \$10,057.90; Gore Bay \$20,249.09; NEMI \$59,414.30; and Tehkummah \$8,373.50.

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Local business corp. provides investment in community health initiative

by Tom Sasvari
GORE BAY—As an example of its tremendous success, having invested over \$50 million in the local community and supporting small business since its inception, the Lacloche-Manitoulin Business Assistance Corporation (LAMBAC) has now invested in Future Health Services (FHS), a social enterprise that provides health remote monitoring services to seniors and chronic patients in communities.

At the LAMBAC annual general meeting recently, it was announced that the LAMBAC board has made an equity invest-

ment of \$200,000 toward FHS. “FHS was seeking our support and partnership to expand the impact of the program to reach more vulnerable populations in need of these services,” said Carolyn Campbell, executive director.

Ms. Campbell explained, “FHS has been a pioneer and leader in remote monitoring services in Canada since 2012. FHS is based in Sudbury. They have developed a successful model that leverages the expertise and resources of Community Futures (CF), Community Paramedic Services (CPs) and other community and healthcare partners.”

Remote monitoring is a technology-enabled service that allows health care providers to monitor the vital signs and symptoms of their patients remotely, using devices such as blood pressure cuffs, pulse oximeters, thermometers and scales. The data is transmitted wirelessly to a patient portal, where it is analyzed by community paramedics that provide timely feedback and intervention if needed. Remote monitoring has proven to be an effective way to reduce hospital admissions, emergency visits, and health care costs, while improving patient outcomes, satisfaction



The Lacloche-Manitoulin Business Assistance Corporation (LAMBAC) board held its annual meeting recently, where it was announced that it has made an equity investment of \$200,000 to Future Health Services Inc. In photo from left is Carolyn Campbell executive director of LAMBAC, board members Cheryl Kennelly, Anna Armstrong, Michelle Hart, Jim Gerhart, Jeanne Lalonde, Dave McDowell and Bob Florean.

and quality of life. “FHS has achieved remarkable results and

recognition for its remote monitoring services. It has served over 5,000 patients 40 of 56 municipalities across Ontario and Prince Edward Island (PEI),” said Ms. Campbell. FHS has reduced hospital admissions by 71 percent, emergency visits by 57 percent, and 911 calls by 42 percent among patients.

“Our board of directors has been eager to diversify our investment portfolio and I’m very proud to announce that LAMBAC has made an equity investment in (FHS) Inc.,” continued Ms. Campbell. “With any technology there are always new advancements to be made, and I am looking forward to being on the board of directors to add insight from Northern Ontario and to help promote future investments into the company from other partners in the North.”

As part of the meeting, Anna Armstrong, chair of the LAMBAC board led the board through approval of its agenda, minutes from last year’s annual meeting, audit reports, and welcoming new board member Bob Florean.

“We have had two board members that have been very dedicated to LAMBAC for the past nine years, serving their three, three-year terms,” said Ms. Campbell. “Unfortunately, David Carnochan was unable to make it tonight. Dave has been a great resource, and we will miss his contributions going forward.”

Ms. Campbell presented outgoing board member Jim Gerhart with a gift on behalf of the LAMBAC board, “to say thank you for all the time that you have put into this organization, from reading packages, asking great questions, and coming up with solutions.”

“Being a member of the board has been very enjoyable,” stated Mr. Gerhart. “I have met a lot of interesting people and had the opportunity to help work on many projects. LAMBAC is an exceptional organization.”

“The staff at LAMBAC have had a busy year,” said Ms. Campbell. “Annette Clarke has been our economic development officer for the Western Manitoulin EDO project funded by FedNor. We have had a great working committee and Annette was able to accomplish almost everything that was set out in our objectives. The Town of Gore Bay asked for assistance when applying for the downtown revitalization project and Annette was successful in her application and received funding approval for \$500,000 from Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation


(NOHFC). This will be an exciting project to see come to life and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Annette for all of the hard work that she has put into this.”

“Susan Whynott has been the project coordinator for the Northern Ontario Women’s (NOW) program and has done a fabulous job making sure that the women entrepreneurs have access to this program across Northern Ontario,” continued Ms. Campbell. “The success stories from the women that have used the NOW program can be seen on the NOW Facebook page and are a great indicator of the success of the program. Susan, I can’t say enough about your dedication to this project, and I know that the women you are assisting feel the same way.”

“Stefany Pepin, you have been at the LAMBAC office for almost eight years now and you have allowed LAMBAC to enter into Pan Northern Projects as we are able to serve our francophone communities with your excellent customer service skills,” said Ms. Campbell. “Our office depends on your knowledge for so many things and I appreciate everything that you do to keep our office running smoothly,” continued Ms. Campbell. “Stefany has worked on the tile drainage program for years and this year we have completed our third project with acres tiled hitting just short of 3,000 acres. This program provides funding to our agricultural community in the form of a grant to help with the costs of installing tile that improves yields, extends the growing season and reduces soil erosion as well as many other environmental benefits. I want to thank Kim Murch and Kristin Luoma from the Ministry of Northern Development for attending tonight and for all of the work that you do in the Lacloche-Manitoulin area.”

Arik Theijsmeijer, manager, program delivery in North Central Region of FedNor said that LAMBAC has been very successful since its inception. Even during the difficult time coming out of the pandemic LAMBAC has provided small businesses to get through this time.

“LAMBAC has been very successful and is definitely having a lot of beneficial impact on small businesses and community projects in the Lacloche and Manitoulin areas, such as the Gore Bay-Manitoulin Airport project, in helping to get the communities funding for this project,” said Mr. Theijsmeijer.



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Guest speakers will share their powerful life experiences. While their stories are inspiring, due to some mature content, we recommend that attendance be strictly for ages 15 and over.

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For additional information, contact:

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Noojmowin Teg Health Centre
shawna.jacko@noojmowinteg.ca
Tel: (705) 368-0083
Mobile: (705) 968-0782

Guest Speakers...


VANESSA BROUSSEAU,
A.K.A. RESILIENT INUK

As an indigenous woman, Vanessa has personally experienced abuse, neglect, racism and poverty. Vanessa has made it her mission to create awareness about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit (MMIWG2S) through art and voice. Vanessa is also an ethical artist and is passionate about sharing her work through her business, Resilient Inuk Creations. Vanessa share's her story as well as her sister Pamela's story on her verified Tik Tok account "Resilient Inuk" where she has over 152,000 followers and on Instagram where she has over 98,000 followers. Vanessa is currently working on writing her first book, "Becoming Resilient Inuk", and is in the planning stages of a documentary.



BRIDGET PERRIER
MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER, CO-FOUNDER SEXTRADE 101

Bridget Perrier is a First Nations woman. Her Spirit Name is Wasayakwe, meaning Women of Light. Bridget was born to an Ojibway woman who lovingly placed Bridget up for adoption so that she could have a better life, and so she was raised in a large, loving, non-native family. When Bridget was 8 years old, she was sexually abused by a family friend, the pain that she felt burdened her, and by 12 years old Bridget had been lured and debased into prostitution. She was bought and sold in brothels and streets all over Canada. Bridget found healing within Toronto's First Nations community, eventually went back to school, and got into George Brown College, where she graduated from The Community Worker program.



Overdose crisis deepens in Northern Ontario: A community on edge

Jacqueline M. St. Pierre,
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
NORTHERN ONTARIO—As the shadows lengthen across Northern Ontario, a growing concern grips the region: the alarming rise in overdose deaths linked to the dangerous combination of opioids and stimulants. A recent report sheds light on a grim reality, revealing that the complexity of substance use in our communities has reached unprecedented levels, drawing attention to the urgent need for action and support.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the landscape of drug-related fatalities has evolved dramatically. Research from the Ontario Drug Policy Research Network and Public Health Ontario indicates that the number of overdose deaths involving multiple substances has surged. From 2018 to 2022, the monthly rate of overdose deaths attributed to a single substance increased by 75 percent, while deaths involving two substances rose by 167 percent, and those involving three or more substances skyrocketed by an alarming 186 percent.

In total, 12,115 accidental overdose deaths across Ontario were linked to a lethal mix of opioids, stimulants, alcohol, and benzodiazepines during this period. Dr. Tara Gomes, an epidemiologist and a co-author of the report, emphasized the troubling trend. “Now, the most common situation is that opioids and stimulants together are contributing to death,” she stated. “But we’ve also seen an increase in deaths where three or more substances are involved, complicating how we support those in crisis.”

The most significant contributor to these fatalities remains illicit opioids, particularly fentanyl, which was detected in nearly 84 percent of drug toxicity deaths — more than 10,000 lives lost. Stimulants were involved in nearly 62 percent of overdose deaths, while alcohol and benzodiazepines accounted for 13 and 9 percent, respectively.

This crisis is not just a number on a page; it’s a harsh reality for families and communities in Northern Ontario. The report highlights a disturbing connection to the healthcare system, revealing that about one-third of those who succumbed to overdose had some form of healthcare interaction in the week leading up to their death. “Fifty-six percent of people who died had some type of engagement with the healthcare system in the previous 30 days,” Dr. Gomes noted. This raises critical questions about the adequacy of support and services available to those struggling with substance use.

Dr. Gomes stressed the necessity for emergency departments to be equipped to handle the complexities of addiction. “Unfortunately, the concern we have in



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the findings is that those emergency departments are not always set up to provide the care needed,” she cautioned. The absence of addiction medicine specialists in most hospitals underscores a significant gap in treatment, leaving vulnerable individuals without the specialized support they desperately require.

While some promising programs, like addiction medicine consult services, exist, their limited availability highlights the urgent need for a province wide roll-out. “The goal of those programs is to integrate specialized care for addiction within emergency departments and hospitals,” Gomes explained, emphasizing the importance of seamless transitions to primary care and community-based services upon discharge.

The opioid crisis in Ontario has been compounded by the emergence of fentanyl around 2015, which infiltrated the drug supply, leading to a swift increase in overdose deaths. The pandemic further exacerbated the situation, as social isolation and restricted access to healthcare services left many individuals using drugs alone, often with tragic consequences.

Recent statistics reveal that over 2,600 Ontarians succumbed to opioid-related deaths in 2023 alone, a stark reminder of the ongoing crisis. In response, the province plans to close 10 supervised consumption sites due to their proximity to schools and daycares, shifting towards an abstinence-based treatment model. This de-

cision raises concerns within Northern Ontario communities, where access to safe consumption spaces and harm reduction services is already limited.

As the region grapples with this profound crisis, the voices of those impacted by addiction resonate louder than ever. Families mourn the loss of loved ones, and communities rally to support one another in the face of overwhelming grief. The need for comprehensive, compassionate care has never been more pressing, and as the report underscores, the time for change is now.

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Wednesday, January 22 at the Mindemoya Town Chambers from 2 to 4 pm; Sunday, February 23 at the Gore Bay Legion from 2 to 4 pm; Wednesday, March 26 at the Mindemoya Council Chambers from 2 to 4 pm; and Sunday, April 27 at the Manitowaning Family Health Team from 2 to 4 pm. For more information please contact: Terry Mackenzie, 705-507-0433, tandjmackenzie@hotmail.com; Bonnie Young, 705-377-4998; Ann Cranston, 705-282-7531, bnannc@gmail.com.

tfn

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Tfn

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

tfn

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

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35-41p

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coming events

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25tfn

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

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

Tfn

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

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

Tfn

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

...brace for changes amid healthcare funding boost

...continued from page 10

ment are essential to address these pressing challenges. "Our government has made historic investments to strengthen public health care and ease the burden on provincial and territorial health systems," he said. "But the reality is that many Canadians still find themselves paying out of pocket for services that should be covered."

Northern Ontario residents have long faced unique barriers to healthcare access, including geographic isolation, a shortage of healthcare professionals, and systemic inequities. As the federal government moves towards a new Canada Health Act policy that aims to ensure that medically necessary services provided by nurse practitioners and other regulated health professionals are covered, local advocates hope this will bridge some of the gaps that have persisted for years.

Implementing these changes is a step in the right direction, however, we need to see tangible results in our communities. We must ensure that these funds are directed where they are needed most—into the hands of healthcare providers and services that directly support our residents."

As the new funding takes effect, Northern Ontarians will be watching closely to see how these financial resources translate into improved healthcare delivery. The urgency of addressing long-standing disparities remains at the forefront of community concerns, underscoring the need for sustained commitment from both

federal and provincial governments to ensure equitable access to healthcare for all Canadians, no matter where they live.

Death Notices

BERNADETTE CORBIERE
NAHMIWAN
July 27, 1937 - January 8, 2025



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our mother Maris Stella Bernadette Marie (nee Nadjiwan) Corbiere Nahmiwan in her 87th year. Mom was a woman of kindness, strength, love and resilience. She embodied the essence of what it means to be a mother while raising her children Sharon (Rick), Patrick (predeceased 2021), Terrance (predeceased 2011), Chris (Pamela), Shawn (Jennifer), Stella (predeceased 1982) and Jason (predeceased 1982). She was predeceased by her husband Ambrose; her sisters Gertrude, Ernestine and Hilda; and her parents Isabelle (nee Shawana) Nadjiwan and Andrew Patrick Nadjiwan. She is survived by her grandchildren Eric (Tina), Mark and Lesley Johnston (Joe), Amanda and Spencer Corbiere, Hunter and Nodin Corbiere, Summer and Cierra Corbiere, Maxine Cyr and Keisha Budge; great-grandchildren Tyler and Haley Johnston, Katelyn Johnston Kust (Brayden) and Sonny Kust, Channing McNaughton and little Elija Corbiere; great-great-grandson Jeremy Manitowabi and great-great-granddaughter little Juniper Manitowabi. Also, survived by many nieces and nephews. As a grandmother, her grandchildren were her greatest treasures and she showered them with unconditional love and cherished memories that will last a lifetime. She was the heartbeat of our family with her warm smile, gentle heart and the ability to know just what to say to make us feel better when we were down. I will miss this the most. She always made people feel special. Her life was a testament to kindness, love and selflessness. Whether through her gentle words of encouragement, her boundless generosity, or the way she always knew just how to brighten a room or someone's day, she made the world a better place simply by being in it. She was first a homemaker and did the best she could with what she had. She always loved being with her children. She was witty and a loving woman who always found joy in life regardless of the circumstances. She cared deeply for those around her and took pleasure in the simple things. She was forgiving. She enjoyed working as Elder Support for Cambrian College students. Students remembered her compassion and kindness. She volunteered and sat on various committees in her home community of Sagamok. She also was a very spiritual person. She worked with a group of Ojibwe Elders from Wiky and Sagamok where their role was to translate English material into Ojibwe for her people so they would come to know the Creator. As a result of this collaboration a CD was produced. This brought her great pride and joy and a sense of accomplishment. Mom leaves behind a family who loved her and thought of her every day, a community who admired her and a world made better because of her presence. Her legacy of kindness will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved her. In honour of her wishes, there will be no public visitation nor services. Cremation has taken place. A private Celebration of her Life will be held at a later date. If you so wish, in lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in her memory to The North Shore Health Network's Golden Birches Terrace Long Term Care. We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all the staff at the Golden Birches Long Term Care of the North Shore Health Network who were so kind, caring and respectful. They are truly the Creator's helpers. Golden Birches was her home for the past 2.5 years. On behalf of my family, we thank all of you for the exemplary care she received. Though she is no longer with us, we love her and we are so grateful to the Creator for gifting her to us. Rest peacefully. You are missed beyond measure. The sky has gained another star. Baamaapii gaawaabmin/see you later. Until we meet again. Love you Mom. Arrangements are entrusted to the Bourcier Funeral Home.

Central firefighters respond to Christmas Eve blaze

by Tom Sasvari

CENTRAL MANITOU-LIN—Fortunately, no one was injured in a large garage fire that took place at a Central Manitoulin municipal residence on Christmas Eve.

"It was a big fire, and fortunately no one was hurt," stated Phil Gosse, Central Manitoulin fire chief, last week. "It was a large garage fire."

Fire Chief Gosse pointed out the blaze took place on Christmas Eve,

December 24 at 5:30 pm. "I'm grateful that 15 members of the volunteer fire department were on the scene of the blaze, with seven trucks."

The garage fire took place at a residence on the south shore in Central Manitoulin. "We have no idea what happened (to cause the fire)," said Fire Chief Gosse. "There was no need for further investigation into the cause."

Fire Chief Gosse was on the scene of the fire for six hours as a precaution, having let the remainder of the firefighters go home about an hour and a half prior to that. "At every fire we respond to we want to make sure the fire is out, and was not going to flare up again."

lost and found

Found-- pair of reading glasses found at Little Current United Church. Possibly left after last month's Christmas Eve service. Can be claimed at the Expositor Office, Little Current.

notice

Tender:

2010 F-350 cube van - "As is" Mileage 229,595 km

2010 GMC Sierra - "As is" 4-wheel drive Mileage 186,875 km

The due date for tenders is January 31st.

Call Charles at 705-377-5111

thank you

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all our family and friends for showing their love and support towards us since the passing of our son, Will. All the phone calls, messages, visits, food, cards, flowers and kindness has touched us deeply and will never be forgotten. A special recognition and love to our middle son, John, for being there for us with ongoing farm chores while dealing with the loss of his older brother Will. Bill and Bonnie Fogal

36c

in memoriam

SMITH—In loving remembrance of John R. Smith, July 12, 1919 - January 21, 1996. Dad, You were someone very special, Who cannot be replaced. Your memories in my daily life, Can never be erased. Nothing in this world will take away, The happy years of which you were a part. Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us everyday. Unseen, unheard, but always near, Forever loved, forever missed. Always in my heart, Marilyn

36c

Mass hatchery die-off means cancellation of eyed egg event

by Tom Sasvari
ASSIGINACK—For the first time since 2009 the annual brook trout eyed egg event hosted by Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association (MSIA) had to be cancelled this year as the provincial hatchery which provides the fish eggs experienced a mass die-off.

“We received notification from Hills Lake Hatchery (in Englehart) that they had an issue with new eggs and they experienced a massive die off and there are no longer any brook trout eggs,” said Seija Deschenes, coordinator of MSIA on Wednesday of last week. “We had to cancel our brook trout eyed egg event for this year.”

Eric Seed of Hills Lake Hatchery explained, “We had a big loss of brook trout. Pretty much all of the fish. A bug developed in the egg take with this year’s fish. Our brood stock fish were sick when the spawn took place and they weren’t doing well so we had to use younger fish and it didn’t turn out well.”

MSIA “started restoration work on Norton’s Creek in 2008 and we received 5,000 brook trout eggs (from Hills Lake Hatchery) in 2009 to stock,” said Ms. Deschenes.

Ms. Deschenes said that once again this year, the

eyed egg event, which had been scheduled to take place January 17, was anticipating a great response of helpers. “We had two school groups, representatives from fish and game clubs and a lot of new people who were interested in helping out.” And again, this year, 10,000 brook trout eyed eggs were to be provided to MSIA, which is their normal allocation.

On a positive note, “When we had College Boreal here in the fall conducting their electro-fishing at Norton’s Creek, they had good results,” said Ms. Deschenes. “There were lots of small-

er brook trout, they visibly saw a lot more brook trout. We always look forward to working with and partnering with the MNR and with the township of Assiginack, but sometimes things happen that are out of your control. It has been really nice being able to hold the eyed-egg event at the Assiginack arena (in Manitowaning) the last couple of years. And would do an educational piece, kids always love the opportunity to participate in this event.”

As of the 2024 brook trout eyed egg event, 120,000 eggs have been released into Norton’s Creek.



In 2021, Liam Campbell and Maylen Moffat were two of the many volunteers loading scotty boxes in Norton’s Creek in Assiginack.

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If it was an option I would have given Steven 10 stars! Professional, knowledgeable, efficient and pleasant. Steven Kuula is the realtor you want working for you!
-LISA & ART BOUILLON

Steven Kuula is fun, professional and committed. He is dedicated to providing exceptional service. Steven himself truly went above and beyond to ensure I felt supported and informed throughout the entire process. Might I say patient as well! His enthusiasm for real estate and genuine care makes him an outstanding choice for anyone looking to buy or sell a home in the Manitoulin area.
- ALANA WATKINSON

Steven went above and beyond. As absentee sellers, we truly appreciated his willingness to step in and make adjustments to the listing. Despite the slow market, he successfully made it happen.
-MIKE ELCHYSHYN

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1368 Bay of Islands Dr

Whitefish Falls

MLS®#: 2120323 | \$1,195,000

110 Johnny's Park Drive

M'Chigeeng

MLS®#: 2120340 | \$265,000

Back on the market

1301 Mason Line,

Silver Water

MLS®#: 2120374 | \$159,000

3A Meredith St,

Gore Bay

MLS®#: 2117743 | \$624,500

4202 Hwy 540,

Little Current

MLS®#: 2119717 | \$1,175,000

35 Fourth Ave,

Assiginack

MLS®#: 2119719 | \$399,000

Sturgeon Island,

0000 Bayfield Sound

MLS®#: 2117227 | \$349,777

595 Lakeshore Rd,

Tehkummah

MLS®#: 2118163 | \$957,000

PENDING

6063 King St,

Mindemoya

MLS®#: 2118833 | \$365,000

433 Cross Hill Rd,

M'Chigeeng

MLS®#: 2118846 | \$85,000

105B Shadow Cres,

Mindemoya

MLS®#: 2119697 | \$679,000

NEW PRICE

968 Robertson Rd,

Gore Bay

MLS®#: 2118363 | \$949,000

119 Burke St,

Spring Bay

MLS®#: 2118960 | \$550,000

240 Britainville Rd,

Spring Bay

MLS®#: 2119436 | \$150,000

71 Corbiere Rd Lot X,

M'Chigeeng

MLS®#: 2113707 | \$249,995

1278 Ice Lake Dr,

Gore Bay

MLS®#: 2119624 | \$549,999

700 Ice Lake Dr,

Gore Bay

MLS®#: 2118250 | \$625,000

SOLD

9378 Hwy 542,

Spring Bay

MLS®#: 2118743 | \$269,900

Back on the market

Lot 11 Pleasant View Trail,

Mindemoya

MLS®#: 2120373 | \$69,900

544 Ketchankookem Tr, Mindemoya

MLS®#: 2118008 | \$1,777,000

130 Thorne St, Mindemoya

MLS®#: 2118425 | \$639,950

10 Campbell St, Little Current

MLS®#: 2119986 | \$537,900

SOLD

N/A Hwy 540,

Little Current

\$49,000

MLS®#: 2114168

8 ACRES

12 Cockburn St,

Little Current

\$39,000

MLS #: 2112049

1/2 ACRE

Lot 86 Limberlost Ln,

Mindemoya

\$79,000

MLS #: 2119535

1/2 ACRE

N/A Monument Rd,

Spring Bay

\$227,500

MLS #: 2119695

4.5 ACRES

13476 Hwy 542,

Gore Bay

\$205,000

MLS #: 2112862

25 ACRES

SOLD

N/A Hwy 551,

Providence Bay

\$148,500

MLS #: 2119210

50 ACRES

N/A Union Rd,

Evansville

\$209,900

MLS #: 2119801

81 ACRES

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Check out this WAY-BACK-WEDNESDAY moment!

Al Rolston, centre, presents the Little Current Senior Hockey team, the "Flyers", with a new set of sweaters on behalf of his firm, J. A. Rolston Real Estate Broker. The new orange and white sweaters are modelled here by Flyers Hockey Club president Shane Laidley, left, and club manager and secretary Rob Little.

Supporting OUR community for over 50 YEARS!

 <p>Tucked away on a beautiful 8.5 acres, offering breathtaking views with 225 feet of sandy shoreline & break wall on wonderful Honora Bay, large 3,293 square foot home with 5 beds, 3 full baths. MLS #2119224 Little Current, \$985,000</p>	 <p>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. MLS #2119947, Sheguiandah, \$598,000</p>	 <p>A getaway waiting for your recreational build. Private-estate sized lot of 33 acres boasting 627 feet of crystal-clear waterfront. Gravel laneway. Flat water access. MLS #2116861 Mindemoya, \$499,000</p>	 <p>CONDITIONAL PENDING. Newly renovated 3 bed, 3 bath home with separate entranced bachelor apartment. 90 acres! You can build your own private bush trails. MLS#2120103 Mindemoya, \$549,000</p>			
 <p>Budget-friendly, highly-visible downtown Little Current commercial space. Large window front looks onto busy street teeming with maritime enthusiasts, tourists and shoppers. MLS#2120110 Little Current, \$149,000</p>	 <p>Located on outskirts of Sandfield on Hwy 542, 0.96 acre vacant property is ready to build on with hydro at the lot line. Two entrances. Near public boat launch for Lake Manitou. MLS #2118123 Sandfield, \$52,900</p>	 <p>Near Lake Mindemoya, just under 1 acre, treed lot waiting for your home or cottage. Front portion level. Hydro and laneway. Rock cut could provide elevated build site. Year-round road. MLS #2118483 Monument Road, \$125,000</p>	 <p>Waterfront lot on Leask Bay of South Bay. 200 ft of shore on mainly level lot, driveway running through to shoreline. Renowned fishing area. Couple of sheds in place to get your new build started. MLS #2118800 Manitowaning, \$179,000</p>			
 <p>Build site, 3.53 acres with a mix of forest, pond and open fields. 3 tiers of elevation offering lake views. Year-round access, hydro and municipal water supply. 2 km to beach and boat launch. MLS #2119754 Sheguiandah, \$139,900</p>	 <p>Outskirts of Manitowaning, overlooking bay, 3 plus acres. Maintained street with laneway, hydro, good drainage, partially cleared, flat and ready for building. Assignack allows licenced trailers. MLS #2115464, Manitowaning, \$139,000</p>	 <p>Year-round road in Assignack, trailers permitted for a fee. Access to water with sandy beach via short walk over the adjacent green space. Hydro ready, quiet subdivision, 5 minutes from amenities of Manitowaning. MLS #2113802 Manitowaning, \$69,000</p>	<div><p>IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL, call the team that pride themselves on honesty, integrity and experience: "The ROLSTON Team"</p></div>			
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2617 ROCKVILLE RD
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2
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2



20 THORBURN ST
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MLS 2120066 | \$495,000

4
1 1/2
3



4 MAIN ST
Gore Bay
MLS 2119693 | \$299,000

3
1 1/2
2



15 WATERVIEW LANE
Manitowaning | Waterfront
MLS 2119513 | \$584,900

4
1 1/2
2



359 KETCHANKOOKEM TRAIL
Mindemoya | Waterfront
MLS 2119733 | \$849,995

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN REAL ESTATE

2025

With balanced market conditions and an anticipated surge of demand this spring, now is a great time to start your real estate journey!

10%

increase in sales activity from Q3 to Q4 of 2024

National Trends in Prices

The average home price rose **2.5%** year-over-year to **\$676,640** in December 2024, reflecting continued demand



All information is taken from the Sudbury Real Estate Board as of Jan 16th

COMMERCIAL LISTING IN KAGAWONG

159 MAIN ST | MLS 2119804 | LISTING PRICE \$285,000





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Tehkummah | MLS 2119401 | \$220,000



LOT 1 31M-209 WATER ST
Meldrum Bay | MLS 2117093 | \$229,000

BUILDING LOTS



NEMI
MLS 2120361
\$47,500

PT23 BAY ESTATES



Silver Water
MLS 2119690
\$29,900

PT LOT 17 ON-540 HWY



Manitowaning
MLS 2120360
\$85,000

LT2 LAKESHORE RD

LISTING THIS WINTER? FOCUS ON CURB APPEAL

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Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

BJ Corbiere Memorial Winners



Winners of the Sportsmen division are, back row, Gregory Paquet Trudeau, Jordan Trudeau, Jonas Aiabens, Kieran Peltier, Bo Peltier, front row, Evan Peltier, Tanner Webkamigad, Lukas Abotossaway, Ian Dokum, Carson McMillan, Ryan Mooney, Chase Kanasawe, Eric Charlebois, Ronson Odjig, Jave Pitawanakwat, Matthew Oshkabewisens, Tony Manitowabi and Jenmee Bondy.



Earl's Girls won the ladies' division this year. The are, back row, left, Sara Laarus, Kathryn Corbiere, Marley Patterson, Brooke Addison, Victoria Pitawanakwat, Steph Legault, Madysen Tellier, front row, Karli Shell, Kristene Louise, Danielle Burla, Grace Webb, Deidre Debassige and Vero Hameline. Coaches are Earl, Deana and Treena Debassige.



The AOK NDNs won the 40+ trophy this year. They are, back row, left, Travis Corbiere, Jarrod Shawanda, John Ense, Troy Abotossaway, Bruce Visitor, Grant Peltier, Jordan Bennet, front row, Arron Assiniwe, Shaun Assiniwe, Jim McComber, Matt Maracle, Bryan Corbiere and missing from photo Craig Abotossaway.



Panther Points!

This week the U15 Manitoulin Panthers travelled to Copper Cliff where the team made great plays and controlled the game, leaving with a 7-0 win. They continued that momentum into Sunday's game against the North Shore Thundercats, where again the score was 7-0 for the Panthers. The U15 team continues to be unbeaten in league play and an admirable, goals-per-game average!

The U13 Manitoulin Panthers battled it out in a hard-fought game on Sunday that ended in a 2-2 tie, showing grit and determination on the ice. **Aiden Corbiere** and Brody King each found the back of the net for the Panthers during the second period, with key assists from **Boston Abotossaway** and **Aiden Corbiere**, leaving the score 2-0 entering the third period. The Sudbury Wolves came back and tied it up in the third period. Despite relentless pressure from both teams, neither could break the deadlock, leaving the final score tied. It was a game that kept fans on the edge of their seats until the final buzzer. Go Panthers!



CONGRATS TO OUR PROVINCIAL FINALISTS!!!



Parker J.
4th in Northern Ontario
Age 10-12
Heading to the Provincial
Shoot-Out at the Scotties
in Thunder Bay!!!



Proud of You



Joshua J.
5th in Northern Ontario
Age 6-7
Heading to the Provincial
Shoot-Out at the U15
Rockfest in North Bay!!!



Curling club props!

The Providence Bay Youth and Junior Curling Club recently held a Hit-Draw-Tap competition during their junior curling program. The event had curlers throwing five hits (take-outs), five draw shots and five tap shots (bumping a rock into the house). Each shot gets a score out of five and their total score is uploaded to a national database.

Parker Johnston finished 4th in Northern Ontario for his age group (10-12) and is now participating in the provincial shoot-out being held at the Scotties (A.P.S.K.A. the Women's National Championships) in Thunder Bay on February 15. **Joshua Joyce** finished 5th in his age group (6-7) and will be participating in a provincial shoot-out being held in North Bay during U15 Rockfest on March 21!

Coach and founder of the club Angela Johnston has had an explosion in numbers in just a few years. At a recent spiel in Espanola, they made a huge impression with their ranks. In the U18 Event the MSS Boys including two PBCC alumni (**Eric Wahl**, **Spencer Johnston**, **Rylan Pennie**, **Isaac Quackenbush**) finished third. Also competing were the Mustang Girls (**Katelyn Shank**, **Avery Barnes**, **Grace Pennie**, **Danika Skippen** (PBCC)). The Prov Juniors (**Silva Verboom**, **David Joyce**, **Amber Ducharme**, **John McLean**) were in the U15 Event.

Actually, all of the Prov junior teams played, featuring: **Devon MacKelvie**, **Parker Johnston**, **Shawn MacKelvie**, **Charlie Orford** who won the A event. Foursome **David Cooper**, **William Quinn**, **Easton Lauber** and **Tommy Joyce** won the B event. The remaining participants were: **Sarah Joyce**, **Autumn Bryan**, **Rosie Duguay**, **Cordelia McLean**, **Laura Lynn Cooper** and **Avery Sparling**.

In the Little Rocks Events participants: **Arie** and **Isaiah Miller**, **Josh Joyce** and **Abby Lauber**.

NOJHL player of the week!

Aundeck Omni Kaning's **Samuel Assinewai** has been on a tear for his Jr. A, Sudbury Cubs. He is on a 20-game point streak (23 G, 23 A), recording 65 points in 35 games, and racking up 175 career NOJHL points. On top of that he has been named one of Broker-Link's Three Stars of the Week!

Island hikers atop Africa!

Three Manitoulin friends just took a trip of a lifetime in Tanzania featuring a safari and a hike up Mount Kilimanjaro. Congratulations to **Jesse Beaudin**, **Harrison Noble** and **Jenn Delange** for attempting the highest peak on the continent. Just six summits left!

MDB founder passes

Robert 'Bob' Aljoe was one of the driving forces behind rep hockey on Manitoulin in the 80s. The Manitoulin Dolomite Bantams, who evolved into the Panthers, became a reality thanks to Bob. Many of the era will remember Bob as a fierce competitor and friend, behind the bench and in the stands. You will be missed, Bob.

Twilight Club hosts appreciation ceremony for special members

by Alexia Hannigan
PROVIDENCE BAY—Earlier this month Bev Webster sent out invitations to many friends and neighbours to the Providence Bay Hall for a very special gathering and appreciation ceremony for some honorary members of the Twilight Seniors Club.

The Twilighters Club are a subsidiary/affiliate of the Senior Citizens of Ontario. Twilight Club Members meet the last Monday of every month to cultivate and curate friendships, fun, games, art, music, poetry, prose, prayer as they share a potluck supper celebrating all of life's simple pleasures. Taking time together to share their common love of cards paired with camaraderie and the knowledge and mantra that the light still shines in your senior years is the secret to the club's longevity and success.

Twilight Club alumni Bev Webster organized the event as a tribute and a way of showing her gratitude toward her good friends of many years whom she boasted have been such a blessing in her life. December's provided Ms. Webster and club members the opportunity to reflect on the joy of their time together and to ring in the New Year and honour the people who are in the twilight of their life journey. There were refreshments, cake and a lot of shared memories and live songs and music. Ms.



Allen Kerr, age 94; Betty Kerr, aged 99 who will be ringing her 100th Birthday this May; Nola Haner, age 96; Vicki Grigg, age 92; Rita Bond, age 91; and Donna Philips, age 93 were presented with certificates.

photos by Alexia Hannigan

Webster thanked Alison Sloss and Central Manitoulin council members for allowing her to have the space to bring everyone together. Ms. Sloss thanked everyone for the honour and introduced council member Linda Farquhar who went on to present congratulatory milestone certificates to the head table and guests of honour, Allen Kerr, age 94; Betty Kerr, aged 99 who will be ringing her 100th Birthday this May; Nola Haner, age 96; Vicki Grigg, age 92; Rita Bond, age 91; and Donna Philips, age 93. Ms. Webster introduced club members and joked that she was having a “seniors’

moment” because she had misplaced her agenda all while facilitating the guests, PA system, the food, the cakes, the meticulously hand-written cards, miniature bottles of sand and the gift giveaways and prizes for the “guess how many grains of sand are in the box” contest. Ms. Webster had everything very well organized, and the elusive agenda memorized (not her first rodeo.) Ms. Sloss welcomed guests and introduced Councillor Farquhar who presented the Central Manitoulin certificates one by one to the esteemed, honorary panel of

you look around the room there's lots of experience here and today we are honoring this table, so if you're interested in getting together and playing euchre and getting together and eating a lot of food on a regular basis, we would love to have you and it's just an honour being here today to celebrate these people. If you get a chance to hear some of the stories and hear some of the memories that got them this far they would be honoured as well. So, thank you everyone for coming, I counted about 48 people here today who came out and to share in this celebration and fellowship in our community and that is a good thing.”

“I chatted with Brent and mentioned I had met club president Roy Rob-



There was a full house for the special meeting of the Twilight Club.



The Municipality of Central Manitoulin provided a cake for the event.

six Twiglighters over the age of 90 amidst a frenzy of camera flashes and a flood of requests from the “posterity keepers” and press as some folks ebbed and joked. Everyone smiled and celebrated with delight as club member and fellowship Minister Randy Moritt shared some inspirational words and scripture and gave praise

for “lives well lived”

Twilight Club VP Brent Forsyth shared some anecdotes about his time in Hamilton and early career and how he met a wonderful mentor who was able to share in their knowledge and experiences with him. He went on to say, “I think it's a wonderful opportunity to recognize those in their golden years. “When

inson at the Prov Bay Opry last year. Roy had extended his regrets that he could not attend. Brent shared some stories and club history with me and we reflected on the importance of such gatherings.”

What could be better than the gift and grace of another year under the sun surrounded by friends and mentors? Bev and her fellowship of Twilighters understand well that there comes a time in all of our lives where in lieu of counting candles we count our blessings, because they are many and they are all around us. Thank you, Bev and Twilighters Club for this happy day and wonderful start to the New Year. Shine on!



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Generous remuneration

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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

Sixteen teams participate in annual Mindemoya men’s bonspiel

by Susan Whynott
MINDEMOYA—A huge thank you to all 16 teams who took part in the 2025 Mindemoya men’s curling bonspiel (held the first weekend of January).

The Mindemoya Curling Club is fortunate to have a great base of members as well as a wonderfully supportive business community who every year say yes to donating to our bonspiel. Williamson’s Hardware sponsors the first event, Rylan’s Clothing the second event and Castle Building Event, the third event.

Walking off with bragging rights this year (plus they get their names on Lew’s plaque) are the lads from Little Current, Team Karn.

Owen and Shirley Legge graciously agreed to create the ‘In Memory of Lew’ (Lanktree) plaque to be presented annually to the winner of the first event.

The first event winner plaque, in memory of Lew Lanktree was presented



Team Karn won the annual Mindemoya Men’s Curling bonspiel, held earlier this month. In photo from left team member Jordan Chandler, Susan Whynott who presented the ‘In Memory of Lew (Lanktree)’ trophy to the winning team, Cory Karn, Ron McQuarrie and Barry Barnes.

to team Karn, which included skip Ron McQuarrie, vice Jordan Chandler, second Corey Karn and lead Barry Barnes. They defeated the Henderson Boys (+1) in the first event final. The Henderson rink included skip Gord Hen-

derson, vice Fred Henderson, second Pat Chiarello and lead Dave Henderson.

The second event saw Team McDermid defeat Team Ferguson in the final. The McDermid rink was skipped by Dave McDermid, with vice Norm

Jones, second Peter Tasse and lead Lyndin Belleau. Ray Beaudry was skip, with vice Jack Ferguson, second Don Rosborough and lead Dale Baker.

Team Burt, which included skip Max Burt, vice Brian Bell, second



Team McDermid, which included Dave McDermid, Norm Jones, Peter Tasse and Lyndin Belleau won the second event championship at the Mindemoya Curling Club men’s annual curling bonspiel.

Ted Kilpatrick and lead Kevin Burt were the champions in the third event.

Runners-up in the third event was Team Bond. Peter Bond was skip of the

rink which also included vice Harold Fox, second Pierre Elliott Trudeau and third was lead JJ McCabe.



Team Burt were the third event champions at the Mindemoya Men’s Curling Bonspiel. The rink included Max Burt, Ted Kilpatrick, Kevin Burt, and Brian Bell.



Zhiibaahaasing First Nation IS HIRING!

In-person and work from home hybrid positions available. Competitive wages and benefits.

- Policy and Procedure Analyst
- Researcher & Administrative Assistant
- Cultural Coordinator
- Custodian
- Family Support Worker
- Health Director

A cover letter, resume and three letters of reference are required.

Please forward your questions and letters to:
Melanie Sabourin
Recruitment
✉ melanie@zhiibaahaasing.org



Zhiibaahaasing First Nation is a proud and growing community on the western end of Manitoulin Island, Ontario, Canada.



Whitefish River First Nation

Anishnaabe Aadiziwin Team

is recruiting for a:

Anishinaabemowin Coordinator

Salary: \$65,320 - \$81,650 (including group pension and health benefits)
*Salary is subject to education and experience or a combination of both
Term: Full-time (35 hours/week)

The Anishinaabemowin Coordinator will be pivotal in preserving and revitalizing the Anishinaabemowin language. Their fluency in Anishinaabemowin will be a cornerstone in overseeing all language-related directives, organizing immersion camps, integrating language initiatives into various cultural programs and events, and leading the Language Archives project. This role is critical and deeply valued, as it will ensure that the Anishinaabemowin language remains a vital and vibrant part of the Whitefish River First Nation community for future generations.

Key Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with community members, elders and team members to develop a comprehensive Anishinaabemowin language revival strategy, setting both short-term and long-term goals.
- Organize, deliver and evaluate language immersion camps for learners of all ages, focusing on immersive experiences incorporating cultural practices.
- Integrate Anishinaabemowin language bundles into the Anishinaabe Aadiziwin program’s annual calendar activities, ensuring language learning is woven into broader cultural and wellness activities.
- Lead the coordination of the Language Archives, ensuring the accurate and meaningful capture of oral histories, traditional knowledge and storytelling.
- Establish a system to identify, prioritize and record at-risk language knowledge, ensuring urgent tasks are completed efficiently to preserve endangered information.
- Support Fluent Traditional Knowledge Keepers by managing administrative tasks, organizing schedules and managing logistics, allowing them to focus on language immersion and teaching.
- Foster mentorship programs that connect fluent speakers with language learners to create a supportive learning environment and facilitate intergenerational knowledge sharing. This is an opportunity to inspire and be inspired, share and receive knowledge, and contribute to preserving our language for future generations.
- Organize workshops, events and gatherings where community members can engage with language learning in meaningful and enjoyable ways.
- Monitor language initiatives’ progress, gather participant feedback and use data to adapt and improve the revival strategy.

Qualifications:

- Fluency in Anishinaabemowin (speak, read and write in the Ojibway language).
- Thorough knowledge of Anishinaabe traditions and culture.
- Prior work experience coordinating language programs and activities.
- Familiar with Anishinaabek community protocols.
- Any relevant diplomas and degrees would be considered an asset.
- Valid driver’s licence and access to own vehicle.
- Must be highly self-motivated and must have proven experience working independently.

Skills:

- Experience with computer programs (i.e. Microsoft Office, email, internet, etc.).
- Effective communication skills, both oral and written, with the ability to interact with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Highly organized with excellent time management and multitasking abilities.
- Strong critical thinking skills with the ability to prioritize and manage urgent tasks in a fast-paced environment.
- Exceptional interpersonal and relationship-building skills, including working effectively within a team.

*For a detailed job description, please email hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca

Applications are due on Tuesday, January 28th, 2025 at noon.

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

CONFIDENTIAL: Anishinaabemowin Coordinator
Whitefish River First Nation
c/o Human Resources
17-A Rainbow Ridge Road, P.O. 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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NAANDWECHIGE-GAMIG

Wikwemikong Health Centre

ABWnG Assistive Technology Technician

Aasgaabwitwindwaa Binoojiinhik Wiin ni Gshkiwewziwaat (ABWnG) is seeking a dedicated and knowledgeable Assistive Technology Technician. The ideal candidate will be responsible for providing specialized support in the selection, customization and implementation of assistive technology solutions for children. The technician will work closely with schools to ensure compatibility with existing applications and programs used by educational institutions, support children transitioning to new schools outside our service area, and collaborate with occupational therapists, physiotherapists, autism consultants or other service providers in ordering individual-specific items, including weighted therapeutic products. This role will evolve based on the unique needs of each child.

Salary: \$65,009.00. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an updated resume; 3) a photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution; and 4) contact information (email, phone number) of two work-related references.

Developmental Therapist

We are seeking a dedicated and compassionate Developmental Therapist to join our team and work with children in the school system. The Developmental Therapy Clinical Supervisor will supervise the Developmental Therapist. The ideal candidate will have experience in early childhood development, and a passion for helping children with developmental delays, disabilities and behavioural issues achieve their full potential. The Developmental Therapist will work closely with teachers, educational assistants, parents and other professionals to create and implement individualized therapy plans that support each child's unique needs.

Salary: \$70,101.00. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an updated resume; 3) a photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution; and 4) contact information (email, phone number) of two work-related references.

Nookomisnaang Counsellor Full-Time, Part-Time and Causal Positions

Responsible for planning and facilitating safe therapeutic counselling; ensuring care management duties are completed according to minimal standards; preparing and maintaining administrative duties, promoting a supportive, respectful and harmonious team environment.

Salary: \$70,101.00. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an updated resume; 3) a photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution; and 4) contact information (email, phone number) of two work-related references.

Nadmadwin Youth Mental Health Worker

Under the direct supervision of the Nadmadwin Mental Health Manager, the Youth Mental Health Worker provides professional clinical assessment, counselling, education and referral services to individuals, groups and families; and health promotion services in the form of educational and primary prevention activities to the community of Wikwemikong, ages 13 to 25 years.

Salary: \$77,000.00. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an updated resume; 3) a photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution; and 4) contact information (email, phone number) of two work-related references.

Naandwe Miikaan Wellness Facilitator

The Wellness Facilitator will address addictions and mental health through an innovative approach in collaboration with various community programs as well as Natural Helpers/Knowledge Keepers. This will include, and is not limited to, a culturally appropriate community-based case management system which is inclusive of the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework. The Wellness Facilitator will be responsible for engaging the community in addressing Prescription Drug Abuse and Harm Reduction. This highly motivated and energetic facilitator will ensure effective collaboration meets the needs of the participants.

Salary: \$65,009.00. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an updated resume; 3) a photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution; and 4) contact information (email, phone number) of two work-related references.

Community Support Services Coordinator 1-Year Contract

The Coordinator will assess all clients to access services under the LTC/HCC program. Referrals can be from clients, family, hospital, physicians and/or other health care professionals.

Salary: \$93,897.00. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an updated resume; 3) a photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution; and 4) contact information (email, phone number) of two work-related references.

Land-Based Healing Facilitators

The Land-Based Healing Facilitator will address addictions and mental health through an innovative approach in collaboration with various community programs as well as Natural Helpers/Knowledge Keepers. This will include, and is not limited to, a culturally appropriate community-based case management system which is inclusive of the First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework. The Land-Based Healing Facilitator will be responsible for engaging the community in addressing PDA. This highly motivated and energetic facilitator will ensure effective collaboration meets the needs of the participants.

Salary: \$65,009.00. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an updated resume; 3) a photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution; and 4) contact information (email, phone number) of two work-related references.

ABWnG Digital Health Lead

The Digital Health Lead (DHL) will support the development and implementation of Aasgaabwitwindwaa Binoojiinhik Wiin ni Gshkiwewziwaat's (ABWnG) communication strategy, practices and processes. They will ensure the Electronic Medical Report (EMR) system meets the reporting requirements of various program areas. This role involves creating, disseminating and managing internal and external communications materials for ABWnG, as well as providing technical support for the EMR system. The DHL will assist in developing a communications plan, oversee its daily administration, and act as the main contact for coordinating and resolving any system issues. Additionally, the DHL operates within legislative requirements, regulations, policies and procedures, aligning with the Mission, Beliefs and Vision of the ABWnG program, and contributes to achieving strategic priorities.

Salary: \$65,009.00. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an updated resume; 3) a photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution; and 4) contact information (email, phone number) of two work-related references.

Nookomisnaang Administrative Support

The Administrative Support shall act as the focal point of communication for the Nookomisnaang Shelter team, with confidentiality being the key issue at all times. The Administrative Support will be responsible for providing a consistently high standard of secretarial and administrative support to the staff, interact with other departments, clients, health care professionals and external agencies. Other responsibilities will include aiding in the organization of the overall workload and ensure the effective use of manpower and resources to assist in the smooth running of the department. In undertaking the role of Administrative Support, the post holder will be required to initiate their own tasks and prioritize work.

Salary: \$49,730.00. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an updated resume; 3) a photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution; and 4) contact information (email, phone number) of two work-related references.

ABWnG Communicative Disorder Assistant

Assists the Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) in the treatment of human communication disorders in children from birth to high school graduation including hearing, speech, language, swallowing and voice disorders. Will be responsible to the SLP and receive direction and clinical supervision from the SLP.

Salary: \$65,009.00. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an updated resume; 3) a photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution; and 4) contact information (email, phone number) of two work-related references.

Nookomisnaang Custodian

The Custodian under the direction of Facilities Operations Coordinator, is responsible for performing general cleaning duties for Nookomisnaang. They are responsible for maintaining a clean and healthy facility by completing various tasks. This can include, but not limited to, mopping, vacuuming floors, disinfecting surfaces, restrooms and emptying trash and recycling.

Salary: \$59,916.00. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an updated resume; 3) a photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution; and 4) contact information (email, phone number) of two work-related references.

Child & Youth Mental Health & Addictions Worker

Under direction and accountability to Wikwemikong Health Centre, the Child & Youth Mental Health & Addictions Worker (CYMHAW) will provide clinical assessments, planning, treatment and counselling to children and youth of Wikwemikong Unceded Territory under the age of 18 years, and consultations regarding community behavioural assessments and intervention.

Salary: \$77,000.00. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an Updated resume; 3) a Photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution, and 4) Contact information (email, phone number) of 2 work-related references.

Registered Nurse / Registered Practical Nurse

Home Care Registered Nurse (RN) / Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) assesses, plans, implements, evaluates and documents all nursing care of patients in accordance with policies and professional nursing standards. RN / RPN oversees the quality of departmental nursing services. RN / RPN develops day-to-day nursing care plans for care after discharge. Act as a primary point of contact between patients, families and health care professionals. Follows the nursing process of assessment, planning, intervention, implementation and evaluation, and performs all other duties as assigned.

RN Salary: \$76,186.50 / RPN Salary: \$74,431.50. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an updated resume; 3) a photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution; and 4) contact information (email, phone number) of two work-related references.

Emergency Shelter Worker Full-Time & Casual Positions

The GDOO NAAGIDEWENDIMIGOO Emergency Low Barrier Shelter is designated to provide safe and warm lodging for individuals who, for a variety of reasons, find themselves to be homeless. This shelter aims to provide a real need for safe beds for individuals.

Salary: \$70,101.00. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an updated resume; 3) a photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution; and 4) contact information (email, phone number) of two work-related references.

Nadmadwin Mental Health Counsellor

Under the direct supervision of the Nadmadwin Mental Health Manager, the Counsellor provides professional clinical assessment, counselling, education and referral services to individuals, groups and families; and health promotion services in the form of educational and primary prevention activities to the community of Wikwemikong.

Salary: \$77,000.00. Interested applicants MUST submit: 1) A cover letter; 2) an updated resume; 3) a photocopy of certificates / diploma / degree from a post-secondary institution; and 4) contact information (email, phone number) of two work-related references.



SEND APPLICATIONS TO:
Attention: Melissa Roy
NAANDWECHIGE-GAMIG Wikwemikong Health Centre
P.O. Box 101, 16A Complex Drive, Wikwemikong, ON P0P 2J0
Telephone: 705-859-3164 / Fax: 705-859-3300 / Email: mroy@wikyhealth.ca

Deadlines: Until Positions are Filled

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered and we appreciate your interest.

Sherry Forest rink takes Gore Bay ladies' bonspiel

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—The Sherry Forest rink of Gore Bay won the Gore Bay Curling Club annual ladies bonspiel, held earlier this month.

The Forest rink, which included Heather Hall, Holly Clark and Nancy Head, won the first event final in a game against the Clark team. The Clark team was made up of Brooklyn Clark, Sherri Loutitt, Nancy Clark and Brenda Clark, along with Geri White who filled in for Brenda Clark in the final game.

In the second event, the Marilyn Proulx rink, which also included Sue Whynott, Lori Carter and Wendy Niv-

en, won the final and the Phyllis Smith Memorial ladies' bonspiel trophy. Runners-up was the Wendy Hietkamp rink, which also included Carmen Bertrand, Joan Bailey and Debbie Bailey.

The Kim Orford rink won the third event final, and the Sandie Merrylees Memorial ladies bonspiel trophy. The team included Ms. Orford, Kyra Lanktree, Lee Chatwell and Barbara Armstrong. The Yvonne Bailey team was the runner-up. The latter rink also included Melanie Carr, Marilyn Proulx and Maureen Dumond.

A total of 18 rinks took part in the bonspiel.



The Sherry Forest rink won the Gore Bay Curling Club annual ladies bonspiel, held this past weekend. The team includes from left in photo, Nancy Head, Holly Clark, Heather Hall and Sherry Forest.



LEFT: The Kim Orford rink won the third event final, and the Sandie Merrylees Memorial trophy for winning the third event final in the annual Gore Bay Curling Club annual ladies' bonspiel, held this past weekend. In photo from left is Lee Chatwell, Barbara Armstrong, Kim Orford and Kyra Lanktree.



The Marilyn Proulx rink won the second event at the Gore Bay Curling Club annual ladies bonspiel. The team included from left Lori Carter, Susan Whynott and Marilyn Proulx. For their efforts the rink was presented with the Phyllis Smith memorial ladies' bonspiel trophy.



Whitefish River First Nation

Anishnaabe Aadiziwin Team
is recruiting for a:
Anishinaabemowin Coordinator

Salary: \$65,320 - \$81,650 (including group pension and health benefits)
**Salary is subject to education and experience or a combination of both*
Term: Full-time (35 hours/week)

The Anishinaabemowin Coordinator will be pivotal in preserving and revitalizing the Anishinaabemowin language. Their fluency in Anishinaabemowin will be a cornerstone in overseeing all language-related directives, organizing immersion camps, integrating language initiatives into various cultural programs and events, and leading the Language Archives project. This role is critical and deeply valued, as it will ensure that the Anishinaabemowin language remains a vital and vibrant part of the Whitefish River First Nation community for future generations.

Key Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with community members, elders and team members to develop a comprehensive Anishinaabemowin language revival strategy, setting both short-term and long-term goals.
- Organize, deliver and evaluate language immersion camps for learners of all ages, focusing on immersive experiences incorporating cultural practices.
- Integrate Anishinaabemowin language bundles into the Anishinaabe Aadiziwin program's annual calendar activities, ensuring language learning is woven into broader cultural and wellness activities.
- Lead the coordination of the Language Archives, ensuring the accurate and meaningful capture of oral histories, traditional knowledge and storytelling.
- Establish a system to identify, prioritize and record at-risk language knowledge, ensuring urgent tasks are completed efficiently to preserve endangered information.
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- Foster mentorship programs that connect fluent speakers with language learners to create a supportive learning environment and facilitate intergenerational knowledge sharing. This is an opportunity to inspire and be inspired, share and receive knowledge, and contribute to preserving our language for future generations.
- Organize workshops, events and gatherings where community members can engage with language learning in meaningful and enjoyable ways.
- Monitor language initiatives' progress, gather participant feedback and use data to adapt and improve the revival strategy.

Qualifications:

- Fluency in Anishinaabemowin (speak, read and write in the Ojibway language).
- Thorough knowledge of Anishinaabe traditions and culture.
- Prior work experience coordinating language programs and activities.
- Familiar with Anishinabek community protocols.
- Any relevant diplomas and degrees would be considered an asset.
- Valid driver's licence and access to own vehicle.
- Must be highly self-motivated and must have proven experience working independently.

Skills:

- Experience with computer programs (i.e. Microsoft Office, email, internet, etc.).
- Effective communication skills, both oral and written, with the ability to interact with a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Highly organized with excellent time management and multitasking abilities.
- Strong critical thinking skills with the ability to prioritize and manage urgent tasks in a fast-paced environment.
- Exceptional interpersonal and relationship-building skills, including working effectively within a team.

*For a detailed job description, please email hmanager@whitefishriver.ca

Applications are due on Tuesday, January 28th, 2025 at noon.

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

CONFIDENTIAL: Anishinaabemowin Coordinator
Whitefish River First Nation
c/o Human Resources
17-A Rainbow Ridge Road, P.O. Box 188, Birch Island, ON P0P 1A0
Email: jobapplications@whitefishriver.ca Fax: (705) 285-4532

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

Mindemoya

FOODLAND

is hiring!

We have openings in the following departments:

Students

- Deli - part-time
- Meats - part-time

Non-students

- Deli
- Cashiers

Drop in to the store with your resume or email it to Andrew.Orr@sobeys.com

Thank you to all those who apply. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

As the final days of the first semester wind down at MSS, there's a mix of relief, determination and anticipation. For students, exam season is just around the corner—a time to prove all the knowledge they've gained (or crammed!) over the past few months. Along with these feelings, there is also a sense of accomplishment, from students and staff alike. Making it through half a school year is no small feat, and it's worth taking a moment to appreciate how far everyone has come. Hopefully, students are ready to dive into the second semester




Alexandra Wilson-Zegil

The Equity and Social Justice class has been up to something cool! Stay tuned for next week's article to read about it. That is all for this week! Until next time, go, Mustangs, go!

after the first semester's exams are over! For the seniors, this moment feels even more significant. With just one semester left before graduation, the Class of 2025 is gearing up for their final stretch of high school. On one hand, they have their prom, grad photos, and (of course) graduation to look forward to. On the other hand, they only have a few months left with their school friends before they start the next chapter in their lives. The next semester will fly by, and every senior knows to make the most of what is left! But the new semester isn't just about exams and graduation. MSS has plenty to look forward to in the coming months. One of the most exciting highlights is the Mustang's produc-

tion of 'Mamma Mia!', set to hit the stage in February. The cast and crew have been hard at work

rehearsing their dancing and singing. Dates to be announced soon!



Whitefish River First Nation

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

EVENT COORDINATOR

Term: Full-time

Hours: 35 hours per week

Salary: \$49,036 - \$59,800 (Depending on education and experience)

The Event Coordinator is key in fostering a sense of community within the Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN) by planning special events. They are the First Nation's primary contact for event details and logistics, serving as the key liaison to all clients, suppliers and stakeholders. The Event Coordinator coordinates the collaboration of event organizer(s) with internal and external event support staff, leading interdepartmental workgroups to ensure the optimal delivery/execution of all First Nation events.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Plan, organize and execute various events, including cultural gatherings, meetings, community celebrations, workshops and community outreach initiatives specific to the Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN). These events may include but are not limited to, traditional ceremonies, community meetings, cultural workshops and special celebrations.
- Develop event timelines, budgets and logistical plans, ensuring smooth and efficient event execution.
- Coordinate with Whitefish River First Nation leadership, elders, community members and other stakeholders to ensure events not only reflect community values and priorities but also contribute to the preservation of WRFN culture.
- Secure venues, vendors, equipment and materials required for events.
- Oversee event promotion, including designing marketing materials, social media outreach and community notifications.
- Supervise event staff and volunteers, ensuring clear communication and smooth event operations, thereby instilling confidence in the team and the audience.

Planning and execution of the annual WRFN Pow Wow, which includes, but is not limited to:

- Develop a work plan and budget.
- Plan entertainment and social activities for participants, such as performers, vendors, food/beverage and prizes.
- Identify and coordinate logistical requirements for the event.
- Identify and retain performers such as dancers, drummers, singers, artists, etc.
- Identify and retain Knowledge Keepers as speakers for traditional ceremonial actions, etc.
- Recruit, train and supervise a team of volunteers.
- Evaluation of the event to aid in planning future events; Complete financial and written reports of the event(s).

For a detailed job description, email hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Completed education in Event Management, Community Engagement, Project Management or a related field.
- At least two years of related work experience (an equivalent combination of education and work experience may be considered).
- Knowledge of the WRFN culture and traditions is desirable.
- An accounting and budgeting background would be an asset.
- Must have a valid driver's licence and access to own vehicle.

SKILLS:

- Strong project management and organizational skills with the ability to multi-task.
- Good analytical and critical thinking skills; able to respond and adapt to external factors.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills and proven ability to establish rapport with all educational and occupational backgrounds.
- Proficient computer skills in Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, SharePoint, Teams and Excel). And familiarity with social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok).
- Ability to be a team player and work independently without supervision.

****Upon hire, the successful candidate must submit: Police Criminal Reference Check****

Applications must be received by January 31, 2025 at noon.

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

CONFIDENTIAL: Event Coordinator
c/o Human Resources
Whitefish River First Nation
17-A Rainbow Ridge Road, P.O. Box 188, Birch Island, ON P0P 1A0
Email applications can be emailed to jobapplications@whitefishriver.ca
or by fax: (705) 285-4532

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

Be seen in the CAREERS section,
in print and online!
Contact sales@manitoulin.com



WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION

is seeking a dynamic and experienced

HEALTH MANAGER

3rd 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:

- Provide leadership and direction for the Health Centre and staff to continually meet the goals and objectives.
- Promote and emphasize people-centred care in partnership with the patient, family and healthcare team.
- Develop, implement and maintain 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.
- 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, including but not limited to healthcare facilities, social services and community support programs.
- 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*

****OPEN UNTIL FILLED****

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.



From fabric to food!

At their annual Christmas dinner the Island Quilters raised over \$1,000 for the Manitoulin Food Bank this year. In an event called 'coupon capers' held at the dinner, the quilters donate gifts to the cause and draws are held for the winners. With fun, and sometimes loud remarks and laughter, the winning name is drawn for each item. Shown in photo is Kathy Grant, Melisa MacIntosh and Patricia Pepper. The Island Quilt Guild meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 7 pm, at the community hall in Mindemoya. New members and visitors are welcome.

Photo provided

UCCM Anishnaabe Police is hiring

Help make our communities a safer, better place.

Position: Information Technology Administrator
Term: Permanent Full-time
Salary/Pay: Aligned with UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service Pay Grid

The Information Technology Administrator is responsible for ensuring all IT systems and services are operational and secure, as well as coordinate and manage applicable IT projects. They will oversee and ensure efficient and effective operation and management of the NICHE RMS, CPIC, Release of Information, Freedom of Information, UCR, Fusion, Criminal Record Checks and MTO Inquiry Access System; provide supervision to applicable IT support and to coordinate, train and support both civilians and officers in IT systems while working with an IT Service Provider. The position is an IT professional who will work with the Director of Corporate Services to advance the organization through coordinating IT projects, performing an administrator role in software systems, compiling relevant data, analyzing information and preparing reports.

Your duties will include (but are not limited to):

- Act as a Project Manager for assigned projects. Prepare project plans and schedule work. Assign tasks to project team members and ensure quality and completion of tasks. Track and report on progress and variances. Provide support on project issues. Recommend solutions. Escalate issues as appropriate.
- Plan budget and develop and complete procurement process and contract renewals for individual projects. Track budget; purchases and vendor equipment loans. Report project expenses and prepare.
- Analyze department production and make recommendations to redesign business workflow as appropriate.
- Act as a Domain Administrator for multiple software systems, and as a LRA and DRA for PKI keys.
- Provide technical expertise and support to client users by diagnosing and troubleshooting hardware, software and network problems in relation to overall system performance, investigating problem areas.
- Other IT support and administration duties as assigned.

Your education and experience:

- Post-Secondary Degree or Diploma in an Information Technology related discipline (e.g. network design, database design and maintenance, IT systems security and maintenance).
- Demonstrated experience and technical knowledge of current wired/wireless messaging and collaboration systems software, protocols and standards, including Microsoft Exchange, Office 365. Hands-on knowledge of firewalls, intrusion detection systems, anti-virus and spam filtering software, data encryption.
- Preferred experience and/or understanding of Microsoft Active Directory, Group Policy, Microsoft Office Products, server and virtual server technologies, data and voice network technologies and related hardware, IT Security strategies and related technologies, ITIL/Six Sigma or other IT management methodologies.

Your skills include (but are not limited to):

- Experience in technology systems and information file maintenance.
- Knowledge of firewalls, switches, inter vlan routing, intrusion detection systems, anti-virus, spam filtering software, backup methodologies, data encryption and two-factor authentication management and deployment.
- Utilize ITIL practices.
- Knowledge of surveillance systems and management.
- Ability to complete proficient troubleshooting and diagnostics.
- Knowledge with Microsoft Active Directory, Microsoft 365 platform, Group Policy, Microsoft Office Products, server and virtual server technologies, data and voice network technologies and related hardware, IT Security strategies and related technologies, records management systems, time management software and general computer skills.
- Ability to handle multiple projects, meet multiple deadlines; and problem solve.
- Excellent written, verbal and presentation communication skills.
- Ability to learn very quickly in a fast-paced environment and work independently with minimal supervision.

We require:

- A thorough background check before we make an offer of employment
- A valid Class G driver's licence
- Standard First Aid/CPR

We encourage individuals of Anishnaabe ancestry to apply and self-identify.

What we offer:

Competitive pay and 100% employer covered benefits, matched pension contributions, Health Spending Account, Wellness Account, along with a welcoming, close-knit work environment, and opportunities to learn about Anishnaabe culture and history.


How to apply:

Send your cover letter, resume and three (3) work-related references to:
Email: recruitment@uccmpolice.com with the subject line "Employment Opportunity: IT Administrator.
Mail: Confidential: Human Resources
UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service, 5926 Hwy 540, Box 332, M'Chigeeng, ON P0P 1G0

Deadline: January 31, 2025 at 12:00 pm

Only those applicants elected for an interview will be contacted.

Please contact Human Resources at recruitment@uccmpolice.com if you require further information.




Don't just join the police. Join our community.

Learn more at: uccmpolice.com/careers

The Township of Burpee & Mills

Employment Opportunity, Clerk-Treasurer - 1 Year Term



The Township of Burpee and Mills is located at the west end of Manitoulin Island. We are currently seeking a skilled and motivated individual for the position of Clerk-Treasurer for a one-year term.

This senior management role reports directly to Council and is responsible for the overall delivery of services with the Municipality. The successful candidate will assume statutory responsibilities of Clerk-Treasurer under the Municipal Act, 2001.

Reporting to Council, the Clerk-Treasurer has the following key duties and responsibilities: Act as the principal advisor to Council and perform any duties associated with authorities delegated by Council ensuring that decisions align with the will of Council.

Oversee the development and administration of the Municipality's operating and capital budgets. Ensure compliance with the statutory duties of the Clerk-Treasurer as set out in the Municipal Act, 2001, and other statutory roles as may be required.

Liaise with provincial ministries and agencies.

Maintain up-to-date knowledge of municipal, provincial and federal legislation applicable to the municipal sector.

Qualifications: College diploma in a related field or hold a recognized municipal designation (AMT or equivalent) and five years municipal experience or a combination of education and experience. Exceptional communication skills and political acumen to interact with diverse interest holders. Fully proficient in information technology including Microsoft Office, Excel and Quick Books.

Advanced understanding of policies and legislative requirements related to Ontario Municipalities, municipal by-laws, government administration, Council process and procedural activities, including but not limited to the following: Municipal Act, Municipal Elections Act, Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Lottery Licencing.

Demonstrated interpersonal skills, Ability to ensure integrity, impartiality and professionalism in the conduct of duties. This position is for a one-year term, 35-hour work week from Monday to Friday, after-hours work required for Council and Committee meetings, critical periods or situations. Annual salary range as per the Township of Burpee and Mills pay scale is \$66,300.00 to \$86,700.00.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume (by email) to burpeemills@vianet.ca quoting "Clerk-Treasurer" in the subject line. Resumes will only be accepted until Thursday, February 6, 2025. We appreciate all responses; however, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

MANITOULIN ISLAND

SPLIT RAIL BREWING CO

Natural Craft Beer

SUMMER & SEASONAL POSITIONS
TAPROOM SERVERS & KITCHEN STAFF
Full-time and Part-time Positions Available

About the Role:

Join the team at Split Rail Brewing Co. on the stunning shores of Lake Huron in Gore Bay, Manitoulin Island. At Split Rail Brewing Co. we work hard to create a destination experience where good beverages and memories are crafted. Our dynamic team delivers exceptional experiences through our shared passion of Manitoulin Island, craft beer, local food and outstanding service.

What You'll Do:

- Create welcoming experiences for guests from near and far
- Share your knowledge through brewery tours and beer education
- Prepare and serve food menu offerings
- Handle transactions through a POS system
- Support special events and packaging operations
- Maintain high standards of cleanliness, customer service and safety

What You'll Need:

- Smart Serve certification (required)
- Food Handler certification (preferred)
- Must be 19 years or older
- Customer service excellence
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
- Team-oriented attitude
- Passion for local food culture

Why Split Rail:

- Engaging team atmosphere
- Unique waterfront work environment
- Opportunity to develop craft beverage knowledge
- Be part of Manitoulin Island's vibrant tourism community

How to Apply:

- Submit your resume in person at the brewery by February 14 or
- Email your resume by Friday, February 14, 2025 to: splitrail@splitrailmanitoulin.com

Split Rail is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace.

Split Rail Brewing Co.
31 Water St., P0 Box 376, Gore Bay, ON
www.splitrailmanitoulin.com
705-370-8284

Manor board approves 2025 budget for long-term care facility

by Margery Frisch
LITTLE CURRENT—Days before Christmas, the Management Board of Manitoulin Centennial Manor met for its monthly meeting. The arrangement of agenda items had to be revised as Keith Clament (Extendicare), was delayed.

Don Cook, administrator, brought everyone up to date with the Tree of Lights Campaign. “With most fundraising, we are behind last year, with the mail strike. But we put a bigger ad in the paper, and the ones that weren’t delivered, we did mail out. So, we’ll just

let the campaign go a little longer, because we just sent the rest of those mailings out. It is coming along. The latest total was about \$16,000 and we’ve got more coming in, probably getting close to \$20,000,” he said.

“We have a donor who likes to donate to something different to what our usual campaign is. We have some room downstairs, things have changed, we don’t use all the space like we used to, so we can make a ‘family suite,’ a sitting area where we can put a murphy bed and a little washroom with a show-

er stall, a kitchenette. So that, particularly when someone is in the palliative room, we’ve got some place for family to stay, especially if they’re from out of town. And this anonymous donor is interested in funding that – on a multi-year deal. So, they stopped in yesterday and gave me a cheque for \$10,000 to get started,” Mr. Cook shared with the board.

When Mr. Clament arrived, there was a brief in camera session, to discuss salaries, at which point Don Cook, Sandie Dubreuil (DOC) as well as The Expositor left

the meeting. Once the in camera portion was completed, Extendicare took the board through the budget. Mandeep Dhindsa, accountant, took all present through each detail of the report, with questions asked and answered along the way. “If you want to see a complicated approach to how organizations are funded it’s the Ministry of Long-Term Care. It’s not easy to follow,” quipped Keith Clament at one point.

The agency costs are being addressed but remain an issue. The nursing envelope is over budget, but the numbers

from November are not all that bad, due to “one-time” funding that the Manor received from the province earlier in the year. Major upcoming expenses, a new generator among other things, will have to be addressed in 2025, but after lengthy discussion and one amendment, the 2025 budget was approved.

The financial statement for November 2024 was covered with Mr. Clament taking everyone through it. “The story for November is good news,” he began. “Thankfully, we’re going into December in a good position and we’re going into January in a good position. That’s really the highlight. In terms of November, that was the biggest area I wanted to talk to you about—we’re still overspent in nursing, primarily because of the agency costs, but we were overspent by nearly \$300,000 in the month of October, and we’ve been able to substantially reduce that.”

the hospital is COVID results and those are being phased out. So, I had applied for funding for a testing bay machine. Now we will be able to run our own tests in house for Influenza, RSV and COVID, and get results within 10 minutes. And then we can still use that sample that we took and send it off to Public Health to get a panel, but the results are recognized by Public Health and everyone. So, that should help with outbreak management much more efficiently. Hopefully, we’ll have this up and running potentially by February.”


Geriatric beds will also be purchased with the funding received. From now on, any new bed purchased will be able to convert to a geriatric bed.

The administrator’s report followed. “No empty beds at present,” Mr. Cook told the board. “No outbreaks at present. There are eight nursing staff off on medical leave. We continue to work on the plan to increase staffing levels that will both provide enhanced care to residents, as well as being able to cover staff sick calls and time off without the use of agency staff.”

One older tub and a commercial washing machine that need replacing were mentioned in Mr. Cook’s report but had previously been discussed in the budget.

The administrator ended his report with the resident family Christmas dinner. Over 60 guests attended and had a great meal and a lovely time. He thanked the staff for all their hard work in making the day a success. He also noted the Santa Christmas party would follow on the 21st of December, and he told the board members how successful the ‘Be a Santa to a Senior’ campaign had been. “We had people coming in, wanting to take a tag to buy gifts for our residents and they were actually disappointed there were no tags left.” In fact, the board room was filled with the gifts that the residents would receive at the Christmas Party on the 21st.

The meeting wrapped up and adjourned with homemade Christmas cookies and coffee.



Whitefish River First Nation

is seeking a motivated and experienced

PROPOSAL WRITER

Term: One-year contract (with flexible schedule)

Salary: \$30 - \$50 per hour (depending on education and experience)

The Proposal Writer will play a crucial role in advancing the Whitefish River First Nation's mission by preparing practical proposals. Working closely with the Chief, council and various departments, the Proposal Writer will research, assess and draft proposals, ensuring they align with the First Nation's strategic objectives and funding priorities. The successful candidate will have exceptional writing skills, attention to detail and a strong understanding of government funding programs.

Key Responsibilities:

Research and Analysis:

- Conduct thorough research on available funding opportunities for the WRFN.
- Research and distribute general information on funding opportunities and new program announcements.
- Liaise with government agencies, First Nation communities, industry and other prospective partners.
- Analyze funding criteria, guidelines and priorities to determine the best fit for proposed projects.

Proposal Development:

- Your role as a Proposal Writer is crucial in articulating the Whitefish River First Nation's needs, goals and vision. You will write clear, concise and persuasive proposals effectively communicating these aspects.
- Create well-organized outlines and develop proposal content, conveying key messages effectively.

Funding Requirements and Compliance:

- Stay current with reporting requirements and government grant and funding program compliance guidelines.
- Ensure proposals meet all necessary criteria, including supporting documentation and compliance with funding guidelines.

Relationship Building:

- As a Proposal Writer, you will be responsible for establishing and maintaining strong relationships with government agencies, funding organizations and partners/collaborators. This collaborative aspect of the role is key to its success.

Proposal Tracking and Evaluation:

- Maintain an accurate and up-to-date record of all proposals, including submission dates, outcomes and lessons learned.

Qualifications:

- A bachelor's degree in a relevant field (e.g. Communications, Public Administration or Business Administration) or equivalent work experience is required. This role offers a unique opportunity for professional growth and development.
- Proven experience in proposal writing, preferably within the public sector or for First Nation governments.
- Familiarity with government funding programs, grants and reporting requirements.
- Possess exceptional interpersonal skills and a friendly and professional demeanor.
- Comfortable in a high-performing and fast-paced environment; demonstrated ability to achieve high-performance goals, meet deadlines and adapt to changing circumstances.
- Excellent research, analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, with exceptional attention to detail.
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders and manage multiple projects simultaneously. We are committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive work environment.
- Proficient in using relevant software and tools for proposal development (e.g. Microsoft Office Suite, project management software).

KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to speak Anishinabemowin and participate in the culture and traditions of the Anishinabek people.
- Sound understanding of Indigenous Peoples' rights, history and governance structures.
- Knowledge of Jordan's Principles and understanding of Indigenous rights, issues and reconciliation efforts.
- Knowledge of First Nation communities and funding structures and the ability to integrate traditional and mainstream practices as a central and vital part of program and service delivery.

For a complete job description, email hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Please submit your resume and a cover letter outlining your relevant experience and interest in the position to:

CONFIDENTIAL: Proposal Writer
c/o Human Resources
Whitefish River First Nation
17-A Rainbow Ridge Road, P.O. 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.

Advertise in the CAREERS section, in print and online!

Contact sales@manitoulin.com