# Published Weekly On the Largest Freshwater Island In The World

# Algoma-Manitoulin turns blue, sends PC to Queen's Park

Little Current, Ontario



**ON THE HUSTINGS, ISLAND STYLE**—Lisa Corbiere-Addison, left, provided PC MPP elect Bill Rosenberg, right, with a tour of Manitoulin during the election campaign recently, complete with a snowmobile ride. Mr. Rosenberg was elected to a win last Thursday night and will be the first PC MPP for Manitoulin since the late John Lane.

# Ontario Indigenous chiefs, Ottawa strike unique child welfare pact

by Tom Sasvar

TORONTO—The Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) leadership voted nearly unanimously to a resolution to ratify the \$8.5 billion Ontario Final Agreement

on the Long-Term Reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNFCS) program. At a COO special chiefs assembly last Wednesday in Toronto, 76 chiefs and proxies voted in favour of the agreement, four were

# New border patrol protocol includes Manitoulin Island

by Michael Erskine

LITTLE CURRENT—Members of five enforcement services gathered on Manitoulin Island to conduct joint snowmobile patrols last week. The joint patrols are part of Canada's commitment to strengthen border security and since Manitoulin and Sault Ste. Marie are border communities, the collaboration is intended to continue into the future.

"Sault Ste. Marie RCMP reached out to us, to us and the OPP and

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opposed and three abstained out of a total of 133 eligible First Nations. The agreement, which is specific to Ontario, is worth 8.5 billion over nine years beginning in 2025-2026, with the caveat that the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) must approve the settlement by

March 31, 2026.
"I am super excited this has passed," stated Patsy Corbiere, Chief of Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation. "I voted in favour of this proposal."

"The issue is, in this day and age of drug use, we need prevention and intervention and capital resources to put in place initiatives that will help resolve these issues in our communi-

...continued on page 15

# Thessalon Mayor Bill Rosenberg elected new MPP, first Tory to represent riding since John Lane

by Tom Sasvari

ALGOMA-MANITOULIN—Bill Rosenberg, of Thessalon, won the provincial election as the Progressive Conservative candidate for Algoma-Manitoulin.

"Thank you, Algoma-Manitoulin," Mr. Rosenberg said in a statement. "I am incredibly grateful for your trust and support. This victory belongs to every volunteer, supporter, and voter who believe in a better future for our communities. To my family, my team, and everyone who knocked on doors and made calls, thank you."

Mr. Rosenberg received a total of 11,263 votes (41.3) percent of the overall votes over his next near-

est competitor, David Timeriski of the NDP, who received 7,409 votes (27.2 percent of the votes overall). Liberal candidate Reg Niganobe received



nobe received MPP elect
3,948 votes (14.5 Bill Rosenberg

percent) while former MPP Michael Mantha received a total of 3,238 votes (11.9 percent) in the election.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Mr. Rosenberg has served as the Mayor of the Town of Thessalon since 2018. He was first elect-

...continued on page 11

# Doug Ford's Tories win unusual third majority

by Michael Erskine

QUEEN'S PARK—The snap early election called a year-and-a-half early by Premier Doug Ford proved a charm for his Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario—bringing home a third majority government, although not exactly with the stronger mandate the Tory leader said he was looking for when he pulled the plug early.

The PCs scored 80 seats, down from their 2022 tally by three, with 42.97 percent of the vote, up from 40.83 in 2022. The NDP held onto Official Opposition status, taking 27 seats and 18.55 percent of the vote, down from the 31 seats they captured in 2022 and the 33.59 percent of the popular vote. The provincial Liberals regained official party status with 14 seats, topping second place in the popular vote tally with 29.95 percent of votes cast.

As is often the case in first

past the post electoral systems, the seat tally did not follow the popular vote. Since NDP voters are more concentrated in several ridings, they were more successful in the seat numbers overall.

There were a number of parties contesting this election besides the big three, and some of them also scored seats. The Green Party brought home two seats, up one from 2022 (although they had two at dissolution), with 4.83 percent of the popular vote compared to 4.6 percent in 2022. The Greens had hoped to flip Parry Sound-Muskoka, but in the end fell short of unseating the incumbent Progressive Conservative.

There was also an Independent re-elected, an unusual occurrence in Ontario politics. Former PC staffer Bobbi Ann Brady proved that her win in Haldimand-Norfolk as an independent in 2022 was anything

...continued on page 11

# Roundup Review

Part I of a series

# Federal Court reviewing glyphosate use to determine its ongoing use in Canada

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre,

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter OTTAWA — In a significant legal rebuke, a Federal Court judge has directed the federal government to reassess its 2022 approval of glyphosate, Canada's most heavily used herbicide, amid fresh concerns over potential health and environmental risks.

Justice Russell Zinn ruled that Health Canada's original decision was "unrea-

sonable" because the agency failed to adequately consider 61 new scientific studies presented by environmental groups—including the David Suzuki Foundation and Environmental Defence—that identified new or heightened risks associated with glyphosate. The ruling grants Health Canada just six months to undertake a more comprehensive review of the chemical's safety, particularly regarding products like Mad Dog Plus, which contains glyphosate

and is widely used in pest control.

#### Local Voices: Manitoulin Island's Enduring Battle

While Health Canada's reassessment is a matter of national concern, the dialogue over glyphosate has been a special issue of uncertainty on Manitoulin Island. This

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# Don't forget!

Clocks ahead one hour at bedtime Saturday!

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# The Manitoulin West Recorder



Members of Todd Corbiere's family gather in front of a sign dedicating the trail section between the lagoon road and Mr. Corbiere's old garage in Little Current in memory of the popular late mechanic. In the photo, left, are Sarah Williamson, Brett Mastelko, Kimberly King, Isaac Corbiere, Kate Corbiere, Rick Bond, Laurie Williamson and Linda Bond.

photo by Michael Erskin

# Trail named in honour of Todd 'TC' Corbiere

by Michael Erskine

LITTLE CURRENT—It was often said, "when you are in a pinch, call TC." That was Todd 'TC' Corbiere, a popular Little Current mechanic who was known for dropping everything to assist someone in distress. The Manitoulin Snowdusters Snowmobile Club had cause to reach out to Mr. Corbiere countless times over the years and he always answered the call.

This past weekend, the Snowdusters held a commemorative gathering at the head of a portion of the Island snowmobile trails running between Highway 540 (at Lagoon Road) to Highway 6 and the site of Mr. Corbiere's former garage.

"There were times when it was 30 or more below and TC would be out there on the trail, way back in the bush, repairing a burst hydraulic line on the groomer," said Snowduster member (and former president) Rick Bond. "He was always there when we needed him. This is a fitting way we can honour his memory."

we can honour his memory."

Members of Mr. Corbiere's family were on hand for the dedication which fittingly concluded with a run to Killarney

# Wiikwemkoong's language house to launch '365 Jingles' podcast series

WIIKWEMKOONG—Nawewin Gamik (The Language House) of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory proudly announces the launch of a new project titled '365 Jingles.' This project is a three-year artistic endeavour that includes monologues, short plays and three full length plays produced as podcasts all created in Anishnaabemowin.

Featuring elders, language keepers and young speakers, all creatively mixed with sound effects and musical scores. Each year Nawewin Gamik's 365 Jingles project will include two 49er projects. The first is seven episodes of monologues or short plays that also include a song.

The podcasts will allow the au-

dience to listen to Anishnaabemowin through captivating stories following themes of Anishnaabe legendary characters, naming and sacred song origins, childhood memories and other worldly experiences performed by Cynthia Wemigwans, Ngwaagan Eshkibok-Whitehawk, Ramona Whitehawk, Armando Wemigwans, Edna Manitowabi, Evelyn Roy, Ron Animikwan, Marian Peltier, Joe Peltier, Rose-Linda Peltier, Margaret Jackson, Theodore Flamand, Val Enosse, Randy Trudeau, Rita Corbiere, Jacob Wemigwans, Louie Naokwegijig, Bev Naokwegijig, Georgina Toulouse, Henry Pitawanakwat, Leona Phyllis Wil-Nahwegahhow

# **NEMI Fire Department to** gain new fire pumper truck

by Alicia McCutcheon

NORTHEAST TOWN—The Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands will be getting a brand new fire pumper truck, hopefully by the end of the summer.

At its February 20 committee of the whole meeting, council reviewed two quotes for a new pumper truck.

Dependable Emergency Vehicles offered a quote for a Freightliner M2 four-door cab and chassis, 1,000-gallon tank with a DD8 6 cyl. dual stage 375 HP Detroit Diesel with 3000 Allison EVS transmission, HALE 1250 GPM pump, 24' extension ladder, 16' roof ladder, 10' attack ladder, foam system and more for \$636,054.

MaxiMetal shared a quote, also for an M2 Freightliner, with a 1,200-gallon tank, the same engine and transmission and additions as above, but with a Waterous 1250 GPM pump for \$743,665.

While a new pumper truck was in the budget, it wasn't anticipated that a purchase could happen immediately, as there is typically a significant wait for heavy equipment. However, with American tariffs looming, CAO Dave Williamson said it was best to act now "and capitalize on this while we can."

liams, Marcella Shawana, Howard Trudeau, Dennis Pitawanakwat, Carol Pitawanakwat, Grace Fox, Jacinta Manitowabi, Shirley Williams, Steven George, Virginia Shawanda, Barbara Nolan and RoseMary Shawanda.

Episode music composers and singers include Mason Animik-

Episode music composers and singers include Mason Animikwan, Leland Bell, Edna Manitowabi, Waukshens Wemigwans, Helen Peltier-Fuhst, Anna-Leah King, Danielle Roy, Rosemary Roy, Jason Manitowabi, Jonathan Fisher and Levi Aguonie.

The other 49er project of Year 1 is the recreation of an old play Bebaodetjig directed by Doris Peltier and starring Leland Bell, Jeff Eshkawkogan, Doris Peltier, Stanley Peltier and Sally Recollet. It was written and created as an ensemble with project Artistic Producer Alanis King. Bebaodetojig is a comedy about two friends Bedniik and Philomen who hire a driver Amplet to take them to the Kewadin Casino to see international superstar Lele Shenwesen.

The 365 Jingles launch takes place Saturday, March 8 from 2-5 pm at the Wiikwemkoong Arena upstairs hall. Light refreshments. All are welcome, so come hear this beautiful language in a creative way. Then hear them again in perpetuity on Spotify -Nawewin Gamik podcasts. An artistic project that is language preservation in Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, 365 Jingles was produced with the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts. For further information contact Tracy Cleland, Nawewin Gamik president at 705-920-8597.

# Birch Island's Lorilee McGregor named to Intl. Joint Commission Indigenous elders' circle

by Michael Erskine

OTTAWA—Dr. Lorilee McGregor of Whitefish River First Nation has been appointed by the International Joint Commission (IJC) to the commission's Indigenous Circle of Experts.

News of the appointment came by way of a letter from Christopher Wilkie, secretary of the Canadian division. Included in the letter was a Certificate of Appointment signed by the co-chairs of the IJC.

"It was unexpected," said Dr. McGregor when contacted by The Expositor about her appointment.

Not that there was any shortage of qualifications in her CV. Dr. McGregor has been involved in environmental studies her entire academic and working career, stretching all the way back to 1993.

"I have a background in envi-



Dr. Lorilee McGregor

ronmental studies," she noted, pointing out that she received her degree from the University of Toronto in that field, going on to receive her masters at the University of Washington.

Dr. McGregor then went on to work for several organizations, including the Union of Ontario

...continued on page 7

# Billings residents will have interest charges stayed while water system policy reviewed

by Tom Sasvari

KAGAWONG—Billings Township council has agreed to pause interest charges being levied on residents as part of the Old Mill water capital billing until its newly formed water system policy committee has completed a review and council has adopted a policy for capital funding of the water system.

However, Billings Mayor Bryan Barker stressed at a council meeting in February that this review and policy does not have any impact on the water bill (approximately \$888) from each of the 170 water users in the Billings system, and interest charges, if the bill is not paid.

"I'm just worried that there may be some feeling in the community that council would now be withdrawing this (when the policy is complete)," said Mayor Barker. "Those decisions were made by council previously and remain in place."

Council had reviewed a report to council from Veronique Dion CAO/Clerk of the township on a water system policy committee request that the township of Billings hereby pause interest charges on water capital billing until such time as the water system policy committee has completed the review and council has adopted a policy for capital funding of the Old Mill water system.

Council had been provided background from administration on the issue, noting in 2022 the township undertook major capital work on the Old Mill water system. The total cost of the project was \$3,750,875. To fund the project, the township received \$3,499,875 in funding, the township paid for a portion, and the remainder was charged back to those 10 residents directly affected on the Old Mill water system. The additional costs to water system users (10

water users at \$20,000 each) came as a surprise and was not received well. Originally, council had been informed it had approximately \$300,000 in its water bank account which would not be enough to carry out the work required and to have any funds left to carry out equipment replacements or any work required on the system in the near future. However, after public outcry and a presentation made by several members of the community, an audit took place and it was discovered that

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# Kenjgewin Teg offering heavy equip. operator training program

WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION—Kenjgewin Teg is breaking new ground with its heavy equipment operator training program, a collaborative initiative launched earlier this year in partnership with Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN), Cambrian College and Transport Training Centres of Canada Inc. (TTCC). This program is designed to equip participants with in-demand skills while reinforcing the strong community ties that drive local economic growth.

"Bringing programs directly to our communities is one way to strengthen the work and presence of Kenjgewin Teg in areas where demand for training and programs exists," said Beverley Roy, president of Kenjgewin Teg. "We know that student transportation continues

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#### Mailing address:

The Manitoulin Expositor, P.O. Box 369, Little Current, Ont. P0P 1K0

> Alicia McCutcheon publisher

> > Tom Sasvari editor-in-chief

Michael Erskine associate editor

Jacqueline St. Pierre local journalism initiative reporter

> Sean Soderman production

> > Debbie Bailey circulation

Alicia McCutcheon advertising sales

Kerrene Tilson, Marilyn Harasym accounts

#### www.manitoulin.com

Phone: (705) 368-2744 Fax: (705) 368-3822 general email:

expositor@manitoulin.com letters to the editor email: editor@manitoulin.com

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Mike Brock, Betty Bardswich Alexandra Wilson-Zegil, Warren Schlote

### **Specialists:**

Andre LeBlanc, sports Petra Wall, biography Claire Cline, literary Rose Diebolt, culinary Shelley Pearen, history Joe Shorthouse, Professor of Entomology Dr. Janice Mitchell, veterinary Heather Marshall, welcomer

# **Correspondents:**

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"who dares not offend cannot be honest"

# One Manitowaning Road opinion

# <u>editorial</u>

# Manitoulin has returned to the Tory fold—so let's get 'er done

The recent provincial election came more than a year and a half early, as Premier Doug Ford said he needed a strong and fresh mandate in order to protect Ontario workers from the tariffs being threatened by US President Donald Trump. In the end, Premier Ford wound up with a mandate a couple of seats short of his 2022 total tally, but he did prove himself to be a canny politician and managed to secure himself a very rare third majority government.

Congratulations are due and duly deserved.

As for Algoma-Manitoulin, it holds the distinction of being the only Northern Ontario riding to oust its incumbent, as independent MPP Mike Mantha was soundly defeated, with all three major parties coming in ahead of his total.

Congratulations are also due to Thessalon Mayor Bill Rosenberg who carried the Progressive Conservative banner to victory in this

The riding last turned blue during the tenure of the late John Lane, a former Gore Bay mayor himself, whose time in office saw Manitoulin make great gains. We can hope that Mr. Rosenberg will accomplish much for this riding as well.

Ontario Premier Ford made it quite clear that it was in Manitoulin's best interests to vote PC during a conversation about the Manitoulin swing bridge, as reported to The Expositor by Little Current resident Tony Ferro. We are, apparently, back in the good old days of Ontario politics, where being at the table is critically important for a riding.

This is, in large part, the reason why it is often said that Northern Ontario either votes with the government or in protest. If you can't beat them join them?

But leaving that question for another day, Algoma-Manitoulin will very likely be well-served by Mr. Rosenberg.

As a popular mayor and businessman from the North Shore com-

munity of Thessalon, Mr. Rosenberg is only too well acquainted with the challenges that face Northern communities and, with that deep understanding of the issues, is well-equipped to meet those challenges head on. As a businessman and a politician, he can walk in both worlds with considerably stable feet and that should do well for Algoma-Manitoulin.

He certainly will have his work cut out for him.

Mr. Mantha was an enthusiastic and dedicated MPP, but even while a member of the official opposition, he was never truly "at the table" when it came to decisions impacting the riding. He could represent, he could make the case to the minister, but in the end, when the government is staunchly retail, there was only so much

Mr. Rosenberg, for the next four years or so, will be, if not at the cabinet table, at least in the same set of seats as those who are. For the first time in over a decade, Algoma-Manitoulin is firmly "with the government." Given the premier's comments, this should stand us all in good stead.

So, now there is this little matter of the replacement of the Manitoulin swing bridge. The project has been mentioned in the provincial budget, albeit without any dollars attached, and the necessary environmental and heritage studies have been completed. It is ready to enter the design phase.

Premier Ford suggested we should vote Tory blue to get a seat at the table and to help grease the way. Algoma-Manitoulin did just that. So now the ball is once again in the premier's court. It is time to "get it done."

We wish Mr. Rosenberg all the success in both that singular endeavour and in the larger goal of making Algoma-Manitoulin and the rest of Northern Ontario a thriving and prosperous part of the

# letters

# Writer recalls the heady days of John Lane

Now that we are among the ruling party we have a chance of a new bridge

To the Expositor:

Through no credit to The Expositor, Manitoulin Island is back among the ruling party of Ontario who can now help us. Remember the days of the late John Lane who represented the constituents regardless of political affiliation. We have not had good representation in Toronto since he retired.

Now we have a chance of the new bridge and the best spokesman in the difficult days ahead in negotiating with the USA. Thank you to the voters of Algoma-Manitoulin.

**Paul Purvis** Gore Bay

# New exhibit at Debaj celebrates Wiikwemkoong leadership

by Michael Erskine

MANITOWANING—Leadership is central to the wellbeing and progress of a community and Debajehmujig Storytellers K.B. Reynolds Mastin Gallery located at the Debajehmujig Creation Centre in Manitowaning is currently hosting 'Gimaawaadzi' (Those destined to lead).

The exhibition consists of a massive sign listing the leadership of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory and series portraits of the chiefs who have led the community since its modern iteration. The outstanding collection of gimaa portraits were created by Wiikwemkoong artist Francine Pelleti-

"This exhibition has been in the works for a number of years," said Debajehmujig General Manager Lynda Trudeau, who noted Debajehmujig has worked in collaboration with Wiikwemkoong to gather the information that underlies the exhibition. Although the exhibition had a soft open in October, there was still one portrait out-



Former chief Bobby Corbiere is recognized at the opening reception.

standing-that of Gimaa Tim Ominika. "We wanted to wait until we had all of the portraits finished," said Ms. Trudeau.

The exhibition documents the challenges the community has faced over the years and the advancements that have occurred.

Although the exhibit owes a great debt to the administration of Wiikwemkoong, "mostly this exhibition is a demonstration



A large display lists 'Those Destined to Lead' in a new exhibition at the Debajejmujig Storytellers Creation Centre in Manitowaning

photo by Michael Erskine

of the skills of fellow community member Francine Pelletier and the people who accepted their destiny to lead this great nation," said Ms. Trudeau.

"I just wanted to thank everybody for coming out to see this exhibition," said Ms. Pelletier. "I learned a lot about my own community through this project.'

Current Wiikwemkoong Gimaa Tim Ominika was on hand for the launch of the exhibition, his being the last portrait to be completed. Also attending the opening reception were a number of former chiefs, including Eugene Manitowabi.

Historian Stephen George worked closely with the project to assist with the rich Anishinaabe traditions and with the names that may no longer be familiar.

"Most of the chiefs I knew by name al-

ready," Mr. George said. "The first name on that list struck me as funny. His name translated as roughly, 'somebody who stands around and gets in the way." He noted that the descendants of that family have shortened the name to Ominika. "I wouldn't be surprised if our current gimaa is the descendant himself." That observation elicited plenty of laughter from the audience.

Mr. George has a large number of old photographs of councils and he is seeking more photographs of previous councils.

The entire opening reception can be found online at YouTube by searching for Gimaawaadzi.'

'Gimaawaadzi' (Those destined to lead) runs at the Creation Centre in Manitowaning until the end of March.

# *Op-ed*

# A love letter for our Natural Heritage System on Manitoulin Island rights would be taken from them" if SAR lake huron grasshopper (threatened) or when best practices in land stewardship when the stewardship is the stewards

know February 14 has passed but a love letter for our natural heritage system is topical following the February 5, 2025 Manitoulin Expositor article entitled "Municipalities resist housing ministry's plan to make landowners responsible for proving "at risk" species. That outlined a position from a mayor that could put our beautiful natural heritage system at risk. Instead of resisting the province on this issue, I would like to propose a community led solution that supports our local economy and protects the natural heritage system we all

Right now, all municipalities within the Manitoulin Planning Board (MPB) are being asked to vote on the draft Natural Heritage System Strategy (NHSS). Our shared natural heritage system on Manitoulin Island includes wetlands that protect our communities from flooding, alvar and oak savanna ecosystems that are globally rare and deer yards that sustain our healthy deer populations, which also feed many families in our community. Our natural heritage system is incredible, rare and supports our shared way of life. I love it and I know our community

This is why I was heartbroken to read that some mayors on Manitoulin Island are advocating for municipal representatives to resist the province's amendment to our draft NHSS which would require property owners that live adjacent to natural heritage features to conduct a Species-At-Risk (SAR) verification and environmental impact assessment when applying for MPB amendments. One mayor stated that "we feel (property owner) verification and environmental assessments were required when a property owner wants to make a significant change on their property and that property is adjacent to a natural heritage feature. If you are curious if your property is adjacent to a natural heritage feature - check out the MPB website: manitoulinplanning.ca.

I agree with this mayor that the draft NHSS is a rights issue, but I would respectfully submit that the responsible stewardship of natural heritage systems is a rights issue for all our relatives -trees, wetlands, mammals, insects, birds, fish, people and future generations. Individual property owners may be impacted but everyone will be impacted if we cannot protect SAR and the integrity of the ecosystem services provided by natural heritage features that maintain our way of life by implementing proper due diligence when significant changes may adversely impact our shared environment.

So, what critical ecosystem services do SAR provide in our community?

As an example, apex predators like the eastern wolf (threatened), cougar (special concern), coyotes, bobcat and lynx provide essential services in our ecosystem. Through predation of smaller mammals, the presence of apex predators' controls Lyme disease and when these types of predators no longer exist, or populations dwindle in our natural heritage system we can expect to see increases in Lyme disease – which impacts everyone.

Speaking with farmers, landowners and citizens of our beautiful island, I am always struck by how proud Islanders are to steward lands that support SAR like the monarch butterfly (special concern), piping plover (endangered). This pride is shown daily on popular Manitoulin Island Facebook groups where people often share trail camera footage of bears, beaver or the famous Kagawong piebald deer herd chilling in our backyards. Each one of these relatives offers an ecosystem service that we all rely on – from pollination in our gardens to the wildfire mitigation that is provided by hardwoods like the endangered, Black Ash. Yes - that's right hardwood in comparison to soft wood can reduce the speed and intensity of wildfires which could save lives in a wildfire emergency - now that is a critical ecosystem service worth protecting!

Rather than resisting the province on this matter, there is an alternative solution that will be good for people, the planet and our community. Since we have more SAR and globally rare natural heritage features on Manitoulin Island than the average Ontario community. we have a unique value proposition for organizations that want to invest in biodiversity net gain and carbon sequestration. Instead of fighting the province, we can work together to establish a Manitoulin Island stewardship fund, jointly capitalized by the province, philanthropy and the private sector that can provide financial support for property owners that must complete SAR verification, environmental impact assessments and if they choose, restoration and ecological enhancements that support co-existence with SAR. Environmental impact and SAR assessments can also be used to develop carbon, biodiversity and payment for ecosystem service projects that can generate income for property owners when best practices in land stewardship are implemented. This kind of a solution would help support our regenerative economy, reduce due diligence costs for property owners, protect our natural heritage system/way of life and improve community resilience in the face of climate change and trade wars. Win-winwin-win.

If you love our natural heritage system as much as I do - ask your municipal representative to vote in favour of the draft NHSS and let's work together to raise the funds we need to support property owners that may incur extra costs to care for this precious place, while also generating diversified revenue streams from working lands in our community. If we take care of the land, the land will take care of

With love to all Manitoulin Island residents and our natural heritage system. Kim Neale lives in Kagawong, has a degree in environmental engineering and is a practicing ecological economist that founded the Manitoulin Climate Collaborative (Mc2), authored two 10yr municipal climate change plans on Manitoulin Island, is a board member of the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy and former executive with World Wildlife Fund Canada. Kim has also been a member of Canadian delegations to the United Nations climate change (COP29) and biodiversity (COP15) conferences and is currently co-designing bioregional investment funds that support community led regenerative economic development across Turtle Island.

# Kids dig in at Noojmowin Teg's 'Earth' themed Good Life Youth Conference

by Margery Frisch

M'CHIGEENG—Manitoulin Secondary School was the place for some fun learning on Saturday, March 1. Noojmowin Teg's annual Good Life Youth Conference centered its elemental theme on 'Getting Dirty, Getting Grounded.' It was a popular theme for those in atten-

Clarice Pangowish (Niibin) opened the conference with prayer in Anishinaabemowin. "I will be remembering all that's on Earth, and expressing gratitude,' Niibin explained before she began her prayer, "because the wood has provided shelter for us, the water helps our body function properly.'

Neil Debassige, the keynote speaker of the conference, began by having the youngest participants sit right up front to keep them engaged, and it worked. "For those of you who don't know," he said at the start, "I'm famous. I mean on Manitoulin Island. And there's a reason for that, not only was I a teacher and a principal—but I'm not going to talk about that today—I have a TV show. Fuel the Fire, and that TV show is all about hunting and fishing." Born and raised on Manitoulin Island, Mr. Debassige shared his love for being out-



'Food is Medicine' organizer Given Cortes stands still for a minute with Devon Leeson.

doors—all the time. His presentation had clips from his show, but he also spoke of food insecurity.

Mr. Debassige's focus was to get the young people involved with knowing where their food comes from and, if possible, taking part in acquiring and preparing the food they eat. "The emotional connection to food through family and harvest, exposing our young to where food comes from is essential," he said.

A great deal of time was spent on the various calls used by hunters to lure their prev. The kids enjoyed taking part in that activity, as well as clashing the horns of bucks and moose. Mr. Debassige's message was very well received. He was also available throughout the day for kids to come to his interactive table, to ask questions and to learn more about how the land is key to food sovereignty.



They did it. These kids got Mike Laende of Manitoulin Tree Services as far as he could go with the rigging photos by Margery Frisch

Encouraging the youth to try all the workshops, activities and demonstrations was the passport given to each participant at registration. They were to have each activity leader sign their passports and then they could enter the door prizes at the end of the day.

Renowned potter Wayne Malleau allowed anyone who wished to get their hands dirty designing pots. Equal amounts of clay were handed out and all were to be creative Mr Malleau had beautiful pieces on display, a whole collection made of Manitoulin clay. "Is this Manitioulin clay?" one of the parents asked. "No," Mr. Malleau said, explaining



Neil Debassige of Fuel the Fire TV models a rack.

that for every successful piece he creates with Manitoulin clay, several more explode in the kiln. "I don't want anyone here to have their piece explode. Though it is a possibility, it's less likely with this clay," he said. Everyone left their name and phone number with their creations and Mr. Malleau will fire them, glaze them, then fire them again, and Given Cortes will make sure the pieces get to their rightful creator.

After a delicious lunch provided by Candice Corbiere and her daughters, Willow and Gabby, Denise Graham had everyone playing Nutrition BINGO. Instead of B-52, or G-3, there were food groups, and different foods called. With each food called out, Ms. Graham gave a bit of information about the food and its benefits.

Lynzii Taibossigai ran a workshop with BEAM Paints. She showed everyone how to paint a turtle, and the result was an amazing display of individuality and creativity. Seed planting with River Camin of Three Forks Farm, archery and badminton, trapper skills



The cooks are all smiles. Candice Corbiere and her daughters Willow and Gabby take a moment out from their work.

with Greg Young, animal print crafts with Ann Cummings, and Jonn Naveau and Niibin shared traditional teachings in the Three Fires Lounge. Throughout the main foyer, information tables with giveaways from Mnaamodzawin Health Services, M'Chigeeng Youth Program, Kenjgewin Teg were set up, providing interesting things to see and do.

The day ended with Mike Laende, of Manitoulin Tree Services, showing some chainsaw safety (or the importance of proper chainsaw pants as opposed to working in jeans). He also showed the kids how he climbs trees in his work, with harnesses and pullies, and had the kids help him climb to the ceiling of the gym. A most popular end of the day activity.

Niibin concluded the day's events with a closing prayer and prizes were won for those completed passports. Grayson Gilchrist won the coveted fire pit, but all the kids won something, making it a memorable

Wellness Promoter and organizer of the event, Given Cortes, with the help of many Noojmowin team members, made sure all activities and events ran smoothly. Seeds were planted at this Earth-themed conference, let's keep them nourished and growing.

# Cocaine and fentanyl seized by WTPS On February 28, officers from

On February 28, officers from the Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service attended a weapons call at a Wikwemikong Way address

During the course of the investigation police located a quality of cocaine and fentanyl with a street value of over \$35,000, a quantity of cash and other evidence of drug trafficking and arrested a 19-year-old male.

Taylen Wedemire of Brampton is charged with: possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking, possession of an opioid for the purpose of trafficking and possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000. He was subsequently held for a bail hearing.

WTPS would like to remind people to report suspicious activity. Please contact the po-



lice at 1-888-310-1122 or through Crime Stoppers.

# Imitation firearm and suspected drugs seized

suspected drugs seized
Two people have been arrested and are facing charges after police received a suspicious vehicle call.

On February, at approximately 9 pm, officers with the Manitoulin detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) received a call of a suspicious vehicle on Highway 551 in Central Manitoulin. Shortly after, police located the vehicle on Highway 551 in M'Chigeeng

First Nation. Further investigation, with assistance from the UCCM Police Service Commission, resulted in two people being arrested.

Additionally, police seized an imitation firearm, approximately 80 grams of suspected cocaine with an estimated street value of \$8,000, approximately 0.5 grams of suspected crack cocaine with an estimated street value of \$20, approximately five grams of suspected fentanyl with an estimated street value of \$1,500, and approximately \$1,000 in Canadian currency.

As a result, the driver, Brittany Corbiere, 32, from Sudbury,

and the passenger, Christopher Ashawasagai, 35, from Sudbury were both charged with possession of proceeds of property obtained by crime under \$5,000, possession of imitation weapon for dangerous purpose. possession of a schedule one substance-cocaine, possession of a schedule one substance for the purpose of trafficking-cocaine, possession of a schedule one substance for the purpose of trafficking-opioid. Ms. Corbiere was also charged with operation (vehicle) while impaired, and driver motor vehicle-no li-

# Vehicle in ditch leads to impaired arrest

One person is facing charges after police received a report of a single vehicle collision.

On February 19, at approximately 7:30 pm, the Manitoulin detachment of the OPP received a call about a vehicle in the ditch on John Street in Central Manitoulin. Police arrived on scene and confirmed that the driver was not injured. Further investigation resulted in the driver being arrested for impaired operation.

Terri-Lynn Debassige, 46, from M'Chigeeng First Nation, was charged with operation while impaired alcohol.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Gore Bay on April 1.

# Friends and Neighbours

# Providence Bay Alexia Hannigan

Alexia here with your friendly feathered and weathered fly.

Something happens here in early March that I can only describe as an awakening.

As the snow starts to melt, sheaths of ice fall from rooftops, bushwacking and sugarbush tapping begins and everyone catches onto the ebb and flow and business of new beginnings. Bear cubs are born, sap begins to flow and the winds of change carry with them the promise of new days and songs of Spring. Our beautiful Island is waking up after her long winter sleep! Can you feel it?

Here's What's happening: Providence Bay Arena: Learn to skate on Sundays from 12 noon to 1 pm; Public skate is on Sundays from 1 to 3 pm; family sponge puck is on Sundays from 3 to 5 pm. Sponsored by the Spring Bay/Providence Bay Recreation Committee. March Break skate times are Tuesday to Friday, public skate is 1 to 2 pm; sponsored family skate is from 2 to 3 pm. Sponsored by the Spring Bay/Providence Bay Lions Club. Helmets required.

Providence Bay Curling Club continues to be busy with events and schedules, email providencebaycurling@gmail.com or call 705-377-4668 to register. Our annual pancake breakfast is coming up soon! Hope to see you there!

Friday, March 8 from 8 to 11 am.

Providence Bay Community of Christ Church Sunday service: 10:30 am meetup; 11 am service. Happy Ash Wednesday and Lent.

Way to represent at the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies 2025 Convention Dawn, Alex and all, well done and congratulations!

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

Tai Chi Classes continue Mondays and Thursdays from

10:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Gentle Yoga continues with Chair Yoga and Gentle Yoga Tuesdays from 1 to 1:45 pm and 2 to 3 pm at Providence Bay Hall TFN. Gentle Yoga continues Wednesdays at 6:15 pm at Spring Bay Hall. Traditional Taekwon-do continues this Thursday and next Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday at 6 pm.

The Heavens: March 14: Total Lunar Eclipse (Blood Moon/worm moon). A mesmerizing Blood Moon will grace the skies! This total lunar eclipse will be visible from America, Antarctica, Alaska and parts of Africa. March 23: Saturn's Ring Plane, Crossing Saturn's rings will disappear for a short time as we observe them edge-on from Earth! Upcoming astronomical events in 2025 include: March 20: March equinox. March 29: Partial solar eclipse; and April 12: Pink Moon.

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

Providence Post Office update: We will have our Post Office and regular mail

available for the month of March. Shout out to our new Postie, we appreciate you J.

The Friends: Congratulations to you early March babies old and new. Hope all your wishes come true. Happy Birthday Michael and Mya. Happy March Break everyone! Enjoy a safe and Happy Winter Break. Happy Women's Day on Sunday, March 9 and reminder to spring forward to DST on March 9.

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade."

- "Great Expectations" by Charles Dickens

# Kagawong Team Fergmeijer

Deep thoughts, by Team Fergmeijer: Everyone should be getting into feng shui. Because sometimes when you're having a bad day it's nice to know it's the credenza's fault. If the airlines were smart, they would seat a dog every few rows and then charge extra to sit next to a dog. Do we want to pay for an upgrade - no. Do we want to pay for a PUPgrade? Absolutely! It appears that there exists a quantity of artificial butter flavour beyond which people begin to believe it's not butter. This is known as the margarine of error. Have you ever pondered what the moon would look like if it were colonized? Probably something like M:O:O:N.

Manitoulin Streams Youth Rangers are at it again! On Friday, March 14 (from 11 am to 2 pm) kids in Grades 1 to 8 are invited to take part in a 'Maple Syrup Event' at the Kagawong Park Centre. Cost is \$10/child, and a pizza lunch is provided. Contact getinvolved.manitolinstreams@gmail.com for more information and to register.

New free seniors' exercise classes have started up at the Park Centre. The first session was last week, but you are still able to join the remaining classes including tomorrows! Come out at 9:30 am on March 6, 13 and 20. No registration necessary.

Many happy returns to Arthur H. who is turning 29 this week. Choosing the best flavour for your birthday cake can be tricky. We suggest avoiding marble cake (it's hard on the teeth). Happy birthday!

As winter swings into spring, there's lots going on in Kagawong over the next few weeks!

St. John's Anglican Church is holding a chili luncheon this Saturday from 11 am to 2 pm. The homemade chili dinner includes biscuits and refreshments for just \$14. Desserts are available also and it can all be eaten at the church or take it home with you.

On Thursday, March 13, Cambrian College is hosting a free community kitchen workshop at the Park Centre. In this full-day session, you'll learn to cook a meal from start to finish and then feast together as a community. This is a great

opportunity to enhance your cooking skills and maybe even meet some new friends! Registration is required - register no later than Wednesday, March 5 by contacting manitoulin@cambriancollege.ca or by calling 705-368-3194.

Spring dance season is just around the corner! Classes with Candice Irwin of Body Stories Dance Education and Performance are starting up again the week of March 17. Kagawong classes at the Park Centre Monday evenings include "Creative Movement" (ages 3-6), "Contemporary" (ages 6 and up), and "Mindful Movement" (adults and teens). Check out bodystoriesdance.com for more information.

What happens when a microscope crashes into a telescope? They kaleidoscope. Have a great week!

# Barrie Island Enid Runnalls

Bonnie Hore and Melody Hore of Gordon Township were on hand at the voting centre at the Gordon/Barrie Island location, where they greeted voters and handed out ballots. Everything ran smoothly and we have learned that our local MPP is Bill Rosenberg of the PC party.

I just found a booklet called 'VOTERS' LIST for the Municipality of the Township of Barrie Island for the year 1961. It lists 70 adults entitled to vote with the following names: Baker, Callback, Campbell, Greenman, Jefkins, Lane, Langton, Long, MacLean, Matheson, Merrylees, Mervyn, Montgomery, Orford, Phalen and Runnalls. A few of those historic names are still among us and there are some new ones added.

This past week on Sunday, Darlene Orford and her son Larry stopped in to wish George Calback a happy birthday. At 91, George has the distinction of being Barrie Island's oldest citizen. Carolyn said they always enjoy a visit with these good friends.

Barrie Island's youngest citizen, Mr. Micah Runnalls is celebrating his 4th birthday on Saturday. On his list of birthday wishes is pizza, rainbow chip birthday cake, dancing and skating!

Micah, along with his family, attended the 5th birthday party of Jewel Rein at the Gore Bay Legion last Saturday night. It was a super fun party with a pink unicorn theme, delicious Filipino food, music, games and dancing. And then there was more dancing, lol.

Jim and Sandy Miller made a quick trip to Barrie Island from their home in Ottawa. They stayed at the home of Oliver and Barb Runnalls. It was a busy weekend for them as they spent time with family on Barrie Island, visited Barb at the Gore Bay Lodge, attended grandsons Arie and Isaiah's curling lessons in Providence Bay and then went skating with the boys and Eli at the Kagawong outdoor arena.

They say it's a small world and to prove it Carolyn Lane Rock and Anne Steele ran into each other last week while vacationing in Portugal! So they went out for lunch and took in the countryside. They probably talked about how they were missing the snow on Barrie Island and Meldrum Bay or maybe Canadian politics.

Enid Runnalls paid Lil Greenman a visit on Thursday afternoon. Lil reports that Lance is continuing with his physiotherapy in Sudbury and she hopes he will be feeling better soon.

# Silver Water Karen Noble

On Friday morning, Shawn Noble, his daughter Tamara and brother-in-law Chad Chevrette left to go to Ottawa to pack everything out of Tamara's apartment into a U-Haul. They arrived home on Sunday at supper time. Thank you to all the people who helped get the truck into the driveway, well after dark.

On Friday, February 21 we went to euchre in Meldrum Bay and had a lot of fun

On Saturday, the recycling bins were open. There were lots of people out in the afternoon.

On Sunday, I went to Tehkummah to do bookwork.

On Monday, there was euchre at the Burpee/Mills complex with seven full tables of players.

On Tuesday there was an exercise group at the Silver Water Hall.

On Tuesday, DonnaKay McDonald and I went to Little Current for the election training.

On Wednesday, Shawn Noble and Brenda Carter went to Little Current for their training sessions. On Wednesday there was line dancing

at the hall.

Work continues on the new bathroom

Work continues on the new bathroom in the upstairs of the hall.
On Thursday the Ontario election poll

was held in the Silver Water Community Hall. Thanks to all the people who came out to vote and everyone who worked for Elections Ontario.

On Thursday, March 6 there is a service for the Worlds Day of Prayer at St. Andrew's United Church in the morning at 11 am and then the UCW meeting at 1:30 pm. We will go to Stop 540 for lunch.

On Friday, March 14 there is an Irish Stew supper in Burpee/Mills.

On Saturday, March 15 there is a breakfast in Meldrum Bay.

On Monday, March 17 there is a St. Patrick's Day potluck supper at the Silver Water Hall with the proceeds going to the Angel Bus.

Happy Birthday to Joyce Benoit, Vicki Clark, Myra Duncanson, Christopher Wismer, Ken Duncanson and who all have birthdays early in March.

Condolences to the family of Stella Campbell.

Condolences to the family of Blair Bai-

# ...Lorilee McGregor named to International Joint Commission elders' circle

...continued from page 3

(Anishinaabek Indians Nation) and the Chiefs of Ontario, creating environmental reports.

It was a connection with a colleague from that work, Susan Chiblow, now a professor at Guelph University that Dr. Mc-Gregor wound up being appointed. Dr. Chiblow herself was appointed to

the IJC in March of 2024.

"She put my name forward," said Dr. McGre-

The letter Dr. McGregor received from the IJC explains that the Indigenous Circle of Experts was officially launched on October 23 at the first meeting between the Circle and IJC Commissioners.

Dr. McGregor said that she was very impressed

colleagues and those from the American side.

"Everybody was very interested, very respectful," she said of both the commissioners and her fellow Circle members.

The Circle is envisioned as a group of Indigenous experts who can discuss and provide advice to the IJC on how it may improve collaborative watershed governance with both her Canadian with Indigenous peoples in transboundary water-

To achieve that goal, the IJC has invited Indigenous experts with a range of backgrounds from across the transboundary region to form a Circle of Experts to discuss ways of working with Indigenous peoples centered around reciprocity and mutual benefit.

According to the IJC ecretary, "the Circle secretary,

strives to include perspectives and knowledge from a diverse membership from across the transboundary region and with a variety of personal and professional expertise."

Members of the Circle of Experts are expected to be full participants in all activities of the Circle, noted Mr. Wilkie, "working towards providing advice to the Commission on how it can enhance its ability to collaborate with Indigenous Peoples in watershed governance. Cir-

cle members act in their personal and professional capacity, not as a representative of their agency, constituency, Nation or employer."

All members serve in an impartial manner, performing their duties for the common good of all who share transboundary waters.

The work of the Circle will be outlined in a set of guiding principles to be developed by the IJC and the Circle over the coming months.

# ...Kenjgewin Teg offering heavy equipment operator training

...continued from page 3

to remain a real challenge that needs to be addressed."

The training, which ranges from two to nine weeks depending on the selected course, prioritizes workplace safety and hands-on experience. Students gain practical skills operating various heavy machinery, including backhoes, excavators, bulldozers, graders and front-end loaders.

"As we witness significant growth in industry and construction in the north, First Nations communities step up and support educational institutions like Kenjgewin Teg as they successfully deliver training such as the heavy equipment operator program," said WRFN Chief Rodney Nahwegahbow.

Graduates of the program earn operator certification, opening doors to careers in road construction, mining, forestry, public utilities and other industries where heavy equipment operation is in high demand.

"We are excited to partner with Kenigewin Teg to offer the heavy equipment training program," said

...continued on page 8



Kenjgewin Teg has launched a new Heavy Equipment Operator Training Program, in partnership with Whitefish River First Nation, Cambrian College and Transport Training Centres of Canada Inc. From left is student Harley Shawanda, student Donald Debassige, student Nchiiwat McLeod, Cheryl Osawabine-Peltier (WRFN education manager), Andy Gramann (TTCC trainer), student Daytona Recollet, Jade Peltier (Kenjgewin Teg Trades, Apprenticeship and Skills Program coordinator), Jeff McGregor (WRFN band councillor) and Stuart Wilson (WRFN economic development officer). photo by Tammy Nahwegahbow development officer).

# ...Billings residents will have interest charges stayed

...continued from page 3

the township actually had about \$565,000 in its water bank account. In February 2024, after discussion and review, council decided to create a water system policy committee (WSPC).

The following represent the general activities of the committee: develop clear procedures on capital projects and major upgrades to the waterlines on the Kagawong water system; consider if a water system asset management plan and water rate study should be completed and how it could be funded; review the current water levy and consider if the water levy should be broken down into operating and capital projects for the water plant and lift station for transparency; review options for implementing a capital levy that can be used to create a water capital reserve to offset capital costs associated with waterline replacements and upgrades for all benefitting properties; and develop communication and public engagement procedures.

"Although the WSPC terms of reference were set in February 2024, the committee only had their first meeting in December," said Mayor Barker. "This is the result of a change in administration where the new CAO had to take some time to familiarize herself with all ongoing projects as well as history on files and current policies.'

The WSPC has now met on three occasions. The first meeting was to gather information and to understand what legislation and policies are currently in place. The second meeting consisted of a visit to the water treatment facility, which gave the committee a better understanding of the assets and capital costs involved with the water treatment facility. At the committee's last meeting, the group started discussions on the policies that will be needed and provided administration with information on the content in some of the policies.

The report to council noted that at this point, the committee identified that they felt a sense of urgency due to the upcoming due date (February 16) of the capital bill. If the committee had started earlier, as was planned, the policies regarding funding and repayment for capital works would have been in place and details on collection and the management of interest would be in place, council was informed.

"First of all, I would like to thank Veronique (Dion, township CAO/clerk) for her guidance and direction on all of this," said Councillor Vince Grogan. "We have knowledgeable, excellent people on the committee. We still don't have all the information that we have requested of OCWA (Ontario Clean Water Agency). This is one barrier we are dealing with, so we can make a proper proposal to council. We can't make final decisions and make recommendations to council until all the information is provided."

This is long overdue to set a policy that is fair for everyone," stated Councillor Ian Anderson. "There is a good committee in place (to do the policy review and make recommendations to council)

to help find solutions." Councillor Dave Hillyard said he had nothing more to say on the issue at this point, noting that when this issue was origwas found there was over \$565,000 in the water account he felt that there was enough in the township water reserve to pay the balance of the bill. At that time, he put forward a motion for council to consider rescinding the cost bylaw.

However, when council considered Councillor Hillyard's motion in 2023, it was defeated, with councillors Ian Anderson and Wayne Hunt, along with Mayor Barker voting in opposition, all indicating they wanted further information. Therefore, as he said at the recent meeting, he can't bring the motion up for consideration and discussion.

Councillor told The Expositor after council's recent meeting, "in light of the new information at the time, and audited statements which showed a much more significant amount in the water back account, I felt the wrong decision had been made (by council), and if council had known this information when it had made the original decision, this would have been changed. So, I put forward the motion to rescind the cost bylaw." Subsequently council decided that all 170 water users in the township would

What information is the committee lacking?" asked Mayor Barker.

We need to understand and have a general overview of the longevity of the current system and such things and parts that are going to be needed and when they will need to be replaced for the water treatment plant. We just can't find out down the line that a piece of equipment needs to be replaced," said Councillor Grogan. He said that concerns that were raised inally raised, and then it previously by members of the public that council had not been forthcoming in providing information and costs involved relating to the water treatment system needs to be handled different and openly so these concerns will not come up again.

"Everyone is interested in making sure everything is brought forward, to council and the public. No one wants to see what happened in the past happening again," said Councillor Barker. He said the committee will make sure that the report from the committee includes a water financial plan.

"We need to work toward this and to indicate that, for instance, we will be holding public meetings before making decisions that affect our ratepayers and water users like this," said Councillor Grogan.

Councillor said after the meeting, "The water users have funded that water reserve and contributed to the water system. Special consideration must be made for them when we have discussion on these ongoing issues."

The committee meets once per month and it is expected the policy review and recommendations should be completed over the next three to four meetings with recommendations finalized and going to council hopefully in





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

# ...Federal Court reviewing glyphosate use to determine its ongoing use in Canada

...continued from page 1

community is considered to have some of the most extraordinary richness of globally significant species on the Canadian side of the Great Lakes Basin, with a unique ecological network not found anywhere else in the world, making it a critical region for biodiversity conservation within the area. Manitoulin Island is also home to a vibrant community of small family-owned farms that rely upon glyphosate and "Roundup Ready" seeds to compete on the global market and ensure their already precarious livelihoods.

"Six point eight billion people in the world. Everybody needs to eat. We are feeding them today. If we cut down our production per acre, how do we feed them tomorrow?" a local farmer chimed in at a Tehkummah town council meeting in February of 2025.

Some residents on the Island have reported

fears about potential water contamination and adverse health effects linked to glyphosate exposure. These concerns have fuelled community action, such as forming the Manitoulin Ecology group to find common ground between neighbours.

In January, a local delegation of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) presented to the Manitoulin Municipal Association (MMA) in response to a lone resident who appealed for an Island municipal-wide ban on the chemical. (The concerned resident, Zak Nichols, was only requesting municipalities refrain from using glyphosate, not the agriculture sector, however.) The farmers maintain that PMRA and Health Canada have given the green light to the product and that when used responsibly, there are no impacts on the health of humans and the ecosystem. However, some residents have concerns that agencies and companies such as the Emcom, the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and Hydro One might not be holding themselves to the same ethical standards as local farmers, and that the cumulative effect may be causing adverse effects to local pollinator and other species populations.

In 2020 and 2021, approximately 75 million tonnes of glyphosate was sold in Canada—more current statistics are not available—but tracking glyphosate sales in Canada is challenging due to how the data is report-



The 2022 approval of glyphosate, the active ingredient found in Roundup, is again under review by a Federal Court.

Shutterstock

ed. The government categorizes pesticide sales broadly, grouping glyphosate with other chemicals under "phosphonic acids and their derivatives," making it difficult to determine exact figures for glyphosate alone.

Additionally, pesticide companies can classify portions of their sales data as "confidential business information," limiting public access to detailed figures. Health Canada's Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) oversees pesticide sales, but its publicly available reports often lack specificity. As a result, comprehensive data on glyphosate sales and distribution remains limited, raising concerns about transparency in pesticide regulation.

The Expositor spoke with Islander Lorraine Smith, a writer and researcher whose former profession was as an advisor for mainstream corporate sustainability. There, she conducted assessments on large corporations to formulate environment, sustainability, and governance (ESG) protocols.

"Focusing solely on banning glyphosate without addressing the broader industrial agricultural system—including tensive monocroppingmisses the real issue. If glyphosate is banned, another pesticide will take its place, potentially one that's even more harmful. The root problem isn't just a single chemical, but a system designed for profit over life, one that incentivizes farmers to adopt unsustainable practices. No healthy natural system separates plants from animals the way industrial agriculture does. Until we shift away from monocropping and create economic incentives that support regenerative practices that restore soils and work with, not against, biodiversity, we're just swapping one toxic input for

another."

Ms. Smith left the corporate world to go on to publish independent ESG assessments after becoming disillusioned with what she was seeing, and yet sensing ever more concern and interest in real, positive change.

"After years working in corporate sustainability, I've seen a clear disconnect between their sustainability claims, profit centers, and lobbying practices. In the US, where more lobbying disclosure laws exist, I've tracked corporations spending millions on lobbying on pesticide

application reviews as those same products are increasingly found to be serious health and ecological hazards. Without transparency on the demands placed on regulators, alongside systemic change in what we ask of, and pay, producers to do, we'll keep replacing one harmful pesticide with another. Until we tackle that reality, an outright ban on glyphosate might do more harm than good."

Dr. Janice Mitchell, a local veterinarian and beekeeper, was a delegate at Tehkummah town council back in early February, where she revealed a second damning report on the levels of glyphosate found in her dead bees. She reported substantial colony losses, with lab results showing high levels of glyphosate present in the cadavers for the second time. Dr. Mitchell highlighted that glyphosate is linked to health risks, including non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and criticized Health Canada's assessment.

"Thalidomide was on the market for just four years before its devastating effects forced a recall, yet the damage was lifelong," Dr. Mitchell said. "DDT was used for three decades before it was banned, and we are still dealing with its residual impact today. Glyphosate's next review isn't until 2032—that's a 15year window where harm can accumulate. We're already seeing warning signs, but when independent researchers present evidence of harm, it's too often dismissed. We can't afford to wait until the damage is undeniable. We need to reassess now, not after another cycle of environmental and human consequences."

This grassroots opposition mirrors the arguments made by national environmental organizations, which insist that regulatory bodies must stay current with evolving science to protect public health and local ecosystems.

...continued on page 10



# Finding Providence

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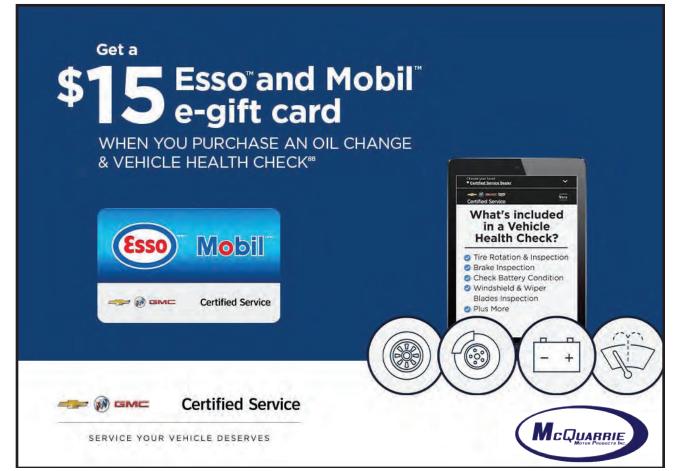
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abaran@thetaxguy.tax www.thetaxguy.tax



# ...heavy equipment operator

...continued from page 7

Cheryl Osawabine-Peltier, WRFN education manager. "This collaboration is a significant step in ensuring our community members gain valuable skills that will open up new career opportunities. We look forward to expanding our educational offerings and strengthening our relationship with Kenjgewin Teg for future programs that will empower our community."

Stuart Wilson, WRFN economic development officer, emphasized the program's impact on the region's workforce. "This partnership with Kenjgewin Teg is an important milestone in supporting the growth and development of our local economy. By providing training in high-demand fields like heavy equipment operations, we are equipping our community with the tools to succeed in the workforce. We are excited about the opportunities this partnership will create and look forward to further collaborations that will benefit our community's long-term prosperity."

With six students currently enrolled, Kenjgewin Teg's program is already making a difference. By investing in skills development, First Nations communities are building a stronger workforce, addressing labour shortages, and creating lasting economic opportunities.

"Careers in the skilled trades is where many opportunities for jobs exist, and this training will help meet the needs of the labour shortage in the construction industry," concluded Mr. Roy.



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We look forward to welcoming you!



# ...Federal Court reviewing glyphosate use to determine its ongoing use in Canada

...continued from page 8

A Controversial Chemical Under **Scrutiny** 

First introduced in the 1970s, glyphosate remains a cornerstone in over 169 pest control products sold in Canada, including the well-known formulation Roundup produced by Bayer's subsidiary Monsanto. Despite decades of use, the chemical has long been at the centre of heated debates and legal battles. In the United States, numerous lawsuits have accused glyphosate of cancer, leadcausing

ing to multi-million-dollar settlements in several cases— even as other judgments have been overturned on appeal.

Germany, the home of Bayer, has implemented restrictions on glyphosate use, including bans in private gardens, parks, public spaces and certain agricultural applications. The decision followed discussions between the country's environment and agriculture ministries as part of a broader effort to reduce pesticide use. Austria's parliament passed a bill for a complete ban, while France,

the Netherlands and Belgium have prohibited household use. These policy changes reflect a growing international shift toward stricter pesticide regulations.

The recent Canadian judicial decision adds to this turbulent legacy. "Maintaining the renewal indefinitely without sufficient justification would undermine regulatory accountability," Justice Zinn stated, emphasizing that brief internal acknowledgment of the new evidence does not meet the transparency standards expected of a federal review.

Critics argue that the

indesuppression of pendent studies, such as those by Dr. Christy Morrissey, whose work exposed the harmful ecological impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides, raises serious questions about whether the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) prioritizes public health and environmental protection over corporate profits.

Dr. Morrissey, a leading Canadian ecotoxicologist, published studies demonstrating the widespread contamination of freshwater ecosystems with neonicotinoids and their harmful effects on aquatic insects, a crucial food source for fish and birds. Her findings supported the PMRA's initial decision in 2016 to propose a ban on imidacloprid, a widely used neonicotinoid.

However, internal documents suggest that after pushback from Bayer and lobbying from the agrochemical industry, the PMRA delayed regulatory action and ultimately renewed the pesticide's registration. In 2021, Dr. Morrissey filed a formal

objection, citing instances where independent, peer-reviewed water monitoring data showing elevated pesticide concentrations harmful to aquatic life were excluded from the agency's risk assessments.

Internal communications reveal that the PMRA shared elements of her research with Bayer, allowing the corporation to discredit or downplay findings that threatened its market share.

The revelations, published by the National Observer in October 2024, show evidence that the suppression of independent research conducted by dozens of researchers, whose studies revealed troubling links between pesticide use and ecological harm, may be at play.

#### A Call for Greater **Transparency**

The most recent ruling does not revoke the approval of products containing glyphosate, but it does compel Health Canada to provide clear, evidence-based justifications for its earlier decision.

Laura Bowman, a lawyer with Ecojustice, noted, "This decision really confirms that Health Canada does have an obligation to keep up with the science, and they will need to be transparent in how they address that new evidence."

As the government prepares to reexamine glyphosate's risks, stakeholders from across Canada-from large-scale agricultural operations to communities on Manitoulin Island—are watching closely. The outcome of this reassessment could set a precedent for how environmental and health risks are evaluated in a rapidly changing scientific landscape, ensuring that regulatory practices reflect both current evidence and community concerns.

With global debates over the safety of glyphosate far from settled, the coming months will be crucial for restoring public trust in Canada's regulatory processes and safeguarding the health of its citizens and environ-



Corey McCutcheon, right, Royal Lepage North Heritage Brokerage, Mindemoya office, presents a donation in the amount of \$4,653 on behalf of the business agents to Colleen Hill, executive director of Manitoulin Family Resources.

# Royal Lepage North Heritage Brokerage, Mindemoya office, donates \$4,635 to MFR

MINDEMOYA—In a heartening display of community commitment, the Royal Lepage North Heritage Brokerage, Mindemoya office, has donated \$4,635 to Manitoulin Family Resources (MFR). The contribution was made possible by the generosity of agents Karen Bond, Corey McCutcheon and Leanne Lewis, who each donated a portion of their earned commissions to support the local shel-

The donation is part of an ongoing initiative by Royal Lepage Canada to give back to the community. By redirecting a segment of their commissions, the agents have helped provide crucial financial support to MFR, an organization dedicated to assisting local families in need. The funds will help enhance the shelter's capacity to offer essential services, from emergency support to ongoing family assistance programs.

"Our commitment to the community extends beyond real estate transactions," said Mr. McCutcheon. "Every sale is an opportunity for us to make a positive impact on the lives of our neighbours, and supporting MFR is a natural extension of that commitment." Ms. Bond and Ms. Lewis echoed this sentiment, emphasizing that their contributions reflect a shared vision of community empowerment and responsibility.

Manitoulin Family Resources expressed its sincere gratitude for the generous donation.

The Royal Lepage North Heritage Brokerage, Mindemoya office, has long been recognized for its community engagement and philanthropic efforts. This latest donation not only reinforces the brokerage's dedication to local causes but also sets an inspiring example for other businesses in the region.

In addition to her role in the donation initiative, Leanne Lewis, team lead and realtor with the Lewis Team, is once again participating in the Shelter Challenge being held in Cambodia this coming October. More information on her participation and the event will be shared in the near future, highlighting her ongoing commitment to supporting communities both locally and abroad.

# ...NEMI to gain new fire pumper

...continued from page 3

Mr. Williamson offered a suggestion on how to pay for the new truck.

"We do have a couple of reserve funds," he shared. "The Future Development Fund is over \$400,000 and we can take the \$218,000 plus remaining from the Working Capital Reserve, which will effectively drain it."

Mr. Williamson reminded council that

is a one-time purchase.

Councillor George Williamson asked if parts will be an issue. Fire Chief

Duane Deschamps said all of the parts can be purchased through their usual distributor in Mississauga. "But it is a concern with our truck now, as it is old. he added.

The current truck will stay in service and be outfitted to respond to highway Councillor Al Boyd asked if the fire

department has everything it requires in the quote. He affirmed that it did.

Council approved the quote from Dependable for \$636,054.

# **NOTICE BOARD**

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

#### **NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

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

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

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

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

#### Second Annual Home, Cottage and Culinary Show

May 30th to June 1st At the NEMI Rec Centre

Check out our website for more information www.hcc-show.ca Like us on Facebook 'Home, Cottage and Culinary Show' Are you interested in becoming a Show Sponsor or Vendor? Check out the website or contact Lisa to have all your questions answered at hcc-show@townofnemi.on.ca

Sign up now while spaces are still available

### MARCH BREAK ACTIVITIES AT THE NEMI REC CENTRE

Monday, March 10th

Learn how to make soft baked pretzels from 1:00-2:00 pm, ages 8-12 Public Skating from 2:00-3:00 pm - Free Hot Chocolate!



Tuesday, March 11th

Laser Tag from 1:00-2:00 pm, all ages Public Skating from 2:00-3:00 pm

Wednesday, March 12th

Come dressed in a costume for Public Skating from 2:00-3:00 pm. Win a prize!

Thursday, March 13th

Escape Room from 1:00-2:00 pm Public Skating from 2:00-3:00 pm

Friday, March 14th

Glow Skating with Noojmowin Teg from 2:00-4:00 pm

### WINTER WORKSHOPS AT THE NEMI REC CENTRE

# Coffee Club at the NEMI Rec Centre

Thursdays 10:00-11:00 am Everyone welcome.

### Line Dancing is starting up again at the NEMI Rec Centre

Thursdays from 7 to 9 pm 8 weeks of line dancing with Lori Mastelko Cost: \$70 Email lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca to register

# Cooking Classes at the NEMI Rec Centre

All classes starting at 6:30 pm March 19: Sushi • April 2: Perogies April 16: Cabbage Rolls Workshops cost \$20 Email lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca to register

### Home, Cottage and Culinary Show

May 30th, 31st and June 1st Looking for food vendors. Please email hcc-show@townofnemi.on.ca or visit www.hcc-show.on.ca

# ...Algoma-Manitoulin turns blue, sends PC to Queen's Park

...continued from page 1

ed to town council in 2014 and quickly became deputy mayor and mayor. He also has a long background in business, farming and logging.

As part of his campaign,

Mr. Rosenberg prioritized several issues that he feels are most important to his constituents, including economic growth, health-care access and infrastructure improvements. He wants to create a more pos-

ed itive environment for local businesses, reducing the hurdles they face and being able to focus on job creation. He has also focused on health care, promising to enhance access to essential health care services and resident's rights to quality care.

Mr. Rosenberg also wants to see infrastructure improvements being provided in the riding, such as supporting significant investments in regional connectivity, and is in support of the PC's plan to invest over \$200 billion in infrastructure initiatives. His platform also includes supporting local schools and enhancing educational opportunities for students.

Mr. Rosenberg said that the US threatened tariffs will hit the district hard, especially its lumber and steel industries, and he said it is imperative, now more than ever, to provide strong leadership to protect jobs, businesses and communities. He said he will be standing with Premier Doug Ford to do whatever it takes to protect Ontario and keep the Ontario economy strong.

The PC party wants to build Ontario's economy by investing more than \$200 billion in their plan to build roads, highways, transit and other infrastructure projects while investing \$2.5 billion to train more than one million people in the skilled trades. They want to invest more than \$63 million to help students and young people get first-hand experience

and prepare for future careers in the skilled trades.

Mr. Rosenberg told The Expositor, "Northern Ontario needs a strong, dedicated voice at Queen's Park, someone who understands the unique challenges our communities face and is committed to securing a prosperous future for the region. My experience, work ethic and deep roots in this community make me the right choice to represent Algoma-Manitoulin and be a true advocate for its people."

"For me, this isn't about politics, it's about standing up for the people and industries that have shaped my life, this region, and all of Northern Ontario," said Mr. Rosenberg. "I will use every tool at my disposal to push back against unfair tariffs that threaten to devastate our local industries. With thousands of jobs on the line, we cannot afford leadership that leaves our communities behind. As Mayor (of Thessalon), I fought to keep our industries strong, and I'll do the same at Queen's Park. Northern Ontario doesn't just deserve a seat at the table-it needs one when decisions are made that shape our future."

"What sets me apart is my work ethic and ability to get things done. Whether as mayor working alongside businesses, I have never backed down from a challenge. Being an MPP isn't just about showing up in Toronto—it's about rolling up your sleeves, fighting for your constituents and making sure our voices are heard. I don't wait for solutions I work to create them. My priorities are clear: securing infrastructure funding, protecting our industries, and ensuring Northern Ontario gets the investment and attention it deserves. I will bring a tireless work ethic and a strong Northern perspective to Queen's Park, always putting our communities first."

Mr. Rosenberg told The Expositor, "I also want to acknowledge my fellow

candidates for their dedication to public service. Running for office is no small task, and I respect everyone who stepped forward."

"A special thank you to Premier Doug Ford for his leadership and support throughout this campaign," said Mr. Rosenberg. "Now, the real work begins. We will fight for good jobs, stand against unfair tariffs, and keep building a stronger Northern Ontario. Thank you, Algoma-Manitoulin."

# ...win third majority

...continued from page 1

but a fluke, going on to win her seat in 2025 by the second-largest margin in the province.

Algoma-Manitoulin incumbent Mike Mantha was not as fortunate, coming in fourth with 11.88 percent of the popular vote behind the winning Tories under Thessalon Mayor Bill Rosenberg (41.33 percent), the NDP under paramedic David Timeriski (27.19 percent) and the Liberals under former Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Reg Niganobe (14.49 percent). The New Blue Party under Sheldon Pressey (2.63 percent) and the Green Party's Maria Legault (2.48) rounded out the lists

Provincially, there were 15 other parties vying for a seat, but all came up short.

Voter turnout in the 2025 provincial election was 45.4 percent, not a particularly inspiring number, but at least higher than the 44.06 percent that stepped up to the ballot box in 2022 (that was the lowest turnout in Ontario history, breaking the 2011 low tally of 48.2 percent).

The PCs may be down three seats, but their share of the popular vote actually increased from the 40.83 percent in 2022. The Liberals managed to up their popular vote somewhat from 2022's 23.91 percent to 29.05 percent in 2025.

Across the North, Algoma-Manitoulin provided the only upset victory, each of the other ridings staying in

...continued on page 12







Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm • Saturday 8:30 am to 2 pm • Closed Sunday

# ...win unusual third majority

...continued from page 11

the same fold. Algoma-Manitoulin went to the NDP in 2022 but is now solidly

Algoma-Manitoulin has often switched parties over the years since its inception in 1934. It began as a solid Liberal fold under Wilfred Miller before turning blue in 1945 under PC John Fullerton. Stanley Farquhar took the riding back to the Liberals for two terms in 1963, handing over the reins to John Lane of Gore Bay in 1971, where it would stay until 1987 and the advent of Liberal Mike Brown, who would go on to hold the riding until 2011. Mr. Mantha held the riding for the NDP

until 2023 when he became an indepen-

Premier Ford managed to secure a rare third majority, successfully harnessing the nationalistic pushback against US President Donald Trump, despite initially being a strong supporter of the MAGA leader. The last premier to accomplish that feat was fellow Tory Leslie Frost, who reigned from May 4, 1949 to November 8, 1961. Unlike Premier Ford, who is widely regarded as a populist leader, Premier Frost was known largely for his low-key approach to politics with the nickname "the Great Tranquilizer" taking him to successive majorities in 1951,

# Mike Mantha says so long, not goodbye to constituents

**by Tom Sasvari** ELLIOT LAKE—While he will no longer be serving Algoma-Manitoulin riding provincially, following the result of the provincial election last week, long-time member of provincial parliament Michael Mantha said he will continue to serve the community in some form.

"It has truly been an honour and a privilege to serve the people of Algoma-Manitoulin for the past 13 plus years," stated Mr. Mantha, who had first been elected in 2011, defeating long-time Liberal member, late Mike Brown. Before being elected, he was a staff member for Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing MP Carol Hughes. He was removed from the NDP ranks following a

third-party investigation into alleged harassment.

"We ran an awesome, positive campaign, and we visited constituents in every corner and community in the riding," said Mr. Mantha, noting some of the issues he focused on included health care, affordability and roads."

Mr. Mantha said newly elected MPP Bill Rosenberg, "is a good friend of mine. He will be an excellent representative for this riding and having an MPP with the government (in power) will benefit the riding."

"I have offered Bill (Rosenberg) any assistance I can provide," said Mr. Mantha, who added he is looking forward "to being able to spend more time as a dad to my sons again, going golfing, and

fishing, which I haven't been able to do for a long time.'

As for a future role in politics in some capacity in the future, "you never know," stated Mr. Mantha. "I have loved serving the constituents of this riding, hearing and talking about heavy issues, helping them, laughing with them and at times crying with them as well, and attending all the fantastic events in the riding.'

"There are many other ways I can help serve the community, there are a couple of local clubs I may now have time to join, so I can continue to serve the community in some capacity," added Mr. Man-



Members of five enforcement services conducted joint patrols across Manitoulin, the North Shore and Killarney over the past week. The officers gathered under the Marc Hovingh Memorial Trail sign before heading out to patrol towards Killarney. From left are: UCCM APS Special Constable Jerimiah Corbiere, RCMP Constable Jennifer Babcock, UCCM APS Sergeant Dave Mack (who originally helped construct the sign), RCMP Constable Michael Husk, Van Chaffey, RCMP Constable David O'Hare, Wilkwemkoong Tribal Police Service Constable David Young, OPP Constable Pilon and Conservation Officer Jeff Hore.

photo by Michael Erskine

# ... New border patrol protocol

...continued from page 1

Wiky, to see if they could come to the Island to do joint force patrols," said Sgt. Dave Mack with the United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin Anishnaabe Police Service (UCCM APS). "It's the first of its kind. I've been here for 20 years, and I believe we have never done this before."

The snowmobile patrol collaboration included officers from the Sault Ste. Marie RCMP detachment, the Manitoulin OPP, UCCM APS, Wiikwemkoong Tribal Police Service and Conservation Officers from the Ministry of Natural

In the past, Sgt. Mack notes, individual police services have worked together, but this is the first time all five have combined on patrols. "It's a good relationship and it does have to do with

the border security patrol," shared Sgt. Mack, who noted it is now part of the RCMP and OPP mandate.

"The original settlement for the Zhiibaahaasing reserve was on Cockburn Island, and it still is to an extent, so technically, that is our policing area, the UCCM office noted. "As the crow flies, it's literally a kilometre-and-a-half from Zhiibaahaasing First Nation to the US/Canadian border."

"So, we launch in the West End and go out and do ice patrols, or they can launch at St Joe's Island and then we launch at Meldrum and meet up on the ice," said Sgt. Mack. In the wintertime it is all about the snowmachines, but in the summer, the forces will do the same with vessels. Now that we've (UCCM APS) got a vessel last year, that'll be in

... continued on page 15



# **Artist requests** assistance from Indigiqueer voices.

Booshoo kina wiiya. I am an Indigenous art therapy student in my last year of a two-and-a-half year dual art and expressive arts diploma offered trough WHEAT Institute. I am currently looking for participants for my research project which is title "A graphic novel of Indigenous narratives within the intersections of Indigenous & LGBTQPAI2+."

I am conducting this research to elevate Indigiqueer voices. My understanding of the word Indigiqueer is one that encompasses being Indigenous (including Métis) and someone who identifies under the Pride spectrum of LGBTQPAI2S+.

As an artist, I have come to understand art narrates a story from multiple lenses; sight, spirit, heart and mind. My project aims to engage the reader, the sight seer, to see beyond what they don't know to move to understanding as they navigate a graphic novel filled with Indigiqueer voices. Once the project is completed and presented to WHEAT Institute, I will be looking to publish the graphic novel through mainstream publishing.

Participants must be over 18 years of age, consent to publishing, be Indigenous and fall under the Pride spectrum in order to participate. I am looking for approximately six participants. I will be gifting participants with semaa and a small gift. Pseudonyms will be used to ensure confidentiality of participants.

If this is something that interests you, please private message me at cagawa@lakeheadu.ca. Once I receive your message, I will then contact you for an initial meeting to describe the project. Once this is completed and there is agreement to moving forward, I will then follow up via an email (further outlining the project, provide consent forms and any other additional information). Milgwech for you time.

Carrianne Agawa

# ...The Tradition Continues

Again this year, your community newspaper is a finalist in open competition with all of Ontario's community press!

# **OCNA Awards**

All-Ontario Finalists Congratulations to The Manitoulin Expositor a finalist for

 Best Front Page Best Spot News Photo Best Guest/Freelance Column Final placings will be announced at the Better Newspapers Competition Awards event in April.

And Honourable Mentions in the categories of:

• Best Environmental Story Best Website **A**ocna



**YOUR** Community

Newspaper.

# 'Momma Mia' rocks the MSS stage with an evening of ABBA delight

by Michael Erskine

M'CHIGEENG—Disco isn't dead—no, no, no it's onstage, looking good. The Manitoulin Secondary School production of 'Momma Mia' brought the music and styling of that musical '70s era to life with the songs of ABBA (music and lyrics by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulaeus) informing a story of a young woman seeking her paternal roots.

The storyline has all the earmarks of a delightful farce, as the action takes place on a sun-drenched Greek Island where 20-year-old bride-to-be Sophie Sheridan (Pheobe Aeschlimann) is hoping to discover the identity of her father. Having discovered her hotelier mother's diary, Sophie has narrowed the field down to three men who her mother was "involved with." With-



Sidebar romances abounded

out her mother's knowledge, she has invited all three to her wedding sure that she will know who her father is at first sight. Of course, that doesn't happen.

The production followed the ensuing tensions with great hilarity and plenty of great songs—albeit there was no disclaimer warning of potential earworms.

Once again MSS students and volunteers have outdone themselves, adding yet another poster of a successful production to the school cafeteria/theatre walls.

Ms. Aeschlimann opened the show with an overture/ prologue followed by 'Honey, Honey' wherein she was ably accompanied by Ali (Saramarie Wassegijig) and Lisa (Evalena Mainprize).

The prospective fathers, Sam Carmichael (Jordan Goddard), Bill Austin (Dylan Kuntsi) and Harry Bright (Garret Charbonneau) provided hilarious foils to both daughter Sophie and mom Donna Sheridan (Cameron Meawasige) as they worked their way toward the wedding day. Each of the prospective fathers eventually wound up being tasked with walking Sophie down the



The entire MSS cast takes a well-deserved bow



The almost wedding scene was a pivolal moment in the plot.

Mother Donna Sheridan was once a free spirit lead singer of the trio Donna and the Dynamos and her two lifelong friends Rosie (Divine Commanda) and Tanya



A heartfelt mother daughter scene.

(Maddy Latva-Aro) attempt to rekindle some of the old

Meanwhile, off to the side and above the orchestra pit (directed by Chris Theijsmeijer) the ABBA singers Lexi Chan, Taylor Goodfellow and Robyn-Ashley McNaughton provided backup that added significant depth to many of the numbers being performed.

The orchestra pit itself is worthy of mention, as MSS boasts one of the few high school productions that has live music accompanying its plays in the province that largely thanks to a dedicated group of talented vol-

This year that cadre included conductor (and keyboardist) Chris Theiismeijer. The band included four keyboard players, with the quartet being filled out by Alex Baran, Ray Scott and Holly Scott. Jon Best is on guitar along with Annette Smith (also bass) and Bill Elgie fills out the team with percussion.





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per Migwans, Tabitha Pel-

# Debajehmujig's 'Maamwi' brings Medewin foundations to the stage

by Michael Erskine MANITOWANING—Before the arrival of Columbus, before the pilgrims on the Mayflower and Plymouth Rock, before Champlain or Cartier, or even the Vikings, there were the Anishinaabe. The Anishinaabe had their own traditions, customs and spirituality for millennia before the inroads of the Voyageurs and the Black Robes brought Christianity to Indigenous communities, eventually all but

nous spirituality. The Midewin Lodge was

muscling out that Indige-

formed in order to preserve and foster that original spirituality and ways of being, taking them into the shadows and hiding them far from the sight of the priests, RCMP or Indian agents who were determined to stamp them out.

Today the Midewin Societies continue their work, now in large part no longer hidden and ready, once again, to be shared with everyone and anyone who wishes to follow another, more land-conscious way of being. In its opening, the production made it clear this was not



The cast of Maamwi included Daniel Recollet Mejaki, Dustin Trudeau, Richard Ashley Manitowabi, Sapper Migwans, Tabitha Peltier and Tyler Pangowish.

photos by Michael Erskine

tier and Tyler Pangowish included both veteran actors and relative newcomers such as Mr. Migwans delivered an outstanding performance that was both informative and accessible to their audience.

Among the stories being told-with their associated petroglyphs painted on deer hide banners-were the Four Axes, Symbol of Time, Preservation of Humanity, The Legend of the First Dream, Symbol of Life, Symbol of Freedom. The associated symbols are but a handful of the hundreds that can be found carved into rocks along canoe routes or painted on stones along ancient pathways and represent just a few of the foundation teachings that lie at the heart of pre-contact Indigenous spirituality and continue to thrive up to the present day.



One of the many petroglyphs that helped to inform the new production. Each of the symbols covered in the play were on

a condemnation of anyone's spirituality—that being a personal choice of the individual.

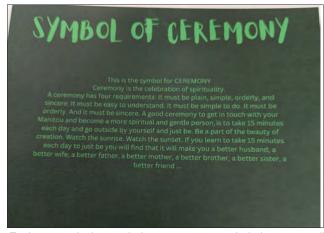
Debajehmujig Storytellers have always sought to incorporate the foundation teachings of the Midewin into their work 'Maamwi' which ran from February 12 to 22 joins its predecessor 'Global Savages' in bringing that knowledge to a broader audience.

Originally under the tutelage of Midewin Odawa Elder Eddie King baa and now informed by his

protégé David 'Sonny' Osawabine, the petroglyphs form an important mnemonic to relate those foundation teachings.

The performances were dedicated to the ongoing plight of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and there was a brief ceremony at the beginning of the production to that end.

The cast, under the direction of Bruce Noakwegijig and consisting of Daniel Recollet Mejaki, Dustin Trudeau, Richard Ashley Manitowabi, Sap-



Each petroglyph symbol was accompanied by a small



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# ...Ontario chiefs, Ottawa strike unique child welfare pact

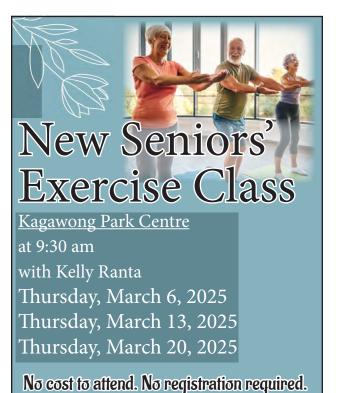
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ties," said Chief Corbiere. "This agreement should never have become political in nature. It is an issue of providing what is needed for the betterment of our children and community. This agreement is all about the children that we service, and how these services should be provided, in our own communities."

"I am really glad this vote passed," stated Chief Corbiere. "This agreement is all about the children that we service, and how they should be serviced."

The agreement follows the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) having rejected a \$47.8 billion offer last year, with Canada at this point refusing to restart the nation-wide negotiations.

"Today is an important day but today is not about an individual. It is about our collective efforts in this region to advance the priorities that you have set out," Ontario Regional chief Abram Benedict said at the signing agreement. "You have told us, 'We need to stop



# <u>Targeting:</u>

- strength
- balance
- mobility
- fall prevention

· fun



the discrimination in our region.' We need to bring the resources to our communities. We need to enhance our jurisdiction. We need to be able to support our families today. We can't wait for a national agreement."

Ontario Regional Chief Benedict and Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler also issued the following statement. "We are so proud of our leadership for their unwavering dedication to reforming the broken child welfare system for our children today. This is a significant step forward in a process that has been ongoing for nearly 20 years. It has been nine years since COO and NAN applied for intervenor status at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) to both represent the unique interests of remote First Nations and to ensure that First Nations retain decision-making over their own child and family services. "NAN's participation at the table was vital in ensuring that the realities of our remote communities were recognized and accounted for in this process," Chiefs Benedict and Fiddler said. "We have achieved groundbreaking results, including an evidence-based process for adjusting funding to account for the increased costs associated with delivering services in remote areas."

"When the National Final Agreement that was approved by our leadership in October was rejected at the Assembly of First Nations, we didn't give up. Our leadership was determined to protect the significant advancements made, and so we carried on, pushing to do what is best for our children. The Ontario Final Agreement that was ratified today is not a new agreement but builds upon the hard work that has been done to reform the FNCFS and will bring long-overdue change. We know that this is not the end of the road, and we will continue to advocate for meaningful change. We are not at the beginning of a new day: the start of true, community-driven reform."

"Chiefs have expressed their inherent right to make decisions regarding their children and they expect that these decisions be respected as this process unfolds before the CHRT and beyond," Chiefs Benedict and Fiddler continued. "Any attempts to delay the implementation of these decisions will be considered an unacceptable interference in this inherent jurisdiction. We therefore call upon all other parties to refrain from any interference that could impact the agreement's approval and implementation. We will similarly act in support of Chiefs in other regions who wish to make similar decisions that impact their children."

Sheshegwaning First Nation Chief Alana Endanawas said, "on February 26 we passed a resolution to support and ratify the Ontario final agreement on the long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and the Trilateral agreement in respect of reforming the 1965 agreement. This agreement allocates funding for the provision of child and family service to first nations communities. This will be a significant development for us, as it will enable us to establish our own child and family services program for Sheshegwaning First Nation. This is a step forward for children and families throughout the territory."

"It was certainly good news that this agreement on long term child reform was supported by the Ontario chiefs on February 26," said Whitefish River First Nation Chief Rodney Nahwegahbow. "First Nation lead-

ership have always been pushing to get proper funding especially since the current mechanism was old and failed to meet the needs of our first nation children for both on and off reserve."

"The long-term reform of the child and family services program funding announcement will provide \$8.5 billion over a period of nine fiscal years," said Chief Nahwegahbow. "This is a substantial increase from our previous funding arrangements and carries with it our ability to deliver an increased level of culturally appropriate services. We have lived and tried to manage an old system that didn't reflect the need of our children and youth. I am grateful for the work and advocacy of our past and present first nation leadership, our tribal councils, COO and NAN for the perseverance that has led to this agreement."

The Ontario final agreement commits Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to provide \$8.5 billion over nine fiscal years. The intent of the agreement is to address systemic issues, prioritize the welfare of First Nations children, and empower First Nations across Ontario to determine how best to provide culturally appropriate child and family services. The effectiveness of the reformed FNCFS program will be reviewed at the five-year mark and before the end of the nine-year period to ensure it continues to meet the needs of First Nations children and Families.

Indigenous Services Minister Patty Hajdu was on hand last Wednesday for the signing ceremony with the two chiefs. She said, "this agreement today signifies that a whole new generation of our children are not going to have to go through what many, many of you have gone through, noting that First Nations people have been widely impacted by a colonial system that used apprehension of children, theft of culture, language, land and tradition as a tool to undermine inherent rights."

Minister Hajdu praised Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for granting her the mandate to move this agreement along in Ontario, after the original offer had been rejected by the AFN.

The agreement also commits Canada to work with COO and NAN to pursue reform under the 1965 agreement with the government of Ontario, including off-reserve funding. The 1965 agreement currently exists as a cost-sharing agreement between Canada and Ontario, setting out the formula Canada uses for reimbursing Ontario for the cost of delivering social assistance, childcare, homemaking and child and family services on-reserve.

"Yesterday, I had the distinct honour of witnessing a momentous and landmark occasion with the passing of the Ontario Final Agreement by the Chiefs of Ontario," said Anishinabek Grand Council Chief Linda Debassige. "The collective discussion to advance incremental and tangible change for our children rooted in inherent rights and jurisdiction of our communities to take care of our own is a true demonstration of unity and vision."

"We've come a long way from prior to 2016 where fiscal allocations in relation to First Nations child welfare services were non-existent due to the discriminatory practices of the federal government. As with any negotiation, the agreement is not perfect. However, it does create a pathway forward for our communities and our children while allowing our leadership to continue to address the outstanding issues that are important to Anishinabek Nation member First Nations."

National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak said, "Ontario's final First Nations child care agreement will create sweeping positive changes for children and families across the territory. We lift up Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict, Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Council Chief Alvin Fiddler and all Ontario chiefs for their leadership to help end discrimination in Canada's racist child welfare system. They have been good relatives to the next generations of First Nation children."

The agreement aims to partly resolve a human rights complaint filed by the Assembly of First Nations and First Nations Child and Family Caring Society in 2007.

"We can be a leader on this for all other provinces," said Chief Corbiere.

The final step before the agreement comes into effect is the approval form the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal

# ...border patrol protocol

...continued from page 12

the works too."

The Manitoulin and North Shore regions have a long history of smuggling dating all the way back to the 1930s and US Prohibition—going back even before that time during bouts of tariffs in the past.

The collaborative patrols will allow the services to develop protocols and policies that will guide those working relationships.

These inaugural patrols are taking place over the course of three days, with the officers familiarizing themselves with the trails leading from the US to Canada, across Manitoulin and on to Killarney. The increased patrols will assist in tackling smuggling of drugs, guns and other contraband between our two countries.

The group decided to head out on the Friday leg of the patrols under the sign memorializing 28-year veteran OPP Constable Marc Hovingh, who was killed in the line of duty while investigating a trespassing complaint in Gore Bay.



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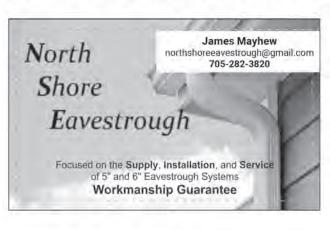














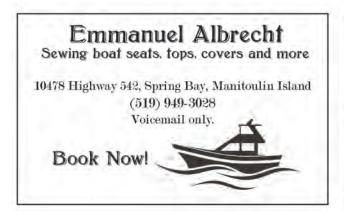




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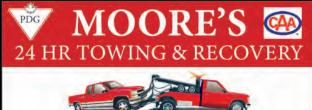


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New ground floor two bedroom apartment in downtown Little Current close to water and all amenities. Has three appliances and parking. Asking \$1,700 all inclusive. For information call 705-368-1145.



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

World Day of Prayer featuring Cook Islands on Thursday, March 6 at 11 am at the Silver Water United Church, 20336 Hwy 540. Luncheon at 12:30 pm at Stop 540 Restaurant followed by UCW at the Church at 1:30 pm. Roll Call: wear green for St. Patrick's Day. Welcome for any part or all of

St. Patrick's Day Potluck Supper, hosted by the Silver Water United Church is on Monday, March 17 at 5 pm at the Silver Water Hall. Admission is by donation with proceeds to the Angel Bus.

Chili Fest Luncheon, is on Saturday, March 8 from 11 am to 2 pm at St. John's Anglican Church, Kagawong. Serving homemade chili, biscuits, refreshments and dessert. Stay or take-out for \$14 (cash only). Proceeds to support St. John's Church.

41-42p

Little Current Fish and Game Club Annual Spring Roast Dinner and Fundraiser at the Little Current Legion on Thursday, April 10. Door prize and raffle; cocktails at 5 pm, dinner served at 6 pm. Only 125 tickets available, \$40 each, dine-in only. Serving roast beef supplied, prepared and served by the Burt Farms. Included is a salad, main course, dessert and tea or coffee. For more information or tickets call President Lou Shortt, 705-368-2446 or Garry Elliott, 705-368-3055 Or you can pick up your tickets at The Manitoulin Expositor, Little Current.

Bag Davs have begun at Knox United Church Rummage Sale in Manitowaning. Fill a large bag for \$5 or a small bag for \$3. Open Wednesdays to Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm.

# Weengushk Film Institute and Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig to announce full film production certificate program in Sault Ste. Marie

Weengushk Film Institute (WFI) and Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig (SKG) have announced a new partnership, gathering on February 12 to unveil details of the Certificate in Short Film Production program that will be starting this fall at Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig in Sault Ste. Marie.

The launch of this program marks a significant



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



Memorial United Church in Gore Bay is hosting a "Cultural Dinner and Silent Art Auction" on Friday, April 4. Come out to enjoy an authentic traditional Filipino dinner catered by a lady from the Philippines. A silent auction of art donated to the church (by people downsizing or redecorating) will take place as well. These will be very affordable with opening bids beginning from \$2 to \$5. Great opportunity to pick up something new for your home, your camp or your kids/grandkids. Come out for a great dinner and a funfilled silent auction. Cost is \$25 per person. Tickets will be sold until March 21 only. Doors open at 5:30 pm with dinner at 6 pm. Auction is optional, just come out for dinner if that suits you better. We hope you can join us! 42-44p



# 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 nto 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.

# 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

milestone in the collaboration between WFI and SKG. The program will commence on September 22 and run until July 2026.

announcement event provided attendees with an overview of the program, designed as "a full-term certificate to equip students with practical filmmaking skills and a deeper understanding of narrative sovereignty and Indigenous storytelling.

"This partnership reflects our shared commitment to providing meaningful education

blends technical skills with cultural storytelling," said WFI vice president Nano Debas-"We are proud to be offering this program in collaboration with Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig, empowering students to tell stories that inspire and resonate."

During the unveiling, attendees learned bout the program's curriculum, its emphasis on Indigenous knowledge, and how it will prepare students for careers in media arts. The event also highlighted the importance of storytelling as a tool for cultural preservation and creative expression.

Lab 1 of the program provides students with hands-on training in filmmaking, covering everything from concept development and screenwriting to cinematography and post-production techniques. Graduates will earn a Certificate in Short Film Production and develop professional skills to launch their careers or pursue further studies in film.

"We are thrilled to partner with WFI to bring this

program to our campus in Bawaating," said Mary Wabano-McKay, president and CAO of Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig. "This collaboration provides learners with an unparalleled opportunity to explore storytelling through film, rooted in both technical excellence and cultural teachings."

Registration for the September 2025 cohort is now open, and more details can be found at weengushk.com and shingwauku.org.

# Art Classes Now Available!

Art classes are now available at the Vendors Only Market, 60 Meredith Street East, Little Current (the former McQuarrie Motors building across from the Beer Store) by artist Nick Cywink.

Call (705) 987-9297 to register or inquire.



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

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

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

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

Tfn



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

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

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

# **Death Notices**

# **BLAIR HOWARD BAILEY** July 14, 1938 - February 17, 2025



t is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Blair Howard Bailey on Monday, February 17, 2025 at the age of 86. Born in Evansville, Blair was the beloved son of the late David Norman and Annie (Robinson) Bailey. He was the devoted husband of Donna (nee Dinsmore)

of Gore Bay, sharing 66 wonderful years of marriage. He was a cherished father and father-in-law to Debbie and Dennis, David and Patti and Jody and Jean. He was a proud grandfather to Eugene, Marissa, Tanis, Rylan, McKenna, Sean, Chelsea, Crystal, Renee and Zacharie and a loving great-grandfather to Tate, Tanner and Emma. He was predeceased by his siblings Lloyd, Chester, Wray, Ilene, Blanche and Helen. Blair began working at an early age with Ontario Paper Company before spending his working career at Inco. He raised his family in Val Caron before returning home to Manitoulin Island in 1989 where he formed lasting friendships with his neighbours on Thorburn Street in Gore Bay. An outdoorsman at heart, Blair found joy in camping, hunting and fishing, especially when sharing those experiences with his children. He was the rock and guiding light to his family, strong, steady and always there with unwavering love and support. A Celebration of Blair's Life will be held at a later date, with interment at Burpee Mills Cemetery. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered for his kindness, wisdom and the many lives he touched. Please share your thoughts, memories and photos at www.simpsonfuneralhome.ca.



Memorial donations are gratefully appreciated and can be made at the admitting office to the auxiliaries of the Manitoulin Health Centre and the Renovation Fund in both Mindemoya and Little Current and the Gore Bay Manitoulin Lodge Auxiliary Incorporated, 3 Main Street, Gore Bay, Ontario, POP 1H0 and the Manitoulin Centennial Manor Fundraising or Manor Auxiliary, Postal Bag 460, 10 Robinson Street, Little Current, Ontario, POP 1K0. Donations can also be made to the Manitoulin District Cenotaph Fund, Box 656, Little Current, Ontario POP 1K0 or Pet Save Manitoulin, Box 393, Gore Bay, Ontario POP 1HO.

Remember your loved ones fondly in The Manitoulin Expositor

In Memoriam or Obituaries

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

# Island woman wins in Split the Pot lottery

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN-Manitoulin Island resident Nicole Taylor won \$1,000 in the Split the Pot lottery.

The Split the Pot lottery includes hospital foundations from across Ontario. Proceeds from every ticket sold can either be split among participating Ontario hospitals, including the Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC) or be directed to a participating hospital of their choice.

"I chose to support Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC) because I believe in the importance of having accessible medical services on Manitoulin Island. It is crucial for

our community to have these services locally, and I hope to see MHC expand its offerings so that we no longer need to travel to Sudbury for certain treatments," said Ms. Taylor. Ms. Taylor said, "My

experiences with MHC have been consistently excellent. This includes personal visits, as well as those involving my children and husband. The hospital provided exceptional care for my fatherin-law during his stay, and when my father suffered a heart attack while visiting from Hamilton. the prompt and skilled intervention by Dr. (Ken) Barrs saved his life. Most recently, my two beautiful granddaughters were born at MHC, and the care my daughters received from the nurses and doctors was outstanding."

"If you are considering purchasing Split the Pot Lottery tickets, I highly encourage you to do so,' continued Ms. Taylor. "By buying tickets, you are directly supporting MHC, and you also have the chance to win a prize!"

Paula Fields, president and chief executive officer of the MHC, acknowledged, "We have been fortunate that many local and seasonal residents are participating in the Split the Pot lottery as it not

only benefits MHC, but it also benefits other hospitals across the region. Fifty percent of the winnings go to the participating hospital and 50 percent goes to the winner and there are many opportunities to win through early bird draw and the jackpot is usually well over a million dollars."

"Hospitals are not funded for equipment purchases, so the proceeds from the Split the Pot assist us with purchasing equipment for the clinical areas of the hospital," added Ms. Fields.



East Manitoulin Old Order Amish Church has applied for consent to establish an East Manitoulin Old Order Amish Church Cemetery and submitted by-laws to the registrar of the Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002.

Any interested parties may contact Lloyd Albrecht at (519) 801-5653 for information or to review or make copies of the cemetery by-laws.

The application for consent and the cemetery by-laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002.

Telephone: Bereavement Authority of Ontario (647) 483-2645 or 1-844-493-6356



Manitoulin resident Nicole Taylor won \$1,000 in an early bird Split the Pot lottery draw. Ms. Taylor, right in photo is presented with the \$1,000 winning cheque by Paula Fields, president and chief executive officer of the Manitoulin Health Centre.



# **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST CLIENT & FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

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

Would you like the opportunity to provide your feedback to help improve the programs/services offered by Noojmowin Teg Health Centre? Are you able to attend a minimum of four (4) meetings per year?

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 Women's Representative
- 1 Men's Representative
- 1 Elders' Representative (age 55+)

1 - LGTBQ2S+ Representative 2 - Youth Representatives (age 16-29)

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

Debbie Francis, Executive Director Noojmowin Teg Health Centre Email: debbie.francis@noojmowin-teg.ca Noojmowin Teg Phone: (705) 368-0083 Ext. 235

Mobile: (705) 348-2182

Health Centre A place of healing

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

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO CONDUCT AN **EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES** DELIVERED BY M'CHIGEENG HEALTH SERVICES

Date Issued: February 4, 2025

M'Chigeeng Health Services (MHS) is the health department of M'Chigeeng First Nation. Since 1995, M'Chigeeng First Nation has been managing and delivering health services through contribution agreements with the Indigenous Services Canada. The health services offered are intended to address the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of health. M'Chiqeeng Health Services provides a continuum of community health care that focuses on health promotion, illness prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care.

#### Purpose of the 2025 Health Services Evaluation

This evaluation is intended to assess the effectiveness of programs and services provided by M'Chigeeng Health Services.

The evaluation will seek to:

- · Identify programming strengths;
- · Identify changes in health status and health outcomes;
- · Make recommendations to improve health information systems; and
- · Identify and make recommendations to address the challenges and barriers to integrated and holistic health services delivery.

This proposed evaluation will consider a five (5) year time period from 2019/2020 to 2024/2025.

Are the program activities leading to the expected results?

**Evaluation Questions: Evaluation questions:** 

Primary question: Primary question:

Additional evaluation questions:

- · How well are programs, services and projects administered, managed and integrated within M'Chigeeng Health Services and coordinated with external programs/organizations?
- Are programs and services delivered in a culturally safe manner?

#### Additional questions to be determined by the Evaluation Steering Committee:

M'Chigeeng Health Services is seeking proposals from experienced contractors to conduct an evaluation of its programs and services. The evaluation is to be completed by May 30, 2025. The project budget is not to exceed \$30,000 (including GST).

Proposal Requirements:

The proposal should include the following:

- 1. A cover letter
- 2. Understanding of the project
- 3. Proposed approach to the evaluation
- 4. Proposed methodology
- 5. Proposed work plan that details activities, deliverables and time frame
- 6. Proposed budget with a breakdown of fees and expenses
- 7. Description of the research team that outlines relevant evaluation
- 8. Resumes of research team members
- 9. Three references with contact information

The proposal should be submitted as a single electronic document, no longer than 10 pages in length.

Important dates:

**Deadline for proposal submissions:** March 14, 2025 at 4:00 pm

Start date for project: March 24, 2025 Completion date for project: May 30, 2025

Questions and proposals should be submitted to: Floyd Ense, Department Manager

M'Chigeeng Health Services 705-377-5347 x 2202 or 705-862-1920 Email: floyde@mchigeeng.ca





# BOARD VACANCY OFF-RESERVE REPRESENTATIVE

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

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

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

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

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

#### Pre-requisites:

Please submit the following:

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

Send "Confidential" to:

Attn: Board Chair c/o Noojmowin Teg Health Centre
Hwy 540, 48 Hillside Rd., Postal Bag 2002
Little Current, ON P0P 1K0
Ph.: 705-368-0083 ext. 235, Fax: 705-368-3922
Or email: debbie.francis@noojmowin-teg.ca

Deadline: Posting is open until filled

Miigwech/Thank you to those who express interest and submit an application.

Only those under consideration will be contacted.

# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF NORTHEASTERN MANITOULIN AND THE ISLANDS NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING A PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT 12030 HWY 6

# TOWN OF NORTHEASTERN MANITOULIN AND THE ISLANDS TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands will hold a public meeting on April 8, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Office, 14 Water Street East, Little Current. The purpose of this public meeting is to consider a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment under Section 34 of the Planning Act for the property



located on Concession 13, Lot 19, 31R44124 Part 3 and 4 12030 HWY 6 Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands. The attached key map shows the affected property.

The effect of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment special exception SR-40 will amend the zoning from Commercial Tourism to Shoreline Residential lots on two newly created building lots. This application is running concurrently with a consent application for the creation of two building lots with water access.

ANY PERSON may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed By-law Amendment.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin & the Islands before the proposed By-law Amendment is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin & the Islands to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin & the Islands before the proposed By-law Amendment is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

An explanation of the purpose and effect of the proposed By-law Amendment, describing the affected property, a Key Map showing the location of the affected property to which the proposed By-law Amendment applies, and a copy of the complete proposed By-law Amendment is available for inspection during regular office hours at the Municipal Office, 14 Water Street East, Little Current.

DATED at the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands on 2025-03-05. Ms. Pam Myers, Clerk Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands 14 Water Street East, P.O. Box 608 Little Current, ON POP 1K0 Ph.: (705) 368-3500







# Alexandra Wilson-Zegil

There are just a couple days left until the March break begins! Students are excited to take a break from school, travel, sleepin, or take some more time for their hobbies! Just because the break is so close doesn't mean Mustangs have slowed down! Here is what they are getting up to.

For Grade 12 students planning to pursue post-secondary education next year, now is the time to start preparing! Weekly scholarship sessions are back, with teachers and guidance counselors helping out at lunch to offer support in securing finan-

cial support. The sessions help students with applications, eligibility criteria, and show them websites to maximize the chances of receiving a scholarship.

Students, whether you're looking at universities, colleges or trade schools, there are numerous scholarships available, including merit-based, needbased and those for specific fields of study. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn about available funding and how to apply. Stay tuned for session dates and times and take advantage of this valuable resource!

The MSS Annual Winter

Carnival is set for Thursday, March 6, and it's going to be a full day of fun to kick off the March Break. With various clubs hosting activities throughout the day like board games, trivia, and movies! The Mustangs Hockey Tournament will also take place on the same day at the M'Chigeeng arena.

The Prom Committee is now forming, and community support is encouraged to help make this milestone event unforgettable for Grade 12 students. Planning prom involves organizing decorations, selecting themes, arranging music and catering, and ensuring a memorable experience for all attendees.

Students interested in being part of the planning process are encouraged to get involved. Community members who wish to support the event, whether through sponsorship, donations, or volunteering, are also welcome!

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



# notice

#### Application for CONSENT Under Section 53 of the Planning Act To be held on Tuesday, April 8th, 2025 at 7:00 pm

File No.: Con 2025-02

**Applicant:** Ten Mile Point Resort – Blair Hagman **Legal Description:** Sheguiandah Concession 13,

Lot 19 31R4124 Part 3 and 4 Civic Address: 12030 Hwy 6

Official Plan: Shoreline Area and Rural Area

Zoning: Commercial Tourism

### PURPOSE OF THE APPLICATION:

Purpose of this application is for the creation of two new building lots with water access.

### CONSENT IS REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

The consent is required for the creation of two new building lots – concurrent zoning applications are also submitted to rezone these lots from Commercial Tourism to Shoreline Residential lots.

**ANYONE INTERESTED IN THESE MATTERS MAY ATTEND** the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands public meeting concerning this application. If you have specific comments regarding this application, you may submit a letter to the Secretary-Treasurer of the planning authority prior to or at the meeting.

**IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND** this Hearing, it may proceed in your absence and, except as otherwise provided in the Planning Act, you will not be entitled to any further notice in the proceeding.

**IF YOU WISH TO BE NOTIFIED** of the Decision of the Planning Authority in respect of the proposed Consent, you must make a written request to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Planning Authority at the address shown below.

**IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY THAT FILES AN APPEAL** against a decision of the Approval Authority in respect of the proposed consent has not made a written submission to the Approval Authority before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Ontario Land Tribunal may dismiss the appeal.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** regarding this application is available to the public for viewing at the Municipal office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday; or you may contact Ms. Pam Myers, Clerk at (705) 368-3500 ext. 228.

Dated: March 5, 2025

Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands 14 Water St. E., P.O. Box 608 Little Current, ON P0P 1K0



# Island photographer to create historical Gore Bay collection

GORE BAY—A new project is bringing the history of downtown Gore Bay back to life thanks to the efforts of local photographer and historian Michael Lalonde. Through painstaking photo restoration, Mr. Lalonde is reviving rare images that showcase the town's evolving business district, giving residents a glimpse into its past while celebrating its ongoing transformation.

Mr. Lalonde has been carefully restoring hisphotographs torical that capture Gore Bay's streets, businesses, and landmarks as they once stood. His growing collection, which he hopes will include at least 12 restored images, is set to become a lasting part of the town's heritage. The first edition of the collection will be donated as a permanent exhibit to the Gore Bay Museum, while the second edition will be presented to the Town of Gore Bay as a tribute to its rich history and continued development.

"This project is about more than just images,' Mr. Lalonde explained. "It's about telling the story of how Gore Bay has adapted and thrived over the decades. These photos serve as a bridge between our past and our future."

"I am hoping to get as many photographs as I can of the towns downtown, and businesses in town over the years," said Mr. Lalonde. "We are looking for landscape photos to get an idea of the layout of the downtown over the years and businesses in not only the downtown core area, but other areas of the town as well. And we would like people to help share their stories, and memories from the past."

The restoration efforts coincide with a significant revitalization of downtown Gore Bay, making it a timely reflection on the town's evolution. Mr. Lalonde has been sharing some of the restored images on social media, where they have sparked conversations among local residents. He said many have shared their own memories, adding valuable context to the photographs and deepening the connection between past and present.

Now, Mr. Lalonde is inviting both current and former Gore Bay residents, whether they live in town or across the the collection. Anyone with old photographs of Gore Bay's downtown, businesses, or community events is encouraged to come forward and share them for potential restoration.

photograph "Every holds a piece of our history," said Mr. Lalonde. "I would love to see contributions from families who have old images tucked away in albums or attics. Together, we can create a more complete picture of Gore Bay's past."

Mr. Lalonde's passion preserving histo-

country, to contribute to yry extends beyond this collection. Through his Timeless Photography brand, he also offers photo restoration services, helping individuals bring their own cherished memories back to

> "It is all about remembering the town's roots and looking forward to its future," said Mr. Lalonde.

> For those interested in contribution historical photos or learning more about the project, Mr. Lalonde can be contacted on Facebook on his Timeless Photography page.



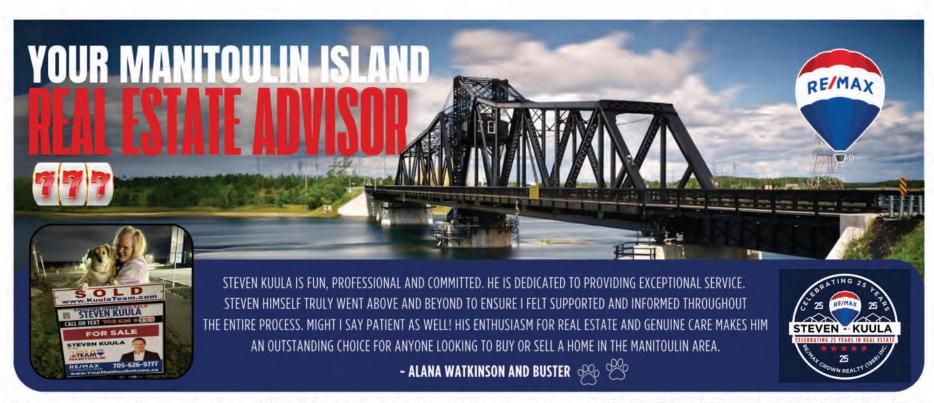
Rock and rollers

Thirteen members of the Little Current MHC Auxiliary took part in the 3rd annual Rock-a-Thon, rocking for five hours with 10-minute breaks hourly. To date, \$6,818 was raised. "But there's more coming in," treasurer Marilee Hore reported. The auxiliary is grateful for all the support they have received in this endeavour, which goes to support the hospital's fundraising efforts for new IV pumps.' The rockers are, from left, Lin Diebel, Carman Adam, Margery Frisch, Marilee Hore, Teresa Nahwegahbow, Lynn Cote Veilleux, Shirley MacGregor (standing), Diappe Musgrape Testi Bloke have McCarpell Babbie Hore, Carpell Babbie Labelle property Maked. Dianne Musgrove, Tooti Blake, June McConnell, Debbie Heise, Carole Labelle, mascot Mabel, 'rocking chair granny,' and Myra Henderson.

photo by Lori Edwards



One of the revived images that local photographer and historian Michael Lalonde has painstakingly restored, as part of his new project showcasing the history of downtown Gore Bay and its evolving business district.



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Mindemoya MLS®#: 2120662 | \$679,000



MLS®#: 2118363 | \$949,000









71 Corbiere Rd Lot X, M'Chigeeng MLS®#: 2119986 | \$249,995

433 Cross Hill Rd,

M'Chigeeng

MLS®#: 2118846 | \$85,000

















# **VACANT LAND**

PT1 Hwy 540, **Gore Bay** \$79,900 MLS #: 2120505

PT2 Hwy 540, **Gore Bay** \$79,900 MLS #: 2120506 12 Cockburn St, **Little Current** \$39,000 MLS #: 2112049 1/2 ACRE

Lot 86 Limberlost Ln, Mindemoya \$79,900 MLS #: 2119535 1/2 ACRE

**N/A Monument** Rd, **Spring Bay** \$227,500 MLS #: 2119695 4.5 ACRES

**New listing** coming soon! 452 Goose Gap Crescent, **Barrie Island** \$159,000



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#### **FEATURED LISTING!**

MLS #2120893

Welcome to 15 Bay Street, a raised ranch style home with a split entry that is close to local shops and amenities in the charming town of Mindemoya on Manitoulin Island. Family friendly recreation space downstairs with custom bar and propane stove. 3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms including a jetted bath tub. Stainless steel appliances, washer and dryer, fiber internet access, SMART Thermostats and Lifebreath Residential Heat Recovery Ventilators (HRVs). In addition, the home has a generator plug adapter for power outages, and a large back deck with BBQ hooked up to the propane. The lot is large at 11 ft x 200 ft, just under 0.5 acres, with apple trees.



Little Current, downtown commercial space for rent in high traffic area. 1,000 sq ft. Bright modern finish with wheelchair accessibility, dedicated parking, bathroom, and an office/storage room. Available April 2025.



Amazing oversized site with two buildings on Hwy 542 includes a charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath home ideal for a short term rental plus a separate 2,200 sq ft building that can be used for retail or a restaurant, includes owner's accommodations. MLS #2120712-3 | Spring Bay, \$800,000



Lake and mountain views, hardwood forest, open farmlands, escarpment ridge, interior lane way and an aggregate license. Year-round access, 10 min drive to Little Current, hydro at Hwy 6. Close to schools and shopping. MLS #2120791 | Sheguiandah, \$499,000



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



size is especially uncommon. Private estate-sized lot of 33 acres boasting 627 feet of crystal-clear waterfront. Gravel lane way. Flat water access. MLS #2116861

Mindemoya, \$499,000



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

MLS #2119947, Bay Estates, \$598,000



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

Manitowaning, \$69,000



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

MLS #2118123

Sandfield, \$52,900



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

MLS #2118483

Monument Road, \$125,000



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

MLS#2120110

Little Current, \$149,000



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

MLS #2120652 Sheguiandah, \$139,000



renovated, modern, spacious 2 bed, 1 full bath apartment. Income property across from famous Bridal Veil Falls, near beaches, restaurants, marina-a tourist hot spot.

MLS #2120813 Kagawong, \$649,000



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



J. Alan Wright Broker Cell: 705-869-7568



Rob Norris H.B.A. Agent Cell: 705-968-0030



Al Frank Agent Evenings: 705-859-3297



Alan Mihelchic Agent Cell: 705-282-4602



Lori Edwards Office Manager 705-368-2381



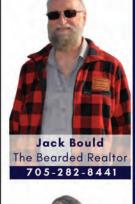
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MLS 2120537 | \$17,500

20 Thorburn St, Gore Bay

MLS 2120066 | \$495,000

385 Grimesthorpe Rd, Spring Bay

MLS 2120143 | \$85,000

Scott McDougall Salesperson

10558 **HWY 540** 



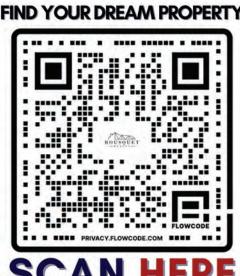


21 Worthington St, Little Current MLS 2120579 | \$425,000



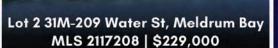


















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# **Mew Listings on the Market**

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# N Price Adjustments

Many sellers are adjusting their prices to match market trends



Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

# Porter Clark Purvis Thibault hockey tournament continues to bring great hockey to Gore Bay's arena

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—The annual Porter Clark Purvis Thibault hockey tournament was once again a huge success with great hockey and a packed Gore Bay arena for all the action.

"We had a great weekend, and this tournament is something that has been going for 41 years," stated Nick Lane, president of the Western Manitoulin Minor Hockey Association (WMMHA) at the awards ceremony for the Sportsmen A division championship. He



The M'Chigeeng hockey team won the 40 and over A division championship, beating Team Orford in double overtime.



Average Joe's defeated the Little Current Bandits in the championship game of the Sportsman's A division.

pointed out that all the proceeds raised from the annual tournament goes back into the minor hockey association to keep player registration fees down to help local families and keep minor hockey going.

"I would like to thank all the teams and players for taking part in the tournament, and all the referees and timekeepers, without them we would not be able to have this tournament," said Mr. Lane.

In the Sportsmen A division championship, Average Joes defeated the Little Current Bandits by a close 6-4 score. Average Joes was up 4-2 going into the final period.

Winning the Godfrey Porter Memorial Trophy for their efforts, the Average Joes team included Andrew Trowbridge, Mike Stolar, Chris Hrabec, Luke Sinclair, Brendan Briggs, Riley Bennett, Mason Hare, Matt Orford, Justin Sweeney, Ron Stolar, Sean Persechini, Brett Stolar. Members of the Porter family were on hand for the trophy award presentations.

Stacey Rayner and his

family presented the Rick Rayner Memorial most valuable player award to Average Joe's goalie Chris Hrabec.

In the Sportsmen B division final, the Manitou Monsters defeated Bud Knights by a 6-3 score. Manitou was up 3-0 at one point in the opening period, but the Knights scored two goals before the end of the period to make it close entering the second stanza.

Members of the Clark family presented the Hiram Clark Memorial trophy to the winning team. The Manitou Monsters included roster Jake Pita, Rob James, Justin Lanktree, Lucas Abotossoway, Jordan Trudeau, Greg Trudeau, Brandon Orford, Dawson Camp-Jarrid Debasige, bell, Noah Hare, Chase Nelson, Parker Dickinson, Hunter Smith, Curt Porti, Ryan Lanktree and Dakota Hare.

Probably the best game of all the final matches in the two divisions was the 3-2 overtime win by M'Chigeeng over Team Orford in the 40 and over championship game. Team Orford had a 2-0 lead in the game until the third period when M'Chi-

ing the tying goal with 37 seconds left in the third period.

After a scoreless five-minute period of 5 on 5 hockey M'Chigeeng

geeng tied it to send the

game to overtime, notch-

five-minute period of 5 on 5 hockey, M'Chigeeng won it with 9.8 seconds left in the second overtime, a three-on-three format.

"You can't get much more exciting than that," stated Mr. Lane,

The Purvis Platt memorial trophy was presented to the M'Chigeeng team and includes Brian Corbiere, Mitch Varey, Arron Assinewai, Dan Clark, Greg Mishibinijima, Chuck Peltier, Hawke Eshkawkogan, James McComber, John Ense, Travis Corbiere, Sundance Hare, Rob Martin, Andrew Corbiere and Curtis Bulloch.

In the 40 and over B division, Team Blodgett shutout the Gore Bay Fossils 7-0 to win the Randy Thibault Memorial Trophy. Members of the Thibault family presented the championship trophy.

"One person who is missing this year is Ken Blodgett, who passed away in 2024," said Mr. Lane.

The Blodgett team included goalie Chad Chevrette who posted the shutout, Tom Lockeyer, Roger Hayden, Curtis Flanagan, Darren Brown, Stephane Madore, Chris Deschenes, Kurtis Noble, Kyle Noble, Joel Lock, Norm Jones and coaches Don Wright and Mark Sanchez.

There was a total of eight teams in the Sportsmen division, with four teams in the 40 plus division.

# **Manitoulin Sporting Life**



**Panther Points** 

The Manitoulin Lady Panthers traveled to Sault Ste. Marie for their first ever Deb Sims Memorial Tournament on the weekend. The U-18 Panthers left early Friday morning and made it just before Highway 17 closed due to the inclement weather. The U-18s met the Sault Greyhounds first. The game could have gone either way but an unlucky bounce put the Greyhounds up for a final score of 1-0. The next game saw the Lady Panthers against the Thunder Bay Fury, which ended in a 2-2 tie.

On Saturday afternoon, the Ladies came up against a strong Timmins Falcons team and again the puck didn't go the Panther's way and the game ended in a 1-0 loss. The girls played a late Saturday night game against the Traverse City North Stars and came up with a 1-1 tie. The Lady Panthers ended up having to meet the North Stars again on Sunday for the Consolation game. This game turned out to be a nail biter. Three periods ended in a 3-3 tie. It remained a tie after a period of sudden death 3 on 3 overtime.

In an impressive display of goaltending by Manitoulin's **Brynn Best** and the Traverse City goalie, the shootout round saw 17 shooters from each team make attempts to take the lead. In the end the Lady Panthers were victorious and claimed the bronze medal.

While the Lady Panthers were in the Sault, the U13 and U15 Panthers were in Sudbury for their Nickel District Hockey League Playoff tournaments. The U13s had two exciting and close 2-2 tie games with the Sudbury Wolves, and losses to Copper Cliff and North Shore. The U15 Manitoulin Panthers met teams from both the Northeastern Ontario Hockey League and Nickel District League in their playoff tournament. The U15 squad continued their 26-game winning streak all through the weekend. On Sunday afternoon they met the Nickel City Cubs in the final game, winning the Championship pennant by a score of 5-2.

Here is U-15 Nickel District Minor Hockey League U15A Champion roster! Sean Simon, Alexei Pelletier, Casey Bowerman, Roen Deschenes, Ryan Carter, Sierra Elliott, Liam Stephens, Adrian Bois, Ozhaawashko Migwans, Kobe Mayers, Alex Bourcier, Collin Goodfellow, Spencer Cortes, Max Mc-Leod, Cohen Rajotte, Bryden Romaniuk and Brayden Armstrong.

Bench staff: Head Coach Scott Stephens, Assistant Coaches Nelson Deschenes and Ty Hughson and Trainer Brayden Rajotte.

Up next, the Lady Panthers prepare for their bid at Provincials, while the U15 and U13 Panthers are gearing up for their NOHA Tournament of Champions. Go Panthers, go!

### Pickleball pick-ups!

The 2nd annual Espanola-Manitoulin Pickleball Winter Challenge was held in Espanola on Saturday February 22. It was a great success with 22 participants. In the final, Manitoulin's **Bud Hebner** and **Ginette Simo**n prevailed over Espanola's **Ashely** and **Dan**. If you are interested in experiencing this fun sport, Manitoulin's winter playdays are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings at the NEMI recentre, Tuesday evenings at both NEMI recreation centre and MSS and Thursday evenings at MSS. For more information check out the Manitoulin Pickleball FB page or website.



In the final, Manitoulin's Bud and Ginette prevailed over Espanola's Ashely and Dan. Manitoulin winter play days are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings at the NEMI rec centre, Tuesday evenings at both NEMI rec centre and MSS and Thursday evenings at MSS.

### Hockeyville Wiikwemkoong!

A community effort has submitted an entry for Wiikwemkoong into the Kraft Hockeyville competition! The prize includes (assistance) money for arena repair, always a worthy project. In this preliminary stage, points are gathered by community participation such as photo and story submissions. It is clear, that there will need to be a concerted effort from beyond the local community to get further onto the short-list. Let's all help them get there!

Some of my most memorable hockey memories were there. Watching my brother **Wade**, playing goal for the first Panther team and got to play a home game in Wiky, at the Thunderdome! The place was standing room only and (some) Sudbury parents were flabbergasted to say the least!

It was also the first time I can remember getting a penalty (thanks **Henry Hoy!**). I can recall that my offending trip was obvious and unnecessary and in the neutral zone. I just stopped at the penalty-box and I like to remember that it was **Greg Mishibinijima** who calmly got up and continued on in to score again, I'm sure!

I am not exactly clear how a small community competes fairly against larger ones, but the winners have been diverse. Last year's winner, Elliot Lake, found out that their support came from a much wider base than their municipal boundaries so hopefully they can return the favour! Although Elliot Lake was pleased with the prize Kraft provided, unfortunately they were still unable to open their arena again this season. With most of our arenas showing their ages, we all need to support any efforts to improve their lot.

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

# Wiikwemkoong Justice Program hosts panel on gangs and youth

by Michael Erskine

WIIKWEMKOONG-Former gangbangers Andy Luu of Scarborough and Gene Malcolm of Winnipeg brought their insights Wiikwemkoong Justice Conference 2025, taking part in a Youth Gang Awareness Panel that shed light on how gangs recruit youth and strategies to spot the signs and combat gang influence.

Mr. Luu was first up at the podium.

"I'm going to share about today is just a little snippet about my life, kind of a little snippet into the way I grew up and hopefully you can see what I went through and how I ended up here and what that story means,' said Mr. Luu. "Five parts and we'll break it up to the way I grew up, where I grew up, my family, how I ended up being involved in gangs, how I ended up getting out and then how I ended up here."
"I grew up in Scarborough. I'm not too sure if

you guys heard of Scar-

borough or where Scarborough is," said Mr. Luu. "It's notorious for building character, as I would like to say. So, the character that I grew up with was I got involved instantly with gangs. The whole neighbourhood, the whole area is made up of little subpockets of little gang members. I grew up in Guildwood and Galloway, a very well-known area in Scarborough that bred and built a lot of criminals and delinquents."

"I lived there my entire life. My ethnic ancestry is from Cambodia, so we're Southeast Asian," he said. "My parents moved us to Galloway. The area is very nice. Very, very cultural, tons of great food. People know how to season their food, you know, like, compared to other than just salt and pepper. I loved it for all that. All the experiences that I gained, despite the hardships, it really did build who I am, so that's the first part.'

"My dad was a very, very disciplinary man, so



Youth gang panel coordinator Jonathan Pelletier, at podium, with former gang members Andy Luu and Gene Malcolm and Gene's sister Tamara.

he grew up where there was a lot of war, a lot of genocide, and it built him up to be the man who he is," said Mr. Luu. "I don't blame my father for the way he raised us, specifically me, because that's what he thought. But now, when I look back at it and the way he saw me, it was horrible." "He wanted us to do well in school, and he also wanted us to do well in physical school, so, what I mean by physical school is anything sports-related or fitness. Academic-wise, I had to get straight As. I had to take all the sciences, the STEM programs, the map programs, and I had to get an A minimum, if I didn't, it was push-ups or sleeping outside. There's lots and lots of trauma from my father—the good thing is, I learned a lot. I learned a lot about science, learned a lot about parabolas. I learned a lot about anything related to math or science that I hardly use today. Not gonna lie, when it comes to fitness my father, back in the time when he was in Cambodia, he was a boxer, so he did something similar to what Thai boxing is." "He wanted to give me that life, so he put me in boxing, and he put me in Thai boxing here," said Mr. Luu. "I would say I did fairly well when I was a young kid. I competed

photo by Michael Erskine professionally. I won a

couple of medals, but what people don't see behind that, is all the discipline and all the hard work that he instilled into me."

But it was a brutal life for a five-, six-year-old. "I would go days, a couple of weeks, where I wouldn't sleep because I didn't get one thing right. If I was close to fighting an opponent in the next two months, I would have to run five, six miles every single day. If I wasn't doing it, then my father would do this thing he loved to call 'bedtime wakeups,' and every single two hours he would wake me up, every two hours, every single day,

just to make sure I would go run. And to me, that built such a foundation at home that I never wanted to be home. So, at around six or seven, I left. I went to go into the parks in Scarborough and just sit there, or I go to libraries and read books, just to stay away from my fa-

ther."
"Lo and behold, that's the perfect place to find your second family," said Mr. Luu. "I got involved at six years old. That's when I first met "a recruiter." This is how it played out. I went to a park, and I was just sitting there, playing at around 9 pm. Kind of crazy? A fellow young kid come up to me and say, 'hey, what are you doing? I said, 'I'm playing with sand. I'm making some sandcastles,' and he said, 'oh, what's going on? Why are you out here at 9 pm? And I said, 'oh, I don't know. Don't want to be at home because my dad's an asshole.' 'Oh, interesting. My dad's an asshole too. That's why I'm out here. Um, why don't you come hang with me? I'll take care of you. I'll be your big brother. Do you have an older brother?' and I was, like, 'no, I have an older sister, but she's not that cool'."

"That's how easy it is to get involved," he said. "It doesn't start from me wanting to join. It just starts as friendship, and it starts as building that. Kind of creating that bond that I missed out on at

The third part, where I got into that life, and when I first joined, you do something called 'getting jumped in,' which is essentially initiation."

The gang's shot callers, essentially the higher ups, look at the individual

who brings someone in.
"They go. Hmm, okay, this person is good with physical stuff, so, okay, this guy's a brawler. He fights, right? He trains. He does this. So, let's use that. And let's use that to him getting jumped in. Me, because they knew that I was involved in a lot of physical sports."

What followed was beat-

"I was, like, seven or eight, and they were all in a circle," Mr. Luu recalled. "I had to fight every single person within that circle. It doesn't matter if I'm bruised up. Doesn't matter if I'm bleeding. Doesn't matter if my hands are broken, and so you continuously do it until they stay stuck. And it's different for everyone, at

least from what I learned.

Some of them had to steal

something from their parents that was important to them, some of them had to stab a rival, some had to shoot somebody. But it's ultimately up to what the shotcaller dictates." From there it was all about working one's way up the ladder "I started off as a spotter, or like, kind of a recruiter as well,

what's going on, dad's an asshole? Mom's an ass-...continued on page 3A

where I would be in the

sandbox looking for oth-

er kids and going. 'Hey,

# MUNICIPALITY OF ASSIGINACK

BOX 238, MANITOWANING, ON, POP 1NO (705) 859-3196 or 1-800-540-0179 www.assiginack.ca

#### Requires **PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES**

The Township requires self starters to perform public works operations on a year-round, full-time basis.

> A detailed job description and pay grid may be obtained from the undersigned.

Applications will be accepted until 4:00 pm, Friday, March 14, 2025, by mail or email to ahobbs@assiginack.ca.

> Township of Assiginack PO Box 238 Manitowaning, ON **POP 1NO** www.Assiginack.ca

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

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

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



# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Township requires a self starter to oversee all aspects of the Township's Public Works and Infrastructure.

A detailed job description and pay grid may be obtained from the undersigned.

Applications will be accepted until 4:00 pm, Friday, March 14, 2025, by email to ahobbs@assiginack.ca or by mail at:
Township of Assiginack
PO Box 238 Manitowaning, ON POP 1N0 www.Assiginack.ca

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

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



employment@mchigeeng.ca

# ...Wiikwemkoong Justice Program hosts panel on gangs and youth

...continued from page 2A hole, mom's not home, dad's not home. Let me help you out. Here's five dollars so we can go buy pixie sticks or whatever.' So, I started there.

From there he moved on to tagging, marking the gang's territory with graffiti. "In Toronto, because there's so much space, and so many people, we had to mark our territo-

ry."
"After I tagged, I moved on into dealing drugs," he said. "Because they found that I was very charismatic and talkative, they're like, oh, this kid is great. This guy is definitely going to be successful."

"I went on to dealing selling weed, crack cocaine, ecstasy, anything, and because I don't fit the stereotypical look I was able to get away with a lot of things. I was very successful in that field. I would go into schools. I'd go into something we had in Toronto, we have called Friday Night Lights, which is like a big, big football game. Our high school football teams would come. They would face other rivals and up to five thousand."

Being a small, bookish kid, his backpack filled with drugs would never get checked "The cops looked at me and said 'we don't need to look at your bag. It's probably filled with science books'.

By the time he was 15, high school time, he was



Manitoulin Legal Clinic community legal worker Susie Mullen was on hand doing outreach.

moving up in the gang

Then it all changed.

"I thought these guys were my brothers," said Mr. Luu. "I thought this was great. I thought this was awesome. Until the moment that I messed up on something. The moment when I messed up, it flipped the switch. It was like, I no longer mattered. I no longer meant anything to them, and it was about how much they can inflict pain. It was like an eye-opening. After all, I've done, and like everything I've supported and helped and furthered this—that I believed in this notion of family and suddenly you're able to toss me out so easily. And that's the moment when I thought to myself, 'this ain't it.' If I messed up again, I don't know if I'm going to be given a second chance. I don't know if I'm gonna be on the news, on CP24, saying that I'm under like an underpass and shot." "I needed help and I didn't know what to do. I'm 17ish, 16 if I remember correctly, and I was, like, 'oh my God, what am I going to do?' I reached out to my supports, and I reached out to the people that I had great mentorships with."

"If I didn't receive the supports that I had, I would probably still be in the life, or I probably wouldn't be here. To me, I reached out to my coaches. I reached out to my community members and some friends that were involved in the religious community, specifically Muslim. Because in my area, we grew up with a lot of Muslims. So, for me, I just reached out to individuals or friends, saying,

'hey, I need some help.'" Mr. Luu was eventually able to get out from under the gangs by leveraging the prime motivating factor—greed. But first he was offered a more horrifying option.

He was given a handgun and told to shoot his father. "I said, 'okay, cool. No worries. I don't like the guy anyways'." But he was not able to carry the murder out.

"I remember just sitting in the back, just holding this handgun and going 'am I gonna actually do this?' I thought about it.

I was shaking in the car, and I remember going into the house unlocking the door going up to my parents' room.

"I didn't go through with it," he said. Shooting his father was different than the terrible things he had done to other people. "I ran out of there. I told the guys that I didn't do it, so we went back. They beat the shit out of me."

He hit upon another

"I proposed an idea," he said. "I brought in a huge PowerPoint presentation with pictures and everything and I said, 'I have all the money that I've earned and all the money I've saved. What if I give you all this? You guys leave me alone, right?' I told them this ain't the life for me. I told them straight up, like, you know, I've been here since I was six to 17-18. Plenty of years, you know, I haven't snitched. I've been successful with you guys. I've supported and helped you with everything. I'm not running. I'm not gonna rat on you. But I need to get out. This ain't the life for me.'

They finally relented. But he left with nothing. It was then time to fall back on the discipline instilled in him by his father.

"I took everything that I had in my core values, which is discipline, you know, respect, loyalty. A whole bunch of other good core values if you Google he quipped. "I was able to apply this to good things. I went to school. I went to university. I graduated with a criminal justice degree. I went into work in law enforcement, which is kind of ironic. And then I worked there at the Border Services, so I did a lot of law enforcement there for two, three years. I left that, and I was like, this isn't fulfilling. I want to support youth. I want to support people that I've gone through that I went through, and like, maybe I can stop, you know, little Andy from going through that.'

He began working with youth and the Toronto police, guiding homeless youth into transitional housing. He went on to work with the City of Mississauga as a recreational programmer, creating programs for disadvantaged youth as a sort of coach/mentor, giving them a safe place to stay. Then it was working with CMHA, "where we talked about justice policy and how we can create better programming for individuals that need it—and that's where I'm at. Now, I'm working with Native Child and Family Services. So, in this position, I work as a concurrent disorder specialist, so I work with individuals that have challenges with mental health and substance use, that's something I dealt with as a kid growing up. That's where the biggest changes are."

"Yes, I've done a lot of bad things," Mr. Luu said. "Yes, I've done a lot of good things as well, but what's consistent is my core values of being respectful, loyalty and discipline.

Next up at the podium was Gene Malcolm, from Ebb and Flow First Nation Manitoba. His body festooned with tattoos, he fits the very caricature of the gangbanger he was for several years.

Mr. Malcolm's family was impacted by the residential school system. "I used to know my language when I was three, four, five, six, seven, I lost it from not from speaking," he said. "I did 30 years in the gang life, 22 years in jail. I was six or seven when I started. But my life started when I was four years old. These white people came into my mom's house and they said to my mom, 'you're drunk.' She wasn't drunk, but they said you're drunk and called the agents. They just took me and my sister.'

The home they went to told him that their mother did not want them.

He asked himself, 'why are people doing this to me?

There was a room with a huge mirror that he feels he was probably being watched through.

'That's where it all starts," he said. "When I got to that place, I didn't care for nothing and nobody. My grandpa, my dad, nobody, I used to love them all so much. it just made me think different about the way the world

He recalled sitting in a basement with a group of friends, age around nine or 10, watching a movie called 'South Central.' That instilled the inspiration to start their own gang—the Nine Deuces were born.

"It's early 1992, we are little tiny boys, we didn't even know anything else, but we just watched this movie where this black guy from Compton starts a gang called South Central, and he's a little guy. Everyone is behind this guy because he was a good speaker.

They began selling drugs.

They took two bandanas and cut them down the middle, putting them back together to form diamond shapes. It was the mutual bond of their new "fami-

But gangs are very territorial, and Nine Deuces were stepping on Indian Posse territory.

"My Uncle Shrimpy, he was one of the founders of another game called Indian Posse in 1988," said Mr. Malcolm. His uncle came and beat up the gang leader. "He beats Freely up, knocks his front teeth out and tells him little Gene is coming to the North End and just gonna live with us. So, I go to the North End. I started hanging out at this place called The Merchant Hotel.

'We were little kids, you know, and it got deeper and deeper. Now, once I started hanging out with Indian Posse," he said. "These guys were all from residential schools too.'

It was a rough and tumble existence—with horrific violence simply a way of life for a 10-yearold.

"They'll give you a gun. You can find your enemy and you shoot them," he said. He shot his first victim in the back of the head. "I shot his whole hair off. I got a G money tattoo on my finger after that. And then they're like, 'oh, this guy's crazy, you know. So, after I think to myself? Like, all right, I could shoot people, you know, what I mean? When am I dealing with these guys? Why am I letting these old men tell me what to do. I'll just shoot them, you know, after they die.'

...continued on page 4A



# is seeking qualified individuals to fill the following positions:

 Delivery driver (Class DZ licence a must)

· General labourer (Class G licence preferred)

Estimator

Applicants are encouraged to drop a resume off at the store, 9130 Hwy 6, Little Current, or email aaron@ronalittlecurrent.com

# Manitoulin Denture Clinic Leanne Bentley HON. B.Sc., DD | Your Denture Specialist

# **Employment Opportunity Junior Dental Technician**

We're seeking a Junior Dental Technician to join our team. This position requires attention to detail and the ability to prioritize and multi-task in a fast-paced environment.

# Responsibilities:

- Operate dental equipment and machines Prepare plaster and stone models
- Sculpting and molding wax
- Processing dentures
- Make dental trays
- Repairs/Relines working with acrylic

Part-time hours:

Salary:

Part-time 30 hrs per week

Monday to Friday in Little Current

\$18 - \$25 per hour depending on experience

Prior experience can be an asset but willing to train candidate. Nine month contract with potential to renew.

Interested candidates should apply to manitoulindentureclinic@hotmail.com by March 14, 2025.



# **Principal, Indigenous Education**

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

Rainbow District School Board is now accepting applications for a Principal, Indigenous Education.

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

Interested candidates should apply by 3 pm Friday, March 14, 2025 and submit a cover letter, resume and names of three (3) references.

> **David Farrow Board Chair**

**Bruce Bourget**Director of Education

rainbowschools.ca

# Wiikwemkoong Justice Program hosts panel on gangs and youth

...continued from page 3A He began taking pills, started drinking.

Being under the age of 10, the gangs knew he would not be charged.

"I turned 12 and cops already know about everything I've been doing," he said. When he took his father's gun and robbed a group of youth when he was he was arrested for the first time. It began a

"I used to just go to jail on purpose," he said. "I would just steal a car or something. Just crash it and wait for them to come arrest me so I can go home. Just to get a break from the streets. I did 10 years in segregation and it didn't break me. They tried to break me. There were people come outside my door (makes a whooping sound familiar from many Hollywood movies) and I can't get them because of the metal door. The guards are racist. The people were racist."

He is now 40 and looking back on his life.

"I mean, all the friends that I thought were solid. all these guys that I look back at now that I looked up as heroes, they're all dead," he said. "These guys are all dead before they were even 40."

Mr. Malcolm recalled how he could easily murder someone and feel no remorse. The drugs and street lifestyle had brought with it schizophrenia and a spiralling

literally lost my mind—the devil came to see me and he gave me an exacto knife and he said, 'if you kill somebody, and you kill yourself, I'll let you see your dad," recalled Mr. Malcolm. "It was a white man sitting beside my jail cell."

The turnaround in his life came with the birth of his son.

"What I'm scared about is like, what if he has that in him," he said. "Like, I have that in me, you know what, I mean. To take another life. To shoot anybody on the spot."



Lee Malcolm was helping his mother Tamara with a vending booth at the conference.

The life he lived in the gangs is still going on to-

day.
"So, that's why I'm like coming here today, just like I'm a proud Native man," he said. "I might look different than everybody, but I'm just as Native as everyone you know. I'm trying to just raise awareness and let you guys know. Don't yell at your kid when you see

them struggling, or like crying or quiet or anything like that. Don't give them lickings, don't tell them they're weak."

Mr. Malcolm noted that it was thanks to his sister Tamara, who always stood by him, that he was finally able to break the chain that bound him to the gang life.

He noted that many people from the Northern reserves wind up in the city, whether on medical leave or some other reason, and then wind up trapped there. Perhaps winding up in a small hotel where someone helps them deal with their isolation with "free" drugs. The panel were asked how to spot gang influence in the community.

"Easiest signs, for sure, is like when it comes to gangs is seeing colours," said Mr. Luu. We kind of wear colors for pride in what we represent. So, Gene mentioned something called rags, so rags are like just indicators like little bandanas or certain colors that we wear. So, whether it's red, blue, or whatever it is. Like, if your child is just getting money out of nowhere, if they're buying you clothes, if they have

smartphones, games, little things that you're not used to seeing." Isolating themselves or hanging out with friends that you've never heard of are also signs. "Money is the biggest indicator, the rags, the colors, those are the main ones.'

"Man, your kids need you like, do something for your kids," said Mr. Malcolm. "Do something you'll feel better when you get your kids better stuff than yourself. You know what I mean? Like, because that's what we're here for is to make our kids, so it's better."

Asked about his connection with his Creator, Mr. Malcolm said that he is trying to connect with his traditions and culture, going to powwows and participating in sweat lodges.

Both panellists warned the community that urban gangs are targeting small rural communities because the pickings are easier.

They advised the community to do everything in their power to send the gangbangers packing. "One person can't tell these people, it has to take everybody you know," said Mr. Malcolm.

"Gangs are very, very

smart," said Mr. Malcolm. "They specifically target isolated communities.' The attraction is that drugs will sell for much more in a small, isolated community than in a downtown Toronto neigh-

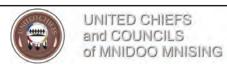
Social media has given gang recruiters a much longer reach, they noted. It is important to foster a close relationship with your children, otherwise they will find another family in the gangs.

"Have those sit-down conversations, if you have those dinners together, you have those conversations of 'hey, how is it going? How was the school? How is this? How are your friends? Are you still talking to Sam' or whatever it is. I think that fosters and prevents a lot of things from happening," said Mr. Luu.

The key message presented by the panelists was that criminals do not like the limelight and if they know that they will be reported to the police by the neighbours, they will eschew that community. While the community stays silent because of fear, the criminals can feast. "They don't want to get caught," said Mr. Luu.

"Don't be scared to report it. If you have like a group of people, like a Neighbourhood Watch, you can make it uncomfortable for the dealers." said Mr. Luu.

"Everybody should be aware," agreed Mr. Luu. "Don't be afraid to report it. I never wanted to encourage people to be being telling on people, but in this kind of situation where it's hurting our families and our friends and our kids and our and everybody, just let's get rid of them. If I knew someone was always telling someone, you'll stay away from that person."



#### INDIGENOUS YOUTH PREVENTION/INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Location: United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising Tribal Council – M'Chigeeng First Nation **Duration**: Full-time Permanent (pending funding)

The United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising Justice Program is an Anishinaabe Community Justice Program. The IYPIP Worker will work in partnership with the UCCM Anishnaabe Police Services to address critical program and service gaps for Indigenous-specific responses to gang activity and gun violence in Ontario. This program will target the root causes of gang involvement by providing culturally-relevant youth educational and physical activities. The educational component will include educational assistance and career/employment mentorship with participation from police officers in the local police service to better establish relationships with the community. Culturally relevant activities will be organized that focus on positive, strengthbuilding experiences that are rooted in one's relationship to family and the land. The Program will provide services to youth 8 -18 years old.

To Apply: Mail or deliver a complete package which must include the following:

- 1) cover letter
- 3) copy of valid Ontario driver's licence
- 4) three work-related letters of reference including at least one from a supervisor/manager

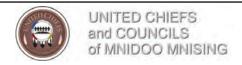
Closing Date: March 21, 2025 at 12 pm

Incomplete, emailed or late packages will not be considered. Thank you for applying, but only those candidates who are selected for an interview will be contacted. Preference will be given to Anishinaabe applicants. Please self-identify in your application.

Mark "Confidential-IYPIP" to:

Paula Corbiere, Justice Department Manager United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising Box 275, M'Chigeeng, ON POP 1G0

\*\*A full job posting with Responsibilities and Qualifications can be found at www.uccmm.ca.



### FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER PROGRAM

Location: United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising Tribal Council – M'Chigeeng First Nation **Duration**: Full-time Permanent (pending funding)

The United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising Justice Program is an Anishinaabe Community Justice Program. The FASD Program Worker will assist, support and advocate for community members who have been diagnosed with or who are suspected of having FASD and are involved in the Canadian justice system. The program worker will increase awareness about FASD and how the Justice System engages with Indigenous people affected by FASD.

**To Apply: Mail** or **deliver** a complete package which must include the following:

- 3) copy of valid Ontario driver's licence
- 4) three work-related letters of reference including at least one from a supervisor/manager

Closing Date: March 21, 2025 at 12 pm

**Incomplete, emailed or late packages will not be considered.** Thank you for applying, but only those candidates who are selected for an interview will be contacted. Preference will be given to Anishinaabe applicants. Please self-identify in your application.

### Mark "Confidential-FASD" to:

Paula Corbiere, Justice Department Manager United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising Box 275, M'Chigeeng, ON POP 1G0

\*\*A full job posting with Responsibilities and Qualifications can be found at www.uccmm.ca.



### **KINA Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services**

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

We are currently inviting applications for the following employment opportunities:

- After Hours Youth Outreach Worker
- After Hours Youth Transitional Home
- Youth Cultural Outreach Worker
- Child and Youth Worker Casual

# **Manitoulin Island:**

- Youth Outreach Coordinator
- Child Well-Being Worker
  - Human Resources Administrative
- Youth Connection Worker

Case Aide

### **Sudbury or Manitoulin:**

- Youth Cultural Support Worker
- Volunteer Driver: Open Recruitment
- Cultural Enaadmaaget

### \*All postings close March 7th, 2025 at 4 pm EST\*

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

# www.kgcfs.org/employment-opportunities

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

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

Thank you for considering a career opportunity with us.

# Gore Bay Legion celebrates the 2025 Legion Public Speaking competition

by Tom Sasvari with files from Margery Frisch

MANITOULIN-Four Manitoulin elementary school students took part in the Royal Canadian Legion public speaking zone championships, with one student, Riley Hubbard of Charles C. McLean Public School, qualifying to go on to the next level of competition.

Riley Hubbard, 13-years-old of C.C. Mc-

At the zone championships, in the primary division, Rowan McGale placed second in the primary division, with his sister Piper McGale placing third in the junior division. In the senior division, Ada Nicholls finished in second place. Unfortunately, none of the three students from Little Current Public School will be moving on to the district championship.

public speaking competition held in Sudbury in February.

"The (CC McLean) playoffs were held in the school on February 5," said Jim Woods, of the RCL branch 514 in Gore Bay. The two students who were to take part in the zone championship intermediate included grade level student Riley Hubbard and Arlo Menzies in the junior division. Clara Montague, who was



Riley Hubbard (second from left in photo) a student at C.C. McLean Public School in Gore Bay took first place in the Royal Canadian Legion zone public speaking championship and has now qualified to the next level of competition.

part in the zone competition.

As was reported in the February 12 edition of The Expositor, the RCL Branch 177 in Little Current held its public speaking competition, with students from Little Current

Public School taking part in the event held at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 177 (Little Current) February 9. Rowan McGale was first in the Grade 1 to Grade 3 category, Piper McGale took top spot in the Grade 4-7

category and Ada Nicholls, first in the Grade 7-9 group all qualified for the zone championship.

Mr. Hubbard will take part in the RCL district public speaking champions, taking place in Onaping Falls on March 23.



The Municipality of Gordon/Barrie Island requires an energetic, self-motivated individual with excellent work ethics

#### The full-time employee for the Roads Department

must have a valid DZ licence, experience driving snowplow, grader experience would be an asset. Must complete required documentation, perform equipment maintenance. Previous experience with building and roads maintenance would be beneficial. Available Immediately.

> Applications will be accepted until March 17th at 12 noon:

The Municipality of Gordon/Barrie Island Carrie Lewis, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer Box 680 Gore Bay, ON P0P 1H0

Tel 705-282-2702



Riley Hubbard, 13-years-old and a student at C.C. McLean Public School in Gore Bay, (in photo left front) took first place in the Royal Canadian Legion zone public speaking championship and has now qualified to move on to the next level of competition.

Lean, took first place in the RCL zone public speaking championship held at the Lockerby Legion Branch 564 February 30. His speech was titled 'How Video Games Affect

While winners were selected in three different age categories, two Charles C. McLean Public School (CCMC) students took part in the Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) zone 5 and was unable to take

first in the primary division, qualified for the zone level competition but has moved away since the C.C. McLean in-school competition on February

# Manitoulin Central Family Health Team (MCFHT) is looking to fill the following position:

#### 1 Full-Time - Nurse Practitioner

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

A successful candidate will be required to:

### **Position Summary**

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

### Qualifications

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

### Compensation

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

### Please submit your resume to:

Manitoulin Central Family Health Team PO Box 10. Mindemova, Ontario POP 1S0

Attn: Lori Oswald Fax: 1-855-908-2517

Email: manitoulincentralfht@mcfht.ca

Please reply in writing no later than 4 pm, March 7, 2025.

\*Only those selected for an interview will be contacted\*

MANITOULIN CENTRAL



# The Township of Burpee & Mills

# **Employment Opportunity:** Municipal Clerk-Treasurer

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-

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
- Fully proficient in information technology including Microsoft Office, Excel and
- 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 4 day, 35-hour work week. 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 <u>burpeemills@vianet.ca</u> quoting "Clerk-Treasurer" in the subject line. Resumes will only be accepted until Thursday, March 13, 2025. We appreciate all responses; however, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

# Gore Bay Bruins are the 2025 U9 Manitoulin Minor Hockey champions

GORE BAY-The Gore Bay Bruins are the 2025 U9 Manitoulin Minor Hockchampions!

T.J. McDermid, president of the MMHA ex-

ey Association (MMHA) plained, "the U9 tournament was hosted by Mindemoya Minor Hockover the ey



The Gore Bay Bruins team (shown in photo) are the 2025 U9 Manitoulin Minor Hockey champions. photo by Tom Sasvari

WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION

# **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

# **EDUCATION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

Term: Full-time (35 hours per week) Salary Range: \$44,880-\$53,590/year + Group Benefits and Pension \*Subject to education and/or experience or a combination of both

The Executive Assistant is key in supporting the education team and ensuring the smooth, efficient and effective operation of the Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN) Education Department. This role requires managing critical administrative and operational processes and providing high-level support to enhance the functioning of the department. The Executive Assistant will coordinate community engagement sessions, schedule meetings, assist with financial matters and prepare communication materials for parents, students and staff. This position contributes to the continuous improvement and success of educational programs and operations in a fast-paced environment.

#### Administrative Support & Coordination:

- Work closely with the Education Manager to keep them informed of upcoming commitments and responsibilities and ensure the efficient operation of the Education office.
- Prioritize inquiries and requests and make judgments and recommendations to ensure smooth day-to-day engagements.
- Research and follow-up on issues addressed to the Education Manager, including those of a sensitive or confidential nature, and draft/manage correspondence promptly and accurately.

### Meetings, Events and Logistics:

- Prepare agendas and meeting materials and record meetings for the Education Committee and
- Arrange travel, accommodations and logistics for the Education Committee members and other staff attending meetings, conferences and professional learning opportunities.

### **Financial and Operational Support:**

- Assist with processing invoices, cheques and other financial documents, ensuring they are correctly signed, coded and distributed.
- Monitor and track financial transactions and assist with account reconciliations for the Education Department.
- Maintain accurate financial records and filing systems and assist with financial reporting as needed. **Communication & Community Engagement:**
- Facilitate communication between the Education team, community members and external partners.
- Assist in providing up-to-date information, resources and opportunities to students, parents and
- Welcome visitors, greet them in person or by phone, and direct inquiries as necessary, ensuring excellent customer service.

### **General Administrative Support:**

- Maintain office supplies, equipment and subscriptions for the Education Department and manage administrative tasks as required.
- Compile data, prepare reports and create documents for presentations, committee meetings and other educational initiatives.

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

- Post-Secondary Diploma in Business Administration or another relevant diploma preferred.
- Minimum two years of proven and successful related experience as an executive-level assistant in an organization of comparable size and scope, preferably in a First Nations setting or organization.
- A combination of education, training or work experience that WRFN deems equivalent. A valid driver's licence and access to a vehicle are preferred.

### **SKILLS:**

- Experience with computer programs (i.e. Microsoft Office, email and internet, Sage 300, etc.). Effective communication skills, both oral and written, with the ability to interact with a diverse
- Highly organized with excellent time management, file management and multitasking abilities.
- Ability to take meeting minutes, prepare agendas and handle confidential information.
- Strong problem-solving skills with the ability to prioritize and handle urgent tasks in a fast-paced
- Exceptional interpersonal and relationship-building skills, including working effectively within a
- Knowledge of First Nation communities, education systems and government processes is an asset.
- Ability to manage financial transactions and budgets and report as needed.
- Proactive and self-motivated with a high level of initiative and attention to detail **UPON HIRE:**

### Must provide an acceptable Police Criminal Reference Check (CRC)

Applications must be submitted by noon on March 7th, 2025.

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

> **Confidential: Education Executive Assistant** Whitefish River First Nation

17-A Rainbow Ridge Road, PO Box 188, Birch Island, ON POP 1A0 Email: iobapplications@whitefishriver.ca • Fax: (705) 285-4532

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

(February 22-23) in Mindemoya. We had six teams take part, Mindemoya Thunder, M'Chigeeng Thunderbirds, Gore Bay Bruins, Little Current Manitowaning Flyers, Wolves, Hawks." Wikwemikong

Gore Bay Bruins won the MMHA Island championship A final with a 7-2 victory over the Little Current Flyers.

Kurtis Noble, assistant coach of the Gore Bay Bruins, pointed out that the Bruins finished first in their division in the regular season, dropping just one game all regular season.

The Bruins team includes head coach Kevin Mills, assistant coaches Kurtis Noble and Jeff

Aubrey Robinson, Archie Noble, Adam Honess, Ace Hardy, Alec Mills, Millie Lane, May Lee Wheale, Tim Aube, Nora Crawford, Laken Gravelle, Tay-

ford, Lanc-lor McLean.
The Wikwemkoong Hawks defeated the Manitowaning Wolves 2-1 to capture the B final.

# WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
EDUCATION MANAGER **FULL-TIME** 

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

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

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

#### Strategic Planning & Community Engagement

- Develop and implement strategic  $\bar{p}$  lans and educational initiatives in consultation with the Education Committee.
- Engage the community in the development of programs and services, ensuring alignment with cultural values and local needs

#### **Program Coordination & Support**

- Oversee all education programs and services, including early childhood education, elementary, secondary, post-
- Support language revitalization initiatives and immersion programs in partnership with language speakers and community experts.
- Ensure coordination of transportation services for secondary and elementary school students is implemented.

#### Compliance & Financial Management Ensure compliance with applicable legislation, funding agreements and regulations.

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

#### **Staff Management & Development** Supervise key education staff.

Coordinate staff meetings, performance reviews and employee training programs.

# Community Relations & Student Engagement

- Foster positive relationships and effective communication with parents, guardians, students, teachers, Elders, community leadership and external stakeholders. Develop and implement strategies to enhance student engagement, retention and success.
- **Monitoring & Reporting**
- Analyze data on student achievement, attendance, and other educational indicators to identify areas for
- Prepare and submit reports, including annual work plans, briefing notes, monthly updates and quarterly progress

### **Professional Development & External Collaboration**

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

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

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

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

# **OWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS**

- Knowledge of the Anishinabek Education System and Kinoomaadziwin Education Body.
- Understanding federal and provincial legislation, regulations and programs affecting Indigenous Education and First Nations students. Familiarity with Indigenous peoples' history, culture, traditions and socioeconomic conditions and the ability to
- integrate traditional and mainstream practices.
- Experience with Education Service Agreements and working with provincial education authorities to support First Nation students' learning success.
- Understanding of community development principles and strategic planning in an educational context.. UF

# Must provide a clear Police Vulnerable Sector Check upon hire.

Must possess a valid Ontario driver's licence, access to a dependable vehicle and valid automobile insurance. \*For a complete Job Description, please email: hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca

#### Applications must be submitted by noon on March 14th, 2025. Interested applicants must submit a current resume, cover letter, two (2) work-related references, one (1) character reference (with contact information) and applicable education

diplomas/certifications to:

**Confidential: Education Manager** Whitefish River First Nation

17-A Rainbow Ridge Road, PO Box 188, Birch Island, ON POP 1A0 Email: jobapplications@whitefishriver.ca • Fax: (705) 285-4532

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

# Mnaamodzawin Health Services Inc. is seeking a Home Care Aide - Casual/on-call Salary range: \$20.67/hr - \$24.70/hr

The Home Care Aid is responsible for assisting with activities of daily living that contribute to the quality of life of individuals who live at home by promoting their independence, dignity, social, emotional and physical wellbeing. The Home Care Aid will assist the Home Care Program with Meals on Wheels delivery, wellness checks, assembly and installation of home care equipment, generic transportation and light housekeeping duties.

The successful applicant must be willing to work flexible hours (possible evenings and/or weekends) and may provide services to all five First Nation communities (Aundeck Omni Kaning, Sheguiandah, Sheshegwaning, Whitefish River and Zhiibaahaasing).

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- 1. Provide personal support services based on the client care or home management needs.
- 2. Provide assistance to the Home Care Program with the delivery of regular Meals On Wheels program, and may assist/provide generic transportation services, wellness visits and light housekeeping.
- 4. Works collaboratively with health care providers in providing holistic care that focuses on achieving and maintaining optimal health.
- 5. Submission of timely required documentation in EMR and immediate supervisor.
- 6. May assume additional duties as assigned by immediate supervisor.

#### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- 1. Knowledgeable and respectful of Anishinaabe customs, culture and language.
- 2. A minimum of (2) years community work experience.
- 3. Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- 4. Current and Clear CPIC.
- 5. Valid 'G' driver's licence and an insurable vehicle.

#### Closing Date: Friday, March 21, 2025 at 12:00 pm

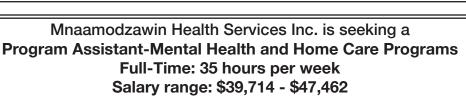
Submit a cover letter, resume, Vulnerable Sector Screening, along with two work-related references, marked CONFIDENTIAL, to:

Mnaamodzawin Health Services c/o Human Resources Postal Bag 2003

48A Hillside Road, Aundeck Omni Kaning Little Current, ON P0P 1K0

705-368-2182 ext.271 Email: hr@mnaamodzawin.com

\*Only those applicants considered for an interview will be notified.



### Overview:

The Program Assistant shall provide administrative and organizational support to the Mental Health Program and Home and Community Care Program. The role is inclusive of scheduling clinics, arranging appointments, chart management, electronic medical record management, social navigation support, data entry and stats collection and the provision of clerical, reception and administrative support.

# Responsibilities:

The Program Assistant will be responsible for the following:

- Scheduling clinics for specialized services; chiropodist, psychiatrist, traditional healer
- Arranging appointments and transportation for specialized services
- Coordinating and distributing information about upcoming workshops and community events
- Maintaining client database and assisting management in producing monthly reports
- Providing short term case management and social navigation support
- Data entry and stats collection for reporting to funders
- Performing reception services as required
- Performing other duties as required

### **Qualifications and Work Experience:**

- Knowledgeable and respectful of Anishnaabe customs, culture and language
- Degree/diploma in social work, social service work, or related health field
- Proven team player who demonstrates flexibility, adaptability, problem solving and effective time management skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Experience with EMR systems an asset

### Closing Date: Friday, March 21, 2025 at 12:00 pm

## Submissions:

Please send cover letter, resume, criminal reference check, along with two recent work-related references, marked CONFIDENTIAL, to:

Mnaamodzawin Health Services c/o Human Resources Postal Bag 2003, Hwy 540 48A Hillside Road, Aundeck Omni Kaning

48A Hillside Road, Aundeck Omni Kaning Little Current, ON P0P 1K0

705-368-2182 ext.271 email: hr@mnaamodzawin.com

\*Only those applicants considered for an interview will be notified



Members of the Current Quilt and Stitchery Guild dropped by the Manitoulin OPP Detachment headquarters in Little Current with a load of 12 "Heartfelt" quilts to be used to comfort victims. Holding some of the quilts being donated are, from left, quilter Bonnie Cook, guild president Linda Erskine, OPP Community Services Officer Constable Berkley Parisien, quilter Lynn Hoar and guild secretary Linda Miles.

photo by Michael Erskine

# **Current Quilt and Stitchery Guild donates** 'Heartfelt' quilts to the Manitoulin OPP

by Michael Erskine

officers are often called to the scene of accidents or other traumatic events. In recognition of that fact, the Current Quilts and Stitchery Guild decided to donate 12 "heartfelt" quilts to be used by police officers to comfort those dealing with crisis.

"In the past we have donated quilts to fire victims and people suffering from all sorts of crises," said guild president Linda Erskine. "This year the club voted unanimously to donate a group of quilts to the OPP to be used in the community to provide comfort."

Each handmade quilt

was created by the guild members during quilting bees, with each quilt top taking about 12 hours to put together and taking another five hours or more to complete by tying. The quilts are machine quilted and made up of colourful scraps of fabric donated by guild members.

"This is something that we felt we could do for the community," said Ms. Erskine. "A guild committee headed up by Gwen Bond has been creating heartfelt quilts for several years. Donating quilts to the OPP helps ensure we do not miss anyone."

Ms. Erskine indicated that the guild intends to

keep creating and donating heartfelt quilts in future years.

"We are currently working on getting our raffle quilt ready for this summer," noted Ms. Erskine. "The funds raised from the raffle will help purchase more material for heartfelt quilts. The raffle is drawn during Little Current Lions Club Haweater Weekend."

Current Quilts and Stitchery Guild currently has 12 members but is open to meeting new members. To learn more about joining those interested can contact Linda Erskine at 705-282-4283.

# Mnaamodzawin Health Services Inc. is seeking a Healthy Families Program Coordinator Full-Time: 35 hours per week Salary range: \$42,766 - \$51,109

The Healthy Families Program Coordinator is to coordinate Mnaamodzawin Health Services' Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) program and Maternal and Child Health program in promoting health and well-being for pregnant women and families with infants and young children. Programming activities will be for our First Nation community members of Aundeck Omni Kaning, Whitefish River, Sheguiandah, Sheshegwaning and Zhiibaahaasing.

### **Objectives:**

- Implement, monitor and evaluate programs and services to meet First Nations needs for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children and Maternal and Child Health programs
- Coordinate ongoing assessment of community needs of related programs and services
- 3. Participate in program and service delivery as required or assigned
- 4. Identify and manage program resources and assist with the preparation of program budgets
- Works in collaboration with Mnaamodzawin Health Services staff, community health staff and related agencies
   Participate in networking partnerships with staff, communities, and communities.
- Participate in networking partnerships with staff, communities, agencies and community groups

### Skills/Qualifications:

- Early Childhood Educator (ECE), or Developmental Services Worker (DSW), or Social Services Worker (SSW) with at least two years of experience in their field, or related experience in the health field
- 2. Knowledge of child development, maternal and pre-natal health, parenting and social services
- 3. Literate in computer programs ie. Word, Excel, Publisher, Outlook, etc.
- 4. Familiar with charting in EMRs an asset
- 5. Ability to work independently and be an excellent team player
- 6. Ability to work with the public and demonstrate excellent communication skills
- 7. Sensitivity to aims and objectives of maternal, child and infant health
- 8. Knowledge of Anishinaabe culture, language and traditions an asset

# Closing Date: Friday, March 21, 2025 at 12:00 pm

Submit a cover letter, resume, Vulnerable Sector Screening, along with two work-related references, marked CONFIDENTIAL, to:

Mnaamodzawin Health Services c/o Human Resources Postal Bag 2003

48A Hillside Road, Aundeck Omni Kaning Little Current, ON P0P 1K0 705-368-2182 ext.271 Email: hr@mnaamodzawin.com

\*Only those applicants considered for an interview will be notified.



# NEED NEW PASSPORT OR OTHER PHOTO I.D.? FAST AND EASY SERVICE!



# EXPOSITOR OFFICE IN LITTLE CURRENT

Passports • Visas • Firearms Cards • Age of Majority • Status Cards • Etc.

Monday Through Friday 9:00am - 4:30pm

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

The Expositor Office is located at 1 Manitowaning Road in downtown Little Current. phone (705) 368-2744 • email: expositorsub@manitoulin.ca

# PASSPORT Service of the Control of



Digital Passport Photos also available.