Vol. 146, No. 24 \$1.90 + GST

Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, October 29, 2025



**TEAMWORK IS THE KEY!** Members of the Island's volunteer firefighting departments train in the Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands Recreation Centre parking lot. The portable training facility allowed firefighters to gain vital certifications as well as learning key safety techniques. The team pictured above were training to battle propane tank

# Island municipal fire services embrace new provincial regulations but feel timeline should be longer

by Ed Prudhomme with files from Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN—A new provincial regulation has set Ontario's fire services on a collision course with the clock. By July 1, 2026, every firefighter in the

province, including those serving in volunteer departments, must be fully certified to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Level 1 and Level 2 standards or risk being unable to perform their duties.

## Dr. Deborah McGregor takes Canada Excellence Chair at Calgary U. with \$8 million towards research

CANADA — There are few scholars whose work bridges the worlds of science, ceremony, and law as seamlessly as Dr. Deborah McGregor — Anishinaabe scholar from Whitefish River First Nation, whose life's work has been to remind Canada that the Earth itself is alive and that justice must extend to all that lives.

This fall, the University of Calgary announced that Dr. Mc-Gregor has been awarded one of Canada's most prestigious research positions: the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Indigenous Ways of Climate and Water Sustainability for Planetary Health and Well-being, a program funded at \$1 million per year for eight years. The Chair will advance Indigenous-led approaches to climate justice and planetary health, in ongoing efforts to place Indigenous knowledge at the heart of efforts to understand and repair

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre, our relationship with the Earth. The program's vision is bold and urgent: to help humanity reconcile with the planet that sustains all life. It asks a question that is both academic and

spiritual — what does it mean to

...continued on page 11

The mandate carries with it the risk of both Ministry of Labour and Insurance liabilities if services fail to comply with the regulation.

The requirement stems Ontario Regulation 343/22: Firefighter Certification, brought forward under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997. It took effect in July 2022, establishing standardized, province-wide minimum qualifications for firefighters across all municinalities The objective according to the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), is to ensure that every firefighter in Ontario, whether in Toronto or Tehkummah, meets consistent ...continued on page 16

# clients of Espanola's Dodge landfill relieved province cancels closure ing anything down yet.' ESPANOLA—It appears the is-

**Municipal, First Nations** 

sue involving H. Dodge Haulage Ltd. and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) that could have potentially closed the landfill used by 10 municipalities and six First Nations communities. including several on Manitoulin Island, has been resolved.

"It would have been a disaster for us (Gore Bay) and other municipalities if it happened and the landfill had closed," stated Gore Bay Mayor Ron Lane. "It's a good business with a captive audience. Dodge is one of the few places around that takes garbage from other municipal-

"The response (from MECP) was swift to the concerns we raised," stated Ernest Dodge, owner of H. Dodge Haulage Ltd., last week. "Things are somewhat resolved. We are not clos-

"They are not going to stop using the non-residential construction price index (NR-CPI) process, and we are still in negotiations," said Mr. Dodge. However, MECP has decreased the rate it was originally proposing, which means Mr. Dodge's landfill financial assurance obligation has been reduced. "Our MPP Bill Rosenberg gave my letter to the MECP minister. The manager, who I talked to, is a great guy and our (price index) increase will be 2.51 which is lower than it was three years ago and lower than what they had been proposing 5.8.

Mr. Dodge had been looking at an increase of 70 percent for the landfill financial assurance obligation-money set aside for future closure of the landfill. However, "the ministry still seems to lack knowledge that

...continued on page 11

# Inquest into Wiikwemkoong man's death at Sudbury Jail reveals system failures and calls for 24-hour medical care

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre.

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter SUDBURY—When correctional officers found 44-year-old Justin Alexander Trudeau in his Sudbury Jail cell on February 13, 2021, he was already gone—his body cold, blue and locked in rigor mortis. He had been dead

A father of five and a member of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, Mr. Trudeau had entered the Sudbury District Jail just five days earlier to serve a 30-day sentence. By the time he was found, a severe and drug-resistant bacterial infection had filled his lungs with pus and fluid, cutting off oxygen and overwhelming his organs. He died of acute methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

...continued on page 9

# Okay -- Blue Jays -- Let's! Play! Ball!

A trip down Islanders' memory lanes to past Jays triumphs

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN—While Toronto Blue Jays fans attending, or watching the 2025 World Series games are garnering their own memories of what the Blue Jays are doing, a group of friends, who attended the clinching game in 1993, when Joe Carter hit a walkoff homerun, can still recall the events of October 23, 1993.

"We were blessed. The whole 💆 experience was something else. Expositor editor Tom Sasvari with Mindemoya) had got a call from It was a memory that I will nev- his 1993 game 6 World Series ticket Steve Shaffer asking if we wanted



er forget. It was the ultimate for stub and other memorabilia from 32 years ago this fall.

Blue Jays fans," stated Al Tribinevicius, who along with seven friends, who all lived on Manitoulin at the time, attended the sixth and final game of the 1993 World Series between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Philadelphia Phil-

> "Mark Olacke, Bruce Wiggins, Al Tribinevicius and I, Wayne Murdock, four teachers at Central Manitoulin Public School (in

> > ...continued on page 14



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# The Manitoulin West Recorder



**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**—The Gore Bay community hall was packed last Friday evening as the Gore Bay community spirit and events group presented a 'family Halloween dance.' The many youngsters, and adults, dressed up in their favourite Halloween costumes. There were prizes handed out for best spot dancers and best-costumed family.

# Rainbow Board passes motion supporting role of school trustees

by Tom Sasvari

SUDBURY—The Rainbow District School Board (RDSB) will be indicating its support for the important role school board trustees play in the education system, and request a process be established for members of the public and trustee input into any consideration for changes in the role.

"I will be voting in support of the motion," stated RDSB trustee Doreen Dewar at a school board meeting last week. "I believe very strongly in the importance of trustees and boards. I've been a trustee for many years and have seen many changes. It is worthwhile to voice our concerns and for input to be provided by school boards, members of the public, students, and staff."

"The minister of education (Paul Calandra) has spoken about governance changes coming by the end of the year, including bringing up the issue of getting rid of elected trustees,"

# Illinois takes further steps to protect Great Lakes from invasive carp

ILLINOIS—Another step has been taken to keep invasive carp out of the Great Lakes.

The Chicago-Sun Times reported recently that the state of Illinois has acquired the land needed to be able to move forward with a \$1.15 billion barricade aimed at keeping Asian carp from entering the channel that connects the Mississippi River Basin with the

As has been reported previously, the Brandon Road Interbasin Project is an underwater defense system long hailed as the solution to the carp problem. The system, which was designed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), is to be constructed in the Des Plaines River, which connects the Illinois River to Chicago's shipping canal near suburban Joliet, Illinois. The billion-dollar lock and dam upgrade will deploy a bubble wall, acoustic blasts, an electric barrier and a flushing mechanism to keep the carp from passing through.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that two weeks ago Illinois

...continued on page 12

said trustee Judy Kosmerly, who brought forward the motion for the board to consider at its meeting.

Trustee Kosmerly, who represents RDSB on the Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA) said, "the minister has raised the issue of proposed changes, and legislation is sitting. The voice and role of elected school board trustees is at the forefront." She brought forward a motion which reads, "that the Rainbow District School Board write a letter to the Minister of Education indicating our support in the important role trustees play in school board and request a process be established for public and trustee input into any consideration for changes in the

"As a representative on OPS-BA I have my finger on Bill 33 and the number of comments the minister has made that changes are going to take place," said Trustee Kosmerly. "OPSBA has written letters, and a letter from the Halton school board sticking up for trustees was recently supported."

"English school board trustees are one of those in the sight of the minister," said Trustee

...continued on page 10



#### Poppy Week declared

As is tradition, Northeast Town Mayor Al MacNevin signed the official declaration to open Poppy Week on October 27. He is seen with Royal Canadian Legion Branch President Leslie Moore, left, and Poppy Campaign cochairs Ariana Bowerman and Kari Bourque (pinning a poppy on the mayor).

photo by Roy Eaton

# Third arrested in murder of eight-year-old JahVai Roy

TORONTO—Toronto Police Service (TPS) announced that a third arrest has been made in the homicide of JahVai Roy, eight, of Toronto, whose mother and relatives are from the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory.

The third accused was located and arrested on Sunday, October 19 in Oshawa by the Durham Regional Police Service in connection with a separate investigation. TPS has charged the accused with first degree murder, two counts of fail to comply with undertaking and breach of probation.

On Saturday, August 16, at approximately 12:27 am, police responded to a call for the sound of gunshots in the Martha Eaton Way and Tretheway Drive area in Toronto. It is alleged that officers arrived on scene and located an 8-year-old boy in his residence who had been shot by a stray bullet. Lifesaving measures were commenced, and the victim was transported to hospital via emergency run. The victim was pronounced deceased in hospital. The suspect(s) fled the scene prior to The victim was identified as JahVai Roy, eight, of Toronto.

Investigators were able to identify the three suspects and previously announced the arrest of two suspects.

A second suspect was taken into custody on September 26 after a search warrant was executed in London, Ontario. The accused, who was 17 years old at the time of the incident but has since turned 18, has been charged with first-degree murder.

The third suspect, a 17-yearold boy, was located and arrested on October 19 in Oshawa by Durham Regional Police Service in connection to a separate investigation for drug trafficking and possession of a loaded firearm.

He has been charged with one count each of first-degree murder and breach of probation as well as two counts of fail to comply with undertaking in connection with the murder of JahVai Roy

None of the charges have been tested in court and the investigation is continuing.

# PomeGran launches rural internet services brand NIVO

TORONTO—PomeGran Inc. celebrated its recognition in the Globe and Mail's 2025 Report on Business ranking of Canada's top growing companies with an event at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York Hotel on October 16. At the celebration, the company officially launched its new internet service provider (ISP) brand, NIVO, created to better serve rural and underserved communities across Canada, including Manitoulin Island.

The event brought together more than 120 guests, including government dignitaries, Indigenous leaders, partners, investors and members of the telecommunications industry. The Honourable Doug Ford premier of Ontario, the Honourable Sam Oosterhoff, associate minister of energy, intensive industries and Ogimaa Tim Ominika of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory delivered remarks that underscored the importance of rural connectivity in Canada. The program also recognized key partnerships and culminated in the launch of NIVO, a brand created to better serve communities with reliable, high-speed fibre connectivity.

connectivity "High-speed is no longer a luxury. It is a necessity for economic development, education and innosaid Stephen Lecce, vation. Ontario minister of energy and mines. Expanding access to reliable internet for all families and communities marks a major step forward in closing the connectivity gap across rural and remote regions. By bringing reliable fibre connectivity to underserved communities, PomeGran is delivering on the promise of a more connected province. This is how we build, grow and protect Ontario for the next generation.'

PomeGran ranked 62nd overall out of 400 companies across Canada and among the top 20 in technology and telecom. The company was also recognized as the fastest-growing

telecom service provider in the country, with a three-year growth rate of 557 percent. "Being recognized on a national stage is an honour that belongs to our entire team and the communities we serve. This achievement reflects the dedication of our employees, the trust of our partners, and our shared belief that connectivity is the foundation for growth," said Dr. Kalai S. Kalaichelvan, chairman and chief executive officer of PmeGran.

The launch of NIVO marks the next chapter in PomeGran's mission to connect underserved regions. NIVO is PomeGran's new ISP brand, created to deliver reliable, high-speed fibre connectivity directly to

...continued on page 10

# Tom's Big Buck Roundup back for another year

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN—Again this year we want deer hunters to send in pictures of deer harvested on Manitoulin Island as Tom's Expositor Big Buck Roundup is back!

"Because of last year's numerous inquiries, not only are we taking photo entries of hunters deer harvested during the deer gun hunt, but we are also taking photo entries for the bow hunt season as well," said Tom Sasvari. "We have already had a couple of entries (from the bow hunt)."

"We had a total of 16 entries last year, and we are hoping to at least double that this year," said Mr. Sasvari.

If you harvest a buck, your first deer, or have an unusual picture to share during the annual Manitoulin hunt, then we encourage you to send them in.

...continued on page 10

Manitoulin Island's Newspaper-of-Record,

#### The Manitoulin Expositor

is published by the Manitoulin Publishing Co. Ltd. Wednesday mornings from our office at One Manitowaning Road Little Current, Ont. P0P 1K0

37 Meredith Street, Gore Bay, Ont. P0P 1H0 And on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek of Mnidoo Mnising.

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Publications Mail Registration No. 40012298

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the Government of Canada."



"who dares not offend cannot be honest"

# One Manitowaning Road opinion

## <u>editorial</u>

# The saga of the Trump tariffs continues to astound and amaze

It has been another topsy turvy week on the international trade front, particularly with our friends (?) and neighbours to the south. It was just mere days ago that word filtered down from on high that a deal was nigh—set to be announced within days, if not hours.

Enter The Ford—Doug Ford, that is, the populist premier of Ontario and self-appointed guardian of our nation's pocketbooks who took it upon himself to launch a \$75 million taxpayer-funded series of ads on American television aimed at influencing American views on The Donald's "big, beautiful tariffs."

As the POTUS has set his sights on hauling his country back into the 1890s, it would not take a genius to understand that attempting to thwart his plans in any way shape or form would invite swift retaliation. And so it came to pass that the negotiated trade deal was, at least for now, scuppered. More tariffs to come.

It is an oft-cited truism that you have to stand up to bullies—it's the only way they say. (We all know a "They" or two). Yeah, try tweaking the nose of a rampaging gorilla 10 times your size and see how that works out for you. There is standing up, and then there

Tariffs were all the rage back in the 19th Century and the resulting "Nullification Crisis" was even an early instigator of threats to succession from the United States by South Carolina. Tariff popularity saw a great resurgence during the start of the Great Depression—leading to what has been generously described as "one of the most disastrous trade policies in US history." Between 1929 and 1932 US exports plummeted by a whopping two thirds.

Somehow, these descents into economic madness led to America

Former US President Ronald Reagan tried to make this point to his country when he addressed the nation on the subject, and it was his words, bizarrely and pointlessly rearranged, that provided the grist for The Ford's sortie into international economics.

The current Canadian government approach has been cautious, you know, the way you might approach that rampaging simian. Since counter-tariffs would invariably hurt Canadian consumers—not to mention the tweaking yet again—Prime Minister Mark Carney's government decided to not go that route. Canadians are suffering enough economic turmoil, thank you kindly.

Instead, the national government, you know, the one in charge of international trade negotiations and treaties, decided to negotiate

quietly, carefully and avoiding provoking unhinged retaliation. It was, by all accounts, working.

It is easy to forget that, despite our national angst and the constant litany of doomsaying pundits on the six o'clock news, that our nation enjoys the most favourable trade terms with the US of any nation on the globe.

Our premier's populist approach to politics has been great for getting his government re-elected, but when it comes to strategizin' in a trade war with an economy that dwarves our own being overseen by the aforementioned gorilla, it kind of falls short of the mark. Kneejerk retaliation might bring temporary joy to the masses and provide great 30-second news cycle bits, but it runs the risk of that, again aforementioned, nose tweaking.

A less than charitable read would be that the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario knew exactly what he was doing and set out to scupper the deal.

The timing of the ads  $\overline{\operatorname{certainly}}$  provides some grist to that particular conspiracy theory.

With our current prime minister leading a minority government, and a budget that will take saner minds than those currently ascendant in the opposition benches to get passed through Parliament, a less than uncharitable mind might suggest those Ontarian jobs being lost thanks to his ill-considered foray into the world of advertising have been sacrificed on the altar of realpolitik.

Another national election anyone? It's all win-win for The Big Blue Ford. If the current leader of His Majesty's Loyal (?) Opposition in Ottawa fails to make it big should such an election come to pass, who do you think might just be waiting in the wings should the long knives appear?

Time will tell.

In the meantime, Premier Ford has been forced to yet again dial back his anti-American vitriol (anyone remember the electricity gambit?), attempting some face-saving by running his ads during the first two World Series games.

For the sake of those Ontarians, indeed all Canadians, facing uncertain futures thanks to the current trade war with the US, could Premier Ford please focus on getting us a new bridge (and other economy building projects of course) and stop trying to bully a bully—that never really ends well.

#### <u>letters</u>

# A note of thanks to your friendly neighbourhood newspaper

Sharing the love

To the Expositor:

Dear Expositor staff, Thank you for the seniors' discount. Thank you to everyone who works so hard

each day and night to get the weekly paper ready for us. We truly appreciate you. We love our paper.

Sincerely. Sharon and Lyle Dewar **Providence Bay** 

# Another perspective on any proposed Sandhill crane hunt

The hunt will indeed harm the birds otherwise what would be the purpose?

To the Expositor:

I read with interest the story about the United States report that says establishing a Sandhill crane hunt will not harm the bird's population ('US report shows that establishing Sandhill crane hunt will not harm population numbers,' October 22,

But the hunt will indeed harm the birds and what would be the purpose of such a barbaric hunt?

I understand farmers are frustrated with the birds' arrival during the spring and fall migrations and they have to protect their livelihood. What damage do the birds actually create?

I have been photographing these birds for years now and what I see is they fly in after crops have been harvested in the fall and before crops are planted in the spring.

Where is the crop degradation that would justify this hunt?

Just because the population of a species is plentiful does that mean they should be

If over 6,000 Sandhill cranes could be hunted down in Northeastern Ontario, without impacting the over population of the birds, what would be the purpose of said

Would all the birds be used for food?

Because the buffalo is regaining its population would we then open a hunt on them? How about the trumpeter swan populations that are finally being stabilized in Ontario and which were hunted to near extinction for their feathers that were sold to European fashion houses.

Because Sandhill cranes have slow reproductive rates they are vulnerable to over-harvesting.

The idea of a hunt lacks an ecological justification. Surely there are many non-lethal ways for preventing crop damage, the main reason for hunting these beautiful, wild

A great deal of work has been done in this province to protect and promote wetlands and thankfully bird populations are being stabilized due to that advocacy.

How can this hunt be acceptable? Are humans losing their humanity?

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Nielsen Cobalt, Ontario

# Municipal association pans provincial policing changes

ONTARIO—Changes being proposed by the province on policing costs will not provide a long-term solution to the cost pressures municipalities across the province are facing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) says.

"Unfortunately, these changes do not provide a longterm solution to the growing policing cost pressures municipalities across Ontario are facing," AMO said in a statement October 3. "In addition,

preliminary analysis suggests that very few municipalities will benefit from lower threshold levels. AMO is reviewing the amendments closely to determine their impact on municipalities and will continue to update our members as we prepare a response to the government.'

The Ministry of the Solicitor General has committed to an 11 percent cap on the increase in policing costs owed by municipalities for the 2026 calendar year and lowering the threshold for qualifying for calls for service and overtime discounts to lower costs for municipalities three or more standard deviations above the average. This new threshold will apply to the 2026 billing year and future years.

Earlier this spring, the Ministry of the Solicitor General conducted a review of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) cost recovery model. AMO provided feedback in a letter to

Minister Michael S. Kerzner as part of this review. Recently, the ministry announced regulatory amendments to Ontario Regulation 413/23: Amount Payable by Municipalities for Policing from OPP under the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019. The amendments are now in effect and will inform the 2026 annual billing statements, which are expected in November," AMO added.

# Owners Lavish and Simran Dhir celebrate grocery store's one year anniversary

LITTLE CURRENT—It has been quite a year for Lavish Dhir, who is celebrating his first anniversary as the owner of Lavish Your Independent Grocer in Little Current. He arrived on the Island after spending a couple of years in Timmins, where he was an assistant manager. Since then, Mr. Dhir has spent the past 12 months getting a handle on operations in Little Current's only grocery store and learning more about the Island community, and now he is welcoming his new bride to Manitoulin as well.

Mr. Dhir recently married his wife Simran who has now joined him from Winnipeg. He met his future wife while they were both attending a tutorial school in India about eight years ago. 'We met back in India," said Mr. Dhir. "I saw her at a tuition centre, she was getting tuition after school, and I was getting tuition there as well. So, that's where I saw her and I liked her.

But despite being immediately smitten, it wasn't an immediate fairytale connection for Mr. Dhir. "At that time, I kind of approached her, but as you know, usually girls are always going to say no," he smiled. But if there is one quality that strikes one upon getting to know Mr. Dhir is that he is not one to be daunted by a bit of hard work.

So, "I'm here and she is here today,"

When he was younger, back in India, Mr. Dhir had never considered going abroad to seek his fortune. It was his father who first broached the idea.

"There is no such thing that I want to go to Canada," he said. "My dad asked me, 'what do you think about, you know, studying outside, so you will get some experience. It will be great for you. What do you think about it?' So, I was, like, 'yeah, I can give it a thought,' so I give it a thought. And then, it's, like you know what? Let's try it. At that moment, there was no such plan. There was just a plan to study."

His initial introduction to the Great White North was not entirely auspicious.

When I landed, I was in Toronto for three days or four days, it was in December," he recalled. Quite a difference from his native India where December marks the beginning of winter with daytime temperatures ranging around 24°C.

A friend gave him a lift to Sudbury where Mr. Dhir began his career in the grocery business. Sudbury was another big shock. Toronto was a large city, with plenty of concrete, something he was well used to. In Sudbury, it was very different (along with being significantly

"I was like, 'where the heck am I?" he recalled. "This looks like a town, like it's a small town compared to Toronto and



Lavish Dhir and his wife Simran chat all things grocery with The Expositor in the store owner's office on the anniversary of his acquisition of the store in Little Current.

photo by Michael Erskine

compared to the big cities. It was so cold, Mr. Dhir. "So, today, here I am." it was literally a huge pile of snow."

'But it didn't discourage me," he laughs. "It was like, you know that's what the destination is, so everyone has their destination and it's already been chosen by God, so I trust the plan of it. And then, you know what? This is something better. If I've been in Toronto, there might not be any Independent stores in Toronto, so I would never have gained the experience of them.'

Things soon started to look up. "I started my career in Sudbury, and it was going great," he recalled. "I had great leaders on my way who helped me to build. I started just as a regular clerk there."

From there he was moved from department to department. "I was started as a cashier, and then I go to different departments. So, in the bakery for some time, and then I helped in dairy, then helping grocery. So, basically working all the departments there, which, I think, my leaders noticed and when there was a role of management that came up in that store I got promoted to a department manager."

His work ethic obviously did not go unnoticed and when the store owner, who also had a store in Timmins said he had an opening for an assistant manager, Mr. Dhir was recommended for the job. "It was easier for him because he knew my skills," he said. For the next couple of years he settled in Timmins learning store upper management skills.

"One day my owner asked me , 'Lavish, what do you want to do in your life?" So, I was just being straightforward, 'I want to open Lavish's Independent."

Many new Canadians settle in larger centres like Toronto, where they can find comfort and familiarity in the already settled diaspora from their home-

"I remember when I came to Sudbury, there was not a lot of that much (familiar) culture, not a lot of cultural activities going at that time, but now it's huge," he said. "It's unbelievable." He referenced the recent Diwali Festival celebration in Sudbury the availability of new foods. "Diwali is just like a Christmas for the South Asian community," he explains. "It's a big festival, and there are a couple places we call to get some sweets and they are like, sorry, we are sold out."

One big positive in running a store in a rural region like Manitoulin is that the street drug culture is much less evident

"I believe there is a lot of drug addicts you need to deal with in a city like Sudbury and other places," he said, "but here that's not it's not that much-it's not as bad.

'When I was in Timmins, the cashiers were scared," he said, "because the drug addicts would come in and try to steal, and if you tried to stop them, people would create so much conflict. They will yell and scream threats.'

Of course, it isn't like there were not challenges here on the Island as well, especially when it comes to hiring staff. There simply were not enough applicants to fill all the roles needed in the store—and its wasn't simple to hire from outside either.

Finding housing for staff who don't already live here on Manitoulin has been a big challenge.

'It was definitely difficult, a little bit of a challenging time," he said. "We were looking for a staff and there was nobody's applying."

Mr. Dhir asked around and discovered it wasn't just his store facing those chal-

"People wonder why we won't employ people from the Island—there are no issues," he said. "It's hard to find the staff." He noted that the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre has to supply some of its staff with accomodations.

The problem is not so much finding the people, the problem is the housing, explained Mr. Dhir. "If you have housing, people will come."

Thankfully, he notes, most people understand that. "People here are smart," he said. "They can see what has been going on in the economy.'

In the meantime, with things now settling in well with the store, Mr. Dhir and his wife are settling into the community. They do not yet have children—that's a work in progress, the couple smiles.

Lavish Your Independent Grocer has been supporting local charities like the Good Food Box Program, Manitoulin Health Centre, contributing to Manitoulin Family Resources Food Bank, the Royal Canadian Legion and just enjoying community events like Halloween. "We're having a plan that we posted on Facebook," he said. "If kids come in dressed up like, let's say like hot sauce, they will get a hot sauce. They dress up like a taco—they'll get a taco. It's just like a fun activity," he said.

Yes, we know what you are thinking, I'll dress up like a steak. Nice try. There's roughly an eight dollar or so limit.

But however they choose to dress up, "All the kids who dress up will get a treat for sure," said Mr. Dhir. "Doesn't matter what they dress up as."

Mr. Dhir's message to the Manitou-lin community is "Thank you so much for their support and thanks for being open-minded." Oh, and if you are looking for work, there is always an open door at Lavish Your Independent Grocer. "We will get more done when we have more staff," he said. "And on top of it, we'll try to help."

"It's all about giving back to the community, and we would love to support community events," he said. Currently, the store is raising funds at the cashier for PC Children's Charity.

The Dhir family express their gratitude for the warm welcome they have received and are looking forward to meeting more people in the community

#### "I'm passionate about business," said Redrum Spirit Chapter donates proceeds of Colour Run to Good Food Box

by Michael Erskine

LITTLE CURRENT—Members of the Redrum Motorcycle Club found a great way to not only spend the money they raised during their annual Labour Day Colour Run but to help out with a very worthy cause. This past week, members of the club gathered in the early morning hours of Tuesday, October 21 at the Little Current United Church Hall to hand over the cash and to lend a hand in sorting and filling the Good Food Box cartons.

"We managed to raise \$2,100 during our Labour Day Weekend Colour Run and we decided to donate that money to the Good Food Box Program," said Dean, vice-president of the Redrum MC Spirit Island Chapter. "We also thought we would help out while we were here." Club members could be seen packing boxes. "We like to help out where we can," he said.

The Good Food Box Program is a non-profit community initiative helping individuals and families in need of assistance to put fresh produce on the table by offering a variety of nutritious fresh fruit and vegetables at wholesale prices. The food boxes are packed by volunteers in the Little Current United Church Hall and delivered to communities across Manitoulin on the third Tuesday of each

A number of local grocery stores make efforts to provide produce for the boxes at attractive prices as well. During the fall months the food is purchased from local farmers and included in the boxes along with the grocery store purchased items. The donations from organizations and



Members of the Redrum Motorcycle Club Spirit Island Chapter join Good Food Box volunteers for a donation photo. The proceeds from the club's Fall Colour Run brought \$2,100 for the kitty.

photo by Michael Erskine



Members of the Redrum Motorcycle Club Spirit Island chapter assist with packing the boxes.

individuals such as the Redrum MC are very important to the project.

"It's very important, we have people who sponsors who pay for the boxes for those who cannot afford them themselves and are isolated, we just sponsor those boxes," said Margot Bickell.

"The Good Food Box doesn't make any money at all," confirms Good Food Box Program chair Richard Lathwell. "Any money that we have goes to buy the food."

Local representatives are available in communities across Manitoulin, notes Mr. Lathwell. Anybody who wants to get involved can volunteer, sponsor a box and/or make a donation. Contact cards are available at many locations across the Island providing information about the program or those interested can contact Ms. Bickell at bickellm@icloud.com or by phone 705-989-4209, or at info@localfoodmanitoulin.com or calling 705-968-0073.



#### Driver suffers serious life-threatening injuries in

#### ATV collision

One person sustained life-threatening injuries in an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) collision.

On Saturday, October 18 at approximately 6 pm, the Manitoulin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), with assistance from the Sudbury-Manitoulin Paramedic Services and the NEMI fire department, responded to a report of a single vehicle collision involving an ATV. The driver was transported to hospital with serious life-threatening injuries.

The investigation is ongoing with assistance from the OPP's traffic incident management enforcement (TIME) team and technical collision investigators

Updates will be provided as additional information becomes available.

#### Manitoulin OPP seize \$26,700 in suspected drugs at

#### RIDE check on Bidwell Road

Two people are facing charges after police seized suspected drugs during a reduce impaired driving everywhere (RIDE) check.

On Sunday, September 21, at approximately 5 pm, officers with the Manitoulin OPP were conducting a RIDE check on Bidwell Road in the town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands (NEMI). A vehicle came through the RIDE check, and police detected an odor of cannabis emanating from the vehicle. As a result of further investigation, the driver and passenger were

Additionally, police seized an amount of suspected cocaine with an estimated street value of \$20,000, an



amount of suspected crack cocaine with an estimated street value of \$700, and an amount of suspected fentanvl with an estimated street value of \$6,000.

The driver, Ashley Alford, 40 years old from Assiginack, was charged with possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000, possession of a schedule 1 substance for the purpose of trafficking cocaine, possession of a schedule one substance for the purpose of trafficking opioid, driving while under suspension, fail to have insurance card, and drive vehicle with cannabis readily available.

The passenger, Jadin Boby, 18 years old from Burlington, was charged with possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000, possession of a schedule one substance for the purpose of trafficking cocaine, possession of a schedule one substance for the purpose of trafficking opioid, and person under 19 years possess cannabis.

Both accused are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Gore Bay on November 18.

#### Highway 6 closed for weapons investigation after person located injured

An injured person was located on Highway 6, resulting in a road closure while police conducted an investigation.

On Thursday, September 28, at approximately 1:15 am, the Manitoulin OPP received a call reporting that a person was located on Highway 6 in Assiginack town-

ship with an injury caused by an edged weapon. The injured person was transported to hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

Highway 6 was closed for a period of time as police conducted an investigation. As a result, the incident has been determined to be non-suspicious, and the investigation is complete.

#### Missing person located deceased following

search efforts

The Manitoulin OPP located a person deceased following a missing person investigation.

On Thursday October 9, at approximately 8:30 pm, members of the Manitoulin OPP responded to a report of a missing 41-year-old person in the Sables-Spanish Rivers township area.

Extensive search efforts were conducted with assistance from the OPP Emergency Response Team, OPP Canine Unit, Anishinabek Police Service, and a civilian search party. On October 10, the missing person was located deceased.

The investigation was conducted with assistance from the OPP Forensic Identification Services and the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario and Ontario Forensic Pathology Service. No foul play is suspected, and the investigation is complete.

#### One person charged after youth injured

by a weapon

One person has been charged after a youth was injured by a weapon during a community event.

...continued on page 21

# Friends and Neighbours

#### Providence Bay Alexia Hannigan

lexia here with your friendly Aworld Series Boo fly! I don't know what it is about this time of year and why everything gives crossfire hurricane intensity-perhaps because we are saying baa ma pii (see you later) to the sun, leaves, flowers, friends, family and saying farewell to old ways, to things that no longer serve our path and purpose, to the wins and the losses, to the version of ourselves we once were and the version of ourselves we have yet to know and nurture. This is a time of great reflection and reverence. The last brushstroke in what could be a masterpiece or an epic failure. But do we ever really fail? Life's beauty and our own evolution spawned from imperfection and chaos. Embrace the wonder, the surprise, the eureka moments of self-discovery and of the natural world. All our triumphs and all the good things come in due time. The field of dreams mantra "if you build it, they will come" holds true always. Keep creating, building and learning. Give yourself and others the grace, patience and gentle reassurance that this too shall pass, one day you will look back on all of it and know that you are the better and best version of yourself because of it. Stars do not hide from darkness, roses do not hide from thorns, diamonds do not hide from pressure. Shine on you crazy diamonds, keep on strong and go forward with courage, love and peace in your heart.

Here's what's happening:

Providence Bay Arena and Fairgrounds: The Providence Bay Fall Vendor Market on Saturday, October 18 was a tremendous success! Looking forward to the start of the skating and hockey season - stay tuned for updates and puck drops!

Providence Bay Hall:

Manitoulin recreational events calendar with class schedules for Providence Bay Hall visit: centralmanitoulin.ca or contact Alison Sloss at asloss@centralmanitoulin.ca or by phone at 705-377-5726. Exercise Classes continue Fridays at 9 am.

Providence Bay Community of Christ Church: Joys and community updates are Sundays at 10:30 am: service is Sundays at 11 am.

Check the Providence Bay Community of Christ Facebook page for announcements and updates!

Providence Bay Curling Club: Everyone is welcome at the Providence Bay Curling Club! Junior Curling is back Saturdays starting Saturday, November 8 until the end of March. Ages SK to Grade 8 - equipment provided, \$25 per curler. For more information go to provcurling. ca/junior.

The Lions bottle drive continues next to the arena; this program is open to the public and we encourage everyone to drop off their used bottles and cans. Your empties help fund great local initiatives. Are you interested in becoming a Lions Club member? Contact the Providence Bay/Spring Bay Lions club Facebook page for details on how you too can give back to your community!

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

November 5 Full Moon (Freezing Moon or Baashkaakodin Giizis) or Beaver Moon.

The Friends: Happy Birthday to all of you late October Hallowe'en babies!

Happy Hallowe'en to all! Keep trying. Stay humble, Trust your instincts. Most importantly, act. When you come to a fork in the road, take it.

Yogi Berra

#### Kagawong Team Fergmeijer

 $\mathbf{Y}$ our friendly neighbourhood Fergmeijers have been looking forward to Hallowe'en all year and it's finally here! Now, given that there are three sanctioned candy holidays, we would like to propose that we leave hallowe'en alone (obviously), but we make Valentine's Day a cheese holiday and Easter can shift to be a potato holiday.

At time of writing, the Blue Jays are undefeated in the World Series! Though to be fair, this column is due before game 1. But our statement still stands. Let's go Blue Jays!

Don't be a scaredy-cat, bring the little ghouls and goblins out to the Kagawong Park Centre on October 31 from 5 to 8:30

Happy birthday wishes go out to Diane N who turned 29 recently. And because there is no cure for the common birthday, to Meranda V we say, 'Cheers to another year!' as she celebrates another trip around the sun. Not quite her 29th, but getting closer...

The library is hosting a fall puzzle swap this Saturday (November 1). Freshen up vour collection just in time for the snow to fly. Stop in between 10 am and 1 pm to trade your used puzzles for newto-vou jigsaws. No puzzles? No problem. They have plenty to go around!

Do you know a volunteer who deserves recognition? The township is calling for nominations of community volunteers in several categories (arts and culture, outstanding community group, senior volunteer, youth volunteer, historical

pillar of the community and Mayor's volunteer service). Drop off the name of the deserving person or group, along with the category and a short explanation of why you feel they should be recognized to the town office or send via email (deputyclerk@billingstwp.ca) by November 11.

Did you know Dr. Seuss' mother was a massage therapist. A Ma Seuss, if you

The Seniors Active Living Program is planning a potluck lunch on Saturday, November 8 at 11:30 am at the Kagawong Park Centre. Reserve a seat by contacting Mary at 705-348-2285 or seniors@ billingstwp.ca!

Remember that time the Kagawong Gobble Brigade took over the road to Maple Ridge? Or the time the township celebrated that special event? Catch up on old times with the complete archive of Team Fergmeijer columns, all the way back to 2015! Check out http://teamfergmeijer.blogspot.com to get your fill of puns and haiku.

A gentle reminder, that if you suck at playing the trumpet, that's probably why. Have a great week!

#### Barrie Island Enid Runnalls

Tt's been a week of rain here on Barrie Island and the cooler temperatures are taking hold. The farmers have been waiting it out, working on repairs and small projects that are close to home.

Quite a few driveway gates were decorated in Gordon and Barrie Island this past week for the Annual Decorate your Gate contest. As of press time the winners are unknown, but there was plenty of unique whimsy in our municipality.

The Municipalities of Gordon and Barrie Island and Burpee Mills are hosting a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, October 30 at 7 pm in the Gordon Hall at 29 Noble Side Road. The discussion will be regarding road safety and slow-moving vehicles.

Scott and Enid Runnalls travelled to Toronto last Saturday to be spectators at the Toronto Waterfront Marathon. Katie Runnalls was among thousands of participants and was able to achieve her time goal. Larry Lewis (son of Evelyn Runnalls Lewis and Grant Lewis) was a pacer during the run and recognized Katie's bib number - the cousins had a brief running visit at around 21 km during the race. Katie was part of a team that included her cousin's cousin Bridget Miller Nunn and her uncle Matt Byrnes. It was a very exciting day for all!

Lance and Lil Greenman hosted their Thanksgiving at home on the long weekend, enjoying turkey, all the fixings and an apple crumble that Lil baked using

Ashton's apples. It was reportedly delicious!

Micah Runnalls has decided to be a spooky clown for Hallowe'en. He will be trick-or-treating in Gore Bay but plans to knock on a few Barrie Island doors too, so get ready for this spooky little character! There are at least four more trick-or-treaters on Barrie Island and we hope to see them, as well!

Have a spooky and fun Hallowe'en!

#### Silver Water Karen Noble

 ${f F}$ riday, we went to euchre in Meldrum Bay. There were 11 play-

Murray Duncanson, his son Craig Duncanson and brother-in-law Oliver Coburn left to go moose hunting last week.

Saturday morning, Albert and I got ready for a market in our yard. The rain was so heavy at 10 am we closed the garage doors and gave up.

Sunday morning, we packed up our yard sale tables and the leftover items will be donated to charities in Sudbury.

Monday evening the Local Roads Board held their annual meeting at the Silver Water Community Hall at 6:30 pm. The board that was elected is Eric Thiessen, Colin Frame and Lori Mastelko. Congratulations to them.

Monday, I took Myra and Ken Duncanson to euchre at the Burpee and Mills Complex.

Tuesday morning, I went with Gladys Duncanson to her appointment and to help with errands.

Also on Tuesday morning, Albert went to Meldrum Bay for the last session of kits and quilts for the season. Several of the volunteers will work at home all winter long to get ready for the start up again in the spring.

Tuesday afternoon there was yoga at the hall.

Tuesday evening was fire practice at the fire hall.

Every day we have been working on setting up the tables in the garage for the Christmas market.

Thursday, there was euchre at the Silver Water Community Hall.

Lee and Ed Alexander arrived at their

cottage on Thursday. Condolences to the family of Vic No-

Condolences to the family of Mercedes

Condolences to the family of Chris Thibault.

# Manitoulin Sporting Life

#### Mustangs host **NOSSA Tennis**

After two postponements due to rain, NOS-SA Tennis finally happened at MSS this past week. It was a damp and cold morning, but spirits were high as nine schools from across north-eastern Ontario met to compete, including three different exchange students from Europe! Several athletes from North Bay took home first place finishes, but Ava Corbiere and Emery Watson placed second in girls' doubles, qualifying them for the OFSAA finals in Toronto in early November.

Emery was also the main driver behind the

Grade 5-6 Boys Champs.

Memphis (Pontiac), Alex and Arlo (Charles C. McLean) were the

Bridget (La Renaissance) then Daisy (Pontiac).

school fundraiser around

the event for Breast Can-

cer Research and many

athletes and MSS students

wore pink for the day. Fi-

nal fundraising numbers

were Ludo Costa in girls'

singles, Anders Watson

and Jonah Balfe in boys'

doubles, Rylan Pennie

and Amy Smith in mixed

doubles. Fourth place fin-

ishes were also locked in

by **Dylan Kuntsi** in boys'

singles and **Nova Debas**-

sige and Isaac Lock in

bined finishes gave Man-

itoulin S.S. enough team

points to win the NOSSA

team banner for the fall of

2015. Coach Chris Thei-

**jsmeijer** is super proud

Overall, these com-

mixed doubles.

Finishing in third place

are still to come.

of the entire team. Way to go Mustangs, and good luck to Ava and Emery at OFSAA!

OUA Rowing!
The Ontario University
Athletics rowing championships were held at the Royal Canadian Henley Rowing Course in St. Catharines over the weekend. Brooke Gibeault in just her second year of rowing for Western had a tremendous regatta winning the junior varsity double class with her teammate, Charlotte **DaPonte**. Their scull was in a tight battle to make the A final. They led at 1000m but finished fourth, but the time still stood



Grade 5-6 Girls champs were Danika (Pontiac), Summer then Grace both of Charles C. McLean.

In the Grade 1-2 race, it was a Biidaabin school sweep with Rayna, Cassi**dy** and **Tiana**, 1, 2, 3.

In the Grade 3-4 girls' race Rosie (Charles C. McLean) - 1st, Harper (La Renaissance) – 2nd, **Elena** (Charles C. Mc-Lean) – 3rd. For the boys, Charles C. McLean's **Arie** and Laken were the top two followed by Shawanosowe's **Waylon**.

The Grade 5/6 girls' class was ruled by Dan-Sum-(Pontiac), mer then Grace both of Charles C. McLean. In the and worked hard at the same tournament but came up short in round robin play.

ues to grow and improve

with every game a clear

sign they're moving in the

The U13 Panther squad

right direction.

The U15 Panthers had an impressive showing at the Ice Breaker, finishing round robin play with a strong 3-1 record. The Panthers rolled through early competition with wins over the Northshore Thundercats (7–3), Hearst HLK (9–0), and Cochrane Chargers (15–3), before falling 4-1 to the PMHA Jr. Gold Kings in their final round robin matchup.



The Grade 7/8 Boys Champs were Bray (Lakeview), Devon (La Renaissance) and Rowan (Charles C. McLean)!.

(Charles C. McLean). In the Grade 7/8 girls' race it was Emma (Charles C. McLean)

In the Grade 7/8 girls' race it was Emma (Charles C. McLean) Bridget (La Renaissance) then Daisy (Pontiac). For the boys': Bray (Lakeview), Devon (La Renaissance) and **Rowan** (Charles C. McLean)!

boys' event- Memphis (Pontiac), Alex and Arlo

That is a wrap for the elementary cross-country season. Congratulations to all those who trained and raced the toughest sport! Coming up on Thursday this week is the annual Flag Football Championship in Manitowaning.

# **Bobcat Runs!**

The annual Bobcats Invitational cross-country meet took place last Thursday. Hosted by the Shawanosowe elementary school in Birch Island attracted Island and North Shore schools.

up as fourth fastest. The

pair changed some tactics

for the final and led from

doubles partner Angeli-

que Obrecht won the B

finals and came 6th over-

all with time! Congratu-

lations as well to fellow

Islanders Morgan Green

and **Xavi Mara** who were

Zoey Redmond and her

start to finish!

also competing.

The following are the first names of the agegroup, medal winners.

#### Panther Points!

The U11 Manitoulin Panthers played their hearts out at their first tournament outing, the Porcupine Ice Breaker in Timmins, making it all the way to semi-finals on Sunday in a hard-fought battle. This team contin-

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

Their efforts earned them a second-place finish in their division and a spot in the semifinals, where they faced the Thundercats once again. In a hard-fought back and forth battle, the Panthers came up just short, falling 6–5 in a nail-biter.

Our U18 Lady Panthers were in Kapuskasing for the first Superweekend of the 25/26 NOWHL season. The ladies proved

themselves to be a powerful force as they swept all four games in this series. The Manitoulin Lady Panthers beat the Nipigon Elks, the host team Kapuskasing Jaguars, the Almaguin Gazelles and the North Bay Jr. Lakers. The future looks bright for all the Panthers! Keep up the hard work, all.





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Very scary stuff!

The Mindemoya Pioneer Museum grounds were transformed into a terrifying walking trail! The event was presented by the Central Manitoulin Lions club with all proceeds raised from the event going to the Central Manitoulin Historical Society.

photo by Tom Sasvari



A hall packed with ghosts 'n goblins!

The Gore Bay community hall was packed last Friday evening as the Gore Bay community spirit and events group presented a 'family Halloween dance.' The many youngsters, and adults, dressed up in their favourite Halloween costumes. There were prizes handed out for best spot dancers and best costumed family.

photo by Tom Sasvari



- Ensure all costumes are flame resistant.
- Facial masks should be breathable and have strong visibility.
- To avoid tripping hazards, don't let costumes drag on the ground.
- Costumes should have reflective markings or have your child carry a flashlight to be seen.
- Use non-toxic face paint rather than masks with low visibility.
- Create a buddy system! An adult should accompany young children.
- Do not enter cars or homes only accept treats on the doorstep.
- Keep children on the sidewalk or path, and don't let them run across the street or to the next house alone. Always walk together!
- Ensure an adult examines the candy before being eaten, and avoid eating candy that was already opened.



The healing power of music

Anthony Barr of Sacred Sevens plays one of his many flutes during this past week's Holistic Fair at the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre. The fair was packed throughout the day.

photo by Michael Erskine

# Billings to celebrate volunteers

by Tom Sasvari KAGAWONG—The Township of Billings will honour those who make a difference in the community.

The volunteer appreci-

ation committee has received support from council.

"This is a very good

thing to develop. We have so many good volunteers in the community," said Councillor Michael Hunt. The community volun-

The community volunteer appreciation committee had put forward a request to council to allocate \$2,000 towards a volunteer recognition ceremony.

Mayor Bryan Barker explained, "the township has a new volunteer recognition committee, and the committee terms of reference were adopted by council at their October 7 council meeting. The committee has since started meeting and has an initial proposal for council to consider."

"The committee is looking to host a recognition event in mid-December," continued Mayor Barker. "Preliminary planning includes a wine and cheese type event for approximately 100 attendees. Along with the volunteer recognition event would be the firefighter and employee service recognition."

Veronique Dion, CAO/clerk of Billings pointed out the committee request of \$2,000 is for preparation of the event, the preparation of a plaque and recognition items for the volunteer award recipients.

The volunteer recognition categories include: arts and culture. Awarded for their valuable contribution to the development, support, preservation or promotion of culture, music, visual, performing or literary art; outstanding community group award for their outstanding voluntary contribution to the

well-being of the community; senior volunteer-awarded to individuals over the age of 60 who demonstrate a true commitment to the community and their volunteer work; youth volunteer-awarded to an individual 21 years of age and under who demonstrates a true commitment to the community and their volunteer work; historical pillar of the community-for an individual who has supported, and has brought recognition of the community through their efforts over the course of a lifetime; mayor's volunteer service-awarded for exemplary behaviour, and contributions to enhance or improve the community and the lives of residents within it.

Ms. Dion explained the committee chose the seven volunteer recognition categories this year and will be advertising in The Manitoulin Expositor for nominations from members of the public. She pointed out the committee will next meet on November 12 to consider all the nominations and are tentatively looking at December 12 for the awards recognition event to take place.

Council approved the request from the committee.

In a social media post the township wrote, "if you know someone from Billings that merits formal recognition for their volunteer work in any of these categories, please send in their name and a short outline of why you feel they deserve the award. Nominations will be accepted until November 11, and can be sent to the Township at deputyclerk@billingstwp.ca or in person or by mail at 15 Old Mill Road, Kagawong, Ontario POP IJO.

# **HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS!**



A

HAPP



SAFEA









Have a parent or adult trick or treat with you or stay in groups.

Always carry a flashlight or glow stick for visibility.

Look both ways before crossing the street.

Listen for traffic. Walk on sidewalks whenever possible.

Only wear costumes that fit well and are flame resistant.

Wear masks that you can clearly see out of.

Enter only the homes of friends or family. Avoid dark houses.

Examine treats before eating.

Never eat treats that are not sealed well.



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# ...Inquest into Wiikwemkoong man's death at Sudbury Jail reveals system failures

...continued from page 3

pneumonia and septicemia—a catastrophic blood infection.

The ongoing coroner's inquest, which concluded its testimony October 23, is not about blame, but about prevention. Over five days of evidence, jurors heard from nurses, doctors, correctional staff and experts in infectious disease. What emerged was a portrait of a system strained to breaking—short-staffed, digitally outdated and medically unprepared for the complexities of illness in custody.

Dr. Martin Queen, the Sudbury-based forensic pathologist who performed the autopsy, told the jury that Mr. Trudeau's lungs were "three to four times the normal weight," heavy with infection. "Normally lungs are light and airy," he said. "These were dense and firm, filled with pus and fluid." He found no evidence of trauma or rib injuries, despite Mr. Trudeau's earlier complaint of rib pain—pain Dr. Queen now suspects came from the pneumonia already "brewing" when he entered the jail.

Dr. Queen described MRSA as a "smart bacteria," one that has evolved to resist common antibiotics. "It's found on the skin or in the nose of about one in three people," he said. "Most never know it's there. But in crowded, unhygienic conditions like jails, it can turn deadly."

According to Dr. Queen, Mr. Trudeau's infection likely developed over five to seven days before his death—meaning he was already ill when he was admitted on February 8, 2021. Because of pandemic restrictions, new inmates were placed in 14-day isolation. No nurse was available for intake that day, so Mr. Trudeau was examined the next morning. He reported rib pain and methadone use for opioid addiction, and had a mild fever

A nurse later noted a wound on his hand and swabbed it for bacteria. Test results returned positive for Group A streptococcus, and an on-call physician—working virtually—prescribed an antibiotic known to treat drug-resistant strains. But the infection spreading through Mr. Trudeau's body was far worse.

By February 12, his temperature had dropped into hypothermic range—a red flag for sepsis. Dr. Dominik Mertz, an infectious disease specialist from Hamilton, told the jury that this reading should have triggered immediate reassessment. "A low temperature can be a sign of severe sepsis," he said. "If repeated and confirmed, it's a medical emergency." Instead, there was no follow-up.

When asked how Mr. Trudeau's pneumonia could have been detected, Dr. Queen said simply, "A stethoscope." Listening to the chest, or a routine blood test,

might have revealed the infection early enough to intervene.

Every medical witness who testified—including nurses Meaghan Kallio, Chantal Shambrook and Tammy French—called for the same reforms: 24-hour on-site nursing care and digital medical records that follow inmates between institutions. Ms. Shambrook described pandemic restrictions as "crippling," limiting nurses' ability to move between units and assess patients.

Ms. French, now the jail's health care manager, told jurors that the complexity of inmates' medical needs has risen sharply in recent years. "Patient acuity is about 200 times greater than when I started," she said. "We have far more anxiety, depression, concurrent disorders, addictions, mental health."

For Indigenous peoples, those realities are magnified. Despite making up roughly five percent of Canada's

...continued on page 11







# Rainbow Board passes motion supporting role of school trustees

...continued from page 3

Kosmerly. "It is important people stand up for democracy." She said parents in other areas of the province are speaking out

season draws!

about what is being proposed, but not all areas, including smaller communities may not understand the implications of

"I will be opposing the



motion," said Trustee Anita Gibson. "I understand the intent, but find it is premature and undermine our position. At this stage no formal process has been brought forward by the ministry. Trustees do not have enough information as to what is being looked at, to respond."

Trustee Judy Hunda said that she would be supporting the motion. "I believe that the members of the public don't necessarily know what is being proposed. To see that legislation could happen without consultation is not proper. I am also a long-time trustee. My priority is looking after the students, teachers/staff, parents." She said the She said the board should not wait until legislation comes down from the province before taking action. "I definitely approve sending the letter to let the government know we are not in favour with the changes being proposed, that trustees are important and that they help make a difference in education."
"The (OPSBA) north-

ern conference was a really good meeting," said Trustee Hunda. "The Trustee Hunda. majority of trustees from other boards feel the same as we do. I want to thank OPSBA for bringing this

It was pointed out by RDSB chair David Farrow that for the motion brought forward to be approved it would need two-third majority of the

The motion to send the letter was favoured by the board, although Trustee Gibson was opposed.

## ...PomeGran launches rural internet services brand

...continued from page 3

households, businesses and communities. While PomeGran remains the corporate entity driving investment, partnerships, and national strategy NIVO is the customer-facing brand dedicated to serving families, small businesses, seasonal residents and Indigenous communities across rural Canada.

NIVO represents more than technology. The brand reflects values of trust, transparency, and community, designed to resonate with the people and regions it serves. Its visual identity draws inspiration from Canada's landscapes and the resilience of rural communi-

ties, while its name and tagline, "Life is looking up," signal optimism and progress. With NIVO, PomeGran is making fibre connectivity accessible in a way that feels local, human and lasting.

"With NIVO, we are introducing a brand that is confident, modern and rooted in rural Canada. Our promise is simple, to empower communities with the connectivity they need to thrive," stated Joe Hickey, president of PomeGran.

"Access to reliable high-speed internet is not a luxury; it is essential infrastructure for every community In Canade. I have seen firsthand how connectivity opens doors for education, healthcare, and economic development in rural and Indigenous communities. The launch of NIVO is an important step forward, ensuring that more families and businesses can fully participate in Canada's digital future," said the Honourable Gudie Hutchings, former minister of rural economic development, government of Canada.

Ogimaa Tim Ominika said, "Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, through community-owned our provider FirstTel, is proud to partner with PomeGran to strengthen broadband across Northern Ontario. Together. we are advancing connectivity that empowers Indigenous communities and supports long-term

## ...Big Buck Roundup back for another year

Email photos of you with your deer by the deadline of 5 pm on Sunday, November 23. Along with your photo, please include your name and address, where you harvested the deer and the season in which it was harvested, how big the deer is, including its weight and the number

eligible for \$100 gift certificate from Up Top Sport Shop in Mindemoya, with second prize being a \$50 gift certificate, again from Up Top Sports.

Send photos and information to tom@ manitoulin.com



Rylan Carrick of Mindemoya was last year's big winner in Tom's Big Buck Roundup.

#### ...continued from page 3 of points. By entering the contest, you could be

**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

#### **NEMI Rec Centre Activities**

**Talk and Tea Series** Nov 18th — Pros and Cons of Reverse Mortgages Nov 25th — Downsizing and Decluttering At 1:00 pm upstairs at the NEMI Rec Centre

All workshops in this series are free and include refreshments. Email lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca to register

#### **Winter Parking Reminder**

Please be reminded that, as per our Traffic Control By-law, parking on all municipal roadways is prohibited effective November 1st of each year until March 31st of the following year between the hours of 2:00 am and 7:00 am. PARKING TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED

#### **NEMI RECREATION CENTRE**

The ice is in and we are ready for your ice rentals. Please contact the arena at rtaylor@townofnemi.on.ca to book your time.



#### **Christmas Market at the Centennial Museum**

#### November 28th and 29th

Still a couple spots available! Email: lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca

#### Save the date!

Start getting your floats ready... Santa Claus Parade is on December 6th.

#### **Employment Opportunity**

The Town is looking for a community-minded individual for the position of SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD Please call Pam for more information: 705-368-3500, ext. 228

> Happy Halloween! From Mayor MacNevin and Council. Keep our children safe..



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These pumps will improve patient safety, accuracy, and care quality helping our healthcare teams deliver the very best care, right here at

> "This success shows the true spirit of Manitoulin – when we come together, extraordinary things happen."



# ...Dr. Deborah McGregor takes Canada Excellence Chair at Calgary U.

...continued from page 1

live well with the Earth in an age of climate and ecological crisis? Dr. McGregor will explore answers that honour both scientific and Anishinaabe knowledge working toward a model of planetary well-being rooted in justice for all life.

"I hold a Canada Excellence Research Chair at the University of Cal-



Dr. Deborah McGregor

gary, which allows me to dedicate most of my time to research," she says. "My focus is what I call planetary well-being — it brings together everything I've worked on over the years: climate justice, biodiversity, and water governance.

I use the term planetary well-being instead of 'planetary health' because that field often separates people from the natural world. Indigenous knowledge doesn't do that — it understands that our well-being and the planet's well-being are interconnected."

Before her appointment in Calgary, Dr. McGregor served as the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice at York University, cross-appointed to Osgoode Hall Law School and the Faculty of Envi-

ronmental Studies and Urban Change. Over the past decade, she has become one of the country's most respected voices in Indigenous environmental governance, co-editing Indigenous Peoples and Autonomy: Insights for

a Global Age and the Anishinaabewin conference proceedings, while mentoring dozens of students and community based researchers

When asked about the

...continued on page 12

# ...clients of Espanola's Dodge landfill relieved

...continued from page 1

what we have here is not collecting garbage from industrial, condominiums, but earthworks."

"I was told write a heartfelt letter on how this process would affect our business," said Mr. Dodge. "The manager said the law on this, but they can help me. Nothing is carved in stone yet, but we are close. They are looking at our logics."

Mr. Dodge had previously explained his landfill financial assurance obligation, money set aside for future closure of the landfill, was recently

increased by 70 percent by MECP. This hike is based not on-site conditions, but on MECP's use of the non-residential construction price index (NR-CPI) which reflects costs of urban building projects like condominiums, plumbing, electrical trades, steel and concrete,

ased by 70 percent none of which are part of landfill closure.

not on-site condibut on MECP's use per non-residential have on our site is earth

included in this, all we have on our site is earth works," said Mr. Dodge. He pointed out everything is in place at the Espanola site for expansion.

"MECP reviewers locked in a once in a century COVID era spike as though it were the new normal. They applied Toronto and Ottawa highrise construction costs to a small-town landfill in Espanola. That's not protecenvironmental tion, that's bureaucratic box-ticking. A landfill isn't a condo tower, and MECP should know the difference," he had said.

He also explained previously, "We already have a landfill financial assurance obligation of \$1.2 million, but this being increased by 70 percent with this change."

# Remembrance Day Service



Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 11:00 AM Kagawong Park Centre

Theme: 80th Anniversary of the Ending of the Second World War

Silver Collection

Potluck lunch (finger foods) following service

Sponsored by the Kagawong Cenotaph Board

## ...Inquest into Wiikwemkoong man's death

...continued from page 9

population, Indigenous people account for over 30 per cent of those incarcerated in provincial and federal institutions. The proportion is even higher for Indigenous women. Centuries of displacement, residential schools, and state-sanctioned child removal have left deep intergenerational trauma—trauma now often criminalized instead of cared for.

Many of those who enter jail, like Mr. Trudeau, carry untreated mental health conditions, addictions and histories of violence or poverty—symptoms of systemic neglect that the justice system is ill-equipped to heal. In Northern jails especially, where staffing shortages are chronic and health care is patchwork, the line between illness and punishment blurs into something that can be seen as more cruel.

Mr. Trudeau's death, therefore, could be not just the failure of antibiotics, but of infrastructure—an echo of policies that continue to fail Indigenous people both inside and outside the walls.

The inquest closed with ceremony. Elder Dorothy Fox of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory opened and closed the proceedings with Anishinaabe prayer, grounding the process in respect and accountability—a reminder that justice, too, can be ceremony when institutions have forgotten their humanity.

The jury will reconvene next week to deliberate its recommendations—recommendations that, for Trudeau's family and community, may be the only justice left to find.

The inquest continues until October 29.

#### **ATTENTION**

Anyone who has served in the military (including WWII, Korea, SDA, Militia/Reserve Forces, RCMP, still serving and dependants),

# Royal Canadian Legion Service Bureau Officer Sherry Culling

will be visiting branches in your area during the week of

November 3rd, 2025

Anyone looking for information, advice or assistance regarding:

- Veterans Affairs Canada Disability Pensions/ Awards
- Treatment for entitled Veterans
- Application For Poppy/Benevolent Funds

For appeals against unfavourable VAC decisions to widows, it is recommended you contact the Branch Service Officer at your Local Branch: #177, Little Current, 705-368-2661. Ask for Kari. A free service offered by the Legion.





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# ...Dr. Deborah McGregor takes Canada Excellence Chair

...continued from page 11

work being done around the personhood of water, efforts to grant water personhood in Canada have primarily involved Indigenous communities and environmental groups, Dr. McGregor had this to say:

"A lot of this work began in New Zealand, where rivers were granted legal personhood within British common law systems," Dr. McGregor explains. "That kind of recognition changes how people see water—not as property or a commodity, but as a living being with its own spirit and rights. It shifts us from a mindset of ownership to one of relationship."

"In Canada, we're beginning to see that same shift take root," she continues. "The Magpie River in Quebec became the first in the country to be granted legal personhood in 2021 — a landmark moment for both the global rights of nature movement and the Innu of Ekuanitshit First Nation. The river was recognized as having nine legal rights, including the right to flow, to be free from pollution, and even the right to take legal action to defend itself. These kinds of initiatives now extending to other waterways like the Gatineau River — show that change is possible when law

begins to reflect Indigenous worldviews that see water as a relative, not a resource."

For Dr. McGregor, that relationship is ancient.

"For Indigenous people who've lived around the Great Lakes for thousands of years, the idea that water has its own spirit, its own personality, isn't new. Our laws and governance have always supported that understanding. Ceremonies, songs, and teachings have long recognized water as a being in relationship with us — it never needed validation from common law."

But in a country where Indigenous law remains largely unrecognized, that understanding faces daily challenges.

"You see local efforts, like where a municipality declared a river as having rights. But without recognition by the Canadian state, those rights don't hold up legally. Development still goes ahead," she says. "In Canada, people are trying to bring Indigenous and common law into conversation — what some call a deliberative lawmaking process. It's humans debating, creating something new together. But spiritual law, the law of the land and water, that's not something we invent — it's something we respect, remember and act upon."

Her new Chair builds directly on that philosophy — that reconciliation must extend beyond human politics into ecological and spiritual realms. Her work stands at the confluence of Indigenous law and climate science, bringing Indigenous perspectives into spaces where they have long been sidelined.

"I work at the national level as part of Canada's climate assessment process —as one of the lead authors of the For our Future: Indigenous Resilience Report, which is the only standalone Indigenous climate assessment in Canada," she says. 'What I've learned through that work is that the biggest challenges we face — like climate change can't be solved without Indigenous knowledge. That knowledge has always existed, but it's often excluded from these conversations because it doesn't fit into the science dominated assessment frameworks.'

Dr. McGregor describes her research not as the pursuit of answers, but as a shared journey of questioning and learning collectively.

"As a researcher, I don't assume I have the answers. My job is to ask questions and work with communities to figure things out together—to document those voices to become

...continued on page 13

# ...Illinois takes further steps to protect Great Lakes

...continued from page 3

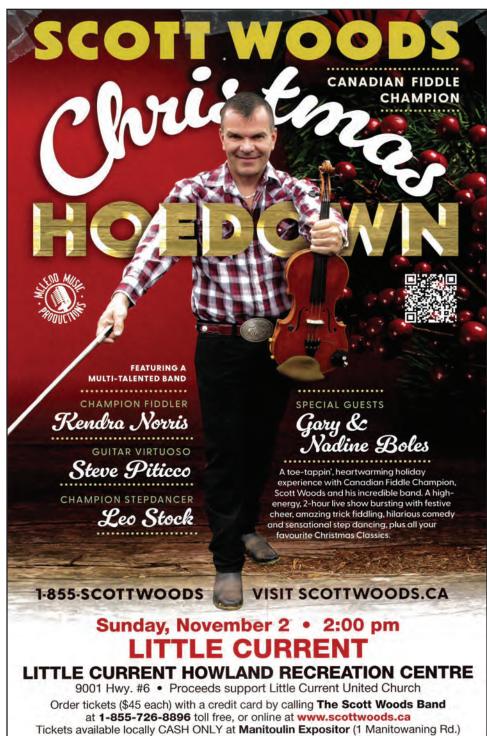
state officials announced they had reached a deal on September 30 for the two small upland parcels totaling 2.75 acres required for the project. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources confirmed that state officials are developing a plan to investigate the site and are reviewing whether any additional land is needed.

Earlier this month Illinois Governor JB Pritzker joined six other Great Lakes governors in submitting a letter to Congress, calling the project a "national priority" and urging lawmakers to provide full federal financing, reported the Sun-Times.

The invasive carp, a family of fish which also includes

the bighead carp, black carp and grass carp, were first confirmed in the Mississippi River about 50 years ago and their populations have grown to the extent that if they get into the Great Lakes experts fear that it could wipe out the billion-dollar fishery.

For decades local, state-province and US and Canada federal governments have worried the carp could bypass Chicago and breach the Great Lakes, potentially reducing populations of native species that locals like to fish. The feared spread could wreak havoc on the world's largest freshwater ecosystem and the multibillion-dollar tourism, boating and fishing industries that rely on it. Carp can out-eat and outgrow native fish.



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# Happy 60th wedding anniversary!

Many family and friends helped Hugh and Mollyanne McLaughlin celebrate their 60th anniversary at the Waters Edge Restaurant in Gore Bay on Saturday, October 18. "It was a wonderful event, well organized and it was great to see so many friends and family," said Mr. McLaughlin. After a come and go tea held in the afternoon, about 50 members of the family and friends were served an excellent dinner, followed by the cutting of the anniversary cake, a traditional dance for the couple and everyone taking part in a dance later that evening.

#### ...Dr. Deborah McGregor, Canada Excellence Chair

...continued from page 12

part of the broader conversations that seek solutions. Indigenous peoples already know how to survive destruction; our stories and laws hold that memory."

She pauses when speaking of those stories — the ones that survived everything.

"Every time the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) or the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) releases a global assessment, the message is the same — we're at a tipping point, we need transformation to change the direction we are going not just tweaks to the status quo or business as usual," she says. "In my work, I always return to our creation stories. That's where our laws and assumptions about your relationship with the natural world come from, and those stories always hold hope, even in the darkest times. There's always a way through — usually with help from the natural world."

Hope, in her view, is not naïveté — it's responsibility.

"Our stories remind us that humans

don't have all the answers. That's a controversial thing to say in scientific circles — people get uncomfortable when you suggest that the natural world itself carries knowledge. But that's exactly what our stories teach. The animals, the birds, the waters — they've always been our teachers. The solutions have never been just human ones."

Through her teaching, publications, and community-based collaborations, Dr. McGregor continues to build the intellectual and spiritual groundwork for a future where climate science and Indigenous knowledge and law meet — not as competing systems, but in relation to each other.

Her appointment marks a turning point not just for academia, but for the country: a recognition that survival in the climate era requires more than innovation — it requires humility, relationship, and remembering.

The work of Dr. Deborah McGregor moves steadily like the river for which her community is named, toward that remembering — toward a time when law, science, and spirit once again speak the same language.



# ...A trip down Islanders' memory lanes to past Jays triumphs

...continued from page 1

to attend the World Series Game six on Saturday, October 23, 1993," said Mr. Murdock. "We jumped at the chance. The eight of us, which also included Tom Sasvari, the late Werner Dittmar and Matt Whalen (who now lives off-Island) headed out to Toronto Friday afternoon for the Saturday evening game."

"One thing I can remember is how the other staff at the school were so good to us," stated Mr. Tribinevicius. "Fern Patterson, the school principal and the rest of the

teaching staff let us out of school a few hours early to travel to Toronto. Other teachers filled in for us."

The whole crew got into a van and headed to Toronto. Tickets had been arranged by Mr. Shaffer, who had a contact at a bus travel agency in Sudbury. Each member of the crew, had paid \$150 in total for the bus trip (which they didn't take), the ticket to the game and accommodations at a hotel.

"Before the game, six of us went down to the field level as the Phillies were warming up," said Mr. Wiggins. "I remember Al was like a little kid when they see something new and exciting. His eyes were as big as saucers. We were watching the Phillies warmup and one of their relief pitchers, (Mitch) 'Wild Thing' (Williams) was close by and Al started yelling and calling him over to sign an autograph, and he (Williams) did."

"I don't remember all of that, but I'm pretty sure I got his (Wild Thing) autograph," said Mr. Tribinevicius. "But I don't know where I put the program he signed. I still have it somewhere,

and I also have a pennant too from the game. They are probably in one of the boxes in my basement along with some other souvenirs from a game my daughter took me to on Father's Day about 15 years ago."

As for the game, the Blue Jays scored three runs in the first inning, and when Paul Molitor hit a solo home run in the bottom of the fifth inning the Blue Jays had a four-run lead, 5-1, and the 52,195 fans in a delirious SkyDome (now the Rogers Centre) were certain the Jays would coast to a win and their second straight World Series championship

However, the Phillies had other ideas, scoring five runs in the seventh inning. Lenny 'Nails' Dykstra hit a three-run homerun to cut the Jays lead to one, and Philadelphia scored two more runs to take the lead 6-5.

The Blue Jays couldn't score in the seventh or the eighth inning, although they had the bases loaded at one point in the eighth inning.

eighth inning.

"It wasn't looking good," said Mr. Shaffer. "I remember we were all sitting there talking about if, and how, we were going to get tickets for game seven (which would have taken place the next evening)."

"The four of us teachers were telling Mark he would have to call Fern (Patterson) and tell her we may be late for school on Monday, because it looked like we might have to find tickets and go to the game Sunday night," said Mr. Wiggins.



Great Blue Jays memories! This group of Manitoulin Island friends, from left Mark Olacke (who now lives in southern Ontario), the late Werner Dittmar, Bruce Wiggins, Wayne Murdock and Steve Shaffer attended game six of the 1993 World Series, which the Blue Jays won, marking the last time they won the championships. Missing from photo is Tom Sasvari and Matt Whalen.



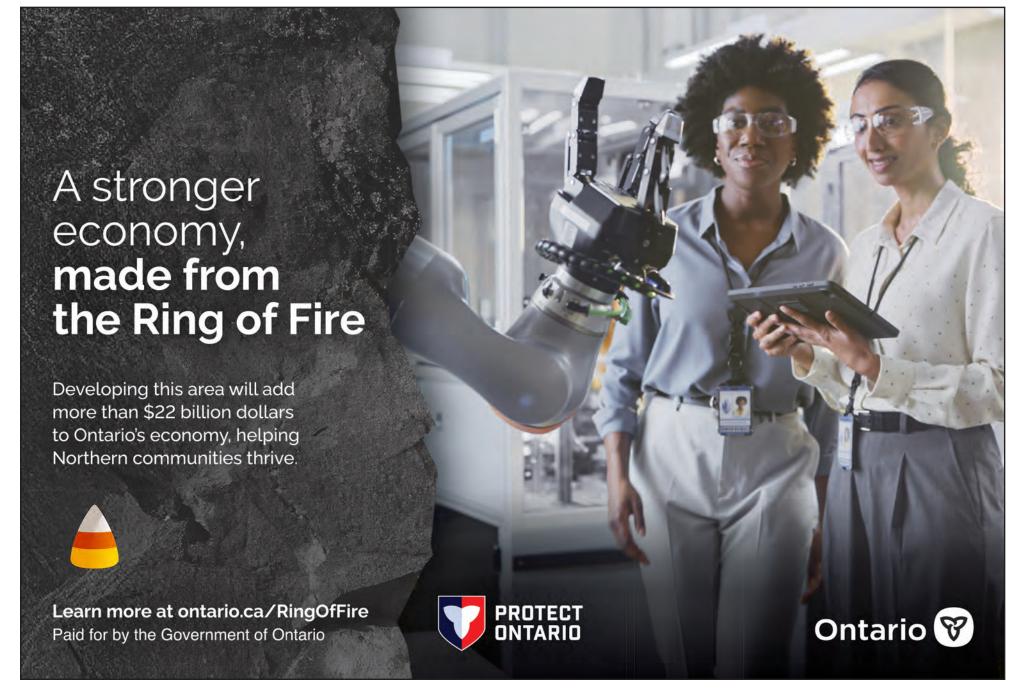
The tickets for Games 1 and 6 which cost a whopping \$58 each.

"Everyone in the stadium went from being despondent when the Jays got behind... then Joe Carter's homerun and it was all over," stated Mr. Tribinevicius.

Rickey Henderson led off the ninth inning with a walk by 'Wild Thing' Williams. Paul Molitor (who would go on to win the World Series Most Valuable Player award) singled, moving Henderson to second. The tying run was now in scoring position and the World Series

...continued on page 13





# $\overline{A}$ trip down Islanders' memory lanes to past Jays triumphs

...continued from page 14

winning run was at first as Joe Carter came to the

Williams fell behind in the count 2-and-0, only to even the count at 2-and-2. It was at that point that Joe Carter took the next pitch down and in and hit it over the left field fence, a walk-off homerun and World Series win for the Blue Jays.

"It looked like Williams tried to throw the pitch so hard, he threw himself onto the ground," said Mr. Wiggins.

"I remember not knowing at first if it cleared the fence," said Mr. Shaffer. "It was a line drive, it got out quickly, and from where we were sitting (section 533 seats) I didn't see it go out at first."



Halloween in Expositor publisher McCutcheon, with the help of mom Julia, dreamed up this autographed World Series Jays baseball costume, which garnered her a first-place at the LCPS Halloween parade.

"The noise in the stadium was unreal when Carter hit the homer," said Mr. Sasvari, who had also attended the first game of the series with Mr. Shaffer and Grant Cory. "I have never heard anything that loud, it was like two people screaming in your ears at the same time. And the celebration seemed to go on forever inside and outside the stadium. It was awesome."

"We all stayed in the stadium for quite awhile afterward," said Mr. Wiggins. "When we got outside the stadium there was a guy on drums, playing the song 'Wild Thing.' People were throwing five- and 10 dollar bills at him hand over fist."

All eight Islanders started out making the long walk back to the hotel which was several blocks away, even walking past one street, where the Toronto Star reported the next day there may have been one million people in that one area, said Mr. Wiggins.

"People were hanging from streetlights, and there were cops on horses all over the place," said Mr. Wiggins.

"I remember the crowd on Yonge Street—it was packed and everyone was so happy," said Mr. Shaffer.

Wiggins pointed out along with people on lamps and streetlights, all the streetcars were stopped on streets and people could even be seen on top of them. "It was just an amazing scene."

"Before I sat down to write this story, I watched a video of Joe hitting that homer," said Mr. Sasvari. "I get goosebumps every time I see it. It was something that I'm sure none of us will ever forget. It

was unbelievable."

"The 1993 team seemed very similar to the 2025 Blue Jays in that they all made contributions at the right time to make essential plays: and the players really supported each other," said Mr. Murdock.

remember how the crowd erupted when Joe Carter hit his home run to win the series."

"Looking at the ticket I have, I can't believe the price for attending game six of the World Series was

"Along with most fans, I only 58 bucks Canadian," said Mr. Murdock. "We were lucky tickets were affordable back then for once in a lifetime events. Times have changed."

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# .Island municipal fire services embrace new provincial regulations

...continued from page 1

national benchmarks for training, knowledge and safety. It's a move that many in the fire service agree is long overdue, though the path toward compliance is proving much steeper and challenging for rural and northern departments that rely heavily on volunteers.

For Assiginack Township Fire Chief and Councillor Dwayne Elliot, the issue isn't about whether certification is necessary, it's about how small, volunteer-based

departments are pected to meet the same standards as large, fulltime services with vastly greater resources. "Ifully support certification because it keeps everyone safe," Fire Chief Elliot told The Expositor. "The motion provided a means and resources to help track training across the province," Fire Chief Elliot said. "But some of the stipulations aren't fully understood." Fire Chief Elliot, who also sits on township council. says the regulation has prompted heated discussions locally. "At council, it was suggested that we ought to go against this requirement mandate," he said, noting the township received a resolution from the Township of Brudnell, Lyndoch and Raglan, opposing the mandatory firefighter certification requirements. "But I didn't, and still don't think that's a good thing. I fully support the proper certification of our guys. It ensures that everyone is safe, and that extends to the people we serve."

At an Assiginack township council meeting last week, where council looked at the resolution from the Township of Brudnell, Lyndoch and Raglan, council passed a resolution to support the implementation of the mandatory firefighter certification, understanding that there will be additional expenditures for training and related costs; and furthermore that the council respectfully requests that the legislation be

amended to provide a two-year extension, from July 1, 2026 until July 1. 2028, for the certification requirements. The council also requests that the current two-year period for full certification from the date of hire be removed to better accommodate the realities faced by volunteer firefighters.

Councillor Elliott said, "There were some municipalities looking for support to not implement the regulations at all. I don't agree with that," he said, indicating he is in support of a two-year extension.

"I think it is fair to provide for a two-year extension (on the regulations implementation) said Councillor Janice

Bowerman. A letter and resolution from the Township of Larder Lake requesting an extension of certification deadlines of two years also appeared before Billings council last week. Crystal Labbe, CAO/Clerk-treasurer for Larder Lake wrote in part, "training programs for many of these service certifications are still not available or are only in pilot while there remains a large demand for these programs. The province cannot reasonably expect volunteer firefighters, many of whom work full-time jobs, to independently develop training programs that meet the standards required to pass certification exams. This places an undue burden on small municipalities and risks compromising the intent of the regulation. We have enclosed a formal resolution passed by our council, which outlines our concerns and respectfully requests that the province extend the certification deadline to a minimum of two

years beyond the final release date."

"Veronique (Dion) CAO/clerk) (township had a conversation with our fire chief (Martin Connell) on this," said Billings Mayor Bryan Barker.

"Our fire chief is in favour of the extension of the regulations for two years because there is not enough testing officers in place to perform all the (training) requirements," said Ms. Dion. Billings passed a resolution supporting the Larder Lake motion to request an extension of the regulation period for two years.

Safety, however, isn't the only consideration in this process. Meeting the province's training and testing requirements within the coming months is a logistical and financial challenge, which Fire Chief Elliot says is compounded by the limited availability of training centres in Northern Ontario. "It's been very challenging to get assistance and access to training resources, such as the centre in Azilda," he explained. 'Sudbury wants to ensure that they can get all of their men done on time as well, which limits our access. Thankfully, the OFN is willing to send their trailer and extra hands to help get this done. But as you can imagine, those services are in high demand as everyone is scrambling to get this done on time and there are only so many of them." (The trailer, in fact, was on-site in Little Current last week for training.)

Without enough regional training capacity, many small-town departments are caught in a tight squeeze. "If we were to try and get our everyone done in-house,

it would easily take two years to get them educated and trained enough to challenge the certifications for both Levels 1 and 2," he added. "This kind of timeline makes it really hard for smaller stations in Northern Ontario because we simply don't have access to a lot of the resources that others in the province

At present, Fire Chief Elliot has four certified firefighters on his roster, but nine more who still need to complete the programing. Sending volunteers away for multi-week courses isn't always realistic. could potentially send people to facilities north of Sault Ste. Marie or to North Bay," he said, "but the time constraints as well as the costs of doing this are pretty prohibi-

Across Manitoulin Island, the story is much the same. In Gore Bay, Fire Chief and Community Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Addison says his department got an early start but still faces systemic challenges. "We're doing pretty well with this, Fire Chief Addison said. "We were onboard early. We have several people who could potentially get certified by March or April. Right now, we're trying to get something going for Island-wide training to help get everyone up to par on what's being asked.

Fire Chief Addison says that coordination among Island departments could help close the gap, but only if they can secure access to official evaluators. issue remains that we don't have any regional training to help," he explained. "Myself and

...continued on page 18



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# .Island municipal fire services embrace new provincial regulations

...continued from page 16

a few of the other fire chiefs have been around long enough that we can probably train guys to Levels 1 and 2, but we're not allowed to fully certify our own firemen. They need to be tested by an outside evaluator to prevent any conflicts of interest.

That rule, while intended to preserve impartiality, has created a province-wide bottleneck which many services are lamenting. There are simply not enough certified evaluators to go around. "Previously, there was something called The Northern Program which really helped to get people certified in the north, and the cost was relatively cheap," Fire Chief Addison recalled. "But that has since been closed, and there are no talks by the college to try and start something like that again any time soon."

The curriculum, based on the NFPA 1001 standards used across North America, also adds complexity. "The curriculum that they're wanting taught isn't from Ontario, but from the United States," Fire Chief Addison said. "There's nothing wrong with that, only that it makes it harder to get training information and resources here."

Still, Fire Chief Addison doesn't believe abandoning the certification plan is the answer. "There have been some places which have asked to have this certification push dropped," he said, referring to municipalities lobbying the province for relief. "But I don't feel that's the right call. We need people to be properly trained, and people deserve to be safe."

His concern lies in the financial strain the regulation places on small communities. "People can and should have their internal and external certifications, which would satisfy these requirements," he said. "But the issue becomes one of time and financial costs, plus the lack of resources to get that kind of thing done on time. If we have to send people out of town to get the training, the costs could easily get out of hand. Well over \$3,500, and probably more like \$6,500 per firefighter. Most townships simply can't afford that kind of cost.

Fire Chief Addison says Gore Bay currently has two in-house trainers, and there are a few others scattered across the Island. "If we can coordinate things and get everyone on board, we can potentially make

it work," he said. "But we need to get some outside people to certify everyone after we get them trained and with this push, you can imagine that everyone wants those guys to come, but there are only so many of them to go around.'

The worst-case scenario, Fire Chief Addison warns, is that if smaller departments can't meet the deadlines, they could be forced to suspend operations. 'Perhaps if stations have to start closing, it will add political pressure to extend the deadline," he said grimly. "But that's a worst-case scenario which could put communities at risk.

Despite these concerns, Fire Chief Addison stresses that the new rules stem from a good place. "It's easy to see this thing as bad because of the timelines," he said. "But the reality is that firemen were getting hurt and some errors were made. That's what prompted this thing to go ahead, and I'm always for the proper training of workers. It's important that people don't lose sight of that and work with the system to find a solution that will work for everyone and keep people safe.'

In Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands (NEMI), Fire Chief Duane Deschamps is taking a proactive approach. "We're doing pretty good with this so far," Fire Chief Deschamps said. "Both myself and my deputy are fully certified, and we can help train people. Right now, the focus is on getting the rest of the service certified as they need to be."

NEMI's training program has long been rigorous, Fire Chief Deschamps says, but the new regulation formalizes it. "We have always had a good training program here, and that hasn't changed," he said. "But now, it has to be official, though our curriculum already matches what is being asked. The only thing which is outstanding is the Ontario Fire College's practical portions, which need to be signed off by an official."

To help other Island services, NEMI plans to host a major training session this fall. "We'll be hosting an extensive fire training program at the end of November," Fire Chief Deschamps said. "It ought to be enough to get people their Level 1 and 2 certifications. It's open to everyone on the Island and will also extend to neighbouring services if they want to participate.

Fire Chief Deschamps notes that the grandfathering process, which allowed experienced firefighters to gain certification based on prior service, has now ended leaving some behind. "That's prevented some people from being able to get certified because they missed that window," he said. "And also, what's happened is that some of the older members are starting to question if they will simply retire rather than having to go through all of the testing and certification

The bigger concern, Fire Chief Deschamps says, is the scope of the issue. "The real challenge here is that the province consists of approximately 80 percent of volunteer fire services," he said. "It's easy for people to think that this is the minority of cases, but it's easily the majority. So, it has the potential to impact a lot of communities across the province, which makes this a really important thing to get right.'

Under the regulation, firefighters must meet the NFPA 1001 Level 1 and 2 standards, which outline specific competencies for both interior and exterior firefighting. These include everything from operating pumps and hoses to search and rescue procedures and structural fire tactics. For many volunteers, meeting these standards means hundreds of hours of instruction and testing with nearly all of it being

Municipalities, meanwhile, must bear the cost of training, travel and certification fees for these brave citizens who take their communities safety upon themselves. The Office of the Fire Marshal has permitted local training under supervision, but the final certification testing must be completed by a qualified third-party evaluator. For isolated northern departments, the logistics of all of this can be quite formi-

If departments cannot certify their members in time, they may face restrictions on which services they can legally provide, meaning slower response times, fewer available responders, and reduced capacity to handle emergencies like structure fires, motor vehicle collisions, or hazardous incidents. The implications, therefore, extend far beyond fire hall doors. For rural residents, the difference between a fully staffed local department and one forced to scale back could be measured in minutes and lives.

"This isn't about resisting progress," said Fire Chief Elliot. "It's about making sure the progress

we're asked to make is possible."

Fire Chief Addison agrees. "We want to do this right," he said. "But we also want to make sure our communities don't lose the very people who show up when everything's on the line.'

Across Manitoulin Island, fire chiefs share that same hope that the province will recognize the realities of Northern firefighting and allow for the flexibility needed to keep both firefighters and their communities safe. Because when the siren sounds, it won't be Queen's Park that answers the call to action. Rather it will be the countless and selfless volunteers who put in the time to keep their friends, families, and neighbours safe.





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#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER • Day 1**

Asha Frost (she/her) is an Indigenous Medicine Woman, Entrepreneur and a member of the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation. She is the best-selling author of You are the Medicine, and has guided thousands of people through profound and lasting transformation. As a highly sought-after speaker, Asha leads from her Clan teachings of the Crane — holding space from vision and heart. Asha has blended her life experience in her work as a homeopath, energy healer and mentor, with her innate gifts and the wisdom of her Ancestors.



#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER • Day 2**

Angela Grier/Piioshksoopanskii (Comes Over Singing) (Piikani/Blackfoot), is a registered Provisional Psychologis residing in her traditional territory. Mohkinstsis (Calgary), the Indigenous Initiative Lead for the CCPA National Office, and a board member for the Parkland Institute. For over 25 years, Angela has been working and supporting First Nation/Indigenous peoples and communities through direct and systematic experience, including Indigenous psychology and counseling, Indigenous and child/youth rights advocacy.



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# Espanola's Morningstar Restaurant and Catering is a family affair

by Margery Frisch ESPANOLA—A Birch Island couple has opened a uniquely Indigenous restaurant in Espanola. With fry bread tacos and scone dogs on the ever-expanding menu, they're adding another dimension for diners in the area.

Nala Morningstar has been catering for years. "It

was a side hustle, for extra income," Ms. Morningstar explained. And for the last couple of years, she and her husband Leon have been doing the powwow

## To the Patients of Dr. Stephen Cooper

It has been my privilege and joy to be a physician in Little Current over the last 33 years. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to try some new projects, and will be closing my practice on December 31, 2025. I will continue part-time in the emergency and nursing home while I transition to full retirement. Ideally, I was hoping that we would be able to recruit a physician to take over my practice. Unfortunately, despite advertising the position for over a year, there have been no takers.

Our group has been fortunate to recruit physicians through a separate program, who will be gradually assuming the care of my patients. In the meantime, your name will be placed on a transfer list, to be assigned to a new physician. You will continue to have access to the services and clinicians in the FHT. I will assist in the transition with prescriptions and ordering tests for patients until a colleague has assumed your care. My patients in Whitefish River First Nation will gradually be transferred to Dr. Chantal Boucher.

Many thanks, Dr. Stephen Cooper





From left are: Daniel Morningstar, Tristan Peltier, Nala and Leon Morningstar and Melody Hester taking a minute from their busy schedules to pose for a photo.

photo by Margery Frisch

circuit with their outdoor fryers—their pop-up kitchen, not always ideal circumstances.

"When we were branching out to expand, we were just looking for a bigger kitchen to cater out of. We saw this place, and we didn't really think we'd get it." But they did get it, the building at 111 Centre Street in downtown Espanola, home of the former Country Style donuts. It's been in their possession since May.

"So, what we recommend is that everyone go and learn a trade," Ms. Morningstar said, laughing. That's what took so long in getting the business up and running – the trades. "Everyone's

so busy," Ms. Morningstar added, "but we're so thankful for the ones that made time and helped us. And we kept everything local as much as possible –local painters, plumbers, electricians, security, the signage."

"There is no sign," her husband pointed out, and the couple laughed. "We're still waiting for that."

No doubt much stress goes into planning and executing an operation like this, but husband and wife were making jokes about the entire process, demonstrating a sense of humour that has carried them through it all.

"We want to stay open 8 am to 8 pm, that is the goal, seven days a week, but we also want to have fun doing it. We don't want to stretch ourselves thin. We don't play that game how stressed can we get? So, we're brainstorming. How can we get that breakfast cooked and how can we find that balance, so there's not a bunch of staff in the back crashing into each other. We're just really buckling down today and reviewing that plan. We're hoping that by November 1 we'll be ready for breakfast, and weekends.

Ms. Morningstar does most of the cooking. "I'm training someone to make the scones. I make all the dough, but I'm training them to roll them out the way I like it." She's quick to laugh and you can see that having fun with this new venture is seriously important. "I do the soups and the gravies and the homestyle dishes," she says, "because I want it to taste like my food until I can teach someone how to make it and put the proper specs out for them and maybe I can get a day off," and she laughed again. She has plans to set up some 'grab-and-go' meal choices. "We'll have things for single people and couples. Then the families who are just busy. There are so many sports going on in the area, I want to have

trays they can bring home and pop in the oven."

Ms. Morningstar would like to see the restaurant become a hub; a place for people to hold meetings or workshops or evening events. "We've already had a baby shower, a birthday party and another event is scheduled in early November," she said. "Now that my staff is finding their footing; they're doing really well. I can focus on the catering, what I love doing, what I want to do."

The Morningstar Restaurant and Catering Facebook page says they are now open 10 am to 8 pm Monday to Friday and the page will continue to provide updates of hours of operation and menus as the restaurant grows with increased staff. "We had 11 to start, now we are 13. We need another dishwasher and a weekend cook. We still have a few more positions that need to be filled," Ms. Morningstar

The unavoidable delays that kept them from their September soft opening, with a grand opening early October, did not stress them out too much. "It was okay, because everyone's not 'seasoned.' We have our baby chicks in here, our kids are working here, and the training has taken time." With five children in their blended family on staff, as well as a young woman who had once been in Ms. Morningstar's foster care, the restaurant is truly a family affair. The laughter and fun the parents demonstrated is evident in the work environment. It's a fun place to work and clearly a fun place to eat.

Nala and Leon Morningstar wish to express their gratitude to the town of Espanola for their generous welcome. "We had so much support from the local contractors and the community," said the grateful business owners.



#### ...continued from page 6

On Tuesday, October 7 at approximately 7:15 pm, officers with the Manitoulin OPP responded to a report of an injured youth at a community event north of the town of Massey. The injured youth was transported to hospital with serious life-threatening injuries.

The investigation was conducted with assistance from the Manitoulin OPP Crime Unit and the Anishinabek Police Service.

As a result of the investigation, Brandy Owl, 34 years old from Massey, was charged with criminal negligence causing bodily harm.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Espanola on December 8.

Anyone with additional information relating to this investigation is encouraged to contact the Manitoulin OPP Crime Unit at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

#### Person facing multiple charges after police called to dispute

One person was arrested after police were called to a dispute resulting in assault and stolen vehicle charges.

On Thursday, September 25, at approximately 10 pm, the Manitoulin OPP received a call reporting a dispute at a residence in Willisville, where a person was assaulted. While police were on route to the address, the suspect stole a vehicle and fled from the residence. A short time later, police located and arrested the individual.

As a result, a 16-year-old from Valley East has been charged with: assault cause bodily harm, two counts of mischief under \$5,000,



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theft of motor vehicle, and two counts of failure to comply with release order.

The accused was held in custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Espanola on November 28.

#### Individual charged for suspended driving and improper tires

A driver is facing charges after police received a traffic coplaint on Highway 17.

On Saturday, October 4, at approximately 11:30 am, the Manitoulin OPP received a traffic

complaint reporting a possible impaired driver on Highway 17 in Baldwin township. Police located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. As a result of further investigation, police determined that the driver was a suspended driver.

The driver, a 42-year-old from Webbwood, was charged with driving while under suspension, driving while suspended under HTA section 41/42, improper tires.

The accused received a summons to appear in court, and a 45-day vehicle impound.

# Driver arrested for impaired operation after traffic stop for speeding

A driver is facing impaired charges after a traffic stop in the town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands (NEMI).

On Sunday, October 12 at approximately 2:30 am, officers with the Manitoulin OPP were conducting speed enforcement on Highway 6 in NEMI. A vehicle was observed to be travelling 115 km/hr in an 80 km/hr zone, and a traffic stop was initiated. As a result of further investigation, the driver was arrested for impaired operation.

The driver, Joshua McDowell, 29 years old from Whitefish River First Nation, was charged with operation while impaired, operation while impaired-blood alcohol concentration (80 plus), novice driver blood alcohol content above zero, speeding 1-49 km/hr over posted limit.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Gore Bay on November 4.

The OPP wants to remind the public that no amount of alcohol or drugs in your system is safe while driving. If you suspect an impaired driver on our roads, waterways or trails, don't hesitate to "make the call" and dial 911. Your phone call could save someone's life.

...continued on page 24



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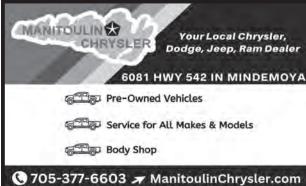
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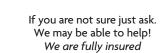
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**Local Services Board** of Robinson Township

**Request for Proposal** for fire hall roof replacement Submission deadline November 7, 2025

For full details, go to robinsontownshiplsb.ca or email robinsonlsb@gmail.com



**Burpee and Mills Recreation Complex** 8 Bailey Line Road, Evansville





Harvest Luncheon, take-out only at St. Francis Anglican Church, 6201 Hwy 542, Mindemova on Wednesday, October 29 from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Soup, sandwiches and dessert for \$15. Free delivery in Mindemoya. Walk-in or pre-order by phone or text: 249-777-3032.

22-24p

Christmas Decoration Sale at Little Current United Church on Saturday, November 15 from 9 am to 2 pm. Also a bake and craft

22-26p

Remembrance Day Potluck Supper on Monday, November 10 at 5 pm at the Silver Water Community Hall. Donations for Angel Bus by Silver Water United Church. Thank you for your help.

Christmas in Kagawong at St. John's Church on Saturday, November 15 from 9 am to 2 pm. There will be baking, a craft table, gift baskets plus homemade meat pies and lasagna.

24-26p

Mindemoya Hospital Auxiliary is holding their Bazaar, Bake Sale and Luncheon on Saturday, November 8 from 11 am to 2 pm. Lunch runs from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Costs \$15 per adult, \$10 for ages 6-12 and under 5 free. Come out to the Mindemoya Community Hall at 6032 Hwy 542, Mindemoya and support your local hospital.

24-25c



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 manitoulin@gmail.com. All welcome.

4tfn

**SAVE THE DATE!** 

Thursday, November 20 is the annual LADIES' NIGHT in downtown

Little Current

This year's theme: "Hope & Holly" and merchants will donate funds from their Ladies' Night receipts to Island charities





Bird feed for sale. 12 lbs bag of Diners Delight, \$18; 12 lbs bag of Conestogo Blend, \$16.50. Attracts blue jays, cardinals, finches, chickadees, doves and more. Pick up at 530 Clover Valley Road, Manitowaning or call 705-859-1278 for more details

2008 Ford Ranger supercab with 4WD. Mechanically in very good condition and regularly maintained. Truck has a new box, doors and battery. Undercarriage needs repair. Perfect for DIY person. \$3,000 firm. Call 705-368-

23-24p



Electric Scooter (Mobility Scooter) ECOLO Cycle, Model ET-4 Galaxy. Brand new, not used, still under warranty. Purchased end of July 2025, paid \$4,500 new, asking \$3,000. Battery powered 60V, forward and reverse, cover, signal lights, horn, headlights, brakes, wonderful way to get around and be mobile. Runs like a charm! Phone 705-869-7595 or 705-936-

24-25p

Click and Go 60" snowplow blade and mount for ATV, used once, \$600. Snowsport 84" snowplow with front bumper frame mount, \$800. Four winter tires on rims, 60 percent tread, 266/70 RIB Toyo Observes, fits Chevy truck hubs, \$400. All in good condition, pictures available. Call or text 705-690-9892.

24-25p

## Help Wanted





#### **Township of Assiginack Custodial Maintenance** and Operations Services Contractor

The Township of Assiginack is seeking a qualified individual or contractor to provide Maintenance and Operation Services for the Assiginack Municipal Offices (156 Arthur Street) and the Assiginack Public Library (25 Spragge Street)

The Contractor will be responsible for housekeeping, cleaning and routine maintenance of the designated municipal buildings and grounds. Services must meet health, safety and regulatory standards as outlined by the Township. Preference will be given to applicants bidding on both buildings.

Applicants must provide: Proof of WSIB and \$2,000,000 liability coverage

A valid Police Criminal Record Check

The contract term is January 5, 2026 – January 4, 2027, with the possibility of extension.

> Application Deadline: November 14, 2025 Submit applications to: Alton Hobbs, CAO

Email: ahobbs@assiginack.ca

For a detailed copy of the contract agreement, please go to our website at https://www.assiginack.ca/administration/requestproposals-tender-opportunities/custodial-maintenanceand-operations-services

#### **UCCM** Building **Material Supply**



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# Law & Order

...continued from page 21

Stop sign enforcement in Mindemoya results in impaired arrest

A driver is facing impaired-related charges after a traffic stop.

On Tuesday, September 30, at approximately 1:30 pm, the Manitoulin OPP was conducting stop sign enforcement at the intersection of Highway 551 and Highway 542 in Mindemoya. Police observed a vehicle enter the intersection and nearly cause a collision. A traffic stop was initiated for further investigation. Police had the driver complete a standardized field sobriety test and as a result the driver was arrested for impaired operation.

The driver, Theodore Beboning, 38 years old from M'Chigeeng First Nation, was charged with: operation while impaired, driving motor vehicle with liquor readily available, fail to yield to traffic, knowingly give invalid insurance card.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Gore Bay on November 18.

#### **Expositor correction**

In the story 'Gore Bay Fish and Game Club receives \$30,000 from fellow conservation group' the name of two of the members of the Creighton-Lively club were incorrect in the article. They should have been listed as Richard Rintala and Shannon Dowdall. The Expositor regrets any inconvenience this error caused.

## Help Wanted

#### **Part-time custodial position**

for general cleaning and light maintenance

- Must have a valid driver's licence
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Applications must be in by 4 pm on October 28, 2025.

Send applications/resumes to: Manager, Little Current Place, PO Box 375, Little Current, ON POP 1K0.

Alternatively, you may leave your resume anytime between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm, Monday to Friday at our office,

48 Meredith St W, Little Current

# Looking for a new career?

See Pages 24, 26 and 28











Do you know a volunteer who deserves recognition?

Township of

**BILLINGS** 

The Township of Billings wants to honour those who make a difference. This year, we are recognizing individuals from the following categories:

Arts & Culture: Awarded for their valuable contribution to the development, support, preservation or promotion of culture, music, visual, performing or literary art. Outstanding Community Group: Awarded for their outstanding voluntary contribution to the well-being of the community.

Senior Volunteer: Awarded to individuals over the age of 60 who demonstrate a true commitment to the community and their volunteer work.

Youth Volunteer: Awarded to an individual 21 years of age and under who demonstrates a true commitment to the community and their volunteer work. Historical Pillar of the Community: For an individual who has supported and has brought recognition to the community through their efforts over the course of a lifetime.

Mayor's Volunteer Service: Awarded for exemplary behaviour and contributions to enhance or improve the community and the lives of residents within it.

If you know someone from Billings that merits formal recognition for their volunteer work in any of these categories, please send in their name and a short outline of why you feel they deserve the award.

Nominations will be accepted until November 11th, 2025 and can be sent to the Township at deputyclerk@billingstwp.ca or in person or by mail at 15 Old Mill Road, Kagawong, ON, POP 1JO.

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



leesonbertha@gmail.com

# **Death Notices**

#### MURRAY LENARD ERNEST BEANGE

April 20, 1937 – October 12, 2025



It is with love and profound sadness that the family announces the passing of Murray Lenard Ernest Beange on Sunday, October 12, 2025 at the age of 88 at Linhaven Long Term Care Home in St. Catharines, Ontario. Murray has been living with the challenges of Lewy Body Dementia. Born on April 20, 1937 in Gore Bay,

Murray was the son of the late Robert and Ethel (Spry) Beange. His greatest joy and steadfast partner was his loving wife, Luba (Happychuk). Their remarkable 61 year marriage began when they met in Churchill, Manitoba and married on August 15, 1964 in Sundown, Manitoba. After settling in Queenston, Ontario, Murray dedicated 30 years of service to the Ontario Paper Mill/Domtar, retiring as a respected superintendent. Murray served five years with the Royal Canadian Navy in Communications. Murray's passion for sport shone brightly throughout his life. He was a talented hockey goalie who back stopped the Gore Bay High School team to the 1955 Class "B" Ontario High School Championship. He continued his stellar performance as the star goalie for the Canadian Navy team while stationed in Churchill, Manitoba from 1959 to 1963. Late in life, he traded his skates for cleats, becoming the star player for the Niagara Falls Skylon Ball softball team in 1983. Murray always looked forward to his annual deer hunting on Manitoulin Island with his family and ice fishing in Manitoba with Luba's family. Up until his illness two years ago, Murray and Luba enjoyed a vibrant and active lifestyle. They could often be found playing golf and tennis, biking, tending to their garden and travelling together. These healthy pursuits were always centred on their biggest priority, family. Murray is dearly missed by his wife, Luba and is also survived by sister Marion Marjorie Lillian (the late Doug) Helm of Thorold, Ontario and brother Elwood James (Edith) of Espanola, Ontario. He was predeceased by his sisters Ethel "Murdean" (2002) and Donalda Mary (2016) and brothers Keith Allan (WWII March 1945), Clifford Chester (2000), Robert Dunlop (2019) and Laird Lloyd Alric (2016). Survived by brothers- and-sisters-in law Gene (Elizabeth) Happychuk of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Boris (Theresa) Happychuk of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Larrie (Olga) Happychuk of Comox, British Columbia, Taras (Jane) Happychuk of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Neil (Valerie) Happychuk of Buffalo Point, Manitoba, Sonya (Peter) Prociuk of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Iris (Bob) Cesmystruk of Vita, Manitoba, Shirley (Dave) Machula of Vita, Manitoba and Olga (the late Bill) Katerynuk of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Predeceased by brother-and-sister-inlaw Emil (late Roslyn) Happychuk and Myrtle Dianna (late Roy) Williamson. Forever remembered in the hearts of his many wonderful nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, extended family and countless friends in Canada, Scotland, New Zealand, Australia and Holland; especially his god child Lesley Sterling, close friends Susan and late Tony Bologna, Ken and Diane McNames and their family. In keeping with Murray's wishes, cremation has taken place. Memorial visitation at Patterson Funeral Home, 6062 Main Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario (905-358-3513) on Monday, November 3, 2025 from 2 to 6 pm. A Service to Celebrate Murray's Life will be held in the Patterson Funeral Home Chapel on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 11 am. The service will also be livestreamed with a link on Patterson Funeral Home's website. Murray will be laid to rest at the Ascension of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Sundown, Manitoba later in the spring of 2026. Memorial donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Alzheimer's Society would be appreciated. Messages of condolence, memories and photographs may be shared online at www.pattersonfuneralhome.com.

Irish Blessing
May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sunshine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

# M'Chigeeng fire deemed "not suspicious"

by Tom Sasvari

M'CHIGEENG—A M'Chigeeng First Nation residence sustained extensive smoke and water damage inside the home, and the lone permanent occupant of the residence lost two pet dogs in the blaze. The fire had been reported as suspicious by at least one area news media outlet, however The Expositor has confirmed that this is not the case

"There was a fire Tuesday (October 21), in the middle of the afternoon," stated Forrest Schut, M'Chigeeng Fire Chief. "Our firefighters responded and were able to put the fire out." However, the owner lost two pet dogs inside the residence, "due to smoke inhalation," said Fire Chief Schut. He explained there was no one in the residence at the time of the fire. "We carried out our initial investigation, and our findings indicate the fire started in the bathroom fan area, or electricity shorted out, and was in the ceiling. We were able to put the fire out and saved the structure."

# **Death Notices**

#### VICTOR BORDEN NOBLE December 28, 1954 – October 19, 2025



Victor "Vic" Noble, age 70, passed away on Sunday, October 19, 2025 at his home in Evansville. Born on December 28, 1954, in Mindemoya. Vic lived a life marked by dedication to his craft, deep love for his family, and an infectious sense of humour that left a lasting impression on all who knew him. A butcher by

trade, Vic was known for his tireless work ethic - working six days a week with unwavering commitment. His hands told the story of decades spent mastering his profession and his pride in his work was evident to all who crossed his path. But beyond the butcher block, Vic had another calling, making people laugh. A part-time comedian and full-time jokester, he brought joy wherever he went. Whether through a well-timed prank or a story told with perfect comedic timing, Vic had a gift for lifting spirits and brightening days. Vic's greatest joy came from the time he spent with his family, friends and close neighbours. He shared a devoted marriage with his wife Cynda Noble (Kane), whose partnership was the cornerstone of his life. Together they raised two sons, Wade (Amanda) and Logan (Alicia) Noble, who carry forward their father's legacy of strength and humour. Vic was also a proud grandfather to Kane, LJ, Felix and Ena, each of whom brought him immense pride and happiness. He is also remembered by his sisters Natalie Payette and Melanie Chatwell (Bill), who shared in both the laughter and love that defined their brother's life. Vic was predeceased by his beloved brother John Noble (Joanna) and by his parents Borden and Echo Noble. Though Vic has departed this world, the echoes of his laughter remain. His jokes will be retold at family gatherings, his stories will be passed down through generations, and the warmth he brought into every room will never be forgotten. May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him, and may we all find moments to laugh as he would have wanted us to. There was a graveside service in Gordon Cemetery on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 2 pm. After the burial there was a Celebration of Vic's Life at the Gore Bay Legion. Please share your thoughts, memories and photos at www. simpsonfuneralhome.ca



# **Celebration of Life**

#### RUTH KAREN FRAWLEY February 6, 1952 - October 25, 2025



It is with great sadness that the family of Ruth Frawley announces her sudden passing at the age of 73 at her home in Big Lake. Family and friends are invited to attend her Celebration of Life on Saturday, November 1 2025 for a Come and Go from 2 to 4 pm. Raise a glass (Irish Wake) 4 to 6 pm at 17A Silver Bay Road Big Lake.



A M'Chigeeng First Nation residence sustained extensive smoke and water damage inside the home. Unfortunately two pet dogs perished in the blaze.

photo by Tom Sasvari

As to reports that the fire was suspicious, Fire Chief Schut noted that "I don't know where the information came from that it was a suspicious fire and that there was a heavy police presence at the residence."

The blaze took place on 56 Assance Street, on the street located just in front of Lakeview Elementary School in M'Chigeeng. "We got the call of the fire at about 1 pm and we were on the scene until about 2:30 pm," said Fire Chief Schut. "The male who owns the home is also a father, and his kids visit him at this house periodically. No one was in the home at the time of the fire, the man was in Wilkwemkoong at the time of the fire. His sister contacted him to let him know of the fire."

Fire Chief Schut explained, "by the time we reached the door of the home, the dogs had perished due to smoke inhalation. We had a very good response of firefighters on the scene of the fire. The cause of the fire was not suspicious."

While no other fire departments were contacted to support the M'Chigeeng firefighters, Fire Chief Schut pointed out several volunteer firefighters from the Central Manitoulin Volunteer Fire Department responded to the fire, being employees in the M'Chigeeng band office as well.

# **Death Notices**

#### Christopher Kenneth Thibault August 16, 1966 – October 17, 2025



We remember with heavy hearts our dear Christopher Kenneth Thibault, who passed away quietly on Friday morning at his beloved hunt camp, a special place he built with his father and his lifelong friend, Gates St. Amour. Christopher is the cherished son of Peggy (late Earl) and the late Kenneth Thibault.

He shared a deep bond with his parents and carried their love with him throughout his life. Chris was dearly loved by Brenda, whose companionship and care brought him warmth and comfort. He will be forever missed by his sisters April (Jason) and Sylvan (Denis), who will always remember his quick wit, kind heart and the way he could make them laugh. He was a proud and loving uncle to Emma and Richard, who adored his sense of humour and the gentle way he showed his affection. Christopher will also be lovingly remembered by Kerra (Justin), Jenny (Andrew) and Lewis, along with their children Tierra, Christiano, Adriano, Keona, Oakland, Abel and Jack to whom he was a very proud papa. Chris was surrounded by an amazing circle of friends who shared many memories and will keep his spirit alive on the hunting trail. Chris was a gifted carpenter and independent contractor, known for his hard work, precision, and visionary spirit. Though he spent time living away from Manitoulin Island, his heart was always drawn back to its shores, where he eventually made his home. He found joy in fishing, hunting, golfing, and spending time with friends at every opportunity. Chris will be remembered for his generosity, kindness, unforgettable stories, and that unmistakable laugh that lit up every room. A service to honour Chris's life was held on Saturday, October 25, 2025 at the Simpson Funeral Home, 3 McQuarrie Boulevard, Gore Bay. Visitation began at 1 pm with prayers and service at 2 pm, followed by a luncheon in the reception area. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Christopher's memory to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada 1200-2300 Yonge St, Box 2414 Toronto, ON M4P 1E4 or online at: https://app-hsfdonation.heartandstroke. ca/. Please share your thoughts, memories and photos at www.simpsonfuneralhome.ca.



# Help Wanted



Jake's Home Centre Jake's Home Centre

is looking for a Delivery Assistant.

We are a Home Furnishing company that serves Manitoulin Island and surrounding area.

Key qualifications and responsibilities include:

- Ensuring deliveries to customers are completed efficiently, safely and respectfully.
- Loading and unloading products coming into and leaving our warehouse.
- Able to lift and move heavy products (appliances and furniture).
- Interacting with the public in a kind and respectful
- Valid driver's licence and a clean abstract.
- Able to provide an up-to-date Criminal Record

Jake's Home Centre offers a competitive wage and benefits. Training and certification are offered where necessary.

To apply, please send a resume to <a href="mailto:info@jakes.ca">info@jakes.ca</a> or drop one off in person at one of our two locations: 6104 Hwy 542 in Mindemoya or 9050 Hwy 6 in Little Current.





#### Facilities Supervisor - Espanola/Manitoulin Island and a Library Clerk at AB Ellis Public School

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 Facilities Supervisor - Espanola/Manitoulin Island and a Library Clerk at AB Ellis Public School.

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

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

**David Farrow Board Chair** 

**Bruce Bourget** Director of Education

rainbowschools.ca

**Looking for** employees?

Place an ad in The Expositor's job board, in print and online.

**Email:** sales@ manitoulin.com



#### JOB OPPORTUNITY AUNDECK OMNI KANING FIRST NATION NEGAAN'ABIK DAY CARE ECE or ECE Assistant (hours to be determined)

Looking for an ECE or ECE Assistant to work at the Negaan'abik Early Learning Centre. Ability to work in a positive and productive manner within a team. The ability to relate well to children, staff and parents is essential.

#### To be considered for the position candidates must:

- Have an ECE Diploma which is an asset.
- Be available to work irregular hours as required.
- Love working with children.
- Be flexible to come in to work on short notice.

#### **Must Possess the Following Skills:**

- First Aid / CPR.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Ability to work cooperatively with others and manage 3.

If you don't possess these, we can provide training if hired for position.

Wage: To Be Determined Other: Vulnerable Sector Check is required by successful applicant

\* CLOSING DATE: October 30, 2025 at 12:00 pm \* Please submit your application, resume, three references, copies of any relevant certificates, diplomas or degrees to:

> **Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation** 13 Hill Street, Little Current, Ontario P0P 1K0 **Re: ECE Position or ECE ASSISTANT Position Attention: Amanda Laforge** or by email at alaforge@aokfn.com

"We thank all who apply but only those selected for an interview will be contacted."



#### JOB OPPORTUNITY AUNDECK OMNI KANING FIRST NATION

**NEGAAN'ABIK DAY CARE** Part-Time Cook (25 hours a week)

and Supply Cook position

Looking for a Part-Time Cook to work at the Negaan'abik Early Learning Centre. Ability to work in a positive and productive manner within a team. The ability to relate well to children, staff and parents is essential.

#### To be considered for the position candidates must:

- Have a Vulnerable Sector Check.
- Be available to work irregular hours as required.
- Love working with children.
- Be flexible to come in to work on short notice.

#### Must Possess the Following Skills:

- Food Handlers.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Ability to work cooperatively with others and manage personal time.

If you don't possess these, we can provide training if hired for position.

Wage: To Be Determined Other: Vulnerable Sector Check is required by successful applicant

\* CLOSING DATE: October 30, 2025 at 12:00 pm \* Please submit your application, resume, three references, copies of any relevant certificates, diplomas or degrees to:

> **Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation** 13 Hill Street, Little Current, Ontario POP 1K0
> Re: Part-Time Cook Position **Attention: Amanda Laforge** or by email at alaforge@aokfn.com

'We thank all who apply but only those selected for an interview will be contacted."



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Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to the attention of Mrs. Megan Wickett; Operations Manager by regular mail to:

Community Living Manitoulin PO Box 152 Mindemoya, Ontario POP 1SO
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Community Living Manitoulin welcomes and encourages applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations are available upon request for applicants taking part in all aspects of the selection process.

For more information regarding Community Living Manitoulin please visit our web site at www.clmanitoulin.com.

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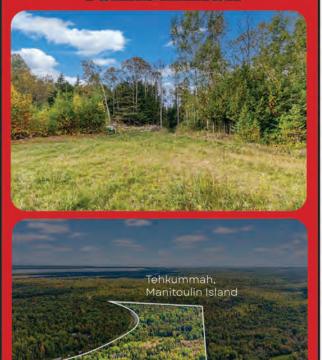




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# Wiikwemkoong couple attends World Series Game 2...in different jerseys

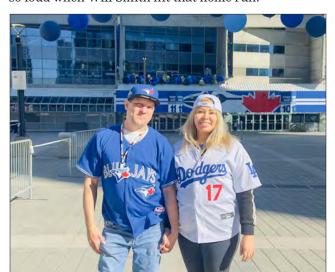
TORONTO—Wiikwemkoong's Jason Manitowabi and Destinee Kaboni, both ardent ball fans, had the opportunity to take in Game 2 of the World Series at the Rogers Centre Saturday night. However, the pair appeared in rival jerseys as Mr. Manitowabi is a Jays fan and Ms. Kaboni is a Dodgers girl.

"It was really a special moment," Mr. Manitowabi told The Expositor. "We joked about having our teams

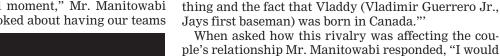
meet up in the World Series and how rare but amazing that would be. The entire Canadian Team vs USA team thing and the fact that Vladdy (Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Jays first baseman) was born in Canada."

When asked how this rivalry was affecting the couple's relationship Mr. Manitowabi responded, "I would say this makes our relationship stronger. Game 1, I was happy, she was supportive. Game 2, she was happy, I was supportive! An amazing experience that we realize could very well not happen for a long time!"

Ms. Kaboni quipped, however, that "the silence was so loud when Will Smith hit that home run!"



Jason Manitowabi and Destinee Kaboni pose for a photo outside the Rogers Centre before Game 2 of the World Series last Saturday night.



## Help Wanted



#### **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 your application.

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

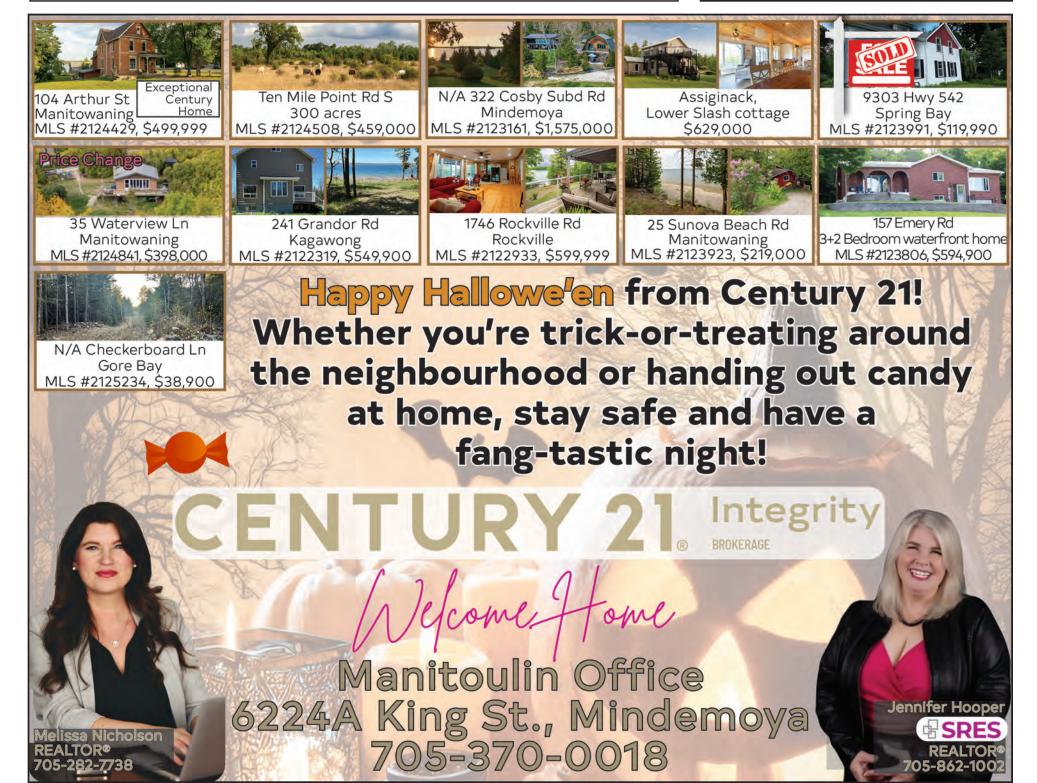
To apply, kindly send your application to our Human Resources department at **applications@kgcfs.org**, ensuring to specify the position title in the subject line. For comprehensive job descriptions and to access the postings, please visit our website at:

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

Thank you for considering a career opportunity with us.





# NOW celebrates small business week with an evening out at Bittersweet Tea

M'CHIGEENG—In recognition of Small Business Week, October 19 to the 25, Susan Whynott of the Northern Ontario Women (NOW) program invited women entrepreneurs to an evening out at the Bittersweet Tea Company to celebrate small business and perhaps learn from each other. Certainly, it was an opportunity for women with small businesses to sit back, enjoy the sweets and the varieties of teas and listen to the speakers Ms. Whynott had lined up for their benefit.

Ms. Whynott first explained that NOW is funded by the Federal Economic Agency for Northern Ontario (FED-NOR) and administered through the LaCloche and Manitoulin Business Assistance Corporation (LAMBAC). Lots of acronyms for the women to digest, with one more thrown in for good measure - the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC).

Before discussing just what these corporations had to offer, Ms. Whynott threw out a few statistics to consider.



A evening out at Bittersweet Tea was a perfect night for discussing small business and how NOW, LAMBAC and NOHFC can help.

photos by Margery Frisch

"These statistics are fairly important to women in business and why I think women need extra support," she said. In the census report from 2021, women represented 50.9 percent of the population. Women in business was 18.6 percent—a huge disparity, for which programs like NOW have been formed to help. The NOW program's mission is to stimulate the start-up and growth of women-owned and women-led businesses, by increasing access to business development supports across Northern

After Ms. Whynott's brief introduction, she invited Heidi Ferguson to speak. Ms. Ferguson is an economic development officer with LAMBAC. "Basically, my role at LAMBAC is to help our perspective, new businesses who come to us navigate through our loans process." Ms. Ferguson went on to explain the three key components of LAMBAC's mandate: "Our business loans program, has a variety of different financing options in terms of loans, depending on your business needs - light loans, standard loans and capital loans." LAMBAC can also direct small businesses to other organizations that would better meet their needs.

Kristin Luoma was next to speak, representing NOHFC, Northern Ontario's largest grant organization by far. The name itself is a little deceiving because it has the word Heritage imbedded in it, leading people to believe it is heritage and culture focused, "but that's not actually the case at all," said Ms. Luoma. "It is more focussed on community and economic development." It offers a slew of funding programs not just for small businesses, but there are community-based projects benefiting from the organization as well.

Because of the heavy rain that fell on the night of the event, not all who intended to come showed up. The group was small and intimate, making it easier for some to ask questions. The women present, entrepreneurs, some new, some seasoned, gave their full attention to the speakers, asking questions pertaining to their own businesses. 'Where would one go to find out how to learn about building their own website? What loans or grants might one find pertaining to expansion? The answers provided were very helpful. "I really didn't know what to expect," said Cyndy Tonge, who opened her successful Knitters Cove in Little Current in May. "I found the speakers so informative. I thought it was great.'

In addition to the tea and sweets, and the valuable information and business cards provided by knowledgeable women, there were door prizes and the opportunity to meet and talk with other women entrepreneurs. This is what Ms. Whynott most enjoys doing – bringing women together. The information is invaluable, but no more so than the support of fellow business owners. And what better place for women business owners to celebrate Small Business Week than in the lovely Bittersweet Tea Co. owned and run by Shanna Hare.



Kristin Luoma (NOHFC), Susan Whynott of NOW and Heidi Ferguson of LAMBAC had lots of helpful information to share to women entrepreneurs in recognition of Small Business Week.

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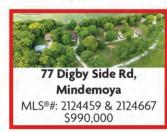
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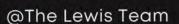


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