

The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



Vol. 141, No. 40 \$1.43 + GST

Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, February 17, 2021



SPREADING THE LOVE—Members of the Tehkummah recreation committee, also known as the Queen of Hearts and her Sister Act, visited more than 50 homes in the township on Valentine's Day (from a COVID-safe distance, of course), bringing with them music, laughter and a little gift in honour of the special day. Above, the happy-go-lucky group of, from left, Lisa Lepage, Lorie Leeson, Janice Mitchell and Lori Gordon pay a visit to Dorothy Cronk on their travels. See Page 12 for the story and more photos and visit Manitoulin.com for a video of the event.

photo by Warren Schlote

Mindemoya Old School gets temporary reprieve, gives 'Friends of' group time to form business plan

by Michael Erskine

CENTRAL MANITOULIN—The lobbying efforts of the Friends of the Mindemoya Old School have paid off, for now, as Central Manitoulin council voted last week to hold off on issuing a request for proposals (RFP) for demolition of the historic old stone building until at least the fall.

The motion to hold off on issuing the RFP until September and to halt any further work by staff on the RFP documents until the next property meeting in March was moved by Councillor Angela Johnston and seconded by Councillor Rose Diebolt.

Councillor Derek Stephens made his opposition to the motion clear, noting "this issue has been going on for a long time, it's postpone, postpone, postpone, for 10 years now."

Councillor Stephens went on to say that he was "a little upset" the municipality was not going to proceed with preparing the documents necessary for issuing the RFP. Councillor Stephens noted that the information required for issuing an RFP included the detailed information on contaminants and structural issues that would be necessary whether the building was to be demolished, sold or leased to an outside entity.

"By the time that information is put together, if we hold off until September we will be into yet another year," he said. "I don't have a problem with going into talks about the Old School, I just don't see why we have to stop work on those documents. I have a problem doing this."

Councillor Johnston pointed out that the motion did not postpone work on the RFP documentation until September, only the actual issuing of the RFP. "It is only until the March 9 property meeting," she said.

Councillor Dale Scott said that he agreed with Councillor Johnston. "I like the idea of going into March," he said, noting that this would give him time to go over the information that had been provided to council by staff on the matter.

"It will also give us some time to talk to the new group," agreed Mayor Richard Stephens. "It will give us all more information to deal with."

The motion passed with Councillor Stephens opposed.

Construction on the stone multi-storey Mindemoya Old School was completed and the first classes held in 1922. It served as one of the province's first (if not the first) continuation schools, bringing together students from a number of one-room schoolhouses in the area in one facility. The school operated as a public school until Manitoulin Secondary School was built in M'Chigeeng in 1969 and high school students moved from the facility now known as Central Manitoulin Public School and elementary students left the Old School building.

The building became the municipal office until the current building was constructed, at

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'Northern Bubble' deemed last resort, citizens' personal responsibility urged

by Warren Schlote

NORTHERN ONTARIO—Members of Ontario Health Coalition (OHC) staged a press conference last Wednesday, February 10 to discuss the oft-mentioned concept

of a 'Northern Bubble,' excluding people from southern Ontario and out-of-province from travelling to the North except for essential reasons, at which its members stressed the importance of stay-

ing close to home but acknowledged the difficulties in enforcing travel checkpoints.

"Eileen de Villa (Toronto's medical officer of health) very rightfully and sensibly warned people that we are transitioning from one pandemic into another pandemic, and the pandemic of the new variant could be quite different and much faster moving than even what we've experienced to date," said OHC executive director Natalie Mehra at the virtual press conference.

The newfound concern is emerging as Canada sees rising cases of COVID-19 variants of concern (VOCs), or mutations of the virus with small differences that affect how they spread or how badly they impact humans.

Some of the most prominent VOCs appear to be much more contagious and also cause more severe illness. This means they spread faster and can more quickly devastate a health system if left unchecked. The small changes have also had mixed impacts on the effectiveness of vaccines, depending on the variant and the

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2020 insured damage from severe weather tops \$2.3B in Canada

Island municipalities know first hand the cost of rising waters

by Lori Thompson,

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter TORONTO—The financial costs of a changing climate are becoming evident as severe weather across Canada caused \$2.4 billion in insured damage in 2020. A report by Catastrophe Indices and Quantification Inc. ranked 2020 as the fourth highest in insured losses since 1983. Global losses from natural disasters reached \$270 billion, according to Munich Reinsurance Company, also significantly higher than previous years.

Only six severe weather events accounted for more than \$2.3 billion of those costs, beginning in January with a rainstorm and snowstorm in southern Ontario and Quebec, followed by a British Columbia rainstorm at the end of the month; flooding in Fort McMurray, Alberta in April/May; a Calgary hailstorm in June;

storms throughout central and southern Alberta in July and August; and ending in November with an Ontario windstorm that caused \$88 million in insured damage. Eight of 10 of the highest loss years on record have

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Debajehmujig Storytellers get dubbing gig

Will supply Ojibwe language for TVO-APTN series

by Michael Erskine

MANITOWANING—When producer Jennifer Podemski of Recloud Studios was casting about for an Indigenous post production collaboration partner with the chops to tackle dubbing of the Ojibwe language challenges of her new 10-part drama series 'Unsettled,' her mind immediately went to Debajehmujig Storytellers.

"I have known about Debajehmujig through my

connection with the arts," she said. "In the Indigenous arts community, everybody knows about Debajehmujig. I also produced a documentary series that included a story about Debajehmujig."

Thanks to those experiences, Ms. Podemski had a strong understanding of the available facilities and infrastructure, as well as human resources that Debajehmujig has at its disposal.

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Wiikwemkoong resident isolating after COVID call

WIKWEMKOONG—On Wednesday, February 10, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territories Ojibwa Duke Peltier made an announcement over Facebook Live of a confirmed asymptomatic COVID-19 case in Wiikwemkoong.

"Today we were notified by our community health nurses of a confirmed asymptomatic positive case within the community," the ogimaa stated on Facebook. "The individual is currently self-isolating under the standard 14-day self-isolation protocol. The confirmed case took all precautionary measures and self-isolated immediately."

"Our community nurses have initiated contact tracing," Ojibwa Peltier continued. "The contact tracing process for this individual occurred as soon as the positive result was made known and all those high-risk individuals (who) have been identified as a close contact to the individual have been notified and are instructed to self-isolate to await testing."

The ogimaa went on to say that if a call from one of the community health nurses has not been received, "you are not considered a close contact."

Through the process of contact tracing, the community health nurses informed the community of low-risk exposure at the following locations: Wiikwemkoong High School, February 10; Wiik-

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12 PM - 6 PM	ACE HARDWARE	ACE HARDWARE
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Climate survey is now live, community feedback wanted to guide planning

by **Lori Thompson**,
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
KAGAWONG—Billings Township and Central Manitoulin are calling on all permanent or seasonal residents, non-resident property owners, business owners and farmers to help them understand community concerns regarding climate change. With

COVID-19 restrictions, it was determined that an online survey was the best option for public engagement. Information gathered from participants will be used to help guide the municipalities' climate change plans (Community Emissions and Energy Plan, or CEEP).
We live on an island in the mid-

dle of the Great Lakes in the northern hemisphere. Whether we like it or not, climate change is here, said Brian Barker, councillor/deputy mayor for Billings and Climate Action Committee chair. "We're going to see some changes so the more we can be prepared, the faster we can move forward."

freeze-thaw damage on our roads. We can also expect more extreme heat days (greater than 34°C), more frequent periods of drought and an increased risk of wildfires and resultant fire bans.

It makes sense from a risk management point of view for municipalities to consider all actions, including fixing all roads, improving trails and parks, electrifying vehicle fleets and sustainable new building or upgrading existing buildings to be energy efficient and net zero, but due to financial limitations, municipalities have to prioritize climate actions and make difficult choices.

"A climate change plan is never going to work unless we choose

the actions that are most supported by the individuals who live here," said Kim Neale, shared climate change co-ordinator for both Billings and Central Manitoulin. "That's why it's important for people to complete this. It's tough to look at global, national and provincial plans and feel that we personally can't do much to impact climate change, but with this local plan we can do a lot. It's about getting involved and feeling invested locally in the actions."

The survey was developed by Ms. Neale with guidance from local Climate Action Committees (CACs) and consultant Ethelo. The CACs are committees of council and consist of both elect-

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The former detachment in Manitowaning is now vacant and the provincial government is evaluating what to do with the building, while it prepares the Little Current detachment for disposition.

Ontario determining fate of old Island OPP detachments

by **Warren Schlote**

MANITOULIN—Infrastructure Ontario (IO), which manages buildings owned by the provincial government including current and former Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachments, has begun the process of disposing of the former Little Current detachment from its inventory, and is evaluating what to do with the former Manitowaning detachment building.

"IO continually reviews the portfolio it manages, which includes selling properties that are surplus to government needs to generate revenue for taxpayers. As there is no longer an identified requirement for program use, IO has begun to prepare the former (Little Current) detachment property for disposition," IO spokesperson Alanna Myles stated in a recent email to The Expositor.

The former detachment is located in an old house at 12 Campbell Street East. According to IO's mandate, it "must maintain any facility to protect the integrity of the asset." This has meant lights on in the parking lot and ongoing snow removal at the old detachment.

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Manitoulin Island health care partners ran more than 7,000 COVID-19 tests in 2020

Rapid testing will soon be available across Island

by **Warren Schlote**

MANITOULIN—Island health providers completed at least 7,178 COVID-19 tests in 2020, with trends showing a steady gradual increase in testing figures from the agencies that provided weekly breakdowns in their figures to The Expositor.

"The cases in the first wave were so much lower than in the second wave, so you would expect that (increasing trend). You also have to take into account the number of times the eligibility criteria was changed by the ministry," said Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC) president and CEO Lynn Foster, reflecting on the trends shown in the data.

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board Paramedic Services (which operates the assessment centres at the two MHC sites) performed the vast majority (86 percent) of the tests on the Island that agencies reported to The Expositor.

After making such requests since early January, this newspaper did not receive any testing figures

from Naandwehige-Gamig Wikwemikong Health Centre and did not get totals from two of the Island's three long-term care (LTC) facilities.

Ms. Foster said she found it useful to look at the data in 12-week (three-month) chunks to represent three phases of the pandemic in Ontario last year. In the first block, until the end of May, numbers were fairly low as providers began to roll out their testing services and began to learn more about the virus.

"We didn't see a ton of pick-up in the Northeast, including on Manitoulin, so to me that was just the start-up phase and I'm not surprised to see those numbers," she said.

The next block, from June through the end of August, saw testing numbers jump more than four times. Test swabs and lab capacity became more widely available at this time, which coincided with a loosening of testing requirements, meaning even

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I'M YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Hailey Leblanc at Kat's Pets has dreams of a vet career

Mindemoya's Hailey Leblanc has been able to balance both an education and part-time work at Kat's Pet Supplies in Mindemoya this year as she finishes her fourth-year undergrad classes at Lakehead University.

vet and they want to see you've had experience in an animal field. A pet store is one of the possibilities, so I just thought I would try it," Hailey said.

Hailey is a self-professed fan of all kinds of animals, big and small. She has been riding horses since she was eight years old.

Perhaps her most unique animal crossover is her winter pastime with her dog—she'll head out onto a frozen lake, strap on cross-country skis and let him pull her around.

"People love to watch it; I'll fall down, laugh and get up, and my dog loves it. He's a husky so he loves to pull and it's a lot of fun," she said.

The Kat's gig has taught her a lot about animal care and helping customers with their pet questions.

"I like being able to help people with their pets and just interacting with the community. I really enjoy it," she said.

After this semester comes vet school, with the prestigious Ontario Veterinary College at University of Guelph atop Hailey's list.

Remember that when you shop locally, you're helping support your friends and neighbours like Hailey Leblanc at Kat's Pet Supply in Mindemoya.



Hailey Leblanc

Animal care has been a life-long passion for Hailey. She has been working at Kat's since 2014, either after school or during summers, but this year's switch to virtual learning has allowed her to keep working. It's a win-win because, although internet learning has its challenges, she is able to save money for her future education and stay involved with the pet store.

"I've always wanted to be a



Manitoulin Snowdusters' groomers have been busy preparing the trails for snowmobile traffic.

photo by **Mike Skippen**

Snowdusters trails are now open with caution

by **Alicia McCutcheon**

MANITOULIN—Thanks to the early February dump of snow, Manitoulin Snowdusters volunteer groomers have been hard at work packing the trails and, as of last weekend, the trails are marked on the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) website as "yellow"—open with caution.

Snowdusters president Rick Bond told The Expositor that both the West End and eastern Manitoulin groomers have been making their way along OFSC trails with the final pass (until more snow appears) taking place over the weekend. On Friday, February 12, the West End groomer was making its final trip from Gore Bay to Dryden's Corners near Providence Bay, while the eastern groomer was packing the route from Manitowaning to South Baymouth on Saturday.

Mr. Bond also warned snowmobilers that there were no official ice picket lines this year as "the ice is not good this year." Some kind volunteers have

placed an unofficial tree line in from Strawberry Island to Killarney to ensure those who do venture out onto the big water do not get lost, but as always, Mr. Bond advises that snowmobilers abide with the utmost of caution and, "if you don't know, don't go."

The Snowdusters president noted that on the weekend of February 6 and 7, he heard of at least three snowmobilers going through the ice, one near Gore Bay and the other two near Kaga-

wong's Maple Point. Strong winds shifted the ice away from the north shore of Manitoulin causing even more unsafe ice conditions.

In eastern Manitoulin, Sheguiandah was historically the main intersection for trails heading both east and west. Again this year, there is not a trail leading from Sheguiandah to Manitowaning. Snowmobilers

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Regional patient transfer service plans fail, local service to continue

by **Warren Schlote**

MANITOULIN—Plans to create a Northeastern Ontario regional non-urgent patient transfer (NUPT) service have failed and Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) will continue to provide the service on Manitoulin Island as it plans for the future of its own patient transfer model.

As reported in previous editions of The Expositor, health providers across Northeastern Ontario were working on a model to run a NUPT service with purpose-built vehicles to transport more patients than the current model on Manitoulin, which involves service using retired ambulances.

At the recent Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC) board meeting on

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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. POP 1K0

Northern Ontario's oldest newspaper:
 printers and publishers since 1879

*A winner of the Michener Award
 for Public Service Journalism*

Mailing address:
 The Manitoulin Expositor, P.O. Box 369,
 Little Current, Ont. POP 1K0

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"who dares not offend, cannot be honest"
One Manitowaning Road
 opinion

editorial

Determined community efforts can influence city hall

There is an time honoured adage that you can't fight city hall, but in the case of the fate of the Mindemoya Old School a hardy group of determined community activists have proven you can have considerable influence if you are willing to put some skin in the game.

The Friends of the Mindemoya Old School may be a newly incorporated entity, but the folks who are the driving force behind saving that historical edifice have been lobbying heavily for quite some time—and they never gave up.

Despite the seemingly singular focus of the municipal council that would see the historic stone building journey to the landfill (with a few varied bits reused for an historic display at the town's pioneer village), the Friends of the Mindemoya Old School remained undaunted. Perhaps a mite dismayed, they remained unswayed, winning several reprieves.

There remains a very steep hill to climb in order to turn this latest stay of execution into a new lease on life for the Mindemoya Old School, but one can't help but root for their obvious passion for and commitment to preserving their community's historical legacy.

Manitoulin Islanders, like the residents of many small rural communities across this land, have proven time and again that they are more than up to the task of raising significant amounts of the money required for projects that are near and dear to our hearts. Usually those projects are of the pragmatic kind favoured by agricultural communities—farmers being a decidedly practical lot—with new church roofs, community hall floors and hospital ventilators springing easily to mind.

Being a relatively new country, and one whose earliest edifices tended to be constructed of wood, the vast majority of our earliest buildings have long since faded back into the earth from which their building material emerged. That puts a greater urgency behind efforts to preserve the few buildings that were constructed of sterner stuff. They are a concrete symbol of where our ancestors put their

own skin in the game and there was a lot less skin to go around back in the early days of settlement. The pages of The Expositor from that period make clear the community's concern over the cost of what was then the "new" school building—yet the taxpayers of the day persevered because of the value they placed on their children's education and their hopes for the future. It wasn't often that a such an expensive undertaking survived the staunch Scottish parsimony of Manitoulin's settler communities.

The frustration of the municipal council over the continued delays in the implementation of a decision that they considered prudent and in the best interests of the public purse is understandable. The longer the decision stays on the table, the longer they have to endure the impassioned pleas of those who want to preserve the Old School. Sometimes passion can rise to vitriolic condemnation by the zealous towards those who are perceived to not share their fervour and that has apparently occasionally been the case in this instance.

But Central Manitoulin council must be given credit. Despite all of the evidence put before them that the preservation of the Old School is unsustainable for a small rural municipality, despite the long and so very numerous delays in order to try and find a solution, they demonstrably remain open and willing to listen. It is plain that most of the councillors would dearly love to see a viable solution come to the table.

It undoubtedly helps that leaving the Old School standing for the time being is not a massive cost to the public purse, although taking on the restoration, renovation and preservation is a bigger bite than they can swallow.

So now it is up to the Manitoulin community to decide. What value do we put on honouring the sacrifices made by our ancestors? Will we, as a community, put our own skin in the game?

We know from experience that it can be done. It is worth doing. So let us roll up our sleeves and get 'er done.

letters

Thoughts regarding the 'Old School' from someone who bought one
An offer of mentorship from an experienced hand

To the Expositor:

As a seasonal resident of Central Manitoulin I have watched the ongoing controversy in regards to the possible demise of the Old School in Mindemoya.

Several local citizens have mentioned in this newspaper some possible worthwhile uses for this building that certainly hold merit and have been done elsewhere.

As a business person based in Sudbury I have direct experience with the repurposing of an older school. In 2012 we purchased at auction, the recently closed St. Christopher School on CKSO Rd on the south edge of the city. As wholesale distributors of paperback books and bingo supplies, we had previously rented space at three different warehouses scattered around the Sudbury basin. Acquiring this 1960s vintage building, large enough to house everything under one roof, was a blessing for us. The side benefit was becoming our own landlord and paying ourselves first.

Just within Sudbury, numerous decommissioned schools have been resurrected as premises for private businesses such as wholesale distribution, day care centres, a testing lab, mining tech firms, a communications firm, non profit organizations and of course apartment buildings. Even Health Sciences North bought one on Walford Rd and converted into a satellite facility. The City of Greater Sudbury bought a school in Falconbridge where it stores its archives.

Could individual rooms at the Old School be rented out to townships and First Nations where they could store their archives and artifacts safely? Perhaps another affordable room could become a universal meeting space for service clubs and volunteer groups. A trades business could make the entire building their home with an in-house training facility for apprentices and another space as a showroom. I have seen a real estate firm and realty law firm take up adjoining space in such a building to provide one-stop services to the public alongside a renovation and plumbing firm. Those synergies created additional business for all of them. Years ago the old Holiday Lanes Bowling alley on Regent St. in Sudbury was converted into a lovely medical services center that still thrives today. There are many possibilities for conversion when a building is of sound construction.

The one point I will make is that it typically takes the initiative, fore-

sight and investment of an entrepreneur to pull it all together into a viable project. It is not likely that the good will of a few local citizens alone will make this happen. It takes time, money and work but there are many examples of this being done successfully.

Potential tenants with funds in their bank have to be recruited, renovations and upgrades of utilities have to be costed out. This will determine if there is an economic case to be made for repurposing this vintage building. Good ideas and positive vibes alone will not do it as who of those folks will put up their hand and say 'I will bankroll and run this project?' But do not be overwhelmed by what a professional consultant will tell you 'needs' to be done in terms of upgrades, as often there is not a great cost to repurposing a school that will offer affordable rents. Not everyone requires class A Toronto space in which to operate. We spent about \$40,000 and we were in business in a 17,000 sq ft building within a month.

There are innumerable derelict and collapsed buildings that litter the landscape in Northern Ontario making us look like an ailing backwater. Has anyone driven down Hwy 69 in the last 20 years to witness the desolation near the Ontario Provincial Police station at Still River, on the way to Britt? Yet no one is in a rush to clear this disgusting blight from the landscape.

However the old Mindemoya school is no such case, so what is the rush to tear down this seemingly sound structure. Why not take more time for some well informed thought?

A committee of local interested citizens and business people could organize a trip to Sudbury to visit the older converted schools here to put some wind in their sails as to what possibilities have been demonstrated by others. You need not fear being 'early adopters' of this well proven concept. There are many smart entrepreneurs among you who could make this happen.

I can give such interested parties a list of the many converted schools in the Sudbury area that could be visited, including my own. We are on the web.

**Douglas Burke, director
 Berri Books Inc. and Bingo Pro Inc.
 Sudbury**

The pandemic will be with us for a while

Our government needs to do a better job of controlling this virus

To the Expositor:

I think the coronavirus will be with us for a while. They are taking so long to get people vaccinated and the virus is mutating too. Some international travellers are going to be exempted from isolating themselves and that is a pretty damn stupid thing to do. What if they are carriers of the virus? They are going to spread it around. If they can afford an airline ticket, then they can afford a room too for isolation or the government can foot the bill for their isolation.

That is another way of doing it to keep this virus from spreading. It is so hard to see a doctor now because of the coronavirus and for me, when I see a doctor I would rather do it in person because I communi-

cate better that way, I'm not one of those technology freaks.

I'm still living in the reality of life and it is tiring with these lockdowns going up and down even though it's not hard on me, but I do miss my regular haircuts that I got all the time.

Our government needs to do a better job at controlling this virus, especially when it comes to international travel and it has nothing to do with racism either. So, do not get me wrong, it's because I do not beat around the bush when I say something.

**Ronald Osawabine
 Wiikwemkong**

Wiikwemkoong member heads Guelph Indigenous Environmental Science department

School launching Indigenous environmental science degree

by Warren Schlote

GUELPH—Wiikwemkoong band member Dr. Jesse Popp has recently become chair of Indigenous Environmental Sciences at University of Guelph's Ontario Agricultural College, where she will work on course development, teaching and mentoring students, Indigenous pedagogy and foster opportunities for land-based learning and as her school prepares to launch its bachelor of Indigenous environmental science and practice (BIESP) program this fall.

"As the first scientists on Turtle Island, Indigenous peoples have maintained strong relationships with the land, with all their relations, and have created diverse world views because Indigenous nations across the world all bring integral knowledge. By supporting programs like this, we support diversity, inclusion and advance science in the world," Dr. Popp told The Expositor.

Blending western and Indigenous knowledge systems and scientific practices has been uncommon in the past, a practice for which Dr. Popp has often advocated. Guelph is hailing this program as the first of its kind in Canada.

The Anishinaabe-kwe grew up in Sudbury and attended Laurentian University for a bachelor's degree in wildlife habitat and ecology, then a master's in biology and finally a doctorate in boreal ecology. During her PhD, she developed the first Indigenous science course in biology at that school.

After her own educational journey, she became an assistant professor at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick where she developed a minor program in Indigenous environmental science.

Although Guelph had already planned its upcoming BIESP program when she joined the faculty in September 2020, she will be able to offer input and shape the program as students begin the courses in fall 2021.

The programming in BIESP will feature elements like storytelling, sharing circles, medicine walks and discussions with elders. It is designed to accommodate people with and without Indigenous ancestry.

"There's a lot of cool stuff. Up to this point we're still developing that content and what exactly it will look like, but it will definitely be something incredible," Dr. Popp said. "I wish we would see more universities taking approaches like this and at least developing or having more courses available that allow for (this style of learning)."

Western approaches often appear as default in science, and some people are quick to dismiss science from other traditions. However, Indigenous peoples have logged tremendous scientific achievement over millennia.

Dr. Popp quickly lists a few of the Indigenous scientific contributions that are still common in the western world.

These include domesticating three-fifths of the world's presently cultivated crops,



Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territories band member Dr. Jesse Popp has been named the inaugural chair of Indigenous Environmental Sciences at the University of Guelph's Ontario Agricultural College where she will be working on course development, teaching and mentoring students, fostering opportunities for land-based learning and Indigenous pedagogy.

growing multiple species together for greater soil health, drying foods like jerky, developing pain-relievers that ultimately evolved into pills like aspirin, and a variety of technologies including kayaks, canoes, snowshoes, parkas, moccasins and rubber.

Early estimates show that graduates of programs like BIESP may be in high demand after graduation.

"There is a huge need right now for professionals who can enter the workforce and engage respectfully with communities, bringing together knowledge systems in a respectful, responsible way," said Dr. Popp, citing some possible career options such as environmental consulting, working with First Nations on environmental projects, policymaking and further scientific education.

Dr. Popp's educational style embraces Mi'kmaw elder Albert Marshall's concept of two-eyed seeing, the notion that people can better understand the world by looking through two different lenses—in this case, blending western and Indigenous approaches.

This creates a more holistic viewpoint. Gaps of understanding are inherent to both models, so using them in conjunction can

produce better information.

A broader understanding is more important than ever, says Dr. Popp, as the planet begins to deeply feel the effects of human-accelerated climate change, an existential crisis.

Including traditional teachings can make a science program more accessible to underrepresented demographics like Indigenous people. This may encourage more of those individuals to pursue higher education.

Dr. Popp said she hopes this change may create a new generation of Indigenous change-makers and environmental professionals who are empowered through their ways of knowing.

While this program will involve partnerships with First Nations, Dr. Popp said she is not yet certain how often students will collaborate with Island communities. Dr. Popp has worked extensively with Wiikwemkoong for her own research and added that she is very open to discussing such collaborations with Island communities.

Wiikwemkoong's lands director John Manitowabi did not comment specifically on the new program, as he had not seen the full details of what courses it would

involve, but said the idea of a program of this nature was very welcome.

"I think having (Dr. Popp) as part of this is a great step. It's very beneficial to have one of our community members who's gone to school and received a doctorate in that field, and that Guelph has acknowledged that it's important," Mr. Manitowabi said, adding that he has had good experiences working with the professor on past species-at-risk projects.

Dr. Popp said she is hopeful for how programs like this may effect change.

"We're going to change science; we're going to make it more inclusive and diverse so we can better address the huge environmental issues facing us. We're going to tackle things together in collaboration, respectfully, and through working toward reconciliation," she said.

The University of Guelph offers more than a dozen undergraduate level awards for students of Indigenous heritage. While it does not presently feature any awards specific to this program, a spokesperson said more scholarships and bursaries for Indigenous students were under development.

another letter

In celebration of a humble Haweater's 70th birthday

"A gentle heart, understated, gnomelike, just carrying on in their quiet humble way"

To the Expositor:

Unassuming and gentle, my neighbour has in countless ways demonstrated what it is to be a good human. Never expecting anything in return, he offers help and company as freely as the air we breathe.

Buck (Lloyd) Belanger befriended us in 2017, and my partner, Mike, and I are so lucky he did. Buck turns 70 on February 17 and we wanted to honour him by sharing how much we appreciate him.

Our first winter on the Manitoulin was a doozy and Mike gamely attempted to keep the driveway cleared by manual labour. Buck, seeing the futility in this, would trundle his snowblower across the road and, looking like a snow gnome in his shin length parka, clear our way to the outside world. Icy days would see the snow gnome in the guise of Mr. Sandman spreading his magical sand on our drive to keep us safe. The purchase of our own snowblower didn't stop Buck though. Last week Mike returned home late from work on a snowy, blustery day to discover, to his great joy, that the snow gnome had paid a visit.

The second winter saw Buck bringing me containers of chaga and maple syrup; his way of showing understanding for a health condition I was going through and that he had faced for many years. We shared stories of tests and check-ups.

In warmer weather, seated on our front porch, Mike and I smile as Buck strolls down our driveway and casually

presents us with ice cream bars that he pulls out of his pants pocket. He then asks if he's told us about (and we get to hear more stories about different times in his life): summers spent helping on his uncle's farm, his first job delivering newspapers as a kid, the time he went to Toronto as a young man to take a course, or times he played practical jokes on his wife of 40 odd years. (We are also friends with Bernardine (aka Bernie) and we appreciate how much they care for and respect each other.)

When Mike's working on something in the yard or shop, Buck stops by to offer encouragement, or a tool that might help with the job. When a helper was with me and we couldn't start the gas mower, Buck magicked it into working. He would also offer ice cream bars to the various helpers we have with us on a work exchange program. Knowing how generous he is, I still had a tough time asking if he might be willing to use his truck to pick up a load of mulch for us. I had planned on going with him but the next day he was already backing down the driveway with a full load. And he did the same thing twice over.

Buck delights in showing us his various interests which include his Easter egg plant and its watering contraption he devised; his classic car and its funky features, his Elvis collectables, and we delight with him.

This past summer Buck put siding on his house and completed some other jobs that folks half his age might have struggled with. Despite a gimpy, painful shoulder, he

worked steadily away at these projects using an economy of movement that is an example of maximum output minimum exertion. Mike's trying to adapt this technique as he starts to age, seeing the wisdom in it.

Being generally homebound, I enjoy in person porch chats with Buck. Near the beginning of COVID lockdown last year, I sat on the porch with a drum and sang and drummed for a while, and then, I heard another drum and looked up. There was Buck at his place with a hand drum, beating a rhythm back at me.

There are, I know, many other times when Buck's helped us out in some way or other, but memory fails a bit. We just wanted to share with others our gratitude for this human who we've been blessed to know. We offer his example of humility, humour and kindness as a beacon of hope shining in a world that can sometimes feel unwelcoming, even cold. There are gentle hearts out there, understated, gnome-like, just carrying on in their quiet, compassionate way.

Happy 70th Birthday Buck,

Your neighbours across the way,

Michael Fullerton and Julie Morris
Bay Estates

Manitoulin moves to 'orange' zone effective Tuesday, February 16

MANITOULIN—On Tuesday, February 16, Public Health Sudbury and Districts, which includes Manitoulin Island, is leaving the province-wide grey (lockdown) zone and moving into an orange (restrict) zone.

Public health regions will stay in their respective level for at least two weeks at which time the government will assess the impact of public health and workplace safety measures to determine if the region should stay where it is or be moved to a different level. Public health regions will move up through the levels, if necessary, based on the set indicators and thresholds outlined in the province's 'COVID-19 Response Framework.'

Visitor restrictions for long-term care homes will once again apply to those homes in the public health regions that are in the orange level or higher. In addition, long-term care homes must implement enhanced testing requirements.

The following is an outline of what an orange (restrict) zone entails:

Gatherings

If you live alone, you can have close contact with only one other household.

Events and social gatherings in private homes, backyards or parks (for example, barbecues): indoors: 10 people; outside: 25 people.

Organized public events and gatherings in staffed businesses and facilities (for example, event spaces): indoors: 50 people; outside: 100 people.

Religious, wedding and funeral services: indoors: 30 per cent capacity; outside: 100 people.

Businesses

All open businesses must: screen employees; post signs at all entrances informing people how to screen themselves for COVID-19 before entry; limit capacity so guests can stay at least two metres apart; make sure anyone indoors wears a mask or face covering, including workers who have to come within two metres of anyone else (with some exceptions); make sure workers use personal protective equipment (PPE) that protects the eyes, nose and

mouth when they must come within two metres of anyone who is not wearing a mask or face covering or separated by plexiglass; clean and disinfect often-touched surfaces, such as equipment, washrooms, locker rooms, change rooms and showers frequently; manage lineups to make sure customers are at least two metres apart wearing face coverings or masks; and create a safety plan, post it in a place where workers and patrons will see it and have it available upon request (for example, to inspectors or law enforcement officers).

Restaurants

Capacity limits: 50 people indoors, four people per table.

Guests must: sit with at least two metres between tables; wear masks or face coverings except when eating or drinking (with some exceptions); wear a mask or face covering and keep two metres apart when lining up and gathering outside; and give their name and contact information.

Time restrictions: establishments must close by 10 pm; alcohol cannot be sold after 9 pm; and no one can drink alcohol after 10 pm.

Not allowed: Buffets.

Sports and recreation

Capacity limits: Indoors, 10 people per class or 50 people in areas with weights and exercise machines; outside, 25 per class. No spectators, except for one parent or guardian per child.

Everyone must: always wear masks or face coverings except when exercising (with some exceptions); stay three metres apart in classes or areas with weights or exercise

equipment and two metres apart everywhere else; make reservations (only one required per team); and give their name and contact information.

Team and individual sports must: be modified to avoid physical contact and have a maximum of 50 people per league.

Time restrictions: 90-minute time limit for classes and working out (does not apply for sports).

Outdoor ski, ice and snow recreational amenities open for recreational purposes.

Meeting and event spaces

Capacity limits: Indoors, 50 people per facility; outside, 100 people per facility; per table, four people

Guests must give their name and contact information.

Booking multiple rooms for the same event is not allowed.

Time restrictions: Establishments must close by 10 pm; alcohol cannot be sold after 9 pm; No one can drink alcohol after 10 pm.

Stores

Fitting rooms cannot be right next to each other and guests must: wear a mask or face covering (with some exceptions) and keep at least two metres apart inside and when lining up and gathering outside and answer screening questions about COVID-19 symptoms and exposure before they come into malls.

Law & Order

Guilty plea in theft of truck, mischief at MSS leads to conditional discharge and probation

by Lori Thompson,
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

GORE BAY—A Sudbury man has been given a conditional discharge and 18 months' probation after a joyride in a stolen pickup truck in October 2019 ended with a single vehicle crash in the West End of the Island. Tristian Wabano, now 19, appeared by video and pleaded guilty to theft and weapons charges, including possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000, mischief under \$5,000 and unauthorized possession of a firearm.

On Monday, October 21, 2019, Manitoulin OPP responded to a report of a pickup truck missing from the driveway of a residence in Little Current. Officers were then called to a single vehicle collision on Highway 540 at Sheshegan Road in Robinson Township. Another caller reported two young males walking on the highway nearby and that the men appeared to be intoxicated. The vehicle was located in a ditch and was missing its front bumper and licence plate. A shotgun that had been inside the truck was found secreted nearby.

A further call from Manitoulin Secondary School reported gratuitous damage in the form of deep tire tracks on the school's soccer field as well as a damaged soccer net, with a truck bumper and licence plate caught within the netting. Police confirmed that the bumper belonged to the crashed vehicle and was the truck reported stolen from Little Current.

Attorney David Beaton argued for probation with a suspended sentence on behalf of the Crown while defence lawyer James Weppler argued that both the public and the accused would be better served by conditional discharge with probation. Given Mr. Wabano's age, his guilty plea and lack of previous involvement in the criminal justice system, the fact that there was alcohol involved, his interest in advancing his education, concrete goals in place for his future and the fact that the gun was not used all supported Mr. Weppler's argument. Gladue principles were also taken into effect for the purpose of sentencing.

Mr. Wabano received a conditional discharge with an 18-month period of probation. He was ordered to have no direct or indirect communication with the owners of the vehicle. Mr. Wabano was banned from attending their residence and Manitoulin Secondary School property and was required to write a letter of apology to the school. He was also prohibited from possessing any firearms except for the purpose of traditional hunting practices and under the supervision of a family member with a hunting licence, for the duration of his probation term.

The co-accused, who was additionally charged with impaired driving over 80 mgs, is scheduled to appear at Gore Bay in April.

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Ice Chips and Canoe Quips

For Heaven's Gate!

I apologize for this week's column as it is a departure from a traditional sports column. I can argue at length, however with anyone that the following does belong here!

As a kid who grew up on Manitoulin Island I was absolutely obsessed with the outdoors. Any chance we had to be outside was taken and the fact that we got less chores was just a bonus. My friends and brothers were known to portage our huge canoe a kilometre into downtown Mindemoya during melt-up to ride the spring torrent down to the lake by way of Hare Creek. We would ski over to Treasure Island, just to make soup and hunt rabbits with our sling-shots. We biked the 32km round trip to fish for six-inch speckled trout in Grimesthorpe Creek in Spring Bay. We would camp overnight beside the Mindemoya River so we didn't have to bug our parents to get us there at first light on the opening of trout season. Heck, we were even known to wear Mom's clothes to go waterskiing, just one example of an "Embarrass a Parent" session. Of course, normal fishing and hunting adventures were a given.

With my mind constantly preoccupied with dreaming, researching and planning my next adventure in the outdoors, I cannot believe I never knew about the LaCloche wilderness. I had, of course, heard of Killarney Provincial Park, but it never seemed to be accessible to me as a kid. Not knowing what I was missing of course I just immersed myself in any reasonable facsimile of the wilds wherever I could find it.

When I returned to teach here on Manitoulin I was initially introduced to the "mountains" by fellow teachers **Mark Gibeault, John Wakegijig and Chris Mara** by way of winter camping. Away at university, I had the chance and freedom to throw myself into the outdoors in the North Bay area and was no stranger to winter camping. Just strap on your snowshoes throw on your pack and go, right? However, I had no idea of the ruggedness, beauty and remoteness of the area. I was so amazed there was not a soul in sight, not even ATV or snowmobile tracks. The trees were like nothing I had ever seen here on Manitoulin. Towering hemlocks, white pines and beech trees (I have seen examples of all these since but not to the scale that winter, some 25 years ago).

Mark, or Mr. G as he was known lovingly by his students, taught me that you can take a bunch of adolescents into the real wilderness and not only will they survive, they will thrive and even have fun, all the while learning so, so very much. They not only learn the specific skills on how to camp with only the things you can carry on your back but they discovered what their bodies can do when called upon, they learn critical interpersonal skills and co-operation. (For example, on my trips with kids if you don't do your share around camp, you carry the garbage: rarely repeat offenders!). Many students cook for their first times on these trips, etc. I will stop now as there are way too many examples of 'education' to even gloss over, here!

Many of these kids, over the 23 years of school trips, were just like I was—they loved the outdoors but rarely had an opportunity for many reasons to experience it. Other students were motivated to go for different reasons. They didn't seek to or spend a lot of time in the bush apart from a few days at deer season perhaps. The trip was for them too, however. Even just to let them know that something like this exists and so close to home. Students on these trips and even me (all this time later) are awestruck constantly throughout the trek.

From that inaugural trip sliding down sheer snow faces, cramp-on spikes doing little to slow us down, I have gladly invested much time, effort and mental energy into this place. On top of the school trips I have also done family and personal trips on other occasions. I was even involved in a monumental project (with **Al Haner and Jerry Holliday** and money donated by the Mindemoya Classic triathlon) to repair and re-roof the Adirondack shelter along the trail. Suffice to say I have a deep love of this area and a strong desire to have it remain available to future students and the public.

This invaluable property that I am specifically talking about is a private parcel of land west of Highway 6 near the Willisville turnoff and extends westward covering nearly 2,000 acres (8 sq. km), with three lakes, two full mountains and part of a third (2.5 billion-year-old quartz/silica), and four kilometres of the Heaven's Gate Trail across the ridge. It is coming up for sale and the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) is negotiating with the family who owns the land for a greatly reduced price. Understandably it is still not cheap and the EBC still needs help and they only have until May 5 to come up with the balance.

Dr. Roy and Cathy Jeffery have made a very generous offer to match all of our offers (up to \$250,000) to help save the property. In his letter written for the EBC he aptly points out that this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to save this area and can never come back if it is sold to developers. To me, the motivation to donate to this project is a matter of accessibility. A mining company would have the money to come in and take what they want out. Sure, if you have enough money to buy an island in the Bay of Islands, or put up a luxury cottage under the shadow of Mount Ararat and Arabella you can enjoy the area. For the vast majority of us, however it is imperative that we can access it with just a decent pair of running shoes.

For more information and a full description go to the EBC website. For donations visit escarpment.ca/donate/protect-la-cloche for an instant tax receipt. Incidentally the aforementioned Mindemoya Classic triathlon will once again be donating to the cause with a \$500 donation on top of our personal offerings. Please, help if you can!

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



A picturesque scene from the existing conservation reserve beside Heaven's Gate.
photo by Warren Schlote

Paddling duo reflects on first year of The Attempt II

by Warren Schlote

MANITOULIN—Islanders Nat Hastings and Kristin Bickell are taking a winter pause from "The Attempt: Part II," a challenge to paddle the circumference of all of Manitoulin Island's inland lakes, and checked in with The Expositor to discuss their progress up until the hard water season set in late last year.

"It gave us purpose or direction this summer which was really nice, considering everything going on in the world. And it kept a few non-work-related things on our calendars," said Ms. Hastings in an early February conversation with The Expositor.

"It was sad to put our paddles down at the end of the season but we pushed it as long as we possibly could. We probably could have gone a little further but December gets a little cold, so we're looking forward to getting an early start this season," added Ms. Bickell, pledging to get back on the lakes as soon as the ice breaks up.

The 2020 version led them to paddle 12 lakes and a total of 223 kilometres in total. It also brought the pair to parts of the Island on which they had never set foot, despite their many years spent living on Manitoulin.

The total of 12 lakes was lower than they had hoped but a lot of their issues stemmed from getting 'skunked' on lakes—when they were unable to find a public access point down to the water. Last year was a little more off-the-cuff in their approach but they said they've learned to plan more in advance for the 2021 continuation.

"It was very humbling. We're going to try to use some of the off-season to plan for next year and get an early start," Ms. Hastings said.

To this end, they've created a master list of lakes on Manitoulin that appear to be surrounded by private property. They recently shared it on their Facebook page, @TheAttempt-Manitoulin, in the hopes that Islanders can pass along leads of people to talk with to obtain permission to cross their land.

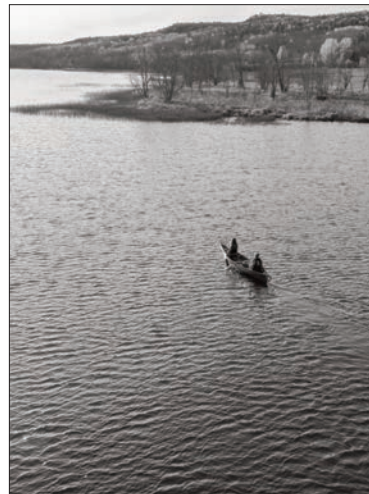
"We're the kind of people that, if we see someone down a backroad on a four-wheeler, we'll wave them down and ask if they know about who owns the property by a lake. That's the fun part for us, getting to know people and having fun conversations," Ms. Bickell said.

If a landowner does not wish to grant the paddlers access, they said they would respect those wishes.

The two have also found conflicting reports on Island statis-



Kristin Bickell, in bow, and Nat Hastings, in stern, ply the waters of Otter Lake during The Attempt II.



Green Bay's picturesque Pike Lake from above.

photo by Richard Lathwell

tics. The oft-repeated number is that there are 108 lakes on Manitoulin but they said they feel the number is in the high double digits.

This year, the farthest west they travelled was Silver Lake. The drive time was somewhat challenging but Ms. Bickell and Ms. Hastings have made plans with property-owning friends in the West End who will allow them to spend a night while they cross off several small lakes over the course of a weekend.

"We loved the West End when we were paddling out there (for The Attempt I) so we're excited to get back out there," Ms. Bickell said.

Some of the 2020 lakes ended up requiring overnights, such as Lake Manitou's impressive 87.7 km shoreline (which makes up for almost 1/3 of their progress last year alone). That lake replicated some of the harsh conditions they faced on Lake Huron last year and reinforced their safety-first approach and respect for the water.

The two are hoping to paddle Lake Mindemoya as a social(ly distanced) community event in

the coming year, at which they will invite Islanders to paddle a portion with them in their own boats. Neil Debassige has offered to capture the action from above with his drone.

They enlisted the help of local guides a couple of times in 2020, such as when they tackled Quanja Lake in Wiikwemkoong and Otter (Whitefish) Lake in M'Chigeeng. They learned of the legends of the lakes and some traditional teachings associated with the water bodies.

Unfortunately, the off-the-cuff nature of the 2020 paddling days meant the pair missed a couple of opportunities such as touring Quanja Lake with a group of Wiikwemkoong women paddlers.

The attempters hope to make the 2021 portion of the challenge more interactive and informative, such as creating videos of canoeing skills and rescue and recovery techniques if a paddler gets into trouble. They also hope to connect with other area groups that have paddling programs like Gwekwaadziwin Miikan.

Ms. Bickell and Ms. Hastings also began a game to collect old Styrofoam and other bits of trash along their route. The bow paddler acts as spotter and the stern paddler has to navigate and pick it up when their partner calls out a piece of debris.

In addition to the Styrofoam, they also noted an absurdly high number of balloon remnants along the shorelines, as well as plenty of old tires. Each has done a couple of dump runs with a truckload of litter.

"The community on Manitoulin is so strong and has always supported our outlandish attempts," the two shared on a Facebook post, thanking the many people who have worked to support the challenge.

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...Mindemoya Old School gets temporary reprieve

...continued from page 1 which point it was turned into a business centre with lawyer offices, a dentist and several other social agencies taking up residences.

Concerns about the high cost of renovating the building and dealing with asbestos and other contaminants in the building led to a decision by Central Manitoulin to close the facility, a process it began in 2016 by evicting the last tenants.

Since then, individuals in the community have voiced their dismay at the decision to demolish the Old School at public meetings and before council committees. There have been some voices calling on the council to stay the course on demolition, but the vast majority of the presentations have called for the building to be repurposed.

A committee was formed with a mandate to find a way of repurposing the Old School, but after several months the committee was unable to put forward a sustainable proposal.

Comments in support of finding a new use for the building made by the mayor following council's decision to issue a RFP for demolition led to a call for the mayor to resign by two councillors. That motion was withdrawn following a debate that made it clear it would not receive enough support to pass.

Since then, a presentation by the Ontario Histori-



The newly-incorporated Friends of the Mindemoya Old School have until the fall to come up with a workable plan for the aged building.

cal Society, which outlined how historical buildings and other structures have been preserved, primarily focussed on the creation of a free-standing non-profit with the sole mandate of managing the building. That led to the founding of the Friends of the Mindemoya Old School.

The Friends have set up a Facebook page to provide information and garner support for the project.

In a post setting up the page, community activist Jan McQuay noted the years-long struggle to save the historic building and the challenges of working as an informal group. "So the informal group is now a corporation, affiliated with

the Ontario Historical Society. The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is also assisting us and we are grateful to both organizations. Our mission is to relieve the municipality of responsibility for the Mindemoya Old School either through the transfer of ownership or by means of a long-term lease of the structure and appropriate land to the corporation. We intend to restore, sustain, steward, support and manage the building."

Ms. McQuay said that after the group negotiate an agreement with the municipality, "we expect to begin fundraising for the work that will be needed. We will also seek government

grants to refurbish this historic building so we will be actively seeking potential purposes that can be married with grant opportunities. Our first project will be a new roof."

"Our hope is that, once people are assured that the financial responsibility for repurposing the Old School is in the hands of our corporation, and not the municipality, everyone here will come together to support our goal of once again making the Old School a huge asset for the community, not just for its historical and architectural value, but for its ongoing purposes," Ms. McQuay added.

...Wiikwemkoong resident isolating after COVID call

...continued from page 1

wemkoong Junior School, February 10; Wikwemikong Nursing Home, February 10; and Wikwemikong Community Living, February 10.

As a result of the COVID-19 case, the community has suspended in-person learning and in-person community programming until further notice. "This is a precautionary measure as we want to ensure that we are keeping Wiikwemkoong safe," the ogimaa explained.

"All departments and programs have been working very hard and continue to follow all health guidelines to ensure the safety of our community," he added.

"I am requesting that we all continue to follow the health

...‘Northern Bubble’ last resort

...continued from page 1

vaccine manufacturer.

One of the variants, known as B.1.1.7., has already begun to afflict parts of the city of North Bay after devastating a nursing home in Barrie last month.

Northern Ontario has been able to control COVID-19 much more effectively than southern Ontario, especially during the first wave, but the second wave was worse. The addition of virus VOCs poses a significant threat to the North especially.

"We're calling on the public to really understand what's happening, what the threats are, and to curtail unnecessary travel and try to protect Northern Ontario the way it was protected in the first wave," Ms. Mehra said.

...continued on page 10

Thank you

On January 28, 2021 Vicki and I experienced a devastating fire in our garage that could have been much worse if not for the timely response and quick actions by the Billings Fire Department, Gore Bay/Gordon Fire Department and M'Chigeeng Fire Department.

Since then, many Manitoulin residents and beyond have assisted us in so many ways and have pledged support as we rebuild and replace. This is the reason why we choose to live in this special place. Thank you once again for clearly demonstrating your love and support.

**Thank you and Miigwetch,
Ian & Vicki Anderson**

In Appreciation

This message is a very special thank you to everyone who helped make my 100th birthday such a joyous occasion.

Thank you for those who sent greetings and messages, those who came to drive by at the church and all those who participated in the Mindemoya Tree Lighting event.

I want you to know how much it was appreciated. That gave me such pleasure. To express my gratitude for all the kindness given to me, I am making a donation to the Mindemoya Hospital renovation fund for the needs of all.

**My thanks to all,
Madeleine Becks**



Manitoulin Secondary School

PLAYER PROFILE

by Zoe Redmond
Public Relations, M.S.S. Athletic Association



CHRIS WHITE

CONGRATULATIONS, CHRIS!



**Proud Supporter of our
MSS Mustangs**

Chris White is a Mustang who has certainly accomplished a lot when it comes to both sports and athletics. He is a Grade 11 student, who certainly keeps himself busy. When Chris isn't busy with practices, work and school, he can be found working on his trucks, snowmobiling and enjoying time with friends.

During his years at Assiginack Public School he participated in many sports. Chris took part in sports such as volleyball, basketball, baseball, soccer and football. Chris began his skating experience at the age of four. He started out playing with the Manitowaning Wolves. Outside of school he takes part in motocross and ski doo drags, as well as organized baseball and basketball.

Throughout Chris' sports experience he has achieved a lot, and is especially well rounded when it comes to being open to new skills and techniques, as well as life skills. Throughout Chris' hockey experience he and his team have won various tournaments and divisions. Specifically an accomplishment for Chris is winning the best defenceman award on his team in his earlier years. Chris' main motivation and source of encouragement comes from himself. When he needs motivation he can certainly rely on himself. Chris finds that he inspires himself to do new things and to try his best at whatever he does. He inspires himself with new ideas that constantly help his creativity.

He continued to play sports and in Grades 9 and 10 he played badminton, tennis and volleyball. In volleyball he played the position of front right, and when it came to badminton and tennis, Chris often found himself playing doubles. For Chris, Grade 9 and 10 were an exceptional start to many more wins to come, and a great chance at building his skill level. Chris has not yet made it to NSSSA, NOSSA or OFSAA but certainly hopes to one day. Chris is very skilled in many different areas of sport. He can constantly adapt to whatever he sets his mind to and is always up for a challenge. When thinking about upcoming sports he is very much looking forward to playing volleyball, and maybe even badminton. After sports Chris often reflects on how he did. He can find himself thinking back onto past experiences in games and remembering the positives of the sport over the negative aspects.

Throughout Chris' sports season he is supportive towards his teammates and constantly provides humour. His positive attitude never fails to keep him and his team motivated. Chris loves to play volleyball because it's his favourite sport. He finds that volleyball is extremely fun and that he can really get into the game. When Chris plays volleyball he feels like he is part of a team and has many enjoyable experiences. Chris certainly shows that he loves the game as he is always eager to play new people and try his skills. He likes playing sports because they make him move around. He also finds that they are a great source of exercise. Chris likes that sports help to keep him active.

In school, Chris' favourite subject is Auto Tech. He likes Auto Tech because he finds the class to be really fun. Outside of school he is very skilled when it comes to fixing trucks, so in this class it is a reinforcement of the skills he already has. For Chris this class is a way to practice what he already knows and provide him with a chance to learn new information. When Chris finishes high school he hopes to take over his dad's garage of Whites Shell in Manitowaning.

Chris is one of many super Mustangs, and with his outgoing personality, kindness, and expressiveness, he is sure to represent MSS well. Have a great year, and keep up the terrific work Chris!


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Randy Noble

...Climate survey is now live, feedback wanted

...continued from page 3

ed officials and citizen members who are working with municipal staff to create a CEEP. Ms. Neale acknowledged the work of both Councillor Barker and his counterpart from Central Manitoulin, Dale Scott. "They've tried to consider all walks of life," she said. "Throughout the whole planning process the committees have focused on getting feedback from residents from all different perspectives."

Not all attitudes concerning climate change and climate change planning are the same across the board, said Ms. Neale. "There are people who are really dedicated to the cause of climate change and there are people who don't consider it a major worry, and we recognize that. It's really important for everybody, for and against, to complete the survey."

Community engagement is important for all local government planning processes and it is built into the requirements of the funding received towards the climate change co-ordinator role. Given the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, the survey was determined to be the most suitable vehicle for gathering information. "In-person engagement is always better," said Mr. Barker. "If nothing else, COVID has shown us that online meetings can be effective. It's also a great way to meet our goal of reaching the greatest cross-section of participants. We wanted to engage permanent and seasonal residents as well as tourists and we wanted to reach across age groups and incomes. I think we've managed that with this survey."

Lisa Lanktree is a Billings resident who has already completed the survey. "For it being the first engagement of its kind, I love it," she said. "I think there was a lot of information ... by the end of it I was wondering when it would be over. That being said, it provided actual relevant information."

Ms. Lanktree is concerned about climate change and how it's affecting the entire world. "I'm glad Billings is jumping on board and making an effort to educate people while giving them a chance to submit feedback, but I really don't think the activities

of this little township are going to make a difference in the bigger picture of climate change." However, she felt the survey is important.

"One reason it's important is that climate change is massive," she said. "It's going to affect us and if we're not thinking about it and acting now we could be blindsided."

If you take the time to read all the information provided as you proceed through the survey, it would take longer than the 10 or 15 minutes posted, said Ms. Neale. "If you want to

Even the most-supported centralized composting program in the country only sees 25 percent participation. "That's only 25 percent of the food waste truly being diverted from landfills. Composting at home might see an increase in that percentage but we could get an even higher participation rate if we provide our citizens with at-home composting solutions that are innovative and easier to use."

There is a possibility that people might prefer an action but might not want to change their behaviour to make it work. "These aren't necessarily going to take place immediately," Ms. Neale explained.

She's curious to see how people respond to the composting question, especially since there are two composters up for grabs as a raffle prize for participants. "I think it's super easy to use this FoodCycler we're giving away or even the outdoor barrel composter because it removes the labour of going out and turning your compost."

The FoodCycler is an odour-free indoor food recycler that claims to reduce your food waste by 50 percent, which diverts waste from the landfill and reduces methane gas production that results from the decomposition of food waste. Central Manitoulin municipal staff have

been testing one out and by all accounts, are impressed with how easily and quickly it turns food waste into healthy, usable compost. One staffer has already decided to purchase one.

More than 120 respondents have completed the survey to date. With an estimated population of 10,000 (including permanent and seasonal residents) the goal is to have at least 300 participants; this will make the resulting data statistically viable. The survey is live now (visit climatesurvey.ca) and will be available until February 25. There is a telephone option as well, by calling 705-905-4406.

This climate action planning process does not end with the survey engagement, said Ms. Neale. With community input, the next step is to put the plan into action.

What municipality/township are you from?

Municipality of Central Manitoulin Township of Billings

I am an occasional visitor/tourist Other, please specify First Nation, Township, or Municipality below

Other _____

What type of resident in the Municipality of Central Manitoulin and Township of Billings are you?

Permanent/Year-Round (homeowner)

Permanent/Year-Round (renting)

Seasonal (homeowner)

Seasonal (renter)

Farm

Local business owner

Non-resident property owner

Other _____

What do you like most about living in Billings?

The people

The bush, dense tree covered areas (public & private)

The lakes

The local businesses

Hunting/Angling

The marina

Public beaches

Trails - Bridal Veil Falls trail

Park Centre

Fitness Centre

Other _____

If other, please specify here: _____

A sample page from the climate survey, open to Billings and Central Manitoulin residents until February 25.

read more, you can save it and come back to read more about options we're considering for actions like composting or glass recycling. That's the goal. The content that's there will carry forward into the CEEP and also in some way to our websites so it's readily accessible to our residents, post-survey."

People may want a centralized composting facility and that's an option on the survey, she said. "A report prepared by the waste management committee struck by the Manitoulin Municipal Association 10 years ago determined that a centralized composting facility was not going to be a viable investment for the municipalities collectively or for the individual communities. The costs have come down a lot but are people going to take the time to put their food waste aside to take it to the landfill a week later?"

...local patient transfer service to continue for now

...continued from page 3

January 28, president and CEO Lynn Foster told the board that one of the partners could not commit to multi-year funding toward the proposed model. The remaining partners felt vulnerable about a potential funding shortfall and decided to abandon the plans.

"It was extremely disappointing because that was a multi-year project and we've invested a lot of time into it. Having said that, we're focusing on what's important for our area and our patients so we're working with Espanola and the DSB to come up with a solution that fits for the three of us," Ms. Foster said.

...old OPP detachments

...continued from page 3

IO estimated operations and maintenance costs for 2020-2021 at roughly \$41,000, a figure it said is less than when OPP was in the building.

Ontario is engaged in the OPP modernization project, a \$182 million project to replace old police facilities with nine new detachments. The Manitoulin detachment was part of this campaign and received its new detachment last year in Little Current, which resulted in the closure of the old detachments in Little Current, Manitowaning and Mindemoya that were then obsolete.

"IO is in the very early stages of gathering information and considering next steps toward exploring future uses of the former (Manitowaning) detachment site," Ms. Myles stated. "IO has a well-defined process for disposition of surplus property, which includes due diligence and activities and circulation to consider continued public use of the property."

IO was not able to provide any estimated timelines at this point of when Ontario might dispossess the Little Current detachment or determine any potential future uses for the Manitowaning detachment.

A NUPT service is important in areas such as Manitoulin because it allows for a more secure transfer of patients to hub hospitals that can provide more specialized care when required, such as Health Sciences North in Sudbury.

Previously, the DSB provided this work through paramedics and ambulances, which cut into the availability of emergency medical services.

The service to transport MHC and Espanola General Hospital patients to Sudbury will continue as-is for the time being, but the two hospitals and the DSB plan to implement a new model between the three partners for an April 1 launch.

DSB CAO Fern Dominelli told The Expositor that he is working with other DSBs in the Northeast to create a more comprehensive and co-ordinated approach over a wider area. Those talks are still ongoing, however, so he said his staff were working with the Manitoulin and Espanola hospitals to ensure they had a plan in place for the April 1 deadline.

"It looks very positive but there's always the question of other things in play," he said, noting that Algoma and Cochrane DSBs are also working on the planning process.

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...insured damage from severe weather tops \$2.3B in Canada

...continued from page 1
occurred within the last decade.

A 2020 Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) report found that many areas across the country are becoming riskier to insure as the risk of more frequent and severe weather events

increases, with municipalities on the front line of climate change. Significant investment will be required: the report found that avoiding the worst impacts of climate change at the municipal level will cost an estimated \$5.3 billion per year. Flooding, erosion and melting per-

mafrost in Canada's north were found to pose the greatest risk.

High water levels and storms with high wind speeds have caused damage to residential and municipal docks and marinas and eroded shorelines on Manitoulin in recent years. The breakwall at Kagawong's

small craft harbour needed shoring up during redevelopment while at South Baymouth, huge waves caused sea wall damage at the ferry terminal and caused docks in the municipal marina to let go from their moorings.

Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands has also seen high water levels at Spider Bay Marina and the downtown docks, said Mayor Al McNevin. "We had to do the same thing that we

had to do back in the late 1980s when there were also high water levels, which is to raise our infrastructure up," he said. The Port of Little Current's downtown docks are a significant attraction for tourism. "One of the areas that felt a big impact was the electrical hook-ups for boaters. They all had to be raised up and the wiring raised up as well because they were all under water. It was a signif-

icant cost; even the bases of the light standards on the dock all had to be raised to protect the wiring from the water. Every time the wind blows from east to west, we seem to end up with a seiche event and those can raise the water level several feet." (A seiche is the rocking motion in a lake or other closed water body where winds cause the water level to rise at one end with a cor-

...continued on page 11

...'Northern Bubble' deemed last resort

...continued from page 8

Northern Bubble a divisive issue

Talk of a Northern Bubble has emerged periodically over the past year since the pandemic began and city council in Sudbury has approached Premier Doug Ford about the idea.

It's far from a slam-dunk, however. The concept of a Northern Bubble, one that physically restricts travel between the North and the south, remains extremely divisive.

To this end, OHC is advocating for increased efforts on the part of every citizen to stay vigilant and remain at home as much as possible, so that enforcing a physical travel restriction (which would be difficult in itself) is not necessary.

"The message given to Ontarians by (loosening restrictions) is confusing for people, so we wanted to counter with a very clear public interest message. Just because the province announced it was opening does not mean that people should travel freely," Ms. Mehra said. "People can make choices now that will result in either protecting their communities or not."

She cited the high death rates among residents and staff of long-term care (LTC) facilities as an indication of how dire the situation has been in recent months especially.

"While LTC facilities are responsible for improving infection control measures in homes, the fact is that the high community spread of COVID-19 has resulted in more outbreaks and more potential for outbreaks to get out of control," Ms. Mehra said.

She suggested that businesses in the North could stay closed to customers 'from away' and make it less attractive for people to come up as travel increases with the coming warmer weather, though did not get into specifics about how businesses might exclude travelling customers.

OHC pushes for personal accountability

Algoma Health Coalition spokesperson Marie DellaVedova stressed the basics about how COVID-19 spreads.

"The virus doesn't move; people move it. What follows, then, is if we stop moving, the virus stops moving," she said. "I know it's been a long year and we really yearn to live our lives in the way we did in the past. That's not a good enough reason to let our guard down—people's lives hang in the balance."

She joined her fellow Northern members of OHC in urging the public to go above and beyond the provincial rules.

"Nobody wants to bring a deadly virus

into the homes of family and friends. We must all be careful, consider the consequences and follow public health guidelines. People who don't need to travel North should not do so. Those of us in the North who don't need to travel in and out should not," Ms. DellaVedova said.

OHC member Albert Dupuis of Blind River acknowledged the good fortune that the North Shore has not experienced many cases until recently (which were travel-related), but said consistent messaging and actions at the provincial level is a must.

"We know the science on public health measures is sound and we need to support them, even if we feel some skepticism from some public officials not stepping up when they should," he said, referencing the controversy over the December holiday season when many senior government officials travelled abroad for personal trips and have faced consequences from their parties.

Sudbury Health Coalition co-chair Dorothy (Dot) Klein said there have already been the first confirmed cases of B.1.1.7. in Sudbury and that the health district was only a few hours from outbreak hotspots like the Toronto area.

"It's important that we just stay the course for a little while longer. We'll get through it," she said.

Public health measures going forward

Ms. Mehra added that her organization hoped the loosening of public health restrictions would have come with very clear direction from the province and health authorities, but these were lacking.

She urged all Canadians to wear substantial, three-ply masks and other necessary personal protective equipment like face shields, along with frequent handwashing, maintaining physical distance and reducing their travel.

She also called upon the province to implement strong measures for businesses to reduce the numbers of people allowed inside at one time, as well as enforcement of infection control and cleaning measures with fines for businesses that do not comply with the health directives. Ms. Mehra stressed the crisis in LTC facilities as a place where this was needed more than anywhere.

Ultimately, the press conference resulted in a message that the government should produce clear and substantial public health measures immediately, and that Ontarians should adhere to public health measures now more than ever to keep the province safe—especially in vulnerable regions like Northern Ontario.

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Tenders will be accepted until
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Please watch our Facebook and Instagram posts for updates on the outdoor rink availability.

VIRTUAL WEEKLY EVENTS

Check out Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands Facebook page

Trivia Tuesdays at 8 am
Every Tuesday morning, I will post a trivia question

Thankful Thursday
Do you have someone you would like to thank during this crazy time of COVID-19? Submit your story or reason to lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca. We will showcase one or two submissions every Thursday morning at 8 am on our Facebook page.

Virtual cooking workshops on Wednesday evenings
Feb 17th at 6:30 pm Wonton Wrappers
Feb 24th at 6:30 pm Belgian Waffles
March 3rd at 6:30 pm Pie crust and Puff pastry

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NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Due to the ever-changing environment that we are all dealing with,

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Please be advised regular protocol will be in place and members of the public will not have the ability to make comments or ask questions during the meeting.
For a full copy of the agenda please visit our website.

The Community Calendar section of our website is a great way to find information on what is happening in our community. www.townofnemi.on.ca




Keep up-to-date with notices and news by following us on Facebook and Instagram.

...Debajehmujig Storytellers get dubbing gig

...continued from page 1

“They have a fully operational production and post-production facility,” she noted. “There was really no better option.”

The drama series ‘Unsettled’ focuses on an urban Indigenous family from Toronto who are forced to move to a Northern Ontario First Nation when they unexpectedly lose their fortune. While that might sound a bit Schitt’s Creek at first blush, the similarity ends there, full stop.

“‘Unsettled’ is a fish out of water drama series about a family in the midst of an identity crisis trying to navigate the complex realities of living on a reserve at the dawn of a new political era,” explains Ms. Podemski.

The protagonist, “urban, Indigenous adoptee Rayna Keetch grew up with no connection to her Indigenous roots. Recently reconnected with her birth family, she is about to return to her First Nation for a traditional homecoming ceremony when her husband Darryl announces that he’s lost their fortune.

“Despite the devastating news, Rayna goes North to her reserve hoping to find solace in ceremony and culture but what she finds is a dysfunctional birth family and a community in turmoil.

“What begins as a week-end out of town becomes a search for meaning and identity, a journey of healing and transformation for



Brian Peltier is just one of the elders working on the dubbing project.

Rayna, her family and the divided community of Beezee First Nation.”

So not a light-hearted comedy by any stretch.

The project was commissioned by TVO and APTN and Ms. Podemsko shares executive producer credit with Derek Diorio of Distinct Features Inc. The producer is Geoff Ewart. His name might be familiar as the force behind 2013’s ‘Empire of Dirt,’ 2015’s ‘Guantanamo’s Child: Omar Khadr’ and 2017’s ‘Ransom.’

Ms. Podemski is no slouch in the industry either, perhaps best known as an actress (Pique in CBC’s ‘Diviners’ and a star of ‘Dance Me Outside’), she noticed the almost complete dearth of Indigenous eyes on the other side of the lens—almost no writers, producers or directors.

Along with Laura Miliken, she founded her first

production company, Big Soul Productions, the first Indigenous-owned and operated, full service production company in Canada, going on to produce hundreds of hours of television that included three seasons of the award-winning dramatic series ‘Moccasin Flats’ for Showcase and APTN.

Ms. Podemski has continued her acting career (‘Degrassi,’ ‘Republic of Doyle,’ Sarah Polley’s ‘Take This Waltz’ and especially her own role in her film ‘Empire of Dirt’ that garnered nominations for two Canadian Screen Awards for Best Actress in a Supporting Role as well as Best Feature Film) but she maintains a strong drive to continue telling Indigenous stories.

‘Unsettled’ stars Cheri Maracle, Brandon Oaks, Tamara Podemski (familiar to Debajehmujig audiences for her performances in their mainstage), Pam Mathews, Wesley French, Lawrence Bayne, Mitchell Loon (North Bay local) and Albert Owl (Ojibway language speaker). Recurring roles are performed by Michaela Shannon, Tashena Sarazin, Glen Gould, Joshua Odjick, Lisa Cromarty, Migwan Buswa, Sid Bobb, Phoenix Wilson and Stephanie Aubertin.

Composer for the series is Adrian Sutherland of the acclaimed group Midnight Shine and the cinematographer is Clement

Lush.

In addition to being the first dramatic television series to be funded through the CMF Aboriginal Language Program, the series was shot almost entirely on Nipissing First Nation.

“We have a training initiative for Indigenous film-

...continued on page 15

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...insured damage from severe weather

...continued from page 10

responding drop in level at the opposite shore.)

“We had to find a way to get ahead of that story,” he added. “The water was pretty close to the all time high and going another foot or two up could cause a lot of damage. We’ve had to actually cap our docks downtown. Spider Bay has floating docks but you still have to have them fastened to a fixed structure at the shore end and they had to raise those up as well.”

Climate change seems to be making water levels more erratic because of the storms, with the biggest impact felt on the waterfront, the mayor said. “We’re seeing the same impact on the residential shoreline, on cottages and docks. People have had their longstanding fixed docks or cribs completely destroyed by storms and fluctuating water levels. I don’t know how many people have been impacted but they have been impacted and I’m one of them.”

Taxpayers and insurers share the cost for severe weather damage, according to the IBC. For every dollar paid in insurance claims for damaged homes and businesses,

Canadian governments and taxpayers pay out much more to repair public infrastructure that severe weather has damaged. Canada lacks a national adaptation strategy with measurable targets and the accompanying investments needed, the IBC said.

Responding to the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters due to climate change as well as continued urbanization in high risk flood plains, the federal government announced the creation of a Task Force on High Risk Residential Flood Insurance and Strategic Relocation in November 2020. The IBC reported that more Canadians are exposed to flooding than to any other climate-related peril. “This is a foundational step in an urgent national effort to better protect Canadians, adapt to our changing climate and build more climate resilient communities,” stated IBC. The main goal of the taskforce is to develop a new low cost national flood insurance program to protect homeowners at high risk of flooding and without adequate insurance protection. The taskforce was to begin work in January 2021 with a final report expected in 2022.

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♥ Tehkummah volunteers spread Valentine's Day joy ♥

by Warren Schlote
TEHKUMMAH—Volunteer members of Tehkummah's newly re-formed recreation committee were hard at work Sunday as they travelled throughout the township to deliver physically distanced driveway visits to more than 50 households during their campaign to spread some joy for Valentine's Day.

"(The recreation committee was) going through ideas of what to do, with COVID and the restrictions, and this is what we came up with to add a little bit of cheer to the community," said committee member Lisa Lepage during the event.

Ms. Lepage served as the 'Queen of Hearts' in a nod to 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' (though her interpretation was notably less bloodthirsty). She toured the township alongside Lorie Leeson, Janice Mitchell, Lori Gordon and Ginger Mead—fellow members of the recreation committee who formed 'The Sister Act.'

They stayed physically apart from each other as they danced around and mimed the words to famous love songs (thanks to the sound system provided by Steve Fisher of Island Animal Hospital) and handed off small goodie bags to the homes they visited. The committee members created an extender basket to make the hand-offs and they hand-wrote greeting cards for the people who booked appointments and requested personal messages.

It has been nearly a year since the first widespread public health restrictions took hold in Ontario and that year has brought many challenges to people across the province. The hardships have particularly struck older people because they tend to be more susceptible to severe cases of COVID-19, and many are seeing fewer



Ray and Skylar Reckahn, right, had a surprise visit from a merry band of Tehkummah do-gooders on Valentine's Day.

people in their daily lives as a result.

"Especially for seniors, but there's been a lot of people that have been really frightened over the past year: Just seeing them happy, especially on Sunday for Valentine's Day, was a big reward," Ms. Mitchell told The Expositor the day after the event.

All of that was top-of-mind when the township's recreation committee reformed in late 2020 after several years of hiatus. Grass-roots volunteers had locally run a similar campaign last spring with a clown visiting a few homes; when many of them joined the committee they felt doing a similar but larger event would help spread some of the same cheer.

"The smiles were so genuine; you could just feel people's energy. They were just thrilled, even with people who you might not expect to be excited about something like this, they loved it," said Ms. Mitchell.

The sign-up list totaled 49 households but the group made several more

impromptu visits when they saw people walking about or decided to stop outside at an address unannounced. Some of those happened when they mistakenly walked up a neighbour's driveway instead of

their intended target.

Tammy Russell and Jeff St Pierre, who were among the list of recipients, said they were pleased to feel so much community warmth through this initiative.

"I think this is amazing for the community. It brings a lot of joy amid hard times. These guys are awesome," Ms. Russell said.

Gifts flowed in both directions during the five-hour tour. A few homes knew they should be expecting a visit and traded off homemade cookies or packaged sweets to keep the volunteers' spir-



Dorothy Cronk receives a Valentine gift from the Queen of Hearts and her Sister Act.

its jovial. Their matching outfits were former choir gowns from a church on the North Shore that Tehkummah resident Ruth Streicher gave toward the effort.

The group asked for \$5 donations to help offset the costs of running the event and to help build the recreation committee's coffers for its future plans, many of which are in the works. They are planning a driveway visit program for St. Patrick's Day already.

Although they got a lot of interest, the group was not rushing to count their earnings.

"This is all about bringing joy and smiles to people. The money to do things in the future is just a secondary bonus," Ms. Mitchell said.

For a video of the Tehkummah Valentine's Day event, visit manitoulin.com.



The sister act made a fun presentation to the masked and safely-distanced Keith Flaherty as they passed through the Village of Tehkummah.

photos by Warren Schlote



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The familiar little white bus will again take to the road in March.

Expositor file photo

Island transit group restarting service in March

by Michael Erskine

MANITOULIN—The lack of public transportation has plagued development in Northern Ontario since the days the region was called “New Ontario,” with declines in transportation options far outstripping any improvement in recent years.

An initiative of the previous Liberal provincial government saw a significant investment in community transportation which led to the creation of United Manitoulin Islands Transit, a co-operative seeking to create a sustainable public transit model to serve Manitoulin’s communities.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic threw a wrench into the rollout of the transportation initiative, UMIT has announced it is restarting its service this March and that it has entered into a partnership with Montreal-based Blaise Transit to provide an on-demand solution UMIT hopes will provide “affordable, accessible and cost-efficient public transit.”

UMIT executive director Joahna Berti

explained that Blaise Transit is providing the on-demand platform and transportation planning knowledge to UMIT

“Once deployed in March, the on-demand, artificial intelligence-powered service will connect South Bay (Dooganing) residents, a community within Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territories, to other areas of Wiikwemkoong, Manitowaning and the rest of Manitoulin Island via UMIT’s fixed bus line,” said Ms. Berti.

“Manitoulin Island boasts several characteristics that make it ideal for on-demand transit,” pointed out Ms. Berti. “First, it’s enormous. Driving from one end of the Island to the other takes four hours round-trip. Second, it’s sparsely populated, with multiple economic, cultural and community areas across the Island. Such distance between people and place renders public transportation challenging.”

Those challenges have been increased

...continued on page 17

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...Island health providers complete more than 7,000 COVID-19 tests

...continued from page 3
asymptomatic people could get tests. These two factors drove a large portion of the increase.

The final block, from September through November, saw a smaller increase but still a notable jump from the summer. Testing criteria became more restricted again, but the second wave brought much higher case counts. More testing took place due to the resumption of in-person schooling and periods such as Thanksgiving.

For the last six weeks of the year, the numbers went higher again as the second wave surged strongly.

"It will be interesting to see how this plays out in the phase post-Christmas, (now that) the lockdown is in place," Ms. Foster said.

The hospital has switched to reducing the number of days it offers testing, instead offering extended hours on the days its assessment centres are open. Ms. Foster said that method has proven successful and will continue.

Testing followed a relatively stable trend at Northeastern Manitoulin Family Health Team (NEFHT), which saw weekly fluctuations follow a fairly flat weekly average over the summer and into the end of the year. Between the first week of July and the end of the year, it tested 305 people.

There was a notable drop



There were more than 7,000 COVID-19 tests completed on Manitoulin Island through the end of 2020 with the majority of those going through Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board Paramedic Services, which offered at-home mobile testing and also ran the assessment centres at Manitoulin Health Centre.

in tests completed at NEFHT near the end of December and over the holidays, which may owe to that clinic's main purpose of offering asymptomatic tests for people who are heading for medical appointments in Sudbury and require proof of COVID-19-negative status. There would have been far fewer of these off-Island appointments in Sudbury around the Christmas and New Year's season.

Assignack Family Health team told The Expositor that it had completed 380 tests up to the end of 2020, but was unable

to provide a weekly breakdown to show how trends evolved over time.

Noojmowin Teg Health Centre previously offered asymptomatic testing for some of its staff and community members, but it stopped this practice in October. It performed 158 tests in 2020.

Wikwemikong Nursing Home completed a weekly average of about 29 tests between April and the end of the year, with weekly testing totals ranging from one swab to 108. Its total test count by the end of the year was 794.

The Expositor received

no data from the Manitoulin Centennial Manor in Little Current. A statement from Jarlette Health Services, which operates Manitoulin Lodge Nursing Home in Gore Bay, stated that it "has been testing regularly as per directive three for LTC homes with approximately 60 members." Spokesperson Stephanie Barber did not respond to follow-up requests for more detailed information.

Rapid tests coming to MHC

In addition to the main paramedic-run assessment

centres at the two hospital sites, MHC and some Island health partners are presently rolling out rapid COVID-19 testing at locations across Manitoulin. The new 'ID Now' COVID-19 tests will provide results in as little as 15 minutes, as opposed to the current swab tests that go to external laboratories and have a 72-hour turnaround time.

MHC has one rapid testing device at each of its two sites and hospital staff are presently devising policies and conducting training for the devices.

"(Rapid testing) is going to be extremely helpful," said MHC VP of clinical services and chief nursing officer Paula Fields at a recent MHC board meeting, adding that the plan is to have testing available 24/7 at both sites.

The quick tests do have limitations. Any negative results must be further confirmed through the trusted swab lab evaluations, but positive tests are considered accurate. This makes the rapid tests most suitable for symptomatic individuals.

MHC is also getting an additional rapid test solution in February called BioFire. That company's solution is extremely accurate but each test is rather expensive to conduct.

"We're limited to 90 (BioFire) tests per month so we have to be very cautious as to who we administer tests to," Ms. Fields said, adding that Manitoulin Collaborative health partners are working on a co-ordinated testing plan for the Island.

...trails open with caution

...continued from page 3

must access Manitowaning the long way around, via Mindemoya and then Sandfield, unless they know their way across the frozen lakes (again, with the utmost of caution). There is a trail to Rockville, albeit with some road running involved, which will get sledders to M'Chigeeng then either Mindemoya and points beyond or communities west.

Mr. Bond also advised also snowmobilers to respect private property and to stay on the trails. The president heard from upset landowners over the weekend who had sleds trespassing on their fields, which could mean grave danger for those snowmobilers as high voltage electric fences are often found around the perimeter.

To access the C107D trail, snowmobilers must have an OFSC trail permit and insurance. Head to ofsc.on.ca/permits to buy yours today and don't forget to click on 'Manitoulin Snowdusters' to see the Island club reap the benefits of your purchase.

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Sault Ste. Marie Diocese organizes at-home Ash Wednesday

by Warren Schlote
NORTHERN ONTARIO—Today, February 17, is Ash Wednesday, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie has created a plan to allow worshippers to mark the sacred day at home in a safe, physically distanced format.

“We do not want to let the COVID-19 pandemic get in the way of this important day,” said Thomas Dowd, Roman Catholic bishop of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie. “Ash Wednesday remains a very popular day

of devotion among Catholics.”

Public health restrictions have led to the closure of most churches and, even when they are allowed to re-open for limited capacity services, many parishioners will not wish to gather in person.

Ash Wednesday ceremonies are especially challenging given the public health restrictions. To mark the start of the 40-day religious season of Lent that runs until Easter Sunday, worshippers generally

receive a blessing and a cross on their forehead of blessed ashes—made from palms from the previous year’s Palm Sunday celebration—from a faith leader in a church.

This necessarily means a person getting close to another’s face to apply the ashes, which is strongly discouraged during the pandemic.

Instead, the diocese said it called all parishes in Northern Ontario to offer take-home Ash Wednesday worship kits, to ensure peo-

ple still have the opportunity to take part in the holy day.

On Ash Wednesday, a priest will bless the ashes as usual, and then invite parishioners to take home a small container of the blessed ashes. They will also receive a prayer card

stay safe,” he told The Expositor.

He will be holding a private mass, not open to the public, but invites members of the faith community to visit the Buzwah Church’s parking lot between 4 and 5 pm on Ash Wednesday to receive a con-

thing they can touch. These days, we’re often so isolated, especially for those who live alone, it’s a matter of how you can have that physical connection while still maintaining good COVID practice,” he said, adding that he hoped people living alone did not feel left out by the ash distribution.

Bishop Dowd said the Lent season teaches parishioners about hope and finding strength in faith, something he said was especially important in the midst of the challenging pandemic.

All distribution of at-home Ash Wednesday kits will follow all public health orders and Bishop Dowd said he would work to make the system as flexible as possible for those who cannot attend a church on the holy day, or for those who hear about the initiative late.

“I am giving permission to celebrate the distribution of ashes at any time until the end of February so as many people can participate as possible,” he said.

Anyone wishing to take part in this sacramental should contact their nearest Catholic church to learn about their available programs for Ash Wednesday. The diocese has a copy of the prayer service and an instructional video on its website, dioceseofsaultstemarie.org.

...Debajehmujig Storytellers get dubbing gig

...continued from page 11

makers made up of graduates and current students from the Canadore Digital Cinematography program,” explained Ms. Podemski. “The team, led by aspiring director and our director mentee, Morningstar Derosier, will be shooting second unit, narrative content throughout the community.”

Ms. Podemski held an open casting call in the community and 53 Indigenous community members responded. “They have all been cast in a variety of roles,” she noted, “including principal actors, actors and background performers.”

“There are not many television series with an almost entirely Indigenous cast,” she said. “Out of 55 roles, 50 are Indigenous characters played by Indigenous actors. The series was translated and dubbed into the Ojibway language at the Debajehmujig Theatre Company located on Manitoulin Island.”

Unfortunately, an all Indigenous production crew remains out of reach yet, as the industry remains short on Indigenous faces on the other side of the camera—something Ms. Podemski continues to work to correct.

“But Debajehmujig is a completely Indigenous operation,” she said. “All the pieces were great. I was really thrilled to be able to work with Debaj.”

That is a sentiment shared in the other direction by the Debaj crew. “We have all known Jennifer for a very long time,” said Jason Manitowabi, who managed the Debajehmujig side of the collaboration and described the experience as “exciting.”

“The Indigenous voices she has brought to the table are amazing,” he said.

The trend toward Indigenous voices telling their own stories will be a game-changer in the industry, moving from the Hollywood myth to a new era of authenticity that will help lay the foundations for a more honest reconciliation.

It is still not settled as to when ‘Unsettled’ will be going to air. “It has been a slog,” admits Ms. Podemski, who notes that this project has been years in the making.

“It takes a very long time to get a show made, especially Indigenous content,” shared Ms. Podemski, noting it was a dream coming true to come together with Mr. Diorio and be able to “tell the kind of stories I wanted to tell.”



Chrissy Sullivan of North Bay places ashes on her nine-year-old son Isaiah using the at-home prayer service for Ash Wednesday.

to follow at home, featuring Bible readings and instructions on how to distribute the ashes.

“Making sure everyone is included and encouraging our families to pray together on this holy day is quite significant,” explained Bishop Dowd. “It’s an opportunity for families to begin Lent together, to share with one another the importance of this time of year.”

At Wiikwemkoong’s Holy Cross Church, Father Paul Robson said Friday he was working on plans for the upcoming distribution.

“It’s good that we can do something, that we can do what we can while trying to

tainer of ashes and the prayer book. Fr. Robson said the prayer sheet will also be available via email or Facebook.

Fr. Jim Kelly, who serves at churches in Gore Bay, Mindemoya, M’Chigeeng and Shesheganwaning, said Friday he was working out details for distributing ashes in Gore Bay and Mindemoya, and in discussions to see whether M’Chigeeng or Shesheganwaning are interested in the distribution at their churches. Interested parishioners can contact their church on the day and find information about times and locations.

“Ashes are tactile and people like that, having a

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Snowy squirrel

A Bay Estates squirrel hunkers down in a snowstorm, its bushy tail helping to provide a little shelter from the snow.

photo by John Savage

...Island transit group restarting service in March

...continued from page 13

dramatically by the unexpected withdrawal of the Ontario Northland bus service to the Island that had been launched by the province with much fanfare in 2018. That withdrawal forced UMIT to realign its strategic and tactical planning, noted Ms. Berti.

Dooganing is located on the southeastern tip of Manitoulin Island in Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territories and is distant from essential community services, requiring a car, or carpooling, to access the rest of Manitoulin Island, she explained. "Our pilot project remedies this by providing both stop-to-stop and door-to-door services, connecting residents to other communities in Wiikwemkoong and the UMIT fixed bus line. Additionally, Blaise's analytics tools will enable UMIT to track and analyze ridership data, providing them with a clear window into passenger needs and insights to adapt UMIT's operations for future growth."

According to a release announcing the partnership between UMIT and Blaise, the agreement "implicitly recognizes that the transit challenges faced by Wiikwemkoong are not unique. UMIT is hoping to become part of the long term solution for affordable, reliable human travel for folks seeking affordable intra-community transit and connectivity to urban regions. Through our alliance with Blaise in the pilot phase, we'll observe if on-demand services can help remedy the problem."

"UMIT has been inspired working with the innovation and creative transit solutions offered at Blaise," noted Ms. Berti. "We are excited about the opportunity to pilot an on-demand transit system in Wiikwemkoong that will connect passengers to UMIT's fixed-route service and the wider community on Manitoulin Island. We envision a completely new way of thinking about human travel that will connect our residents with vital services and contribute to revitalizing our local economy."



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Lots of ice, Bob Izumi coming

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FULL DETAILS ON PAGE 8, HAPPY EASTER!
Plus, Community Easter Egg hunts across Manitoulin are Page 17
Special Easter coverage from local businesses throughout this paper!

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MHC requisitions Northeast Town rec centre as Island COVID-19 care centre
Swing bridge can't be closed to deny people Island access
Answer to frequently asked question

Thank You ESSENTIAL WORKERS Essential workers profiles and community messages begin on Page 18. CELEBRATING 141st ANNIVERSARY

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(Re-)Visiting Ontario's Island Retreat?
Manitoulin Eats; See Page 15 • Manitoulin Staycation; Pages 16 & 17 • Meet a Neighbour; See Page 3

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Property, including Royal Michael's Bay Resort, seized by Belgian government as assets purchased with proceeds of crime in 2005

Shop Safe, Shop Local Back to School 2020
See pages 13-16 for your local shopping guide

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A trip to the Benjamin aboard Le Grand Heron

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Workload for families overseeing homeschoolers concerns Rainbow Bd's Director of Education
Parents/guardians keeping students at home during pandemic cannot opt back to in-school learning until Nov.

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Small modular reactors part of feds' plan to lower carbon emissions and create jobs

by Lori Thompson,
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

OTTAWA—Minister of Natural Resources, Seamus O'Regan, announced the next big step for nuclear technology in Canada with the December 18, 2020 launch of Canada's Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Action Plan. The announcement capped a week of climate-related announcements that included the federal government's climate plan to meet and exceed Paris climate targets, a plan to plant two billion trees and a national hydrogen plan as well as a recommitment to the Lower Churchill hydro project in Labrador and to the Atlantic loop, which could see hydro electricity replace the use of coal in Atlantic provinces.

"None of these work alone," the minister said. "None of them provide all of the answers, but together they get us all the way to meet two overriding goals: to lower our emissions and to create jobs.

"The Action Plan will lay the foundation for the next chapter for success and innovation," Minister O'Regan said in a press release. "In 2018, an SMR road map was launched and the momentum has continued to grow. The Action Plan is built on four pillars: advancing SMRs through demonstration; ensuring the right regulations are in place; building capacity and engaging the public, including Indigenous peoples; and opening up new markets. The plan identifies 27 concrete actions we are taking, including investing in innovation and integrating nuclear into other technologies, like hydrogen."

It will ensure that Canada has a robust policy, regulatory and legislative framework in place to protect people and the environment while continuing meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities and all Canadians and will accelerate innovation and encourage the development of international partnerships and open up new markets, said Minister O'Regan.

"The plan has been built from the ground up with more than 100 partners, including provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous communities, labour, utilities, industry, universities, women in STEM, youth organizations, think tanks and environmental groups."

Each partner contributed a chapter to the plan that included what they are doing to work together on SMRs as Canada moves forward into its next chapter of safe and peaceful nuclear power, Minister O'Regan said. "That story began 78 years ago when Canada formally introduced itself into the nuclear age with typical Canadian understatement. We were the second country to use nuclear power and the first to declare its nuclear capability would only be used for peace."

"Canada has one of the safest nuclear regulatory regimes in the world and we will continue to keep our regime strong and safe," the minister continued. "We are the world's second largest producer of uranium and nuclear power provides 15 percent of our electricity. In Ontario, it's over 60 percent and in New Brunswick, 35 percent. Canada's nuclear power plants also produce 40 percent of the global supply of the medical isotope Cobalt 60, which is used in cancer treatment. Energy is Canada's family business. We are really good at this."

SMRs are not an "all in" option, Minister O'Regan noted. "This is the Government of Canada ensuring that we have every tool possible in our toolbox to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and address the existential crisis of climate change."

"We don't have the luxury of choosing any one thing," he continued. "SMRs are one of a whole host of innovations that can help us get to net-zero emissions by 2050 but they could be a very important part." He referred to an International Energy Agency report that said achieving global climate goals without nuclear energy could take much longer

and cost as much as \$1.6 trillion higher. "SMRs are an opportunity worth exploring and Canada is perfectly positioned to lead the way, to set the pace and to reap the benefits."

The announcement did not include any funding and was never intended to be a funding announcement, said John Gorman, president and CEO with the Canadian Nuclear Association. "It was very important in terms of a demonstration of market demand and federal support for SMRs," he said.

Consider SMRs as the personal computer to the original mainframe, Mr. Gorman suggested. SMRs are assembled in factories and transported to remote communities to provide heat and electricity or to power mining operations, for example. Because SMRs are scalable and produce very high temperature heat and clean electricity, they are very responsive. The ability to quickly ramp up or ramp down the amount of electricity they produce makes them useful for pairing them with wind and solar. Nuclear is able to back up wind power when the wind stops blowing or solar when the sun isn't shining, helping create more opportunities for wind and solar and helping ensure that we're reducing our reliance on fossil fuels," he said.

One of the most under appreciated things about nuclear, Mr. Gorman said, is that "from a carbon lifecycle perspective, everything from mining uranium down to safely storing and managing the spent fuel that comes out the other end, our entire lifecycle emissions footprint is among the very lowest of any technology. We are four times lower than solar and we're the same as wind in terms of our lifecycle. It's a very, very clean electricity source."

Mr. Gorman spent 20 years in the solar side of the energy sector. The number one argument against nuclear that he has heard "is this idea that if we invest in a future technology like SMRs or hydrogen then what we're really doing is some form of climate delayism, because what we should be doing is investing everything in technologies that are available right now, which is basically wind and solar. There's so much wrong thinking about that approach."

The challenge, he explained, is the enormous amounts of clean electricity we need to produce between now and 2050. "It is the equivalent of having to bring on as much generation as they have in the United States, taking the entire generating suite that they have now and recreating that amount of electricity and adding it every three years from now until 2050. That's how much clean electricity we're going to have to bring on if we're going to use it to help decarbonize and meet our 2050 goals."

He believes we must invest in currently available technologies including wind, solar and smart grid technologies. "We also have to make sure that we are investing in these technologies that are within arm's reach right now: hydrogen, carbon capture and storage and SMRs, because we're going to need those technologies to complement what's on the table right now."

There is a concern that SMRs don't yet exist and aren't expected to exist for another decade. Despite the astounding adoption

of wind and solar power over the past 20 years, we're still at 36 percent of non-emitting electricity over the world's electrical grid, said Mr. Gorman. "In Ontario, 90 percent of the

...continued on page 25

BAHA'I WRITINGS

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

services

services

Is alcohol a problem? AA may be able to help. Meetings 7 days a week - visit www.area84aa.org/manitoulin or call 705-674-6217 for more info. Tfn

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. To receive adult or youth/parent information on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, more commonly known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, or to volunteer with our Association, please contact: The Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Association of Ontario. Tel: 416-222-8820 or 1-877-632-6682 (outside GTA) or write to: Ste. 402, 170 Donway West, Toronto, ON M3C 2G3. Please visit our web site at: www.meao.ca. tfn

Parkinson's Disease Support Group. For those affected by the disease and their caregivers, meetings will be the third Thursday of every month, 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Mindemoya Public Library (at the Municipal office building), Mindemoya. Call Marilyn at 705-368-0756, Ext 238 if there are any questions. All welcome. tfn

Are you concerned about someone's drinking? Al-Anon has one purpose: Welcoming, giving hope and comfort to help family and friends of alcoholics. Changed attitudes can aid recovery. Stepping Stones Al-Anon Group: Thursdays at 7 pm in the library room at the Missionary Church, 51 Young Street, Mindemoya, 705-377-4892/705-377-5138. Espanola Al-Anon, Tuesdays at 7 pm, Anglican Church, 213 Tudhope Street, Espanola, 705-869-6595. Tfn

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

Codependents Anonymous Manitoulin for information, email codamanitoulin@gmail.com or visit Facebook [codamanitoulin](https://www.facebook.com/codamanitoulin). No meetings running at present. tfn

wanted

Donate your old car or truck or farm tractor, etc., or even an old metal boat to our church. We can send a truck right to you to pick these up, and in return you will receive an income tax receipt for the scrap value of your donation to St. Bernard's Church, Little Current. Please, no smaller items such as fridges, stoves, hot water tanks, etc. Contact Tony Ferro at 705-368-3066 or Jim Griffin at 705-859-2289. 17tfn

Deadline for text ads, like this, as well as boxed ads is Friday at 4 pm.

for sale

Top quality mattress, Sealey Connor brand, single bed size. Has never been used. Asking \$600, cost was more than \$1,000. Call 705-368-3106, leave a message if no answer. 39tfn

2007 Dodge Ram 1500 4x4. \$8,500 OBO certified. 705-859-2787. 39-41c

rental wanted

Woman looking for one- or two-bedroom apartment or small house on the Island (preferably Gore Bay). Quiet, responsible tenant. No pets, non-smoker. Call/text 705-936-7106. 40c

Legion Events

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 177 Wing Night, Thursday, February 25, 4 to 8 pm. Wings, \$1 each (sauces for wings: salt and pepper, sweet chili, sweet and sour, honey garlic, first, second and third degree, parmesan cheese and pepper and Cajun); cheese balls, two for \$1; Jalapeno poppers, \$1 each; cheese sticks, \$1 each; mushroom caps, nine for \$3. Take-out only, pick up at the Legion. To pre-order call or text 705-348-0123. Cut off for all orders is Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 8 pm. Delivery within town limits, Little Current. 40-41p

Renew your legion membership or join as a new legion member. Just contact Judy Miller by emailing jmiller@nemfht.ca or call 705-968-0091. The cost of a membership is \$55. Thank you for your support to our local Branch 177, Little Current. 27tfn

Sea Cadet Events

Manitoulin Sea Cadets Corps weekly parade is Monday nights at Mindemoya Community Centre (Hwy 542, beside Mindemoya municipal office) beginning at 6 pm. For enquiries, please contact 705-805-0350. tfn

notice

Food Cupboard--The Gore Bay United Church is continuing this service during the COVID-19 outbreak with some changes. They will be open noon to 3 pm on Thursdays. Come to the side door (facing McQuarrie Motors) and knock. Food will be packed and passed outside to you. If you have questions, call 705-282-2011. Messages are checked daily. Tfn

Private classified word ads, like this, are \$8 for up to 25 words and 10 cents for every additional word, per week, plus HST. Pre-payment (VISA, MasterCard, cheque or cash) is required. Private sales only. Call 705-368-2744 to book your ad.

help wanted

help wanted

Manitoulin Health Centre PHARMACY TECHNICIAN TEMPORARY PART-TIME (UP TO ONE YEAR)

The Manitoulin Health Centre requires a Pharmacy Technician on a temporary part-time basis at both of its Little Current and Mindemoya hospital sites.

QUALIFICATIONS (Education, Certifications, Experience, Licensure):

Required:

- Registered Pharmacy Technician with the College of Pharmacists of Ontario or
- Successful completion of the Pharmacy Technician Program with registration pending.

Preferred:

- Previous experience in a hospital pharmacy department

Please apply to recruitment@mhc.on.ca

Thank you to all who apply. Only those to be interviewed will be contacted.

Manitoulin Health Centre is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons / persons of colour, women, Indigenous / Aboriginal People, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.

Manitoulin Health Centre SUMMER STUDENTS

The Manitoulin Health Centre requires Registered Nursing Students at its Little Current and Mindemoya sites.

Please email a cover letter and resume to: recruitment@mhc.on.ca

Thank you to all who apply. Only those to be interviewed will be contacted.

Manitoulin Health Centre is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons / persons of colour, women, Indigenous / Aboriginal People, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.

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Manitoulin.com

Central Manitoulin commits to Union Road Bridge replacement

by Michael Erskine

CENTRAL MANITOULIN—Tenders for the Union Road Bridge replacement were opened and the Belanger Construction bid of \$1,175,000 was recommended for acceptance to council by the Central Manitoulin roads committee.

The motion to accept the bid was moved by Councillor Derek Stephens and seconded by Councillor Rose Diebolt.

“We seem to have done more than our share of bridges,” quipped Mayor Richard Stephens.

“We have three more to go,” rejoined Councillor Stephens.

The municipal share of the project is 10 percent with the balance being picked up

by a grant from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

As was previously reported in The Expositor, the Union Road Bridge actually serves more of the residents of Burpee and Mills than the ratepayers of Central Manitoulin. The bus route previously established by Ontario Northland during its brief tenure serving Manitoulin Island that was slated to run across the bridge had to be cancelled due to the 10-ton weight restriction that had been placed on the bridge. The bus weighed in at 15 tons.

The municipality had previously applied for funding for the project, but was turned down.

Northeast Town Council Notes

Public works gets a new Cat

The Northeast Town opened the two tenders it received for the bid of a 2021 backhoe on February 3.

The two tenders were received from: Brandt Tractor for a 2021 John Deere backhoe, \$179,020.25 including HST; and Toromont Cat for a 2021 Caterpillar backhoe, \$176,686.14, including HST. Staff recommended council approve the Toromont Cat bid, which they did. The motion was carried.

Councillor Barb Baker asked if the HST was redeemable on the purchase. CAO Dave Williamson explained that the majority of the HST would be redeemed.

Councillor Laurie Cook asked how much was budgeted for the new backhoe.

Mr. Williamson replied that \$170,000 is in the 2021 budget for this purchase and that, once the HST is redeemed, the purchase will be back within budget.

Financial reports

Council reviewed its cheque register from December 31, 2020 to January 31, 2021 in the amount the \$1,109,305.85.

From December to January, \$168,069.17 water and sewer payments had been made with \$173,446.68 received in payments for taxes during the same period.

Treasurer Sheryl Wilkin noted that there were 29 water accounts overdue (owing amounts of over \$400) as of the last billing.





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Kitchen Help starting at \$14.75/hr

Experience is preferred, but not required as we offer training preparation for all positions. If you wish to apply for the upcoming Season, please submit your resume via email. We look forward to meeting you!

Contact Information:
Email: Hello@Piersidemanitoulin.com
Address: 6 Water Street, South Baymouth, ON POP 1Z0



COMMUNITY LIVING MANITOULIN

Community Living Manitoulin has immediate openings for permanent part-time and casual staff to work in our homes. Personal Support Workers and/or Developmental Service Worker diploma are the preferred minimum qualification for these positions.

These unionized part-time positions are scheduled at a minimum of 30 hours bi-weekly with a starting wage of \$21.48.

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

Community Living Manitoulin
PO Box 152
Mindemoya, Ontario POP 1S0
or by email to mwickett@clmanitoulin.com
or by fax to 705-377-7175

Applications must be received by close of business on **Friday, February 26, 2021.**

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





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Financial Analyst

At Rainbow District School Board we are leaders in learning, inspiring success for all students by reaching minds and touching hearts. We bring learning to life, enabling students to fulfill their aspirations.

Rainbow District School Board is now accepting applications for a Financial Analyst.

For more information about this employment opportunity, please visit www.rainbowschools.ca/about/employment.

Interested candidates should apply by **3 pm Wednesday February 24, 2021** and submit a cover letter, resume and names of three (3) references.

Doreen Dewar
Board Chair

Norm Blaseg
Director of Education

rainbowschools.ca



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY DRUG STRATEGY COORDINATOR



Classification Level: Community Services (CS-3)
Employment Status: Term Full-Time (Regular - Pending Funding)
Department: Health Services, Mental Health

M'Chigeeng First Nation is seeking a caring, active and eager individual who has a keen understanding of addictions, along with knowledge of prevention activities that promote healthy lifestyles. If you are a role model within the community, a team player and have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, then you may be a great fit for this position.

Reporting Relationship: The Drug Strategy Coordinator will work under the general guidance of the Mental Health Clinic Manager and Health Services Department Manager.

Position Summary:
The main focus of the Drug Strategy Coordinator will be to develop, implement and coordinate the Drug Strategy work plan and other related seminars, workshops and programs designed to assist in the awareness and prevention of addictions that reflects and promotes a healthy community.

Qualifications & Requirements
Preferred

- University Degree in Social Services/Addictions field of study and two years' relevant work experience
- Extensive work/volunteer experience in the coordination of workshops and seminars within a Native organization/community is a strong asset

Minimum

- College Diploma in Social Services or related field of study (i.e. Addictions Services, Native Human Services) along with Secondary Diploma or equivalency and/or lived experience and knowledge
- Two (2) years' work-related experience in the field of addictions
- Knowledge and skills in alcohol and/or drugs addictions awareness and prevention
- Excellent Public Speaking Skills

Other

- Excellent time management and organizational skills with ability to prioritize and handle multiple tasks simultaneously
- Be a role model both during and after regular work hours
- Working knowledge of Outlook, Microsoft Office, and general office procedures
- Excellent inter-personal and communication skills (written and verbal)
- Must obtain and keep current First Aid and CPR Certification
- Must have knowledge and/or experience with the culture, history and customs of the Anishinaabe
- A strong advocate of M'Chigeeng First Nation's goals and objectives along with its mission and long-term vision
- Understanding and fluency of Anishinaabe language is an asset
- Must have own transportation and valid Ontario Class "G" driver's licence
- Must be willing to work flexible hours and weekends

The successful candidate will be required to submit a current thirty (30) day CRC and VSS; and an offer of employment is contingent upon the receipt of a satisfactory CRC and VSS record.

CRC/VSS Rationale: M'Chigeeng First Nation and its agents are in a position of trust in services to band member children and/or vulnerable adults, so a safe and secure working environment is mandatory. Applicants must provide a clear VSS Certificate and the CRC must have a record clear and/or dated of any convictions relating to sexual interference, sexual assault or related charges. The VSS must be current (30 days) and must be an original.

Interested applicants must submit COVER LETTER, RESUME, THREE CURRENT WRITTEN REFERENCES (two work-related references from a direct supervisor/manager and one character reference) and education certifications addressed to:

Drug Strategy Coordinator
c/o Art Jacko, Enaagdenjig
M'Chigeeng FN, P.O. Box 333
M'CHIGEENG, ON POP 1G0 (Fax 705-377-4980)

LATE OR INCOMPLETE applications will not be considered. Preference will be given to Anishinabek people. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

For job description, please contact Marlene Debassige at 705-377-5362 ext. 203 or email marlened@mchigeeng.ca.

Assiginack Public Library Feature

by Debbie Robinson

'Open Heart, Open Mind' by Canadian Clara Hughes is an honest and very personal look at her life in the highly aggressive and competitive world of stamina sports. This lifestyle masked the other side of this record-breaking athlete's life. Hughes' win at the Olympics in Italy in 2006 made her the first ever athlete to win multiple medals in both the summer and winter Olympic Games. She has become a sporting legend here and abroad. When she finally retired from the competitive sport circuit she set about turning her constant depression battle into something productive and positive. Hughes has gone on to become a champion for public health initiatives in Canada and worldwide. She is the national representative for Bell Canada's 'Let's Talk' campaign, which is committed to tearing down the stigma attached to mental health conditions. Her personal struggles with mental illness forged her dedication to this cause and it has been a huge part of her own path to healing. It has also fostered hope and provided help for thousands of others who suffer and struggle. A true heroine—on the ice, on a bike—but especially on the side of those who often are marginalized and have no way to voice the difficulties that they face daily. Bravo, Clara!

'Educated: A Memoir' is the story of prevailing in the face of boundless misery and hardship. The author, Tara Westover writes clearly and honestly about her ordeals while

growing up. This has become one of the most popular non-fiction books at our library in the past year. It is a remarkable, beautifully written, powerful true story that will make you angry, sad, proud and totally absorbed. The book chronicles the author's traumatic experiences while attempting to endure her upbringing and family—truly a study in resilience, determination, reflection and personal redemption. This will become a memoir classic! It should be on everyone's reading list.

'A Single Thread' is an inspiring and poignant tale set in England in the year 1932. The story of a British woman who lost her brother and her fiancée in the horrors of WWI. She is determined to find a life for herself so that she doesn't become as bitter and lonely as her mother. Violet moves to Winchester where she finds a job, a room for rent and a new lease on life. Author Tracy Chevalier is a wonderful writer—her novel, 'Girl With the Pearl Earring,' is one of my all-time favourite novels. This book is also an awesome reading opportunity!

John Grisham has written 33 novels, one non-fiction book and seven novels for young adults. He is a prolific and much-loved author. His newest book titled 'The Guardian' is another winner. Grisham has a real talent for connecting law, drama and an edge of your seat excitement—a rush, a thrill and always a twist!

Young Adult Pick: 'The

Love Pug: All's Fair in Love and Pugs' by J.J. Howard.

DVD Pick: 'Green Book,' starring Viggo Mortenson and Mahershala Ali, is inspired by a true story—the tale of an unforgettable friendship. Terrific acting, an Academy Award winner for best film in 2019

Assiginack Public Library and its outside book return drop are closed due to COVID-19 concerns.

However, books and DVD s can be borrowed through our current curbside service. You can look at our book list and our DVD list under 'library' at assiginack.ca

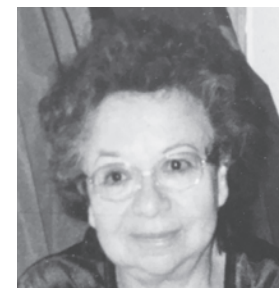
Instructions on how curbside service works is also found there.

If you do not have access to the internet you can contact library staff at (705-859-2110) on Tuesdays and Saturdays between 10 am and 3 pm.

We will assist you in getting reading and movie materials into your hands. Our WiFi system is

on all the time and can be accessed outside the building using your own devices. The password for the WiFi is posted on the library's front door. Looking forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you and stay safe.

✚ in memoriam



CORBIERE—In loving memory of Angeline Yvonne Corbiere, February 17, 1938 to February 21, 2021.

It has been 10 years since you went home to the land of all of our ancestors. It seems like only yesterday that you were laughing, cooking, visiting and checking in on all of us, 'doing your rounds'. Every now and then a cardinal comes by and we know that you are still checking up on us, bringing joy, love, happiness and evoking cherished memories. On your last days you told us to take care of each other and we continue to do so. Nongo dash geyaabi g-naadmawmi, ensa-giizhag g-mkwenminim, geyaabi gchi-zaag'nim, aapji go g-mesninim (Today you are still helping us, every day we remember you, you are still greatly loved, and we miss you so much).

Lovingly remembered by husband Alvin Ted Corbiere, sons Tim (Yvette), Alan (Tammy), and daughters Yvonne (Bill), Charlene (Joey) and Lisa. Also, dearly remembered by grandchildren Sheldon (Deanna), Koady (Mallory), Sasha (Tyler), Bnehns, Mnawaate, Mentaagzid, Dakota, Nchiwat and Nihge (Sheila). Also remembered by great-grandchildren Scarlett, London, Noah, Angelina, Dawson, Kendra, Mica and Ellie.

40c

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WORK FROM HOME OPPORTUNITIES NOW AVAILABLE!

Manitoulin Group of Companies with their Head Office in Gore Bay, Ontario is looking to fill a variety of positions including Pricing, Customer Service, Accounts Receivable, and more! We are now offering new remote opportunities and the ability to work from home!

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Excellent Customer Service skills
- Ability to work independently as well as part of a group
- Motivated and capable of adapting to the needs of individual customers
- Ability to work under pressure and with some time constraints
- Proficiency in Excel would be considered an asset
- A willingness to learn new tasks and skills
- Work with little supervision
- Attention to detail

In exchange for your efforts, we offer a competitive salary, opportunities for growth and development, a comprehensive benefits program and profit sharing.

Please email your credentials to Janelle Addison at apply@monarchr.ca.

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls and messages that my daughters received on Facebook in honour of my 91st birthday. It was really appreciated. Thanks again, Eugene Pyette

40

🔨 help wanted

🔨 help wanted



Office Administrator – Cambrian Insurance Brokers Little Current Branch

We are looking for a reliable Office Administrator who will undertake administrative tasks, organize our branch's day-to-day operations, ensuring the rest of the staff has adequate support to work efficiently.

This is an entry level position and is the first step to working your way up to a broker in our office. The best way to get to know our unique business is by starting as an Office Administrator. There is room for growth and we strongly encourage it!

Duties & Responsibilities

- Provide basic and accurate information to customers
- Provide excellent customer service

Skills & Qualifications:

- Excellent written and verbal communication – bilingualism is an asset
- Excellent organizational skills
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite
- Professionalism
- Customer Focus
- Multitasking
- Ability to be resourceful and proactive when issues arise
- Strong computer skills with respect to business management systems and in-house data bases

Education and Experience

- Post-Secondary education in related field
- RIBO licence is preferred
- 1-3 years of administrative or clerical experience in the customer service industry
- Prior retail sales experience considered an asset

Salary based on experience

Please submit a cover letter and your resume referencing the posting "Office Administrator" to jobs@cambrianinsurance.com. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

🌊 notice

🌊 notice



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS Recreation Infrastructure Committee One (1) Vacancy

If you are a resident of the Municipality of Central Manitoulin and are interested in contributing to a plan on how your Municipality can develop and manage recreation infrastructure like arenas and halls, you may be interested in applying to be on this committee!

Applications available at:

http://www.centralmanitoulin.ca/sites/default/files/ric_app_feb_19_2021_0.pdf

Send questions or applications to

Marcus Mohr, Community Development/Outreach Coordinator at centralecddev@amtelecom.net. You can also call 705-377-5726 for alternative arrangements.

Applications are due

Friday, February 19th, 2021 by 4:00 p.m.

Death Notices

ALEXANDER GODFREY DEBASSIGE

January 26, 1960 - February 2, 2021

In loving memory of Alexander Godfrey Debassige who passed away on February 2, 2021 at the age of 61 years. Son of the late Angus and Elizabeth (nee Bisailon) Debassige. Father of Andrew Debassige (baa). Brother of Eva (Art baa) Stevens, Donnie (Clara) Debassige, Ronnie Debassige, Elsie Debassige, Rosemary Debassige, Linda Campgnolo (baa) (Mike), Ralph Debassige (baa), Hazel Debassige (baa), Lorna Debassige (baa), Joe "Tang" Debassige (baa), Alfred Debassige (baa) and Catherine Debassige (baa). Beloved uncle to Daina Stevens. Alexander will be missed by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and friends. Alex lived a simple life. He was a quiet gentleman and really enjoyed being at home watching his hockey games. When the regular hockey season was over and the playoffs were all done, Alex liked listening to his music. He loved spending time with his friends in Thunder Bay and enjoyed being outdoors. Alex was good at cracking jokes and could easily make you laugh. He missed his home in M'Chigeeng and always wanted to go back to it.

"I Love You My Brother!"

~From your sister Eva

Family and friends gathered at Island Funeral Home for visitation on February 12, 2021 from 2 to 4 pm and 7 to 9 pm. Funeral Service was on February 13, 2021 at 11 am. All COVID-19 precautions were followed. Burial in M'Chigeeng First Nation Cemetery. Please share your thoughts, memories and photos at IslandFuneralHome.ca.

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

Central to place 'no camping' signs on Dominion Bay

by Michael Erskine

CENTRAL MANITOULIN—Concerns raised by some residents of the Dominion Bay subdivision in Spring Bay about non-residents coming to Manitoulin from southern urban centres and setting up camp on the subdivision's water access has led to a decision by the municipal council to install "no overnight camping" signs.

While there was clearly a consensus on Central Manitoulin council for the move, the decision was delayed for a couple of weeks at the behest of Councillor Derek Stephens who had pointed out that the access point was unique in the municipality as it was registered on the deeds of several property owners in the area and that they should be surveyed as to their wishes.

Following a significant positive response to letters sent out to homeowners that would be impacted by the decision, council decided to place the requested signs when it becomes possible in the spring.

"We were very pleased at how quickly the council did it," said Marg Wilton, one of the homeowners who had expressed concern. Her husband Mike Wilton's letter to

council had sparked the debate. "They sent letters to all the residents," she said. "We were worried that they wouldn't get a lot of response because there are a lot of absentee owners here, but apparently they got quite a few responses back."

Mr. Wilton had noted in his letter that he had observed groups of people setting up camp on the access point and that those people had self-identified as being from southern Ontario urban centres. The campers believed they had the right to use the property they were camping on as it was Crown land—it is not; the access point is municipal property.

The "no overnight camping" signs will help to make it clear to those arriving at the site that the property is not Crown land.

The motion to place the signs was moved by Councillor Derek Stephens and seconded by Councillor Rose Diebolt.

"I am glad to see we contacted the rest of the owners," he said. "Nobody had a problem with (placing the no camping signs)."

...feds' plan to lower carbon emissions, create jobs

...continued from page 19

coal phase out was done by expanding the amount of nuclear capacity. It is still the single largest carbon reduction initiative in the world and it's definitely something to be proud of. The IEA (International Energy Agency) says that decarbonizing our electricity system is the building block for decarbonizing all other sectors and in the future we will need two to three times more clean electricity than we do today. We clearly don't have another 20 years to be decarbonizing our electricity grid."

If environmentalists hadn't worked together with the wind and solar industry to ensure that there was investment and policy support over these last 20 years, he added, "we wouldn't have had them as tools that we need now and that we're using now and that we have to continue to develop now."

Investment in technologies like SMRs is needed so that they're available to us to meet this challenge, he added. SMRs can play a role to ensure that we're getting other clean technologies all working together to solve

the challenge.

There are currently 12 different technologies being reviewed and going through the licencing process in Canada under the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), Canada's nuclear regulator. Some of these are in very late stages and, in fact, Ontario Power Generation announced in November that it's going to connect its first SMR in 2028. The Canadian Nuclear Association thinks that smaller SMRs than OPGs are going to be available even by 2026.

Some of the technologies under review are Canadian and some are from the United States or the United Kingdom. "They've come here because they've recognized that Canada is going to be one of the first movers in terms of deploying these so they're going through our process," said Mr. Gorman. He believes that ultimately there will be a combination of Canadian technologies and American and British technologies that are approved here. "Building up the expertise to be able to build them and deploy them is what's going to be really important here

if we're going to compete globally for all of that business."

This is a competitive world and a competitive process and there are going to be technologies that outstrip the others in terms of speed of deployment and other things, he said. "Because the SMRs are useful for different purposes, we're going to need a small number of different technologies for different applications to fulfill those different needs. For example, Ontario Power Generation has already shortlisted two or three technologies for the reactor it's deploying in 2028. I think we will see over the coming years that there are some technologies that are going to emerge here in Canada and globally which are going to be more prominent right away."

The most significant thing about the action plan for Mr. Gorman is the testimony by over 100 different partners, from Indigenous communities to industrial groups to utilities, that have all submitted a chapter on why it is they want to have SMRs deployed in their particular situation and committing to things

they are going to do to help make that a reality. "I think the significance of that is it shows what the market demand is here in Canada and it shows what the support level is here in Canada," he said. The SMR Action Plan reports the demand for SMRs in Canada is equal to about \$5.3 billion dollars in 2030. "The reason that the market demand is so important is because the promise of SMRs is that if you have the market demand and you produce multiple units of a particular SMR, it brings the costs way down. We think the smaller ones can already be financed by the private sector which is important but to make them really cost-effective means that we want to be able to produce multiple units of them."

"Nuclear is not a silver bullet," Mr. Gorman concluded. "The challenge we have is so great that we're going to need every technology we have today and any technology we have within arm's reach whether that's hydrogen or carbon capture or SMRs, and the nuclear industry is ready."



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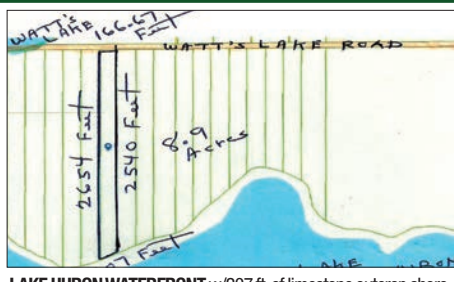
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LAKE HURON WATERFRONT w/207 ft. of limestone outcrop shoreline. Forested 8.9 ac. is fully surveyed w/zoning amended to permit a cottage. This off the grid retreat is seasonally accessible via Ocean Point and Poplar Roads. \$119,500 (1513) (MLS #2092202)



GORE BAY HOME w/80.8 ft. fronting Agnes Street on a level lot. Charming 2 storey about 1800 sq. ft., on a full basement, w/4 bedrooms, 2 baths, laundry, back entrance, eat in kitchen & separate dining living rooms plus closed in front porch. New shingles 2017 & oil furnace 2014. Bedroom & full bath on first floor. Within easy walking to downtown. Currently rented so leave over 24 hours to view. \$220,000 (1506) (MLS #2090222)



COCKBURN ISLAND GETAWAY cottage in the Village of Tolsonville on a level lot w/82 ft. on "D" Street within walking distance to the public dock. L-shaped cabin 631 sq. ft. w/hydro, water & septic system plus 2 sheds 8x12 & 8x13 ft. Most contents included. Preferred closing date after May. \$50,000 (1511) (MLS #2092067)



HIGHWAY 540 ACREAGE just west of Elizabeth Bay Road w/hydro & phone available. Surveyed 17 ac. of mixed forest for home, cottage or camp. \$59,000 (1512) (MLS #2092130)

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AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE OVER AN ESTABLISHED EGG GRADING OPERATION - The house has a small orchard out front & has seen continuous upgrades including Geothermal. Two drilled wells provide good potable water. Pasture 70 acres, bush 28 acres, several outbuildings. Owner is prepared to assist in the transition of licence. Properties are separately deeded, farm & chattels can be purchased separately. MLS#2089993



GREAT OPPORTUNITY - Large lot in Manitowaning, perfect location for a small apartment complex/rental units. Walk to downtown area, doctors office, post office, grocery store, pharmacy, and bank. Asking \$49,500. MLS#2090179



BAY OF ISLANDS WATERFRONT ACREAGE - Three island building sites situated very central to the Bay of Islands & comprising most of Island TP 2708. Each parcel includes hydro & complete septic systems in place, exceptional south & westerly views in a mature Pine Forest setting, safe dockage locations & an appeal level over the top! Ideal for family compound uses with ability to obtain three principal dwelling building permits. Please call for complete details! MLS#2092237

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LACLOCHE MOUNTAIN RESORT ON CHARLTON LAKE IN WHITEFISH FALLS!!!!

This resort known as Bearskin Lodge and Outfitters comes turnkey with 9 rustic 2 & 3 bdrm log cabins as well as an owners' residence & another cabin, they allow friends & workers to stay. The house-keeping cottages each have their own hydro panels & each have their own bathrooms & appliances that are relatively new with upgraded wiring. Asking \$975,000. MLS#2077603



950 SQ. FT. 2 BDRM COTTAGE ON LEASED LAND!!!! - This cottage located in a park setting at the north end of Mindemoya Lake is just a short walk to the nice sand bottom waterfront access which is very kid-friendly. The cottage features a large deck, a forced-air electric furnace as well as a propane free standing metal stove for heating. Asking \$115,000. MLS#2085649



AFFORDABLE TURNKEY 4 SEASON COTTAGE!!!! - This affordable turnkey 3 bdrm cottage on leased land is fully insulated, less than 10 years old & can be used year-round. The very large corner lot comes with large decks, many storage sheds & 2 driveways. Access to the sand bottom lake is a very short walk. Almost all contents including pullout couch, quality furnishings, dishes, etc. are included at a price of only \$139,000!!!! MLS#2087348



SOUTH BAYMOUTH BUSINESS - Huron Motor Lodge - turnkey operation. Located directly across from ferry dock. Great financial statements. Asking \$1,400,000. MLS#2085430



GET BACK TO NATURE - with this OFF THE GRID BLEZZARD VALLEY AGREEMENT! 158 acres of mixed mature bush and the Vermillion River running through the North End of the property, this property is perfect for someone who wants to get away from it all. MLS#2092225



OUTSTANDING COUNTRY HOME WITH ACREAGE - Large country home on a 26 acre site. 1,680 sq ft 3 bdrm home boasts vaulted ceilings, forced air propane furnace with central air, municipal water, main level wood burning fireplace plus full basement that is partially finished & includes second wood stove. Close to Little Current & most amenities. MLS#2090765



WATERFRONT FARM/ACREAGE - This home farm, known as Pleasant Valley Farms, includes a 5 bdrm house (as is), many out-buildings, & 2 bank barns. 310 acres of Pasture, cleared workable land (80 acres), & wooded areas perfect for hunting. Plenty of deer!! Property also has 2500 ft frontage of private sand beach on Lake Kagawong! Call today!! MLS#2090204



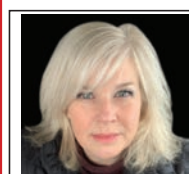
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Rob Norris came to Manitoulin for a summer and, 26 years later, is still enjoying the adventure of a lifetime. You may recognize Rob from the Anchor Inn where he worked (and owned) for over two decades with his friends and partners Bruce & Kelly O'Hare. As a result of his experience in the hospitality industry, Rob knows how to serve people, listen to their needs and understand them. These skills lead him to become a licensed real estate agent in March of 2019. Never one to stay idle long, Rob only took a year off between the sale of the Anchor and hitting the real estate streets. During that year he built his dream home on the North Channel with his lifelong love, Suzanne. Suzanne and Rob met in their teens and have built a life together enjoying all that this beautiful Island has to offer whether it is sailing, snowshoeing or simply taking in the spectacular vistas. Much like the attention to detail Rob put into designing and building his dream home, he handles every real estate client with the same focus and care. Rob brings a wealth of retail experience, first hand knowledge of the housing industry and exceptional people skills to the Rolston team.



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