

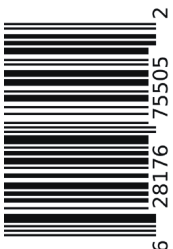
SALUTING OUR VOLUNTEERS

National Volunteer Week is April 14-20

See pages 12-18

There was an eclipse...

First-hand account from The Falls...Page 5



The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



Vol. 144, No. 48 \$1.90 + GST

Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, April 17, 2024



INTO THE 'O'—Kohyn Eshkawkogan, centre, with nephew baby River, is flanked by, from left, dad Kevin, sisters Saraya, Kyleigh and mom Melissa after the exciting news that Kohyn was drafted, first round, to the Ontario Hockey League on Friday night. Family and friends filled the Little Current Curling Club for a draft watch party.

photo by Ryan Corbiere

Island youth early OHL pick

Kohyn Eshkawkogan will join Ottawa 67's squad
Ashton Pitawanakwat chosen by Barrie Colts

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN—Kohyn Eshkawkogan can check off one of his long-term goals after he was drafted in the 2024 Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection Draft Friday night.

"I was very happy being chosen by Ottawa (67's), and having my name called as hav-

Gore Bay manager suggests other area townships help arena

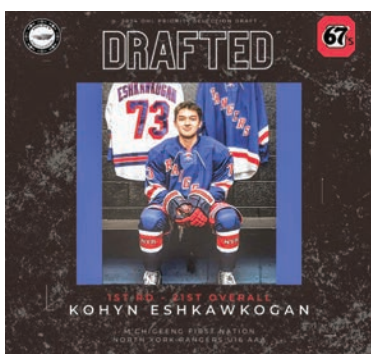
by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—The Town of Gore Bay council has given its approval for neighbouring municipalities to be approached about sharing in the operating costs of the town arena on an annual basis.

Gore Bay Mayor Ron Lane told council at its regular meeting last week that the town general government committee has recommended to council to support approaching all Western Manitoulin municipalities, whose taxpayers all utilize the arena, in the operating costs on an annual basis.

At a recent general government committee meeting Town Manager Harry Schlange advised that the town invested \$90,850 in operating costs to run the arena in the past year.

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Kohyn Eshkawkogan

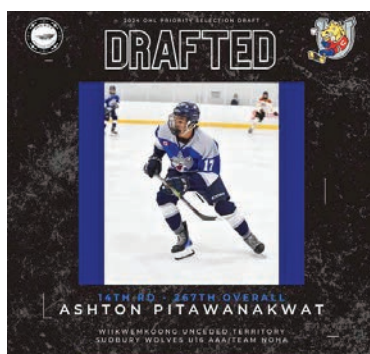
ing been drafted was quite an experience," said Kohyn after having been drafted in the first round, 21st overall, last Friday evening.

by Michael Erskine

QUEEN'S PARK

Those perusing the announcements from the latest Ford Government budget will note that the swing bridge in Little Current made mention, although there were no specific funds or timelines associated with the reference.

To those accustomed to the fiscal responsibility and purported frugality of the premier's Progressive Conservatives, it might come as some surprise that this budget will be historic in that it is the largest in the province's history.



Ashton Pitawanakwat

"The general manager and the head scout for the 67's called me last night," Kohyn, who is just 15, told The Expos-

...continued on page 10

Manitoulin beekeeper sees 90 percent loss, bee post mortems reveal evidence of pesticides

MANITOULIN—While one Manitoulin Island beekeeper blames harmful agrochemicals, including the active ingredients found in Roundup, as the cause for a dramatic decrease in the bee population this winter, another local beekeeper points the blame on Varroa, a parasitic mite.

Dave Kains, a Mindemoya beekeeper, told The Expositor, "Our winter losses were a little higher than normal at 28 percent loss. There are quite a few people indicating they have seen a fair bit of loss in their bee population."

Mr. Kains said agricultural chemicals "is one problem, but I think at least in my case the loss is due to a pest, that being Varroa, a parasitic mite. We've had quite a few losses for years now."

"Two years ago, we lost two-thirds of our bee population,"



Dr. Janice Mitchell saw a 90 percent hive loss this winter.

stated Mr. Kains, who has about 45 hives. "I'm sure this is the cause of the deformed wing disease virus (caused by Varroa)."

Manitoulin beekeeper and veterinarian Dr. Janice Mitchell "has experienced a devastating 90 percent loss in her bee populations this winter, a stark increase from her 13-year average of 10-25 percent. This

...continued on page 9

Ontario decrees intimate partner violence an epidemic

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN—The Mnidoo Mnisig Coalition Against Domestic Violence is celebrating the news that the provincial government has indicated it will declare intimate partner violence an epidemic, but the coalition will continue to advocate to ensure the government takes action on this issue.

"We did it! We have all been advocating hard for this for a long time," stated Colleen Hill, chair of Mnidoo Mnisig Coalition Against Domestic Violence and executive director of Manitoulin Family Resources (MFR).

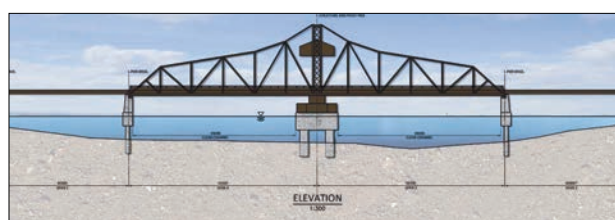
"Today we celebrate, tomorrow we continue to advocate to ensure there is action attached to this resolution," said Ms. Hill. "We need additional resources to address the challenges we are facing in service delivery, education, prevention, reducing wait times for counselling and lack of affordable housing. This is a first step."

A Coalition release stated, "Yesterday (April 10), the government of Ontario carried Bill 173: Intimate Partner Violence Epidemic Act through a second reading and deferred it to the Justice Policy Committee. The provincial government has finally recognized what we have long known and been calling for them to name; intimate partner violence (IPV) is an epidemic."

"We hope the justice committee recognizes the urgency of this violence and treats it as such, centering survivors, IPV experts and advocates in their work, every step of the way," the release says. "While the government has indicated their intent to have the justice committee tour the province and research the impacts of intimate partner violence, our hope is that they will simultaneously begin implementing existing recommendations to address this violence,

...continued on page 20

New Island swing bridge gets Ontario budget mention



An artist's rendering of the proposed new two-lane bridge.

"In Budget 2024, the government expects to bring in \$204.3 billion and spend \$207.3 billion, meaning the government will spend more than any before it and will be responsible for creating the largest deficit ever outside of the COVID-19 emergency,"

said Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Michael Mantha. When it comes to the bridge, Mr. Mantha said he would be asking questions of the minister about the cost and timelines for the bridge. Information that has, up until now, not been forthcom-

...continued on page 11

MANITOULIN CHRYSLER



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The Manitoulin *West* Recorder



Leigh Major, left, a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 514 in Gore Bay for the past 40 years received a very prestigious Lifetime Membership Award, the second highest recognition a Legion member can receive, at a meeting last week. At right in photo is Legion Branch 514 president Marilyn Clarke.

Leigh Major given Legion Life Membership

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—A member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 514 in Gore Bay for the past 40 years has been recognized for his tremendous service, dedication and commitment with a prestigious Lifetime Membership Award, the second highest recognition a Legion member can receive.

“Leigh Major has been a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 514 Western Manitoulin since April 1983,” said Donna Foster, who read the citation letter written by Marilyn Clarke and Anne Porter, president and secretary of the Legion respectively, at a Legion executive meeting April 10. “Comrade Leigh has continued in his tireless efforts of volunteer service to Branch 514 on various endeavors with a quiet humility. The executive and membership of Branch 514 are very proud of his accomplishments and his dedication to the branch.”

“Comrade Leigh has continued to volunteer his service for the betterment of his branch, zone, district and the Royal Canadian Legion in general since his first appointment to the ex-

ecutive. All with the aims and objectives of the Royal Canadian Legion being number one in his heart,” said Ms. Foster.

“Mr. Major was instrumental in navigating Branch 514 through the melee of paperwork required to keep the branch operating during the COVID pandemic,” said Ms. Foster. She explained among Comrade Leigh’s list of accomplishments include being president of Branch 514 from 2002-2004, immediate past president from 2004-2005, office manager from 2007-2009, treasurer from 2010-2015, third vice-president from 2015-2016, and Legion treasurer from 2017 to the present.

“Comrade Leigh can also be counted on to participate in our Remembrance Day services and our Poppy Campaign and to be a volunteer bartender for our special events,” explained Ms. Foster. She noted, “Comrade Leigh can also be depended on to assist in various areas of our community such as assisting and transporting goods for others that are participating in the

...continued on page 8

As Ontario grapples with expansion of nurse practitioner roles, a healthcare dilemma unfolds

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre,

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

ONTARIO—In the heart of Ontario’s healthcare landscape, a profound shift is underway, raising contentious questions about access, funding and the very fabric of the province’s medical infrastructure. Nurse practitioners, long regarded as crucial healthcare allies, are stepping into roles traditionally reserved for physicians, igniting a fiery debate over their scope of practice and the boundaries of public healthcare.

Recent years have seen a dramatic expansion in the duties entrusted to nurse practitioners. From diagnosing common ailments to prescribing controlled substances, their capabilities now mirror those of family doctors. Yet, unlike their medical counterparts, nurse practitioners find themselves mired in a bureaucratic quagmire when it comes to billing for services. Despite their pivotal role in delivering primary care, they remain unable to bill the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) directly, relegating some to seek alternative avenues for compensation.

The emergence of private clinics, led by nurse practitioners,

has brought this issue to the forefront, sparking a fierce debate over the legality and ethics of charging patients directly for services that fall under the umbrella of universal healthcare. While some argue that this two-tier system has long existed beneath the surface, others view it as a breach of the fundamental principles enshrined in the Canada Health Act.

One such clinic recently opened in the Greater Sudbury community of Minnow Lake and is led by Lisa Parise. Ms.

Parise stated that the clinic was established with the aim of assisting patients who were falling through the cracks due to their lack of a primary care provider. The majority of nurse practitioner clinics funded by the public sector have extensive waitlists for individuals seeking primary healthcare services.

Ms. Parise told the Expositor in an emailed statement that “The more people understand what our intentions are, regard-

...continued on page 8

60th anniversary Island Singers concert this Saturday at MSS

MANITOULIN—It appears that a total of 60 choristers will take to the stage at the Island Singers 60th anniversary celebration concert this Saturday, April 20 at Manitoulin Secondary School.

“We were hoping to have 60 choristers for the concert, and if we don’t, we will be really close,” stated Chris Theijsmeijer. “We’ve had a variety of alumni choristers on hand for the season and some that will be on hand for three songs at the concert. And there are alumni that will not be singing but just want to attend the concert.”

“Along with performing choir songs, there will be smaller group pieces and people who will be playing instrumentals to accompany the choir,” explained Mr. Theijsmeijer.

The Island Singers are celebrating a big milestone this year, with 60 years of singing together.

“The Island Singers was founded in 1964 as the Little Current Glee Club by Ruth Ashley who directed and accompanied the singers,” Mr. Theijsmeijer explained previously. “The Glee Club performed skits and musical selections to Manitoulin audiences.”

Shortly after Manitoulin Secondary School opened in 1969, practices moved there to become more central, and the club rebranded to the Manitoulin Glee Club to reflect their more central location.

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\$350 billion needed to close Ontario First Nations infrastructure housing gap

Chiefs of Ontario release report

TORONTO—The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) has released a new report that shows a gap of close to \$350 billion needed from the government to close the infrastructure housing gap for First Nations across the country.

The Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare released a statement following the AFN official release of the Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030 report, which estimates the national capital and operational investments needed from the Government of Canada to fulfill its mandate to Close the Gap by 2030.

To coincide with this launch, the COO released its Closing the Infrastructure Gap: Ontario Regional Analysis report, which provides an Ontario specific analysis plan to complement the national numbers that are presented in the AFN report and to outline the investments needed for the government to close the gap for Ontario First Nations.

The Ontario Regional Analysis Report, authored by con-

struction consulting firm BTY Group, is a collaborative effort between the COO and AFN to put pressure on all levels of government to finally fix the broken systems that have led to subpar infrastructure in First Nations across this country.

“Today, the AFN officially launched its substantive report, which was co-developed with Indigenous Services Canada in collaboration with industry experts and over 400 First Nations, outlining a \$349.2 billion need to close the infrastructure gap for First Nations across our country,” said Ontario Regional Chief Hare. “In Ontario alone, it will cost \$58.9 billion to ensure on-reserve infrastructure in First Nations in Ontario is on par with the rest of the province by 2030, a gap that is among the widest in the country.”

The \$58.9 billion figure, which includes both capital and operational costs, has been quantified for the first time to help; educate the government and the public about the state of community infrastructure in First Nations. The largest gaps faced

...continued on page 7

Nobel nurse claims Lotto Max win with ticket bought at South Baymouth

TORONTO—Frances Bruyns of Nobel has \$80,754.80 to put toward her dreams after winning a Lotto Max second prize in the January 17 draw, having purchased the winning ticket on Manitoulin Island.

Ms. Bruyns, a registered nurse, says she plays the lottery on and off. “I play a variety of different games, and this is my biggest win,” she shared while at the Ontario Lottery Gaming (OLG) Prize Centre in Toronto to pick up her winnings April 8.

The 55-year-old mother of four and grandmother of three had thought she lost her ticket and found it one day while cleaning. “I checked it a few times on the OLG app and then I brought it to the store. I was in shock.”

Ms. Bruyns shared the news about her win with her husband and siblings. “It was a lot of shock and excitement. I am happy. This prize will be helpful.”

She plans to put her win toward home renovations and a vacation. “I will also put some in the bank.”

The winning ticket was purchased at Carl’s Trading Post in South Baymouth.



Frances Bruyns of Nobel purchased her winning ticket at Carl’s Trading Post in South Baymouth.

Manitoulin OPP lay criminal harassment charges against Bill Concannon

BILLINGS—The administrator of the popular Facebook group ‘What’s Doin’ on the Manitoulin’ was arrested on April 11 and charged with criminal harassment.

The OPP reports that the Manitoulin OPP began an investigation regarding criminal harassment in Billings Township. Township staff reported ongoing unwanted communication from a member of the community.

As a result of the investigation, Bill Concannon, 57, from Billings has been charged with two counts of criminal harassment.

Bryan Barker, Billings mayor, told The Expositor, “under the circumstances of this going before court I am not prepared to make a statement at this time.”

As has been reported previ-

...continued on page 8

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opinion

editorial

Anishinaabemowin defenders deserve immense credit

Across the globe, Indigenous languages have been going extinct at a rapid pace—the prestigious Harvard International Review notes that “every two weeks an Indigenous language dies.” According to the United Nations, more than half of the world’s Indigenous languages will be gone by the year 2100, and that is a conservative estimate—less rosy calculations suggest 95 percent will be gone by the end of the year. The HIR notes that when Indigenous languages die, so do the cultures and histories contained within them.

There are roughly 70 currently spoken in Canada, down from 450 pre-contact, and many of those are teetering on the brink with barely a handful of fluent speakers remaining.

The reason for the precipitous decline in languages here in Canada and much of the rest of the world can be traced back to the colonial practices of the world-spanning empires during the so-called age of discovery. Here, as in many other parts of the world, Indigenous languages and culture were suppressed, often brutally, as in the case of the residential school system where students were physically abused for speaking their native tongues.

On Manitoulin Island, the Indigenous languages of the Odawa, Potawatomi and Ojibwe (collectively dialects of Anishinaabemowin and known as the Three Fires Confederacy) would be no exception if not for the decades of effort by dedicated individuals and organizations who remain steadfast in their determination to turn the tide. Many of those remarkable individuals hail from Wiikwemkoong.

Wiikwemkoong and the other Island First Nation communities have long been tapped to provide language teachers for Anishinaabemowin programs at educational institutions stretching throughout Three Fires Territory—a territory that spans the largest of any Indigenous peoples. That territory ranges from the prairies in the west, down through Michigan and Wisconsin, all the way to Oklahoma and back up again through southwestern Ontario to Manitoulin.

Women such as Nancy Debassige baa of M’Chigeeng travelled far

from their home communities in order to help revitalize Anishinaabemowin in regions where fluent speakers had all but disappeared.

Elizabeth (Liz) Osawamick of Wiikwemkoong is the organizer of one of the largest Indigenous language conferences to be found anywhere on Turtle Island and it would not be unfair to suggest that without the contributions of Wiikwemkoong elders and language speakers such as Stanley Peltier, Shirley Williams, former Wiikwemkoong Ogimaa Eugene Manitowabi (and his daughter, current Ogimaa Rachel Manitowabi), Phyliss Williams, Barbara Nolan and Barbara Peltier (to name a few) that conference would not exist.

That is not to denigrate the contributions of such luminaries as Professor Alan Corbiere of M’Chigeeng and the aforementioned Ms. Debassige baa, or the contributions of many of the younger generations who are stepping up. People such as former Ogimaa Duke Peltier, who have taken great efforts to become fluent speakers and Ngwaagan Eshkikob, who has been instrumental in building Anishinaabemowin Gamig, a homelike facility that is aimed at assisting young parents in grounding their babies in the language.

Anong Beam of M’Chigeeng following her father artist Carl Beam’s dream of an Anishinaabe radio station was realized in the form of Gimaa Radio.

Indigenous languages may be under threat, but thanks to the tireless efforts of many determined individuals the tide can, and is, being turned back.

Communities such as Wiikwemkoong, which are tackling the issue with determination, effort and treasure, deserve a great deal of credit. The loss of the culture and traditions encompassed in Anishinaabemowin would be adding yet another tragedy to a path that has already seen too many.

So, to Wiikwemkoong and all those other communities that have refused to be victims, we say: Gego!

Sheguiandah FN band member wins 2023 single of the year

TORONTO—If he keeps on winning awards music will not only be a passion, but could be a full-time profession for Graeme Jonez, a member of the Sheguiandah First Nation, who has very strong family ties to Manitoulin Island.

“It was very exciting to receive the call recently that I have won the Single of the Year Award from Merilainen Music for 2023,” Mr. Jonez told The Expositor last week.

“I’ve been writing songs for 20 plus years and have really taken my music seriously for the past 12-15 years,” said Mr. Jonez. “I am a marketing director in my day job in Toronto, but yes, my musical career is quickly turning into a career.”

“I released my first album, ‘Creatures and Criminals,’ in March 2023,” said Mr. Jonez. “This was my first actual release,” he said, noting he has released a few independent CDs in the past.

“My mom, Saralyn Trudeau and her siblings were raised in Whitefish Falls First Nation, and she moved to St. Thomas, where she met my dad, Paul Jones. I along with my sister were born and raised in St. Thomas.”

“My grandparents were Burt and Sarah Trudeau,” said Mr. Jonez. “My grandfather was from Wiikwemkoong and my grandmother lived most of her life in Little Current, later living in Sheguiandah.”

“Music was always played in our household. I loved music like Motown, Elvis (Presley) and the Beatles,” said Mr. Jonez. “My dad took me to see Bob Dylan in concert when I was about 15 or 16 years old and seeing him in concert changed me. I had been fascinated with the 1960s counterculture movement and the music that came out of it. Within two weeks of seeing his concert I went out and got a guitar.”

“Writing songs is my main passion,” said Mr. Jonez who said although his music has been described as folk rock, country and indie rock, “I consider myself a folk musician.”

He reached the top of the Indigenous Music Countdown for the week of March 9-15 with his song titled, ‘The Flood.’ The Indigenous Music Countdown features the Top 40 songs of the week and is aired on various Indigenous radio stations across North America. “It’s unique how the countdown works. The fan base can vote for your song every day.”

Mr. Jonez, who has lived in Toronto for the past 20 years, asked friends and follow-



Musician Graeme Jonez, a member of the Sheguiandah First Nation recently won the 2023 Single of the Year Award for his song ‘The Flood’ from Merilainen Music.

ers for their support in the countdown.

“The Flood’ debuted on the Indigenous Music Countdown in January at Number 38. From there the song kept going up in the charts, eventually hitting the top. The song is about a fictional flood in New York City. “It was inspired by what happened when Hurricane Katrina hit and the humanitarian discrimination it created. In the song it talks about social inequality and has a unique cast of characters to illustrate the message I’m trying to get across.”

Before he became a solo artist, Mr. Jonez was in a band called Davey Parker Radio Sound.

Mr. Jonez, who is 45, lives “with my part-

ner in a condo in downtown Toronto. I am a member of the Sheguiandah First Nation and have lots of family and friends on the Island and the vicinity. I do get to the Island during the year, probably a couple of weeks in Whitefish Falls every year. It feels like home to me. My favourite trip last year was to Sheguiandah for a basketball tournament that was held on the new court in the community.”

As for his music, Mr. Jonez has started recording the first few tracks for his new album which will be in production in the next few weeks.

Solar eclipse or bust! Niagara Falls bound

Sheguiandah family recounts tale of totality

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Bruno family from Sheguiandah (Rev. Whitney, Rob and daughter Selena) were part of the crowd that travelled to Niagara Falls for prime viewing of last Monday's eclipse. The Expositor asked Rev. Bruno to record the family's experiences and take photos of this rare event. Her story follows.

by Whitney L. Prose Bruno

Where will you be in two years? April 8, 2022, I knew I wanted to be in Niagara Falls for the 2024 solar eclipse. I reserved a hotel room and two years passed. The NEMI Public Library provided solar eclipse glasses, paper plates and directions for making a protective mask. I recall how sunburned I got from watching the 2017 partial eclipse! I was glad to make masks with my family. We packed red and green shirts, as the eclipse is supposed to make them look odd, rain parkas for the falls mist and sunscreen.

On April 7, 2024, my family loaded up after church (Rev. Bruno is the minister at Little Current United Church) for the drive down. Selena, age 9, adds, "I was really squeezed from my bag of activities so that Inga, our dog, had room. Otherwise, it was pretty comfortable. But I didn't like (driving) because we were, the whole entire day, in the car." I rang the hotel before we left. I had read that some hotels were cancelling reservations made when the prices were cheap. Then they were re-renting the hotel rooms out at the inflated price for the event. My hotel reassured me all was well. When I checked in, they exclaimed, "When did you make this reservation?"

"Two years ago."
"No wonder you have such a good rate!" They told me that rates had been five times my own yesterday. But now, the night before the big day, demand had dropped. Now rates were only twice my own.

Although Niagara was busy, it was not overwhelmed. Road signs warned people to plan for eclipse traffic. Worried about a crush, we arrived at the falls from our hotel around 9 a.m. on Monday. But between the rain, clouds, and maybe trepidation over crowds... the crowds were manageable.

Karine Wassiana Echaquan, of Les Atikamekw de Manawan, Quebec, was there early with other Atikamekw women for ceremony. She explained she is facilitating healing and recovery from forced assimilation. Her story is not my own to share, but I encourage you to learn of the vision she is fulfilling and the strength she is awakening.

Lauri (no last name given), a Niagara Parks employee, was also up early. Said she turned on the news in the Table Rock House Restaurant and saw her own work place; "I looked out the window and saw them live. Right there! Look!" She indicated a podium of newscasters, spotlights and TV equipment right beside her window. She shared that she remembers the 1979 eclipse was met with some fear, "The school closed the window shades to keep us (children) from watching." She hoped she could see some of it today and her boss wouldn't require drawing the shades.

Meanwhile, upstairs, Quantum Kyle of Mad Science was

setting up for a day of activities and experiments for children. Selena shares, "I loved making the pretend solar eclipse! I made a rainbow one."

Kyle shared the science behind getting to the moon. Selena loved this, "I made a tiny rocket and it hit the ceiling. It wasn't doing anything for a bit and I started walking forward and then it popped and hit the

about the upcoming moon flight.

After lunch, we visited what Selena thought was "half a giant poppit circle. But when we went in, it was a planetarium with inflated seats. They felt weird and nice



Rob, Selena, and Whitney Bruno at Niagara Falls.

TOP INSET PHOTO: Eclipse 2024



Crowds gathering at Niagara Falls for the eclipse.



INSET: The Brunos and The Falls.



Whitney L. Prose Bruno and Karine Wassiana Echaquan.

ceiling!"

Kyle proclaimed Selena's generation is "the space generation."

"We're going back to the moon," he said, "But this time, we're staying there!" Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen had been present the 7th to sign autographs. On the 8th, representatives of the CSA answered questions

at the same time. If you leaned this way or that way the seat popped up." Perhaps prophetically, the planetarium wished us "clear skies."

It was now 3 in the afternoon. The eclipse was happening, but the heavy cloud cover completely hid the sun. We laid on the grass and waited – and it was worth the wait.

Selena shares: "It looked re-



ing like it. It is unnerving how quickly it becomes full night, and quickly drops 15 or more degrees.

Rob Bruno, my spouse, whispered in the incredible night-in-a-day, "This is how much we need the sun-the light and the heat- what strength!"

It is so much more than "just" some simple change in temperature and light. Totality feels visceral, spiritual, exhilarating.

As quick as it came, it left. The sky changed colours of a sunrise and heat fell on our chilled upturned faces. Selena said, "I felt like a whole day had passed but really it didn't."

Part of our solar eclipse experience is experiencing it with family in Ohio. Originally, we had all planned to gather in Niagara as a Canadian-American family reunion. But border crossing isn't as simple as it once was; and the prediction of terrible crowds made us leery. Still, we shared through videos and phone calls.

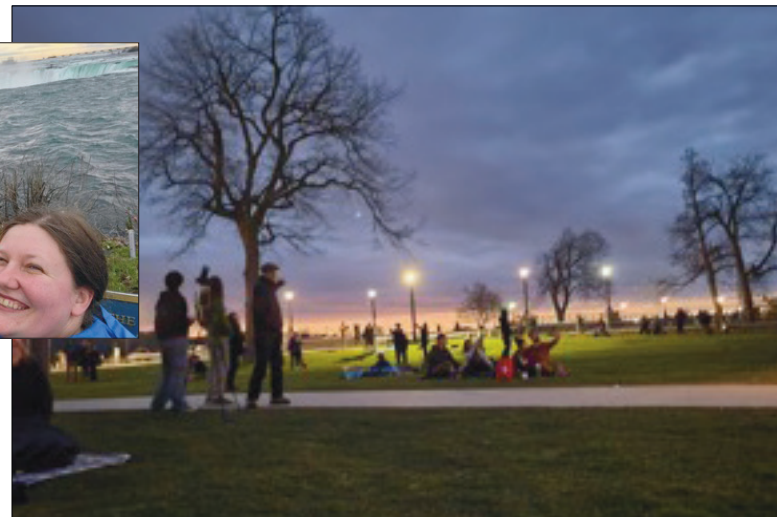
Graveyards in Ohio were closed to keep people from watching the eclipse from cemeteries. But my family were able to watch from their own backyard. My mother, Corinne Clark, shared she just had "high wispy clouds. I got so burnt!" But, "that was amazing." During totality, they were able to see a red line coming off of the sun. This was a prominence, a type of plasma arm that extends from the sun. Steve Dan Prose, my brother, said, "It looked like a volcano shoot coming off the sun." The little village celebrated totality with fireworks, cheers and gunshots.

My spouse's family went to a Columbus MetroPark to watch, but found it was too full. People parked along the highway watching. They located to another park with enough room to accommodate a few more people and a car. With no

photos by Rob Bruno

ally cool. The eclipse did. But it also kept peeking behind the clouds. But whenever it peeked out everyone cheered." Shouts of elation scattered around Niagara Park each time people saw through the crowds. Often simply sunglasses were enough to see the moon slowly cover the sun. The cloud covered the rest of the light.

As totality approached, the seagulls gathered around us.



Totality in Niagara Falls.

photo by Whitney L. Prose Bruno

Night and cold rushed in. "It became...it looked like day time. But in a couple of minutes, it got as dark as night and all the streetlights turned on." Selena shares. "And it was extra, extra cold. My toes felt like ice cubes. Mom felt like a Popsicle. Dad took off his coat for me and all of us were super squeezed together."

A cold wind passed and abruptly it was night. I have never experienced anything like this. I have read many times that there is nothing like Totality, and I have to repeat that claim now. There is noth-

clouds they were able to play with fingernail shaped shadows. Nephew Quincy Philips, age 7, called the eclipse "a black hole." His brother, Marius Philips, age 4, thought "the moon ate the sun." He drew a picture to record this event, including himself protecting the sun from the hungry moon.

My nephews will be 24 and 27 the next time a total solar eclipse comes by North America. Selena is already planning for it. She'll be 29; and says, "We're going to watch it with dinosaurs" in Alberta. So, where will you be in 20 years? These kids know!

Seven individuals arrested in drug search

Seven individuals have been charged and arrested after a Controlled Drug And Substances Act warrant investigation in M'Chigeeng First Nation in March.

On March 19, members of the UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service along with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Emergency Response Team, K9 Unit and Community Street Crime Unit executed a search warrant at a residence at Mnaawnkwad Drive in M'Chigeeng.

A search of the residence revealed approximately \$1,000 in Canadian currency, 99.4 kilograms of cocaine (with a street value of \$19,880, 122 controlled substance pills (street value of \$8,048), and property obtained by crime (\$2,200).

As a result, seven individuals have been charged with 41 offences, including, but not limited to possession for the purpose of trafficking in a schedule one substance, cocaine; possession for the purpose of trafficking in a schedule one substance, morphine; possession for the purpose of trafficking in a schedule II substance, Vyvance; possession for the purpose of trafficking in a schedule III substance, biphentin; possession for the purpose of trafficking in a schedule III substance, methylphenidate; possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000; failure to comply with undertaking; and failure to comply with release order other than to attend court.

In an April 9 update, the UCCM Police report that the following individuals have been charged as a result of the March arrests: Brandon Anwhatin, 24; Cierra Anwhatin, 20; Carter Bebonang, 25; April Lewis, 43; RJ McLean-Corbiere, 19; Kristan Panamick, 33, all of M'Chigeeng First Nation and Tasin Rahman, 24, of North York.

"Community safety is a collaborative effort with our communities. UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service would like to remind the public that we need to work together to ensure the safety, protection and overall health and wellness of our communities," said James Killeen, UCCM Chief of Police. "We need your help, your infor-

**Law & Order**

mation, and your assistance to affect change."

"Drug trafficking invites residual and lateral violence into our communities, such as home invasions, serious assaults and homicides, and leads to the erosion of our communities through addiction, homelessness and overdose deaths," Chief of Police Killeen continued. "We need to speak directly with the people who have the information that we require to ensure the safety and protection of our communities. Remember information is best protected and utilized when the police can receive the information firsthand."

"The UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service, OPP Community Street Crime Unit and Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service remain committed to working collaboratively and will continue to focus its efforts on major crime operations that pose a direct and elevated threat to the safety, security, and wellness of our communities," said Chief of Police Killeen. "This combined integrated street crime unit is a joint force operation and aims to identify and disrupt organized crime on Manitoulin Island through innovative technology, collaborative partnership and traditional police work resulting in the arrests of those involved, holding them accountable for their criminal activities and the seizure of illegal drugs, prohibited firearms and proceeds of crime."

"If anyone has further information regarding any criminal activity, drug trafficking and/or organized crime, please contact UCCM Police at 705-377-7135 or Sudbury Rainbow Crime Stoppers at 705-222-TIPS (8477) or 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit an online tip at www.sudburycrimestoppers.com. Together we can make a difference."

RIDE program yields charges

Two people have been arrested and charged after being stopped at a Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) program.

On April 10, shortly after 2 am, officers with the Manitoulin OPP were conducting a RIDE program on Highway 6 in Espanola.

While a vehicle was stopped at the RIDE, police observed open alcohol within the vehicle. A search of the vehicle and its occupants was conducted, which led to the discovery of suspected drugs. Police located and seized approximately 56 grams of suspected cocaine and a large quantity of suspected methamphetamine. The estimated street value of the drugs seized is approximately \$8,000. Both vehicle occupants were subsequently arrested and transported to the OPP detachment.

As a result of the investigation, Kelsie Jocko, 29, from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory has been charged with: two counts of possession of a schedule I substance for the purpose of trafficking, possession of a weapon for dangerous purpose, possession of a prohibited device, drive vehicle with cannabis readily available, driving motor vehicle with liquor readily available, operate motor vehicle without insurance, possession property obtained by crime under \$5,000, operation while impaired-alcohol and drugs.

Jeffrey Trudeau, 36, also from Wiikwemkoong, has been charged with possession of a schedule one substance, failure to comply with release order-other than to attend court and possession of weapon for dangerous purpose.

Both accused persons were held in custody to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Sudbury bail court which was to take place on April 10.

The driver was issued a 90-day administrative driver's licence suspension, and the vehicle was impounded for seven days.

Friends and Neighbours

**Providence Bay
Alexia Hannigan**

Hello Providence Bay! Alexia here with your Friendly Fly, Butterflies and Buzzing Bees. There is a hum in the air, can you feel it? No it's not the busy Emcom street sweepers. It's nature at its finest hour! The hills are alive with the sounds of Spring! So, what does that mean for all of us here in Prov? It means we dust ourselves and get down to business in anticipation of the busy months ahead. Did anyone see that Youtube drone footage of the Russian Laika dog running with the bears? It made me think of all of us here down by the bay and I wondered what would things look like from a bird's eye view if we could see the big picture and story unfolding and unfurling in its entirety? We would see foxes, bobcats, deer, horse and steer, frogs, snakes, turtles and fish, eagles, crows, blue jays, cedar waxwings, warblers, cardinals, chickadees and pileated and meriweather woodpeckers, mourning doves, grackles and geese, tortoiseshell butterflies, and bumblebees and all of our friends and neighbours! All of us building, tinkering, toiling, boiling, chopping, cropping, clearing, digging, labelling, jarring, measuring and planting and painting and potting weeding; weather proofing and picking up permits; safeguarding and prepping our pets and livestock; putting away winter gear and searching tirelessly for our long-lost summer sports and leisure gear, water inflatables, lawn chairs and our favourite gardening crocs and hats. We would see Ravi and his red hat getting ready for guests. We would see Elwood and his colourful lawn tires unloading his cargo hauls. We would see Trevor trimming and mowing the church lawn and crafting his beautiful woodwork and pieces. We would see Matt getting his storefront repairs done and ready. We would see Animal setting up his place for family visits and detailing his Chevy. We would see Linda playing with her grandkids and Rosa barking at the skunks. We would see Chayton and his brother throwing a frisbee disk around and Rigby getting Belly rubs. We would see Cecilidh and Mya laughing fireside at Meemaw Wendy's tossing peanuts at the chipmunks. We would see Jackie laughing at Bo chasing birds by the boardwalk. We would see Brooklyn smiling with delight remembering her fun birthday road trip to Sudbury with friends. We would see the ballfield and fairgrounds getting cleaned-up and turned over for the season. The street sweepers sweeping, landowners clear cutting and pruning, compost heaping and yard brush burning, restaurateurs cleaning and taking inventory, boaters and anglers checking gear and prepping for moorage, listening for marine reports, fair and festival organizers planning their work and working their plan. Artisans, crafters, quilters, musicians and elders wearing, weaving, welding, whittling, whistling melodies while warbling masterpieces. Things are just as they should be mid-April, before the rush of open season. Remember to take a minute, come up for air and just breathe and enjoy the peace and blessings that are all around us in our beautiful township of Providence Bay! Hats off to the Northern Ontario Country Music Awards Great Northern Opry inductee Carole Gilmore. We can't wait to celebrate with you at the Providence Bay Hall in June.

Honour salute to PC Marie Ford thank you for your years of service and dedication we wish you all the best for a happy retirement. Happy Earth Day and National Parks Week Everyone!

"Winter's done, and April's in the skies. Earth look-up with laughter in your eyes!" Charles G.D. Roberts

**Kagawong
Team Fergmeijer**

Turns out today is International Bat Appreciation Day! Just bat-tween us, Team Fergmeijer loves watching them flit around at dusk, doing their acro-bat-ics. We imagine they would be pretty good if they played bat-minton. Except bats don't really know about it; they like to be kept in the dark about most things. Now, don't give us any bat-itude; just because we are kind of winging it with these puns, doesn't mean they aren't fang-tastic.

Another splash of colour has been added near the Kagawong rainbow cabanas! Sic Sox is a new program which will help divert textile waste (i.e. clothing) from Island landfills. Got bedding, curtains, clothes, or other fabrics that you don't want any more? Drop them into the lavender deposit boxes near the Kagawong Park Centre. If what you drop off is still in good shape, it will be re-sold at the Sic Sox retail store. Other textiles that would otherwise be garbage are recycled into insulation. Either way, it's a win-win situation for the environment!

Rumour has it that the one and only Carol L is celebrating a birthday this week. Although we are sure she is turning 29, rumour has it she is old enough to remember bell bottoms and love beads. Either way, we wish her a very hippie birthday.

We're back to summer hours at the Billings Landfill! Stop by to say hi to Denis (and drop off your sorted garbage and recycling) Tuesdays and Thursdays 2 pm to 6 pm and weekends 10 am to 4 pm.

It's time to get your green on! In an early celebration of Earth Day, there is a full day of activities planned in Kagawong on Saturday, April 20, brought to you by the Billings Climate Action Committee and Manitoulin Streams. All morning long, join community members in picking up garbage around Billings Township. Before 12 noon, bring it by the Park Centre for sorting into garbage and recyclables so waste can be properly diverted (bonus points if you bring it pre-sorted!). From 9 am to 3 pm, bring some previously used treasures to sell at the "junk in the trunk" community yard sale! Pop open your trunk or spread out into the covered rink, limited tables under the roof will be provided. For the younger environmentalists, children's activities will be happening downstairs in the Park Centre from 10 am to 12 noon hosted by the Billings Parks, Recreation and Wellness committee. And don't forget about the vendor displays on green technologies, happening upstairs in the Park Centre, with possible presentations around 1 pm.

That same weekend, join The Island Singers as they celebrate their 60th anniversary! On Saturday, April 20 at 2 pm, at Manitoulin Secondary School, current and past members of the choir will be presenting a concert of classics and modern favourites. Tickets are \$20 and

available at the door. Visit "The Island Singers - Manitoulin Island" on Facebook for more information.

Come out to Life on a Farm, a fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Gore Bay on Saturday, April 27 being held at the Gore Bay community hall. Enjoy an evening of song and poetry with Vernon Bailey and John McCleneghan, featuring the poetry of Charlie Smith of Massey. Tickets are \$25 and are available at Central Pharmacy and at the door.

Save the date! Manitoulin Streams is hosting an outdoor angling trade fair right here in Kagawong! More details on the May long weekend event will be shared in the coming weeks. For more information, check out manitoulinstreams.com, or contact anglingtf.manitoulin@gmail.com, or 613-857-9877.

What is a bat's favourite dessert? Upside down cake. Have a great week!

**Meldrum Bay
Elaine Bradley**

There was a very good article in The Expositor about our lighthouse information meeting that was held in the Meldrum Bay Community Hall. The attendance was very encouraging as well as the number of interested people who signed up as potential volunteers if needed.

It was the first Sunday of the month and Meldrum Bay United Church was open at 9:15 am for a service. Janice Frame is back from her sabbatical, and it was nice to have her back.

The muffins and coffee after the service were delicious.

Weekly services will start again in May. Peggy is back from visiting family in southern Ontario and her baking as well as Diane's baking were really appreciated.

Rose Van Every has returned from her Easter visit with family. Her grandson is getting married and there were tickets sold on a variety of items as a fundraiser. I signed up for a Yeti cooler as I have always liked the brand but have never been able to afford one. To my surprise I won. It was full of liquor, but my husband and I do not drink alcohol. I asked Rose to distribute the booze for us to someone who would appreciate it more than we would. I seldom win anything, and it was such a surprise to win this contest. Another winner in the same draw was Mildred Kelly; she won a batch of lottery tickets. We wish you the best of luck, Mildred.

Jamie and Norma are also back home from a visit to the grandchildren plus a trip to Belgium to visit a friend there and enjoy the sights. They brought back Belgian chocolate for us and some very tender, very sweet dates, thanks.

The spring peepers are starting up and it is joy to listen to them. I think spring may finally be here.

Friday night at cards, April 5, there were three tables plus one sit out. High lady was Myra Duncanson with 72 points; high man was Lisa Townsend with 73 points; ladies' lone hands were won by Diane Jones with four; men's lone hands were won by Karen Noble with six; most euchres went to Doug Clark with six; Lois Wismer brought home the juice; the 50/50 draw was won by Donna K McDonald; the money jar is safe for another week; the special prize went to Harold Rogers.

...\$350 billion needed to close First Nations housing gap

...continued from page 3

by Ontario First Nations are housing, community infrastructure, all-season road access, adapting to climate change and education-related infrastructure.

As is outlined within the report, the largest gap faced by Ontario First Nations is housing, which requires a \$25.8 billion investment so that First Nations people can live in housing that is equal to that of their neighbours. The report outlines the current state of First Nations housing in Ontario. Nearly 5,800 houses in Ontario are currently

considered overcrowded, meaning First Nations people are forced to live in inadequate, culturally unsafe and problematic living spaces. Another 4,000 homes are in such disrepair that they require complete replacement. Over 8,200 units require major renovations, such as electricity, heating, insulation, plumbing and roofing, so that they are fit for habitation.

"Many of our people are being forced to live with extremely high numbers of people in a living space because there is nowhere else for them to go that needs to change," said Ontario Regional Chief

Hare. "People should never be faced with the harrowing decision to choose between living in overcrowded, unsafe conditions, or leaving their family and community."

"If no action is taken, the cost is only expected to rise as construction costs and inflation balloon, populations increase and existing infrastructure continues to languish and deteriorate," said Chief R. Don Maracle, Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. "Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a commitment to close the gap in First Nations infrastructure, and large investments of billions of dollars are needed to address the many decades of neglect."

"We have been warning for decades that these infrastructure gaps are causing serious and irreparable harm to First Nation communities in Ontario," said Ontario Regional Chief Hare. "But we have not seen the political will nor interest to take the required actions to close these gaps once and for all. With each passing day, the gap widens, and soon it will not be a gap, but a complete and total void."

While the report indicates housing represents the largest single need, it also shows that much more must be fixed so that First Nations have access to the same resources available in the rest of Ontario. Some of the biggest gaps can be found

within community-specific needs. Throughout the spring and summer, First Nations were able to submit letters to ISC outlining their specific needs for each of their communities, with more than 75 percent of Ontario First Nations having responded.

Taken together, Ontario First Nations' direct asks total \$8.6 billion and includes a host of infrastructure projects which are often not available to First Nations, such as cultural facilities, hockey rinks, baseball diamonds, ceremonial grounds, museums, health and emergency services, clinics and long-term care homes.

"As we now have these reports in front of us, the government can no longer avoid having to face the decades of underfunding that led us to where we are now and must step up and provide the resources needed to finally bring First Nations up to par with the rest of the country," added Ontario Regional Chief Hare.

...Island Singers concert

...continued from page 3

Ruth Ashley led the choir until her retirement in 1980 when Marilyn Burns, Jan Luff, Marion Seabrook, Marilyn Closs and Joanne Smith took over, said Mr. Theijmsmeijer. "In the next three years, the club performed three musicals: 'Fiddler on The Roof,' 'Brigadoon,' and 'The Music Man.' After this, the club returned to choral music, with the four leaders taking turns conducting."

Ruth (Ashley) was the founder, director, conductor, you name it," said Barb Cranston of Little Current. "And she led three choirs that played at the United Church in Little Current. She was a very talented lady, and she directed skits as well."

"Dorothy Anstice took on conducting in 1987 and formalized the club as a choir with Holly Scott joining as accompanist in 1990. In the spring of 1991, a guest conductor from Queen's University visited the group and suggested a name change. Dorothy instituted the current name, 'The Island Singers,' that year," continued Mr. Theijmsmeijer. "Under the direction of Ms. Anstice, the choir performed several major works, including Vivaldi's 'Gloria,' Mozart's 'Missa Brevis' and Brahms 'Zigeunerlieder.' They hosted several guest conductors and choirs who joined their voices in combined choral concerts."

...continued on page 8

Fixing Our Felines Manitowaning



**LCBO
Returnables
Fundraiser**



Mother cat and kitten intake time is rapidly approaching. We are asking for donations of LCBO returnable cans and bottles to generate funds.

Drop-off times: Monday to Friday, 12:30-5pm at the Manitowaning ServiceOntario Office, 14295A Highway 6 or call 705-918-2879.

Orr's **valu-mart** Freshmart



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RESTAURANT HOURS:
SUNDAY: 9 AM - 8 PM
MONDAY & TUESDAY: CLOSED
WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY: 9 AM - 8 PM

BAR HOURS:
SUNDAY - TUESDAY: CLOSED
WEDNESDAY: 4 PM - 9 PM
THURSDAY: 4 PM - WHEN TRIVIA ENDS
FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 4 PM - 1 AM

DENTURE WEARERS: Facts You Need to Know



I Need A New Denture - But I Love My Old Ones

Many people are apprehensive about getting new dentures. They are afraid they won't look the same. There is an alternative; It's called a rebase. If your old denture teeth are in useful condition and the bite is good, you can have the denture rebased. A rebase is a new denture with the old teeth. Because we use the old teeth, they look exactly like your old denture but they fit like a new one. Rebases can be done the same day.

When Should I Get New Dentures?

The average life span for dentures is 7 - 10 years. Dentures can be worn much longer, but they aren't nearly as efficient to eat

with or as pleasing to the eye. They can also be causing unseen damage to the tissue of the oral cavity and jaw joint. Over the years the teeth wear down and become flatter. The teeth are only able to mash food when they get to this state instead of slicing into the food as they did when the dentures were new. You need to chew harder to do the same job. You may even lose enjoyment during meal time due to the extra effort needed to chew. The wear occurs slowly over the years and you adapt without any notice. Years later though there is a great difference in the dentures and you are likely coping without even realizing it. The teeth can also wear unevenly, affecting your bite. This causes more discomfort and possible problems with your jaw joint. Not only are older dentures likely to break from years of use, they can "greatly affect your appearance due to worn looking teeth, increased wrinkles around your mouth and stains from years of food, tobacco, tea and coffee.

Do you need a reline, softliner, new denture or rebase? I am offering a FREE CONSULTATION so that you can be sure that your dentures are not causing you any unseen harm. Don't take a chance with your oral health. It can and will affect your overall health if you don't take care of it soon.

Yours for better health,
Leanne Bentley, Hon.B.Sc., DD

P.S. - I hope you can take advantage of this offer for your free consultation. Properly made dentures not only improve your appearance, they also help the rest of your body to stay healthy.

Manitoulin Denture Clinic
Leanne Bentley Hon. B.Sc., DD

58 Worthington St., Little Current
(705) 368-0723

73 Centre St., Espanola
(705) 869-4544

...grapples with expansion of nurse practitioner roles

...continued from page 7

ing services, the more they will see that we aren't out to gouge anyone. We are simply trying to provide services that are so desperately needed. Patients are not being forced to come into our office. We are providing them with a choice; we want to try to help the healthcare system. I have the skills and the knowledge, judgement and experience to treat patients and I want to help."

The Ontario government, led by Health Minister Sylvia Jones, has vowed to crack down on these fee-based clinics, asserting that OHIP-funded services should not come with a price tag for patients. Yet amidst the rhetoric, clarity on the province's stance remains elusive. Despite promises of investigation and intervention, nurse practitioner-led private clinics continue to proliferate, adding fuel to an already raging debate.

Calls for regulatory clarity have grown louder, with advocates urging provincial authorities to address the legal ambiguity surrounding nurse practitioners' billing practices. The absence of comprehensive regulations leaves room for interpretation and ex-

ploitation, perpetuating a system rife with uncertainty and dissent.

The CEO of Medimap, Thomas Jankowski, reached out to The Expositor also. Medimap was established in 2016 with the objective of enhancing healthcare accessibility for Canadians. Significant inefficiencies were observed in how individuals accessed primary care nationwide. Initially, the organization aimed to offer patients a simple method for comparing wait times at walk-in medical clinics within their communities.

Over time, Medimap received requests from patients for additional health services that could be facilitated through their platform. Presently, patients have the capability to directly book appointments via Medimap, spanning over 15 categories of health and wellness clinics.

Mr. Jankowski told The Expositor that "we strongly believe that nurse practitioners are a part of the solution to the catastrophic health care collapse that Canadians are facing. There are currently only 14,000 general practitioners in Ontario, whereas there are over 100,000 nurses, all of whom could potentially become NPs. The main

reason for Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Doug Ford to consider for NPs to step up is that we could see the biggest change and solution we could enact at this time."

He went on to say that while the premier has just added funding for nurses to train as NPs that there are only currently 320 training seats available and that the target is 350. Of the 100,000 nurses in the province, those seats are barely scratching the surface of those qualified to train as NPs at just 0.3 percent.

"While the privatization is seen as a contentious loophole, it is essentially an experiment that offers a glimpse into something healthier than the USA's two-tier system. Whenever comparisons with the US come up, I tell people to look at how successful a two-tier system in other commonwealth countries like the UK and Australia are working. Europeans have seen this system function relatively well. If people are not willing to go the route (of privatized NP clinics), then they need to lean on the prime minister to change the Health Care Act to allow NPs to operate clinics under OHIP. We are ridiculously overtaxed for health care—you shouldn't have

to have a heart attack to receive care. We need to demand that they run and deliver health care, it is more pressing than the current housing crisis, in my opinion," said Mr. Jankowsky.

In a bid to navigate this complex terrain, the Ford government is reportedly exploring avenues to integrate nurse practitioners more fully into the public healthcare system, mirroring the status enjoyed by physicians. However, the path forward is fraught with challenges, including funding constraints and federal directives. Ontario's push for nationwide guidelines underscores the need for a unified approach to healthcare delivery, one that transcends provincial boundaries and ensures equitable access for all Canadians.

As the province grapples with these pressing issues, the future of nurse practitioner-led care hangs in the balance. Will Ontario chart a course towards greater inclusivity and accessibility, or will entrenched interests and bureaucratic hurdles impede progress? The answers remain elusive, but one thing is clear: the fate of healthcare in Ontario hinges on the resolution of this pivotal debate.

...Comrade Leigh Major given Legion Life Membership

...continued from page 7

town's (Gore Bay) street market, assisting with the Lions and the Rotary Clubs with the Harbour Days and the Rotary Fall Auction. Since 2010 he has served on the Gore Bay Museum Board. Comrade Leigh also drives people to Sudbury for appointments and to the Sudbury Airport, patiently waiting with them until they are finished, or their flight takes off."

"Comrade Leigh continues to be a vital member of Branch 514 and his dedication and his devotion to our

branch continues to be an inspiration to us all," continued Ms. Foster. "Comrade Leigh goes far and beyond the call of duty in volunteering for the betterment of Branch 514 and its members, as well as for his zone, district and his community."

"When Leigh takes time to relax, he enjoys spending time with his family and many friends," continued Ms. Foster. "We at Branch 514 highly recommend Comrade Leigh for the Royal Canadian Legion's Life Membership Award."

"Wow," stated Mr. Major upon receiving the award. "I had no idea this was coming. Thank you very much."

...criminal harassment charges

...continued from page 7

ously, on November 28 Billings Township sent out a trespass notice to Mr. Concannon for three months; the policy was reviewed by council in February and extended to August. Under this policy Mr. Concannon is prohibited from attending the township office, council and committee meetings.

The accused was held in custody and was scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Gore Bay on Friday, April 12.

...Island Singers concert

...continued from page 7

Chris and Heather Theijsmeijer joined the Island Singers as choristers in the spring of 2009, and when Dorothy Anstice and Holly Scott retired in 2015, there was one season of singing with three conductors (Chris, Ann-Marie and Ray Scott) each taking on one-third of the directing of the Christmas concert, with Ray Scott and Sam Cooper accompanying. From spring 2015 to the current season, Chris Theijsmeijer has been the musical director, with Heather Theijsmeijer administering. Accompanists have been Ray Scott, Arik Theijsmeijer, Sam Cooper, Linda Wilton and Mike McCormick.

"This year marks 60 years that The Island Singers have shared their musical talent with Manitoulin audiences. We are excited to celebrate

this milestone with Manitoulin audiences. We are excited to celebrate this milestone with special nods to past members and conductors!"

Mr. Theijsmeijer said it is hoped a huge crowd will be on hand for the concert.

The concert begins at 2 pm this Saturday, April 20 at Manitoulin Secondary School. Tickets are \$20 at the door, children 12 and under are free.



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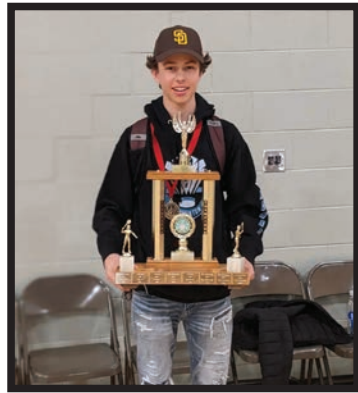
PLAYER PROFILE

by Emery Watson





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ELI LOCK

With skates laced, a helmet secured and a stick in hand, Eli can be found making the most of every second he spends on the ice! Off the ice, he can be found making plays on the badminton and volleyball courts. No matter the sport, Eli consistently brings jokes and a competitive drive to his game, tackling each game with sportsmanship. Wrapping up his final year at MSS, Eli has contributed greatly to Mustang athletics, establishing himself as a fantastic team player and role model for the next generation of Mustangs!

Prior to becoming a Mustang, Eli was a student at C.C. McLean Public School in Gore Bay. Throughout his elementary school career, Eli sported the red jersey for the Colts in a variety of sports. Eli could be found on the field hitting home runs on the 3-pitch team, scoring touchdowns in flag football and playing soccer. Eli also participated on the basketball, volleyball and track and field teams, where he often achieved many accolades in the high jump event. While balancing a busy school sports season, Eli also played competitive hockey for the Manitoulin Panthers before returning home to the Gore Bay Bruins where he continued to play minor hockey. As Eli reflects upon his elementary school years, he acknowledges how much fun he had participating in a variety of sports. He appreciates that he got to play with friends and meet new people.


The first year of Eli's high school experience was impacted by COVID, limiting athletic opportunities. Despite the wrench COVID threw in Eli's athletic plans and high school experience, he did not get discouraged and was eager to jump back into sports in his Grade 10 year. In Grade 10, Eli made his first NSSSA appearance, playing middle for the junior boys' volleyball team. He helped his team to achieve a great record in league play and eventually took a silver medal home at the championships. He punched his ticket to NOSSA where the team finished second to Lockerby. Following the volleyball season, Eli picked up his racquet to try for a second NSSSA appearance. Playing in the mixed doubles event, Eli and his partner went undefeated, winning NSSSA and taking home the gold medal at NOSSA. This top score helped the juniors to win their division! To wrap up the year, Eli also played mixed doubles in tennis, winning another NSSSA and earning the opportunity to compete at NOSSA again! Last year, Eli jumped back on the court playing middle again, this time on the senior boys' team. He helped his team win gold medals at NSSSA and secure an impressive silver at NOSSA against the talented L'Horizon. Entering the badminton season, Eli played in the mixed event, again winning gold and playing against teams across Northern Ontario at NOSSA. Finally, in tennis, Eli and his partner, Abby Hawke, placed third at the NOSSA championships, punching their ticket to OFSAA! Eli and Abby played in Toronto against highly competitive teams on the provincial stage. This year, Eli has wrapped up his last year as a Mustang with another gold NSSSA medal with the senior boys' volleyball team and a silver to Lockerby at NOSSA again. He is currently playing mixed doubles in badminton again, with eyes set on another NSSSA title.

With experience in various different sports, Eli explains that he would choose hockey as his favourite. Eli loves that hockey has provided the opportunity to travel, meet new people and have fun with his friends.

When the warm weather finally forces Eli to hang his skates up, he quickly swaps his hockey stick for a fishing rod. Eli is very passionate about the outdoors and spends a great deal of his free time hunting or fishing. He can also be found spending his summer at Strawberry Point summer camp, where he works as a counselor.


In only a few more months, Eli will retire as a Mustang, moving on to the next chapter. Although Eli is still unsure of his next steps, he is considering different options such as pursuing a trades program at Canadore College. With his attitude and drive, he is sure to excel, just as he has at MSS!

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...Manitoulin beekeeper sees 90 percent loss

...continued from page 7

unprecedented decline prompted Dr. Mitchell to investigate potential causes beyond her standard integrated pest management practices, leading to alarming findings, a press release noted.

"Despite maintaining consistent beekeeping practices, Dr. Mitchell's post-mortem analysis of her hives showed no signs of common issues like starvation, mould, moisture or nosema. However, tests conducted on pollen and bee samples revealed the presence of harmful agrochemicals, including bifenthrin, diphenylamine, phosmet and glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup."

"This discovery is particularly significant as AgriFood Labs, where the tests were conducted, indicated that there are no established reference ranges for glyphosate in dead bees due to the lack of routine testing for this chemical," Dr. Mitchell stated. "The presence of these substances highlights a growing concern over the impact of agricultural chemicals on bee health and the broader ecosystem, especially in regions undergoing transitions from cattle pasture to cash crop cultivation."

"The presence of pesticides such as bifenthrin, diphenylamine, phosmet and glyphosate in bee populations poses severe risks not only to the bees, but also to the broader ecosystem," Dr. Mitchell's press release continues. "These chemicals, known for their neurotoxic and potentially carcinogenic properties, can significantly impair bees' ability to forage, navigate, and reproduce, leading to colony collapse. The decline in bee and pollinator populations has far-reaching implications for the food industry, as these creatures are crucial for the pollination of a vast array of fruits, vegetables, and nuts."

...Gore Bay manager suggests other area townships help arena

...continued from page 1

It was explained that minor hockey, adult hockey and public skating use is by residents across all Western Manitoulin. The municipalities work extremely well together on shared services elsewhere such as the airport, library, cemetery, transfer station and fire department.

The committee recommended to council that the mayor and town manager start discussions with the other three municipalities on Western Manitoulin on the possibility of designating the arena as a shared service.

"Right now, we are paying almost the full costs of operating the arena," said Mayor Lane. He

pointed out for the past couple of years the neighbouring municipalities have made donations toward the arena, and he pointed out the town invested over \$90,000 toward operating the arena in the past year, which does not include capital costs with repairs.

It was also noted by Mr. Schlange that the municipalities share in the cost and services of the Provincial Offences Act board, cemetery, Gore Bay-Western Manitoulin Airport, transfer station and joint fire department services.

The Gore Bay Arena, "is an amenity that all of Western Manitoulin uses," said Mr. Schlange. He said there is also an opportunity to

work with the provincial government which has announced significant funding is available for recreation and sports facilities.

"Harry and I talked about first sending a letter to the municipalities, requesting a meeting and outlining the costs at the arena and either late this month or in May meeting with our neighbouring municipalities to discuss this," said Mayor Lane.

Councilor Rob Dearing explained that in his 15-year involvement in minor hockey through the Western Manitoulin and Manitoulin Minor Hockey Associations, "we had kids playing here in Gore Bay from areas around the Cup and Saucer Trail, Spring Bay, and

all of Western Manitoulin Island. Now kids can go wherever (community) they want to play. It shouldn't be a hard sell to get them (neighbouring municipalities) to consider sharing in the costs." Council passed a motion in support of the town manager and mayor approaching all Western Manitoulin municipalities to consider the Gore Bay Memorial Arena as a shared service.

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...Manitoulin Island youth early OHL draft pick

...continued from page 1
itor on Saturday. “They asked if I would attend training camp with the 67’s if they drafted me

and if I was excited.” He gave an emphatic ‘yes’ to both questions.
A draft viewing party was held last Friday evening for Kohyn. “Most of

my family, a few friends and some of my former coaches were on hand. There were about 40 people,” he said, pointing out the event was held

at the curling club room at the NEMI recreation centre.

“I will be attending the 67’s development camp on April 26-28,” Kohyn told The Expositor. Kohyn, a defenceman, is 15, 5’ 10” and weighs 161 pounds. He is a member of M’Chigeeng First Nation and lived in Aundeck Omni Kaning until he moved to southern Ontario to play with the North York Rangers U16 AAA team.

“We’re all very proud of Kohyn,” said his father Kevin Eshkawogon in an email. “With family in Aundeck Omni Kaning, M’Chigeeng, Little Current, Moose Factory and Wiikwemkoong, he understands he is not just representing himself, our family, but all of those who take the time to support him. We are thankful for his Little Current Flyers, Manitoulin Panthers and all of the coaches and team managers who taught him so much and organized a ton to make hockey happen for him and his teammates over the last 12 years.”

“As Manitoulin’s first OHL first rounder, he appreciates how hard it is to obtain good grades at The Hill Academy, train in rinks all across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), play a full schedule with one of the best teams in the GTHL and in the world, but also

that Manitoulin is a great place to play and develop as a hockey player and as a person,” said Mr. Eshkawogon. He pointed out Kohyn spent a lot of time growing up in the NEMI recreation centre, the M’Chigeeng Arena, driving back and forth to Sudbury, running up McLean’s Mountain (as

al Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Grand Prairie from May 6-11. “After that, it’s all about finishing off the school year with good grades and ramping up for another summer of training at Gary Roberts performance camp to make an impact in Ottawa at the 67’s main camp in August,” said Mr. Eshkawogon. “As his family, we look forward to the front row seat we have to watch whatever he chooses to do next.”

After next week’s development camp, Kohyn will take part in the team’s main training camp in the fall. “If I make the team I will be living with a billet in Ottawa,” he said.

Another Manitoulin hockey player, Ashton Pitawanakwat, of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory was selected 267th overall (14th round) by the Barrie Colts in the OHL draft this weekend. Mr. Pitawanakwat, who could not be reached for comment prior to this week’s press deadline, played for the Sudbury Wolves U16 AAA team and Team Northern Ontario Hockey Association this season.

A free public skating and meet and greet session with Kohyn Eshkawogon will take place Saturday, April 20, from 7-9 pm at the M’Chigeeng arena.



Kohyn, or Ko-show as he’s known, is the first Islander to go first round in the OHL draft.

part of his training program) and on the outdoor rink in the backyard and AOK.

“He had a personal goal to be an OHL first rounder and he achieved it,” said the proud dad. “He fully understands he has an even harder path ahead of him as he has more dreams and goals to achieve and with the right energy and effort, he will execute his plans to accomplish whatever he puts his mind to. His hard work is paying off.”

Along with the upcoming Ottawa 67’s development camp, Kohyn will go for gold at the Nation-

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Attention users of the Little Current and Sheguiandah Water Systems

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Little Current system – April 22nd to May 3rd
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Mark your calendars for the **Annual Sheguiandah Fall Fair on September 14th!**

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Central councillor challenges Pearson Cup non-profit status

by Michael Erskine
CENTRAL MANITOU-LIN—What seemed to be a routine request to Central Manitoulin council for the non-profit rental rate from the organizers of the annual Pearson Cup ball tournament took a surprising turn during the April 11 council meeting when Councillor John Bisaillon suggested that organizations requesting the non-profit rate be required to supply proof of non-profit status and financial statements. The original motion from the Property Committee “That we recommend to Council that the Pearson Cup be permitted to have the non-profit rate for the rental of the Mindemoya Arena and Mindemoya Hall for the 2024 Pearson Cup Slo-Pitch Ball Tournament on the weekend of June 14, 15 and 16” was moved at the council table by

Councillors Dale Scott and John Mitchell. Councillor Bisaillon suggested that, as of 2025, such documentation would be required by the provincial government and that the municipality might as well get ahead of the curve. It was a position supported by Councillor Rose Diebolt and Mayor Richard Stephens. CAO Denise Deforge suggested such a policy would provide a level playing field and remove any question of council “playing favourites” when it comes to allowing the application of the rate in the future. There were some suggestions that the motion should simply be passed at this point and details going forward be left to the new recreation policy being formulated. During discussion, Councillor Derek Stephens pointed out that

the group requesting the rate was made up of volunteers whose activities benefit the community and that the applicants were not, in fact, representing themselves as being “non-profit” but simply requesting the rate be applied to them. “There are a lot of small groups of volunteers who are not formal non-profits,” he noted, pointing out that the costs of setting up and operating under a non-profit corporation sets the bar too high for many groups. He pointed to Bluegrass in the Country and Manitoulin Special Olympics as other examples of an informal group that hold events in the community. Asked by Mayor Stephens if the mover and second of the motion would be willing to defer the request until such documentation was presented, Councillor Mitchell emphatically stated that he was not—pointing out that the Pearson Cup takes place in June, leaving no realistic timeline for the organizers to undertake setting up a not-for-profit corporation. Councillor Scott agreed with the mover’s position. In the end, council passed the motion, with only Councillor Bisaillon voicing his dissent.

...bridge gets budget mention

...continued from page 1

ing. “If I don’t get any answers I will be bringing it up in Question Period,” he said. “People on Manitoulin deserve that bridge,” he continued, chiding the premier with his oft-vaunted claim that his government’s motto is ‘get ‘er done.’” As to the timelines and numbers, Mr. Mantha said he could not understand the lack of information from the government. “What is so secretive? There has to be some cost assessment,” he said, noting that the lack of timelines is causing undue stress on those who depend on the bridge to be able to access medical and other services.

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Volunteer Week

Justin Harris is a “Guardian of the Children” and volunteer firefighter

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—Regardless of whether it is to benefit a child or adult, Justin Harris is always willing to help support and benefit those around him.

Along with being a veteran of the Gore Bay Volunteer Fire Department, Mr. Harris is Sergeant of Arms of “The Guardians of the Children” Motorcycle Club chapter in Sudbury. “Guardians of the Children (GOC) is a non-profit organization comprised of motorcycle enthusiasts that use motorcycles as tools to help children who have overcome child abuse (ages 0-17) become strong, confident and courageous again. Once a child has made an outcry of abuse and the criteria for our support is met that child is adopted into our family as a ‘Little Guardian,’” their website states.

“Members of GOC will escort the child to court, attend school and social events at the child’s request, provide protection and support and sponsor ‘Little Guardian’ private events, yearly. The goal of these events is to provide a safe space where the Little Guardians can have fun, socialize with others that have experienced similar trauma and forget for a moment about the fear, doubt and insecurity that was forced upon them at such a young age. Every child has all the power and strength



Gore Bay resident Justin Harris is a member of the Gore Bay Volunteer Fire Department as well as being sergeant of arms for ‘The Guardians of the Children’ club chapter in Sudbury.

within themselves, just like a motorcycle on the open road, and the biker behind it, we just encourage them to unleash it as we fight their demons together,” the GOC website explains.

“I have a Little G under me, and if they have issues or just bummed out, I will go over to Sudbury and talk to them and see how they are doing,” said Mr. Harris. “We can take them out on our motorbikes if they want to and if the family gives the okay, and take them for ice cream or to go bowling. We do things with them. It is like the Big Brother program.”

“These kids deal with all different types of abuse, mental and physical, and we will sit in court with them and be that support that lets them know they don’t have to be scared, that there is someone there for them,” said Mr. Harris.

“The GOC program was started about 26-27 years ago in Texas by four people including a police officer, lawyer and doctor,” said Mr. Harris. “It is now a world-wide program. The location closest to us is in Barrie,” he said, noting, “the Sudbury chapter started in May of last year. You will see me with a club vest on. We

have been trying to get out name out there, which has been kind of hard to do. We’re still kind of green. Depending on the situation, if a ‘Little G’ has an idea for something they would like to do we will see if we can hold this event for them. We cop out at 18, when a ‘Little G’ can then become a member of the club as a volunteer, as a member of the club.”

“It is a non-profit organization, we receive no funding from anyone, but we do accept donations,” continued Mr. Harris. “And we will be working on events like possible raffles. The president of the club and myself are going to try and get one (chapter) started on the Island.”

The Sudbury GOC has between 8-10 active riders currently. “We are

always looking for more members, volunteers and supporters,” said Mr. Harris. “And, if anyone would like to donate to our group, we are very grateful for any support we receive.”

Mr. Harris explained he had got involved in the GOC by former Gore Bay resident Joel Glaude while he worked at Manitoulin Transport. “Joel was president of GOC and was telling me about it. I had been involved in Million Dollar Smiles (which is similar to the Make a Wish program) for five years prior to moving to the Island.”

“Kids have enough to deal with living in the world the way it is currently,” said Mr. Harris. “They should not have to feel scared or uncomfortable at home, and if I can

help to make a kid smile it makes a difference in the world.”

Mr. Harris, who was born and raised in Toronto, moved to Manitoulin, specifically Gore Bay on November 1, 2014. “Oh my God it has been a great move. I just decided to move up here; life called for me to move here. My mom and siblings were here. It is the best decision I ever made. And it is particularly good for my children, and not having to be stressed wondering if my kids are going to make it home at the end of school every day.” He has three children.

Mr. Harris has been a volunteer firefighter in Gore Bay, “almost nine years now. I started just after my youngest son

...continued on page 13

National Volunteer Appreciation Week
Helping to Build Strong Communities
La Semaine de l'action bénévole
Aider à construire des communautés fortes

Carol Hughes, MP/députée
 Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskaing
 carol.hughes@parl.gc.ca

289 Hillside Dr. S
 Elliot Lake, ON P5A 1N7
 1-855-297-4200



The Town of Gore Bay wishes to say
‘thank you’
 to our amazing volunteers.

Your dedication shows true community spirit.

Thank you for all you do!



Celebrating our Volunteers

National Volunteer Week, April 14-20, 2024

We recognize and appreciate volunteers who continue to make meaningful and positive influences in the lives of children on a daily basis. As a Volunteer, each of your tireless efforts do make a difference in the life of a child and their families. Your contribution assure children stay connected with their roots, culture, language and to help them experience healthy, happy and safe lives.

We wish to express our gratitude to our many volunteers who serve in a variety of capacities:

- **Drivers:** Volunteers who transport children to school, family visits, therapy, medical appointments and attend community events.
- **Special Events:** Volunteers who assist in the coordination and delivery of agency initiatives and special events.
- **Special Friend to a Parent or Child:** Volunteers who serve as a ‘Special Friend’ to provide support, act as a positive role model, encourage or provide guidance and support to a parent or a child by spending valuable time with them.
- **Mentor:** Volunteers who act as a mentor in supporting either a parent or a youth in care in developing areas of independence and life skills.
- **Elders Advisory Council:** Volunteers who serve as cultural resources and provide direction on how to strengthen the agency, children, families and community relationships from a cultural perspective.
- **Board of Directors:** For individually volunteering at least 85 hours per year providing guidance and direction to assure the agency achieves its vision and mission, approve policies, strategies plan and monitor and evaluate agency systems.
- **Youth Advisory Council:** Youth aged 14-24 advising KGCFs about the issues that matter to them, as a voice for all youth in care or receiving services.



Kchi Miigwetch Gwandak
Kina Gaa Bewiidaakaasijik!

Big Thank You to All of You for Volunteering!



Volunteer Week

Mary-Alice Lewis is chair of the Manitoulin Legal Clinic and so much more

by Margery Frisch

SPRING BAY—Sometimes, when we hear of the many things a person is involved in, it can make our heads spin. Talking to Mary-Alice Lewis can have that effect.

"I joined the Manitoulin Legal Clinic board in 2008," Ms. Lewis said. "The last few years I've been chair, for a couple of years before that, not too many, I was vice-chair." She admitted that "Zoom has been nice." Since COVID, their meetings are held on Zoom, most of the time. This has eliminated driving to AOK in the middle of winter, during a snowstorm.

The board, Ms. Lewis explains, holds the lawyer accountable each month. "We don't micro-manage what they're doing, we just oversee them in a general way. We make decisions as to which way the clinic is going. We were involved in the hiring of Laura Hunter, our new lawyer, and I think we made a great choice. There are nine members on the board who meet monthly to discuss what's going on. They are there to advise, if their advice is needed," she said.

"Most people don't know they're there or what they do," she says of the Legal Clinic. "If you have a problem or a question about a legal issue, phone them and ask and they will either help you or point you in the right direction. They do all sorts of stuff, they can help you with your will, if that's something you need. They have someone coming from Sudbury who will help with income taxes, for low-income people for free. Family law and criminal law are not covered through the Manitoulin Legal Clinic, but they can help with workman's compensation or problems with housing. Just phone them and ask," she kept stressing, "because if they can't help, they can direct you to someone who can."

Ms. Lewis is also a member of the Mindemoya Hos-



Mary-Alice Lewis is involved in enough volunteer work to make the average person's head spin.

photo by Margery Frisch

pital Auxiliary, joining in 2009. Shortly after becoming a member, she took the vice-chair position, which she held for several years. Then she chaired the Mindemoya Hospital Auxiliary, and for a time, as chair, she was also on the board for the Manitoulin Health Centre. In 2015 she became treasurer of the auxiliary board, a position in which she feels most comfortable. "I've always loved numbers," Ms. Lewis said, "One plus one is always two, I like that." She also does the books for her church, Trinity United in Mindemoya.

"Volunteering is just something you grow up doing," Ms. Lewis said. In reminiscing about it, she believes her volunteering began when she was a Brownie and a Girl Guide. Even such things as the Cancer Society luncheon, an event in which her mother was involved, meant she was involved too, helping to serve at the luncheon, and feeling so grown up. "That's where it starts, you don't even think of it as volunteering, it's something you do," she repeated. "Then, in my middle years, when I had kids and they were into things, I got involved in their organizations."

"There are so many people volunteering, and you don't even have a clue," Ms. Lewis said, explaining how the Mindemoya Hospital Auxiliary, with only about 10 or 12 active members, has a list of 200 people they can call when a major fundraiser is in the works. "It's those 200 people we phone, who come out to help at a particular event, that make the auxiliary work."

One could say that's what makes a community work. Volunteers make for a strong, healthy and vibrant community. Consider your strengths, your talents, and get involved.

...Justin Harris 'Guardian'

...continued from page 12 was born. I had no intention of joining the fire department. At the time I was working three jobs, one full-time, at the grocery store part-time and working for James Martin doing odd jobs. I was working seven days a week. Then one day I didn't want to work and I told James dad I couldn't help him because I had fire practice that night." "James came in and told me 'you have to go to fire practice now, you told my dad that you were going to,' said Mr. Harris. "It's the best thing I could do, and I have not regretted a day being on the fire department."

"I can even remember the happiest day I have been as a firefighter," continued Mr. Harris. "It was during fire prevention week, and we were at the school (C.C. McLean) talking to the students about fire safety. We went into each class with all our fire gear on. Our fire chief, Mike Addison, had told us if and when we have to respond to a fire it is best if the kids see us in full gear, so they aren't

scared of us. We went into my daughter's classroom and her friend and classmate, as I was taking off my mask, said, "isn't that your dad? He is a firefighter!"

"Then there was the time after fire prevention week I was working in the grocery store and a student was in the store shopping with his parents. He just kept staring at me, you could tell he knew me from somewhere but couldn't remember where. All of a sudden he said, "your Jack's father, you're a firefighter!" I just melted because I had made an impact on someone so young. It was so touching knowing I had made a connection with a young person as a firefighter. My son wants to be a firefighter. And he wants to ride on the motorbike all the time."

"I have never regretted even for a day being a firefighter," said Mr. Harris. "And the group of people we have on the fire department are an amazing group. They all have a lot of great ideas, and every single one of them is a friend of mine."



VOLUNTEER WEEK
APRIL 14 - 20TH

A SPECIAL
THANK YOU TO
LOCAL
VOLUNTEERS

We are grateful for your time and dedication to the communities you serve. Your efforts have made a huge impact on the lives of many.





Newspapers, like this one, rely on far more than our "in office" staff to bring you the variety of materials we publish.

Here's our own list of much-valued volunteers, to all of whom we say a giant "thanks!" We couldn't do it without you!

CORRESPONDENTS

- Kagawong - Team Fergmeijer
- Barrie Island - Lillian Greenman
- Silver Water - Karen Noble
- Meldrum Bay - Elaine Bradley
- Providence Bay - Alexia Hannigan

COLUMNISTS

- Rose's Recipes - Rose Diebolt
- Newish to Manitoulin - Heather Marshall
- Ice Chips and Canoe Quips - Andre Leblanc
- MSS Kids in the Hall - Alexandra Wilson-Zegil
- MSS Player Profile - Mackenzie Green
- Butterflies and Such - Joe Shorthouse
- Clever Observations - Mike Brock
- Mystical Manitoulin - Dorah L. Wilson

And also to anyone else we may have forgotten to mention, who contributes in any way.

A sincere thanks from the staff of



Volunteer Week

Volunteerism was a well-thought out plan

by Michael Erskine
 LITTLE CURRENT— Dave Draper is the jovial face that often greets anyone stopping by the NEMI landfill site's transfer stations. Once described by a letter writer to The Expositor as "the best ambassador" for the community, even going so far as to suggest he should be mayor, Mr. Draper is far more than just a town employee with a friendly smile and a ready joke or quip to brighten your day.



Dave Draper is more than just a jovial face.

Mr. Draper is one of those hardy individuals who wear the yellow and purple vest of the Lions Club and can be seen working at a wide range of events during the annual Little Current Lions Club Haweater Weekend.

Joining the Lions Club was not something Mr. Draper and his wife Lori (another indefatigable Lion) did on whim.

"No, no," he laughs. "We thought about it for quite a while before we did. I didn't want to join and then, a couple of weeks later, decide it wasn't something for me."

While he was considering joining the community service club's ranks, and long before he took the plunge, Mr. Draper and his family would step up each year to put their shoulders (sometimes literally) to the task of making Little Current Lions Club Haweater Weekend a success. It was while

leaving one Haweater event, the fireworks (hands down the dirtiest gig of the weekend, and that's including cleanup after the Hawfest Dance) that he made up his mind.

"I turned to Lori and said, 'we should join the Lions Club,'" he recalled. The rest was history, as the Draper family, wife Lori, daughters Beth and Cheryl, son-in-law Russ and grandson Bryce followed him into the fold, with Lori's mother, Eunice Beaudin, affectionately known as 'Lion Nana,' not far behind.

"Four generations is pretty rare, especially four generations in the same club," noted Mr. Draper, a fact that did not

escape the notice of The Expositor and thanks to an article published in the paper, they also soon caught the eye of Lion Magazine. "They put us right on the front page," grins Mr. Draper.

The November 2018 edition of Lions Magazine featured a reprint of that story.

"You have to give back to the community," noted Mr. Draper as to his personal reasons for joining the club. "A person gets a really good feeling from helping to make your community a better place," continues Mr. Draper, "Not only that," he quips, "you get to hang out with all the cool kids."

photo by Michael Erskine



Volunteer Appreciation Week

Mayor MacNevin and Council would like to recognize everyone that volunteers their time to make our community one to be proud of.

Your efforts make a world of difference
Many hands make light work!



HAPPY NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Management and staff at **Community Living Manitoulin** would like to thank those who comprise our **Board of Directors & Volunteers** who do such important work within the communities of Manitoulin.

Your generosity of time and spirit makes a profound difference.

Thank you for being the heart of our community and inspiring possibilities.



705-377-6699

WWW.CLMANITOULIN.COM

Find us on Facebook to see what we're up to!

Volunteer Week

Volunteering is a great way to meet

by Tom Sasvari

MELDRUM BAY—“There are a lot of newcomers that have moved to Manitoulin Island in recent years,” said Anne Steele-Giffin. “I would recommend that they contact a board or group and volunteer their time to a community group or activity. It is the best way to benefit your community, meet new people and make new friends.”

Ms. Steele-Giffin recently decided to move from her home in Gore Bay to the Steele family home in Meldrum Bay. “I love Meldrum Bay; it is so peaceful. I am selling my house in Gore Bay and moving here on a permanent basis.”

Ms. Steele-Giffin is a member of the Dawson Citizens Improvement Association (DCIA) board, having joined a couple of years ago.

She also volunteered for Gore Bay Child Care after working in the agency for many years. “We started the Gore Bay Child Care in 2007,” said Ms. Steele-Giffin. She worked for years as an assistant supervisor and as a pedagogical lead, retiring from Gore Bay Child Care in 2019. “But I came back to volunteer as a member of the board and have done so since 2020, having served as chair for a year-and-a-half. I like being a member of the board and assisting the organization.”

“I have been a member of the DCIA board for two-and-a-half years,” said Ms. Steele-Giffin. She explained there are seven members of the board. “Since there is no government council here, the DCIA does the job a town clerk or town staff would do for the community. We run the marina, Breakwater Park Campground (which has 17 sites) and the (Meldrum Bay) Community Hall.”

“It can be a lot of work, but I get to work with great people that volunteer their time, in helping to maintain all three sites, and for instance cooking at special events,” said Ms. Steele-Giffin. “As a board we hire the marina manager and people to run the campgrounds.”



Meldrum Bay resident Anne Steele-Giffin is a volunteer with the Dawson Citizens Improvement Association (DCIA) and Gore Bay Child Care.

“We are hoping that with the marina it will hopefully be busier this year with COVID seemingly over,” said Ms. Steele-Giffin.

“I feel volunteering in your community is important,” said Ms. Steele-Giffin. “It is sometimes difficult getting enough people to serve on a board. Yes, it can be time consuming, especially for a small group of people because there are fewer people to do all the work, but it is gratifying to help out and know that you are helping the community.”

“Most of the time we meet monthly. But DCIA is much more hands on than a lot of groups because we have the marina, hall and campgrounds,” said Ms. Steele-Giffin. “I certainly enjoy being a volunteer. It is nice to be around people who have the same vision, commitment and interest in common.”

“Volunteering gives you the chance to do something for the community, that benefits the community,” added Ms. Steele-Giffin.



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK SEMAINE NATIONALE D'APPRECIATION DES BÉNÉVOLES

**MZAWE-KING WENPASH NETAA-NAADMAAGEJIG
GCHI-APIITENMAADAA NONGWA GE-BI-BMIDEG!**



MPP MICHEL MANTHA | ALGOMA-MANITOULIN | MICHAELMANTHA.COM

*Thank you!
Merci!
Miigwech!*

Community spirit is alive and well in Central Manitoulin, with events, celebrations, festivals, and community suppers always coming up soon. Perhaps more than anything else it's these friendly, volunteer-led events that build the memories that create a sense of community.



The Municipality of Central Manitoulin wishes to express our sincere gratitude to the volunteers who take the time to volunteer for the betterment of our community.



Manitoulin Centennial Manor Thanks Our Many Volunteers



The volunteers at Manitoulin Centennial Manor combine their skills, knowledge, talent and experience in order to enhance the lives of our residents.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life. From our resident art program, to our pastoral caregivers, and our wonderful auxiliary members, every volunteer is valuable and valued.

Our volunteers are the backbone of our programming department, providing one-on-one visitation, library visits, pet therapy visits and assisting with general programs and social activities, just to name a few of their contributions.

New volunteers are always welcome!





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

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board staff would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers in our communities ~

~ for all your efforts this week, and throughout the year,

WE THANK YOU!



Volunteer Week

Marlene Moore is a serial volunteer

by Alexia Hannigan
PROVIDENCE BAY—Marlene Moore was born and raised in Providence Bay and has been a volunteer in her home community for many years.

“I personally can’t remember a township event where I haven’t seen her smiling face and seen her giving a helping hand,” said local resident Daniel Gilchrist.

I asked Ms. Moore what it takes to be a good volunteer and what was the driving force behind her getting involved in giving back.

“My mother used to go door to door canvassing for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and one day she mentioned they needed some volunteers to help with their fundraising,” said Ms. Moore. “That’s how it all started.”

She never looked back. Her involvement in her community has always been at the forefront. Marlene’s ability to reach people paired with her generous and playful spirit has led to a lifelong connection to her community.

“My daughter was a Girl Guide for many years and my son was a Boy Scout as well, so my kids also got involved in giving back to the community this way,” said Ms. Moore. “The Girl Guides always needed guide leaders, so I got involved with all of it.”

Ms. Moore was soon appointed district commissioner of the New Sudbury Girl Guides and oversaw many of the mentoring and leadership roles. “I enjoyed doing this, it is very rewarding seeing kids go from Brownies to Sparks and to eventually oversee them take on those leadership roles themselves.”

Ms. Moore mentioned she is really happy to see some of the local kids in the community getting directly involved in volunteering in things like church cleanup and the annual turkey supper. “You don’t need too much formal training to be a volunteer, you just need to be kind. Kindness is key.”

“Everyone in this town volunteers,



Providence Bay resident Marlene Moore is a very active volunteer in her home community.

photo by Alexia Hannigan

and I am proud to report that community support is alive and well in Providence Bay,” said Ms. Moore. She mentioned that she earned a 25-year volunteer certificate from the Heart and Stroke Foundation and has even tried her hand as an assistant ringette coach and assistant youth soccer coach over the years. “Those roles involved a little more training, but most organizations will give you the training, tools and know-how to get directly involved.”

She has often learned from other volunteers and coaches. “The greatest part of it is people remember you, it’s a great way to meet people and a great way to expand your networking and build confidence.”

An active member of Community of Christ Church, an active volunteer and an integral part of her home community of Providence Bay, Ms. Moore enjoys helping others. When she is not volunteering, she enjoys time with family and friends and handcrafts beautiful and unique handknit and crocheted toys, clothing and apparel that she showcases in many local and Island events, markets and trade shows. Providence Bay is blessed to have such a kind, generous and creative spirit as you, Marlene. Well done!



Township of
BILLINGS

In Billings Township our volunteers make a vibrant and successful community.



National Volunteer Week

Mayor, Council and Staff thank all of our volunteers for your many contributions.



THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ASSINACK

is proud to acknowledge its many volunteers who help to make Assinack a vibrant and caring community.

We acknowledge that without these efforts, our community would not be the dynamic and spirited one that it is.

We appreciate this opportunity to say

Thank You!



Volunteer Week

Volunteerism fills a person's heart

by Michael Erskine

AUNDECK OMNI KANING—Katherine Barnes-Edwards comes from a long line of volunteers in her community. Since returning to Aundeck Omni Kaning 20 years ago, she has become a very familiar face during funerals. In fact, Chief Patsy Corbiere notes that “she is there at practically every funeral. She is amazing.”



Katherine Barnes-Edwards is a welcome sight at Aundeck Omni Kaning funerals.

Ms. Edwards' family has a long tradition of helping to support people in her community during their darkest hours. “My grandmother and grandfather always did the last meal,” she noted.

By preparing meals for the family, the bereaved are able to focus on saying their last goodbyes to their loved ones, she explains. “They are going through a very difficult time; families don't need to be worrying about making meals. It just takes three days out of my life.” Ms. Edwards notes that funerals in her First Nation community last for three days.

“When I came back to the community, I guess I just thought it was my role and responsibility,” said Ms. Edwards. “It is the little bit I can give back.”

She once did her volunteer work in the company of her mother. “But she is too old now,” explains Ms. Edwards. “So it falls to my role as the baby of the family.”

Of course, community volunteers in one regard do tend to be volunteers in others.

“I help out with a lot of other things in the community,” she said. “It makes my

heart feel good to be helping others. It fills my heart.”

When it comes to “heart,” volunteers like Ms. Edwards tend to wear theirs on their sleeves and her empathy shines through during her conversation with The Expositor.

Ms. Edwards suggests that anyone who is willing to volunteer in their community step up to do so. “It doesn't have to be making meals for those families dealing with a funeral,” she said. There is always plenty of opportunity to help make a difference in your community.

Katherine Barnes-Edwards of Aundeck Omni Kaning has been helping out in her community for over two decades. She is often to be found cooking meals for bereaved families who are dealing with a funeral and is a familiar face at many community events.

Volunteering requires teamwork

by Margery Frisch

LITTLE CURRENT—“If you move to an area and you want to get involved, the way you do that is to engage. You join a church and get involved with the bake sales, or all the different things that come with fundraising. You put your kids in hockey and help with all the fundraising for that organization; it's just something that you do as part of the community,” Barbara Baker said.



Barb Baker is creator of the Women's Network.

photo by Margery Frisch

In 2013, Ms. Baker came back to Manitoulin Island, moving from Ottawa with her husband, Dale. She had had several strokes and was told, concerning health care, and in relation to Ottawa, she was moving to an underserved area. She is quick to point out health care on the Island was better than she received in Ottawa. This they discovered when, soon after arriving, her husband needed and received medical attention. Wanting to get involved and give back, she joined the hospital auxiliary, then the library board. When an opening came up on the hospital board, she applied. Ms. Baker sat on the hospital board until just a week ago, a 10-year period in total.

“I've been on the 4elements Living Arts board. They do land-based arts across Manitoulin,” Ms. Baker explained. “A lot of people don't even know what they do.” The possibility that they would

be shutting down if they didn't have enough board members, and because Ms. Baker couldn't bear to see them shut down, she sat on their board for a while. “I stepped off that board, just shy of a two-year period, because there are only so many hours available in the day, and so many other things I wanted to do.”

Ms. Baker created the Women's Network, the Women of Manitoulin Entrepreneur Network. It supports all women in business on Manitoulin; there are over 300 women entrepreneurs on the Island. Over COVID, the events for this organization went dormant, but she will be hosting a wine, women and networking event in May (with non-alcoholic wines). This, along with another big event that will take place in October, are keeping her busy, but what's taking up most of

her time these days is the Home, Cottage and Culinary Show that will take place in August in Little Current. This event will replace the ...continued on page 19



Volunteer Appreciation Week

Manitoulin Health Centre would like to acknowledge and thank the dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes including: the Board of Directors; Manitoulin Health Centre Auxiliary, Little Current; Mindemoya Hospital Auxiliary; and Patient & Family Advisors.



Aundeck Omni Kaning wishes to recognize the contribution of our community's volunteers. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. From the Aundeck Omni Kaning Chief and Band Council.

MIIGWETCH!

We are truly grateful.



Manitoulin Snowdusters would like to thank all the volunteers for their dedication and hard work. Thank you to all of the landowners who make the trails possible. Without these people, there would be no snowmobiling on the Island.



**Manitoulin Northshore
Victim Services**

**Thank-you Volunteers!
Merci à tous nos bénévoles!**
"Volunteering Is Empathy In Action"

April 24th - 30th is **Volunteer Appreciation Week**. Manitoulin Northshore Victim Services would like to say a huge **THANK-YOU** to our dedicated team of volunteers who make our program possible.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please call 705-370-3378.

Contact Us

Phone (24/7): 705-370-3378 or Toll-Free: 866-392-7733

Email: mnvs@vianet.ca

www.mnvictimservices.ca

Funding provided by:
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Volunteer Week

Volunteering is beneficial to the volunteers

by Tom Sasvari
MANITOWANING—Being a volunteer is beneficial not only to the community, but to the person who is volunteering their time and effort, says volunteer Alice Pennie.

"We volunteer because it's for a good cause, it's good for the community and it's good for me to keep me involved. It gives me a reason to do things and keep active."

Ms. Pennie, a Haweater, along with her husband Burke still operate a small farm in Assiginack Township.

"I have spent most of my life being on the board or taking part in the Manitoulin 4-H Association," said Ms. Pennie. "I've spent most of my life being involved in 4-H," she said, noting that she is currently the treasurer of the association. She has served as its president and in other roles over the years.

"I volunteer for the Knox United Church in Manitowaning with their rummage sales. I help with pricing and sorting of items for the sale," said Ms. Pennie. "It is such a good thing to do, and we get people from everywhere on the Island who come to purchase items, or to bring items for the sale. It also keeps recycling items from going into the local landfill."

Ms. Pennie is a mem-



Assiginack volunteer Alice Pennie with her husband Burke, who also volunteers in the community.

ber of the Manitowaning Museum Advisory Committee and a member of the Manitowaning Agriculture Society, the latter of which hosts the annual fall fair among its activities. "My family has always been involved in the fall fair. Even when we were kids we took part. It's a long-standing tradition."

Ms. Pennie and her husband Burke have four children, all who live on Manitoulin Island, although one just moved to Sudbury on a temporary basis. The couple have nine grandchildren.

"Our grandkids are all involved in sports so much, and it keeps their families very busy," said Ms. Pennie.

Ms. Pennie said volunteering "is a good way to

socialize, meet new people and make new friends. And it keeps me busy and acting in the community, to benefit the community."

"Volunteering I feel is just a part of life," stated Ms. Pennie.

"People are willing to help out if they are asked," said Ms. Pennie. "There are a lot of newcomers to the area and they would help out if they were contacted. And those that are new to the community should approach the different groups if they are interested in volunteering. All these groups could use more volunteers."

"You volunteer because it benefits the community," said Ms. Pennie. "And it is very important to

...continued on page 19

**NATIONAL
Volunteer
WEEK**



Manitoulin Family Resources is grateful for its volunteers.

Our volunteers include those who work in our food bank and thrift store and our Board of Directors...

MFR could not exist without them, and our work is done through their dedication and support.

Chi-miigwetch! Thank you!

If you are interested in becoming a MFR volunteer, please go to www.mfresources.net or call 705-368-3400, ext. 242.

* * *

Mission statement: To support individuals and families by providing resources, advocacy and education through the agency's three program areas of Violence Against Women Prevention, Children's Services and Emergency Food Assistance.



**Manitoulin
Family Resources**

Helping an organization to progress is a wonderful feeling

by Michael Erskine
SHEGUIANDAH—Veteran treasurer Ned Martin possesses a unique set of financial skills that have proven a boon to many non-profit and community service organizations over the years, both here on Manitoulin Island and the communities in which he lived before coming to the Island.

Mr. Martin, a former clerk/treasurer in Howland, going on to serve as treasurer in North-eastern Manitoulin and the Islands (NEMI) after amalgamation, currently serves as the chair of the NEMI Public Library Board, a position he has held for most of the time since he joined the board in 2016. He also served two years as the president of Little Current Minor Hockey and more than 10 years as treasurer on the Manitoulin Legal Clinic board.

Mr. Martin's volunteerism is part of a long history in his family of giving back to the community in which they reside. "My mother was part of a volunteer organization in Southern Ontario and my dad was the long-time director of a local cottagers' association," he explains. The cottagers' association was formed in order to provide for fire protection in the area. "They got together and purchased fire pumps and hoses."

Before moving to the Island, Mr. Martin was on



Ned Martin's considerable skills as a treasurer are a major boon to organizations.

the board of Kenora Community Living for many years and served as president of a local non-profit marina association. That last one proved to be quite an undertaking.

He also served for six to eight years on the board of Pines Community Resource Centre, an eight-bedroom half-way house for men in Kenora.

"Although we purchased an existing facility and were not completely starting from scratch, there was a lot of work that had to be done to get the not-for-profit set up," he recalled.

Stepping up to make a difference in the community is an important part of the mix that makes a community something special. "It's about contributing to the local community," said Mr. Martin. "If we each contribute

...continued on page 19

Snowdusters TC Poker Run fundraiser perseveres despite lack of snow

by Michael Erskine
LITTLE CURRENT—The Manitoulin Snowdusters were faced with a challenging year due to the unseasonable weather, including lack of snow this year, but remained nonetheless undaunted when it came to their fundraising activities.

Attendees at the Saturday, April 6 dinner held at the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre discovered the good news. “We had our wind up dinner for this year’s Poker Chip Run in Memory of Todd Corbiere ‘TC,’” said organizer Chris Laidley. “Although our sales were

low, our donations saved us big time.” Unfortunately, a planned dance event had to be cancelled as the numbers simply were not there. Mr. Laidley pointed out that weather and the current economic climate probably played a part in people staying closer to

home this year. Mr. Laidley noted the fact that both the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre and John Roy of Island Music Showcase did not demand a cancellation fee, helping to make the fundraising more of a success. “For everyone who was a stop on this year’s Pok-

er Chip Run, thank you for taking part in being a stop,” continued Mr. Laidley. “To everyone who has made a donation, a very big thank you. Your support is appreciated more than you can imagine.” Mr. Laidley noted that he would be picking up the poker run packages from the stops “over the next few weeks,” enabling the club to keep everything in one place.

there for those who found themselves in a transportation bind. He succumbed to cancer in 2022 after several years of valiant battle in which he refused to be daunted.

“For our Killarney stops, I will be a little longer getting down to pick up the packages (have to wait until I get the boat in the water now),” he laughed. “Let’s all hope for some snow for next year.” The Snowdusters were still able to raise \$6,074.80 before expenses and thanks to those funds, the club will be able to provide the Todd Corbiere Bursary at Manitoulin Secondary School to assist students that choose to continue their education in the trades.

This year’s Poker Chip Run winners were Martha Murray with 2,120 points, enough to grab the \$1,215.90 top prize, followed by Rob Breathe with 2,040 points winning the \$431.75 second place prize and Brooke Addison with 2,020 points to secure \$15.90 and third prize.

Non-monetary prizes such as a half-day fishing trip, Manitoulin Snowdusters sweater, snowmobile oil, beanie, water bottles, keychains and gift certificates were awarded down to 14th place.

The late Mr. Corbiere was a popular Island mechanic and outdoorsman noted for always being

In kind donations were made by The Manitoulin Expositor, Laidley Stationery and Office Furniture, Manitoulin Broadcasting (CFRM) and prizes were provided by Wheels to Water of Sheguiandah, Swing Bridge Charters, McDougall Energy and the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre.

...Volunteer Week

...Volunteering requires teamwork, says Barb Baker

...continued from page 17

Manitoulin Trade Fair on the weekend that would have featured Manitoulin Country Fest. This event is hoping to fill in the gap for that summer weekend spot. “The town came up with this idea, Lisa Hallaert runs all the events for NEMI, but I’m running the culinary part of the event,” Ms. Baker said. “We’re potentially expecting 7,000-10,000 people,” she added.

“I’ve always been involved, no matter where I’ve lived. Whether you’re baking cookies for the cookie walk or decorating smiley faces on Tim Horton cookies, or making casseroles, you just do stuff. But it’s not just me, it’s always a team. You don’t do any of this stuff without all the other people who make it work.”

Cottage and Culinary show happening in August and promises to put out a call in the not-too-distant future. “You can support your community in a variety of ways,” she said. “If all these people who give their time didn’t come together, funding opportunities that allow many organizations to exist wouldn’t be there. You wouldn’t have a hockey club or figure skating, baseball or soccer.” Her message is clear: get involved.

Speaking of volunteering, Ms. Baker stressed there will be a need for many volunteers for the Home,

...Volunteering can be beneficial to the volunteer themselves

...continued from page 18

keep groups and activities going in the community,” she said noting, “the fall fair will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in a couple of years. It is

important to keep events like this going+ and have activities for everyone to take part in.”

members indicating they want to be involved,” continued Ms. Pennie.

“If anyone wants to get involved in the agricultural society, they should contact one of the board

Ms. Pennie added, “The Municipality of Assinick has partnered with the Manitowaning Agricultural Society and we

are now having euchre parties once a week on Tuesday afternoons at the arena in Manitowaning. It’s a great way to socialize and make new friends.”

...Helping an organization to progress is a wonderful feeling

...continued from page 18

to the community we live in, that makes for a better community to live in.”

As for the personal rewards he attains from volunteering, he points to his current efforts on behalf of the library.

“It is so very gratifying to see how the library has expanded,” said Mr. Martin. “By bringing in new people, finding the right people and op-

portunities, the library now offers so much to the community.”

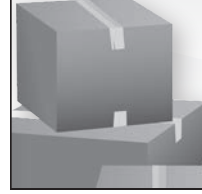
Mr. Martin’s family has followed in his footsteps when it comes to volunteering. His daughter Oona served as student council president at Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) and his youngest, April, was also a student council vice president and co-president, while son Jay lends his musical talents with a group of young collaborators.

His wife Judith, an internation-

ally renowned fibre artist, was the lead on a massive community quilting project with the Little Current United Church—a project that went on to encompass some three years and produced a series of quilts.

Mr. Martin noted that the satisfaction and sense of accomplishment that accompanies volunteering in the community is more than enough reward and something that he highly encourages anyone to take up.

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...Ontario decrees intimate partner violence an epidemic

...continued from page 1 including passing Bill 173 through third reading and royal assent.”

“Survivors, families impacted by IPV, advocates and service providers have called for the implementation of these recommendations since the 2022 release of the Culleton, Kuzyk and Warmerdam Inquest Report, which presented the recommendation to declare IPV an epidemic,” the Coalition release continues.

“As service providers, we see every day the impacts of intimate partner and gender-based violence, and we know that supporting those fleeing violence means going beyond providing immediate shelter, but also wrap-around trauma-informed, culturally appropriate supports, such as mental health services, housing acquisition support, and referrals to lawyers, doctors and childcare. We

know that in order to end this violence we must address the root causes of it,” the release explains.

“We also know that you cannot change what you refuse to name. We are pleased to see the government shift its position on declaring IPV an epidemic, in no small part due to advocacy of survivors and gender-based violence sector,” the Coalition said.

The Coalition release adds, “While yesterday posed a critical step forward, we are keeping a close eye on the bill’s progress and recognize it needs to happen in tandem with a series of supports to address this epidemic meaningfully. Our work is far from over, but today we emerge with a renewed sense of hope and determination to see a world free from gender-based violence, in all its forms.”

Michael Mantha, MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin stated, “Absolutely, I sup-

port declaring that IPV is an epidemic. Too many in these situations are dying. The problem is that when people in this type of situation want to escape these environments their options are limited, the resources are not always there to help them. They feel trapped. They want to and try to step away from the situation they are in, but they find that resources to help them are limited and the process through the courts is slow and tedious.”

“It is essential that (IPV) is declared an epidemic,” said MPP Mantha. “But the government now wants to have more discussions on this issue instead of taking action now. Everything has been discussed, researched and recommendations have been made. This needs to be moving ahead now.”

“It needs to happen now,” said MPP Mantha. “It’s nice that the government says it is in agree-

ment, but implement it, make the declaration and get on with taking action. Other provinces have done this. Ontario should be a leader on this and take action now.”

NDP health critic and Nickel Belt MPP France Gelinas told CTV News last Wednesday that with the provincial government announcing that it will support an NDP bill proposing that (IPV will be declared an epidemic), the move will be a big win when it receives third reading.

On Wednesday of last week, NPD leader Marit Stiles posed the question, asking if the bill would be passed. “To everyone’s amazement their (government) answer was yes, they will vote in favour of the bill,” Ms. Gelinas told CTV. “The bill is simple. It’s one line, that Ontario will declare IPV an epidemic.”

By declaring IPV an epidemic, survivors would receive more resources, support, and services. “There should be support systems for that woman

who is facing that situation, that they don’t have to be homeless, that there’s a shelter in place for them, that there’s a place that can support them and their children until they’re on their feet again,” MPP Gelinas told CTV. She told CTV, “It’s important because it has the opportunity to trigger a whole lot of changes that are within the Ontario government’s mandate to help survivors of intimate partner violence.”

European court backs Swiss senior women in landmark climate rights case

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
EUROPE—In a groundbreaking decision, Europe’s highest human rights court ruled in favour of a group of 2,000 Swiss women, all aged 64 and older, who accused their government of failing to adequately address the impacts of climate change. The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) sided with the women, stating that the Swiss government’s inaction violated their rights under the European Convention on Human Rights.

The case, brought by KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz (Association of Senior Women for Climate Protection Switzerland), highlighted the increased vulnerability of senior citizens to extreme heat and other climate-related health risks. Citing reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the women argued that the Swiss government’s failure to combat climate change disproportionately endangered their lives and well-being.

In her ruling, ECHR President Siofra O’Leary emphasized the urgent

need for action, stating that future generations would suffer the consequences of present failures to address climate change. While the court cannot dictate specific policies, the verdict requires the Swiss government to revise its climate strategies to align with scientific recommendations.

This landmark ruling not only holds implications for Switzerland but also sets a precedent for climate-related litigation across Europe and beyond. The decision underscores the intersection of climate change and human rights, signaling a shift towards greater accountability for governments and corporations in addressing the climate crisis.

The Swiss case is part of a broader trend of climate litigation worldwide. As of 2022, over 2,000 climate-related cases have been filed in more than 65 jurisdictions globally, reflecting growing efforts to hold entities accountable for their contributions to climate change. From youth-led challenges in Canada to lawsuits against governments and corporations, climate litigation is increasingly seen as a tool for driving policy reform and ensuring environmental justice.

Seven young individuals in Ontario have taken legal action against the government in a bid to hold them accountable for what they perceive as human rights violations stemming from inadequate responses to the climate crisis. This initiative reflects a global trend where young people are increasingly resorting to the courts to challenge governments on climate-related issues.

Assisted by the environmental law organization EcoJustice, these individuals presented their case before the Ontario Court of Appeal on January 15. This move comes after an earlier dismissal of their constitutional challenge in April 2023, where a judge acknowledged deficiencies in the province’s emissions reduction plan.

“Our applicants appealed the lower court’s decision that Ontario’s law didn’t violate charter rights. The appeals court agreed with scientific consensus and also recognized that the youth, especially Indigenous youth, are affected disproportionately,” said Fraser Thomson, the lawyer from EcoJustice who represents the youth.

“The highest court of Europe has joined a chorus of judges around the world to set and implement decisions that are consistent with what is an existential threat to our most cherished rights.”

The roots of this case trace back to 2018 when Ontario’s newly elected Progressive Conservative government dismantled legislation supporting emissions reduction through a cap-and-trade system. Subsequently, emissions targets were adjusted, raising concerns among the plaintiffs about the government’s commitment to combating climate change.

Ranging from 16 to 28 years old and representing diverse backgrounds, they provided expert evidence suggesting that the new emission targets would lead to significant additional emissions. They contend that such high emission levels violate their Charter rights to life and equality, particularly emphasizing the disproportionate impact on young people who will bear the brunt of climate change.

Mr. Thompson told The Expositor that despite the landmark ECHR win in Switzerland that the impacts will be felt globally, as it affirms the scientific consensus and that Canadian courts have looked to European court decisions in the past. He also hopes that this victory for climate activists continues to inspire citizens to hold their governments to account and that “climate litigation is something to be optimistic about, that it will help us to move to make some positive change.”

Despite initial setbacks, the plaintiffs view this case as historic, marking the first instance in Ontario where a court recognized the capacity to hear a Charter-based challenge related to climate targets. This decision has since influenced a Federal Court of Appeal ruling, allowing 15 young people to reopen a constitutional challenge against the Canadian government’s response to climate change. The group of youth is awaiting the Court of Appeals decision and the youth hope that the decision is made in their favour.

If the province of Ontario chooses to appeal the pending decision, Mr. Thomson said there may be an opportunity to bring the case to the Supreme Court.



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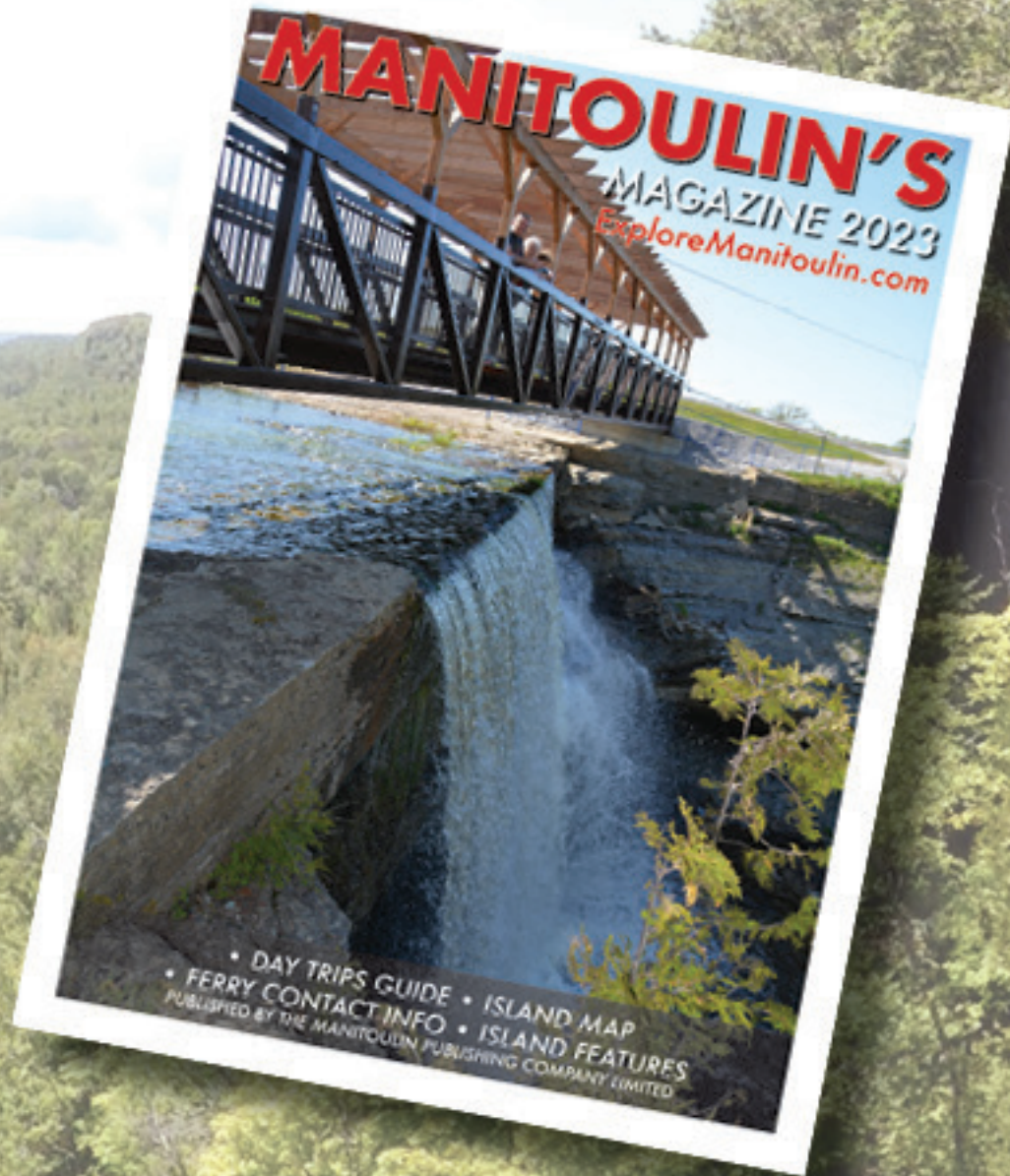


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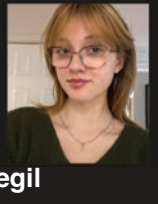
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M.S.S. Kids in the Halls



by Alexandra Wilson-Zegil

Welcome back to another week at MSS! As always, activities and extracurriculars are always in abundance, especially as we begin to enter into the warmer weather.

Last Thursday, April 11 and Friday, April 12, the cafeteria was closed. But fear not! A hot dog sale and soup saved the day. Soup Day is a weekly tradition at MSS. Every Friday, different groups of students, teachers and staff come together and make soup for the student body. Initially organized by Mr. Balfe, Soup Day has gained popularity through soup-themed parodies of songs on the announcements and the free, warm soup at lunch. Now students with different interests and backgrounds all come together and share a meal on Fridays.

MSS's robotics team is going places—literally! On Tuesday, April 16, Manitoulin Metal packed up and headed off to the FIRST Robotics World Championship in Houston, Texas. This is a major competition where top robotics teams from around the globe come together to showcase their skills. Manitoulin Metal has been working hard all year to produce a competition-worthy robot and experimenting with technologies like a swerve drive, CAD and pneumatics. Good luck in Texas, Manitoulin Metal!

Tennis tryouts have officially kicked off, and the gym doors have a sign-up sheet posted for interested players. Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting out, tryouts are a great opportunity to show off your skills and join a fantastic team. Don't miss out!

During the hot dog sale on Thursday, April 11, there was a karaoke party in the cafeteria. Students gathered to watch their peers and even some staff members sing their hearts out. Karaoke is always highly anticipated at MSS and has recently become a monthly tradition.

There are always opportunities for students to get involved outside of their academics whether it is in robotics, soup-making, sports or event-planning.

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

NDP secures an increase to the volunteer firefighter tax credit

NORTHERN ONTARIO—New Democrats have announced that after years of pushing the Liberals to act, the NDP has secured an increase to the tax credit for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue personnel.

"We have so many unsung heroes in Northern Ontario who give their time doing volunteer firefighting," said NDP MP Charlie Angus (Timmins-James Bay). "They deserve to be recognized and supported. This is why New Democrats have led the fight for an increase in the tax credit to volunteer firefighters."

"I am proud of the work the NDP caucus has done to fight for this increase to give respect to our community members. Rural communities are often ignored by Ottawa, but today that is changing thanks to New Democrats," said MP Angus.

For years, the NDP has called for increasing the Firefighter Tax Credit to give volunteer firefighters some financial help and additional training. In 2021, NDP MP Gord Johns brought forward a bill to help volunteer firefighters and search and rescue teams with growing costs, measures to encourage hiring and retention by increasing their tax credit.

In February, NDP MP Carol Hughes (Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing) tabled a petition for the tax credit, and on April 10, the NDP delivered.

"Rural communities have always depended upon the selfless work of volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers," said MP Hughes. "We are so very fortunate to have these individuals who provide essential services while putting their lives on the line to help and protect our communities. It's a good day for firefighters and search and rescue volunteers. New Democrats will keep fighting to improve the lives of people who do so much for our communities."

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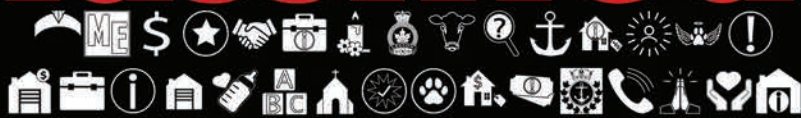
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SATURDAY April 20th
2 p.m.

Tickets \$20. Children 12 & under free

\$ for sale

Ferguson tractor, 25 HP, new tires and back rims, rebuilt carb and tuned up. Asking \$3,200 OBO. Call Charlie, 705-368-0089. **47-48p**

livestock

25, two-year-old and yearling Charolais bulls. Call 705-282-7371 after 7 pm. **46-51c**

Robinson Fire weather station request denied

by Tom Sasvari
SILVER WATER—The Robinson Township volunteer fire department has been turned down in its request for the installation of a weather monitoring station to keep track of the fire hazard in the township.

“We had requested support for a weather monitoring station to be installed in the community so that we could monitor the forest fire hazard levels in the township and area,” stated Doug Wismer, fire chief of the

Robinson Township Volunteer Fire Department. “Having this information is part of the criteria used by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to decide if they are going to apply for a restricted fire zone, which last year covered the entire Northeast region of Ontario, or establish a fire ban through the Ontario Fire Marshall (OFM) office,” said Mr. Wismer. “We have to apply to OFM and MNRF for support on these actions.” Mr. Wismer said the

Robinson Township Fire Department “was turned down on its application for the weather monitoring station by the MNRF. Their (MNRF) records indicate that we have only had five fires in the township since 1989. I counted 20 fires over that same time period. They didn’t have a record of all the other fires including a large fire which took place in the late 1990s where water bombers were brought in and the fire was heading straight for the Zhiibaahaasing First Nation.”

“I have sent back an email response to their letter providing the information on the fires we responded to (since 1989), and asking them to contact someone higher up the ladder of the ministry for consideration on our request,” said Mr. Wismer.

EARTH DAY
Event 2024

Saturday, April 20th
Billings Township, Kagawong Park Centre

If you are interested in taking part in the all-day “Junk In Your Trunk” Sale, please contact Vince Grogan at vgrogan@billingstwp.ca

Events

Morning

- Community Garbage Cleanup
- Children’s crafts from recycled products

All Day

- Junk In Your Trunk Sale
- Vendors and discussion panels

rental

rental

FOR RENT
2 BED, 1 BATH (only 1 left!)
New construction (with stairs) 4-plex at 473 Queensway in Espanola. Available May or June for \$2,150 plus utilities; includes appliances +. **Call/Text Olivadel Developments 705-863-0487**

services

rental

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

One bedroom fully furnished apartment for rent on the waterfront in Little Current. Move in condition with fully-equipped kitchen, bedroom. Bathroom linen supplied. Washer and dryer on premises. Suitable for single, nonsmoker quiet person with references. One parking space. \$1,450 per month, utilities, satellite TV and Starlink highspeed internet included. First and last required. Available May 1. Call 705-690-4194. **48-49p**

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

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

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

coming events

An evening of Contemporary Inspirational Music, Saturday, April 26 at 7 pm at St. John’s Anglican Church, Kagawong. Refreshments provided, donations appreciated. Proceeds of fundraiser to repair stained glass window. **tfn**

Knox United Church rummage sale in Manitowaning is open Wednesdays to Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm. Clothing, shoes, books, household and miscellaneous items. **47-49p**

Manitoulin Community Choir in concert Friday, May 3 at 7:30 pm in the Kagawong Park Centre and Sunday, May 5 at 2:30 pm at the Spring Bay Church. Admission is \$10 each or \$25 for a family. Or attend our dress rehearsal by donation on Tuesday, April 30 at 7:15 pm at the Kagawong Park Centre. **48-49c**

Legion events

Come join the Little Current Royal Canadian Legion, 15 Vankoughnet St. West, for a breakfast brunch on Sunday, May 5 from 10 am to 1 pm. \$10 per person. **47-50p**

yard sale

Yard sale at the Little Current United Church on Thursday, April 25 from 8 am to 4 pm; Friday, April 26 from 8 am to 4 pm; Saturday, April 27 from 8 am to 12 noon. Money earned goes to the Little Current United Church and Mission and Service. Something for everyone! **47-49p**

Lyons Memorial United Church in Gore Bay is holding a Spring Rummage Sale on Friday, April 26 from 9 am to 1 pm and Saturday, April 27 from 9 am to 12 noon. This sale will include everything we have! Something for everyone, spring and summer clothing, linens, books, houseware, yard stuff and more. Donations will be accepted at the back of the church Monday through Wednesday, during sale week between 9 am and 12 noon. Thank you, we couldn’t have a sale without our many terrific supporters who drop off their donations. Proceeds go toward our Community Outreach Programs. We hope you can drop by and pick up some nice items. See you at the sale! **48-49p**

services

Are you a cancer patient undergoing or recovering from treatment? Are you a cancer survivor, a family caregiver or supporting someone with cancer? The Manitoulin Cancer Support Group (MCSG) may provide you with resources and opportunities to share experiences as well as give or receive support with others who have travelled this similar cancer journey. This group is open to anyone with any type of cancer, is free to join and will be rotated to different parts of the Island. This group will alternate meetings on weekdays and weekends. The schedule is as follows: Sunday May 26 at the Gore Bay Legion, 2 to 4 pm. Wednesday, June 26 at the Mindemoya Town Chambers, 2 to 4 pm. No meeting in July. Sunday, August 25 at the Manitowaning Family Health Team 2 to 4 pm. For more information please contact: Terry Mackenzie, 705-507-0433, tandjmackenzie@hotmail.com; Bonnie Young, 705-377-4998; Ann Cranston, 705 282-7531, bnann@gmail.com. **tfn**

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

church services

King James Bible Church, Providence Bay worships every Saturday Sabbath, 10 am to 12 noon. For more information call 705-348-2229. **30tfn**

Looking for a new career? Check out The Expositor’s Lifestyles section

notice

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

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**

Cash for your older road car sedan, six to 10 years, Cadillac, Chrysler, Buick etc. Call 705-988-4926. **48-49c**

in memoriam

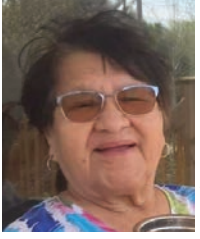
FERGUSON—In memory of Mike Ferguson, August 28, 1952 to April 17, 2019. Our lives go on without you, And nothing is the same. We have to hold the heartache, When someone speaks your name. Silent are the tears that fall And living our lives without you Is the hardest part of all. The special years will not return, When we were all together. But with the love within our hearts, You will walk with us forever. Dorothy, Ellen, Garry, Russ, Cheryl and the grandchildren **48p**

Death Notices

JESSIE DOROTHY HARDISTY

(Memengwaa Kwe)

December 29, 1947 - April 8, 2024



Jessie Hardisty (Stoneypoint) of Sagamok passed away suddenly at the St. Joseph's Hospital in Elliot lake, Ontario on April 8, 2024 at the age of 76. Dear daughter of the late Ignatius and Helen (nee Southwind) Sagajeowesa. Beloved wife of the late William Hardisty Senior. Loving mother of Geraldine, Serina (Jonathan), William Junior and Orest (Amanda) all of Sagamok. Fostermom to Calvin, Darren, Allison and Lisa. Cherished by her grandchildren Brent (Malina), Jessica (Nathan), Carrie-Lynn, William, Helena, Oakley (predeceased), Owen, and Trinity. Cherished great-grams to Shay-Lynn, Michael, Lathan (predeceased), Noah, Lilou, Connor (predeceased), Cooper, Alexander, Emily, Lily, Ari and her fur baby makoons. Dear sister to Angeline (predeceased), Gerogina (late Charles), Doris (predeceased), Rosella (predeceased), Joseph, Felix (Rhonda), Clement (Wilma), Peter (predeceased), Robert (Kimberly) and Freddy (predeceased). Survived by her brother-in-law Edward (Barb) Hardisty; reunited with her beloved sisters-in-law Clara, Janey, Doreen Hardisty and brother-in-law George Chum of Moose Factory. She will be missed by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends from all over Turtle Island. Jessie was well known by many across the country, everywhere she traveled she met friends along the way, she spread so much of her love and friendship everywhere, no matter what. She worked over 40 years as a cook at Sagamok Daycare, business owner of Meedjim for 35 years, many years dedicated to Sagamok Anishnawbek as Councillor and Elders Council. A board member of Anishnabemowin Teg for the language conference and pow wow committee member and feast cook in the early 90s. She enjoyed the work of revitalizing our language and culture in Sagamok. Jessie was a good hearted woman, greatest cook and a fluent Anishnabemowin speaker. Family and friends gathered at the Indian Head pavilion park on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 4:45 pm and bringing her home to her residence at 701 Sagamok Road, rested for one night before bringing her to the New Community Hall on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 11 am. The funeral was on Friday, April 12, 2024 St. Raphael's Church at 11 am. Arrangements by Bourcier Funeral Home. Thank you to Sagamok Anishnawbek, St. Joseph's Hospital, and Eagle Lodge staff for your support and kindness during this time. Chi- Miigwetch.

RONALD LAWRENCE HUGHSON

"Ronnie"

September 24, 1941 - April 2, 2024



In loving memory of Ronnie Hughson, who passed away peacefully in his sleep at the Mindemoya Hospital on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at the age of 82. He was the beloved son of the late Lawrence and Beulah Hughson (nee Connor). Loving brother of Nola (Floyd) Noble (both predeceased), Clive (Bev) Hughson (both predeceased), Eric (predeceased) (Eila) Hughson and Blake (Roberta) Hughson. He will be greatly missed by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Ronnie was an unforgettable man. He was a man who knew what he wanted and knew how to get it. He enjoyed spending time with his family and was always up for an adventure. He liked sitting around a campfire reminiscing about the good old days and going out for rides on the ATV. He always had a four-legged companion. You could always get him to go hunting or fishing and if you needed a good tale, he always had a good hunting story. The family would like to thank all of his healthcare providers from the Assinack Health Team, Little Current and Mindemoya Hospitals, VON and the Manitoulin Lodge as well as Knox United Church and the Island Funeral Home for their help with Ronnie's service. Ronnie will be laid to rest in Hilly Grove Cemetery. Family and friends will gather for a time to share stories at the Knox United Church in Manitowaning on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at 11 am. Donations may be made to a charity of your choice. Please share your thoughts, memories and photos at www.islandfuneralhome.ca.

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MORRIS EMERY

April 12, 1937 - April 8, 2024



In loving memory of Morris Emery, who quietly passed away on Monday, April 8, 2024, in his 87th year at the Mindemoya Hospital with family by his side. Morris was born in Gore Bay and relocated to Toronto as a young man. Initially residing at his uncle George's ("Tuck") home on Wellesley Street (a home to many young Haweaters). During this time, Morris met the love of his life, Mary Lou. Morris instilled a strong work ethic for his family. He provided for his family by initially driving truck and later as a bus transit driver. As a boy, Morris spent many hours hunting and fishing with his childhood friend (and later best man) Sam Cook. Dad continued his lifelong passion of hunting and continued to hunt as recently as last fall. He was fortunate to take an early retirement and returned to Manitoulin approximately 30 years ago. Morris was a social butterfly and an avid story teller. He greatly enjoyed playing horseshoes with the M'Chigeeng Rainbow Ringers and playing pool at the Gore Bay Seniors Drop Inn and Spring Bay pool club. His granddaughters were his pride and joy. He was excited and thrilled to watch them play in a ringette tournament a few weeks ago. Morris will be deeply missed by his daughter Deborah and son Douglas (Connie). He will be sadly missed by brothers Fred and Jim; sister Catherine (Ron) Lucibello; his cherished granddaughters Julianne and Madeleine; niece Brenda; nephew Michael (Rose) and grand-nephew Christian. Morris will be missed by numerous cousins and friends of all ages. Predeceased by his beloved wife of 61 years Mary Lou, daughter Carol and his parents Andrew and Angeline Emery. The family would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Mindemoya Hospital staff for their compassionate care of Morris, especially Dr. M. Al Hadi, Dr. R. Gillanders, nurses Julia, Bridgette and Sherry. In addition, a special thank you to Dr. C. Wilson for taking care of dad over the years. At Morris's request, cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 11 am at Simpson Funeral Home, 3 McQuarrie Blvd., Gore Bay. Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) as expressions of sympathy or charity of choice and may be made at www.simpsonfuneralhome.ca.

To My Father

*A giant pine, magnificent and old,
Stood staunch against the sky and all around
Shed beauty, grace and power.
Within its fold birds safely reared their young.
The velvet ground beneath was gentle,
and the cooling shade gave cheer to passers-by.
Its towering arms a landmark stood, erect and unafraid,
As if to say, "Fear nought from life's alarms".
It fell one day.
Where it had dauntless stood was loneliness and void.
But men who passed paid tribute – and said,
"To know this life was good,
It left its mark on me. Its work stands fast".
And so it lives. Such life no bonds can hold –
This giant pine, magnificent and old.*

Simpson
Funeral Home Limited

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, P0P 1H0 and the Manitoulin Centennial Manor Fundraising or Manor Auxiliary, Postal Bag 460, 10 Robinson Street, Little Current, Ontario, P0P 1K0. Donations can also be made to the Manitoulin District Cenotaph Fund, Box 656, Little Current, Ontario P0P 1K0 or Pet Save Manitoulin, Box 393, Gore Bay, Ontario P0P 1H0.

**Remember your loved ones fondly in
The Manitoulin Expositor**

In Memoriam or Obituaries

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



Manitoulin Health Centre Auxiliary News

The March meeting focussed on regular reports, the most recent fundraiser, future plans and comments on ongoing activities.

Highlights from regular reports include the financial status of In Memoriam, rip-it tickets and the general account, a new member joining and the resumption of tuck cart services on the floor until the end of June. It's called 'tuck cart a go-go.' Sincere thank you to Shirley McGregor (Tuesdays) and Tooti Blake (Thursdays). Many positive comments have been received.

Great news—success!

To all who generously pledged and the rockers in the recent Rock-a-Thon we raised \$6,609. Thank you. Public support made it happen. It is encouraging that even in tough times you realize the need to support volunteer groups. Please continue to support the Auxiliary as we enhance patient services. With the \$6,609 raised and balance from In Memoriam we are able to purchase the new vital signs monitor. The official presentation will be later this month. Sincere thanks to St. Bernard's Catholic Church for the use of their facility at no charge and to Carole Labelle for organization of the event.

A May dinner is planned for Saturday, May 25 at 6 pm at the United Church. The menu includes ham, potato salad, pasta salad, green salad, coleslaw, dessert and refreshments. The cost is \$20. Tickets will be available from members.

The ongoing activities include the rip-it lottery, coin boxes the tuck cart and showcase. Traffic at the tuck cart room is slow. However, smiles are evident when a big winner opens up \$50 or \$100. Even \$1 is great as most opt for two free tickets. Thanks to the regulars who help keep the auxiliary keeping on. The tuck cart room is open from 11 am to 1 pm from Tuesday to Friday. The cart is well stocked with yummys and free books. The showcase is open for sales through staff at Admitting and volunteers at regular hours. Stop and have a look! There are handmade gnomes, one of a kind oak and maple cutting boards, baby blankets, baby sets, crocheted towels, nutcrackers, books, jigsaws, yummys and other small items.

The regular and annual meetings will be held at the United Church Hall on Monday, April 22 at 7 pm. Items at the annual meeting include changes to the constitution. A two-thirds vote is required for changes so make an attempt to attend.

April is Volunteer month. The week of April 14th to 20th is designated as Volunteer Week in Ontario. The theme this year is "Every Moment Matters." Hopefully, supporter buttons will be available for a donation of your choice.

Once again, thank you from the members of the MHC Auxiliary for the phenomenal results of your support at the Rock-a-Thon. Your pledges were definitely a Moment that Mattered.



Auxiliary Rock-a-thoners use the time to cast a few rows.

United Way contribution falls short of MHC's hopes

by Michael Erskine

MANITOULIN—Like many small and rural communities, Manitoulin Island has few resources to service those in dire need. Most of those needs, such as food and shelter, fall outside of Manitoulin Health Centre's mandate (and provincial funding), even though they are often faced with the challenges of how to support and provide for the wellbeing of those who present at the hospital's two Island sites. To that end, MHC recently applied to the United Way Centraide North East Ontario (UW) seeking funding to help provide for those needs.

The response they received was not completely negative, but in the end fell far short of the need.

"We did indeed receive \$1,846 in total to go towards food-only gift cards to support persons who are underhoused, transient or transitioning and require supports upon leaving our facility," admitted Melanie Stephens, "our small way of ensuring they have access to food."

Ms. Stephens supplied that, "We had noted an increased need for supports, especially over the winter months with people who were presenting with limited access to safe housing, transportation, warm clothing and foods. Unfortunately, the only item funded were the food cards," adding diplomatically, "but it is a start and at least we are building our relationship with the UW group here in the Northeast."

Enaadmaagemgad Enzhia'yaayin program empowers Kenj students to pursue their goals

M'CHIGEENG—Kenjegin Teg recently concluded the second intake of the Enaadmaagemgad Enzhia'yaayin: Helping You on Your Path Program. Enaadmaagemgad Enzhia'yaayin is founded on the traditional medicine wheel teachings, serving as a comprehensive guide for holistic development. Aiming to help students with their emotional, spiritual, physical and mental health while providing them with tools to build their personal and professional bundle.

Each cohort of 15 dedicated participants embarks on a transformative and remarkable six-week journey.

"Witnessing their extraordinary growth, unwavering dedication, and resilient spirits fills us with immense pride," notes Dean of Post Secondary Education and Training Debbie Debasige. "These individuals' accomplishments speak volumes about their aspirations for future success."

Beyond their personal development, Enaadmaagemgad Enzhia'yaayin students have forged lifelong connections with their peers and fa-



Top row, from left, is Jody McKenzie, Jaden Plain, Ty Groulx, Jon Snache-Ferlin, Joe Migwans, Andy Stanly, Levi Aguonie, bottom row, Missy Fox, Linnea Migwans, Emily Aguonie, Celest Migwans, Raven Cheena, Marcadies Birch, Billy Tomagatic and Jane Migwans.

ilitators, further enriching their experience and fostering a supportive community within the program.

When asked about their biggest takeaway from the program, one student commented, "Being motivated and gaining confidence to return to school and go after my dreams." Another said, "Any pathway is possible, there's tons of sup-


port."

Kenjegin Teg is one of nine Indigenous Institutes in Ontario recognized under the Indigenous Institutes Act of 2017. In January 2022, Kenjegin Teg was declared an accredited Indigenous Institute in Ontario by the Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council (IAESC).

An additional four intakes for the Enaad-

maagemgad Enzhia'yaayin program will take place over the next two years; interested individuals can contact Krista Payette at kristapayette@kenjegin.org or 705-370-4342 ext. 218.





MUNICIPALITY OF CENTRAL MANITOULIN

TENDER FOR GRAVEL

Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned up to and including **May 3rd at 12:00 p.m. (noon) for:**

- Granular A
- Granular B broken 3" minus

The lowest of any tender will not necessarily be accepted and tenders are subject to the approval of Municipal Council.

Tender forms may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

Hayley Nicklasson, Administrative Assistant
P.O. Box 420
6020 Highway 542,
Mindemoya, ON
POP 1S0

Phone: (705)377-5726
Fax: (705) 377-5585
Email: hnicklasson@centralmanitoulin.ca



Application for CONSENT
Under Section 53 of the Planning Act
To be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm

File No. : Con 2024-05
Applicant: Estate of Noella Moggy
Agent: Trustee, Derrick Moggy
Legal Description: Sheguiandah Township – Lot 11 & 12 Concession 12
Official Plan: Rural
Zoning: Rural

PURPOSE OF THE APPLICATION:
The purpose of this application is to sever a 7 acre portion of property that houses a cell tower off of the total property of 200 acres.

CONSENT IS REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING:
The request is being made for the purposes of future planning by the owners and possible sale of either portion.

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


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

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

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION regarding this application is available to the public for viewing at the Municipal office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday; or you may contact Ms. Pam Myers, Clerk and Secretary-Treasurer of the Planning Authority, at (705) 368-3500 ext. 228.
Dated: April 17, 2024
Town of Northeastern Manitoulin & the Islands
14 Water St. E.; P.O. Box 608
Little Current, ON POP 1K0




MUNICIPALITY  OF ASSIGINACK

Expression Of Interest

The Township of Assiginack is currently accepting Expressions of Interest for Mobile Food Vendors on municipal property for the 2024 Season.

The deadline for applications is **Friday, May 3 at 4:00pm.**
Applications may be submitted to the Clerk via email at: hferguson@assiginack.ca or may be dropped off to the Municipal Office at 156 Arthur Street in Manitowaning by the deadline.

Questions may be directed to Heidi Ferguson at: hferguson@assiginack.ca or call (705) 859-3196.

For more information, please visit our website at: <https://www.assiginack.ca/rfp-tenders/>

BILLINGS COMMITTEE MEMBERS SOUGHT

On February 20, 2024, Township of Billings Council established an Ad-Hoc Committee to create a Municipal Owned Water System Policy.

The Committee will be tasked with:

- Developing clear procedures on "Capital Projects and Major Upgrades" to the waterlines on the Kagawong Water System;
- Considering if a water system asset management plan and water rate study should be completed and how it could be funded;
- Reviewing the current water levy and consider if the water levy should be broken down into operating and capital projects for the water plant and lift station for transparency;
- Reviewing options for implementing a capital levy that can be used to create a "water capital reserve" to offset capital costs associated with waterline replacements and upgrades for all benefiting properties.

The Township is looking for four (4) members of the community to serve on the Committee. Members must be a resident of the Township of Billings and own property that currently derives, or in the future will derive, a benefit from the Kagawong Water System.

It is expected that the committee will meet monthly at the Park Centre or by electronic means at a consistent date and time, during daytime business hours.

Applications are available on the Township of Billings website: <https://billingstp.ca/committees/>

If you are interested in this opportunity, please submit your application no later than Friday May 3rd, 2024 to tmills@billingstp.ca.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Manitoulin is being transformed with the influx of new residents and business owners who bring with them fresh ideas, experiences and perspectives that are enriching the area. Some individuals and families are still unpacking boxes, having only moved in the past month or two, while others made the move over the last few years and are now comfortably established in their new communities. Here is one of their stories.

by Heather Marshall

To say that Victor Cirone and Nadya Edelstein are passionate about homeopathy is an understatement. The couple's enthusiasm for, and profound belief in, their profession is as boundless as it is inspiring. It seems to be all they can talk about.

"It's essentially my whole life now," explains Victor, who first studied philosophy at the University of Toronto and then completed a Master's degree in the Communication and Culture programs at Ryerson and York universities before becoming seriously ill with a chronic kidney condition. "I had surgery and went through the conventional medical system, but it became clear that the underlying causes of my condition had not been adequately addressed. That entire experience initiated a deep process of self-understanding, which prompted me to explore natural healing."

Victor initially trained as a clinical herbalist and ran a general practice in herbal medicine based out of Toronto for several years. However, "after enough time working with patients, I concluded there was something missing in what I was doing. Homeopathy has a unique way of assessing and treating the origins of disease, which may reach back many generations.

NEW-ish to Manitoulin



Victor Cirone and Nadya Edelstein are passionate homeopathy practitioners and their enthusiasm for the subject is inspiring.

Homeopathy considers all aspects of the processes of health and disease, including the genetic and epigenetic levels, and recognizes that physical and mental-emotional symptoms reflect an underlying disturbance."

Victor points out that homeopathy was the first regulated healthcare profession in Canadian history and that many of Canada's early doctors were homeopaths. In 1883, for example, Dr. Emily Stowe—a homeopathic physician and the first woman in Canadian history to practice as a licensed medical doctor—founded Women's College Hospital in Toronto.

"There were numerous homeopathic hospitals and medical colleges located throughout North America. Yet it took decades for homeopathy to be a regulated healthcare profession in Ontario, which only happened in 2015."

Victor became a Registered Homeopath after completing a rigorous three-year program at the Canadian College of Homeopathic Medicine, where he studied the fundamentals of the medical sciences and took part in comprehensive clinical apprenticeships.

Victor's chosen profession, which blends both art and science, was a natural choice. His

childhood was spent immersed in the world of music, and his passion for the mysteries of nature stretches back to his earliest memories. He always had a philosophical bent that led him to want to understand the "big questions," traits well suited to his career choice.

In recent years, Victor longed to leave the city to spend more time in the countryside. The impetus to do so came about when he met his life partner. "I'm here because I met Nadya, who had already moved to Manitoulin. As our relationship developed, it became clear that Manitoulin is where I am supposed to be."

Nadya was born in Russia, which she left to study at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London in the UK. The program enabled her to pursue her interest in invisible creative impulses that underlie natural objects and beings in the world. After completing an arts education, Nadya moved to Toronto in 2014 where she continued her artistic practice and began working as a software engineer.

Nadya made the move to Manitoulin four years ago, after growing increasingly frustrated with city life. "I initially came here because of my interest in gardening and desire to live in a place where I could be surrounded by nature. I immediately fell in love with the Island, with its rich natural history and vibrant ecology. It offers tranquility that really fuels my creative impulses and lets me be myself," she says. After exploring the Island, she eventually put down roots in Tehkummah.


Nadya is currently studying homeopathy with the Canadian College of Homeopathic Medicine and is now seeing patients under clinical supervision. She says the profession satisfies

both the creative and analytical sides of her mind. "Homeopathy is ultimately a study of the totality of nature, of how natural processes and forms are reflected in states of human health and disease." Following graduation in 2025, she will run a full-time homeopathic practice on the Island and beyond. Nadya is also completing her certification in clinical herbal medicine.

In the meantime, the couple is busy building their new straw-bale home. The house will also serve as a clinic, where they will see their patients, as well as an educational hub where they will host workshops. They have already completed construction of a greenhouse where they are starting to grow their own food. "We grew greens and radishes over the winter. To our delight, it was warm enough that the plants survived," adds Nadya.

Victor and Nadya are extremely grateful to live and work on Manitoulin, which they believe offers the ideal environment for their profession and lifestyle. The two young physicians have made friends locally and quickly settled into rural living. They are committed to making Manitoulin home for the long haul.


*Heather Marshall and her husband worked as journalists and consultants in the National Capital Region for more decades than they care to admit before making their Sandfield cottage their permanent home. A life-long learner, Heather loves discovering new things and people and relishes the opportunity to write about newcomers to the Manitoulin. If you would like to share your story or know of recent arrivals we should meet, send a message to HAMarshall@proton.me



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Old Mindemoya hospital sees new life with Century 21 Realtor office

by Michael Erskine
MINDEMOYA—When Dr. Robert Davis set up practice in Mindemoya in 1919 he decided to build one of the most impressive buildings on Manitoulin. Following being purchased by the community in 1934, that building would go on to become known as the Mindemoya Red Cross Hospital where it continued to serve the Island for many years. The current Mindemoya site of the Manitoulin Health Centre saw a new hospital built in 1972, leaving its progenitor to go on under many new guises. In 1985 the Mindemoya hospital was amalgamated with the hospital in Little Current. Although remaining in good shape, in recent years the building was largely only used for storage. The current owners admit that they found being residential landlords was not their particular cup of tea—so they decided to go the commercial route.



Daniel and Melissa Nicholson, owners of the old Mindemoya Red Cross Hospital building in Mindemoya and Century 21 Realtors pose in front of the renovated historic building.

“We know there is a big demand for housing,” admitted Melissa Nicholson, who, along with husband Daniel, are the latest owners of the historic building, “but there is also a big need for commercial space as well.” A real es-

tate agent, the building Century 21 real estate houses Ms. Nicholson’s agency.

“When it was originally built by Dr. Davis it would have been one of the largest and most impressive buildings on Manitoulin,” said Ms. Nicholson.

So a new roof, courtesy of the efforts of Manitowaning’s TerraStar and Rob Maguire, was added and following a few more internal renovations, the couple’s Century 21 offices were opened in the building.

“We wanted to keep as much of the building as possible in its original configuration,” noted Ms. Nicholson, but some things had to be changed. “One of the prior owners had removed the original flooring and put in shag carpeting. We got rid of that early on and replaced it with hardwood flooring more in keeping with

what would have been there originally.”

The building has been divided into three commercial units, A, B and C, noted the owner. While things are still a bit up in the air as to what will be done with the units not needed for the Century 21 offices, a couple of things are certain. “We don’t want long-term residential rentals; that’s not feasible,” said Ms. Nicholson. “Our goal is to draw more commercial businesses to Central Manitoulin.”

In the meantime, one of the most historic and storied buildings on Manitoulin Island will go on to serve in yet another new capacity while preserving some of our Island’s heritage thanks to the ingenuity and hard work of local entrepreneurs.

Friends of Mindemoya Old School get two-year extension

by Michael Erskine

CENTRAL MANITOULIN—Central Manitoulin council debated a request from the Friends of the Mindemoya Old School (FOMOS) for a one-year extension to the milestone terms of the group’s lease on the building known as the Mindemoya Old School—historically one of the province’s first, if not first, continuation schools.

After some discussion on the motion proposed by Councillors Derek Stephens and Dale Scott, it was proposed by Councillor Brian Bisailon that the extension be for two years, an amendment seconded by Councillor Linda Farquhar.

Councillors Stephens and Scott suggested that council stick to the original request, with Councillor Scott noting that FOMOS had already applied for and received a one-year extension. A position supported by Councillor Rose Diebolt. Councillor Bisailon pointed

out that one year was too short a timeline when applying for funding and grants and insisted on the two-year extension, backed by Councillor John Mitchell.

Councillor Scott also noted that the \$500 million in repairs and the \$1.2 million total price tag for their plans was a tall order for a small community group to fill.

“Each time we change the terms of the lease we have to have lawyers involved,” he said, pointing out that legal counsel is expensive. By granting a two-year extension, council would likely be able to not expend that funding on lawyers’ fees.

In the end, Councillor Bisailon’s argument won out and the two-year extension was approved.

Councillor Stephens requested a recorded vote.

Councillors Scott, Stephens and Diebolt voted against the amended motion, while Councillors Bisailon, Farquhar, Mitchell and Mayor Richard Stephens voted in favour.

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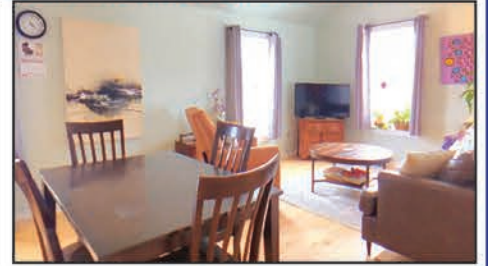
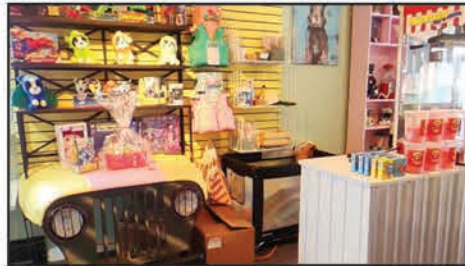
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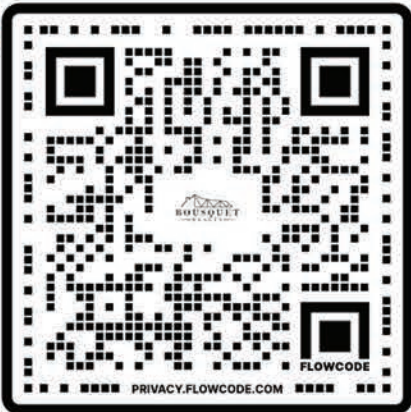
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MSS gymnasts do well at NOSSA

M'CHIGEENG—Led by one team that took first place in their division and another that finished second, the Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) Mustangs gymnastics team finished third overall at the Northern Ontario Secondary School Association (NOSSA) championships held in Sudbury last week. The entire MSS team had qualified for NOSSA at the regional qualifiers, also held in March.

At NOSSA, “Grace Pennie and Mackenzie Green were the level one team champions, marking the first time (MSS) has won a team award since the sport started at MSS in 2006-2007,” said MSS co-coach Heather Theijsmeijer. “Individually, Grace placed fourth on bars and floor, fifth on vault and beam, while Mackenzie placed fourth on vault and beam, fifth on floor and sixth on bars.”

In level two MSS team captain Maren Kasunich, Hailey Ferguson, Saraya Eshkawkogan and Aspen Debassige placed second as a team, just one point back of the level two champions. Ms. Theijsmeijer explained Ms. Kasunich won silver on vault and placed fourth on beam, Aspen placed fourth on bars and ninth on floor and Saraya placed fourth on vault and floor, sixth on bars and 10th on beam.

An overall aggregate school award is also pre-



Level One team champions include Grace Pennie, left and Mackenzie Green who took first place in their division.

sented at this meet, which takes into consideration the top two scores per school for every event in each level, for a maximum of 48 scores in total. “MSS placed a very respectable third overall, especially considering there are no MSS athletes in levels three to six,” explained Ms. Theijsmeijer.

Coaches Jill Ferguson and Ms. Theijsmeijer couldn't say enough about the tenacity and determination of this year's team. “We are the only team in the league that does not

get to regularly train on club equipment, which puts us at a disadvantage. Despite this, our athletes worked hard throughout the season, rose to the occasion at this year's meets, and fought for all their skills and landings. We are extremely proud to be representing the Island at these meets.”

Congratulations, especially to graduating gymnasts, Maren, Mackenzie, Hailey, and Saraya. You will all be missed next year!

Ko-Show to the Show!

Congratulations to **Kohyn Eshkawkogan** on the beginning of an exciting new chapter in his hockey career thanks to his tireless training. Over the weekend, the young D-man was selected in the first round by the Ottawa 67s! Affectionately dubbed the Ko-Show by his North York Rangers team thanks to his impressive play, Kohyn is not taking anything for granted. As his dad, **Kevin** pointed out the youngster, “has family in Aundeck Omni Kaning, M'Chigeeng, Little Current, Moose Factory and Wiikwemkoong, and he understands he is not just representing himself, our family, but all of those who take the time to support him. We are thankful for his Little Current Flyers, Manitoulin Panthers, and all of the Coaches and Team Managers who taught him so much and organized a tonne to make hockey happen for him and his teammates over the last 12 years.”

“As Manitoulin's first OHL First Rounder, he appreciates how hard it is to obtain good grades at The Hill Academy, train in rinks all across the GTA, play a full schedule with one of the best teams in the GTHL and in the world, but also that Manitoulin is a great place to play and develop as a hockey player and as a person.”

He spent a lot of time in the NEMI Rec Centre, the M'Chigeeng Arena, driving back and forth to Sudbury, running up McLean's Mountain, and on the outdoor rink in the backyard and AOK.

He had a personal goal to be a OHL First Rounder and he achieved it. He fully understands he has an even harder path ahead of him as he has more dreams and goals to achieve and with the right energy and effort, he will execute his plans to accomplish whatever he puts his mind to. His hard work is paying off.

Moving forward, his training starts today as he's very excited to attend the Ottawa 67's Development Camp on April 26-28th and to go for gold at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Grand Prairie from May 6th-11th. After that, it's all about finishing off the school year with good grades and ramping up for another summer of training at Gary Roberts Performance to make an impact in Ottawa at the 67's main camp in August.”

The family would like to thank everyone with a meet and greet, free skate this Saturday, April 20th from 7-9 at the M'Chigeeng Arena.

Hawks on the hunt!

It took the U18 Wiikwemkoong Hawks a little bit of a road trip but they made the most of it and brought back the hardware! The Hawks were all the way out in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan to win their tournament with a final score of 5-2. Congratulations to the team featured: **Julius Sinopole, Hudson Jocko, Keanu Bisschops, Rylin Elijah, Waaskwaabiish Jonathan, Cameron Manitowabi, Deondre Nolan, Peyton Ominika, Aaliyah Osawamick, Xavier Osawamick, Ricardo Pitawanakwat, Carlynn Simon, Darius Sinopole, Luis Sturgeon, Lennox Trudeau, Nolan Trudeau, Pahquis Trudeau, Marlin Wemigwans, Coach, Delbert Jonathan, Trainer, Jennifer Recollet and Manager Alanna Trudeau.**

Lady Panthers put a wrap on banner season!

The U-18 Panthers were a great addition to the organization for this season. A bunch of determined young women who came together to create a year to remember. Coach **Scot Hughson** has been keeping the fans in the loop and passes along this recap of the weekend/season.

“Our inaugural season has come to an end. It has been a long and winding road this year but at the end of that road we found nothing but pride and amazement.

To say that what this group accomplished on the ice this year was unbe-

lievable, would be an understatement. Having qualified for the OWA championships this past weekend in the GTA was not enough for this group of amazing young ladies. They showed up to let the hockey world know that this newly formed team is a force to be reckoned with. And they proved that with their play.

Game 1 saw the Lady Panthers hit the ice on Friday morning against the representative from the Ottawa valley area. A back and forth battle with chances at both ends but neither team could beat the goalies and this game ended in a 0-0 tie.

Game two Friday afternoon the Lady Panthers drew the Kitchener Lady Rangers as their opponent. Goal scoring again was hard to come by but as the final buzzer rang it was Kitchener 1 Lady Panthers 0. With this loss it meant that our advancing to the playoff round was out of reach but the girls vowed that they still had something to prove on the ice and were ready for the our pool leaders, the undefeated Burlington Barracudas, Saturday morning.

Emotions were high as this awesome group took to the ice for their final game of the 2023/24 campaign. They brought those emotions to the ice and came out flying. There were lots of great scoring chances at both ends. **Camryn Ramsey** finally got us on the board with a beautiful point shot to take the 1-0. Our stellar defensive play between the pipes and in the defensive zone kept the score that way until the Barracudas tied it at 1 while on the 5 on 3 powerplay. The final score of this game was 1-1 ending our provincials tournament with a record of 2 ties and a loss. Burlington would go on to capture the silver medal later on Sunday.

With only two players aging out of this division the future definitely looks very bright for this group. Playing in their final game were **Camryn Ramsey** and **Ali Loginski** and they left the ice Saturday through an archway of their teammates sticks. A very emotional time for all.

I would like to speak for all involved with this group that we could not be more proud of what these amazing young ladies have accomplished this season. From a dream more than a year ago to competing very well at the provincial level this April is incredible.

Now its time to start making preparations for next year as the Lady Panthers will host interest skates coming up at the end of April in Espanola. Please go to the Manitoulin Panthers website for more details.

Thank you to our fans for supporting us this season, all of our sponsors, Manitoulin Panthers executive for making this season a great success, parents for all the travel, bench staff for the countless hours and devotion to this group, **Ashley Manitowabi** for our Jenny Panther livestream giving those at home the opportunity to see us in action and last but not least, the players for making this season very special.

Attention Mountain Bikers!

MTB coach, rider and general sports vintner, **Ben Quackenbush**, has been hard at it already. He has organized trail maintenance of the Mclean's Park (Assignack) and Heavens Gate (Whitefish Falls) and are cleared and ready to ride.

The MTB team is going to their first event at the end of the month. The first event local is here with a mountain bike race in June. Check out this and other events at: www.breakawaymanitoulin.ca

Nephew with nepotism

My nephew, **Jacob Leblanc-Symington** (infrequent Manitoulin visitor) has grown up playing hockey in an unfamiliar (to me), location: downtown Toronto! His U15 team, Onyx won their final game of their season last night. Jacob, hanging out in the slot, got a stick on a puck and tipped in one of their goals!

Wolves Jaxsin Chatwell in team NOHA

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN—Jaxsin Chatwell, who was born in Sudbury and raised in Gore Bay and has strong family connections to Manitoulin Island, has been selected to play in the U14 OHL Cup hockey tournament.

Mr. Chatwell, a 13-year-old defenseman for the Sudbury Wolves U14AA (bantam) team, was chosen for team NOHA to take part in the OHL Cup taking place April 19-21 in Kingston.

Jaxsin was selected for and played on the silver medal winning NOHA team at the Ontario Winter Games held in Thunder Bay this past February.



Jaxsin Chatwell has been selected to play in the U14 OHL Cup hockey tournament. He is shown in photo as a member of the silver medal winning NOHA team at the Ontario Winter Games.

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



Mnaamodzawin Health Services Inc
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELLOR
 Temporary Position – 6 month contract
 35 hours per week
 Salary range: \$60,628 -\$72,456

Mnaamodzawin Health Services is seeking a reliable and committed individual to provide community-based client centered mental health services to First Nation community members of Aundeck Omni Kaning, Whitefish River, Sheguiandah, Shesheganing and Zhiibaahaasing. The counsellor will work in a confidential environment that is interdisciplinary and values the cultural philosophy of First Nations communities.

Skills and Qualifications:

1. Experience working with First Nations communities and knowledge of Ojibwe culture, language, traditions and treatment approaches an asset.
2. Bachelor of Social Work Degree preferred but Social Service Worker Diploma will be considered.
3. Must be a member or eligible for membership with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers.
4. Ability to provide mental health assessment and evidence-based treatment services to individuals, couples and families.
5. A minimum of two years' experience in a mental health setting is an asset
6. Ability to liaise, as appropriate, with other First Nation, internal and external providers to ensure appropriate continuum of mental health services.
7. Ability to work both independently and collaboratively.
8. Must have a valid Ontario Driver's License and dependable vehicle.
9. Possess Standard First Aid/CPR certification or be willing to take training.
10. Experience with Microsoft computer software.
11. Experience working with electronic medical records (EMR) is an asset.
12. Ability to assist in the development and planning of community mental health resources.
13. Administrative skills include management of scheduling, health records, annual work plans and tracking of services provided.

Closing Date: Friday, April 26, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Qualified individuals are invited to submit a cover letter, a current resume, a recent Vulnerable Sector Screening (within the last year), credentials, registration with their appropriate College, along with three current work-related references, marked CONFIDENTIAL, to:

Human Resources
Mnaamodzawin Health Services
 Postal Bag 2003, Hwy 540
 48A Hillside Road, Aundeck Omni Kaning
 Little Current, Ontario P0P 1K0
 Phone: (705) 368-2182 ext. 271
 Fax: 705-368-2229
 hr@mnaamodzawin.com

**Only those candidates considered for an interview will be contacted.*



Zhiibaahaasing First Nation
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
Policy and Procedure Analyst

JOB TITLE: Policy and Procedure Analyst
POSTING DATE: April 4, 2024
LOCATION: Zhiibaahaasing First Nation
REPORTS TO: Governance Director
TERM: Full-Time(1), Permanent upon successful completion of probation

POSITION OBJECTIVE:

The Policy and Procedure Analyst will help to ensure consistency and clarity of Zhiibaahaasing First Nation internal policies by developing and reviewing such documents. This will assist staff, Chief and Council and the public with effective operation and understanding of the administration. The Policy and Procedure Analyst is responsible for developing and maintaining all policy, procedure and work instruction documents to reflect Zhiibaahaasing First Nation's operational realities and requirements, so as to enable consistent performance and outcomes. This role works with all departments and internal subject matter experts to revise, refine and/or create the required documentation that is to be made available to internal and, where appropriate, external audiences.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Write various types of documentation such as operational policies and procedures, forms and reference guides.
 This will involve:
 - Gathering information through external research, internal interviews and review of source documents/existing documentation, where it exists.
 - Analyzing current processes to determine documentation requirements.
 - Managing regular reviews with departmental staff to maintain accuracy and completeness of documents.
 - Ensuring documents comply with Zhiibaahaasing First Nation's standards on language, writing style, structure and format.
 - Producing documentation for electronic or hard copy publication.
- Other duties.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Strong researching and organizational skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Effectively corroborate in a team environment and also to operate independently with minimal supervision.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

This position is primarily remote, and may require some on-site travel.

HOW TO APPLY

Please forward your cover letter, resume and three (3) work references by email to:

melanie@zhiibaahaasing.org

RE: Policy and Procedure Analyst



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – MULTIPLE POSTINGS

Gwekwaadziwin Miikan –
Withdrawal Management/Harm Reduction

Gwekwaadziwin Miikan is expanding its continuum of care and looking for motivated individuals to join our multidisciplinary team to support the development and implementation of our Withdrawal Management and Harm Reduction program.

Please visit www.gwek.ca or email mmaracle@gwek.ca for details.

Program Description

The Gwekwaadziwin Miikan program provides a person-centered model of mental health and addiction treatment for youth and young adults. It supports a community of healthy young people working towards wellness, education, and economic prosperity for First Nations individuals and communities. Gwekwaadziwin Miikan meets program participants on the spectrum of care, from stabilization through treatment, live-in aftercare, outpatient aftercare and transition back into community. The Seven Grandfathers program is designed for young adults aged 19+ and consists of four phases: Land Based Treatment, Live-in Aftercare, Community Aftercare and the new Withdrawal Management and Harm Reduction Program.

Position Descriptions

Withdrawal Management/Harm Reduction Team Leader
(1 Contract Position with opportunity for extension)

The Land-Based Treatment Counsellor is a unique position that combines the skills of an outdoor experiential learning leader with that of a treatment counsellor. Staff in this position will be living and working in outdoor settings with participants and will have a three-week rotational schedule. Staff in this position will be responsible for delivering a holistic treatment program with a significant focus on Anishinaabek culture and land-based learning.

Withdrawal Management/Harm Reduction Support Workers
(4 Contract Positions with opportunity for extension)

A full-time contract position (1 year with possibility of extension), responsible for the development, and implementation of acute withdrawal, distribution of harm reduction supplies, safe/flex beds and Opioid Agonist Tapering services as part of the Gwekwaadziwin Miikan continuum of services.

Salary: Commensurate with Qualifications Closing Date: April 19, 2024 @ 4:30pm

To Apply: Please complete the application online at gwek.bamboohr.com/careers
Incomplete packages will not be accepted. Current Vulnerable Sector Screening and Drivers Abstract required as a condition of employment.

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those applicants under consideration will be contacted for an interview.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

ZHIIBAHAASING FIRST NATION
HEALTH DIRECTOR

REPORTS TO: Band Manager
TERM: Full-Time (1), permanent upon successful completion of probation

POSITION OBJECTIVE

Under the Direction of the Band Manager, the Health Director will be responsible for coaching the Health, Cultural and Social team to plan and organize. The Health Director will also be responsible for developing related policies and procedures for approval. The Health Director will provide front line supervision, direction, guidance and support to the health department.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supervise day to day activities of staff and ensure adherence to HR policies and procedures.
- Oversee operations of Health and Social (staffing/usage/troubleshoot problem areas).
- Support staff with preparation of funding reports (financial/narrative).
- Oversee policies and procedures for designated programs and make recommendations/decisions.
- Research health related information topics that would assist in meeting the community health needs.
- Ability to multi-task and work with a high level of confidentiality, tact and discretion.
- Other duties and responsibilities as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Minimum 2 years related health services experience.
- Strong knowledge or awareness of a wide range of health issues specific to First Nations.

WORKING CONDITIONS

- Travel and weekend work may be required at times.

HOW TO APPLY

Please forward your cover letter, resume and three (3) work references by email to:

melanie@zhiibaahaasing.org

RE: Health Director

Enbridge introduces new energy programs

by **Jacqueline M. St.Pierre,**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
ONTARIO—Enbridge, in collaboration with Save on Energy, has launched two new initiatives aimed at enhancing home winterproofing and improving energy affordability for income-qualified residents across Ontario. These programs are geared toward those responsible for paying electricity bills, whether they own their homes or rent.


The objective of these programs is to provide eligible residents with increased comfort and savings during the winter months. Eligibility is determined based on household income and the number of occupants in the residence, as well as receipt of qualifying government or ener-

gy-support benefits, including residents of social housing.

Qualified participants may receive a range of energy-saving products and services at no cost, delivered directly to their homes by CLEAResult Consulting Inc., a company specializing in energy management solutions. These offerings include an Energy Saving Kit featuring easy-to-install, energy-efficient products such as LED light bulbs and faucet aerators. Additionally, participants may benefit from upgraded replacement appliances like refrigerators, freezers, window air conditioners and dehumidifiers, all installed at no cost.

The programs offer professional in-

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Cleaner - Copper Cliff Public School

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

Rainbow District School Board is now accepting applications for a **Cleaner at Copper Cliff Public School.**

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

Interested candidates should apply by **3 pm Friday April 19, 2024** and submit a cover letter, resume and names of three (3) references.

David Farrow
Board Chair

Bruce Bourget
Director of Education

rainbowschools.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

MANITOULIN NORTHSHORE VICTIM SERVICES

In partnership with Police Services in Manitoulin and the North Shore, we provide coordinated and initial assistance to victims of crime, trauma and tragic circumstances. This program has been in existence since 1997 and has assisted hundreds of victims. The work is both challenging and rewarding.

Weekend and Statutory Holiday On-Call Overnight Crisis Responder

Manitoulin Northshore Victim Services is looking for an energetic individual to assist in our crisis response while working as a part of a team. Reporting to the Executive Director, this after hours on-call position requires being available, within Manitoulin Island and the Northshore from Walden to Naim Centre, overnights between 4:30 pm beginning on Fridays, and continuing into the weekends and statutory holidays to 8:30 am the following business day. This is an ongoing two-week rotating shift of three (3) to four (4) nights each weekend to provide immediate response to crisis calls, as well as on scene crisis response. On-call compensation is in keeping with Employment Standards Act of Ontario and the On-Call, Overnight Crisis Responder will be paid a guaranteed three hours per shift for being on-call and will be compensated for any time worked in addition to the three hours if called out. Potential to increase shifts pending on funding.

For full details, see our website: <http://www.mnvictimservices.ca>

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS Friday, April 19, 2024 AT 4:00 PM



Please submit resumé with cover letter to:
Victim Services Hiring Committee
Manitoulin Northshore Victim Services
54 Boosneck Road, Unit 101, P.O. Box 702
Little Current, ON POP 1K0

Email to: Amy Collins, Executive Director, at mnvs@vianet.ca

POSSIBILITÉ D'EMPLOI

SERVICES AUX VICTIMES DE MANITOULIN NORTHSHORE

En partenariat avec les services de police de Manitoulin et de Northshore, nous offrons une aide initiale coordonnée aux victimes d'actes criminels, de traumatismes et de circonstances tragiques. Ce programme existe depuis 1997 et a aidé des centaines de victimes. Ce travail est à la fois stimulant et enrichissant.

Sur appel les fins de semaine et les jours fériés

Intervenante ou intervenant de nuit en situation de crise


Nous sommes à la recherche d'une personne énergique qui aidera à intervenir lors de situations de crise tout en travaillant au sein d'une équipe. Sous la responsabilité de la direction générale, ce poste de garde après les heures normales de travail exige d'être disponible, sur l'île Manitoulin et Northshore, de Walden à Naim Centre, à passer les nuits à partir de 16 h 30 le vendredi et jusqu'à 8 h 30 le jour ouvrable suivant, y compris les fins de semaine et les jours fériés. Il s'agit d'un quart de travail avec une rotation continue toutes les deux semaines comprenant trois (3) à quatre (4) nuits chaque fin de semaine travaillée afin de fournir une réponse immédiate aux appels de crise, ainsi qu'une intervention d'urgence sur place. La rémunération sur appel est conforme à la Loi sur les normes d'emploi de l'Ontario et l'intervenante ou l'intervenant de nuit en situation de crise recevra une rémunération de trois heures par quart de travail garanti pour être sur appel et sera rémunéré pour tout temps travaillé en plus des trois heures si on l'appelle. Possibilité d'augmenter les quarts de travail selon le financement.

Pour plus de détails, consultez notre site web <https://www.mnvictimservices.ca/>

LA DATE LIMITE POUR POSTULER EST le vendredi 19 avril 2024 à 16 h.

Veuillez envoyer votre curriculum vitae accompagné d'une lettre de présentation à :

Comité d'embauche des services aux victimes
Services aux victimes de Manitoulin Northshore
54, chemin Boosneck, bureau 101, P. 702 Little Current (Ontario) POP 1K0
Courriel : Amy Collins, directrice générale, à mnvs@vianet.ca

SHEGUIANDAH FIRST NATION

JOB POSTING

POSITION: Interim Finance Manager
LOCATION: Sheguiandah First Nation
ACCOUNTABILITY: Band Manager
EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Full-Time Contract to July 31, 2024 (with possibility of extension)
HOURS OF WORK: Regular Band Office Hours (8:30am-4:30pm)
- After hours will be required
TENTATIVE START DATE: ASAP

Under the supervision of the Band Manager of the Sheguiandah First Nation, the Interim Finance Manager will provide financial support and advice to all First Nation programs by managing daily financial operations, updating methods and maintaining an accurate accounting system. Assist with annual audit preparations, budget reports and implement financial management procedures as needed and is directly responsible for the financial control system for all revenue and expenditures.

DUTIES:

- Establish and implement financial management procedures for the Sheguiandah First Nation.
- Responsible for all transactions generated by the computerized accounting system (ACCPAC).
- Assist Band Manager with audit and budget reports as well as other financial matters.
- Examine journal/ledger entries, statements, inventories, expenditures and other financial documents.
- Prepare monthly statements to various departments, submit written reports and analyze printed data.
- Maintain First Nation assets and investments as directed.
- Provide input and advice on human resource planning.
- Provide financial resource assistance to the Chief and Council as requested.
- Oversee and maintain the general office of the finance department.
- Represent the First Nation in negotiations or other official capacity as required.
- Supervisor finance staff to ensure that all procedures are completed properly.
- Update the ACCPAC system on an annual basis or when needed.
- Abide by the Sheguiandah First Nation Personnel Policy.
- Attend meetings, workshops and conferences as required.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must have Grade 12 O.S.S.D plus degree or diploma in Accounting.
- Must have two (2) to five (5) years' experience in accounting, budgeting, financial planning and analysis.
- Knowledge of First Nation economic issues.
- Proven supervisory and management skills.
- Excellent verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills.
- Proven computer skills in word processing, spreadsheets, EasyPay and ACCPAC.
- Knowledge of Anishinabek culture and history considered an asset.

Interested applicants are asked to submit an application that includes a cover letter, resume, and three (3) work-related references to:

"Interim Finance Manager"
SFN Band Manager
Sheguiandah First Nation
142 Ogemah Miikan
Sheguiandah, ON POP 1W0
Email: management@sheguiandahfn.ca

Preference will be given to Indigenous applicants.
Applicants are encouraged to self-identify.
We thank all applicants in advance for their interest but advise only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

MANITOULIN NORTHSHORE VICTIM SERVICES

Manitoulin Northshore Victim Services provides immediate crisis response, intervention and prevention services which are responsive to the needs of individuals, families and communities affected by crime and tragic circumstances.

Program/Administrative Assistant

This full-time contract position will be required to work out of our Little Current office and/or any satellite office within our catchment area, as well as remotely.
(Travel within all of Manitoulin Island and the North Shore)

For full details, see our website: <http://www.mnvictimservices.ca>

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS Friday, April 19, 2024 AT 4:00 PM



Please submit resumé with cover letter to:
Victim Services Hiring Committee
Manitoulin Northshore Victim Services
54 Boosneck Road, Unit 101, P.O. Box 702
Little Current, ON POP 1K0

Email to: Amy Collins, Executive Director, at mnvs@vianet.ca

POSSIBILITÉ D'EMPLOI

SERVICES AUX VICTIMES DE MANITOULIN NORTHSHORE

Services aux victimes de Manitoulin Northshore offre des services immédiats d'intervention en cas de crise et de prévention qui répondent aux besoins des personnes, des familles et des collectivités touchées par les actes criminels et les circonstances tragiques.

Adjointe administrative/Adjointe de programmes

Adjoint administratif/Adjoint de programmes

La personne retenue pour ce poste à temps plein, contractuel, devra travailler à partir de notre bureau de Little Current et/ou de tout bureau satellite dans la zone que nous desservons, ainsi qu'à distance.

Pour de détails, consultez notre site web <https://www.mnvictimservices.ca/>

Veuillez envoyer votre curriculum vitae accompagné d'une lettre de présentation à :

Comité d'embauche des services aux victimes
Services aux victimes de Manitoulin Northshore
54, chemin Boosneck, bureau 101, C. P. 702
Little Current (Ontario) POP 1K0
Courriel : Amy Collins, directrice générale, à mnvs@vianet.ca




...Enbridge introduces new energy programs

...continued from page 3A
 stallation of smart thermostats, insulation and draft-proofing materials to enhance energy efficiency and home com-

fort, all provided free of charge.
 To apply for the Energy Affordability Program or to learn more, individuals are encouraged to call 1-844-770-3148 or visit Sa-

veOnEnergy.ca/EAP.
 Those interested in the Home Winterproofing Program can call the same number or visit enbridge-gas.com/winterproofing for further information.



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

We are currently inviting applications for the following employment opportunities:

CONTRACT positions:

Sudbury:
 Case Aide: Closes April 19, 2024
 Child Well-Being Worker: Closes April 26, 2024
 Team Assistant: Closes April 26, 2024
 Education Support Worker: Closes April 26, 2024

Manitoulin Island:
 Education Liaison: Closes April 26, 2024

Sudbury or Manitoulin Island:
 Health & Safety Officer: Closes April 19, 2024

All postings close at 4pm EST

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

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

As a condition of employment, the successful candidate will be required to provide the following documents: a Satisfactory Criminal Reference Check and/or Vulnerable Sector Check (dated within 3 months of the application date), Driver's Abstract and Proof of Liability Insurance.

Thank you for considering a career opportunity with us.

Manitoulin Hotel  Conference Centre

Now Hiring!

Kitchen Line Cook
 Catering Staff
 Laundry Attendant
 Food & Beverage Servers
 Housekeeping

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

Wages are negotiable.

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

LOOKING FOR A JOB?
 Join 3 Cows & A Cone AND 3 Cows Fries

WHETHER you're looking for Full-Time / Part-Time work or are a Student looking for a Summer Job we are interviewing (see details below)
 we also have openings for mature counter staff, cooks, & kitchen staff

DATES	LOCATION
April 20 & 21 - 2pm - 6pm	64 Meredith Street East Little Current (just past the Swing Bridge)
April 23 - 4pm - 7pm	
April 27 & 28 - 2pm - 6pm	
May 1st - 4pm - 7pm	

if you can't make any of the dates, call 705-368-3524 to set up an interview

COME BE A PART OF OUR TEAM
 offering: competitive salary, flexible hours, free uniforms, meal benefits, fun team





JOIN OUR TEAM



SEASONAL & POST SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

-  Customer Service Representative
-  Park Guardians
-  Visitor Experience Coordinator
-  Field Supervisor

TO APPLY: lwasegijig@wikydevcom.ca FOR MORE INFO: (705)859-2900 www.grondinepark.com



JOIN OUR TEAM



Student & Full Time Opportunities

Secondary Positions	Post Secondary Positions
Tourism Ambassadors x3	Tourism Ambassador Lead
Trail Maintenance x2	Marketing Coordinator
Seasonal Positions	Full Time Positions
Tour Guides	Tour Coordinator

TO APPLY: lwasegijig@wikydevcom.ca FOR MORE INFO: (705)859-3477 www.wikytours.com