

The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



FISHING • YACHTING • CAMPING • HUNTING

"Published Weekly On the Largest Freshwater Island In The World"

Vol. 144, No. 46 \$1.90 + GST

Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Manitoulin gets thanked as Elliot Lake is new Hockeyville

ELLIOT LAKE—Elliot Lake has claimed the Kraft Hockeyville 2024 title! And Manitoulin Island residents were not shy about taking time out of their Easter weekend, and casting votes for their Northern neighbour, a fact that was acknowledged by Elliot Lake's Hockeyville boosters squad during the celebration event at Collins Hall in Elliot Lake following the Saturday night winning announcement.

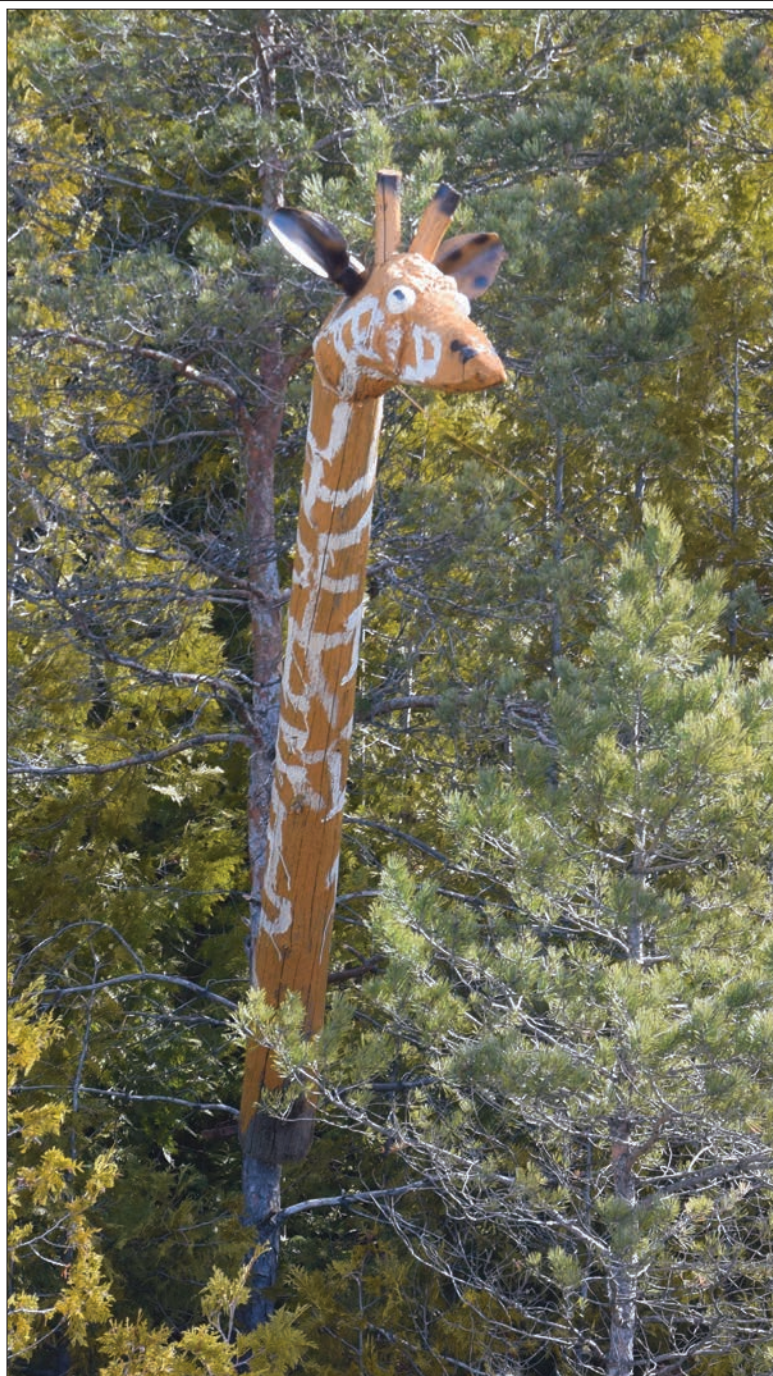
Debby Turner of Little Current, whose younger daughter is a registered nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elliot Lake and who has purchased a home in the community, spent time tallying "close to 4,500 votes" to support her daughter's new home town. She was aware of other Manitoulin people who were also helping out.

Ms. Turner noted that some of her daughter's friends had posted more than 30,000 votes in favour of Elliot Lake during the 32 hours voting window that opened at 9 am Good Friday and closed at 5 pm the next day.

Charles Flintoff, deputy mayor of Elliot Lake said, "it was a very exciting day for past and present residents of Elliot Lake. We were overdue in having something great like this take place."

"We are very appreciative of all the support we received from so many people on Manitoulin Island, people like Debby Turner, but there were a lot of other people on the Island who were supportive,"

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RARE HERD—Reportedly as a result of milder climes due to climate change, a rare herd of North American giraffe, which falls under the genus *Ferganasingus edus*, was spotted just south of Little Current Monday catching a glimpse of Highway 6 traffic. This rare family of giraffes have made themselves at home on the shores of the Strawberry Channel, shopping periodically at RONA Little Current Building Supply as they put the finishing touches on their adopted homestead. But we all know that's not true, so...April Fool's!

photo by Michael Erskine

\$10 billion cash Robinson-Huron settlement funds in trust account as communities plan dispersals

Interest on account accruing at rate of \$1.3 million daily

by Tom Sasvari

ROBINSON-HURON—Both the Canada and Ontario governments have indicated that they have completed their requirements regarding the Robinson Huron Treaty (RHT) Settlement Agreement with the transfer of compensation funds.

Soo Today reported last week that the final installment of the \$10 billion settlement has been transferred, with \$5 billion being received from Ontario March 15 which has been accruing \$600,000 in interest each day since. The remaining \$5 billion in settlement dollars from Canada was deposited March 25. In total the amount of interest collected will be \$1.3 million in interest for every day it is in the RHT Litigation Fund coffers. The total amount of interest earned on the \$10 billion settlement will be divided among all 21 First Nations under the treaty, including all those on Manitoulin Island.

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Mindemoya Lake 'at capacity' say opponents to plan of 39 shoreline lots

by Tom Sasvari

MINDEMOYA—A public information session held March 25 by Central Manitoulin council saw several concerns raised regarding the proposed 39-lot subdivision to be located on the shores of Lake Mindemoya, the most notable the current water quality and the possible effects further development will have.

"If we go back to the issue of water quality and if Lake Mindemoya is at capacity, why add to the stress on the lake quality by allowing development of 39 lots?" asked Jan McQuay, a local resident.

"It depends on where you are getting your information that says the lake is stressed out," said Mayor Richard Stephens. "We don't have definitive reports one way or the other in this process. But investigating this will be part of the process that we all have to go through. It will be a major issue in the process."

"I can assure you no one is in favour of water quality that is less than we have or not up to standard. There will be due diligence done through this entire application process, and the water quality will be part of it," said Mayor Stephens.

Mayor Stephens had told the 30 members of the public who packed the Central Manitoulin township council chambers,

"What we are attempting to do by having this information meeting is alleviate some of the perceptions that no one has a say on the 39-lot subdivision being proposed (by Split Crow Partners Inc)."

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Planning board says no direction given by province that lake 'at capacity'

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—The Manitoulin Planning Board (MPB) has agreed to a request from the proponent of a proposed 39 lot subdivision on Tracy Road in the municipality of Central Manitoulin to defer a list of draft conditions to be considered by the board for 60 days. This will allow the proponents time to discuss the draft conditions with the municipality.

At its meeting last week, MPB members also noted that although numerous concerns have been raised by residents around Lake Mindemoya concerning the lake being at capacity due to water concerns, the MPB has never been informed by the province that the lake is at capacity.

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Ontario invites application from St. Joseph's Health Centre for new Gore Bay nursing home

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—The Town of Gore Bay and St. Joseph's Health Centre received the long-awaited news in last week's provincial budget that a top-up funding program has been reinstated for construction of long-term care homes. With this news, St. Joseph's will now be able to apply for funding towards the construction of a new proposed 64 bed long term care nursing home in Gore Bay.

"This is what we have all been waiting for since last fall, that the money for a program that helps with construction of long-term care homes would be in the provincial budget," stated Gore Bay Mayor Ron Lane. "The provincial budget has made extra money available (\$155 million) for long term care construction redevelopment, so St. Joseph's is ready to move forward with an application for funding of a new nursing home in Gore Bay."

"This is very, very good news," stressed May-

or Lane. He explained that St. Joseph's will now make a formal application for funding approval of the project. "We (the town and St. Joseph's) made a presentation to the ministry in January on the plans for the project."

Kari Gervais, president and chief executive officer of St. Joseph's Health Centre told The Expositor last Thursday, "Yes, this is great news. It is the news we have been hoping for. We are very pleased that the ministry has reinstated the construction funding subsidy top-up, which is for \$35 per resident per day for 25 years. It is great news; if this program had not been reinstated, we would not be able to move ahead with an application for funding of the Gore Bay construction project through the Ministry of Long-Term Care."

"We need to have approval for construction by November 30, 2024," said Ms. Gervais. "When we submitted a proposal in December for funding ap-

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St. Joseph's Health Centre Of Sudbury
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The Manitoulin *West* Recorder



Having raised over \$13,000 as part of its fundraising campaign for the Jump Rope for Heart fundraising campaign, Charles C. McLean Public School leads all elementary schools Canada wide as of March 28. C.C. McLean is one of over 2,500 elementary schools in the country who took part in the annual event. Funds raised go towards the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.



C.C. McLean tops Jump Rope for Heart school fundraising standings nationwide

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—Charles C. McLean Public School in Gore Bay currently leads the way for all elementary schools Canada-wide for the national Jump Rope for Heart fundraising campaign.

“We have been keeping a close eye on the school and the community and what they have accomplished, especially for a small school and community,” said Ann Guilfoyle, director of Peer to Peer fundraising for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, from her Toronto office last week. “As of March 28, C.C. McLean was at the top of the list in fundraising among all elementary schools in Canada.” In second place is a school from Vancouver, and a school from Alberta is currently third.

Jump Rope for Heart is held in elementary schools in Canada annually. C.C. McLean is one

of over 2,500 elementary schools and hundreds of thousands of students in the country who are taking part this year.

Robyn Best, principal of C.C. McLean said, “Currently we are the top fundraising school in Canada for Jump Rope for Heart. We can’t get our heads around this fact. It is phenomenal. Our (fundraising) campaign closes today (March 28) with our jump rope event, and our school has raised \$13,377 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Our original goal had been to raise \$2,500.”

“One of our teachers, Elizabeth Van Every spearheaded the school registering for Jump Rope for Heart. We started the process on February 22 and kicked off the fundraising campaign,” said Ms. Best. “Things have changed in the way the students fundraise. While they used to get an

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Colen McKeever of Eco Growth Manitoulin celebrated with Green Economy North award

by Tom Sasvari

KAGAWONG—Colen McKeever of Kagawong, operator of Eco Growth Manitoulin/Environmental, has received the Green Economy North Member of the Year Award.

Simon Blakely, regional manager program development and government relations of reThink Green presented the award to Mr. McKeever at an awards ceremony held at Science North on Tuesday of last week. “Colen McKeever is be-

ing recognized today for his outstanding dedication to promoting sustainable practice and fostering eco-conscious solutions on Manitoulin Island. With over three decades of residency in Kagawong and a background in providing productivity solutions across Canada, Mr. McKeever has become a driving force behind waste diversion and establishing small-scale circular economies in the region. As the owner of Eco-Growth Manitoulin and a member of

various environmental committees, including rethink Green/Green Economy North, Billings Township Climate Action Committee, and the Island-Wide Waste Management Committee, Mr. McKeever has showcased exemplary leadership in spearheading initiatives that promote sustainability and reduce waste.”

“Under Mr. McKeever’s guidance, Eco-Growth Manitoulin is at the forefront of innovative, cost-effective, and sustainable food waste recycling services and products. By transforming food waste into renewable energy, Mr. McKeever is reducing waste and contributing to creating a cleaner, greener future for Manitoulin Island and beyond,” said Mr. Blakely. “His commitment to waste diversion and the establishment of circular economies has benefitted local communities and supported the growth of the Island’s tourism industry in an environmentally responsible manner.”

Green Economy North, a membership-based sustainable business program noted Mr. McKeever’s commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable practices has made a significant impact in the northern Ontario region.

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M’Chigeeng FN’s Dianne Corbiere receives prestigious Law Society Medal

TORONTO—Lawyer Dianne Corbiere’s career has been highly successful. An elected benchler (part of the Law Society governing body overseeing the legal profession in Ontario) she is a managing partner of Nahwegahbow Corbiere, one of the first Anishinaabe-owned and operated law firms in Ontario. She is the former president and board member of the Indigenous Bar Association, and Ms. Corbiere, of M’Chigeeng First Nation, was recently honoured with the prestigious Law Society Medal.

Each year, the Law Society of Ontario awards the medal to selected lawyers who have made a significant contribution to the profession. The award is given “for outstanding service within the profession, whether in the area of practice, in the academic sphere, or in some other professional capacity where the service is in accordance with

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Dianne G. Corbiere

Upcoming solar eclipse to coincide with solar flares

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

NORTH AMERICA—There is quite a bit of excitement surrounding the upcoming solar eclipse. On April 8, at around 2:05 pm, the moon’s shadow will begin sailing across North America as millions of people will view the total eclipse of our nearest star. This event will coincide with the cycle 25 solar maximum. The solar maximum, generally speaking, runs in a cycle of 11 years. And while it is predicted that this cycle peak will occur in July of this year, in this week’s eclipse, streamers should be visible throughout the corona as the magnetic field is impacted by the solar maximum.

“In 2017, the sun was nearing solar minimum. Viewers of the total eclipse could see the breathtaking corona, but since the sun was quiet, streamers flowing into the solar atmo-

sphere were restricted to just the equatorial regions of the star,” reported NASA.

The eclipse is expected to be visible from Mexico to Canada. The path of totality, where observers witness a total solar eclipse, is wider this time around compared to 2017. This is because the moon is closer to Earth in its orbit, allowing more people to witness the sun’s corona. NASA has even mentioned the possibility of observing a coronal mass ejection (CME) during the eclipse. A CME involves the significant release of magnetic field and plasma mass from the sun’s corona into the heliosphere. While CMEs are commonly associated with solar flares and other solar activities, a universally accepted theoretical understanding of these relationships is yet to be established. During periods near solar maxima, the sun generates

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Centennial Manor exempted from nursing home class action

by Michael Erskine

LITTLE CURRENT—The board of Manitoulin Centennial Manor received some very welcomed news during their recent meeting.

Manor Administrator Don Cook informed the board that he had received a letter from the lawyers handling a class action suit against nursing homes over their handling of the pandemic and the horrific losses of life that had occurred in long-term care facilities.

The Manor was able to dodge involvement in the class action suit, largely given that there were no plaintiffs or claims against the Manor.

“We didn’t even have an outbreak until 2022,” noted Mr. Cook, who attributed that success to diligent care taken by staff at the nursing home and residents themselves. “I would think it would be hard to include us in a class action.”

Mr. Cook noted that most of the names listed on the class action roster are larger corporate homes.

“If we were to have a claim going forward, it would likely be rolled into the Extencicare group,” suggested Mr. Cook.

Extencicare provides management and logistical services to the Manor under contract, although the day-to-day operations of the long-term care home are handled locally.

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Manitoulin Island's
Newspaper-of-Record,
The Manitoulin Expositor
 is published
 by the Manitoulin Publishing Co. Ltd.
 Wednesday mornings from our office at
 One Manitowaning Road,
 Little Current, Ont. P0P 1K0

37 Meredith Street,
 Gore Bay, Ont. P0P 1H0
 And on the traditional territories
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A winner of the Michener Award
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ISSN 0834-6682
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opinion

editorial

Anti-carbon tax hype reminiscent of the Hydro hysteria

By the time this paper hits the newsstands Ontario consumers will be facing an increase in the amount they pay for carbon emissions from products they use. These increases have been cited as contributing a mere 0.1 percent of the "inflation" consumers have been hammered with since the pandemic disruptions in supply chains constrained supply.

The Official Opposition Conservatives, provincial premiers (seven, also of a different partisan bent than the federally governing Liberals) and a host of right-wing pundits have railed against the carbon tax—even as the evidence mounts that it is effective.

Simply put, everybody wants to save the world, nobody wants to pay for it.

The increase in the carbon tax is repeatedly assailed by opponents on the basis that it will see a 23 percent jump on April 1. But that isn't a 23 percent jump in costs to the consumer, which one might assume given the vociferous and somewhat duplicitous stance of the tax's opponents. The impact on the cost of gas will be around 3.3 cents a litre. That is a bump that would hardly be noticed in the usual swings that take place at the pump on any given weekend.

Nonetheless, we have not played witness to such political hysteria since the heady days of the hydro rate panic. Where did that go? Curious that. We are all still paying the piper on electricity costs (albeit the Ontario Conservatives have been paying us off a bit on each bill from the general levy), but the vociferous outcries are not to be heard.

The simple fact of the matter is that we, the public, are being played—again.

letters

Reader questions the rise in hate crimes across the nation

Leaders must be held accountable

To the Expositor:

Hate crimes are on the rise. What is our government doing to make sure people are well screened before entering our country to prevent war and hate from coming here? We already have an epi-

demic of ugliness going on. Our leaders must be held accountable to continue. All for a few votes.

Charlie Pratt
Honora

A response to a letter noting local organizations use textiles

Our planets resources are not inexhaustible

To the Expositor:

When I read a letter to the editor written by Susan Hart on the recycling of textiles I wondered what prompted it ('Many volunteer organizations collecting and putting those materials to use,' March 20, Page 4.)

Then I looked at the headline for the article and thought, well maybe that could be read as implying the recycling of textiles on Manitoulin is novel and I know that isn't the case. First I'd like to thank Ms. Hart for her reminder and commend her for pointing out that the Knox United Church in Manitowaning makes excellent use of all donations and we should all continue to support and promote their fantastic and charitable contributions to our neighbours.

My wife and I have regularly donated clothing to Manitoulin Family Resources in Mindemoya. But, fortunately for us, we can still afford both the cost for driving as well as the time necessary to get to their facilities, but not everyone on our island can afford either. So, I think this option offered by the Island Wide Waste Management Committee of having the Sic Sox receptacles located conveniently throughout the Island will encourage our neighbours

to divert a range of textiles (not just clothing).

Individually, we need to divert over 47 kilos of textiles on average we throw away every year, and the advantage of the Sic Sox alternative is if the garment cannot be enjoyed by someone else the products will be shredded and applied as insulation for homes. Hopefully we can all support any of these great associations and divert more from our landfills and reload stations.

Overall, I always keep one fact foremost in my mind when I'm focusing on what I can do to help the planet and the human race survive. Every year we are consuming far more than the planet can produce. Sadly, where efficiency used to be what our corporate leaders strived for (return on investment – ROI – of more than 15 percent was well rewarded), now it seems that doubling and re-doubling output is the only way to corporate glory. Our planet's resources are not infinite, so whenever I get chance to do even a tiny bit to reduce, reuse, recycle I jump at the opportunity. I'm glad to hear that Susan Hart and the congregation at Knox Church are too!

Paul Darlaston
Kagawong

Premier Ford is not concerned with Northern Ontario, says MPP Mantha

QUEEN'S PARK—The release of the provincial budget demonstrates that the Doug Ford government is not concerned with Northern Ontario, says Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Michael Mantha.

"The Ford government has again failed to provide relief for Northerners with its 2024 budget," said MPP Mantha in a release. "Most of the big items in this budget were reannouncements of previous spending commitments."

"At the same time, the government fell short when it came to social services, freezing spending and providing an increase to Community Living below expected inflation," said MPP Mantha. He explained when budgets in the development services sector are already stretched to their limits, the lack of a meaningful increase will mean cuts to services for the most vulnerable in our communities.

"This government again chose not to seriously address the healthcare crisis we are facing in the North," continued MPP Mantha. "For months hospitals in small, rural and remote communities across Northern Ontario have raised the alarm on the financial pressures that are pushing them

towards a crisis."

"It was made clear that anything short of a 10 percent base funding increase for rural and remote hospitals would fail to meet the realities faced in our communities where the delivery of care is more complex and operating costs are much higher," explained MPP Mantha. "Sadly, the Ford government has ignored those warnings and fallen far short. As a result, access to healthcare and

patient outcomes will continue to worsen in the North."

"Premier Ford's government is clearly not concerned with the realities faced by Northerners," said MPP Mantha. "I will continue to be a voice for Algoma-Manitoulin in the legislature and push this government to deliver on the needs of Northern Ontario."

MPP Mantha introduces waterpower bill in legislature

QUEEN'S PARK—Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Michael Mantha has introduced the Waterpower Day Act, 2024.

"Waterpower contributes one-quarter of Ontario's electricity, and it has been a cornerstone of Ontario's grid for more than a century," MPP Mantha said March 27. "In Northern Ontario, waterpower is an important economic driver, providing affordable, reliable and renewable energy for communities."

"With more than 200 facilities right across the province, made in Ontario waterpower is embedded in the very fabric of dozens of communities," added Paul Norris, president of the Ontario Waterpower Association. "As we expand generation and transmission to meet emergent and enduring electricity demand, building new waterpower means investing right here at home."

The bill, if passed, will proclaim June 20 each year as "Waterpower Day" to recognize the contribution that hydroelectric power has played in Ontario's history, and its continued importance to Ontario's energy future.

Seven-year-old has jumped on the Robotics band wagon

by Margery Frisch

TEHKUMMAH—Robotics fever is sweeping Manitoulin Island with the success of our local high schools and grade schools robotics teams winning awards locally, provincially and internationally. Support for these students is strong and their achievements are inspiring—even to the very young.

Emily Black is one such inspired seven-year-old, a Grade 2 student at Assiginack Public School who has a passion for robots. She's been designing robots for some time now, each with specific functions and capabilities. Recently, she put them all together in a journal. Her drawings are elaborate, clearly imaging the purpose of each of her bots.

Emily is inspired by her surroundings, and she is clearly influenced by the people in her life. Living on a farm, she felt the need to design a farm bot. "It only does work in the fields. Dirt comes out the bottom. Fresh dirt, not old dirt, and here is water, and seeds come out here." She loves books and reading, so it just made sense to design a book bot. "In here we type in the title of the book we want, then the book comes out here," she explained. "The power painter picks up signals from phones and the paint brush can extend and curve anywhere," she said of that design. "These little arms can grab whatever colour you choose."



Emily Black is a seven-year-old robotics scientist. The Grade 2 student is pictured here with some of the parts and pieces she is learning to assemble. photos by Margery Frisch

She's designed a basketball bot, which she said would be helpful for basketball players. "And I think it's really cute with the headband on." The trash picker upper has grabber arms, "And if it finds trash in the ditch it puts it in these little cans. Once they get filled up, they go into waste, compost or recycle."

The Unsick 6000 has a bandage, a thermometer, a blanket and a bowl of soup. "It's very gentle," Emily said, assuredly. There was a movie bot (which

includes popcorn), and a weather bot with a windsock. Just about anything with which a person might need help, Emily has thought about and created a solution.

It's probably safe to say Emily's interest in robots comes from her mother. Caroline Black is a teacher at Manitoulin Secondary School and a faculty member of their robotics team. "My mom is on the robotics team, so I thought, 'why not design robots that could help,'" Emily said. When asked if she'd

like to be on the robotics team when she gets to high school, she said, probably, but she wasn't sure. She has many other interests.

"I've tried to make many things, but not all of them have worked," she admitted. "So, I didn't throw in the towel. Like the robotics team, I didn't quit. That's why I thought, maybe in-

creating robots on paper, she loves building them with her Lego set, Spike, which comes with motors, sensors, lights and an app to program the things she builds.

Emily has also produced a science show, not presently available for the general public, however, if this young scientist/inventor/designer is any



Emily likes to create intricate and complex robots, undoubtedly inspired by her mother Carolyn Black, a Manitoulin Secondary School teacher and member of the school's Robotics team.

stead of going right to building, I should make a design first. And that actually worked." Besides

indication of the next generation, it's safe to say the future is in very good hands.

Lakeview School holds water walk for World Water Day 2024

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre,

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

M'CHIGEENG—On Friday, March 22, Lakeview Elementary school hosted its annual water walk with school children and community members alike. The tradition was started in 2003 by Josephine Mandaamin baa, the Chief Commissioner of the Anishinabek Nation Women's Water Walk Commission, a member of the Great Lakes Guardian Council. Since 2003, Ms. Mandamin walked the shorelines of all the Great Lakes, approximately 27200 km, before passing in 2019, a day after her 77th birthday.

Kimberly Debassige, Crow Clan and director of education at M'Chigeeng First Nation guided the ceremony. She sat down with The Expositor to discuss the importance of the water walk.

"As Anishinaabek, when we do these ceremonies, when we connect like this it gives us a greater sense of purpose and understanding. Today is World Water Day, we know that our water has been in crisis, our waters are not well, based on all these conveniences of life that, I think, have gotten in the way of our concept of responsibility for Creation," Ms. Debassige said.

Although Indigenous peoples constitute only five percent of the global population, they account for approximately 15 percent of the world's extreme poor. Remarkably, despite the relatively small population share, Indigenous communities are safeguarding an impressive 80 percent of the world's remaining biodiversity, as highlighted in Australia's 2021 State of the Environment report.

"As Director of Education, I think it's important that our young people understand these things, that their lives have been called here by all these generations past," Ms. Debassige continued. "It gives a sense of purpose, identity and responsibility to the land, to the waters, to the fire and to the winds, the four gifts that we have been given responsibility for. This ceremony is about offering something back to the Water Spirits that look after those waters, that clean those waters, that govern those waters. They understand those underground water ways that are connected. A ceremony like a water walk is for us to put ourselves back into relationship with that."

Several students were selected to carry the large copper vessel containing water from Otter Lake, handing it off to one another until they reached Lake



Students and staff from Lakeview School in M'Chigeeng gather on the lakeshore during a water walk. The modern water walk tradition was initiated by Josephine Mandaamin baa, the chief commissioner of the Anishinabek Nation Women's Water Walk Commission and a member of the Great Lakes Guardian Council.

Mindemoya, to "introduce that water in ceremony, bringing the waters together so they can speak to each other and inform each other about how well they are." Once the water is picked up, it has to keep moving, symbolizing the flowing of a river "how we emulate that when we walk with the water."

When the group arrived at the shore of Lake Mindemoya, Ms. Debassige removed her shoes and socks and walked into the cold lake that still had pieces of ice, carrying a bundle of offerings while Lynne Miigwans, an elder from the community, held the large copper vessel above her head, making prayers. Another elder handed out tobacco for participants to pray with a release into the waters while a ceremonial song was sung.

Ms. Debassige emphasized the importance of nurturing relationships with nature, underscoring the need for communal involvement in environmental conservation, saying that "if we don't spend the time we disconnect ourselves from the elements of Creation."

"Our children really need to know that they are much more than they are in the moment—a student of Lakeview

School—they are our future ancestors, they are our future leaders, they are leaders today when they use their voice to say 'this is something really important, can we do something.' So that's what today brings and we know that people all across the world have waters that are in crisis. Once I met with someone while I was doing a water ceremony in Kingston, Ontario and she handed me water from the Ganges River in India. She had gone there and people had been praying to that water for many years. That water is very, very polluted and leaders, spiritual leaders, women, grandmothers, men, grandfathers go to the waters and do ceremony there. So, I carried that water for a little while, thinking about 'what does this mean for our young people,' beyond the next seven generations. I hope our young people can see themselves becoming really old people, and that when they close their eyes they can visualize all their subsequent generations forward and give thanks and gratitude back to all those precedent generations that came before."

Globally, over 3 billion people face the threat of disease due to uncertain

water quality in their rivers, lakes and groundwater, stemming from inadequate data. Concurrently, a significant portion of the world's river basins undergo substantial fluctuations in water availability, with 2.3 billion individuals residing in nations categorized as "water-stressed," including 721 million in areas facing "critical" water situations, as per recent findings by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and collaborators.

Traditionally, there has been a dearth of data concerning the global condition of freshwater ecosystems. To bridge this gap, UNEP employed Earth observation technologies for long-term monitoring of freshwater ecosystem dynamics. A survey spanning 89 countries examined over 75,000 bodies of water, revealing severe pollution in over 40 percent of them.

These revelations, unveiled during a high-level UN gathering on the water-related objectives in 2021, underscore a global lag in delivering safe drinking water universally. UNEP's data signals a departure from the trajectory necessary to achieve sustainable water management by 2030, necessitating a doubling of efforts over the next nine years to meet the mandate for "the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all."

For decades, Indigenous communities have been advocating for the protection of water, recognizing its significance beyond mere hydration. To them, water embodies life and possesses a sacred spirit. It serves as the vital essence coursing through lakes, rivers, and oceans, nurturing crucial ecosystems and facilitating transportation since pre-colonial times. Despite human development encroaching upon certain water sources, there are still pristine areas untouched by such influence, and Indigenous peoples persist in their efforts to safeguard these invaluable resources for the well-being of future generations.

Ms. Debassige also emphasized that responsibility for the lands and waters transcends racial boundaries, saying, "It goes beyond stewardship of the land. Everybody was a steward of the land, because everybody had to eat from the land, no matter if they are Anishinaabek or not. Everybody has to have clean drinking water, everybody had to hunt, everybody had to find medicines all across the world. Everyone is a steward of the land, this is all we have for our home."

Seven charged following search warrant at M'Chigeeng residence

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

A search of the residence revealed approximately \$1,000 in Canadian currency; 99.4g of cocaine (street value \$19,880); 122 controlled substances tablets (street value \$8,048); property obtained by crime (\$2,200); and a combined total value of approximately \$30,980.

As a result, seven indi-

viduals have been charged with 41 offences including, but not limited to: possession for the purpose of trafficking in a Schedule I substance, cocaine; possession for the purpose of trafficking in a Schedule I substance, morphine; possession for the purpose of trafficking in a Schedule II substance, Vyvanse; possession for the purpose of trafficking in a Schedule III substance, Buprenorphine; possession for the purpose of trafficking in a Schedule III substance, methamphetamine; possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000; failure to comply with undertaking; failure to comply with release order other than to

attend court.

"Community safety is a collaborative effort with our communities," said UCCM Police Chief James Killeen. "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. We need your help, your information, and your assistance to affect change."

"Drug trafficking invites residual and lateral violence into your communities, such as home invasions, serious assaults, and homicides, and leads to the erosion of our communities through addic-

tion, homelessness, and overdose deaths," Police Chief 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," he added. "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 partnerships 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.



Almost 100 grams of cocaine was seized in the search. photos courtesy of UCCM Anishnaabe Police



Almost \$1,000 in cash was seized in the search.



A total of 122 pills were also seized by police.



Law & Order

OPP charge Central Manitoulin man with multiple offences

One person has been arrested and charged by police with multiple offences following a call for service in Mindemoya.

On March 23 shortly before 1 am, the Manitoulin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a domestic dispute on Yonge Street in Central Manitoulin. Information provided to police was that one person had a firearm and was threatening violence.

Upon arrival, police were able to locate and arrest one person for multiple offences. No injuries were reported.

As a result of the investigation, a 34-year-old person from Central Manitoulin has been charged with: possession of weapon for dangerous purpose; two counts of careless use of firearm, weapon, prohibited device or ammunition; six counts of possession of firearm or ammunition contrary to prohibition or-

der; two counts of mischief, destroys or damages property; assault; four counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm; uttering threats, cause death or bodily harm; forcible confinement; two counts of firearm, use while committing offence; two counts of being unlawfully in dwelling house; two counts of pointing a firearm, dangerous operation; mischief, obstructs, interrupts or interferes with the lawful use, enjoyment or operation of property; four counts of knowledge of unauthorized possession of firearm.

The accused was held in custody to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice Gore Bay bail court, where the accused was then released.

Due to the domestic nature of the incident, the name of the accused will not be released to protect the identity of the victim.

Friends and Neighbours

Providence Bay Alexia Hannigan

Hello everyone, Alexia here with your Friendly Fly! And yes, all those buggers are back in droves! The hornets are back too, my friends, so watch where you step and keep your windows and sheds well sealed. It's flea, tick and tax season again (groan).

Let me begin by saying we know it's springtime because of the 80 km/hour winds, new buds and shoots; muddy boots; birds, bees and bevy of songbirds in the trees! The Island was busy and buzzing with wonderful Easter services, fun, festivities and fellowships. Providence Bay Community of Christ Church hosted a wonderful service and hot cross bun fellowship.

The return of the rain has helped clear the roads a bit and a lot more folks are venturing south now for various appointments, leisure and other matters of business, fiscal and otherwise. Danny Gilchrist went to Toronto and back for a few days and said the roads weren't too bad. Chris Walker held his songwriters' workshop this past weekend and it was a successful and fun event.

The Providence Bay Hall hosted a seniors' drop in last Thursday where fun and games were in the cards! The next Coffee Club meeting is tomorrow, looking forward to catching up with everyone, especially Cheryl Sheppard (who used to pen this column with Ingrid Blay). Speaking thereof, March's full moon, the "Worm Moon," rose two Sundays ago and was partially eclipsed for almost five hours into Monday as seen from some parts of the world. It sets up a total solar eclipse for North America at the next new moon of Monday, April 8. There are tons of events scheduled around this celestial celebration and event. Mind your eyes and those of your pets and loved ones during this time. Be sure to sport your SVs (also known as solar viewing glasses or solar eclipse glasses) eyewear designed for direct and safe viewing of solar events such as eclipses. Always best to consult with an eye expert regarding glasses and eye protection of course.

I am looking forward to this rare and incredible celestial event that segues us into the busy season

of spring sales and markets, sewing seeds and garden prep, fish fries and outdoor festivals and fun; fireside chats with friends and, of course, baseball!

FB post from the Central Manitoulin children's baseball club group: Upcoming events registration for C.M.C.B.C is April 19 from 6 to 8 pm at the Mindemoya ball field. Let's play ball!

Kagawong Team Fergmeijer

This time of year Team Fergmeijer channels their inner pirate and has a good time walking the plank. Some people can go a bit far with the pranks, though. Like the person who stole all the lavatory equipment from the OPP station in Little Current. Police report that they are investigating, but at this time they have nothing to go on. And that friend of ours who went a bit overboard with his prank last year. He swapped the price labels on the gas pumps at that local station. Looking back, it was not a great April fuels joke.

We were so excited to see Providence Bay's community column back up and running - welcome back!

Happy 29th birthday wishes go out to Kagawongian Sharon A, seasonal Kagawongian Tahnee P and Andrew C who, back in the day, was Kagawong-adjacent. Remember, you are only as old as you feel, so don't let it get you down that you now require multiple packs of candles for your cake.

Special thanks to the Easter Bunny who hopped back into Kagawong this past weekend working with the Parks, Rec and Wellness committee in an amazing collaboration! Kids of all sizes were on the hunt for goodies and everyone had a wonderful time. As always, the key to a good Easter egg hunt is to remember that if you find a chocolate on the ground, but it's not wrapped in foil, it's not chocolate.

This year's annual Manitoulin Sandhill Crane Cooping Competition on April 1 had a record number of competitors take part! While we can't name them all, we can give you the highlights of the event. In 5th place was Randy Holeweigh (seemed quite out of breath, which may have affected his score), in 4th place was

Kent C. Strait (an optometrist from the Sudbury region). Jenna Rossity (who brought gifts for all the competitors) came in 3rd, and Juan Manband (who had his own squeeze box and harmonica to accompany his cooing) placed 2nd. Honorable mention goes out to Lowden Cleer (who had the coo heard the farthest away), but the top performing entrant was Andy Wineriss with a truly inspired coo. The only moment to mar the occasion was a brief encounter between two competitors that got a bit heated. We interviewed one of the individuals, Kirstin Swoare, but The Expositor refused to publish her comments.

As of April 1, the landfill hours shift to spring and summer hours. 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.

"Come as You Are" on Saturday, April 13 and enjoy an evening of contemporary inspirational music (and sing-along) courtesy of Cia and Bill Savage at St. John's Anglican Church. The fun starts at 7 pm with refreshments provided. Donations towards repairing the front stained glass window of the church are greatly appreciated.

On the following weekend, the Billings Climate Action Committee is hosting an Earth Day event. Come out Saturday, April 20 for a community clean-up, a "junk in the trunk" sale, activities for youth and information on green technologies. Interested in being a vendor? Contact Vince Grogan at vgrogan@billingsstwp.ca for more information.

On the 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.

Later on in May, 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.

How do you keep an Islander in suspense? We'll reveal all in the next column! Have a great week!

...solar eclipse to coincide with solar flares

...continued from page 3

approximately three CMEs daily, whereas during solar minima, this frequency decreases to about one CME every five days. CMEs often exhibit a distinct appearance resembling a large, twisted rope, known to scientists as “flux rope.”

While the eclipse itself poses no threat to life on Earth, warnings abound, including school closures and stocking up on food and other necessities. The Niagara region in southern Ontario has issued a state of emergency as it expects an influx of a million visitors to view the eclipse. This could put pressure on infrastructure where prime viewing of the eclipse is expected.

Here on Manitoulin Island, we are only expected to see a partial eclipse. During a partial or total solar eclipse, like the one occurring on April 8, it is unsafe to gaze directly at the sun except for the brief total phase (“totality”). During totality, the moon completely obscures the sun’s bright face, but this occurs only within the narrow path of totality. You should not use adjustable and/or auto-darkening welding helmets or similar products to view the sun. Many don’t go as dark as shade 13 or 14, and even those that do post a grave risk to your eyesight, either because you accidentally adjust them to an unsafe setting or because they don’t auto-darken fast enough when you look at the sun with them.

The safest method for viewing the un eclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through specialized solar filters, such as “eclipse glasses” or handheld solar viewers. Ordinary sunglasses, regardless of how dark they are, do not provide adequate



Direct viewing of the Monday, April 8 solar eclipse is not safe. Special “eclipse glasses” are needed to view the event.

Shutterstock

protection as they allow too much sunlight to pass through.

An alternative safe viewing method for observing the partially eclipsed sun is through indirect means, such as pinhole projection. For instance, creating a waffle pattern by crossing the outstretched, slightly open fingers of one hand over the other hand’s fingers and observing the shadow on the ground will project a grid of small images showing the sun as a crescent during partial phases of a solar eclipse. Similarly, the shadow of a leafy tree during a partial eclipse will display crescent-shaped suns on the ground. Items like a colander, straw hat, or perforated spoon can also serve as effective pinhole projectors, but direct viewing through the pinholes should be avoided.

Welding filters with a shade number of 12 or higher are suitable for safe viewing, with shades 13 or 14 offering optimal brightness and col-

or. However, these filters may not be readily available in stores and might need to be purchased online.

When photographing the eclipse with a phone, it’s crucial to use a solar filter designed for such purposes, covering the lens entirely and remaining in place throughout the entire viewing session. While capturing the eclipse on a cellphone screen won’t harm the eyes, some models may struggle to display the sun effectively due to its small size. Still images are preferable for photography, as they require less exposure time, although using a tripod or stabilizing the phone against a steady surface is recommended for video recording to avoid jittery footage.

Remember, it’s never safe to look directly at the sun during an eclipse without proper eyewear protection, as solar radiation can cause damage to the retina, as stated by NASA.

...Colen McKeever celebrated with Green Economy award

...continued from page 3

As an authorized agent for Eco-Growth Environmental, a Calgary-based technology company, Mr. McKeever has been instrumental in providing green solutions for organic waste streams. His work involves converting organic waste into valuable resources, contributing to a more sustainable future, said a Green Economy North release.

Green Economy North recognizes individuals like Colen who champion innovation and drive positive change. Through their efforts, we move closer to a low-carbon economy, benefiting both the planet and our communities.

“I’m about treating food waste as a resource instead of a liability,” said Mr. McKeever, who told The Expositor, “I was pretty honoured and pleased to receive this recognition.”

“I seek to find sources for the waste stream and my

main target is organic waste which is the biggest. Thirty-seven percent, by volume, of the waste stream is organic,” said Mr. McKeever. “It makes up 61 percent of waste by weight. Food waste is very high density, it’s the heaviest around and is made up of 80 percent water.”

“I first got involved in Eco-Growth about two and a half years ago to identify cost-effective, environmental ways to get rid of food waste,” said Mr. McKeever.

“In November 2023, Eco-Growth shared in \$2 million in funding from the Department of National Defence, which was a big moment for the company and it has been growing by leaps and bounds ever since.”

Eco-Growth signed an agreement with Quad Realty, one of the larger building management companies in Canada with over \$73 billion dollars in real estate development for high density residential buildings.

“For Eco Growth Manitoulin I’m all about creating circular economies,” added Mr. McKeever.



Colen McKeever of Kagawong, operator of Eco Growth Manitoulin/Environmental has been awarded with the Green Economy North Member of the Year Award. In photo, left, Mr. McKeever is presented with the award by Simon Blakeley, regional manager program development and government relations of rethink Green.

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...Manitoulin Island gets thanked as Elliot Lake is new Hockeyville

...continued from page 1

said Mr. Flintoff. “The whole Northern Ontario supported Elliot Lake. I really feel that communities like Manitoulin and around the North really stepped up, and it feels like not only a win for Elliot Lake but all of Northern Ontario.”

“Kraft Heinz, in partnership with the National Hockey League (NHL) and the National Hockey League Players Association (NHLPA) is pleased to announce that Elliot Lake, Ontario has won the sought-after designation of Kraft Hockeyville 2024,” a release states.



The Elliot Lake crowd erupts in cheers as they are named Kraft Hockeyville for 2024.

Elliot Lake will receive \$250,000 for rink upgrades, the oppor-

tunity to host an NHL pre-season game and \$10,000 worth of youth hockey equipment from the NHLPA Goals and Dreams fund.

Many Manitoulin Island residents were among the country who cast their votes for Elliot Lake, recognizing the community for its dedication to creating a haven for the next generation of hockey players and fans. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman made the official announcement on Sportsnet’s Hockey Night in Canada broadcast Saturday evening.

“Despite many challenges, particularly after the closure of mines in the early 1990s, the community (Elliot Lake) has redefined itself and the population continues to

grow. However, recent hardships have impacted their recreational and competitive hockey leagues, including the Elliot Lake junior hockey team, forcing them to relocate due to the closure of the Centennial Arena last fall, following significant structural issues with the arena roof.”

“We would like to congratulate Elliot Lake and all of this year’s finalists for their amazing commitment to make the Hockeyville program a huge success yet again,” said Simon Laroche, president of Kraft Heinz Canada.

...\$10 billion cash Robinson-Huron settlement funds in trust account

...continued from page 1

“That is what they (governments) indicated just recently,” said Angus Toulouse, of Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHLTF) and Chief of Sagamok Anishnawbek. “There is still some work that has to be done at the community level, and for priorities to be set with conversation in each community on

the per capita benefit to each beneficiary and arriving at each community’s own disbursement amounts, for example.”

“There is a lot more due diligence that has to be carried out,” stated Chief Toulouse. “Right now we’re still in conversation at the community level before things move forward (with disbursements).”

“The RHT chiefs were advised about the early transfer of the funds,” a RHLTF release states. “The RHT chiefs designated a bank to receive and safeguard the funds until distribution can take place in accordance with the Compensation Disbursement Agreement. The funds will earn significant interest and will be allocated to the First Nations in accordance with the Compensation Disbursement Agreement.”

has not been negotiated with the government as of yet.”

“A related matter that was included in the discussion was the 10 percent war chest component of the Compensation Disbursement Agreement,” the RHLTF release continues. “There was a discussion about reducing the war chest component from 10 percent to five percent and that five percent could be allocated to the 21 First Nations for allocation in accordance with community discussions.”

“The direction from the RHT chiefs resulting from the discussion of these matters was for the 21 First Nations Chiefs and Councils to discuss the concepts and for the appropriate analysis to be done regarding the potential impacts of such proposal on the settlement agreement and among the First Nations.”

It was explained, “The 21 First Nations have been hosting community discussions regarding the compensation funds and will continue to have their discussions with their members on and off-reserve. This process is expected to continue to the point where the First Nations will be in a position to transfer per capita payments in accordance with the results of the community discussions.”

Before the per capita payments begin, the RHLTF noted, “receiving the priority payment will add a new layer of responsibilities to the First Nation councils. First Nations use a trust to hold assets from a settlement, even if they choose to distribute the amount as part of a per capita distribution or payout.”

Before the funds are received, the 21 First Nations will be determining community priorities regarding the receipt of funds, decide who will be entitled to a per capita distribution, establish a trust team which includes a trust lawyer, an accountant and/or bankers and other experts; engage a lawyer to advise the council on trusts; ensure that the beneficiaries bank account has been properly set up to receive funds and the RHLTF has your First Nation’s bank account information; ensure each First Nation finance department has the necessary banking information for its members/citizens; ensure your First Nations membership/citizenship lists are up to date and current; encourage members/citizens to have up-to-date identification and wills if possible; determine the trust model that works best to meet the needs of their community; learn about the legal, financial and tax aspects of receiving the funds; identify and develop community resources, including addressing scammers, mental health support, addictions support, domestic violence supports, Elder abuse supports, financial literacy and more; and having a well-organized communications plan for your First Nation.”

“The RHT chiefs discussed a concept to expedite the transfer of the compensation funds to the First Nations. The Disbursement Agreement sets out an allocation formula in accordance with population and beneficiary numbers among the First Nations,” the release continues. “The work relating to the determination of those statistics could take a significant amount of time. An approach that could expedite the transfer of the funds could be to eliminate the beneficiaries and membership distinctions in favour of relying on the membership populations as the means of allocating the funds among the 21 First Nations. The discussion established that this concept only applies to the past compensation agreement, not the future arrangement which has yet to be negotiated or litigated.”

Chief Toulouse noted that “the new annuity amount

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...C.C. McLean tops Canada Jump Rope for Heart school standings

...continued from page 3

envelope and go door to door for donations. Now it is all done online; families register their kids on the Jump Rope for Heart website, and parents post this on social media so it goes out to uncles, aunts, grandparents, everyone. The Town of Gore Bay posted our fundraising campaign on social media as well and we had people who have been affiliated with the school in the past who took part. The whole fundraising campaign went like wildfire.”

Ms. Van Every said, “we haven’t participated in Jump Rope for Heart at the school since 2019 due to the pandemic. This year marks the first time we have participated since then.”

“It is unbelievable, I’ve been blown away by the support our school has received,” stated Ms. Van Every. “The students have raised more this year than the years 2017-2019 combined.” She noted a student in the Grade 4/5 class raised the largest amount, but “everyone in the school has taken part, and a number of families have been very generous as well.”

Ms. Van Every has been running regular practice for the students in the school gymnasium and students have been practicing their skipping skills during re-



cess as well.

“Best of luck to all those jumping kids, and please let them know I am so proud of their efforts to bring about change through charity,” wrote Lisa Corbiere-Addison, Island trustee with the Rainbow District School Board. “A small but mighty community that is the best jump rope for heart fundraiser this year. C.C. McLean will leave a mark in Canadian history.”

Ms. Guilfoyle noted that as of March 28, the Jump Day held at C.C. McLean (which marked the end of the school’s fundraising campaign), the school had raised the most in Canada. “Schools can still take part to the end of the school year in June depending on the prov-

ince. So the fundraising standings could change, but at this point C.C. McLean has raised the most amount in Canada. They are amazing.”

“This is the biggest public education fundraising program held in Canada every year,” said Ms. Guilfoyle. “The students gain healthy habits while they take on fundraising to defeat heart and stroke disease, so it is definitely a very worthy cause.”

...Dianne Corbiere receives Law Society Medal

...continued from page 3

the highest ideals of the legal profession. It may be awarded for devotion to professional duties over a long term or for a single outstanding act of service.”

Ms. Corbiere was called to the Bar in 1998 and in her 29 years at Nahwegahbow Corbiere, she has continually championed the advancement of legal and social justice for First Nations Peoples in Canada. She was instrumental in the evolution of case law and, most recently, she has been involved in Restoule v Canada at the Ontario Court of Appeal and the

Supreme Court of Canada. Ms. Corbiere is also part of the class counsel team representing the Assembly of First Nations in Assembly of First Nations et al. v Canada. Both cases have achieved historic Canadian compensation awards for the First Nation clients.

Ms. Corbiere served as an elected benchler of the Law Society of Ontario from 2015 to 2023, during a period when the legal profession was being called upon to respond with substance to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action. Over the course of her career, Ms. Corbiere has

been instrumental in educating, informing and shaping policy to ensure the Law Society and the legal community at large is responsive and accountable to the country’s Indigenous reconciliation work.

Originally struck in 1985, the Law Society Medal has been awarded to more than 100 lawyers in recognition of distinguished service. The Medal is made of sterling silver and is in the shape of a heraldic rose; the petals covered in white enamel. The white rose of York was chosen because it forms part of the Law Society’s coat of arms; it symbol-

izes the fact that the Law Society’s seat was in York County, and that Toronto was called York at the time when Osgoode Hall was created in 1829.

The Law Society’s motto, “Let Right Prevail,” appears in a red enamel circle in the centre of the rose, surrounded by a stag. The stag came originally from the coat of arms of Sir John Beverly Robinson, an early Treasurer. A beaver was also included as it appears in the Law Society’s coat of arms.

Recipients of the medal are permitted to wear it on appropriate occasions and can also use the designation LSM (short for Law Society Medal) after their names.

...Manor exempted from class action

...continued from page 3

Manitoulin Centennial Manor is currently in union negotiations with both CUPE and the Ontario Nurses Association (ONA) over contracts. ONA is currently awaiting an arbitration date. The arbitration date for the CUPE negotiations were set for March 28.

The courtyard project, financed by an anonymous donor family, will likely see a grand opening sometime in June.

“Most things are done now,” said Mr. Cook. “We are just waiting on better weather to get a few last things done.” Plans are in place to have a mural painted on the side of the building by the courtyard and a set of carvings depicting the Seven Grandfather Teachings will be installed.

The home remains in good financial shape overall and capital projects are proceeding well.



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...Ontario invites application from St. Joseph's for new Gore Bay nursing home

...continued from page 1
 proval, which is step one of a three step process, it was based on the ministry funding that was available at the time. However, the top-up funding through the ministry was not there, but now it has been reinstated.”
 Mr. Gervais pointed out, “even if we receive final funding approval for the project, we will

still be required to fundraise. Without the top-up program we would have required a loan of \$38 million. As long as we are approved for the top-up funding our loan will be \$13 million, which is much more manageable.”
 Mayor Lane said St. Joseph's will now revise the formal application, and if it is approved, “then we can be more confident that the new nursing

home will definitely be constructed.”
 Gore Bay officials met with St. Joseph's Health Centre and Jarlette Health Services representatives last Thursday. “So the funding application will now go forward and the building design will need to be finalized by the architect, Louis Belanger,” said Mayor Lane. The deadline for getting approval from the minis-

try to construct the home is November 30 of this year. Construction could start by August 2025, although if funding is approved prior to this date construction can start earlier, he said.
 “It's all good news,” stated Mayor Lane. “Now we have a clearer direction, and we will be hosting another public infor-

mation session in late April or early May with St. Joseph's, Jarlette, the architect, to provide information to Manitoulin Lodge staff, residents and family members and get further input on the updated designs. I have seen the architect's revised design for the new nursing home; they have taken into account input pro-

vided at the meeting held earlier this year.”
 “We are extremely happy and excited with the news provided by the province,” said Mayor Lane. “This is what we have been waiting for and this is a major stop in the right direction and all that work that we have all done so far is going to help.”



Gore Bay Legion donates funds to MSS robotics team

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 514 in Gore Bay donated \$548 to the MSS Robotics team. The funds were derived from break-open ticket sales. In photo from left is MSS Robotics team member Alex Wilson-Zegil, Marilyn Clarke, president of the Legion and MSS team member Amara Wilson-Zegil.

...new Indigenous business definitions

...continued from page 3

In recent years the Canadian public has witnessed numerous individuals, groups and businesses lay claim to being Indigenous, only to be outed when diligent investigators took a closer look at the roots of those claims. From the arts to business, the lure of the money has proven tempting. Thanks to her many years at the helm of one of the most successful business development organizations in the nation, Ms. Madahbee-Leach is well-positioned to assist in winnowing out the chaff when it comes to businesses whose claims to Indigeneity are less than skin deep.



Dawn Madahbee-Leach

“It is important to ensure that the ‘Indigenous’ owners, board members, administration and employees actually have a role in the business,” she said, not just acting as figureheads in order to qualify for grants or loans. “We know that there are shell companies that may be have an Indigenous front person that's being used really to access a lot of set-asides and procurement opportunities.”

That winnowing process therefore means asking hard questions such as ‘do they have the skills and expertise to succeed in that business?’

The new Indigenous Business Definitions were released by the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA) last week and developed by the National Indigenous

Procurement Working Group, which consists of representatives of various Indigenous organizations, government departments and industry associations.

The stakes are not inconsiderable, as in 2021, the Canadian government announced a government-wide procurement target of five percent for Indigenous businesses. The federal government's Indigenous Business Directory includes a list of Indigenous companies eligible for special consideration when bidding on some federal contracts.

As more of Canada's natural resource wealth is accessed in its Northern and more remote areas that form Indigenous traditional territories, the aim is for First Nations communities and businesses to share in the prosperity. Too often in the past, those communities have only experienced the negative fallout from those developments.

The new guide released by NACCA provide criteria for Indigenous sole proprietorships, corporations, non-profits, chari-

table organizations, co-operatives and partnerships that include many of the current federal stipulations, such as 51 percent Indigenous ownership and control, but go well beyond that too-often cosmetic benchmark noted Ms. Madahbee-Leach.

Ms. Madahbee-Leach said she hopes the new definitions will help weed out businesses that aren't Indigenous-led, prevent false claims of Indigeneity and tokenism from opportunities meant for First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

“It's going to make a difference to ensure that those set-asides that are meant for our people go to our people,” said Ms. Madahbee-Leach. “There is so much opportunity to involve our people in Canada's economy—procurement is one of the best ways.”

NACCA's criteria for proof of Indigeneity excludes membership in some organizations in the federal government's Indigenous Business Directory criteria currently includes, setting the stage for some serious discussion. “We've contested that directory and we said it is we who need to maintain that directory because we know how to determine Indigeneity way better than a civil servant,” said Ms. Madahbee-Leach.

“I have been happy to have been involved,” she said of the past four years of work on the project. “I have always been intent on being a strong voice for our people.”



NOTICE BOARD

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Public Notice

Please be advised that the Council meeting of April 4th is **CANCELLED**.
Our next meeting will be **April 16th at 7:00pm**

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Mayor MacNevin and Council would like to invite you to the NEMI Recreation Centre on April 17th, 6:30 to 8:30pm as we say thank you to everyone that makes our town a great place to live in recognition of Volunteer Appreciation Week!
Come celebrate our amazing volunteers!
As the saying goes, 'Many Hands Make Light Work,' and without our volunteers, many events, organizations and sports teams would not exist.
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Congratulations to the Manitoulin Panthers U15 team for winning the Tournament of Champions!

A message from the Little Current and District Fish and Game Club, Sheguiandah First Nation, M'Chigeeng First Nation, Manitoulin Streams, Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation and Whitefish River First Nation



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Carbon tax rose on April 1—carbon cost levy rises by \$15 per tonne

by Michael Erskine

CANADA—The cost of most things went up around 0.1 percent on April 1 due to a rise in the federal carbon tax. While the carbon tax rose 23 percent, the impact on most budgets, according to the Parliamentary Budget Office will be minimal and offset for 80 percent of families getting at least as much back in rebates as they are paying out in additional costs.

There is a lot of hype in the web-a-sphere about the carbon tax as politicians and partisan perspectives on the matter abound.

Canada has two different carbon pricing programs—one for large industrial corporations, those companies pay a price based on a share of their actual emissions, and a second consumer carbon levy which is applied to fossil fuel purchases.

That second consumer levy impacts individuals as well as small and medium-sized businesses, First Nations, and public-sector operations such as hospitals, universities, schools and municipalities.

The price change on April 1 affects the consumer levy, which applies in every province and territory except British Columbia, Quebec and Northwest Territories.

Both British Columbia and the Northwest Territories have their own, similar, charge on carbon for consumers. Although Quebec has a cap-and-trade system that is quite different, it is considered equivalent enough by Ottawa to exempt that province from the federal levy.

The consumer carbon levy is added to the price of more than 20 different fuel sources known to produce greenhouse gas emissions when burned for energy. Those include gasoline, propane, diesel and natural gas. The additional cost applied to each fuel depends on how many greenhouse gases are produced when that fuel is burned to create energy.

The variance can be considerable, as a litre of diesel produces more carbon dioxide than a litre of gasoline, the carbon price is set higher on a litre of diesel than it is on gasoline.

Going from the previous \$65 per tonne to \$80, will mean the carbon price on a litre of gasoline will now be 17.6 cents per litre, that's up 3.3 cents per litre. The price for a litre of diesel will include 21.39 cents in carbon price, up from 17.38 cents—or a rise of 4.1 cents per litre.

For propane users, the price for propane will now include 12.38 cents a litre in carbon price, up from 10.08 cents—a rise of 2.3 cents per pound. Your standard 20-pound barbecue propane tank will cost about \$2.20 in carbon price to fill, compared with \$1.78 last year. For natural gas, the carbon price will add 15.3 cents to a

cubic metre of natural gas, up from 12.4 cents previously—that's a rise of 2.0 cents.

Just about everything will get its own little hit, including food and clothing, as there are indirect costs of carbon pricing when companies that pay the price themselves increase the cost of their goods and services to match.

Statistics Canada estimates that carbon pricing increased the price of food by about 0.3 percent and the price of clothes by two percent since its inception. The effect of the latest increase has yet to be determined but general estimates place the impact of the carbon tax on inflation at around 0.1 percent.

Provinces whose consumers pay the federal carbon price receive a federal rebate that is supposed to offset the rise in costs.

The federal rebate is deposited or mailed out four times a year and is divided among households based on family size, not by income (unlike British Columbia whose rebate is based on household income—leaving about 30 percent out of the deal).

Each year Environment and Climate Change Canada calculates the expected revenues from carbon pricing in each province, and by law, must return 90 percent of those revenues in rebates. A portion of the remaining

10 percent goes to increase rural resident rebates by 20 percent in recognition of the challenges faced by more remote consumers in changing habits. A portion of the rest goes toward helping businesses become more fuel efficient.

Critics have pointed out those programs have been tardy in their rollout, as most businesses have not received anything in the five years since carbon pricing began.

The rebates increase as the price increases, however this year many households in the the Atlantic provinces won't see an increase in their rebates, however, as almost one-third of households in those provinces use heating oil and since October have been exempted from paying the carbon price.

The rebates vary because carbon pricing totals vary based on things like heating use and driving distances. Alberta and Saskatchewan, for example, typically use more natural gas for heat per households than in Ontario or Manitoba.

The next rebate payment is due on April 15. In Ontario, a single person household can expect a \$140 rebate, while a couple will see a \$210 rebate and a family of four \$280. Rural residents should see 20 percent more than that amount.



Kyle Chandler on OPP curling team

Hawewater Kyle Chandler, a constable with the Greater Sudbury Police Service is a member on the curling rink that is representing the Northern Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) at the Canadian Police Curling Championships.

"We have the same team as last year," said Mr. Chandler, who plays vice on the rink, and is a detective investigator and part of the intelligence bomb/explosive disposal unit, as well as skip Charlie Robert, a constable with the Sault Ste. Marie OPP, Constable Nick Servant of the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service and Steve Meunier, a sergeant with the South Porcupine OPP.

"We have been to the nationals three times previously in St. John's Newfoundland, Halifax Nova Scotia, and last year in Levi, Quebec where we qualified for the playoffs," Mr. Chandler shared. This year's event takes place in Whitby from April 6-13. "We were 9-2 in last year's Canadian championship."

The Roberts rink, which Mr. Chandler is a part of, won the Northern Ontario provincial championship in North Bay in January. He also played in the men's provincials this year with Jordan Chandler (Kyle's brother) as skip, as well as at an event held in Phoenix, Arizona the week before the men's provincials. The Canadian championship will include 12 teams.

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Easter bunny hops on Manitoulin, leaves eggs behind



Hundreds of people attended the Centennial Museum of Sheguiandah's Easter egg hunt on Saturday morning.



Four generations of Fields pose with the Easter Bunny at Assiginack's famed Easter egg hunt, the longest running Easter tradition on Manitoulin.



The Central Manitoulin Easter egg hunt has become a big event with a special visit from the Easter bunny himself.



Happiness is Easter egg hunting! This youngster was all smiles as he filled his basket with delicious chocolate eggs at the Easter Egg hunt hosted by the Gore Bay spirit committee at Manitoulin Golf, last Friday.



Egg hunters get ready to charge Manitoulin Golf in Gordon Friday.



LEFT: Ten-year-old Lillianna poses with two of the 'eggs' she found around Wiikwemkoong.



RIGHT: Melissa Elgie was one popular parent! The pet foster brought a litter of puppies to the Sheguiandah hunt, much to the delight of everyone.



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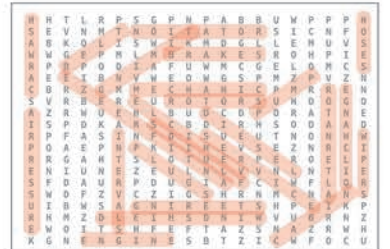
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NEMI Public Library hosts program: Ageism and the Risks for Seniors

by Margery Frisch

LITTLE CURRENT—On Wednesday, March 27 a group of people gathered at the NEMI Public Library to learn about ageism, what it is and how to combat it.

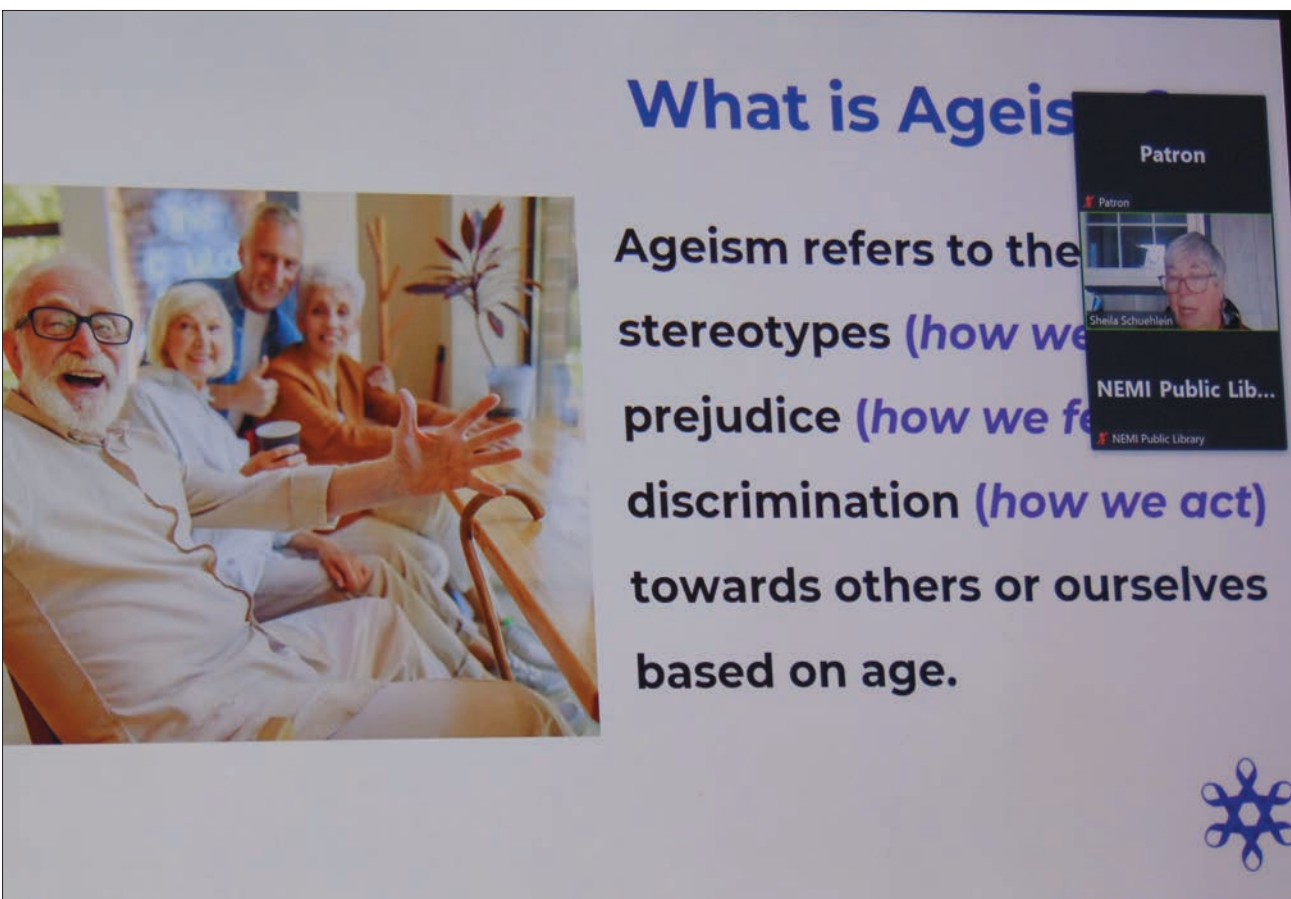
Suzanne Norris, facilitator for the Senior COMPASS Project, which was responsible for bringing the program to the library, introduced the guest speaker, Sheila Schuehle. “Sheila is from Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario (EAPO) and is joining us by zoom from Cape Breton,” Ms. Norris said. “Sheila is the Regional Elder Abuse Prevention Consultant serving Northern Ontario for EAPO. She is a gerontologist who has developed, facilitated and evaluated health promotion initiatives for over 25 years.” Ms. Norris went on to tell the group that Ms. Schuehle joined the EAPO team in 2016 with a passion for promoting resiliency in older adults.

Participants sat facing a large TV screen and Sheila Schuehle brought them her hour-long program complete with graphs, short videos and power point presentation. She began with the question: “What is ageism?” Ms. Schuehle gave a brief definition of the term: “Ideas, attitudes, beliefs and practices on the part of individuals, that are biased against persons, or groups, based on their age. Often directed to older adults, but not solely directed to the elderly,” Ms. Schuehle explained. To the extent that older adults don’t fit the perceived social norm, they can be treated as less; being less valued and less visible; they become relegated to second class status; and treated as if they don’t matter as much.

“That’s an awful place to be if you are an older adult,” she added. “That social norm is something we really need to fight against,” Ms. Schuehle stated, adding that age discrimination is often not taken as seriously as other forms of discrimination, but it is a human rights issue.

She was quick to point out that ageism, or reverse ageism, is not always about older people, young adults are often classed into one group with negative statements directed toward them: “They’re lazy, they don’t want to work, etc...” There may be biases not to promote younger, or older adults, excluding them from meetings and educational opportunities.

According to studies done several years ago in Canada, ageism is the most tolerated form of prejudice. But a global report has come up with three strategies to counteract this prejudice. Policies and laws must be put in place, educational activities, and intergenerational contact, which seems to have lessened in recent generations, must be fostered. Pushing forward with these measures will help to diminish these stereotypes. Ms. Schuehle encouraged the participants to spend more time with grandchildren, offer their skills in mentorship programs, and find ways to help others. “Push



A screenshot of part of the presentation on ageism held at the NEMI Public Library on Wednesday, March 7.

photo by Margery Frisch

back on ageism,” she said, “don’t allow stereotypical statements to go unchallenged.”

Self-directed ageism is an area that most bothers Ms. Schuehle, when older people begin to develop negative feelings regarding their own age. Pulling out of activities in which they feel they are now too old to take part.

“How many of you have said, ‘I’m having a senior’s moment?’” Ms. Schuehle asked. Everyone laughed, realizing they are sometimes guilty of fostering the stereotype. Bringing up the point that, at times, ageism can be subtle but impactful.

“Change your focus to the positive,” she stressed, putting the onus on those present to advocate for the older demographic which, she pointed out, is the most heterogeneous group to be lumped into one, with differ-

ent educational and cultural backgrounds, as well as a host of other variables.

Those present came away with a new sense of purpose and will now be on the lookout for signs of ageism in all areas of their lives.

Library board member Laurie Cook thanked Ms. Schuehle for her presentation. “I had this sinking feeling that ageing was inevitable, everything about the process was inevitable, but you’re telling us that ‘no, we don’t have to fall into the stereotype,’ and I find that empowering.” Everyone in the room seemed to share Ms. Cook’s sentiments with their heartfelt applause in response.

Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario provides programs, webinars, networks, and lots of information for those wanting to learn more at eapon.ca

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...Mindemoya Lake 'at capacity' say opponents to plan of 39 shoreline lots

...continued from page 1

"We have a good number of letters of concern from local residents, but we can't do much until this goes through the process that handles subdivisions (Manitoulin Planning Board). It is a rigorous process including a lot of background research, studies and consultation," said Mayor Stephens. "It is still a very open and fluent exercise. We want to hear your questions, thoughts and ideas."

Mayor Stephens summarized a little from all the letters that have been received, noting one from Dan Colton, who stated he was opposed to the development, had done research and came to a good conclusion that the existence of trees on the lakeshore is very important to good quality water in the lake, as their root system provides a buffer between the lakeshore and the water. He also said the municipality was pleased to receive a letter from M'Chigeeng First Nation Chief Morgan Hare (as reported in last week's edition of The Expositor), outlining his community's concerns. "These concerns are in line with other letters we have received from Central Manitoulin community members. We have to take time and come up with solutions to the concerns, before we agree this is either a good project or a no-go project."

Gord Keatley of Keatley Surveying, who was in attendance, said the Manitoulin Official Plan supports the 2018 designation of the property proposed for development as shoreline area. It used to be rural. "Prime agriculture area has been removed for most of Manitoulin. The new Official Plan is more in line with soil quality and has moved some areas into rural zone."

Mr. Keatley said a number of studies required for the development still have to be completed, particularly environmental impacts, but that some of the required studies are finished. "Several people have questions concerning water quality and the proponents are going to be bringing in an expert to do studies of the water as well."

Lee Kieswetter of (Split Crow) "has a house on the lake so he is just as concerned about water quality as anyone," said Mr. Keatley. "This is a long process, we have been working with (MPB) for a while now, and had enough to complete an application (for the proposed development)."

Mr. Rautiainen asked why the meeting wasn't postponed until the summer when all residents on the lake are back. "You could have held this public meeting in June when the kids are out of school." "We felt there was no reason to postpone tonight's meeting," said Mr. Kieswetter. "We are holding it in good faith to address concerns and receive input. There is still a lot of work to do, steps to be taken and reports finalized before this could go ahead. We will be working with the municipality as part of this toward a subdivision management plan, where again a lot of the concerns can be addressed."

"Our goal is to continue to move forward with what we have to do, with MPB and the subdivision agreement with council," said Mr. Kieswetter. "As we move forward we will be able to provide more answers to questions."

Stan Drystek of Lake Mindemoya Stewardship Association (LMSA) said studies carried out by engineering firm EXP and by LMSA show that coliform, E.coli, turbidity and phosphorous levels on the lake have been significantly higher than provincial standards allow. However, the meeting was told, based on discussions with septic system installers and the public health unit, the development will not see E.coli or coliform being added to the lake.

"I swim in the lake, and if the development proposed was to have detrimental impacts I wouldn't be involved in this project," said Mr. Keatley.

One resident asked if the 39-lot development is part of an overall 140 lot creation (through backside lots being created on Tracy Road). "We are looking at 39 lots; the 140-lot creation is news to me," said Mr. Kieswetter. He said the lots would be for permanent housing development, not seasonal.

Maja Mielonen raised concern about reports showing leakage in field beds, whether the municipality has a long-range development 'care and control' bylaw in place that can be enforced (which municipal officials said is the case), and whether the developer will be providing space for parkland on Tracy Road.

One resident said that all septic systems in the area need to be inspected for leakage, adding that one of the main problems for water being below standard in the summer is due to E.coli in the water in the form of goose droppings.

Steve Elliott said when housing development takes place, the environment ministry inspects septic systems, but they don't inspect them after development has taken place, when people make changes that may impact water quality.

Mr. Elliott stated, "the lake quality is terrible. It's so bad I won't let my dog swim in it in August. Before any development takes place studies need to be done to make sure the water quality is good, and if not, what needs to be done to correct it."

Mr. Kieswetter said, "I see a lot of interesting things around the lake, and quality is an issue. What is being done to cause problems does need to be looked at."

Councillor Derek Stephens confirmed the municipality has a custodial care bylaw in place that can be enforced. "I believe a lot of the problems with Lake Mindemoya are because of all the clear cutting that has taken place on the waterfront, and soil is eroded. Clear cutting is a big problem on the lake and I feel anyone who cuts down a tree should have to plant two, to save the shoreline."

"If anyone is to blame with the problems of water quality on the lake it is the previous owners," said Councillor Brian Mitchell. He said creeks and waterbeds are impacted when farmland practices release materials into the water bodies.

One attendee suggested that with a lot of concerns with phosphate and coliform levels, assessments of the lake need to be completed before any further development is allowed.

"This is something that will be part of the process and is a good suggestion," said Mayor Stephens.

"I am from a big town that had a dead lake," said Ms. Mielonen. "The town council there made the decision that everyone on the water would have water and septic systems. It took 10 years but the lake did recover," suggesting that it might be considered in this case for the proposed subdivision.

"This was considered on the Hodgins Subdivision and people there said they would not pay these costs," said Councillor Stephens.

"I just hope we all work together to find a solution for the lake quality," said one resident.

"That is my hope too," said Mayor Stephens. "We've listened to all the concerns raised here tonight. Keep them coming—we want all of your input and ideas. This is all part of the process and due diligence to making the right decision on the proposal."

at capacity. The only lake listed as at capacity is Lake Manitou."

"This is correct. We have received no notification from the province that the lake is at capacity and that we need to cease development on (Lake Mindemoya)," said Ms. Carlisle. She explained Lake Manitou has been closed off for development between 2009-2018 except for a very few exceptions. The province had approved the MPB new Official Plan. It was also pointed out Lake Mindemoya has had studies carried out on it by the province, but the MPB has never been informed the lake is at capacity for development.

The MPB passed a motion to defer consideration to the conditions for draft approval for the development for 60 days.

they and Billings Township were not consulted on the planned development," said chair Lee Hayden.

Ms. Carlisle told the board members MPB had followed Planning Act requirements and M'Chigeeng, Billings, along with the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory and the United Chiefs and Councils of Mni-doo Mnising had been given formal notice letter along with the municipality of Central Manitoulin and this notice had been posted on the municipality online site and advertised in The Manitoulin Expositor.

"So, we followed all procedures," said Mr. Hayden.

"We have had a lot of letters of concern come in that the Lake (Mindemoya) is at capacity (for development)," said MPB member Ken Noland. "But in our Official Plan the lake is not listed as being

...no direction given by province that lake 'at capacity'

...continued from page 1

Theresa Carlisle, secretary for the MPB told members of the board at a meeting on Tuesday of last week that the original application for the subdivision was put into circulation on December 27, 2023 and as per the Planning Act, 120 days was provided for the board to consider and make a decision on the application. "I did prepare the subdivision draft conditions, however the agent for the application (Kristine Lang of Split Crow Partners Inc.) asked that a deferral of draft conditions be passed by the board. She wrote, 'we would like the review of the draft conditions to be deferred from the agenda for March 26. This has provided a very short window for review. And we would agree to a 60-day extension to work through the revisions.'"

"So, this would be for an additional 60 days beyond the previous 120 days?" MPB member Richard Stephens asked.

Ms. Carlisle said if the subdivision proponents had appealed for no decision within the 120 days, "it would hold up the process. I'm comfortable with allowing for the extension."

Mr. Stephens said the municipality of Central Manitoulin council, "had an information session with the developer proponents and members of the public last night. I'm not surprised to see this request."

Ms. Carlisle inquired as to whether the board wanted to discuss the issue any further while it is on the agenda. "They (proponents) want to have further talks with the municipality on the draft. If we discussed the draft conditions, they would then become public."

Board chair Lee Hayden said, "the letter (the MPB received) from M'Chigeeng First Nation stated



A proposed subdivision on the southwest side of Lake Mindemoya is currently before the Manitoulin Planning Board.

image courtesy Google Earth

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Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

U15 Manitoulin Panthers are NOHA champions!

by Ashley Taylor

LITTLE CURRENT—The Manitoulin Panthers played host to the U15B Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA) Tournament of Champions March 22-24 at the NEMI Rec Centre and won the coveted trophy on home ice.

An incredible opening ceremony began with a memorable drumming performance by Sunset Sagutch that gave the entire arena goosebumps. A land acknowledgment was read by Delilah Bourcier followed by a beautiful rendition of O Canada sung by Makenzie

for the Panthers assisted by Colten Martin. Starting off the second period strong with an unassisted goal by Cooper Farquhar the Panthers took a 2-0 lead. An impressive effort from goaltender Declan McGonegal and a few penalties ended game two in a 2-2 tie.

Saturday morning the Panthers found themselves taking on the Temiskaming Shores Puckhounds. Another hard-fought game from both teams ended in a 2-2 tie with two goals from Bryden Romaniuk, assisted by Cooper Farquhar, Anders Watson and Chase Taylor.



The Panther U15 team poses with their trophy and banner following a hard-won victory at the Northern Ontario Hockey Association.

photo by Ashley Taylor

Cortes and a ceremonial puck drop by Mayor Al MacNevin. MPP Michael Mantha then took to the ice with the help of all five participating teams and encouraged all of the fans in the stands to rally behind Elliot Lake and encourage everyone to vote Elliot Lake in the upcoming Kraft Hockeyville campaign.

A weekend jam-packed full of hockey kicked off Friday morning at 10:30 with the hometown Panthers taking on the visiting North Bay Trappers. A fast-paced first period ended with goals being scored by Chase Taylor and Cooper Farquhar, both assisted by Captain Anders Watson to give the Panthers a 2-0 lead going into the second. An impressive effort by goalie Liam Stephens kept the second period scoreless.

Headed into the third period, the Panthers refused to stop the push that they had put on the Trappers. A goal by Cohen Rajotte from Anders Watson and a goal by Lincoln Rancourt from teammates Colten Martin and Spencer Cortes resulted in a 4-1 victory.

After incredible opening ceremonies, the Panthers were ready for the next opponents, The Powassan Hawks. At the end of a hard fought first period Max McLeod scored the first goal of the game

For their fourth and final game of round-robin play, the Panthers took to the ice to compete against the Iroquois Falls Eskimos. Another great effort from goaltender Declan McGonegal and hard defensive and offensive play from the whole team, with a special shout out to Spencer Cortes who seemed to get everywhere and anywhere with his impressive speed all weekend. The Panthers defeated Iroquois Falls 8-3, securing them the second place spot headed into the semifinals on Sunday where they would once again take on the Temiskaming Shores Puckhounds. After two unanswered goals by the Puckhounds in the first period and a scoreless second, the Panthers found themselves headed into the third period in desperate need of a pick-me-up. After a chance to regroup, the Panthers came out for the third period determined that this was not the end of their tournament. In what was the most exciting third period of the tournament Max McLeod netted an unassisted goal to give the team the spark of hope that they were looking for. With 1 minute and 53 seconds left in the third, Anders Watson tied the game, assisted by

...continued on page 6A

Manitoulin Sporting Life

Ice Chips to Canoe Quips

by Larry and André Leblanc



Manitoulin 3 on 3!

The Mindemoya Thunder organization held another great tournament, attracting teams from the Island and from away. This huge undertaking is the major fundraiser for the Central Manitoulin group and takes over the NEMI recreation centre in Little Current.

Unfortunately, rosters are not available but congratulations to the division winners. **Max Wynn** won for the U-18 division team, Espanola Dirty Laundry won the U-15s, the Weekend Warriors for the U-13s, the Mnising Tribe took the U-11s, while the Northshore Beavers U-9 got to hoist the cup!

Congratulations to all the participants and the Thunder thanks all of the teams and volunteers who allowed them to pull it off!

off the boards and get to the middle of the ice which helps our group generate so much offensively."

The North York Rangers fought their way to the semi-finals where they met the Oakville Rangers (BTW, can team organizations, not find original names?) and were narrowly edged out by Oakville who went on to win the cup. Known as the "Ko-Show" to his team, Kohyn still had plenty of opportunity to show all the scouts that he deserves to be selected early in the upcoming OHL draft this spring. Great job, Kohyn!

Join Central Manitoulin youth baseball!

The Central Manitoulin Children's Baseball Club is now taking registrations for the league until April 16th.



The Mindemoya Thunder's 3 on 3 tournament U11 winners, Mnising Tribe, celebrate.

Off his Rock, hockey!

Congratulations to **Kohyn Eshkawogan** and his North York Rangers who had an impressive run at this year's OHL Cup. North York has been bouncing around the top-five of the best, U16 "AAA" team in Canada all season. They came to put their training and skills to the test in the 2024 OHL Cup that featured the top 20 U16 AAA teams from Ontario and the United States. The showcase ran this past weekend with all games being played at the Scotiabank Pond in Toronto.

Kohyn, who is a strong, shut-down D-man also has a knack for scoring and setting up his teammates too. In their round-robin match against Thunder Bay, Kohyn put all his skills on show, helping the Rangers remain undefeated to that point dominating T-Bay 7-2. Kohyn was awarded the player of the game with his one goal and three assist effort.

Kohyn's skills on-ice are well established but he can handle a post-game interview with the best of them. When a reporter asked him about the Ranger's offensive explosion the youngster answered like a seasoned veteran. Kohyn praised his team's ability to create offence saying, "With our offence, we have such a strong fore-check with our great forward group, we just really like to get

There are three age groups that will play on Wednesday and Thursday evenings at the amazing ball field facilities in Mindemoya. The T-ball group (2017 - 2019 birth years) takes to the field first on Wednesdays. The 'Senior' set (2009 - 2012 birth dates) will take over the fields after the young ones. Thursdays are reserved for the Juniors (2013 - 2016).

The organizers have created an online registration form to be filled out before the deadline in two weeks. The league fee is only \$30 and will include a jersey. The form also includes a section for those interested in lending assistance as a coach or manager. If you are interested, please join the CMCBC Facebook group.

Elliot Lake = Hockeyville!

Congratulations to the city of Elliot Lake and the organization committee that spearheaded the Kraft Hockeyville entry. The win includes an NHL exhibition game as well as a much needed \$250,000 to help the beleaguered Centennial Arena. Hopefully, the arena will be deemed safe for play by next fall for the NHL game but if not they may still have to make use of another area arena. Thanks to all the Manitoulin voters who must have helped tip the balance in the Centennial's favour!

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

Gore Bay Curling Club's 34th annual Curffle is club's biggest fundraiser

by Tom Sasvari
GORE BAY—Al and Kyra Lanktree are the winners of the first event at the Gore Bay Curling Club 34th annual curffle event. The Lanktree rink defeated the rink of Drew Purvis and Kevin Bushey in the final. "I would like to thank everyone for a great weekend," said Ms. Lanktree. "This is only the second time we have played (in the event). And thanks to uncle (Lew) Lanktree (who passed away recently) who was looking down on us today. It is an honour to win this event. And thank you to Bill and Peg Clark for creating such a great game."

The game curffle, which is a mix of curling and shuffleboard on a curling sheet, was created



Al and Kyra Lanktree were the winners of the first event at the Gore Bay Curling Club's 34th annual curffle event last weekend. In photo from left are Hye Clark, Al Lanktree, Holly Clark, Kyra Lanktree.

and patented by Bill and Peg Clark. A total of 32 two-member teams took part in the event this year. In the second event, the team of Dan Marois and Scott McDougall took first place, defeating Nancy Noble and Patti Purvis in the final.

The Heather Hall and Sherry Forest rink won the third event, defeating Dave Hall and Dan Forest in the final.

"I would like to thank everyone for being here

for the 34th annual curffle event," said Hye Clark who, along with his sister Holly, were masters of ceremonies at the awards presentations. "As is tradition we would ask you to turn to your left, then turn to your right and shake the hands of the people beside you because it is all of you who make curffle."

Ms. Clark thanked Dan Marois and his bar crew, Heather Strain and the kitchen crew for the great meals during the week-

end, Carmen Runnalls and Curtis Beckon for being the designated drivers, Harrison Noble for plowing out the curling club driveway Saturday after a heavy snowfall the night before, and Jill Patterson who donated homemade bottles of wine as prizes.

Everyone then raised a glass in memory of all those who have curffled in the past and have passed on in the past year. This included Lloyd Neganegijig, Moe Marois, Jim Lanktree, Kirk Strain, Mina Turner and Lew Lanktree.

Dan Marois, president of the Gore Bay Curling Club, thanked Holly and



Scott McDougall and Dan Marois took first place in the second event at Curffle. In photo from left, standing are Hye Clark, Holly Clark, and sitting, from left, Scott McDougall and Dan Marois.




The Heather Hall and Sherry Forest rink won the third event at curffle. In photo from left are Hye Clark, Sherry Forest, Heather Hall, Holly Clark.

Hye Clark and the entire Clark family who created the club's biggest fundraiser each year, by far." The game. "This is the curl-

Central Manitoulin Public Library Summer Student Needed
Please send your resume to:
Central Manitoulin Public Library
P.O. Box 419
Mindemoya, ON POP 1S0
mindemoyalibrary@gmail.com

2294669 Ontario Ltd OBO/ Odawa Stone Limited Partnership & Sheshegwaning First Nation
1079A Sheshegwaning Road, Sheshegwaning, ON, POP 1X0
(705) 283-3292 | (705) 283-3481

Employment Opportunity
Administration Assistant/Finance (Full-Time Position)




2294669 Ontario Ltd., on behalf of Odawa Stone Limited Partnership and Sheshegwaning First Nation, is seeking a self-directed and self-motivated individual to execute the position of Administration Assistant/Finance for its dimension stone quarry, as well as Sheshegwaning First Nation's Finance Department. Odawa Stone/Sheshegwaning is seeking a highly motivated and well-organized professional to fill the full-time position of Finance/Administrative Assistant. The successful candidate will be responsible for providing clerical duties and will provide direct assistance to the General Manager of Odawa Stone and Sheshegwaning First Nation Finance Department.

Qualifications:

- A Business Administration diploma or certificate would be an asset. Secondary School Graduate and/or acceptable related experience.
- Proficiency in business math and critical thinking.
- Must have a moderate working knowledge of various computer applications (Microsoft applications, QuickBooks, etc.).
- Proven ability to meet deadlines.
- Excellent written, oral communication and interpersonal skills.
- Strong organization and self-motivational skills.
- Working knowledge of traditional culture, language and traditions is an asset.
- Training can be provided as needed.

Duties:

- Preparing, processing and recording accounts payable, accounts receivable and processing receipts.
- Managing accounts receivable and processing receipts.
- Manage the corporation records filing, minute taking, HST/GST quarterly filings.
- Posting month end entries in the general ledger; and
- Performing general duties as required such as: data entry, filing, report preparation, office supply inventory, office duties and other duties as assigned.
- Obtains general manager's travel itineraries, helps plan and record activities/location on schedule board.
- Helping Sheshegwaning First Nation main finance department with various tasks as requested.

Compensation:
As per Sheshegwaning First Nation's salary grid. Three (3) and six (6) month probationary reviews are applicable.

OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Interested applicants should submit their resume along with a cover letter to the attention of:

Human Resources Director
jessica@sheshegwaning.org
Sheshegwaning First Nation, 1079A Sheshegwaning Road
Sheshegwaning, ON POP 1X0
PH: (705) 283-3292 FAX: (705) 283-3481

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those applicants under consideration will be contacted for an interview. Preference will be given to Sheshegwaning First Nation Members and applicants of First Nation ancestry. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience.

Help Wanted!

Sheshegwaning First Nation | JOB POSTING
1079 A Sheshegwaning Road, Sheshegwaning, ON POP 1X0
PHONE: (705) 283-3292 | FAX: (705) 283-3481

Employment Opportunity
Economic Development Directors Assistant | Full-Time Position

Sheshegwaning First Nation is looking for a highly motivated individual to assist with our Economic Development Department. Help our Economic Development Director research and execute activities to help economic growth in our amazing community.

Job Responsibilities

- Help to coordinate departments schedule, appointments and travel arrangements/claims.
- Organize and prepare meeting agendas, minutes, notes and tools/equipment for meetings as assigned.
- Coordinate funding applications, planning and or edit project proposals as assigned and help with monitoring.
- Administer summer work experience funding applications, programs, monitoring, reporting and claims.
- Assist entrepreneurs in accessing business supports.
- Participate in training, workshop and networking sessions.
- Maintain department records and filing systems, maintain equipment logs within department.
- Set up and run the community farmers' market.
- Coordinate maintenance and marketing of Nimkee's Hiking Trail.
- Maintain knowledge of daily catering events and confirm they are prepared and delivered on time.
- Promote positive public relations for department and Sheshegwaning First Nation.
- Be able to work occasional night and weekend events/workshops.

Qualifications

- Written and verbal communication skills.
- Training will be provided/accessed.
- Computer skills ie. Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Outlook.
- Strong organizational skills.
- Valid Ontario driver's licence.
- Ability to speak/understand Odawa/Ojibway/Potawatomi is an asset or willingness to learn.

Reports to: Economic Development Director
Salary: \$20.00/hour - 32.5 hours weekly.

Interested applicants should submit their cover letter, resume no later than **April 10, 2024 @ 4:30 p.m.** to:

Jessica Sampson
Human Resources Director
1079A Sheshegwaning Road
Sheshegwaning, ON POP 1X0
Jessica@sheshegwaning.org

Preferences will be given to Sheshegwaning First Nation Members.
We thank all applications for their interest; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Espanola Lions Club makes donation to Manitoulin Centennial Manor

by Tom Sasvari
 ESPANOLA—The Espanola Lions Club has again made a donation to the Manitoulin Centennial Manor in Little Current toward the purchase of new beds.

“The Lions have gener-

ously provided the Manor with a donation toward new beds,” said Manor administrator Don Cook. “We have several residents of Espanola who live here in the Manor, and some of our staff members are from Espanola as well.”

The Espanola Lions Club’s most recent donation was for \$3,500 toward the Manor Tree of Lights fundraising campaign.

Lions Club spokesperson Grant Lewis explained the club’s Catch the Ace fundraiser has allowed for

donations to several local organizations in Espanola and area.

“We wanted to raise funds for 20 new beds or just over \$40,000 this year through the Tree of Lights campaign, and raised just over \$43,000,” said Mr.

Cook. “We get donations throughout the year so we will be able to purchase more, but I expect this will be a two- to three-year campaign. Eventually the Manor needs to replace all 60 beds (at \$2,000 per bed).”

Mr. Cook explained, “the

beds (in the Manor) are not in bad shape, but they are old enough, at 20 years, that parts on them are now obsolete. The problem is the mechanical parts because we can no longer get parts for these older beds.”

Help Wanted!

Manitoulin Hotel Conference Centre

Now Hiring All Departments!

Kitchen Line Cook
 Catering Staff
 Guest Services Agent
 Laundry Attendant
 Maintenance Staff
 Food & Beverage Servers

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

FULL-TIME TEACHER

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Shawanosowe School

The Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN) invites applications for the position of Teacher, commencing September 2024. Shawanosowe School is an Indigenous school governed under the Whitefish River First Nation and regionally through the Kinooamaadziwin Education Body. This community-centered school focuses on academic achievement while providing a grounding in culture and identity and nurturing children's gifts. WRFN is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment that embraces diversity and enriches learning opportunities for students and staff at Shawanosowe School.

The successful candidate will have demonstrated:

- An understanding of the significant role that Anishinaabe Aadziwin plays in a First Nations school. Your appreciation for these elements will help foster a sense of identity and belonging among our students.
- Achieve academic excellence by working collaboratively with school staff and to communicate effectively with parents.
- To ensure all students are supervised in a safe, culturally supportive environment that meets the approved curriculum plans and mission of Shawanosowe School.
- Achieve academic excellence by working collaboratively with school staff and to communicate effectively with parents.
- Develops lesson plans and manages learning experiences, curricular and extra-curricular to ensure that the needs of the class and individual students are met.
- Identify, select and modify instructional resources to meet the needs of students with varying backgrounds, learning styles and high needs.

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

Candidates must hold an Ontario Teaching Certificate with an active licence with the Ontario College of Teachers along with:

- Bachelor's degree in Education.
- Certification in Primary/Junior and/or Junior Intermediate.
- Additional qualifications in Special Education would be considered an asset.
- At least 3+ years of teaching experience.
- Must have excellent planning and organizational skills.
- Strong computer skills in various software and programs.
- Up-to-date First Aid and CPR.
- Experience working with Indigenous communities would be considered an asset.
- Knowledge of First Nation culture, traditions and language would be an asset (or the willingness to learn).
- Strong computer skills in various software and programs relevant to the position.

Candidates are requested to submit an application that will include an updated cover letter and resume detailing education and qualifications, including contact information for two (2) professional references and one (1) character reference to:

Confidential: Teacher
 c/o Human Resources, Whitefish River First Nation
 17-A Rainbow Ridge Road, P.O. Box 188; Birch Island, ON P0P 1A0
 Email: jobapplications@whitefishriver.ca Fax: (705) 285-4532
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: APRIL 11, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M.

Miigwetch (Thank you) to all who apply, however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

EDUCATION MANAGER (OPEN UNTIL FILLED)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Full-time with a competitive salary, group benefits and pension!

Whitefish River First Nation is a dynamic Indigenous community that is seeking a dedicated, innovative and detail-oriented Education Manager to join our team!

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

Responsibilities:

Leadership and Administration:

- Develop and implement strategic plans and educational initiatives in consultation with the Education Committee.
- Establish policies that align with the cultural values of the Whitefish River First Nation community.
- Coordinate and manage all education programs and services, including early childhood education, elementary, secondary, post-secondary and adult education.

Curriculum Development and Delivery:

- Collaborate with the principal, teachers, curriculum specialists and community members to develop culturally relevant and inclusive curriculum materials as needed.

Budgeting and Resource Management:

- Develop and manage the education budget, ensuring efficient resource allocation.
- Identify funding opportunities, write proposals and coordinate financial reporting to secure and maintain funding.

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Build positive relationships and maintain effective communication with parents/caregivers, students, teachers, Elders, First Nation leadership and government agencies.
- Collaborate with external partners to enhance educational opportunities, access to resources and community involvement.

Student and Staff Support:

- Provide guidance and support to students, parents/caregivers and teachers on educational matters.
- Implement strategies to enhance student engagement, attendance and retention.

Data Management and Reporting:

- Collect and analyze data on student achievement, attendance and other educational indicators.

Cultural Integration and Language Revitalization:

- Promote the integration of cultural values, Anishinabek knowledge, worldview and language throughout the education system.

System Navigation:

- Provide education navigation and resources to students and parents/caregivers, including application assistance for post-secondary education.

Supervision:

- Supervise Shawanosowe School principal, day care supervisor, librarian, education assistant and bus driver(s).
- Conduct annual performance evaluations for supervised employees.

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

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in education, administration or a related field.
- Knowledge of Anishinabek culture, history and educational issues with a particular emphasis on local history and culture.
- Experience in Anishinabek educational leadership and administration.
- Familiarity with education legislation, policies and funding mechanisms in Canada.
- Strong interpersonal communication and facilitation skills with the ability to build relationships and engage diverse stakeholders.
- Excellent organizational and project management abilities, including budgeting and resource management.
- Proficiency in data analysis and report writing.
- Sensitivity to cross-cultural and linguistic diversity within the First Nation community.
- Experience with program development and evaluation processes.
- Experience with education strategies and initiatives related to Indigenous education.
- Experience writing proposals, policies, procedures and reports.
- Experience working with schools, school boards and external education bodies.

Knowledge Requirements:

- Ability to speak Anishinabemowin (preferred) and participate in the culture and traditions of the Anishinabek people.
- Knowledge and understanding of the Anishinabek Education System and Kinooamaadziwin Education Body.
- Knowledgeable about federal and provincial legislation, regulations and programs related to Indigenous education operations and First Nation student learning needs.
- Knowledge of First Nation communities and funding structures and the ability to integrate traditional and mainstream practices in program and service delivery.
- Knowledge of local education programs and services available to the WRFN band members.

Other Skills

- Excellent interpersonal, problem-solving and written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to work independently and within a team environment.
- Capability to handle challenges and conflicts professionally.

Candidates are requested to submit an application that will include an updated cover letter and resume detailing education, qualifications and work experience as related to the position, including contact information for two (2) professional references and one (1) character reference to:

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

Miigwetch (Thank you) to all who apply, however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.



Tillage Planting

Here we are into a new year and there are lots of things happening around the farms in our community.

You may have noticed that our local farmers have been busy looking after all the animals in their care, moving feed around such as hay bales or grain, and hopefully catching up on all those maintenance and repair jobs that were put off during the busier times of the year. It's also the time for many livestock producers to start having calves, lambs or other young depending on their operation. But now that spring is on the horizon there is lots more you can expect to see both in the fields and on the roads.

Over the next few months, farmers will begin to prepare their land for the upcoming year, as they do every spring. As you drive around the Island, you might see tractors and farm equipment



Shutterstock

in the fields, with many farmers tilling their land and planting crops. You may also see them walking fence lines, repairing breaks or putting in new fences to better use the pastures that they have available. Here on Manitoulin Island, there is over 112,000 acres of farm-

land across 189 farms, including 67,000 acres of pastureland and 26,000 acres of crops, all of which undergo land preparation and planting either annually or every several years.

Tillage refers to the work that farmers do to prepare the soil for plant-

ing or seeding. This is done by plowing, which may have occurred last fall or this spring, and then secondary tillage which could involve implements such as discs and cultivators. All the preparation that is being done helps moisture and warmth permeate the soil, it allows seeds to germinate, encourages root growth, controls the growth of weeds and helps integrate fertilizers into the soil. There are three main types of tillage, each with their own advantages,

disadvantages and uses. Conventional tillage is the most common type of tillage practiced on the Island, with almost 50 percent of land prepared this way. Most of the crop residue is incorporated into the soil, which leaves the surface relatively bare and without protection, but it can do a better job breaking up the soil and can get the field warmer in the spring, which is necessary for planting in Northern Ontario conditions.

Conservation tillage and no-till are also practiced on the Island—conservation tillage leaves most of the crop residue on the surface and no-till tries to keep soil disturbance to a minimum and involves direct seeding into crop residue/soil. No one tillage type is best for all farms because it depends on things like climate, soil, drainage, slopes, and the type of crop that will be planted. Conventional tillage is still the most popular type in Northern Ontario partly because of its ability to get farmers on the land quicker after our typical cool, wet and late springs. As you look around the fields of Manitoulin you may wonder what crop is

growing out there. Most of the farmland in Manitoulin Island is in alfalfa or hay/fodder, followed by barley, corn, mixed grains, oats, canola, and soybeans. Rotating fields between different crops, sometimes including a forage rotation, helps prevent the build-up of certain diseases or insects and helps keep the soil healthy by not using all the nutrients. Most of these crops are used as feed for livestock, but they can also be shipped off the Island and processed into a wide variety of products such as mayonnaise and lubricants (canola), soy sauce and adhesives (soybeans) and flour and soap (oats).

Please remember as we move into spring, you might see some more farm equipment on the roads as the farmer goes from field to field, preparing the soil for planting. This equipment moves quite slowly and can have large blind spots. Please be patient and careful when sharing the road. If you have any questions about farming you can check out "The Real Dirt on Farming" at realdirtorfarming.ca or simply send us an email at stephanie.vanhof@ofa.on.ca



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY GWEKWAADZIWIN MIIKAN Admissions Assistant (12-Month Contract)

Position Description:

A full-time position responsible for supporting the Admissions Coordinator and task work of the admissions team. The admissions team is often the first point of contact for participants, families and referring professionals. This position works to ensure clients have completed all necessary documentation prior to entry and that appropriate file management procedures are followed. The Admissions Assistant is also responsible for communicating across various platforms to disseminate program information and will report to and collaborate with the clinical team for admissions and various administrative tasks.

Responsibilities and Duties:

- Reporting to the Clinical Director and receiving direction from the Admissions Coordinator
- Responsible for supporting the intake of program participants
- Working with the clinical team to prepare for incoming participants
- Electronic file and paper file management
- Communicate with participants and their families about the program
- Supporting referrals to external organizations
- Responsible for liaising with community organizations
- Assist in implementation of research and outcome measurement projects
- Various administrative duties as needed

Qualifications:

- Minimum requirement is a diploma in social services, office administration, addictions and community service worker or other related human service diploma, with mental health and addictions training
- Preference given to an individual of Anishinaabe ancestry with knowledge and understanding of Anishinabek history, clan systems, protocols, etiquette, culture, traditions and ceremonies
- Proven experience with data management, office administration and electronic medical records
- Experience working in the Mental Health and Addictions field
- Demonstrated interpersonal and communication skills (both written and verbal)
- Ability to prioritize multiple responsibilities and projects
- Mature individual who can work independently with preference given to individuals living a traditional lifestyle and being on a life-long journey in traditional knowledge

Requirements:

- Possesses a valid Ontario class 'G' driver's licence in good standing with access to a reliable vehicle, able to obtain an 'F' class driver's licence with a preference given to those who already hold a class 'F' driver's licence
- Ability to work outside normal business hours as required
- Must have a relevant diploma

Salary: Commensurate with qualifications.

Closing Date: April 12, 2024 at 4:00pm

To Apply: Please complete the application online at gwek.bamboohr.com/careers

Contact mmaracle@gwek.ca with any questions.

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



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – MULTIPLE POSTINGS Gwekwaadziwin Miikan – Seven Grandfathers Program



Gwekwaadziwin Miikan continues to expand and is looking for motivated individuals to join our multidisciplinary team. There are multiple land-based counsellor positions and casual support worker positions available.

Please visit gwek.bamboohr.com/careers 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, community aftercare and transition back into community. The Seven Grandfathers program is designed for young adults aged 19+ and consists of three phases: Land Based Treatment, Live-in Aftercare and Community Aftercare.

Position Descriptions

Land Based Counsellors - (Multiple Full-Time Positions)

The Land Based Counselor is a unique position that combines the skills of an outdoor experiential learning leader with that of a treatment counselor. 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 Anishinabek culture and land-based learning.

Casual Support Workers

A part-time position responsible for assisting in the implementation of participant treatment plans, monitoring the facility, facilitating group circles and assisting with other facets of the Gwekwaadziwin Miikan programming. This position presents opportunity for shifts in the land-based treatment program and live-in aftercare program based on interest and availability.

Salary: Commensurate with Qualifications **Closing Date:** April 12, 2024 @ 4:00pm

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.



Students at MSS have been diving into all sorts of extracurricular activities, fun events and have been showcasing their talents in different areas. From gymnastics to robotics, the MSS community has been buzzing with achievement.



Students working on their robot, BEEtoven.

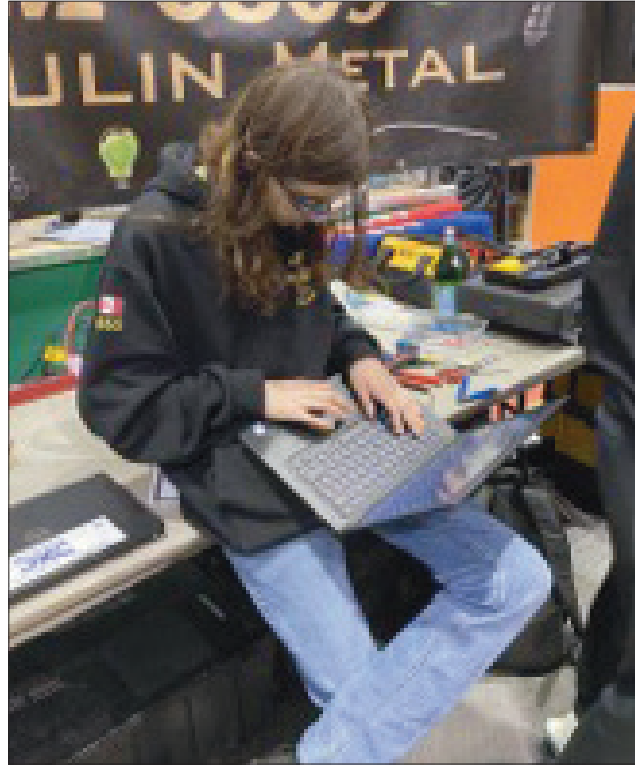
One of the recent highlights was the Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt that took place last Thursday, March 28. Organized by the student council, this event brought together students from all grades for a fun-filled afternoon of hunting for colorful eggs hidden around the school premises. Time ticked away as participants raced to find the most eggs, with prizes awarded to the top hunters.

In other news, the gymnastics team has been making waves at the Northern Ontario Secondary School Athletics (NOSSA) championship. Competing at both Level 1 and Level 2 categories,

our talented gymnasts – Mackenzie Green, Grace Pennie, Aspen Debassige, Maren Kasunich, Hailey Ferguson, and Saraya Eskawkogan – showcased their talents, winning the Level 1 Team Champions title and the second place position in the Level 2 championship. Their hard work and dedication have paid off, earning

them well-deserved recognition.

Meanwhile, the robotics team has been making strides of their own. On Thursday, March 28, Manitoulin Metal participated in a competition at McMaster University. The team not only showcased their technical skills but also their interview skills. The team came home with



Ryan Kuntsi working on the code for the robot.

the Sustainability Award, recognizing their innovative approaches towards environmentally friendly

robotics solutions. Additionally, Alexis McVey was awarded the Dean's List award for her leader-


ship and contributions to the team.

Looking ahead, the robotics team is geared up for provincials where they will be interviewing for the Engineering Inspiration award, having qualified for this at their competition at Nipissing University. Another Manitoulin team, 5672 First Nations STEM from Wiikwemkoong High School, has also made their mark, winning the Imagery Award and qualifying their robot for the upcoming provincials.

In addition to these achievements, students are also exploring their interests in the performing arts. There is a growing excitement around the potential formation of a theater club, with students eager to develop their acting talents and creativity on stage.


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

Help Wanted!



Rainbow Schools

Reaching minds. Touching hearts.



Cleaner - Floater (Manitoulin Island)

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-Floater on Manitoulin Island.**

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

Interested candidates should apply by **noon, Monday April 15, 2024** and submit a cover letter, resume and names of three (3) references.

David Farrow
Board Chair

Bruce Bourget
Director of Education

rainbowschools.ca



OJIBWE CULTURAL FOUNDATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Finance Officer


The Ojibwe Cultural Foundation seeks a Finance Officer with management experience with organizational, communication and leadership skills.

The individual in this role will be responsible for the effective financial management of the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation including budgeting, reporting, processing accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, remittances, deposits and bank reconciliations and other responsibilities including filing, year end inventory and assist auditors.

Required Qualifications:

- 2+ years' experience as an in financial management.
- Experience in budget development/administration.
- Strong leadership, interpersonal, planning and organizational skills; excellent written and oral communication skills; problem solving and meeting management skills.
- Knowledge of fundraising principles and practices in the arts, experience in writing successful proposals.

Please send applications marked 'Confidential' to:
Sophie Corbiere, sophie@ojibweculture.ca
Operations Manager, Ojibwe Cultural Foundation:
Box 278 M'Chigeeng, ON P0P1G0
Deadline: No later than 3:00pm April 12, 2024



OJIBWE CULTURAL FOUNDATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Executive Director of Ojibwe Cultural Foundation

The Ojibwe Cultural Foundation seeks a dynamic executive director possessing strong organizational and management skills. This position is responsible for the overall management and promotion of the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation (OCF) of Mnisig.

The responsibilities include actively nurturing community participation in creative ventures, to strengthen relationships and expand network of participation by being visible and engaged in the member communities.

Role:

- This position will report to the OCF Board of Directors and has overall strategic, fiscal and operational responsibility for the organization.
- This role is responsible for the development of OCF programs and budgets and execution of OCF mission and vision. Direct the overall operation of the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation.
- Recruit, manage and mentor staff, volunteers and instructors of the organization and its programs.
- Oversee fund development and work in partnership with the OCF Board of Directors to ensure sustainable and diverse revenue streams including government grants, individual and corporate giving, major donor development and self-generated revenue.
- Maintain record of all contributions; send tax receipts and proper acknowledgements and reporting of all contributions.
- Development/maintenance of community connections and partnerships with other organizations.

Required Qualifications:

- An understanding of Anishinaabe culture, language and history is necessary.
- Ability to use a team approach to plan and produce programming.
- Experience in marketing, fundraising and social media.
- Strong experience in office, program and event budget management.
- Experience in organization of exhibitions, preparation of catalogues and supervision of gallery installations and other programmatic events.
- Ability and enthusiasm for working with diverse artistic and community groups.
- Strong leadership, interpersonal, planning and organizational skills; excellent written and oral communication skills; solid public speaking, negotiation, problem solving and meeting management skills.
- Knowledge of fundraising principles and practices in the arts, experience in writing successful proposals.
- A bachelor's degree in a relevant field is preferred but a combination of education and experience would be considered.
- Demonstrate success in business and project management.

Please send applications no later than noon, on April 26, 2024 marked 'Confidential' to:
Sophie Corbiere, Operations Manager
Ojibwe Cultural Foundation:
Box 278 M'Chigeeng, ON P0P1G0
sophie@ojibweculture.ca

Assignack students and seniors congratulate Special Olympian

by **Michael Erskine**
MANITOWANING — Manitoulin Special Olympian Matthew Bedard was feted at the Assignack Seniors Drop-in by young and the young at heart last week. Grade 3 students from Assignack Public School joined the seniors in congratulating Mr. Bedard on the three bronze medals he brought home from the national snowshoeing competitions. Mr. Bedard was presented with a congratulatory card signed by the students (presented by Jackson and Griffon) and a certificate of congratulations from the township by Assignack Deputy Mayor Dwayne Elliott. Mr. Bedard delivered



Assignack Public School Grade 3 students pose with Manitoulin Special Olympics national triple bronze medal winner Matthew Bedard.

photos by Michael Erskine



Assignack Deputy Mayor Dwayne Elliott presents Matthew Bedard with a certificate from the township congratulating the Manitoulin Special Olympian on his bronze trifecta at the national games held in Calgary.



Assignack Public School Grade 3 students Jackson (holding card) and Griffon present Matthew Bedard with a signed card of congratulations from the school.

bronze success and by the sportsmanship and effort you display, it gives me great pleasure to present you with this certificate on behalf of our municipality,” said Deputy Mayor Elliott.

Mr. Bedard thanked the seniors and students for the honour and the chance to tell them about his experiences competing at the national level.

MUNICIPALITY  OF ASSIGNACK

**Assignack Museum
Summer Student Employment
Assistant to Curator – 1 position**

July and August 2024 at the Assignack Museum in Manitowaning.

Duties will include interacting with visitors; handling admissions and gift shop sales; providing orientation and interpretation of local history and exhibits; assisting with children’s programming; assisting with displays, records, and other duties as assigned.

Applicant youth must be between 15 and 30 years of age at the beginning of the employment period. Applicants must be a Canadian citizen/permanent resident with a valid Social Insurance Number and be eligible to work in Canada.

This position is funded as part of the Government of the Canada Summer Jobs Program.

Deadline to apply is April 15th, 2024.

Please send a resume and cover letter to:
Assignack Museum Summer Student Application
Township of Assignack, PO Box 238
Manitowaning, ON
PO P1N0
or email: assignackmuseumcurator@gmail.com


a short speech on what it was like to compete at that level and the students were able to see and handle the bronze medals. Events coordinator Jackie White had a few questions for the athlete, the first was on the special message of the Special Olympians. “We always say it: ‘Let

me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt,” responded Mr. Bedard. As to his own personal motto, “for me, every time I go to compete, I just tell them, ‘do your best, forget the rest and have fun.’” Mr. Bedard spoke a bit about his training regime and how he meets regu-

larly with his coach Steve Redmond and the challenges of training for such a big event without snow. “I trained indoors at my home,” he said. The weird weather at each event presented some challenges, but Mr. Bedard made sure he kept his own health up. Ms. White noted that comments from Calgary confirmed that Mr. Bedard “always represent-

ed Manitoulin with grace and dignity.” Ms. White shared that Mr. Bedard’s times in his heats were outstanding. “I don’t know if I could even walk that fast,” she said. “For your triple

Help Wanted!

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

We are currently inviting applications for the following employment opportunities:

FULL-TIME positions:
Sudbury or Manitoulin Island:
IT Specialist: Closes April 12, 2024

CONTRACT positions:
Rapid Response Trainer: Closes April 12, 2024
Manitoulin Island:
Child Well-Being Worker: Closes April 5, 2024
Education Support Worker: Closes April 5, 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.

 **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**
BEHAVIOUR THERAPIST
WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION

Rate: \$25.00-\$30.00 per hour to correspond with qualifications and experience. Available to work Monday to Friday: 35 hours/week following the WRFN school calendar.

Position Summary:
We currently require a Behaviour Therapist to provide Applied Behaviour Analysis through SS Consulting Behavioural Services, located at Shawanosowe School. You will work directly with children/youth from Kindergarten to Grade 6, providing evidence-based interventions as outlined by the supervising Behaviour Analyst. Using the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis, you will provide clinical instruction and behaviour reduction protocols to children with Autism and related developmental disabilities.

Responsibilities:

- Work 1:1 with clients (Applied Behaviour Analysis) or small group setting 1:3.
- Implement client behaviour support plan/intervention plan in accordance with the direction of the Behaviour Analyst.
- Objectively summarize individual client performance in session notes.
- Maintain clean and organized therapy/work environment.
- Maintain respect and confidentiality for all clients.
- Daily collection of required data.
- Maintenance of the student’s treatment portfolio.
- Maintain consistent communication with Behaviour Analyst, relaying all pertinent information regarding client and programs.
- Work effectively on an independent basis and/or as part of a dynamic multidisciplinary team.
- Attend and actively participate in ongoing trainings and staff meetings.

Qualifications:

- Diploma/degree in social service/education field preferred, experience in ABA services and evidenced-based practices an asset.
- Experience working with clients, and their families, who have complex needs.
- Must possess or be able to obtain Registered Behaviour Technician (RBT) 40 hour Certification within 90 days of employment.
- Ability to take initiative in work setting and work independently.
- Proficiency in multi-tasking and working in a fast-paced environment.
- Analytical, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Interpersonal skills, compassion, patience and flexibility.
- Good attendance, reliability and reliable transportation necessary.
- Physical Requirements: Able to support with physical aggression, perform repetitive motions of arms, wrists, bend, stoop, lift 45+lbs, crawl, run, walk, sit and stand (sustained long periods).
- Successful candidates must submit an original/current copy of their Vulnerable Sector Screening Check.

How to apply:
Please forward resume, cover letter and 2 professional references to:
ssconsultingbx@gmail.com

We thank all who apply, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

