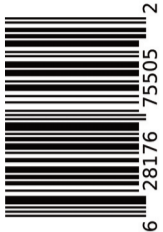


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# The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



Vol. 144 No. 30 \$1.90 + GST Little Current, Ontario Wednesday, December 13, 2023



**ALL THE COLOURS OF CHRISTMAS**—Sisters Chloe, Ellie and Abbie were excited to see the Jolly Red Elf during a special event held in Manitowaning last Thursday at the Assinack Public Library. The countdown is on until the big man himself takes to the skies on Christmas Eve!

photo by Michael Erskine

## Autumn Peltier named to 'Walk of Fame'

**by Jacqueline St.Pierre, LJI Reporter**  
 TORONTO—A passionate advocate for clean water since the age of nine, a woman from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory has garnered national recognition for her unwavering dedication. Autumn Peltier was honored with the Community Hero Award during the 25th Annual Canada Walk of Fame Gala. Expressing her gratitude for the acknowledgment, Ms. Peltier emphasized the importance of ongoing collaboration and attentive listening to youth voices, highlighting their critical role in shaping the future. The Community Hero Program, part of Canada's Walk of Fame and sponsored by Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment,



Autumn Peltier received her Community Hero Program Award during an event in Toronto as part of Canada's Walk of Fame.

acknowledges Canadians under 30 who significantly impact lives and communities. Ms. Peltier's commitment earned her recognition and a donation to amplify her advocacy efforts further. Ms. Peltier's dedication extends beyond accolades. Appointed as Chief Water Commissioner by the Anishinabek Nation in April 2019, she has represented her cause at the United Nations, shedding light on the issue of contaminated water in Indigenous reserves across Canada. Her activism has brought her nominations for the International Children's Peace Prize in multiple consecutive years, reflecting the profound impact of her advocacy.

## Sudbury opioid summit speakers call for similar event for Manitoulin

**by Ed Prudhomme**  
 GREATER SUDBURY—The Greater Sudbury Summit on Toxic Drugs, a pivotal two-day event that unfolded at the Dr. Edgar Leclair Community Centre and Arena on December 7 and 8, marked a crucial milestone in the collective effort to combat the growing drug crisis in the region. This gathering brought together a diverse group of community leaders and featured the voices of several Manitoulin First Nations experts. In doing so, it shone a light on the unique challenges and strengths of these communities in the face of the continuously intensifying toxic drug crisis. It includes a call, from several of the participants, for a similar "summit" on the same theme to be convened on Manitoulin Island to include local stakeholders. The urgency of the summit was precipitated by alarming statis-

tics from the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario, revealing a toxicity death rate in Northern Ontario nearly three times higher than the provincial average. Despite various interventions, the crisis has persisted, prompting the Board of Health for Sudbury and districts and Greater Sudbury City Council to endorse the need for a localized leadership summit to prioritize Greater Sudbury and Manitoulin's communities. The summit, designed to address the crisis comprehensively, sought to discuss collective efforts, successes and challenges in the hope of developing innovative strategies. It emphasized the prevention of drug-related harm and aimed to foster collaboration between key stakeholders. It served as a platform to develop actionable next steps, processes, and structures that would effec-

...continued on page 9

## Northeast Town, Billings demand epidemic status for intimate partner violence

**by Tom Sasvari and Alicia McCutcheon**  
 KAGAWONG—Billings and Northeast Town councils are the first Island municipalities to call on the province to declare intimate partner violence (IPV) an epidemic, especially considering some startling statistics from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) for the Northeast Town. Both municipalities heard correspondence from the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), encouraging Northern Ontario municipalities to pass a motion of support in declaring IPV an epidemic. Northeast Town Councillor Michael Erskine called for a

recorded vote "so it's clear just how universal our support for this is." Before the vote, Councillor Al

...continued on page 11



Jason Aguonie was elected as the new chief of Sheguiandah First Nation Saturday.

## Manitoulin Streams plans May 'Outdoor Angling' fishing show

**by Tom Sasvari**  
 KAGAWONG—Billings Township council has given its support to the concept of an Outdoor Angling Trade Fair for the Island, being hosted by Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association (MSIA) with partnerships in the community. "This is a great opportunity for Billings," stated Councillor Dave Hillyard at a council meeting last week. "They are looking at what would be kind of like a trade fair but gearing to outdoor angling, fishing, etc," he said, noting the event will take place in May. "The event would be like the Manitoulin Island Deer Show which had been held in Manitowaning for a few years," said Councillor Hillyard. They are looking at possibly hosting the event over the May long week-

end, with businesses involved in outdoor and angling being on hand, several speakers and a good education component. "With all the stream and trail work that (MSIA) has done in Kagawong, I think it's a great opportunity for them to host this event here, and they are talking about holding it on a biannual basis." "This sounds like a great project, and good for the community," said Councillor Vince Grogan. Council had received correspondence from MSIA, indicating they have started to plan for the event and are seeking in-kind support to use the Kagawong Park Centre for a two-day session in May. The township parks, recreation and wellness committee is in support of this partner-

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## Sheg FN elects Jason Aguonie as new chief

**by Tom Sasvari**  
 SHEGUIANDAH FIRST NATION—Voters in Sheguiandah First Nation were obviously looking for change in the slate of chief and council for the next term, as evidenced by the results of the elections held this past Saturday.

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# The Manitoulin *West* Recorder



Two Wiikwemkoong High School robotics teams formed a historic, all-Anishinaabe robot alliance in the FIRST Technical Challenge competition held in Sudbury. In photo are alliance members from left Jasmine Staruck, Blaine Naokwegijig, Brianna Mishibinjima. Missing from photo are Zander Shawongonabe and Tristan Wemigwans.

## Wiikwemkoong High School forms all-Anishnaabe robot alliance at Lo-Ellen FIRST championships

by Tom Sasvari

WIKWEMKOONG—Two Wiikwemkoong High School (WHS) robotics teams formed a historic, first-ever all-Anishinaabe robot alliance in the championships held in Sudbury during the first weekend of December as part of the FIRST Technical Challenge competition at Lo-Ellen High School.

“It was a super exciting weekend,” stated Chris Mara, coach of the WHS team. “WHS fielded three robotics teams at the FIRST Technical Challenge, with all teams finishing solidly in the top 10 (two teams finished fourth and fifth).”

“This was the first time there was an all-Anishinaabe robot alliance in the Sudbury championship,” said Mr. Mara. “One of the teams was an alliance captain and chose another (WHS) team in the championships and semi-finals.”

Two of the Wiikwemkoong teams made it to finals

as an historic all-Anishinaabe robot alliance. The alliance won the semi-finals. In the final championship round, they squared off against the best Lo-Ellen and Toronto teams. “Lo-Ellen won the first match and the Wiikwemkoong Alliance won the second,” said Mr. Mara. “The third game was again a super tight match and (WHS) only lost by a total of four points. They did phenomenal.”

The WHS teams comprised of Jasmine Staruck, captain of the alliance, Blaine Naokwegijig, Brianna Mishibinjima, Zander Shawongonabe and Tristan Wemigwans,” said Mr. Mara. “Jasmine was a team of one, and she soloed to the championship match. She won the (tournament) Judges’ Award for her presentation and performance.”

Mr. Mara explained with FTC, “A smaller scale

...continued on page 7

## MSS robotics teams pens first book

by Tom Sasvari

M’CHIGEENG—The Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) Manitoulin Metal Robotics FRC6865 team has had its first book published as part of a literacy series.

The children’s book, ‘Robofriends and the Mow Zone’ is now available for purchase on Amazon and will soon be available for sale at the school. “It is super exciting,” stated team member Alexandra Wilson-Zegil.

“We wanted to promote STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) and environmental sustainability in a way that is fun and targeted at young kids,” explained Ms. Wilson-Zegil. “This is part of the reason why we included interactive elements like the glossary, discussion questions and the Bee Challenge in the book. We were inspired by the no mow zone at MSS. The no mow zone is a place that is not mowed in order to sustain the homes of animals that live there.”

The story line focuses on a team of robofriends who get ready for a picnic when a danger enters the garden. Now, they have to work

together to protect what matters most.

“Last year we visited all elementary schools on the Island for STEAM and Technology visits, and to promote both,” said Ms. Wilson-Zegil.

“The original idea for a series of books was something the MSS team began looking at in June, with the script writing beginning in September, Robyn Ashley-

McNaughton drawings and Yana (Bauer) team mentor putting on canvas,” continued Ms. Wilson-Zegil, the latter who wrote the book.

“The book is amazing, and we are so excited and proud of the students,” said Ms. Bauer. “The initial idea came after the team came back from our journey to

...continued on page 7

## Federal Court appoints Settlement Implementation Committee to compensate First Nations children, families

### Wiikwemkoong’s Duke Peltier named to the committee

OTTAWA—The Federal Court of Canada recently issued an order appointing individuals to serve on the Settlement Implementation Committee, the governing body that will oversee the implementation of the final settlement agreement (FSA) on compensation. The committee will include a representative from Manitoulin Island.

The appointment committee is the first step in creating the necessary apparatus to establish the compensation and planned course of action. The committee is now tasked with overseeing the creation of

the trust fund, appeals process and other aspects of the FSA.

Stuart Wuttke, Derrek Nepinak, Duke Peltier (of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory), David Sterns and Robert Kugler have been appointed to the committee. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) executive committee and representative plaintiffs in the class action approved its three appointments.

“We are already undertaking this important work,” said Mr. Peltier. “We have been listening to

...continued on page 7

## Manitoba Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse new head of Assembly of First Nations

by Michael Erskine

OTTAWA—Newly-elected Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Cindy Woodhouse has her work cut out for her, but the second woman to ever head the national Indigenous advocacy organization is no stranger to the lists.

Until her elevation to the top job in a hotly contested six-ballot election, AFN National Chief-elect Woodhouse was most recently serving as the AFN regional chief for Manitoba and served for years under her mentor, former AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde and his successor Shawn Atleo.

Although she led the balloting through all six votes held at a special hybrid meeting during the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly held at the Shaw Centre in Ottawa from December 5-7, the national chief-elect never reached the 60 percent threshold called for in the AFN constitution, starting at 35.1 percent to lead the other five candidates, which included eventual runner-up David Pratt (25.6), second vice-chief of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations in Saskatchewan Sheila North (13.9), Reginald Bellerose (7.4) and Craig Makinaw (1.7). Four candidates remained on the second bal-



National Chief Cindy Woodhouse

lot, where Ms. Woodhouse increased her tally to 41.2 percent (Dean Sayers, a lead on the \$10 billion settlement in the Robinson-Huron Annuities Case settlement and the only Ontario candidate on the ballot) garnered 10 percent and dropped out, then Ms. Woodhouse’s tally rose to 47.9 percent with three candidates on the third ballot, then 51.4 percent on the fourth ballot with only her and Mr. Pratt still standing. A fifth ballot saw Ms. Woodhouse with 50.1 percent to Mr. Pratt’s 38.8 percent.

...continued on page 7

## Services Board closes deal on two Little Current four-plex seniors’ apartment buildings

by Michael Erskine

LITTLE CURRENT—Hot on the heels of opening a new seniors’ housing complex on Park Street, located just above Low Island Park, the Manitoulin Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) has increased its housing stock by eight apartments on the Island—closing the deal on two four-plex apartment blocks located at 33 and 35 Draper Street on November 30.

“The building is currently occupied by all seniors,” confirmed DSB CAO Donna Stewart, who added that she was “really impressed” by the condition of the two identical buildings and rear garage. “The properties all have really nice backyards,” she added. The recently built apartment complexes are well-appointed, with each of the eight apartments being two-bedroom units and currently come complete with appliances.

DSB is committed to doing

everything within its power to address the severe housing challenges in each of the communities in its catchment area, but she also noted that DSB is acutely aware that community housing is 100 percent on the municipal tax levy and is doubly cautious. “This has been a topic of discussion for the board for months,” said Ms. Stewart, pointing out that the purchase and buildings were thor-

...continued on page 8

## New AFN chief backs Ontario chiefs in Carbon Tax review

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre, LJI Reporter

OTTAWA—The newly elected national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Cindy Woodhouse, has pledged support for Ontario Chiefs’ calls for a judicial review of Canada’s carbon pricing system. The Chiefs of Ontario (COO), representing 133 First Nations, initiated the request for a judicial review, citing the carbon tax’s discriminatory nature due to its rebate system being tied to the federal income tax—a system many residing and working on reserves do not use.

The Ontario chiefs assert that the carbon price unfairly impacts Indigenous communities, primarily since its rebate structure does not cater to their needs, unlike other Canadian citizens. Grand

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"who dares not offend, cannot be honest"

# One Manitowaning Road

opinion

## editorial

### A Christmas message from all of us to our loyal readership

Manitoulin Island continues to be a unique and special place and, looking to the near future, we'll be a place of envy with not only three Island nursing homes/long-term stay facilities, but two of these are to be rebuilt to modern specifications in the next two years.

Not only that, but each of the facilities will be of the "not-for-profit" kind and will so reflect one of the mantras that came out of the COVID-19 pandemic, that all long-stay facilities, ideally, should be non-profit-making enterprises.

During 2023, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory made it official that their community-owned nursing home would be replaced by a 98-bed facility and, in fact, the clearing and preparation of the new site in Wikwemikong village (on the whimsically named Sesame Street) began last week. People will be uniquely able to say that "Grandma and/or Grandpa live on Sesame Street!"

Similarly, in Gore Bay, the Manitoulin Lodge, in service since 1977, will be replaced by a brand-new 64-bed home to be built on an attractive property high above the bay (on Armstrong Road, land which was donated by a generous private citizen).

This new facility will be the undertaking of the St. Joseph's Health Centre that has had well over a century's experience in community health and currently operates two similar facilities in Sudbury as well as a rehabilitation centre there and, prior to the expansion of Health Sciences North, owned and operated the Sudbury General Hospital.

The St. Joseph's Health Centre board of directors recently blessed the Gore Bay build and so the Western Manitoulin community is well on its way to sporting a new not-for-profit facility within a couple of years.

The third, and original, long-term care home is the Manitoulin Centennial Manor in Little Current, owned jointly by all Manitoulin Island municipalities and built in Canada's centennial year, 1967, hence its name.

It's also a 64-bed unit and, 20 years ago, went through a major upgrade where a new wing was added in order to maintain the number of beds but without multiple-bed wards so that every room has only one or two beds, an advantage that was underscored during the COVID-19 pandemic when the provincial government, in the interest of minimizing the spread of the virus in long-stay homes, mandated that any homes with wards could only house up to two people in these rooms, leading to a drop in capacity in many nursing homes, including the Manitoulin Lodge in Gore Bay.

In Wiikwemkoong, the nursing home, built by the community in 1972, houses 59 residents, all in single or double rooms.

But a modern and larger building has been needed and sought for some time and local fundraising even began, on a hopeful note, more than a year before the announcement was made that the community would be building a new facility.

In Gore Bay, the current owners of Manitoulin Lodge, Jarlett Health Services, had agreed to deed the existing facility to local municipal ownership once a new long-term stay home was built by another organization so when the St. Joseph's Health Centre's new home is complete and residents of the Manitoulin Lodge have moved in, the town will have the unique opportunity to use the old space for any number of health-related activities that could include an expanded medical centre, possibly an assisted-living facility or even a local in-patient rehabilitation centre.

At Wiikwemkoong, the ongoing use of the current 52-year-old nursing home is undecided but, as in Gore Bay, there will be a variety of possibilities there as well.

With an aging population, these announcements this year have been very good news to Manitoulin residents and have made us somewhat the envy of the region.

On the health care front, kudos must also go to the management of the Manitoulin Health Centre who have managed to maintain 24-hour emergency services at both the hospital's Little Current and Mindemoya sites.

Other rural regions of Northern and southern Ontario have not fared nearly as well with limited "9 to 5" emergency services, some only on weekdays, becoming far too common in certain small rural hospitals.

This is an area of major concern to these communities so we must consider ourselves on Manitoulin truly blessed.

So Manitoulin remains a healthy place to live, and to age in. Another testament to this is the 12 units of seniors' apartments the District Services Board completed in Little Current this fall on land provided to them by the municipality.

But along the way, there is also school, and at Manitoulin Secondary School, the Manitoulin Metal Robotics Team acquitted the Island proud by managing successive wins in competitions with other Ontario schools that eventually landed them in the international robotics world championships in Houston, Texas, where the team won the prestigious First Impact Award, guaranteeing them a berth in the 2024 event, also scheduled for Houston. What a win!

In fact, the robotics squad at Wikwemikong High School was the first on Manitoulin and mentored the first MSS team, so the endeavour for a growing number of young people at the secondary school level is one that can and will open doors for them as they plan for their futures.

Quite a year.

As usual at this time and in this space, we would like to thank and acknowledge the people who help us bring you a timely and useful newspaper each week.

We would like to acknowledge the very useful advice on almost any local historical matter of the late Alexander (Sandy) McGillivray

who was generous with his knowledge and suggestions. He will be missed, as will Bill Caesar, retired teacher, who in his retirement became an expert in all manner of Manitoulin traditions, penning small books in the process, just as Sandy published his large tome, *The Little Current Story*, which deals as much with all of Manitoulin history as well as Little Current's.

A new monthly contribution to *The Expositor* is Dorah L. Williams, whose "Mystical Manitoulin" details Island folks' real-life experiences with the supernatural, or in any case, some very unusual but true events. Thanks for finding us, Dorah.

Thank you once again to Petra Wall for her monthly "Now and Then" columns where we learn about the interesting lives of local people "of a certain age."

Thank you, similarly once again, to Heather Marshall for introducing us each month to someone who is "New-ish to Manitoulin" and for putting together an interesting party this fall where the invited guests were people she'd profiled. What an eclectic gathering!

On the sporting fields and on the ice, thank you to André Leblanc for his 'Ice Chips and Canoe Quips' where he keeps us posted on the achievements of local individuals and teams. Thanks, André.

We have "Friends and Neighbours" in our paper! These are traditional rural news columnists (not so traditional in the case of Kagawong's "Team Fergmijer" where one pun begets another and...). But a little more traditional in the cases of the excellent contributions by Karen Noble of Silver Water, Elaine Bradley of Meldrum Bay, Lillian Greenman of Barrie Island and Willie Munro from Gore Bay's Mill-site Apartments.

Thank you Clare Cline, as of now the only literary contributor to the paper with her monthly reviews from the stacks of Mindemoya and Providence Bay Public Libraries, over which she holds sway and about which she pens 'Mindemoya Book Mice.'

Dr. Joe Shorthouse pleasantly surprises us with timely offerings that detail aspects of the natural world on Manitoulin. Thank you, Joe.

And thank you, Alexandra Wilson-Zegil, our MSS 'Kids in the Hall' reporter and also a member of the award-winning Manitoulin Metal Squad. Keep up the good work, Alexandra.

Rose Diebolt, busy on many community activities, has retired from her weekly "Rose's Recipes" column but still provides a column when she has something special to share. Thanks, Rose.

Thank you to our myriad of Manitoulin postmasters/mistresses and the associated rural route contractors who get the paper into readers' hands each week. Well done.

A word about accomplishments and changes at Northern Ontario's oldest newspaper: Editor-in-chief Tom Sasvari joined an elite group in his hometown when he was named one of Gore Bay's "Lifetime Achievers" and was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award this fall.

Veteran scribe Michael Erskine was this year acknowledged by News Media Canada and the Ontario Community Newspaper Association for toiling in the industry here for 25 years. His reward? A handshake, applause and a Silver Quill pin and plaque to mark this milestone.

Mike was also the winner of two national awards this year, placing first in competition with newspapers across and one-time staffers (Canada Circulation under 12,499 each week) for 'Best National Editorial' and 'Best Feature Story.'

Veteran Expositor freelance reporter Gina Gasongi Simon won the 'Best News Story' award in the Ontario Community Newspapers Association's 'Better Newspaper Competition' this year. This was a back-to-back yearly win within this important category for this paper and *The Expositor* has set an Ontario industry record by winning Best News Story in three of the past five years.

Former staffer and current freelancer Warren Schlote placed second in the "Education Writing" category.

We have some new staffers, too: Xoë Roy has taken on the mantle of the youthful production manager and Michelle Cuning is the assistant in that department. We bid a fond farewell to Dave Patterson this year after 13 years in the production manager's chair, from where he also managed the paper's award-winning websites (which he'd built) and also oversaw I.T. duties. Thanks a lot Dave. (Turns out he's also a very talented woodworker!)

In customer service/sales, Robyn McGauley has taken on the important role of manager.

On behalf of all of us here at *The Manitoulin Expositor*, both veterans and newcomers at One Manitowaning Road, thank you to all of the individuals, organizations, businesses and readers who support this publication. Our mission, as always, is to provide Manitoulin with a useful news source, in print and online, that also assists consumers and jobseekers in making informed decisions.

To everyone, thank you for your support. Our staff collectively wishes you a happy Christmas and a good 2024.

Sincerely,

Alicia McCutcheon  
Kerrene Tilson  
Tom Sasvari  
Michael Erskine  
Marilyn Harasym  
Debbie Bailey  
Xoë Roy

Michelle Cuning  
Robyn McGauley  
Jacqueline St. Pierre  
Linda Rutenburg  
Jake McColeman  
Hayley Noël  
Rick and Julia McCutcheon



# Participants seek to place a positive spin on COP28 deliberations

by **Jacqueline M. St. Pierre, LJI Reporter**

DUBAI—COP28 is taking place at Expo City Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and is expected to convene over 70,000 participants, including heads of state, government officials, international industry leaders, private sector representatives, academics, experts, youth and non-state actors. As mandated by the Paris Climate Agreement, COP28 UAE is delivering the first ever Global Stocktake—a comprehensive evaluation of progress against climate goals. The UAE is leading a process for all parties to agree upon a clear roadmap to accelerate progress through a pragmatic global energy transition and a “leave no one behind” approach to inclusive climate action.

The UAE Declaration on a Global Climate Finance Framework has seen over 10 parties launch a roadmap for making climate finance available, accessible and affordable. This declaration builds on a series of initiatives that have set the path for climate finance reform this year, pulling together a regionally representative group of leaders around one vision. The UAE will work with champions to report back against the delivery of this framework immediately following COP28.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the main decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It brings together the 198 parties—197 nations plus the European Union—signed on to the Framework Convention.

The inaugural COP gathering took place in Berlin, Germany in March 1995 and today the COP secretariat is headquartered in Bonn. COPs are hosted annually in different countries under the auspices of the UNFCCC, with the UAE hosting COP28.

The ongoing COP28 conference in Dubai has been a pivotal stage for international efforts to combat climate change, with over 70,000 global leaders, policymakers, industry experts, and activists gathering to shape a comprehensive response to the world’s climate crisis.

Under the leadership of Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, COP28 president, the UAE has taken bold strides in crafting a forward-thinking approach to climate action and financing. Mandated by the Paris Climate Agreement, COP28 has steered the first-ever Global Stocktake, evaluating progress against climate goals. Notably, the UAE has championed a clear roadmap to accelerate progress through a global energy transition while prioritizing an inclusive approach that leaves no one behind.

Central to this year’s discussions has been the UAE Declaration on a Global Climate Finance

Framework, drawing participation from over 10 nations. This pivotal declaration endeavors to make climate finance more available, accessible, and affordable, building on regional initiatives and uniting global leaders around a singular vision.

President Al Jaber, in a speech at the World Climate Action Summit, introduced the COP28 UAE Declaration, emphasizing its role in keeping the 1.5°C goal within reach while meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement. He stressed the urgent need to bridge the climate finance gap, framing the Declaration as a comprehensive framework aimed at reframing investments as economic opportunities and significantly scaling up climate finance.

## Major Milestones Achieved

COP28 marked a historic milestone by operationalizing a fund focused on addressing ‘loss and damage’ due to the impacts of climate change. This achievement, recognized as the culmination of years of effort, signals an unprecedented unity among nations. Notably, the UAE committed \$100 million to this fund, joined by significant pledges from Germany, the UK, Japan and the US.

Moreover, the conference witnessed the establishment of ALTERRA, a private climate vehicle with a commitment of \$30 billion, aiming to mobilize \$250 billion of private-sector investment by 2030. Additionally, the UAE pledged \$200 million of Special Drawing Rights to the IMF Resilience and Sustainability Trust, reinforcing support for climate resilience in developing nations.

## Nature-centric commitments for climate action

COP28 also highlighted a series of commitments focusing on nature-climate action partnerships. Noteworthy contributions include the UAE’s \$30 million investment in Ghana’s ‘Resilient Ghana’ plan. Collaborative efforts from various nations, philanthropists, and institutions announced substantial commitments to conserving biodiversity and leveraging nature-based solutions for climate resilience.

## Embracing indigenous knowledge and leadership

Recognizing the critical role of Indigenous communities in conservation, COP28 emphasized the essential contribution of these communities in protecting biodiversity. Indigenous Peoples, representing five percent of the global population, safeguard 80 percent of the world’s remaining biodiversity. Their knowledge and development will form a crucial focus in the partnership between the UAE and Brazil, bridging COP28 to COP30. The conference sets the

stage for COP28’s Nature, Land Use and Ocean Day, poised to spotlight nature’s pivotal role as a tool for effective climate action.

## Over 40 Ministers unveil ambitious plans for climate action in cities at COP28

In a landmark gathering during the COP28 Multilevel Action, Urbanization, Built Environment, and Transport Day in Dubai, more than 40 ministers collaborated on groundbreaking initiatives to drive climate action within urban landscapes. Partnering with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28, these announcements signify a significant stride towards sustainable and resilient urban development.

The announcements, emerging from discussions that spanned multiple sectors, including buildings, waste management, transport, water, and nature, show-



cased a collective commitment to fostering healthier, more sustainable, and equitable human settlements.

Key highlights from the event include the introduction of several breakthrough initiatives.

## Buildings Breakthrough

Led by France and Morocco and supported by 27 countries, the Buildings Breakthrough aims to make ‘near-zero and resilient buildings’ the norm by 2030. Addressing the staggering impact of the building sector, accounting for nearly 40% of global energy-related CO2 emissions, this initiative sets a precedent for transformative change within the construction industry.

Cement and Concrete Breakthrough was launched by Canada and the UAE, with endorsement from countries including the United Kingdom, Ireland, Japan, and Germany; this initiative seeks to establish clean cement as the preferred choice in global markets. The goal is to achieve near-zero emission cement production worldwide by 2030, significantly reducing carbon footprints.

## Waste to Zero initiative

A coalition comprising governments at various levels, NGOs, and the private sector, the Waste to Zero initiative aims to decar-

bonize the waste management sector, transforming waste into valuable resources. Spearheaded by the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOC-CAE) and other partners, this initiative aligns with the UAE’s ‘Year of Sustainability.’

The Waste MAP, a pioneering global platform utilizing satellite monitoring to track and measure methane emissions from waste, is set to launch in 20 global megacities, aiding in identifying and mitigating emissions to prevent environmental hazards.

Additionally, new programs have been introduced to accelerate the adoption of 15-minute city policies, promoting highly livable and people-centric urban spaces. The Generation Restoration project, aligned with the Paris Agreement and the Global Biodiversity Framework, supports pilot projects in various world cities to catalyze urban ecosystem restoration and emissions mitigation.

Commitments to fossil fuel-free land transport, nature-positive infrastructure development, and partnerships for greening construction through sustainable wood further underline the comprehensive nature of initiatives introduced at COP28.

These initiatives, commitments, and collaborations underscore the collective resolve of global leaders to prioritize sustainable urban development, mitigate climate risks, and foster resilient cities. The partnerships forged during COP28 are poised to redefine urban landscapes, driving impactful change toward a more sustainable future.

## Youth Stocktake

On December 8th, the spotlight turned to the youth as the inaugural Youth Stocktake unfolded, marking an unprecedented convergence of thousands of young individuals worldwide rallying for climate action. Underlining the significance of youth engagement in shaping the climate narrative, COP28 President Dr. Sultan Al Jaber emphasized, “This COP signifies a turnaround, placing inclusivity at the core of climate initiatives to secure a better tomorrow for our youth.”

Dedicated to youth, children, skills, and education, the event culminated with a historic ceremony honouring pioneering Youth Climate Delegates Program participants. The day highlighted the need for substantive youth involvement in policy-making, as a staggering one billion children are exposed to extreme climate risks.

At the heart of discussions were proposals for COP28 policies and formulating a 2023 Global Youth Statement. The Youth Climate Dialogue and Youth Stocktake Launch event, attended by stakeholders and key leaders, marked a pivotal moment in eval-

uating youth inclusion in UNFCCC and defining strategies for amplified participation.

Led by YOUNGO and supported by Her Excellency Shamma Al Mazrui, the Youth Stocktake presented a comprehensive analysis of youth engagement within UNFCCC, showcasing best practices and pathways for increased involvement in decision-making.

Reflecting on these initiatives, Her Excellency Shamma Al Mazrui stated, “COP28 has witnessed unprecedented youth-driven endeavours. Today signifies a pivotal shift towards lasting transformative change, a legacy for future COPs.”

Moreover, COP28 prioritized global climate education, with 38 countries pledging to integrate climate education into their national commitments. Events focused on future skills and careers, including the Marketplace of the Future and the Green Skills Fair, aimed to empower young leaders and connect them with opportunities in the climate sector.

The Youth Climate Delegates Program, featuring 110 delegates worldwide, celebrated its participants, focusing on inclusivity from Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, Indigenous Peoples, and other minority groups. This program, supported with total funding for participation, sets a new standard for youth engagement within COP sessions.

Additionally, the UAE announced a \$220 million funding package for Africa during the event, emphasizing the country’s commitment to youth-focused initiatives.

## Land Use and Ocean Day

During COP28’s Nature, Land Use, and Ocean Day, on December 10, leaders embraced commitments exceeding \$186 million to propel climate action and sustain the drive to safeguard and revive nature. Key commitments spanning forests, mangroves, landscape restoration, nature finance, and ocean initiatives were declared, affirming the critical need for immediate nature-focused measures to meet the Paris Agreement’s objectives.

H.E Razan Al Mubarak, the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28, stressed, “Protecting and restoring nature, land, and the ocean is integral to realizing the Paris Agreement’s goals of maintaining the 1.5°C target. Collaboration, especially with indigenous peoples and local communities, stewards of these vital resources, is imperative.”

New funding of over \$186 million for nature and climate initiatives focusing on forests, mangroves, and the ocean was unveiled during the Nature, Land

...continued on page 29

## letters

# Trapper calls on province to be non-compliant on federal legislation

*Assist the fur industry to find viable markets for both economic and environmental benefits*

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** This is an open letter to the Hon. Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and has been reprinted here at the author’s request.

**Minister Smith,**

I am writing to you with concern in regards to a proposed amendment of the previous protecting of canids (especially coyotes) in the areas where eastern wolves are found to be located in Ontario. I suggest to you that this protectionist legislation has only interfered with a trapper’s ability to properly manage coyote population, which perpetuates the increased predation of moose, deer, beaver and domestic farm stock etc. to a much higher level than normal.

If this proposed amendment to Schedule 1 of the S.A.R.A. to uplist the eastern wolf (which is proven to have a stable population in Ontario) is allowed to go into effect it will become the perfect storm of a high increase of total canid predation which will have a devastating effect on

total predation, especially moose, deer and domestic farm stock, in Ontario.

This, along with the shocking drop of coyote prices that trappers receive from buyers, which was perpetuated by the environmentally unsound move by the Canada Goose Company to go with all fake, faux fur on their garments will most certainly cause a decimation to prey species that they may never rebound from.

Minister, your provincial government has a clear history of non-compliance with federal acts. Should those said acts not be in the best interest of the citizens of Ontario I strongly suggest to you, sir, that this proposed amendment is certainly not in the best interest of the citizens of Ontario.

I must emphasize with you, as a licenced Ontario trapper that I, like the vast majority of trappers, in no way suggest that canids should ever be over-harvested, only that their populations be kept at manageable levels to keep proper

balance in the eco-systems.

Personally, I love wolves for the beautiful creatures they are and am cognitive of the fact that they have an important role to play in keeping our eco-systems vibrant and healthy.

Minister Smith, I ask of you to consider two things:

Firstly, to work with your government to ensure that this detrimental amendment never becomes legislation in Ontario. And secondly, to work with your government and the Government of Canada to aid and assist the fur industry in this province and this country to find a viable market for our coyote fur for both economical and environmental benefits.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,

**Greg Young**  
Licenced Ontario trapper  
Wiikwemkoong





## Law & Order

### Structure fire being investigated in Wiikwemkoong

A structure fire in Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory is being further investigated by the Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service (WTPS).

On December 2 at approximately 6:50 pm, WTPS received a call of a structure fire in the Bayview Heights area of Wiikwemkoong.

Police responded and found a small shed to be fully engulfed by flames as well as a truck parked adjacent to the structure. The Wikwemikong Fire Department attended and extinguished the blaze. There were no injuries reported and only property damaged.

The incident is currently under investigation.

Anyone with information on this incident or any other investigation can contact the WTPS at (705) 859-3141, through the Communications Centre at 1-888-310-1122 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

### OPP charge driver with impaired driving on Highway 6

One person has been arrested and charged with impaired driving following a traffic complaint on Highway 6.

On December 6 at shortly after 10 am, members of the Manitoulin detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a traffic complaint of an erratic driver travelling southbound on Highway 6.

Policed located the vehicle and upon speaking with the driver, police were able to determine that the driver was impaired. The driver was subsequently arrested and transported back to the OPP detachment for further testing.

As a result of the investigation, Sean Thompson, 48, from Espanola has been charged with operation while impaired, alcohol and drugs, and failure or refusal to comply with demand.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Gore Bay on January 9.

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

### Driver charged with multiple offences following traffic complaint

One person has been arrested and charged with multiple offences following a traffic complaint.

On December 2 shortly after 7 pm, the Manitoulin detachment of the OPP received numerous traffic complaints regarding a vehicle traveling northbound on Highway 6.

Police located the vehicle parked on Centre Street in Espanola and upon speaking with the driver, the driver refused to identify themselves. Through further investigation, police were able to properly identify the driver, who was subsequently arrested.

As a result of the investigation, Ryan Machell, 31, from Keswick has been charged with failure to comply with release order, other than to attend court, possession of a schedule one substance, opioid (other than heroin), failure to identify self, use of plate not authorized for vehicle, obstructed plate and operate an unsafe vehicle.

The accused was held in custody and is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Sudbury on December 14.

## AOK resident provides a Christmas cautionary tale

by Michael Erskine

AUNDECK OMNI KANING—"It was so legit!" Tammy Madahbee of Aundeck Omni Kaning (AOK) exclaimed when she called this newspaper requesting that The Expositor alert Islanders to the scams that rooked her in these past couple of weeks.

Ms. Madahbee was doing a little online shopping, something that has become a lot more common for people these days, especially since the isolation of the pandemic.

The items she was looking to buy for family members were being touted online through a Facebook marketplace and supposed to be located close by.

"It showed up as being in Little Current and they were trying to sell it out of Little Current," shared Ms. Madahbee about one of the first scams. "They offered to deliver it to AOK for another \$30."

It used to be the old adage "if it looks to be too good to be true—it probably is" was a tried-and-true safeguard against scams. But these days, the scammers are much cleverer and some of those deals that seem reasonable on the face of it might not be, either.

Another scam that took her in was a telemarketing call for a Rogers cellphone. This one proved even more sophisticated. "I was actually thinking of updating my phone," she said. The phone even arrived. "They called and said that they had sent the wrong one and he needed it back to send to his buddy." Since UPS didn't deliver to

Little Current, the carrier was Canada Post.

"When I called, the guy at Rogers said that it was so easy for scammers to get into the 778 numbers," she said. "I think if people see the area code 778 pop up they should just not answer it."

Scam artists are becoming ever more sophisticated in their approaches, often involving gangs of professionals with researchers combing through Facebook profiles to harvest information that other members of the gang can use to impersonate family members and friends while perpetrating the confidence schemes collectively known as the "Grandparent scam."

Technology, including artificial intelligence (AI) programs that can mimic familiar voices from just a few phrases, can make discerning the fraudsters from real people difficult—and it isn't going to get any better any time soon.

When a grandchild calls to tell you that they are in trouble and to not tell their parents, or a plea from any other contact to not doublecheck, it is a clear sign it is a scam artist on the other line, not your loved one.

The scammers leverage a person's emotions and elicit a sense of urgency in order to get the person answering the phone to act without stopping to think. Take the time to call your grandchild, child or friend to see if it is really them. You will discover that 99.99 percent of the time or more, it is a scammer you have been talking to.

## Wikwemikong Tribal Police names Larry Ross as inspector

by Tom Sasvari

WIKWEMKOONG—The Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service (WTPS) has added another experienced officer to its team, with Larry Ross having started recently in the position of inspector.

Inspector Ross has not only had extensive policing experience but also served in the United States Army, having been deployed in Iraq. "I have had 31 years of experience in policing," Inspector Ross told the Expositor. "I'm Mohawk; being originally from Akwesasne, and have worked in a lot of different First Nation police services and communities during my career."

"I worked in Northern Quebec and was the chief of police in Oka and helped create the first all-Native tactical team with the police in 2009," Inspector Ross said. He officially joined the WTPS on October 10. "I joined the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service in 2011 and was employed



Larry Ross, left, recently started in the position of inspector, with new recruit Jarrett Assiniwe who will be attending Ontario Police College for December 2023 intake. Mr. Assiniwe will be ready to serve Wikwemkoong in May 2024.

there until I officially joined the WTPS after having been contacted and encouraged by (Acting Police Chief) Jason (Spoonier) to apply for the

Text messages "accidentally" being directed to your cellphone from people you don't know suddenly result in AI-generated image of a pretty/handsome stranger looking to make new friends. The best answer to such unsolicited come-ons is one once provided by Robert Beaudin of M'Chigeeng to such a pass: "I don't need any new friends!" Or better yet, simply block the number.

Apps are out there that can "spoof" the numbers of RCMP officers, OPP or other police and government agencies such as the Canada Revenue Agency.

Email messages can also be crafted to appear "official" and are also becoming far more sophisticated than the poorly spelled Nigerian diplomat offers of the past.

Technology has provided scam artists with ever-increasing tools with which to part you from your money—vigilance is vital to avoid being taken in.

Ms. Madahbee admits to feeling somewhat embarrassed to share her story of being taken in, but like so many others who contact The Expositor, she said that she doesn't want others falling for their pitches. The gangs involved in these rackets are very good at what they do, they are very successful and by manipulating people's best virtues they continue to prove very successful—raking in billions of dollars every year. This season, don't be taken for a ride—stay vigilant and double check the source.

job of Inspector."

Prior to policing, Inspector Ross had been in the US Army for four years serving a combat tour of duty, being deployed in Iraq for eight and a half months. "I was told this would help build character," Inspector Ross said. "I survived the service and came back in one piece."

Inspector Ross explained, "I'm from Akwesasne, which is on the border in Canada and the US. My dad was an iron worker, and I basically grew up in Connecticut. I have a great appreciation for history and always felt that I had to serve my countries."

Inspector Ross said, "I am enjoying being on the Island and serving with the WTPS. We lived in Dryden and my wife Olena, who is originally from Kyiv, Ukraine, is currently still there getting the house sold and other things before she will join me here."

## Friends and Neighbours

### Kagawong Team Fergmeijer

We are kicking off with some truly in-truss-ing news - the new pedestrian bridge across the river is done! We don't have a lot of details about it yet. A friend was trying to tell us about it, but we have such a short tension span. We got sidetracked pondering the idea that if bridges could talk it would likely be in Spanish. And then we got wrapped up in memories of our trip to Venice and how uneasy crossing the bridges over the waterways made us. Some might call it over-reacting, but the canals really are for boating.

The Billings Library wishes to remind those who won items in the silent auction that they can be picked up at the library during regular hours (Tuesdays and Thursdays 4 to 7 pm; Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm). Email [billingsreads@gmail.com](mailto:billingsreads@gmail.com) or call 705-282-2944 for more information.

Only a few days left to let the township know your thoughts! Complete the Strategic Plan Resident/Property Owner Survey by December 15 to give input on what the township gets right, what you'd like to see developed and where improvements can be made. The online survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RGBN-WBP>.

Happy birthday wishes go out to Christine L-M who is celebrating her 29th trip around the sun. Best wishes also go out to Hailey F, though she is nowhere near 29 yet. Which seems quite rude to us oldies in our late 20s (or as we prefer to be referred to - the chronologically gifted). May your birthday cake be moist and may nobody use that word

to describe it.

Volunteers have started prepping the ice rink early this year! With luck, we could have a solid surface for Christmas. Thanks to Andrew Preyde and the other volunteers for their hard work. If you are interested in helping with the rink, touch base with the township office.

The township has decided to move council meetings back to being virtual. The public can still watch the proceedings and give their input as usual. Contact the town office ([tmills@billingsstp.ca](mailto:tmills@billingsstp.ca)) for Zoom meeting information and more information on how to have your voice heard during council meetings.

Remember that awesome pun we had in our column that one time? Catch up on all of Team Fergmeijer's past columns in our archive at <https://teamfergmeijer.blogspot.com/>

Please note that the municipal office will be closed December 25th through to January 1st. Likewise, the municipal landfill will be closed December 24 and 26 as well as December 31, and the library will be closed December 23 and 30.

Attention all artists, writers, crafters, potters, artisans, creatives, makers (and their friends and families) - come out to the Manitoulin Arts Community Potluck and Holiday Social on December 29 at the Kagawong Park Centre. Doors open at 4:30 pm, arts announcements at 5:30 pm (share your latest news!).

Some words of wisdom, especially meaningful as we are entering the holiday season: It's time to stop burning bridges in your life. They are made of steel these days and just don't light very well. Have a great week!

### Silver Water Karen Noble

On Saturday, December 2 Albert and I went to Little Current to bring the liquor containers to the Beer Store. Another \$91 went into the fund for the food bank.

On our way home, we went to the Anglican Church cookie walk and bought some baking. Then we went to the Christmas Market at the Gordon/Barrie Island municipal building. There were a lot of vendors with goods for sale and a lot of customers buying.

Sunday, December 3 was the euchre tournament in Tehkummah. There were 13 players from the West End. Myra Duncanson and I won third place, Guy Bigras and Harold Rogers won third place and Ken Duncanson won the 50/50 draw.

On Monday afternoon, there was chair yoga at the Silver Water Community Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Tuesday, I made tourtiere meat pies and handed out several of them to the neighbours for Christmas presents.

Thursday afternoon, there were 18 ladies who attended the UCW Christmas party at the Silver Water Community Hall. They started with a potluck supper, had singing and had a loonie table. They collected many boxes of non-perishable food items for the food bank.

Euchre was held at the Silver Water Community Hall on Thursday night.

Condolences to the family of Allen Taylor. Happy 91st birthday to my aunt Audrey (Noble) McCulloch.

Happy 82nd birthday to Murray Duncanson.



# ...Manitoba Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse new head of AFN

...continued from page 3

A sixth contest saw minimal movement, with Ms. Woodhouse capturing 50.8 percent to Mr. Pratt's 39.3 percent and a seventh ballot was scheduled for 11 am the next day on December 7.

A seventh ballot was postponed as Mr. Pratt made the decision to concede the contest.

As indicated by the final balloting result, the new national chief has her work cut out for her in order to bring unity of purpose to the divided organization, but Aundeck Omni Kaning Chief Patsy Corbiere (United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising tribal chair) said she is confident that the new national chief has the right stuff.

"I have known (Cindy Woodhouse) for 10 years," said Chief Corbiere. She noted that the new national chief has a great deal of experience, but just as importantly "she is a good person."

"She worked for (former AFN National Chief) Perry Bel-

legarde and (former AFN National Chief) Shawn Atleo, so she has really learned her stuff," said Chief Corbiere.

Chief Corbiere attended the election as a Woodhouse supporter and said she was pleased to see her succeed.

Although Mr. Dean has done good work, she felt his campaign approach fell short. "His speech was all about treaties and treaty relationships," she remarked. "That's important, but there is a lot more to the job than that."

Ms. Woodhouse was born and raised in Pinaymootang First Nation, located in the Treaty 2 territory of Manitoba. Her great-great-great grandfather, Chief Richard Woodhouse, was an original signatory of Treaty 2 on August 21, 1871. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Winnipeg and completed the Harvard Business School 'Leading People and Investing to Build Sustainable Communities' program.

Her main platform planks included a focus on her experience in advocating for Indigenous issues, including the historic \$40 billion-plus settlement of the class action suit

involving racial discrimination in the child welfare system, clean water, First Nation jurisdiction over child welfare, closing gaps in housing, internet access, emergency services and a host of other issues.

Ms. Woodhouse also focused her campaign on a call for unity and the need to work together to overcome the vestiges of colonialism that continue to stand in the way of Indigenous people in this country.

# ...MSS robotics team pens first book

...continued from page 3

the World FRC championships. The members of the team brainstormed on ideas for the book and the draft of the book was complete by the end of June. Then revisions were made to the book by the students at the fundraising golf tournament (held at Brookwood Brae Golf Course in Minde-moya) in September. Robyn (Ashley McNaughton) did the illustrations for the book that are so beautiful and inspiring.

"The final draft was written by Alexandra (Wilson-Zegil)," continued Ms. Bauer. "This was definitely no small feat when you consider all the ideas and concepts the group had put forward," stated Ms. Bauer.

A handful of kids edited the book



and the book was published (the first weekend in December) and posted on Amazon. "That was exciting," said Ms. Bauer.

Since the book was put on Amazon, it has sold 15 copies (\$15 a piece), and is a fundraiser for the MSS robotics team and its trip to Houston for the FRC world championship in 2024.

Alexandra said, "We really wanted to get young students interested in STEAM, and interested in it at a young age."

The MSS Robotics team will be holding an official launch of the book on December 20.

LEFT: The Expositor's own Alexandra Wilson-Zegil wrote a new book alongside other members of the MSS robotics team.

# ...all-Anishnaabe FIRST robot alliance

...continued from page 3

model is used than in FRC. The focus is on the technical and engineering challenge. Students had to analyze the game, develop strategy, design, build and code a robot. The robot had to perform both autonomously and teleoperated. In addition, teams had to develop an engineering portfolio of their project, which they had to present to panels of industry and business leaders."

"This is the second year that Wiikwemkoong High School has competed at FTC. Assignack had entered a community team the year before," said Mr. Mara. WHS was "very much a rookie team last year; although Jasmine (Staruck) had been on the LEGO team before COVID."

Mr. Mara added that the FTC team will next compete in January, likely competing virtually in a competition.

# ...Duke Peltier named to Settlement Implementation Committee

...continued from page 3

First Nation leaders at the AFN special chief's assembly. One decision we intend to pursue is to establish advisory services for the committee, which encompass diverse persons, including elders, youth and leadership, among others. I look forward to continuing this important advocacy for children and families."

"I am honoured to do this

important work for our children and families," said Chief Derrek Nepinak, Minegoziibe Anishinabe. "I have been an advocate for children and families my whole career. I was instrumental in creating the First Nations Family Advocates office in Manitoba."

The FSA, which has been in negotiations for more than two years, includes more than \$23 billion to

compensate over 300,000 children and families. The FSA was approved by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal earlier this year and approved by the Federal Court of Canada on October 24.

"This is an important step forward in a long and painful process," said AFN interim national chief Joanna Bernard. "Now that the legal fight has conclud-

ed and the settlement agreement is final, we can begin the important and overdue work of determining how compensation will reach these children and families. As one party to the FSA, I also look forward to working with the settlement implementation committee."

The AFNB also continues to negotiate long-term reform measures to ensure discriminatory practices are eliminated from the FNCFS system and application of Jordan's Principle.

LITTLE CURRENT

## CATCH the ACE

**WEEKLY WINNER!**  
Congratulations to Frank Corbiere!  
The "draw" prize winner of \$742.00  
Thank you to Green Acres Manitoulin - Family Campground & Restaurant for sponsoring the 24<sup>th</sup> Progressive Raffle Lottery!

**DRAW DATE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023 AT 8:00 PM**  
**PROGRESSIVE PRIZE STARTING AT \$17,776.00!**  
(before 30% of weekly sales added)

TICKETS GO ON SALE: FRIDAY - THURSDAY  
TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT LITTLE CURRENT  
LIONS CLUB ON FACEBOOK

## Manitoulin Pet Rescue

### The Best Companion

This sweet, 6-year-old girl came into our rescue almost a year ago when her owner could no longer live on his own. Initially shy around new people, Munchkin is THE BEST companion once she feels secure.

To adopt Munchkin, please contact Kathy Jewell at 705-377-4121 or Nicole Concannon at 519-319-4677.  
A small adoption fee applies.

valu-mart Orr's Freshmart

## EARLY ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Because of holiday scheduling, the Expositor Office is moving the advertising deadline for the December 28 issue to:

**Monday, December 18, 2023 at 4:00 pm.**

Thank you for your support and consideration.



Duke Peltier

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WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY: 9 AM - 8 PM

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



# ...DSB closes deal on two Little Current four-plex apartment buildings

...continued from page 3  
oughly researched by DSB staff.

reveal the total cost of the building acquisitions discussed by the board in camera, Ms. Stewart did assure

The Expositor that the cost of buying the buildings was far below the cost of building new. Part of the purchase was covered through the DSB capital reserves and part through a mortgage arrangement with the TD Bank.

While currently all being occupied by seniors, Ms. Stewart noted that going forward occupancy will be determined by need as determined by the DSB's housing lists.

DSB is currently engaged in an affordable multi-residential housing project in Espanola on a Queensway property following a "scope of project" with Bélanger Salach Architecture and Housing Services Corporation staff. In an October 19 meeting motion, DSB directed the CAO "to continue moving forward with the tender, design costs and



The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board recently purchased two four-plex apartment buildings in Little Current from Kyle and Kurtis Noble of Gore Bay.

photo by Michael Erskine

contractor prequalification portion of the work required for the new Supportive Community Housing Build in the Town of Espanola" and that "the

CAO utilize the required funds from the Homeless Prevention Program to move forward with the tender portion of the work." The board motion also

required the CAO to return to the Board for a decision once tenders for that project have been reviewed and analysed.

**The Island Singers**  
Christmas 2023  
**CONCERTS**  
Music for a Silent Night

Chris Theijsmeijer,  
Conductor  
Mike McCormick,  
Accompanist

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Manitoulin  
Secondary School  
**SATURDAY**  
December 16th  
7 p.m.

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**SUNDAY**  
December 17th  
2:30 p.m.

---

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## ...New AFN chief backs Ontario chiefs in Carbon Tax review

...continued from page 3

Chief Abram Benedict highlighted the disparity, emphasizing that Canadians in other regions receive more rebates than they pay through the carbon tax, which differs for First Nations communities.

Moreover, the court filing by the Chiefs of Ontario and Attawapiskat First Nation underscores the impracticality of alternative technologies like electric vehicles or heat pumps in many Indigenous communities. Additionally, they argue that the tax affects their traditional activities, such as hunting and fishing, raising fuel costs for essential transportation like snowmobiles, vehicles and boats.

The COO and Attawapiskat First Nation filed a judicial review after unsuccessful attempts to negotiate with Canada to alleviate the discriminatory impact of the Greenhouse Gas and Pollution Act (GGPA) on First Nations in

Ontario. The GGPA, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, is deemed burdensome for First Nations, which are already facing significant economic and infrastructure challenges.

Grand Chief Abram Benedict stressed the need for Canada to collaborate with First Nations, addressing climate challenges without exacerbating affordability issues Indigenous communities face. The judicial review, seen as a last resort, was pursued due to Canada's refusal to engage in meaningful discussions to resolve the disparities caused by the carbon charge.

The review aims to challenge the disproportionate impact of the carbon pricing system on First Nations and their members, highlighting the need for fair representation and inclusion in policy decisions affecting Indigenous communities.

## Island Singers present 'Music for a Silent Night' concerts

by Expositor staff

MANITOULIN—A Christmas tradition for at least 35 years, the Island Singers' annual Christmas presentation is this weekend. The theme this year is "Music for a Silent Night."

Choir Master Chris Theijsmeijer, and choristers from all parts of Manitoulin, are certain to have an innovative program of music both classic, modern and fun.

Accompanist Michael McCormick, a professional musician, has become part of the Island Singers company so people looking for a great seasonal concert can

expect to find it this weekend, at convenient venues.

This coming Saturday, December 16, the Island Singers will perform at Manitoulin Secondary School. The concert begins at 7 pm.

The following day, Sunday, December 17, Little Current United Church is the place to be for quality music. This is a matinee event, beginning at 2:30 pm.

Tickets are a nominal \$10 (and, for children 12 and under, there is no charge as the Island Singers' goal is to introduce quality choral music to the younger set.)

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# ...summit speakers call for similar for Manitoulin

...continued from page 1  
tively mitigate harms and ensure accountability in the ongoing struggle against toxic drug abuse in the region. Distinguished speakers, including Tim Ominika from the Anishinabek Nation, Sam Gilchrist, executive director of Gwekwaadziwin Miikan, Jonathan Michael Peltier from the Wiikwemkoong Justice Program and Sudbury Mayor Paul Lefebvre of Greater Sudbury, alongside other passionate community members, comprised the presenting roster.

Sudbury Mayor Paul Lefebvre, in a public statement at a press conference Friday following the two days of discussions which had been closed to the press and the public, emphasized the necessity of diverse supports to combat the drug crisis effectively. He called for greater coordination among organizations in Greater Sudbury, urging a thorough examination of current efforts and the exploration of new collaborative strategies. The summit aimed to examine and enhance existing efforts, fostering a more collaborative approach that respects these diverse communities' unique needs and strengths. Mayor Lefebvre particularly championed initiatives addressing homelessness related to local addictions, advocating for more warming stations to keep the unhoused warm in winter and supporting the Lorraine Street Affordable Housing Project. City Council approved the development of a 40-unit affordable housing complex earlier this year to be built on Lorraine Street, intended to support vulnerable populations.

Jonathan Michael Peltier, a member of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, shared a deeply personal account of overcoming opioid addiction and incarceration. As a justice worker with the Wiikwemkoong Justice Program, Mr. Peltier emphasized the crucial role of harm reduction services within Manitoulin Island's Indigenous communities. His focus on reintegration underscored the transformative power of reconnecting with culture and ancestral roots, echoing the resilient spirit of the Manitoulin Island community. He also highlighted the importance of collective community supports in preventing relapse, emphasizing that, through the incorporation of the Teachings of the Seven Grandfathers and concerted efforts from multiple services working together, communities can construct a robust social scaffolding that aids and supports people who have a substance use disorder on various fronts. A critical piece of this process, Mr. Peltier said, was developing and implementing more transitional homes. Housing remains an immediate barrier to many unhoused citizens battling addictions. Transitional housing represents a temporary accommodation intended to bridge the gap between a person's homelessness and permanent housing by pro-



The Anishinabek Nation's Tim Ominika addresses the crowd during the closing address of the Summit on Toxic Drugs held last week in Greater Sudbury.

viding structure and support to those in need. Often, this form of project is implemented as a means of combating addictions and mental health challenges by facilitating the development of life skills, as well as educational and vocational training.

Sam Gilchrist, executive director of Manitoulin's Gwekwaadziwin Miikan, described the recent event as an incredible opportunity for networking with various community partners. However, he told The Expositor that he was disappointed that voices from smaller municipalities, such as Chapleau and others along the Highway 69 corridor, needed to be adequately incorporated. Mr. Gilchrist emphasized the importance of multi-year commitments and financial backing for the proposed approaches. He highlighted the need for flexibility in addressing changing needs and variables like substances and consumption methods. Drawing attention to the challenges faced by safe injection sites in Sudbury due to rigid legislation and limited funding, Mr. Gilchrist stressed the importance of avoiding similar problems in their proposed initiatives. He commended the summit for focusing on lived experiences, advocating for solutions that prioritize the interests of those suffering from addictions over a top-down approach. Mr. Gilchrist also emphasized the importance of destigmatizing supports and creating a "no wrong door" approach, making referrals easily accessible to connect people with appropriate services and assistance.

As a further observation, Mr. Gilchrist expressed the desire to see a similar summit organized for Manitoulin and its surrounding areas. He underscored the need for extensive regional collaboration on a large scale, emphasizing the importance of unity among cities like Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and smaller communities. Mr. Gilchrist highlighted the pervasive nature of drug problems, pointing out that users are not confined to one location and may move from community to community. This mobility

necessitates a comprehensive approach to education and services that extends beyond the boundaries of individual communities. The goal of fostering collaboration among various regions is to establish a unified front in tackling substance abuse issues and ensure that educational efforts and support services are accessible and effective across a broader geographical area.

Tim Ominika, a respected Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory member and representative of the Anishinabek Nation, shared insights as a mental health addiction system specialist with The Expositor. With a wealth of experience spanning over 14 years, Mr. Ominika highlighted the need for a collective effort to support First Nations communities within the Anishinabek Nation Territory. He emphasized the importance of collaborative community involvement in addressing health and wellness issues in the Greater Sudbury and District region and Manitoulin Island. Rooted in his Anishnaabe culture, Mr. Ominika expressed the need for holistic community-driven approaches to

addressing First Nations communities' mental health and wellness challenges. His perspective highlighted the importance of collective action and the integral role that Indigenous voices play in crafting effective and tailored solutions.

Among Mr. Ominika's

...continued on page 10

photo by Alicia McCutcheon

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# ...opioid summit speakers call for same event for Manitoulin

...continued from page 9 suggestions was the impending implementation of a 'safe supply project,' a touchy subject but a potentially game-changing initiative for Manitoulin communities. This project aims to provide medical attention to those suffering from addictions through the involvement of physicians, often working in conjunction with pharmacists, to offer monitoring and access to medical-grade varieties of substances free from contamination. The project presents a bold new approach to harm reduction, seeking to keep people with addiction and the community safe from tragic overdoses resulting from improper use or tainted narcotics. This innovative approach garnered support

from an Anishinabek Nation Chiefs-in-Assembly when proposed by Mr. Ominika and his confederates earlier this year. However, despite optimism about the future of this initiative, Mr. Ominika acknowledged that provincial legislation has sometimes played a mischievous role in limiting the adaptability of social services and harm reduction workers to stay ahead of current trends. Mr. Ominika said that provincial guidelines and policies created service silos which contributed to rendering individual social services less effective in handling a crisis of this magnitude.

When The Expositor asked whether he and his colleagues foresaw any potential issues arising



Greater Sudbury Mayor Paul Lefebvre offers closing commentary at the Summit on Toxic Drugs.

from the imminent Robinson Huron treaty settlement and the subsequent disbursement of funds, Mr. Ominika expressed deep concern. He highlighted the inherent risks associated with distributing substantial sums of money to individuals who may be grappling with substance abuse problems, emphasizing the potential for harm and predatory behaviours. To address these concerns, Mr. Ominika and his colleagues have proactively engaged with 21 of the Anishinabek nations they serve in the Robinson-Huron Treaty territory. (The Anishinabek Nation serves a total of 39 communities.)

They aim to provide further educational support, promote available services,

and initiate a dialogue surrounding the anticipated challenges the settlement may pose in specific communities. Emphasizing the need for collaboration, Mr. Ominika stressed the importance of a unified front to mitigate the impacts of the opioid and drug crisis. He also, with Mr. Gilchrist, proposed hosting a similar summit on the Island, bringing together various community stakeholders, including representatives from mental health, social services, law enforcement and private entities. Manitoulin, home to one of the largest Anishinabek populations, is pivotal in this collaborative effort. However, he quickly stated the importance of working with vari-

ous communities as the drug epidemic transcends cultural and regional boundaries.

Mr. Ominika elucidated the benefits of uniting community stakeholders to discuss potential funding options and strategies. Recognizing the universal nature of the epidemic, he emphasized the necessity for diverse community involvement to address this substantial burden collectively. To further this aim, he wanted to see programming like the Peer Support and Outreach Program in M'Chigeeng expanded into other communities, potentially delivered on a Manitoulin-wide level. However, Mr. Ominika stated that many bureaucratic challenges still thwart mean-

ingful and effective assistance. Perhaps the most challenging to address included the need for policy changes and more transparent funding agreements from provincial and municipal governments to support local services. Mr. Ominika also highlighted the issue of policies creating disjointed service delivery, emphasizing the importance of breaking down these barriers to facilitate more cohesive and comprehensive support for affected communities.


As the summit concluded, Manitoulin Island and Greater Sudbury eagerly anticipate the implementation of initiatives that honour addicted and Indigenous voices, offering hope for a brighter and healthier future for all communities affected by the devastating impacts of substance abuse. The collaboration with Public Health Sudbury and Districts is expected to be crucial in turning these initiatives into actionable solutions, transforming the theoretical into practice. The summit served as a platform for dialogue and a catalyst for meaningful collaboration and community-driven action in the ongoing battle against addictions. This event is a testament to the impact of communities coming together, with the potential to create lasting positive change that extends far beyond the summit's conclusion.

**We would like to extend a huge thank you to all who assisted with our fowl turkey supper for Saint Andrews by the Sea United Church in South Baymouth.**

A special thank you to the businesses that made contributions: Larry and Tom of Manitowaning Mill, Mike and Dawn of Manitowaning Freshmart, Carol and Mel of Mindemoya Foodland, Ross Ward of Ward's Store in Tehkummah and Green Acres Restaurant in Sheguiandah. Thank you to all. The personal donations were greatly appreciated. Special thanks to those who cooked turkeys and baked pies and cheesecakes. We couldn't have done it without you.

To all the volunteers who came out on Friday and Saturday to set up, cook, serve and clean up, to you we extend our gratitude and thanks. Our supper would not have been a success if it wasn't for all of you. Thank you very much. To all the people who came out to support us, we appreciate it very much and fingers crossed, we hope to see everyone next year.

Sincerely,  
Saint Andrews by the Sea United Church, South Baymouth



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**Christmas Office Hours**

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# ...Northeast Town, Billings demand epidemic status for intimate partner violence

...continued from page 1

Boyd, who is also chair of the Island's Community Policing Advisory Committee, told council he is in full support of the motion and shared with council some statistics from the OPP's recent report on billable hours to the municipality.

Year-to-date, as of October 2022, police were called to 30 calls for service for violent crimes, including assaults. In September 2023, by context, those year-to-date numbers were 60—a doubling. Councillor Boyd noted that 90 percent of those calls were domestic in nature.

In fact, the numbers were so troubling, he noted, that the OPP inspector brought it to his attention specifically.

In the recorded vote, all members of council voted in favour of supporting recommendation No. 1 of the Renfrew County Inquest—for the province of Ontario to formally declare IPV an epidemic.

In the Renfrew County Inquest, "the jury heard the Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam Inquest and issued 86 recommendations to prevent future deaths and delivered those recommendations to the province of Ontario on IPV. Recommendation No. 1 of the inquest was for Ontario to formally declare IPV an epidemic."

The inquest noted that every six days in Canada a woman is killed by her intimate partner and this past year in Ontario, 62 women, or more than one every week, were victims of femicide. Gender-and-sexually-diverse Indigenous individuals are particularly at risk, being five times



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more likely than non-Indigenous gender-and-sexually-diverse individuals to experience intimate partner violence in their lifetimes. According to Statistics Canada, 80 percent of intimate partner violence goes unreported.

The motion further states that violence against women costs the national justice system, health care systems,

social service agencies and municipalities nearly \$10 billion per year and municipalities are on the front lines in addressing gender-based violence.

"In light of what happened recently in Sault Ste. Marie (the tragic murder of three young children and a 41-year-old woman along with the shooting of a 45-year-old woman), this declaration should have been made years ago," stated Billings councillor Vince Grogan at a council meeting last week. "We need to put out a very strong stance as a township that this type of action is not tolerated behaviour here and that this needs to be declared an epidemic."

"I fully support Councillor Grogan's comments," said Councillor Dave Hillyard. "There is a lot of talk about the need to provide mental health support and that a lot of these violent situations involve those who have mental health issues. Domestic violence affects everyone, not just the two in a partnership."

Billings council passed a motion, "that the township of Billings hereby receives for information all items listed in section 9 and supports recommendation No. 1 of the Renfrew County Inquest for the Province of Ontario to formally declare intimate partner violence an epidemic. And further directs staff to circulate as appropriate."

Over 60 municipalities and regions across Ontario have declared a gender-based violence and/or intimate partner violence epidemic.

# ...Manitoulin Streams plans May 'Outdoor Angling' fishing show in Kagawong

...continued from page 1

ship as discussed during the committee meeting on November 27.

Seija Deschenes, coordinator of MSIA explained, "we're still in the midst of starting to get plans up and running. When we originally applied for funding through Fed-Nor for this type of event, the thought was of how much the pandemic had impacted businesses and how Manitoulin Island is tourism driven. People come to the Island to vacation here or stay at their cottage for the summer and angling/fishing is a big part of this. We had thought that to help the fishing and outdoor businesses and industry, we could look at holding an event that could promote these businesses and the Island. The idea of an outdoor angling

trade fair came up."

"We are hoping to have a two-day event, probably the long weekend in May when people are thinking about getting their boats on the water, coming up to their cottages, and the Chi-Cheemaun ferry season gets started," continued Ms. Deschenes.

"Businesses involved in the outdoor industry would have the opportunity to be a vendor at the event, along with businesses making artisan goods from the local environment could be involved. We are looking at up to 60 business vendors being involved, food trucks as well as traditional food and artisan food being available. There would also be interactive booths from educational organizations set up."

The vendors could include outdoors and the angling industry businesses on hand,

those selling boats and boating equipment, kayaks, canoes fishing rods, tackle, life jackets and gear, Manitoulin Island fishing charters, ice fishing, Island accommodations and much more.

"Groups like local tourism organizations, North Channel Marine Tourism Council, Manitoulin Island Phragmites, cottager associations, the Lake Kagawong Water Advisory committee, maybe outdoor invasive species booths, Manitoulin Trappers, local fish and game clubs, businesses designed to improve water, tree management services, Wikwemikong Tourism, Fuel the Fire TV, the Manitoulin Secondary School Share/Go Green group might want to be involved, as well as MNFR, OPP and others."

"We are also looking at having live music, guest speakers on all types of outdoor activities, music, guest speakers, and maybe offer stream tours, and competitions like fly fishing casting, kids' attractions and other ideas," said Ms. Deschenes. "All of this is still tentative and as I mentioned we are just starting to get ideas together on everything that we could look at."

"All the events would be held inside and outside the Park Centre in Kagawong," said Ms. Deschenes. "We would look for sponsorships and we feel holding an event like this would give us (MSIA) a way to give back to a lot of businesses and organizations who have helped us out so much in the past."

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# Great Lakes invasive carp barrier construction sees further delays

by Tom Sasvari

ILLINOIS—Construction of an invasive carp barrier near Chicago, Illinois, to keep invasive carp out of the Great Lakes could be delayed as the state of Illinois has not yet signed a project partnership agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The USACE is slated to start the \$1.3 billion barrier project in October.

“From the timeline I have seen, if the agreement is

signed this month, USACE will be able to break ground on construction in October,” Molly Flanagan, chief operating officer and vice president for Programs of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, told The Expositor.

“The problem is Illinois has not signed the agreement thus far,” said Ms. Flanagan. “And if the state does not sign the agreement the construction gets pushed back further.”

“I don’t think Illinois wants to be responsible for letting invasive carp destroy the Great Lakes,” stated Ms. Flanagan.

Michigan and Illinois previously agreed to pay \$114 million of the cost of the Brandon Road Interbasin Project. However, Illinois has not signed the partnership agreement with USACE because it would make Illinois the host state and responsible for any problems that could take place, such as environmental cleanups, reported Michi-

gan Radio on December 7. They report property needed for the Brandon Road project is on land that was part of a power plant complex that once burned coal.

“One of the Illinois concerns is that they would need property that Midwest generation owns. And they’re concerned about contaminants on that property,” said Ms. Flanagan. “They are worried about there being pollution that would make it expensive for Illinois to clean up in order to be able to use it to build the project,” she explained.

“Illinois says they want to have this project done, but they haven’t signed on the dotted line,” Ms. Flanagan told The Expositor. “They keep saying they will sign soon, but it has been six months so far. I thought the hardest thing of this whole project would be getting the federal and state

...continued on page 14

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**(705) 368-2744 by noon on Friday, December 22.**

(No take-out. Just bring yourself, sit down for a nice Christmas dinner and enjoy yourself!)

## ...Sheguiandah FN elects Jason Aguonie as new chief

...continued from page 1

Jason R.K. Aguonie was elected as the new chief of Sheguiandah while the three council seats will be filled by Orville (Bugsy) Aguonie, Jake Agoneh and Carrie Waindubence. No incumbent members of council were re-elected in the election.

There was a total of five candidates in the running for chief. Jason R. K. Aguonie was elected as chief, having received 53 votes to outdistance incumbent Elvis Mishibinjima who received 48 votes. Nevada Waindubence garnered a total of 24 votes while Xoe Peltier-Roy and Ruby Thompson received 13 and 11 votes, respectively.

There were 140 valid ballots cast for chief, with no rejected ballots.

In the race for the three seats on council, Orville (Bugsy) Aguonie received 51 votes, with Jake Agoneh receiving 47 votes, and Carrie Waindubence receiving 45 votes. There were 10 other candidates for council. Alison Aguonie received 40 votes, Joanne Fox with 38, Nathan Shawanda with 35, Shalyne Thompson who received 34 votes, Emma Chokomoolin with 33 votes, Carolyn Pickford with 32, Matthew Waindubence with 28, Ruby Thompson with 26, Darren Shawanda with 14 and Lisa Sagutch with 11 votes.

There were 149 valid ballots cast for councillor, with no rejected ballots.

Chief and council will serve a two-year term.

Jason Aguonie recently returned to his home community with his four children and was welcomed with a nomination to run for chief of Sheguiandah First Nation, an honour he humbly accepted. Mr. Aguonie, who drives for AJ Bus Lines, has worked as a heavy equipment operator for the past 22 years.

In his campaign, he cited concerns with a lack of transparency, accountability and involvement in band membership in the decision-making processes as some of the key reasons he chose to run for the top job.

“This will change under my leadership with the direction of membership,” he said.

“The biggest issue at the moment is the disbursement of the annuities claim,” Mr. Aguonie said. “If elected chief, I will ensure that 100 percent of this settlement will be disbursed to our members, both on- and off-reserve.”

He will fight for Sheguiandah’s treaty rights and land claims (Heywood Island, the Lewis farm and French River No. 130).

“Community safety and more assistance for the elders and youth will be a priority,” he continued. “Further, the building of a new multi-purpose building will be pursued. This building will be centrally located and will meet the needs of our members for recreation and community gatherings.”

Mr. Aguonie said economic development needs to be Sheguiandah First Nation’s priority. “This will create employment and generate much-needed income for Sheguiandah First Nation members, development of our two farms (Charlton and Stoneman), building an industrial park and pursue tourism.”

He also hopes to create a new housing strategy to meet the new and changing needs of community members that includes building a new subdivision on the water tower hill. Further, “We will secure funding for an independent community living building for our elders.”

“Together, we can change how Sheguiandah First Nations tackles issues in a more positive and proactive approach,” Mr. Aguonie said.

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**Manitoulin-Sudbury**  
District Services Board  
Paramedics





# National Day of Remembrance marked with calls for education and engagement

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre,  
LJI Reporter

AUNDECK OMNI KANING—In a poignant gathering at the 4 Directions Centre, a group of women came together for a night of solemn remembrance, marking the 34th anniversary of the tragic murder of 14 young women at Polytechnique Montréal on December 6, 1989. This heinous act of violent misogyny shook the nation and spurred Parliament to designate this day as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Traditionally observed with candlelight vigils honoring the lives lost—Geneviève Bergeron, Hélène Colgan, Nathalie Croteau, Barbara Daigneault, Anne-Marie Edward, Maud Haviernick, Maryse Laganière, Maryse Lecair, Anne-Marie Lemay, Sonia Pelletier, Michèle Richard, Annie St-Arneault, Annie Turcotte and Barbara Klucznik-Widajewics—this year’s event took a different direction. Families of the victims expressed a desire for a shift towards education and engagement regarding gender-based violence (GBV), as shared by Colleen Hill, executive director of Manitoulin Family Services.

The commemoration featured a film screening of an NFB Film, a guided therapeutic art exercise led by Nicole Jol and a sharing circle. While the film depicted the history of feminism in Canada, attendees noted a lack of focus on Indigenous and other women of color, particularly on tragedies such as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG2S). Furthermore, the absence of male presence at the event drew attention, despite men being primarily responsible for femicide cases—a point emphasized by the group, advocating for

greater male involvement in preventing GBV incidents.

A concerning trend highlighted by a recent report showcases a rapid increase in femicides across Canada. The report detailed a distressing surge in violent deaths among women and girls between 2018 and 2022, with 850 deaths recorded in the past five years—equating to a woman or girl being killed every 48 hours.

Moreover, between 2019 and 2022, there was a 27 percent rise in deaths involving male suspects. Although not all perpetrators were identified, 82 percent of known suspects were male, while 18 percent were female.

Focusing on the demographics of victims, the report estimated that one in five female victims killed by a male perpetrator were Indigenous, accounting for about 19 percent of cases. Shockingly, the fatalities left 868 children without mothers. Advocates have been fervently urging for the recognition of femicides within Canada’s Criminal Code or through dedicated legislation to afford legal protection to women and girls, especially those from Indigenous, Black and other racialized communities.

The report further revealed that from January to November 2023, there were 169 cases of femicide nationwide. Notably, according to The Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH), Ontario witnessed 65 cases of femicide from November 26, 2022, to November 25, 2023—10 more cases than the previous year, despite a decrease in national numbers.

While the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability (CFOJA) was established relatively



An art workshop was part of the December 6 evening’s events.

photo by Jacqueline St.Pierre

recently in 2017, the term ‘femicide’ has a deep-rooted history in the country, dating back over three decades. Initially propelled by the mass femicide in Montreal in 1989 and groundbreaking research on femicide in Ontario that same year, the term has persisted. Notably, it intersects with the ongoing grassroots Indigenous movement, spanning three decades, shedding light on the disproportionate number of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) in Canada.

The situation, as articulated in the 2019 MMIWG report as ‘genocide,’ remains intertwined with the term ‘femicide,’ underscoring the intersection of racism and sexism—both institutional and individual—that underpins this form of violence against specific groups of women and girls.

## ...invasive carp barrier

...continued from page 12

governments to provide funding to get the construction started, not that the state of Illinois taking so long to sign the agreement. Every step of this project has been difficult.”

The Brandon Road Project barrier would involve a series of deterrents at a river lock at Joliet, downstream from Lake Michigan. There are concerns that if any of the invasive carp, including bighead, silver, black and grass carp were to get into the Great Lakes, it would cause massive damage to the ecosystem of the lake and the region’s rivers, ruining fishing and other activities in the lakes.

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# Billings firehall costs continue to rise, council expresses frustration

by Tom Sasvari  
GORE BAY—Billings council members and township staff voiced frustration to a report to council indicating that the fifth contract change order to the Billings fire hall renovation project will mean an additional cost of \$17,708.25 which brings the total cost of the project to over \$1.675 million.

“The staff report is great but there have been a number of contract change orders. I’m hoping we are getting close to the end of this,” stated Councillor Dave Hillyard at a meeting last week. “Do you anticipate this project is finally wrapping up?”

“I think we are finally there,” stated Municipal Project Manager (MPM) Todd Gordon. “Don’t think I don’t share the same level of concern and frustration the council has. An ideal project would have no change orders, but this situation has been different from the start (with changes in the project from a renovation to a full rebuild).”

Mayor Bryan Barker provided background on the

project (provided by Mr. Gordon) explaining the wastewater treatment system which services the fire hall also services the wastewater flows from 91 Main Street. This was an existing condition, prior to initiation of the fire hall renovation/rebuild project, and this is the condition that 91 Main Street wastewater treatment has been returned to, as the fire hall project has been completed.

However, as the fire hall transitioned from a renovation to a rebuild, many aspects of the project took on additional complexity. This applied to wastewater treatment, including addressing the flow from 91 Main, read Mayor Barker. There was no documentation or reliable information of precisely where the connection from 91 Main Street to the fire hall treatment system ran underground. In any event, the wastewater line from 91 Main Street connected through a holding tank (dating from an earlier iteration of the fire hall treatment system). While excavating to address



The new Billings fire hall has a price tag of over \$1.675 million.

foundation repairs at the rear of the fire hall, the existing wastewater line was severed. Additionally, the historical, redundant holding tank was eventually backfilled as part of the project.

The topography and limited space at the rear of the

fire hall (the west side) resulted in the pumping chamber being damaged during the demolition and foundation repair stages, with some debris entering the chamber. The pumping chamber was salvaged, but the sewage pump itself was replaced.

Ultimately, the wastewater line from 91 Main Street to the treatment system was replaced, fully insulated, provided with a new heat trace from the fire hall electrical system, backfilled and the site graded.

It was further explained, in capital projects, affecting the cost or significant aspects of a project’s scope or timeline are normally addressed through contract change orders (CCCOs) allowing the client to pre-approve the changes that materially alter the contract. However, there are relatively rare occasions where the full extent or the specifics of the additional work required are not known, yet action needs to be taken to address the issue, in some way, in the moment (or in a reasonable time frame) to keep the project moving. This is more likely to occur in a project like the fire hall, where the entire project, including the scope, changed substantially after the project was initiated.

“This is another situation that occurred on this project after it went from

being a renovation to a full rebuild,” said Mr. Gordon. “The waste-water situation at 91 Main Street is not conventional, arose, and had to be dealt with. It adds to the cost of the project.”

Councillor Hillyard noted that the change in the project was major: from a renovation to a full rebuild of the fire hall. The fire department is so happy with the new fire hall. You (Mr. Gordon) did a good job of managing the project.”

“I am happy that hopefully we are at the last hurdle, and that everyone seems to be happy with the new fire hall,” said councillor Michael Hunt.

Councillor Jim Cahill said in all projects such as this there is a final general summary that provides the entire cost of the project from the hiring of an engineer to the completion of the project. And it allows council to compare the actual costs to what had been budgeted for originally.

This report will be provided to the council either in December or in January, council was told.

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# Basketballs were flying at AOK's 4 Directions Complex

by Margery Frisch

AUNDECK OMNI KANING—Four Directions Complex was the place to be on Sunday, December 10 if you love basketball.

"I bring my son Ethan every Monday night to train with Coach George in Sudbury," said Amanda Laforge, one of the many parents sitting in the stands. "There's obviously an interest here," Ms. Laforge added, taking in the court filled with young children. "This is amazing."

The program began with kids between the ages of nine to 12. With demonstrations of lay-ups, dribbling, passing and general rules of the game, the coach and his two assistants let the players work at developing their skills for about an hour. Organized chaos was how it appeared to the casual observer, but clearly a great deal of fun was part of the agenda. After an hour-long instructional period, the small athletes were divided into three groups and each team donned a different colour of jersey – red, black or white. For five minutes per game, the red jerseys played the black, the black jerseys played the white and then the white jerseys played the red, all the while learning to pass, dribble, stay within the boundaries of the court and, sometimes, score a basket.

Coach George Serresse had a moment to speak between the programs of the two age groups. "Yes, if there is enough interest; hopefully through the winter we can come down here once a month, then in the spring, if that generates more interest, we can look at doing this once a week," he said.

Coach George was happy to offer information about his background and credentials. "I grew up in Sudbury," he said. "I graduated from Laurentian University in 2013, where I played basketball. Then I played professional basketball in France for four years, I played with the Sudbury 5 for several years and last year I was the interim head coach of the Laurentian men's basketball team. Now I run a basketball academy called Sudbury Basketball Facility (SBF). There, we specialize in basketball skills development."

Nelson Wood, teacher and coach from



Youth between the ages of nine and 12 learned the finer points of the game of basketball recently.



Students work on their lay-ups during a recent basketball clinic held in Aundeck Omni Kaning.

photos by Margery Frisch

the Pontiac School in Wiikwemkoong, was gathering up his charges at the end of the first session but still had a moment to talk. "I brought about 17 kids from the Pontiac School," he said. "We had a few more, but I think hockey prevailed with them. I'm trying to convince Coach George to come out to our school so we could avoid the travel. We came by bus," he added, "and it's a bit of an issue."

Only time will tell how this plays out. The number of older athletes, ages 13 to 17, was far smaller than the younger crowd. Stay tuned to find out if and when Coach George returns to bring his basketball expertise back to Manitoulin Island.

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# Land-based learning teaches survival skills at Wiikwemkoong's Thunderbird Park

by Michael Erskine  
 WIKWEMKOONG—Life can be precarious. All it takes to shake us out of the complacency of our modern-day comforts is one of Mother Nature's rolls of the weather dice. One major ice storm can upset all the best laid plans of Hydro One's diligent crews, overwhelming their ability to maintain the grid and keep the electricity flowing. North America saw such an event in January 1998 when a combination of five smaller ice storms struck in succession to knock out power in Ontario and Quebec for a significant amount of time—plunging homes into darkness for weeks and even months. What can be an annoying inconvenience in the warmer seasons can quickly become a fight for survival when old Jack Frost comes calling.

Nimkii Lavell, your land-based pall, and Nathan Bryant, 'Nature Nate,' were among those on hand ready to impart basic survival skills to those attending the land-based learning event held at Thunderbird Park (Nimkii Bineshii) on Saturday, December 9 from 10 am to 2 pm.

The day could hardly have been more appropriate for learning land-based survival skills and medicines as rain and wind provided ample reminders of what Mother Nature can have up her sleeve, emphasizing the need to immediately find shelter when caught outside at this time of year. Luckily, a nearby tipi was



Francis Mandamin was on hand with a 10-ingredient traditional cough syrup medicine. The medicine was created using a recipe that was provided by an elder in Blind River.

set up complete with fire, hot chocolate, coffee and tea as a warming station. Outside, chili and scone, hot-dogs and buns were in ample supply as well.

Nature Nate was busy showing people how to start a fire and secure dry wood when it is raining. "Always have a good knife if you are in the bush," he cautioned, it can be a vital survival tool when the chips are down—in fact, it is great for making chips, curls of wood, for starting a fire and for splitting pieces of wood open to get at the dry firewood inside. "If you don't have a knife then you have to look around for rocks and things, be creative," he suggests.

Both Mr. Bryant and Mr. Lavell work for the Wiikwemkoong Board of Education and can often be found shepherding their charges through the bush

photos by Michael Erskine  
 and on the water imparting traditional land-based learning and skills through practical application.

Mr. Lavell and Mr. Bryant provided practical "tips and tricks" for dealing with what Mother Nature can throw your way—especially if it looks like a 1998 repeat. With the advent of climate change, the only thing that can be predicted about the weather is that it will often be unpredictable.

"When the power goes out do not use your toilet," advised Mr. Lavell. "The tank can be a source of clean water. There is a water tower here in Wiiky, but the pressure won't last forever. There might be backup generators, but who knows how long the gas will hold out? Don't open your fridge and stand and stare at it, do a mental inventory of what is inside and only open it when you have to get

something out."

Other tips include cutting down your living space by hanging blankets and closing off doors to conserve heat. "We used to live in small log cabins, sometimes 12 in a single room," he noted. Escaping body heat can help conserve the heat in those smaller spaces.

At another station, Francis Mandamin and friends such as Wiikwemkoong Heritage Organization language keeper Stanley Peltier were offering up lessons

(or tamarack) that can be harvested year-round. "You have to harvest the mullein in the summer as the plants go to sleep in the winter and can be much harder to find," she suggested.

Accompanying the ingredient samples were photos of the trees and plants from which they are harvested. As an added teaching tool, Ms. Mandamin had written the names of each on the back of the photo in Anishinaabemowin.

A key ingredient is honey, an addition that certain-

Mandamin.

Ms. Mandamin said that the recipe for the traditional medicine came from an elder who lives near Blind River.

"We have the knowledge from our ancestors," said Mr. Lavell. "We just need to share it and practice it and we will be prepared for just about anything."

"This is knowledge that is for everyone," agreed Ms. Mandamin.



Nature Nate, Nathan Bryant, a land-based teacher at the Wiikwemkoong Junior School demonstrates creating slivered curls of wood to make starting a fire an easy process. Nature Nate advises always carrying a good knife while in the bush.

in creating traditional cough medicine.

Ms. Mandamin had samples of the 10 ingredients that are boiled for several hours to make the medicine, all but the mullein of which are evergreen plants

ly helps the medicine go down as, much like another effective but "store-bought" cough remedy, the unsweetened brew is a bit on the bitter side. The Expositor can attest to that though thanks to a sample provided by Ms.



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# Ontario investing in programs to prevent and address gender-based violence

*New funding will help more women and survivors access critical support services*

TORONTO—The Ontario government is investing an additional \$18.7 million this year to help prevent and address violence against women and girls. This funding builds on the province's existing investments of \$1.4 billion over the next four years to end gender-based violence and support victims.

"Today (December 6) marks the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, which honours the 14 women killed and those injured 34 years ago at l'Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal," said Michael Parsa, minister of children, community and social services. "This day is a solemn reminder of the importance of ensuring that we do all we can to prevent gender-based violence and address its root causes. Our investments will help ensure women and girls can live in safety-free from violence."

The \$18.7 million investment includes an additional \$18.14 million to approximately 400 gender-based violence service providers across the province to help them hire more staff, improve services and increase their ability to provide services to women and children.

An additional \$546,000 will be invested in the Women's Economic Security Program and the Investing in Women's Futures program to create more opportunities for women to build skills, gain employment and become financially independent.

"These investments are a continuation of our wider work to support women's success and build a stronger Ontario together," said Charmaine Williams, associate minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity. "Increasing women's participation in the economy is critical to their financial independence, their family's prosperity, and Ontario's economic growth. Because when women succeed, Ontario succeeds."

This funding is part of Ontario's \$162 million agreement with the federal government through the National Action Plan to end Gender-Based Violence.

"The government of Canada is proud to support programs that help women and children experiencing gender-based violence, through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. Ontario-STANDS (Standing Together Against gender-based violence Now through Decisive actions, prevention, empowerment and supports) is one of the many examples of this funding in action, and we commend the frontline workers who are working day after day to save lives. During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, we remember the lives



Shutterstock

lost to violence and commit to building a safer Canada for everyone," said Minister Marci Ien, minister for women and gender equality and youth of Canada.

Over the next four years, the province will implement a cross-government strategy to increase funding to service providers to increase their ability to provide supports, expanding initiatives that help stop gender-based violence before it occurs, making it more seamless for women and children to transition between supports, and expand programs that provide training and employment opportunities for women so they can gain financial independence.

"On behalf of our membership, Family Service Ontario applauds the government's commitment to addressing gender-based violence through a comprehensive strategy that includes a focus on prevention," said Susan Somogyi Wells, chief executive officer Family Service Ontario. "This is a pivotal step, and family service agencies stand prepared to collaborate, working together with all stakeholders to ease the growing epidemic of gender-based violence in our communities."

Cora McGuire-Cyrette, chief executive officer of the Ontario Native Women's Association said, "for over 50 years ONWA has been working to empower, support and end violence against Indigenous women. Indigenous women, like all people, have the fundamental right to be safe. When Indigenous women are safe and well, commu-

nities and families are better able to thrive. I am pleased to see the Ontario government's commitment to ending gender-based violence. It will take everyone working together to address violence against women and systemic racism. I look forward to working in partnership towards systemic change."

"Gender-based and intimate partner violence is a crisis in Ontario's municipalities requiring an urgent and coordinated response across all levels of government," said Colin Best, president of the Association of Municipalities (AMO). "The province's plan strengthens critical services and supports, recognizes the importance of community-specific approaches, and commits to important reforms in the justice system. Municipalities look forward to working with the province and broader partners to build an Ontario free of gender-based violence."

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Sheguiandah First Nation's Aaron Bowerman.

### Anishinabek Nation welcomes new 2SLGBTQQIA+ advisory council

*Sheguiandah's Aaron Bowerman is a member ANISHINABEK NATION—*With the goal of bringing 2SLGBTQQIA+ voices to the political forefront, the Anishinabek Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Council was formed. One of the three members is a resident of the Sheguiandah First Nation.

The Anishinabek Nation Advisory Councils comprise the Nation Council and are present to ensure that all members of the Anishinabek Nation receive representation, support and have their voices brought to the table. There are four other nation advisory councils currently active in addition to the 2SLGBTQQIA+ and they include: Kwewag (women), Eshki-niigijig (youth) Getzidjig (elders) and Niniwag (men's). Nation Council members are available to hear citizens' concerns so that they may advocate for current issues and be the change Anishinabek citizens wish to see. The Nation Council has a monthly meeting with the political office to work collaboratively on goals. As well, each advisory council meets quarterly to work on respective goals and priorities, said an Anishinabek News release.

There are currently three members on the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Council: NaWalka Geeshy Meegwun (Longfeather), a member of the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation and lives in The Dish with One Spoon treaty territory.

Heidi Whetung is an executive assistant to the chief operating officer for Curve Lake First Nation government services.

Aaron Bowerman identifies as an Anishinabe two-spirit man born and raised in Sheguiandah First Nation. Mr. Bowerman has worked in the Greater Toronto Area for over 10 years supporting various communities as a front-line harm reduction worker. He is currently employed with the City of Toronto as an Indigenous research associate.

Mr. Bowerman is passionate about harm reduction, 2SLGBTQQIA+ issues, HIV/AIDS and social determinants of health within Indigenous communities. Through these passions, Mr. Bowerman has been able to support the community with youth programming, community relationship-building, peer support programs, capacity-building in harm reduction, street outreach and housing/shelter support. Outside of his professional life, he enjoys hiking, travelling, rock collecting, socializing with new people/friends, water sports, sewing/featherwork, listening to top 40 music and playing with kittens. Mr. Bowerman's core values include respect, honesty, courage and kindness.

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For pictures, go to: farms.com Buyers Guide. Dan Seifried Mount Forest, Harriston area 519-338-2688

**services**

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

**Manitoulin Family Resources**

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

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

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**rental**

**Gorgeous one bedroom** on second floor of quiet, professional triplex. Great location with a five minute walk to downtown Little Current and Low Island Park. High speed Internet, snow removal, grass cutting, washer/dryer, fridge/stove included. Call 705-368-6240 or visit WhatsApp or manitoulinrental@gmail.com for more information and viewing appointment. **22tfn**

**One bedroom smoke-free** home near Mindemoya with waterfront on Big Lake. Perfect for a single adult. One year lease (min.), first and last months rent, references required. Available immediately. \$840 plus hydro. Call 705-971-4109. **29-31p**

**real estate**

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**services**

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

**coming events**

**The Little Shoppe** Around the Corner at Knox United Church in Manitowaning is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm. **24-30p**

**Don't spend Christmas alone!** The Christmas Elves are doing Christmas dinner free on Monday, December 25 at the United Church, Little Current at 1:00 pm. Call the Expositor Office to sign up at 705-368-2744 and if you need a ride. No take-outs available. Free will offerings gratefully accepted. Please sign up before Friday, December 22 at 12 noon. **30-31p**

**Holy Trinity Anglican Church,** 10 Robinson Street, Little Current invites you to our Christmas lessons and carol sing on Thursday, December 14 at 3 pm. Refreshments to follow. **30p**

**Come one, come all** to the Little Current United Church Hall on December 22 from 7 to 9 pm to enjoy George Williamson and colleagues for a night of entertainment. Donation towards Manitoulin Family Resources food bank appreciated. **30-31p**

**services**

**Are you a cancer survivor** and need someone to talk to on Manitoulin? Meetings are held monthly on a rotating basis around the Island. The next meeting December 13 meeting at the Mindemoya Town Council Chambers from 2 to 4 pm, but support can be given over the phone. Alison Orford will be the guest speaker for the December meeting speaking to coping strategies for cancer patients. Please feel free to reach out to anyone listed for support. Cancer support group contacts: Bonnie Young, 705-377-4998; Terry MacKenzie, RN (oncology nurse), 705-507-0433 or tandjmackenzie@hotmail.com or Ann Cranstons, 705-272-7531, bnanncc@gmail.com. Ask us your questions, tell us your concerns. **Tfn**

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

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**wanted**

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

**Wanted, a .308 Savage** 99c. Call 705-368-1268 and leave a message. **30-31p**

**personal**

**Senior lady,** yoga teacher, vegetarian, herbalist, naturalist, hoping to make acquaintance with others of similar interests. Phone 708-859-2676. **29-31c**

**notice**

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

**church services**

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

**in memoriam**



**HARPER—In loving memory** of our sister Nancy Lou Harper who left us on December 21, 2019. If flowers grow in heaven, Lord, pick a bunch from us. Please put them in our sister's arms, And tell her they're from us. Remembered always, Judy and Conrad Freeman **30c**

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705-368-2744 or email [services@manitoulin.com](mailto:services@manitoulin.com)**

# Merry Christmas Everyone!



# Little Current elves serving up Christmas Day dinner at Little Current UC hall

**by Michael Erskine**  
LITTLE CURRENT—Putting together a traditional Christmas dinner is a lot of work, especially if it is just you or your partner who will be sitting at the table come Christmas Day. Christmas is also a time for socializing with family and friends but for many folks, weather, distance and a host of other things life throws at us means we will spend Christmas dinner alone.

A few years ago, a hardy group of Santa's elves decided that, since the heavy lifting of working in the Jolly Old Elf's toyshop was over for the year, they needed something to do—

before you kicked the bucket?" inquired The Expositor. "No, no, I keep my best ideas in a bucket I keep at the back of the toy shop," she said. "Sometimes, when I have time, I pull one out and get to it." Apparently, it was 30 years ago the idea first went into the bucket.

She Who Shall Not Be Named said that her elfen friends are really good cooks. "Not me," she admitted, "but they can really cook up a storm, or a blizzard, or a gizzard for that matter. Me? I am a better diner than a chef."

One of the great parts of the meal is the bill at the end—there isn't one. Since

the dinner, not the church. "We know so many people who should be at the dinner that we don't see coming out," said She Who

Shall Not Be Named. "It makes us sad." There is nothing sadder to see on Christmas Day than a sad elf, so do your part to help

make an elf happy today, reserve your spot at the table by calling Debbie at 705-368-2744, or by email at services@manitoulin.com,

preferably sooner than later. Posters put up by the elves suggest calling before December 19 at 5 pm—but you know how elves are.



Shutterstock

elves are like that. So one elf, 'She Who Shall Not Be Named,' got together with the Anonymous sisters and the Incognito brothers and began planning a special dinner for Christmas where they would invite folks around Little Current to come and share a holiday meal.

The United Church Hall in Little Current happened to be available for use on Christmas Day, so the elves rolled up their sleeves and got to work gathering up the supplies, then set about preparing the meal. The elves had a delightful time and eagerly awaited the arrival of their guests. Since that Christmas, the elves have continued their tradition.

"This is our third year," said She Who Shall Not Be Named. Asked about the inspiration for the dinner, She Who Shall Not Be Named explained that it was something that was on her bucket list. "You mean something you wanted to do

Santa had over-ordered a bunch of fixings, turkeys, potatoes and carrots, he let the elves have whatever they needed. "Nobody should be eating Christmas dinner alone," Santa told She Who Shall Not Be Named. "This is an especially great opportunity for people to get to know their neighbours, socialize and enjoy each other's company."

The elves have arranged in-town rides for folks who need assistance to get to the dinner. They have enlisted Debbie at The Expositor Office to help book seats. "If people can call Debbie and reserve their spot, that would be wonderful—it really helps us to plan what we need for the meal," the elf explained.

The dinner will take place at 1 pm on December 25 at the Little Current United Church Hall at 5 Robinson Street in Little Current. She Who Shall Not Be Named stressed that it is the elves who are putting on

## Stuff-an-Ambulance at Orr's Valumart on Friday

**by Michael Erskine**

LITTLE CURRENT—The season of giving is upon us once again and the folks at Orr's Valumart are gearing up for another Stuff-an-Ambulance event this coming Friday at the Little Current store.

"It's been a bit of a whirlwind around here lately," noted store owner Wayne Orr, who is busy juggling the final touches on a new home and dealing with the continuing staff shortages brought on by the double-whammy of the ongoing COVID pandemic and a resurgent flu season.

Still, the annual fundraiser is at the top of the busy store owner's to-do list and he has enlisted local emergency services workers and The Expositor to lend a helping hand.

"I have folks from the Manitoulin OPP, the UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service, paramedics and the fire department coming," said Mr. Orr. "Staff from the Expositor are also coming to help out."

This year will be a little pared back, thanks to the aforementioned flu and COVID seasons, however. "We will be just serving hot chocolate to help warm people up," said Mr. Orr, noting that the usual hot dog barbecue will not be in the cards this year.

Stuff-an-Ambulance will begin on Friday, December 15 and will run from 3 pm and 6 pm. Folks are encouraged to bring their non-perishable foods and/or toys to the Orr's Valumart parking lot and help make this year's event one of the best ever.

### GEORGE WILLIAM THIRD August 24, 1932 - December 3, 2023



It is with sadness that we announce the passing of George William Third on December 3, 2023 at the age of 91. Born to Eunice (nee Hughson) and William "Bill" Third. Dear Brother of Ed Third (predeceased) (Lily), Hugh Third (predeceased) (Lois), Elaine (Third) McGauley (predeceased) (Dwight (predeceased)). Dear Uncle of Bob, Bruce, Margaret, Lisa (predeceased), Krista, David, Deborah, Heather and Kristina. Dear great-uncle to many nieces and nephews. George was born and raised in Manitowaning, where he lived and worked on the family farm and as a woodworker, well known for his furniture and cabinetry. George spent years curling at the Assinack Curling Club and in later years at the Little Current Curling Club. He enjoyed beekeeping for a number of years. In the early 1990s he sold the farm and moved to Little Current Place apartments where he remained until earlier this year when he moved into the Manitoulin Centennial Manor. He spent a great deal of time over the years researching family history and was always happy to share this history. He also enjoyed bird watching and building blue bird boxes. Many of his blue bird boxes can be seen along the fence lines on Eastern Manitoulin. He always enjoyed watching sports, especially curling, the Toronto Blue Jays and the Toronto Maple Leafs. He will be greatly missed and always remembered by family and friends. At George's request, cremation has taken place and there will be no service. A private family gathering will take place at a later date. Donations in George's memory can be made to the Manitoulin Health Centre Auxiliary

### TERRY DUNCAN



It is with great sadness that the family announces the sudden passing of Terry Duncan on December 1, 2023 at the age of 75. Beloved husband of Judy Duncan. Loving father of Derek (Esma). Cherished brother of Diane Robinson (Al). Dog-Papa of Zeeva. Terry proudly worked at Vale (INCO) for more than 30 years, helping many many people during that time. He particularly enjoyed assisting those entering retirement. In his retirement he was able to live full time on Manitoulin Island and manage his ever-growing wood pile while listening to the Boston Bruins or Chicago Cubs games on the radio. Terry's quick wit, satire and always funny stories will be sadly missed by all who knew him. As per Terry's wishes, there will be a private family ceremony. Donations can be made to PetSave Sudbury. Arrangements entrusted to the Simpson Funeral Home, Gore Bay.



## Death Notices

### JESSIE ALLEN JAMES TAYLOR January 28, 1956 - December 3, 2023



In loving memory of Jessie Allen James Taylor, born January 28, 1956 in Mindemoya, Ontario and passed away on December 3, 2023 in Evansville, Ontario. It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Allen Taylor (aka Bone) at the age of 67 years peacefully at home. Beloved husband and soulmate of Brigitta Taylor (nee Wachter). Loving father of Gye Taylor (Bianca) and Poppa to Journey, Joey, Hunter and Wyatt. Loving father of Devin Taylor and Poppa to Brent, Mia and Rose. Loving Pops of Paul McFaul Sr. (Cheryl) and Poppa to Paul Jr. and Ashley. Predeceased by his parents William and Doreen Taylor (nee Eadie). He will be deeply missed by his siblings Rena (Wayne predeceased) Collins, Ken Fogg; Penny (Wayne predeceased) Varey, Jim Strain; David (predeceased) (Sharon) Taylor, Billy (Linda) Taylor; Jimmy (Mary) Taylor; Kevin Taylor and Angel (Mark) Campbell. He will be sorely missed by many nieces, nephews, neighbours and friends. Allen loved spending time camping, ice fishing, ATVing and snowmobiling. Above all else playing the guitar was his favourite passion of all. A hot rodder at heart, he loved his formula Trans-Am that he restored himself. He always went on Sunday tours so he could show it off, while blasting John Mellancamp's Hurt So Good. That CD never left the player. Allen was a skilled autobody painter and Auto Tech, always shiny and finished to perfection. Allen made sure that he had time for everyone, helping fix cars or equipment, anyone in need of a mechanic, Bone was there! Allen loved spending time with his family, he especially loved his grandchildren, whether teasing or assisting with homework! He was the best Poppa in the world. We can all hear your voice in our heads as clear as day. Always teasing us in your childlike way, calling us Goobers or Dip It! Or how "might as well stay for another" just rolled off your tongue so effortlessly. We will miss the "smell ya's later"s, "talk at ya's after"s and especially all of the "ya but"s.

*You loved your car,  
You loved your guitar  
Even from heaven we hear you from afar.  
Burn some rubber and strum us another!*

We love you, you were the very best husband, father, poppa and friend. Visitation was held at the Simpson Funeral Home, Gore Bay on Monday, December 11, 2023 and Tuesday, December 12, 2023 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 pm. Cremation to follow. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation, and may be made through www.simpsonfuneralhome.ca.



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# Gore Bay announces decommissioning of old Water Street playground

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—The old Water Street playground in Gore Bay is set to be decommissioned by the end of January 2024. This playground has been enjoyed by many generations of Western Manitoulin residents, but due to changing safety standards it is time for the space to be used for other initiatives.

A town release explains, “The Gore Bay-Western Lions Club and other community members and organizations had graciously donated toward helping to build the playground many years ago. The Lions were consulted regarding the decommissioning of the playground. They are happy with future planning of a green space and to see the town continuing to provide this space for the enjoyment of the entire community.”

Mayor Ron Lane told the Expositor, “The playground was established a long time ago. The playground equipment in the park is out of date. It was time for it to go. There is a certain amount of time this type of equipment can be used (under regulations) for playground equipment and be safe. Items like the merry-go-round and the teeter-totter are no longer safe.”

“The intent of the town all along was once the splash pad was installed that the playground on Water Street would be decommissioned,” the mayor continued. “We don’t need two playgrounds, although I know this one was handy for some people.”

He pointed out the playground equipment will be made available for sale to members of the public.

The decommissioned pieces have been offered to the Gore Bay Daycare for their outdoor play area, but unfortunately they do not have the space for any additional equipment. The pieces will be for sale by public notice at a later date. The proceeds from the sale of the equipment will be used for other recreational activities in Gore Bay.

“The town intends to transform the area into a landscaped green space with trees, grass, benches, flowers and the gazebo to stay for future enjoyment,” said Mayor Lane. He said the boardwalk in front of the playground will be removed.

“We also plan to generate more off-street parking in the area adjacent to the green space as well,” added Mayor Lane.

# Lyons Memorial United Church food cupboard receives donations

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—The spirit of giving at Christmas time is certainly evident as four local groups, with the tremendous support of the community, have donated many food items and cash to the Lyons Memorial United Church toward the Gore Bay Food Cupboard.

Recently, the Royal Canadian

Legion Branch 514 in Gore Bay donated \$500 to the Food Cupboard. Another \$2,500 was donated from the Gore Bay-Western Manitoulin Lions Club through a 50/50 draw the club held.

Not to be outdone, the Gore Bay Fire Department assisted the food cupboard by collecting a trailer full of

non-perishable food items on December 2 and cash donations in the amount of \$725.35 being collected.

And last week, young children from the Gore Bay Daycare presented a large amount of non-perishable food items to the Food Cupboard.



Children in the Gore Bay Daycare collected non-perishable food items to donate to the Lyons Memorial United Church Food Cupboard in Gore Bay. The children along with daycare staff delivered all the items to Jeff Hietkamp, a food cupboard representative.



Members of the Gore Bay Fire Department gather in front of the food items they gathered for the Lyons Memorial United Church Food Cupboard. They also collected cash donations to the tune of \$725.35.



Island resident Emily May, left, won the cash prize of \$2,500 in the Gore Bay-Western Manitoulin Lions Club 50/50 draw. Lions Club member Larry Hunter presents a cheque to Ms. May and Rev. Mercedes Hughes of Lyons Memorial United Church for the Food Cupboard. The Lions absorbed all costs of holding the draw.



Marilyn Clarke, president of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 514 Gore Bay, presents a \$500 cheque to Rev. Mercedes Hughes of Lyons Memorial United Church as part of the proceeds of the Legion's 50/50 draw.



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# ...Participants seek to place a positive spin on COP28 deliberations

...continued from page 5

Use and Ocean Day. This financial support supplements the \$2.5 billion previously mobilized during COP28's World Climate Action Summit on December 2.

H.E Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana, emphasized "Realizing the 1.5°C goal necessitates immediate action on nature, as demonstrated by the substantive commitments showcased by the COP28 Presidency, the

UAE."

The preservation and revival of nature hold immense potential, contributing up to 30 percent of the necessary mitigation action to achieve the 1.5°C target by 2030. Moreover, nature conservation plays a pivotal role in mitigating climate-related risks like floods and fires, while also fostering economic opportunities, potentially generating a USD \$10 trillion market and creating nearly 400 million new jobs.

Key milestones set dur-

ing COP26 to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030 and the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework earlier this year aim to protect 30 percent of the land and ocean by 2030. Achieving these objectives hinges on investing in and partnering with Indigenous communities, custodians of about 80 percent of global biodiversity. María Jose Andrade Cerda, an Indigenous leader from Ecuador, emphasized the importance of harmonizing science and Indigenous wisdom, under-

scoring COP28's reminder of the inseparable link between humanity and nature.

A significant policy outcome of Nature, Land Use and Ocean Day is the joint statement between the COP28 Presidency and the Convention on Biological Diversity, endorsed by 18 countries, outlining a commitment to synchronize and execute nature and climate strategies concurrently.

Building upon commitments made during the

World Climate Action Summit, recent announcements include collaborations like the Mangrove Alliance for Climate and endorsements for initiatives like the Mangrove Breakthrough and the High-Level Ocean Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy. These efforts aim to drive extensive restoration and protection initiatives worldwide.

### Outlook for the Future

COP28, drawing to a close, leaves a legacy of comprehensive financial

frameworks, robust climate action initiatives and a renewed commitment to preserving nature's invaluable role in combating climate change. As the world looks ahead, these commitments and milestones established at COP28 are poised to shape global climate agendas for years to come, laying a foundation for sustainable and resilient futures across the planet.

## Aundeck Omni Kaning's 4 Directions Centre hosts the National Addiction and Awareness Week conference

by Jacqueline M. St.Pierre, LJI Reporter

AUNDECK OMNI KANING—National Addictions Awareness Week 2023's theme was 'Inspiration, Innovation and Inclusion.'

Aundeck Omni Kaning Chief Patsy Corbiere opened the conference by welcoming presenters and conference goers alike on Thursday, November 23. The keynote was delivered by Bobby Hudon, an Indigiqueer activist born and raised in Manitoba whose lived experience in the 2SLGT-BQIA+ community, along with experience in social work, informs their work around creating and nurturing safe spaces and harm reduction and destigmatizing addictions.

Activities included Zumba led by Kellie Robinson, crafts with Shawna Jacko, archery with Given Cortes, and a game with staff from Réseau Access Education.

On Friday, November 24, a panel of local speakers discussed their unique experiences in recovery and what worked for them, emphasizing that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to overcoming addictions.

Tim Ominika, a mental health and addictions system specialist, and Katie Pine, an opiate strategic planning specialist who works for Anishnawbek Health at the Union of Ontario Indians, did a presentation on best practices. The team was hired in October 2022 to tackle mental health, addictions and the opioid crisis among First Nations people. In May 2022, the leadership endorsed the Anishnabek Nation Long-Term Healing Strategy, charting a course for

the Anishnabek Nation to develop and execute a comprehensive health plan rooted in Anishnabek values. This strategy hinges on community engagement and guidance while striving to secure funding from the provincial government. Its objectives encompass raising awareness about overdoses and advocating for protective legislation that supports those seeking aid. Additionally, it involves spearheading the formation of a Long-Term Advisory Group and delivering regular progress reports and updates to the Anishnabek Special Chiefs Assembly regarding ongoing initiatives.

Before closing the event, Sylvie Recollet delivered a presentation on the 8 Point Star Teaching about self-care and self-responsibility. "I am responsible for my sacred fire—it's not my husband, it's not my children, it's not my parents," Ms. Recollet told attendees. "I am (responsible). It's my duty, my responsibility, to take care of my physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. It's up to me to look at the 8 Point Star; the 7 Grandfather Teachings; the eighth point is Aadziwin, that is, to live your life, be in the present...I must remind myself what to do to take care of self."

Rob Wabegijig, who had a hand in organizing the conference, spoke with The Expositor, giving credit to organizations like Gwekwaadziwin Miikan for their innovation. Gwekwaadziwin Miikan integrates ancestral traditions with leading therapeutic methods and outdoor experiential learning, providing a holistic range of support for individuals navigating their journey toward healing and recovery. The mental health and addictions program is

also developing a new initiative to include loved ones and family members in the person with addiction's healing journey.

Information booths were set up by Ngwaagan Gamig Recovery Centre, with information on traditional community-based programming hosted on Wednesday nights; Mnaamodzawin Health Services will be hosting a winter memorial event called "A Night of Bright Stars" on Wednesday, December 13 to honour their grief and loved ones that had passed.

Réseau Access Network and Manitoulin Drug Strategy provided educational materials about harm reduction materials and spoke about the danger of poisoned drug supplies.

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# MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR

# LIFE

Styles

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Little Current, Manitoulin Island

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

## Island band member selected to national camp

by Tom Sasvari

GUELPH—A Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory member who plays for the Guelph Storm of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) has been selected as one of 30 players to attend Canada's national junior team selection camp ahead of the 2024 IIHF World Junior Championship.

Michael Buchinger, who was born in Markham but is a Wiikwemkoong band member is a defenceman with the Guelph Storm. He has appeared in 26 games this season, notching six goals and 17 assists for 23 points. The Storm blueliner signed a three-year entry-level contract with the St. Louis Blues of the National Hockey League earlier this year, after being selected 88th overall in the 2022 NHL draft.

Mr. Buchinger, who is 19, is one of the 30 players invited to Team Canada's selection camp, December 10-13 in Oakville. The 30 players including four goaltenders, 10 defencemen and 16 forwards will compete for a chance to join Team Canada at the 2024 IIHF World Junior Championship December 26-January 5 in Gothenburg, Sweden.

"We're excited to name the 30 players who will embark on the journey through camp and eventually on to the World Juniors," said Peter Anholt, the under-20 lead for the Program of Excellence management group. "Canada has an incredible talent pool of players, and there are always difficult decisions to narrow it down. We are expecting a highly competitive camp, and we look forward to naming our final roster that will wear the Maple Leaf with pride starting on Boxing Day. Selection camp will take place at the Sixteen Mile Sports Complex in Oakville and will include practices and a pair of games against a team of U Sports all-stars, December 12-13.

"We are grateful to the town of Oakville for hosting us and assisting us in our preparation for the World Juniors and we are excited to give fans the opportunity to see the best under-20 players in Canada," said Scott Salmond, senior vice-president of high performance and hockey operations with Hockey Canada. "This camp, including the two games against U Sports, will give us the best chance to assemble the top players to represent our country on the world stage."

Canada's national team will travel to Malmo, Switzerland on December 14 for a pre-tournament camp ahead of the 2024 IIHF World Junior Championship. As part of its preparations, Canada will open its pre-tournament schedule against a U25 team from Denmark on December 19 before facing Switzerland on December 22 and the United States on December 23.

The 2024 IIHF World Junior Championship begins on Boxing Day when Canada takes on Finland.



Michael Buchinger

## Johnston family rink wins annual curling bonspiel

PROVIDENCE BAY—A weekend of great curling and fun was had with 16 teams participating in the Providence Bay Open Cash Spiel, the first weekend of December.

Among the 16 teams on hand were those from Sudbury, Little Current, Gore Bay, Manitowaning, Mindemoya and Providence Bay.

Top honours in the first event went to the home team, the Johnston family, comprising of Angela, Spencer, Mike and Parker who defeated the Sudbury team of Steve Pellatt, Joe Greco, Sean Lavigne and Brad Peacock.

Taking first place in the second event was the rink made up of Stewart Simpson, Eric Ruediger, Susan Flynn and Sheila Bray. They defeated the team made up of Andrea Hilton, Rob Bergeron, Dale Boucher and Louise Bergeron.

The winner in the third event was the Reuben Allen rink which also included



The Johnston rink, including Angela, Spencer, Mike and Parker were the first event winners in the Providence Bay Open Cash Spiel held the first weekend in December.

Paul Deschene, Brad Ham and Rob Mellan. Finishing second was the team of

Oliver Koski, Doug King, Adrienne Patoine and Kari Viljanman.

## Manitoulin Sporting Life

### Ice Chips to Canoe Quips

by Larry and André Leblanc



#### Hearts of, and for, Panthers!

I was so pleased to learn this summer that the Lady Wolves U-18 team was indeed becoming a real entity! Knowing some of these 'characters', I was glad to see they are still playing firstly but ready to hear some stories as well. In all this anticipation, I apparently forgot to get in the loop!

I needed a refresher on the team, so thanks to Coach, **Scott Hughson** who got me up to speed. The Panthers play in the N.O.W.H.L. (Northern Ontario Women's Hockey League) and are registered as a 'B' level team (based on a population-based designation). Their league opponents include teams from Kapuskasing, Hearst, Timmins and Temiskaming Shores. Their league games are based on a "Super weekend" format tournament-style play.

So far, they have attended two of these Super Weekends, the first one was way up in Kapuskasing and the second only way up in Timmins. Coach says the team is doing very well and improving with every game.

There have been teams from Thunder Bay and North Bay participating in these weekends as well, which is a great experience for their team to have. North Bay looks to be their competition to go on to the Provincials later this winter, expects Mr. Hughson. Their first game versus the Bay ended in a 2-2 tie so this will prove to be an exciting series in February, for sure!

They played in their first tournament in September in Orillia as a way to get their feet wet, so to speak. A lot of their team actually only got their first experience of women's hockey during this weekend. They played very well, earning their first victory in their last game. Their next actual tournament is not until January in Collingwood but they are exploring other tournament options for later in the season.

The big news, however, is that they have a fundraiser game coming up Thursday, December 21 at 7 pm vs. the WTPS (Wiikwemkoong Tribal Police Service) Freeze! This looks to be one serious affair, with alleged taunts already being thrown down.

Wanting to confirm at least one of them, I confronted Coach Hughson to see if this heckling was true and he had no problem in his tell-it-like-it-is fashion to assert, "I know our girls are looking forward to this game but are concerned that they will be too fast for Mr. Peltier and crew. They are wondering if they should go all out or just take it easy on them. I told them I am expecting nothing but 100% effort at this game!" Well, that confirmed that, the Lady Panthers have laid down the gauntlet, apparently, Freeze!

Constable Jamie Peltier, surely this can't be one-sided journalism here. What have you got to say for yourself and the rest of the Freeze? This thrown-down game played in the Thunder Dome in Wiikwemkoong should be a blast!

Wait, this just found! Another Mr. Hughson taunt that just popped up on my search! It read, "That is if Constable Peltier and crew don't get cold feet and decide that we are too fast for them!" I'm aghast with the audacity, Constable Peltier, don't Freeze me out!

Said Constable Jamie Peltier attended the Little Current Recreation Centre for the formal signing of the Lady Panthers vs. Freeze Hockey challenge with representatives from the Manitoulin Lady Panthers Hockey Team. The game has been scheduled for Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 7 pm at the Wikwemikong Thunderdome. "Come out and show your support and watch a fast-paced hockey game. Admission: \$2 OR a non-perishable food item."

The team have a number of exhibition games scheduled for after the New Year holiday. They travel to North Bay for a double-header on January 6th and are working out dates to play against the Sault and even the Sudbury BB.

In other LP news, back on December 3 they hosted the Sudbury Lady Wolves BB team at NEMI Rec Centre. They were on the wrong side of 4-0 and 4-1 finals but the Coach says, "the girls learned a lot from playing against this higher level team and look forward to bringing what we learned from these to our upcoming practices as we continue to strive towards our goal of playing in the OWA Provincial Championships in April." Their league playoffs will be hosted by Hearst on the first weekend of March.

Coach Hughson is impressed that the team continues to improve every game. Being a new team with most of our players coming from different backgrounds of play, it is a work-in-progress that is coming along great. The future is very bright for these players as we build our team for not only this season but for years to come. Most of our players will be eligible to return to play next season and the experiences we are having this season will prove invaluable as we look to the future. Well said, Mr. Hughson.

As for this week, they have a double-header coming up on Saturday in Temiskaming Shores. Game 1 starts at 12:50 and Game 2 goes at 4:40. Provided there's a viable internet connection, both games will be live-streamed on their Lady Panthers Facebook page. Thanks to Ashley Manitowabi for doing these for the team.

The MLP Roster is #68 **Izzy Hughson** G Manitowaning, #50 **Ciera Sokolowski** G Espanola, #21 **Zaagaage Toulouse** D Little Current, #27 **Emery Watson** D and Captain from Mindemoya, #45 **Kara Peltier** D Wiikwemkoong, 15 **Paungbiisohn Trudeau** D of Wiikwemkoong, #66 **Camaryn Ramsay** D Espanola, #17 **Ava Corbiere** C M'Chigeeng, 7 **Tessa Prior** W Mindemoya, #57 **Abbie Hiens** W Mindemoya, #16 **Zahara Dube** C Wiikwemkoong, #13, **Shaye Ominika** W of Wiikwemkoong; #42 **Hope Eshkibok** W also of Wikwemikong, 9 **Ali Laginski** C Espanola, #28 **Gracie Gibson** W Espanola and #97 **Nelly Toulouse-Abitong** W from the North Shore's Sagamok. Their staff includes **Scot Hughson**, Head Coach, **Al Laginski**, Assistant Coach, **Sonya Gibbs-Stencill**, Assistant Coach, **Brent Assinewai**, Assistant Coach, **Naomi Wolfe**, Trainer and **Marcie Hughson**, Manager.

Best of luck, Panthers!

A good sport is good for sports!  
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There is just a week-and-a-half until Christmas break begins so students at MSS are preparing for the holiday season! Festive decorations line the halls and holiday music is being played over the PA system. There are still several activities left before the break begins, a few recent events include the 24-Hour-Famine, door decorating, and Hour of Tech and Hour of Code workshops.

In a remarkable display of commitment to a better world, students at MSS participated in a 24-Hour-Famine organized by SHARE/Go Green. The event, held on Friday,



December 8 and Saturday, December 9, aimed to raise awareness about global hunger and food insecurity. Participants in the event voluntarily abstained from eating for 24 hours, experiencing a small fraction of the challenges faced by millions around the world. Participating teachers and students stayed at the school overnight and broke their fast together in the morning. While students were fasting they played volley-

ball, basketball, board games and hide and seek. There were also crafts and trivia contests to keep students distracted from their rumbling stomachs. SHARE/Go Green is working to address hunger in other ways this year by collecting canned food at Halloween and making a donation from funds raised at the AOK Christmas Craft Fair.

To promote technological literacy and female role

models in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields Manitoulin Metal Robotics hosted an Hour of Tech and an Hour of Code event on Saturday, December 9. The initiative introduced students to block coding and a variety of different tools, like rivet guns and drills. Students in grades K-8 engaged in hands-on activities, like learning coding basics through Spike Prime LEGO

robots or constructing their own Christmas ornament. The event aimed to demystify technology, making it accessible for all students and giving participants the confidence needed to continue exploring. Manitoulin Metal also spoke about the importance of women in STEM fields and showed participants female leaders working in these fields.

Twelve Days of Christ-

mas is finally here! Thursday, December 7 marked 12 school-days until Christmas break. Every day until then will be filled with an event designed to get students into the holiday spirit. Along with the 12 Days of Christmas, the annual door decorating contest kicked off. All homeroom classes are encouraged to participate and decorate the outside of their doors with a festive design. The doors will be judged on Thursday, December 14 and the winner will get a classroom prize!

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

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For more information about this employment opportunity, please visit: [www.rainbowschools.ca/join-our-team](http://www.rainbowschools.ca/join-our-team).

Interested candidates should apply by **3 pm, Thursday, December 14, 2023** and submit a cover letter, resume and names of three (3) references to [HRT@rainbowschools.ca](mailto:HRT@rainbowschools.ca).

**David Farrow** Board Chair  
**Bruce Bourget** Director of Education  
[rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca)

## Greg Major and crew await national berth news

**by Tom Sasvari**  
HOUSTON—While coach Greg Major said the rink he coaches from the Houston (Texas) Curling Club did very well at the Mid-America Curling Association (MACA) playoffs, finishing second, they will have to wait until as late as the end of January to know if they are going to the National championship.

Hawater Greg Major, who is originally from Gore Bay, is the coach of the Julie Segovia rink which also includes Alyssa Parks, Heather Cook, Jessica Bostwick and Sara Whiting. They took part in the MACA playoffs held in Denver, Colorado on December 2-4.

"We did very well, although we didn't finish in first place," Mr. Major told The Expositor. "The team that finishes first in this competition is guaranteed to go on to the Nationals. We finished in second," he said, explaining, "we lost our second game in the round-robin portion of the competition in the last game. We had beat this same team twice last year."

"So that put us with two losses going into Monday. There were two teams with one loss and if either lost their game, we would still have a chance at second," said Mr.

Major. "So, by Sunday night (December 3) we thought we had been eliminated."

However, "on Monday morning one of the teams that had only lost one game in the round-robin lost their game. There must be a clear first and second at this event."

"We finished with four wins and two losses in the round-robin and had to win a tiebreaker, which we did in an extra end," said Mr. Major. "In the seventh end we were up one when they stole one. In the eighth our skip Julie made a fantastic shot (to keep the team going). We took it in the ninth, winning the tiebreaker by a score of 7-3 over the Henning team from Denver."

Mr. Major said only the top team is guaranteed to go to the nationals. His rink finished second. However, if the Alaska and Dakota region champions in their club championships decide not to go to the Nationals, which has been the trend the past couple of years, then his rink would qualify.

"We are hoping the trend continues," said Mr. Major. He added, "All the regional championships have to be done by the end of January, so we have to wait until then before we know if we will be going to the nationals."

**! help wanted ! help wanted ! help wanted**

### JOB POSTING

#### Student Support Teacher for 2023-2024 school year

**Full-Time: Monday-Friday (40 hours/week)**

**JOB DESCRIPTION:** The ideal candidate will be passionate for the job with an ability to reach out to each student and create a positive relationship of mutual respect, trust and honesty. We are seeking a teacher to assist students with class assignments, review subject material and prepare for tests and advocate on their behalf. This individual must possess a degree in education or equivalency. Experience working with elementary school children in a classroom environment. Knowledge and understanding of Google operating systems, iPads, Chromebooks, Smart Boards and educational applications is required for this position.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Assist students to learn and understand concepts, assist with completion of assignments.
- Work directly with students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 at Little Current Public School (LCPS).
- Work in collaboration with students, parents, teachers at L.C.P.S., AOKFN Education Counsellor, Band Manager, Chief and Council.
- Provide knowledge and instruction to students while helping develop positive educational skills.
- Provide individualized instruction to each student, advocating for the implementation of IEPs (if applicable).
- Working knowledge and understanding of technology and computer skills.
- Access and record students' progress and provide monthly reports and feedback to Education Counsellor.
- Collaborate with teachers and principal from LCPS regarding AOKFN students needs, challenges and strengths.
- Participate in meetings as directed with teachers, parents, AOKFN Education, Band Manager, Chief and Council.
- Plan and execute educational daily in-class and outdoor activities and events.
- Create an orderly and pleasant learning environment for students.
- Observe and understand students' psyche and report suspicions of child abuse and neglect, following AOKFN protocol.
- Understanding of First Nations' history, culture and Ojibwe language skills is an asset.
- Must possess a valid 'G' licence and up-to-date first-aid and CPR training.

Interested applicants who meet the qualifications as listed above must submit a SIGNED cover letter, current resume, a photocopy of degree/diploma, credentials and three (3) references with phone numbers to:

**Attention: AOKFN Teacher**  
13 Hill Street  
LITTLE CURRENT, ON  
POP 1K0

Only qualified applicants will be contacted for an interview.  
The successful candidate will be asked to provide a current Vulnerable Sector Check.

**DEADLINE DATE: December 15, 2023 @ 4:00 p.m.**

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

#### ELEMENTARY TEACHER

**Deadline: 1:00 p.m. - Thursday, December 21, 2023**

**Department:** Education – Lakeview School  
**Classification:** MFN Teachers Salary Grid  
**Employment Status:** Term Full-Time (January 2024 – December 2024 - maternity leave placement)

**Reporting Relationship**  
Teacher works under the direction of the principal.

**Position Summary**  
Teachers are responsible for the provision of classroom instruction and support.

**Essential Functions**

- Prepare lessons for presentation to students according to approved curriculum.
- Teach using a systematic plan of lessons, discussions, audio-visual presentations, field trips and other learning resources.
- Lead students in activities to promote their physical, mental and social development and their school readiness.
- Assign and correct homework, prepare and administer tests.
- Evaluate the progress of students and discuss results with students, parents and school officials.
- Identify children's learning styles and needs, prepare, implement remedial programs for children requiring extra help.
- Participate in staff meetings, teacher training workshops, professional development days and language classes.
- Supervise teacher assistants and student teachers as needed.

**Requirements and Qualifications**  
Preferred, Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Education with teaching experience. Minimum, Valid Ontario College of Teachers Certificate and Undergraduate Degree. Must have knowledge and/or experience with the culture, tradition, history and customs of the Anishinaabe. Understanding and fluency of Ojibwe is an asset **or must be willing to learn the language.**  
**It is mandatory for successful candidates to submit a current (30 days) CRC/VSS; offer of employment will be subject to the receipt of the CRC/VSS record. CRC VSS required, must be thirty (30) days current, original or certified copy.**


**CRC/VSS Rationale**  
CRC/VSS must be current thirty (30) days, original or certified copy. All employment applicants for MFN Education programs are required to submit a Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Screen as individuals will work directly/indirectly with students. All individuals employed under the education program must have a record clear of charges and convictions relating to child sexual harassment or abuse of any kind.

Please submit the following: **cover letter, resume, certificate of qualifications, recent performance assessments and/or practice teaching reports, along with three (3) current written work-related references by:**  
**Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. to:**  
**"Elementary Teacher"**  
Education Director, M'Chigeeng First Nation,  
P.O. Box 333 M'CHIGEENG, ON POP 1G0  
Fax (705) 377-4980

**LATE OR INCOMPLETE** applications will not be considered. Miigwech for your interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Preference will be given to Anishinabek people. [www.mchigeeng.ca](http://www.mchigeeng.ca)

For complete job description, please contact Education Department at 705-377-5362 or [directorofeducation@mchigeeng.ca](mailto:directorofeducation@mchigeeng.ca)





**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**  
**ENAAGDENJGED** (one who takes care of others or things)

**Department:** Administration  
**Employment Status:** Regular Full-Time  
**Salary:** Negotiable (subject to education & experience), includes pension & benefits

*M'Chigeeng First Nation is seeking an inspiring Anishnaabe Leader. With strong background in management, administration and finance as the Enaagdenjed; along with exceptional communication and interpersonal skills. Values and understands Anishinabek culture and fluent in Anishinabemowin is a strong asset. If you are results oriented, an analytical thinker and have a proactive approach, then you may be a great fit for this position.*

**Summary of Position**  
 The Enaagdenjed works under the general direction of the M'Chigeeng First Nation Chief and Council; and shall, in every aspect oversee the administration and manage the operations of M'Chigeeng First Nation; and is the administrative lead and link between Senior Management and Chief and Council. Responsible to ensure the management, administration and delivery of all M'Chigeeng programs and services and that these needs are met in an effective, efficient and timely manner. Ensures Anishinabek cultural practices are incorporated in daily interactions and program activities with focus on retention of Anishinabemowin (C&C 2030 Declaration goal of MFN being fluent in Anishinabemowin).

**Specifications**  
**Preferred:** University degree with minimum of five (5) years' direct management or direct work experience.  
**Minimum:** College Diploma with minimum of four (4) years' direct management or direct work experience.  
 Understands Anishinabek culture and traditions and fluency of Anishinabemowin. Is compassionate, approachable and known as an upstanding and respectful role model. Ability to deal effectively with high pressure and challenging situations; proven competencies for managing information and people; decision-making and negotiating with high level officials and government bodies as a representative for Chief & Council. Ability to implement change management, risk management and quality assurance.

**Interested applicants please submit: cover letter, resume, three (3) current work-related references (with contact information) & education certification by Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 12:00 P.M. to:**

**"ENAAGDENJGED"**  
**M'CHIGEENG FIRST NATION**  
 P.O. Box 333  
**M'CHIGEENG, ON P0P 1G0**  
[employment@mchigeeng.ca](mailto:employment@mchigeeng.ca) or Fax 705-377-4980

**CLOSING DATE: December 21, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.**

*Miigwetch to all interested applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*

**! help wanted ! help wanted ! 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 now seeking candidates for the following positions:**

**FULL-TIME positions:**  
**Manitoulin Island or Sudbury:**  
 Specialized Services Coordinator: Closes December 15, 2023

**CONTRACT positions:**

**Manitoulin Island:**  
 Education Support Worker: Closes December 15, 2023

**Sudbury:**  
 Cultural Enaadaamaaget (Helper): Closes December 15, 2023  
 Youth Cultural Outreach Worker: Closes December 15, 2023

**Apply to: Human Resources at [hr@kgcfs.org](mailto:hr@kgcfs.org) and quote the position title in the subject line.**  
**\*All postings close at 4 pm EST.\***

**To view the postings and detailed job descriptions, visit our website at:**  
[www.kgcfs.org/employment-opportunities](http://www.kgcfs.org/employment-opportunities)

*At KGCFs we are committed to providing a barrier-free work environment following the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the Ontario Human Rights Code. Accommodations are available upon request for candidates taking part in the recruitment process. Miigwetch for your application, however, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. As a condition of employment, the successful candidate must submit the following: a Satisfactory Criminal Reference Check and/or Vulnerable Sector Check (current and within 3 months of application date), Driver's Abstract and Proof of Liability Insurance.*



**Sheshegwaning First Nation**

1079A Sheshegwaning Road  
 SHESHEGWANING, ONTARIO P0P 1X0  
 PHONE: (705) 283-3292 FAX: (705) 283-3481

**Employment Opportunity**  
**Education Assistant Position (6-Month Contract)**

Sheshegwaning First Nation is seeking a highly motivated and well-organized professional to fill the full-time position of Education Assistant. Under the supervision of the Education Director, the Education Assistant is responsible to provide clerical duties and provide direct assistance to the Education Director.

**Qualifications:**

- Secondary school graduation plus acceptable related experience.
- Typing skills of a minimum of 40 words per minute.
- Business course from a recognized learning program or two years related training and experience.
- Excellent understanding of computer keyboard and word processing systems.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to operate and maintain a variety of office machines: fax, photocopier, printer, computer, scanner.
- Ability to organize and prioritize a wide variety of assignments using independent judgment and minimal supervision.
- Working knowledge and experience in Native culture and native community life.
- Able to be flexible if overtime or evening work is required.


**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Responsible for performing administrative and office duties, filing, organizing office space.
- Work requires some knowledge of the policies, procedures and organization of an office environment.
- Receives incoming telephone calls and directs them to the appropriate person; takes messages as required.
- Greets visitors to the school, determines their needs and directs them to the appropriate staff member.
- Handles general information requests effectively, knowing which calls to refer to staff members.
- Receives incoming mail; sorts and distributes mail; sends out mail.
- Obtains director's travel itineraries and records activities/location on schedule boards.
- Ensures that all files and correspondence are maintained in a safe and confidential way.
- Records and types education meetings.
- Performs miscellaneous typing on behalf of the Education Director.
- Knowledge of post-secondary applicants and processes.
- Other related duties as required.

Interested applicants should submit their resume along with a cover letter and three references no later than:  
**December 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.** Mark confidential and to the attention of:

**Jessica Sampson**  
**Human Resources Director**  
 Sheshegwaning First Nation  
 1079A Sheshegwaning Road  
 Sheshegwaning, ON P0P 1X0  
**Phone (705)-283-3292 – Fax (705)-283-3481 or Email [jessica@sheshegwaning.org](mailto:jessica@sheshegwaning.org)**

Salary will be based on qualifications and experience. Position is subject to 3 and 6-month probationary reviews. We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Preference will be given to Sheshegwaning Band Members.



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**Noojmowin Teg Health Centre (NTHC)** is comprised of a multi-team of health care professions providing community-based services through the use of a holistic approach that integrates both traditional and western healing methods. Our team includes: Traditional Healing & Cultural Services, Primary Care, Mental Health & Addictions and Health & Wellness Programs & Services.

NTHC is an inclusive employer. Accommodation is available in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

**Current available positions:**

- Mobile Mental Health & Addictions Navigator (Full-time Contract March 31, 2025)
- Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner (Full-time 1-year contract)
- Registered Practical Nurse (Full-time 1-year maternity leave)
- Traditional Care/Intake Coordinator (Full-time 4-month contract)
- Traditional Knowledge Keeper (Full-time)
- Aging at Home Van Coordinator (Part-time)
- Board Vacancy 1 Off-Reserve Representative

**For job details please visit:**  
[www.noojmowin-teg.ca/about-us/employment](http://www.noojmowin-teg.ca/about-us/employment)

**Submission Pre-Requisites:**  
 Please submit a cover letter, resume, a copy of registration and list three (3) work-related references

**Applications:** Can be sent by email at:  
**[info@noojmowin-teg.ca](mailto:info@noojmowin-teg.ca)**

by facsimile:  
**(705) 368-3922**

or by mail:  
**Attn: Human Resources**  
 Noojmowin Teg Health Centre  
 Postal Bag 2002, Hwy. 540  
 Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation  
 Little Current, ON P0P 1K0

To learn more about employment opportunities, call (705) 368-0083 ext. 248.  
**Miigwetch/Thank you** for your interest in applying to Noojmowin Teg Health Centre.



## Kenneth Toulouse memorial created from his passion for cars and trucks

by Tom Sasvari  
 WIKWEMKOONG—Kenneth Toulouse was a well-known member of the community of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory (WUT) as a long-time manager of the Wiikwemkoong arena, known for his passion of cars and trucks, as well as for his scrapyards business.

“On December 6, 2019, cancer took my dad just before the holidays,” said Joni Shawana, one of Mr. Toulouse’s three children. “For his fourth-year memorial, with the help of my uncle, Gerald Toulouse, we are making use of stuff in my dad’s scrapyards to make Christmas decorations and display them in the yard. Before I start clearing the yard, I want to make this a tribute to my dad.”



Joni Shawana, left, originally from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory and her uncle Gerald Toulouse created this display of unique Christmas decorations in memory of her father Kenneth Toulouse, who passed away on December 6, 2019.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** The display at night provides an amazing sight in tribute to Kenneth Toulouse baa.

“So far I have a tire tree, satellite star, hubcap tree, tire snowman, working on a tire Santa, scrap metal reindeer, old recycled couch cushion gingerbread man, scrap metal nutcracker and still going to work on other ideas,” Ms. Shawana told The Expositor in late November.

“I am originally from Wiky, but have lived in Toronto for 30 plus years,” said Ms. Shawana. “On this visit home I decided to take a little longer time here and to do this memorial display at the homestead.”

“I just felt this would be a new unique way to remember my dad,” said Ms. Shawana. “My dad was the arena manager for about 20 years, spending 16 hours a day over there. He also sponsored several hockey teams and players over the years. He was very smart in mathematics and many kids would bring their homework to the arena where he would help them out. He was also a scrap metal guy and before I was born, he opened KT Auto recycling cars.”

“My uncle Gerald, who has been my rock since dad passed away, was taking care of my dad for the last year of his life,” said Ms. Shawana. “I had asked him to take care of the yard as well and he did a really good job.”

She said the Christmas decoration initiative started with a tire Christmas tree and grew from there.



### Elementary Teacher - (2) English Language Learner Itinerant Teachers

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 an: **Elementary Teacher - (2) English Language Learner Itinerant Teachers.**

For more information about this employment opportunity, please visit: [www.rainbowschools.ca/join-our-team](http://www.rainbowschools.ca/join-our-team).

Interested candidates should apply by **3 pm, Thursday, December 14, 2023** and submit a cover letter, resume and names of three (3) references to [HRT@rainbowschools.ca](mailto:HRT@rainbowschools.ca).

**David Farrow**  
Board Chair

**Bruce Bourget**  
Director of Education

[rainbowschools.ca](http://rainbowschools.ca)



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY BAND REPRESENTATIVE

Term: Full-time permanent (35 hours per week)  
 Salary range: \$62,113 to \$75,748 per year  
 (Subject to education and/or experience or a combination of both)

**POSITION SUMMARY:** The Band Representative will act as Whitefish River First Nation’s (WRFN) representative for children and families who are working with Child and Family Service agencies. The Band Representative will provide guidance, advocacy and support to WRFN member children, youth and families who are working with child welfare agencies.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Represent the interests of WRFN First Nation and its members regarding child welfare matters in court.
- Provide knowledge, awareness and promotion of WRFN’s interests to courts and external child welfare agencies; provide support and advocacy during investigations and ongoing as per protocols.
- Liaise between the WRFN and external child welfare agencies.
- Represent the WRFN whenever our children have been apprehended, are being adopted or are in care.
- Assist with the protocols with external child welfare agencies.
- Participate in case conferences, plans of care and other matters relating to keeping children with their families.
- Conduct home visits to support families keeping children in the home or when a family is transitioning to returning a child to the home.
- Assist families in accessing resources and collaborate with other supports for prevention activities.
- Work towards the repatriation of children residing in care in other jurisdictions and help link children to their home community.
- Compile all relevant case-related information and documentation.
- Liaise with other First Nation Band Representatives; Accompany other Child Welfare agencies during investigations.

\*For a complete job description, please email: [hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca](mailto:hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca)

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Post-secondary degree in Social Work, Social Science, Child and Youth Care or a related field.
- Minimum of 2 years’ experience working in Social Services or related field in an Indigenous community or organization.
- Advanced computer skills: Microsoft Office, Internet Explorer and Adobe Acrobat Pro.
- Must have a valid driver’s licence and access to a reliable vehicle.

**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES:**

- Able to interpret legislation and legal documents; understanding of Customary Care Agreements.
- Understanding of the Child/Family Services Act (CFSA).
- Knowledge of Case Management techniques and Alternative Dispute Mechanisms (i.e. Sharing Circles).
- Excellent communication skills, including written and verbal, to be effective in negotiation, advocacy, facilitation and collection and dissemination of information.
- Able to speak and understand the Ojibwe language or a willingness to learn.
- Ability to exercise discretion in handling highly confidential subject matters.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

- Must provide an up-to-date and clear Police Vulnerable Sector Screening Check upon hire.
- Must have the willingness to be on-call for emergency response services regarding child welfare matters.
- Must obtain an up-to-date First Aid and CPR Certification.

Applications are due by December 22nd, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

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

**CONFIDENTIAL: BAND REPRESENTATIVE**

c/o Human Resources  
 Whitefish River First Nation  
 17-A Rainbow Ridge Road, P.O. Box 188; Birch Island, ON P0P1A0  
 Email: [jobapplications@whitefishriver.ca](mailto:jobapplications@whitefishriver.ca) Fax: (705)285-4532

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

## Manitoulin Secondary School PLAYER PROFILE



by Emery Watson



Proud Supporter of our  
 MSS Mustangs

### IZZY HUGHSON

From the trails to the track or to the arena, Izzy can be found constantly on the move with a smile on her face! As a second year Mustang, Izzy brings a positive attitude and enthusiasm to all of her athletic endeavours. Her involvement in sports from a young age has instilled a love for athletics that is evident no matter what she is participating in. Izzy has already established herself as an excellent team player and hard worker, creating a promising athletic future for her time at MSS!

Prior to becoming a Mustang, Izzy was a student at Assinack Public School. Even at a young age, Izzy capitalized on every opportunity to play school sports, signing up for baseball, cross country running, track and field and volleyball. She reminisces on her elementary years, noting that her best memories were competing with friends and travelling to other schools for day-long trips.

Throughout the past two years, Izzy has wasted no time in transitioning to high school sports. So far, she has already made an OFSAA appearance for cross country. The junior girls’ team, consisting of 5 runners, gave it their best and placed an incredible second place at NOSSA in Sudbury, sending them forward to compete against teams from around the province. Izzy notes that competing at the OFSAA level with her team remains one of her most memorable moments so far during her time as a Mustang!

This past year, Izzy didn’t hesitate to lace up her skates and jump on the ice as a member of the girls’ hockey team, either! Izzy looks forward to the upcoming track season as well.

Growing up playing hockey, Izzy has a special attachment to the sport that provided her with great friendships and memories over the years. She was very quick to find her passion on the ice and began very early on playing at the rep level. Over the years, Izzy has played goalie for the Manitoulin Panthers, and in more recent years has competed with the AA North Bay Ice Boltz. This year, she is one of two goalies for the U18 first year running Manitoulin Lady Panthers. Izzy has a special love for hockey because of the opportunities it provides to meet new people, learn new skills and engage in a fun team sport.

When Izzy takes the Mustang jersey off and isn’t on the ice with her team, she can be found staying active by taking her dog Eli for long walks. Izzy finds him a great motivation for her to continue to be active and enjoy beautiful weather. She enjoys outdoor activities as well, such as hunting and fishing.

In the classroom, Izzy is as dedicated to her academics as her athletics. She thrives through brainstorming and problem solving, pushing her to especially enjoy numerous subjects. However, science is among Izzy’s favorite subjects as she finds it interesting, engaging and notes that there is always something new to be learned. Despite the business of sports and school, Izzy works at the Anchor Inn in Little Current.

One reason why Izzy excels in athletics and academics may be because of her inspirations. She notes that someone she finds incredibly inspiring is Hayley Wickenheiser. Izzy admires how, despite many challenges Hayley has faced in her life, she has never given up. This encourages Izzy to continue to follow her dreams, pursue her passions and continue to work hard to achieve her goals.

Even though Izzy has two more years rocking the black and gold, she is interested in a career as a sports nutritionist. Her love for health and athletics is something she hopes to pursue in the future!

With Izzy’s hard work and dedication, she is sure to continue to be a stand-out Mustang on and off the ice!

Proud Supporter of our  
 MSS Mustangs



**AJ Bus Lines  
 & MSS  
 A Winning  
 Team!**

Proud Supporter of our  
 MSS Mustangs



**BMO  
 Investing Today  
 in Tomorrow’s  
 Future**





# *The Santa Claus Book*



## *Manitowaning Lighthouse*

A grand old sentinel is celebrating its 138th anniversary of standing guard on Manitoulin Island's shoreline this year. Once known, somewhat tongue in cheek, as "Dawson's monument," the Manitowaning lighthouse had a bit of a shaky start since the first tenders went out in 1883.

Simon James Dawson was the member of Parliament for Algoma from 1875 to 1891.

According to 'Alone in the Night: Lighthouses of Georgian Bay, Manitoulin Island and the North Channel' by Russell Floren, Andrea Gutsche and Barbara Chisholm, a certain John Waddell of Kingston was the first contractor to tackle the job of building the Manitowaning lighthouse. He had confidently announced in 1884 that the building would be complete by August 15 of that year—it wasn't.

Eventually, the Department of Marine and Fisheries lost patience with the contractor's dawdling and took over the job—finishing the tower by 1885. Described as a "square white wooden tapered tower, red polygon lantern" the Manitowaning lighthouse boasted a fixed white seventh order dioptric that could be seen for 14 miles (22.4 kilometres). The light was later replaced with one that shone with a green light.

The first lighthouse keeper, Benjamin Jones, took up his duties in 1886 to 1886. The last in the line of keepers was Jack Clark, who operated the lights for 28 years, from 1936 to 1964.

Jean Hastings in her tiny tome 'Lighthouses of Manitoulin and Surrounding Islands,' cited Manitowaning residents who recalled Mr. Clark "walking across town from his home each evening, bent over with age, with one hand behind his back and the other carrying a can with just enough fuel to last

the night."

Mr. Clark would navigate the two interior ladders to reach the steel trap door that allowed access to the lantern. Keeping the glass of the "red roofed polygon" that housed the lantern free of a constant accumulation of bugs required crawling out a small red door and onto catwalk that surrounds the top of the tower.

One panel in the glass enclosure was opaque, preventing the intense light from shining into townsfolk's windows at night.

The kerosene oil lamp was eventually replaced with an electric light and the old lamp and reflector are now housed at the Assiginack Museum.

Manitowaning was a first port of call on the old "turkey trail" supply route that ran from Owen Sound to Sault Ste. Marie and the lighthouse light provided an important navigation aid for the vessels who plied that route. In the days before rail and road networks took over, shipping provided a vital lens lifeline to those living on Manitoulin Island and all along the North Shore.

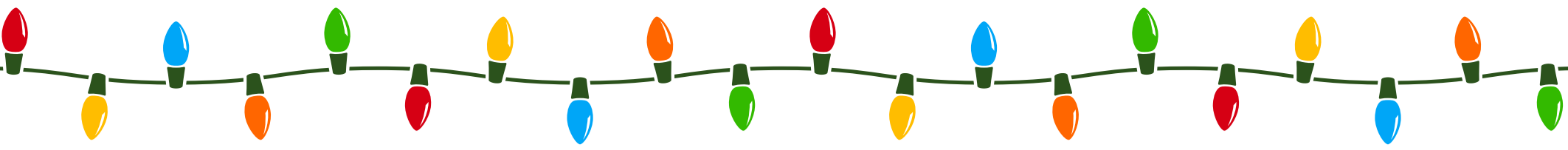
Various accounts cite the erratic route ships would take travelling from Georgian Bay to the entry of Lake Superior, but others lay the Turkey trail moniker on the vast flocks of turkeys for which Manitoulin Island was once famed.

Turkey drovers would shepherd thousands of the birds across Manitoulin to the waiting ships, there to make their way onto the menus of some of the world's finest restaurants. Until quite recently, "Manitoulin turkey" could be found listed on that of Toronto's Royal York, Hotel dining room menu.

*Published  
yearly  
by:*







# Evergreen

Leaves have fallen all around us. Two months ago, their beauty captivated our attention. The branches that once held them will enter a darker season that anticipates the warmth of a spring sun.

In this season we look to the hopeful evergreen that somehow is always green. Through the season of brilliant fall colors the evergreen received very little attention. Green? Where is the beauty in a tree with one colour when a sea of bright orange, red, and yellow waves to us in the wind? Now, however, when the dark greys and browns threaten to steal our joy we are re-acquainted with our

ing us from a Christmas without colour, life and light. Who knew a tree could do so much?

But it is not the trees alone who are the sole participants in accomplishing this hopeful task. We too are people beginning another season. Christmas is a season to gaze deeper at the people, places, and things that bring colour in a colourless time. If the one colour green can accomplish all of this, what about us?

We too experience seasons in which our own beauty and the beauty of those around us goes noticed, and other times, unnoticed. Times when it lies dormant and times when it comes alive. Our lives are a part of a continuous cycle of seasons filled with contrasting beauty upheld in dark moments by that which is evergreen. My prayer this season, the Christmas evergreen season, is that the people, places, and things that have gone unnoticed will help remind us again of what is eternal, faithful, and life-giving even when life can feel colourless and void. Isaiah prophesied years ago with this same hope saying, "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit (

This Christmas, I pray there will continue to be evergreen signs of light and hope that emerge to help us make sense of the growing darkness that creeps in hour by hour this time of year. I pray

that God would help us see the evergreens in our lives and help us, like the Christ Child, be an evergreen symbol of light, hope, peace, joy and love this Christmas.

From our family to yours,  
Have a very Merry Christmas,

**Joel Lock**  
Island Community Church

## Prepare Through Prayer

In 2011, we got our hockey team back. My hometown Winnipeg Jets were back! It might be an exaggeration to say that the whole city was waiting for that moment, but that's what it felt like to me.

At the time of John the Baptist (Zhabadiis), you might say that the whole city and beyond, the whole nation, even the whole Creation, was waiting for something big to happen. The wait was already over, in a sense, because Jesus was already among them; but the people hadn't met him yet and his mission and task were not yet complete.

We hear about John the Baptist in the Gospel reading for the third Sunday of Advent, Sunday, the 17<sup>th</sup> of December. John described himself in this way: "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'" This is a reference to the prophet Isaiah, where we read: "A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'"

In this time leading up to Christmas, we can do some waiting; and we can also "prepare the way of the LORD." One way we might prepare is through prayer and attentiveness to what the Good Spirit is doing, in our own lives and in the world around us.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas!

**Fr. Paul Robson SJ**  
Holy Cross Mission  
Wiikwemkoong



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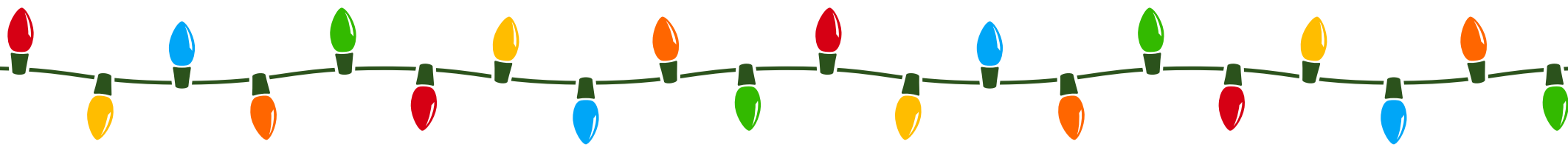
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# A Calling to Serve on Manitoulin

I have the honour and joy to serve as minister at the five Anglican churches of this beautiful Island. I am still fairly new here, having arrived 16 months ago. I would like to thank

I received on that joyful day.

I was astonished by the autumn colours, as I travelled around the Island this fall and last fall. The landscape was heartbreakingly beau-

tiful. One day, it struck me that I wished our hearts and our common life here could be as beautiful. And my proclamation is that by the mercy, grace, truth and beauty found in Jesus Christ, they can be. The season of Christmastide is coming, in

which we remember the marvelous coming of Jesus, that is, God the Son, taking to himself our true human nature, in order that we can be the people whom we were meant to be. gations work with their neighbours of other faiths or of no faith, to accomplish works of justice and mercy. And that is such inspiring and hopeful work. But there are still aspects of our common life here that are troubling to me. These aspects will be familiar to any who read this newspaper. Some of them are similar to those which existed in the ancient land where Jesus was born over two thousand years ago. Some of us do not have enough food to eat or decent shelter. The economic progress we have come to expect since the mid twentieth century now seems uncertain or out of reach. Violence of various kinds continues to beset us. And then there are suicides and the opioid crisis, among other burdens.

One of the most compelling things about

Jesus Christ is that so much of the strengths of our civilization have come from ordinary people putting in practice what he said and did. Some follow his example and learn from his teaching without turning to him in faith. Others trust him to be their Saviour, and strive to obey him as their Lord. I have been called here to serve both my flock and the whole community, including

those of no faith or who have lost their faith. It is my aim to be glad to hear from you at any time, on any matter. If I can be of assistance to you, please be in touch at 705-210-8404 or by email at [pastorcatherine@manitoulin.com](mailto:pastorcatherine@manitoulin.com). Thank you, and Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all.

**Rev. Catherine Hazlitt**  
Manitoulin's Anglican Churches of Canada



so many friends and neighbours, both inside and outside the Church, who have welcomed me and helped me settle in here. Some of you will have attended or read about my ordination as deacon this past September, and I appreciate the support

tiful. One day, it struck me that I wished our hearts and our common life here could be as beautiful. And my proclamation is that by the mercy, grace, truth and beauty found in Jesus Christ, they can be. The season of Christmastide is coming, in

This Island is an extraordinary place, and I have seen so many examples of people working together, in a myriad of ways, to use their means and talents and time and effort for the benefit of their neighbours. I have seen my own congre-

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**THANK YOU**

The Little Current Lions Club would like to thank the community for its continued support in our fundraising endeavours, including Catch the Ace.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday and can't wait to see you again.  
**Merry Christmas to you and yours and all the best in 2024!**  
From the Little Current Lions Club



# Be Present with Joy this Christmas

The season of Advent is upon us—the time of preparing and waiting for the Christmas season to begin. As I reflect on the year there is an abundance to consider. There were great joys but also times of turmoil and chaos during the year. In reflection, I think of a hymn entitled ‘Light Dawns on a Weary World.’ This hymn is wonderful for either the advent or Lenten season. The words acknowledge the weary world we find ourselves in, but it gives hope of a new direction upon us. The lists we create for preparation and events can make anyone weary this time of year.

The four Sundays of Advent are hope, love, joy and peace. These four small words have such great meaning when we pause and reflect on one each week. Taking the time once a week leading up to Christmas to reflect on these four words can rejuvenate our souls and may lead us to be energized for our Christmas experiences. Light reveals what is going on around us, love grows in our hearts as we acknowledge or pray on what the light has shown and then hope will bloom in the form of action. If we each can find the love which brings hope, we can find our inner peace—a time when we take a deep breath and feel the weight of the world come off our shoulders. The peace that comes from knowing you did your best and after a well-deserved break you will try again. A true peaceful feeling brings joy to all around us.

This beautiful hymn is written to the tune known as ‘Temple of Peace’ because it was first present-

ed in the Community of Christ temple in Independence, Missouri, a location known as a peace church. The poem, or words written to accompany this tune, proclaim the feeling for peace. The final phrase of this hymn is inspired by the words found in Isaiah chapter 55 and the thought of peace making through worship, “We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.” Any place you find yourself in this Christmas season, you can be present with joy so all of those around you may follow your example and feel a sense of peace. The light will dawn when eyes view the wonder of the Christmas season. The birth of the peaceful one is at hand, and we shall rejoice as we wish each other a sincere Merry Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

**Dawn Dawson**  
**Community of Christ Church**  
**Providence Bay**

## Jesus Had Two Dads

Matthew 1:18-21; 24-25 (NRSVUE) Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way: When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child con-

ceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took Mary as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

“Jesus had two dads and he turned out fine.” The first time a pastor friend told me this I had to stop and think long and hard. I had never considered this before. I know Jesus

calls God “abba,” dad. But there is also Joseph, whom Jesus also likely called dad. Therefore, Jesus had two dads.

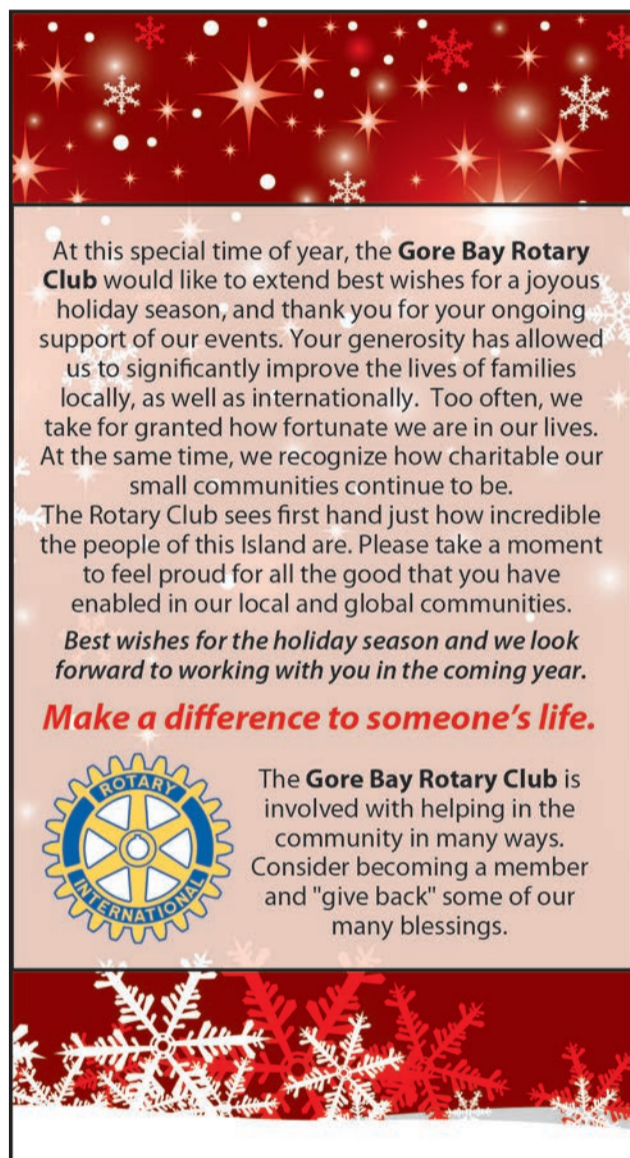
Joseph is sometimes referred to as the patron saint of foster and adoptive parents. We know Joseph is not biologically related to Jesus. But they are a family—and not any family—The Holy Family. The Holy Family is a blended family made of biological and chosen relatives.

My pastor friend was making the case that more than one dad or mom in our lives does not automatically mean we are going to turn out

messed up. Plenty of people have a mom and a step-mom. Plenty of people have a dad and a heavenly father. And some people have a dad married to a dad. If anything, a child is better off with many parents than one or two. Surround a child with godparents and aunts, grandparents and big brothers, father figures and mother figures in their community and in their neighborhoods! It takes a village to raise a child. It is not an old cliché. It is truth. Kids who are blessed with loving adults surrounding them grow up into loving adults themselves; who in turn bless kids—their own and others’.

God blesses blended families. God blesses chosen families. God blesses biological families. God blesses straight and queer families. God calls us family—God’s children—and so, I am happy to say, I have more than one dad, too. And so do you. Merry Christmas from my family to yours; from my church family to all church families; and to the world family of all people, all creation, everywhere.

**Rev. Whitney**  
**LP Bruno,**  
**Little Current and**  
**Sheguiandah**  
**United Church**  
**Pastoral Charge**



At this special time of year, the **Gore Bay Rotary Club** would like to extend best wishes for a joyous holiday season, and thank you for your ongoing support of our events. Your generosity has allowed us to significantly improve the lives of families locally, as well as internationally. Too often, we take for granted how fortunate we are in our lives. At the same time, we recognize how charitable our small communities continue to be. The Rotary Club sees first hand just how incredible the people of this Island are. Please take a moment to feel proud for all the good that you have enabled in our local and global communities.

*Best wishes for the holiday season and we look forward to working with you in the coming year.*

**Make a difference to someone's life.**



The **Gore Bay Rotary Club** is involved with helping in the community in many ways. Consider becoming a member and “give back” some of our many blessings.



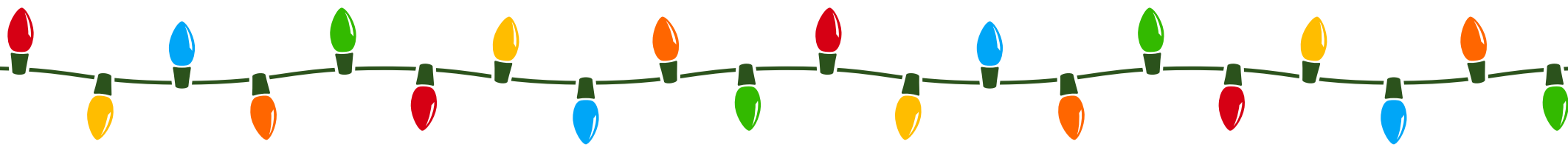
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# The Special Christmas Experience

In the midst of the holiday season, the world is adorned with festive lights and decorations. There is a profound sense of anticipation and joy in the air. However, amidst the glittering ornaments and cheerful melodies, the true essence of Christmas often remains veiled beneath the surface. This year, I have been taking my church through the Advent season by unveiling hidden stories of Christmas.

For example, Isaiah, a prophet, who lived long before that first Christmas morning, served as a reminder of the divine promise along with anticipation of a greater joy that surpasses the fleeting pleasures of the holiday season. He at one point echoed the cry of God when he said, "Comfort, comfort my people! Speak softly and tenderly to Jerusalem, but also make it very clear that she has served her sentence, that her sin is taken care of – forgiven!" (Isaiah 40:1-2)

In these verses, we find the heartbeat of Christmas, the restoration of brokenness, the idea of being comforted, and the fulfillment of a promise – the birth of Jesus Christ, the long-awaited Messiah. It is a message of hope

that transcends time and space, reaching out to us and into the depths of our souls and offering solace to the weary and burdened.

As we unwrap the layers of tradition and festivity, let us not forget the profound message of forgiveness and

journey through the scriptures, music and fellowship as we come together to reflect on the deeper meanings of Christmas. Our hope is that through this experience, you will not only celebrate the holiday season but also encounter the profound

the profound significance of Christmas. So may we all take a pause, reflect, and immerse ourselves in the hidden stories of redemption and grace. This Christmas, let us go beyond the surface and rediscover the true magic of the season – the timeless story of God's love manifested in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Join us on December 24 at 10:30 am for a Special Christmas Experience that promises to be more than just a celebration – it's an invitation to encounter the hidden stories that make Christmas a season of unparalleled joy and divine significance.

**Jamie Greenwood**  
Spring Bay  
Pentecostal Church




grace that was promised long before Jesus was born. The promise of a new beginning, the assurance of forgiveness, and the double portion of God's love echoed throughout the ages, resonating with the true spirit of Christmas.

To further illuminate these hidden stories, I invite you to join our Special Christmas Experience on December 24 at 10:30 am. This event is designed to be a transformative

love and grace that Christmas represents.


The Special Christmas Experience aims to bring the message of Isaiah to life, allowing its timeless message to pierce our hearts and minds. Through an inspirational message, uplifting music, and a sense of community, we hope to create a space where the true stories of Christmas are unveiled and embraced.

In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it is easy to lose sight of



**Happy Holidays!**

*from Denise, Chris and all the Anchor staff!*



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On behalf of Council, we would like to take this opportunity to wish Manitoulin Island a happy holiday season and we thank you for the compassion and community spirit you have shown in 2023.

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May the gift of love, peace and happiness be yours this sacred time of year.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**

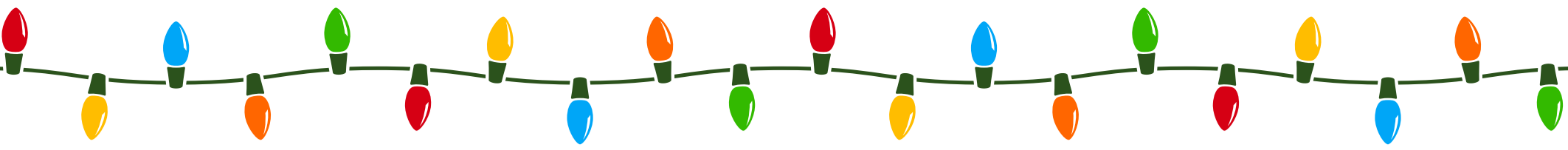
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# You are Not Alone at Christmas

At this time of year we are inundated with classic Christmas songs and carols that encourage us to rejoice in the season, to be jolly and merry and joyful.

In the past few weeks, then, maybe you've heard Burl Ives wishing you "a holly, jolly

Christmas" because, you know, "it's the best time of the year." Or maybe you've heard Andy Williams doing him one better by assuring you that "it's the most wonderful time of the year, the happiest season of all."

Or maybe you've heard

Judy Garland crooning to you, "Have yourself a merry little Christmas. Let your heart be light."

Or maybe you've heard any number of soloists or choirs declaring, "Joy to the world!" with an invitation to "come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant."

It's Christmastime, so let us "good Christian friends, rejoice!"

The over-arching message of these classic Christmas songs and carols – and many more like them – is simple. Christmas is a time for optimism, for togetherness, and for

But what if it isn't?

What if Christmas this year doesn't feel jolly and merry and joyful? What if Christmas this year is a poignant and painful reminder of all that is not right in our lives, or in the world around us? How does anyone

jolliness, merriment, and joy.

Given that, maybe one of the greatest Christmas gifts we can give each other, or give ourselves, is the gift of recognizing that none of us is alone. None of us is solely responsible for mending the world or even our small corner of it, and none of us grieves alone. We share the task of recovery, renewal, and reconciliation with one another and with the Holy One whose birth we await... the Holy One who said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Long ago, a poet who had experienced his own trials and tribulations declared with confidence, "Crying may last for a night, but joy comes with the new day." (Psalm 30:5b)

With time—and with the Creator's blessing—surely that new day will come to each of us. And with it, the joy that rightfully defines the Christmas season.

**Rev Janice Frame**

**Western Manitoulin Pastoral Charge  
United Church of Canada**



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joy. Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, the Prince of Peace, the incarnation of God-with-us. Christmas is a time to come home for the holidays, to be surrounded by family and friends, to be warmed by the sight of twinkling lights, the perfume of spruce or pine or cedar, and the sweetness of shortbread cookies and fruitcake. Christmas is a time to be jolly and merry and joyful.

navigate through "the happiest season of all" when they have a bruised heart and a sad spirit?

It's been a tough year for many of us, personally and collectively. Concerns about continuing environmental, political, and social ills – not to mention personal losses and struggles – may mean that we've been dreading this Christmas season because the last thing on our minds and in our hearts right now is

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# May You Find Peace at Christmas

We've arrived once again at that time of year where we collectively fix our gaze upon the Lord Jesus and His coming to dwell among us. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, God with us, Emmanuel. Each of us has an opportunity to reflect upon Jesus, coming to dwell with us this Christmas. Of course Jesus is always with us; he's promised to never leave us or forsake us. Right now, though, we remember that Jesus is the Lamb of God who has come to take away our sins—that's something we can all be thankful for.

One of my favourite passages of scripture comes from John 1:29 in the Bible. It says, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" Each time I read or

come across this passage I'm reminded of the amazing sacrifice that Jesus has made for my life. Jesus has come for all people; no matter who you are or where you are from, Jesus has come for each of us, every tribe and every nation. The good news is that Jesus is for all people!

This year I'd like us to look on a few principles that Christmas reminds us of. Firstly, we have Hope because once again this Christmas, Jesus will fill each of us with Hope.

Secondly, Jesus reminds us to Love one another. Why should we do that? Because Jesus loves us and there's no greater love than to lay down our life for our friends.

Thirdly, this year we have Faith because of

Jesus. So many have faced great difficulties this past year through inflation, tragedy, death, addiction and many other challenges. Jesus is our light and we can have Faith that He will see us through the challenges that we're facing.

Fourth, Jesus brings to us Peace in these days. Even though we are living through challenging times we can receive Peace from the Lord Jesus in our lives to face tomorrow and the challenges that are ahead of us.

Finally, Jesus gives us Joy, in fact the Joy that Jesus gives to each of us becomes strength as soon as it comes into our lives. The Joy that Jesus gives to us is not something that can be taken away or fades away. It's strength to

endure hardships and trials that life brings our way.

This Christmas, my prayer for each of you who takes the time to read this is that you will find Hope, Love, Faith, Peace and Joy in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I'm grateful that I know Him and I invite you to ask Him to be a part of your life this Christmas and for the rest of your life. Dear Jesus, I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe

that He died for my sin. I want to trust Him as my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

**Pastor Jason Snider**  
**Northern Life Church**  
**Little Current**

Wishing Everyone a  
**Safe and Happy Holiday Season**  
from all the staff!

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*Mayor MacNevin and Council  
would like to send warm wishes of prosperity  
and kindness to one and all this Christmas Season.*





# A Thrill of Hope for the Weary World

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.” Another way it could be put, “Unrelenting disappointment leaves you heartsick, but a sudden good break can turn life around.” (Proverbs 13:12)

We know that the

body needs healthy food for nourishment, so it does not become weakened and sick. What about your heart? By heart, I mean your inner being, your emotions, the core of who you are. This proverb speaks of the heart being sick because hope is missing. It got me

thinking, as food fuels your body, hope fuels your heart. As food is the source of nourishment your body needs to stay strong, hope is the source of nourishment your heart needs to stay strong. Hope deferred, hope delayed, unrelenting disappointment... leaves you heart

sick, tired, worn out... WEARY.

Can you feel it? With hope there is an expectation that something is going to happen, there is this anticipation for the outcome you want. This is fuel to keep something alive in us. Hope for what is to come. It keeps us strengthened. But the opposite of this is not being able to see a way out. Or hope is deferred because no matter how much hope you want to have, you just cannot see a good outcome. You have lost hope. Maybe the hope you had for your life, your marriage, your family has taken a very wrong turn. Heart sick, tired, worn out... WEARY.

Every so often, my body is extra weary, this thing with my body not storing iron. I get severely depleted to the point that I need

iron infusions into my blood through an intravenous line. Although it isn't always painless, it is worth it because as my iron levels rise, strength is renewed and I'm not so tired, worn out or WEARY. My body is INFUSED with what it needs to be strong. Does your weary heart today need an INFUSION of hope? May I offer you this?

“Nevertheless, the time of darkness and despair will not go on forever... The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:1,2,6)

I love how the words

of this well-known Christmas song put it. “O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Saviour's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.”

We are given this gift of hope in the life of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1-11). The thrill of hope that can lift the weariness in your heart. My prayer for you is that you may know His love and allow him to infuse hope into your heart today.

**Pastor  
Ramona Jaggard  
Manitoulin  
Community Church  
Tehkummah**



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**Warmly wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year!**



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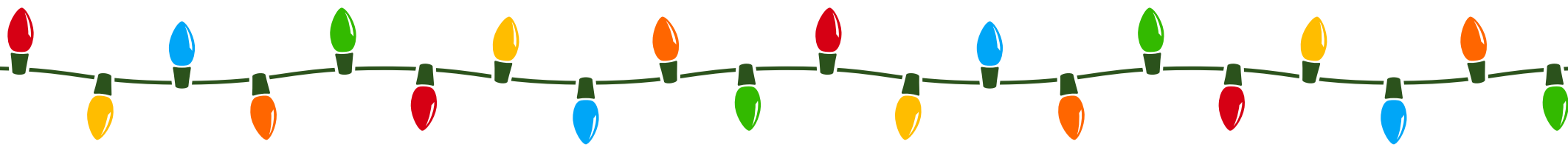
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# A Christmas Wish for You

One of my favourite Christmas songs is entitled “My Grown Up Christmas List.” I think the reason I like it so much is that it reflects the reality of the world we live in and a desire for a better, more meaningful, satisfying way of life. The refrain from the song goes as follows:

*No more lives torn apart  
That wars would never start  
And time would heal all hearts  
And everyone would have a friend  
And right would always win  
And love would never end, no  
This is my grown up Christmas list*

## Revel in the Gift

The Christ Child brings the gift of hope this Christmas to all his children on Earth. It is a gift that a world beset with anger and frustration is in evermore need in these most troubled of times. As we navigate the hustle and bustle of the Christmas crowds let us take a moment to reflect upon God’s most precious gift—His only begotten Son—whose birth brings with it the very embodiment of hope made human.

Our merciful God stands waiting to receive His children with open arms; we need only to accept His gift of boundless love to enter into His grace. God’s gift of hope comes without a price tag attached and yet is the most generous expression of our merciful God.

This Christmas, as we gather with family and friends, let each of us express that hope and love to all. Rejoice, rejoice in the beauty of Christmas and revel in the gift of hope brought to us in the birth of the Christ Child.

On this holy night, may your heart be illuminated with love, joy and peace as you open your hearts and give praise to His name.

Fr. George Gardner  
St. Bernard’s Roman Catholic Church

These are the types of things I wish for you, my friends.

We live in a world filled with hate, war, selfishness, envy, loneliness, despair, and many more negative feelings and experiences. What happened to the world that God created and declared “very good”? Sin entered and everything changed. When humans disobeyed God they faced the consequences of their choice: guilt, shame, alienation from God, and death, both physical and, more significantly, spiritual. What a hopeless situation! In addition, humankind was helpless to do anything on their own to rectify the situation. They had the prob-

lem, but not the solution.

Thankfully, God, who created everything perfect, has supplied the answer, and that is what so many in our world remember and celebrate, particularly at this time of the year. The Scriptures tell us that “God loved the world so much He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.” In announcing that Jesus was coming, an angel appeared to Joseph to explain the pregnancy

*(continued on Page 10)*

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 AND JANUARY 1, 2024



*Merry Christmas and  
 Happy New Year!*

From Rick, Wendy and Staff  
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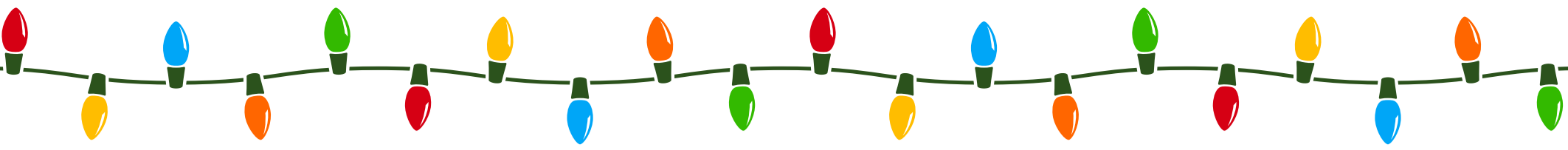


**Wishing you  
 and yours a  
 Merry  
 Christmas**



From  
 Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation  
 Chief, Council & staff





# ...A Christmas Wish for You

*(continued from Page 9)*

of Mary, his betrothed wife, and to tell him what to do about it. While talking to him, the angel told Joseph "... she will have a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been predicted by the prophets so many years before: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" In addition, the angel, Gabriel, appeared to Mary to relieve her uncertainty and anxiety, to explain what was happening, and to reveal some marvelous truths about the child she was carrying: "...you will name Him Jesus, He will be very great and will be called the son of the Most High (God) ... his Kingdom will never end," In the person of Jesus of Nazareth, God stepped into our world to save us from sin and its consequences, and, in its place, give eternal life and all that entails. Speaking of his reason for coming into the world, Jesus said: "...the son of man came to seek and save those who are lost," and "For even the Son of man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus came, lived among people, died on the cross, and rose again to give us hope and assurance. Through obeying Him, we are forgiven and He lives in us. His promise is that if we make Him king in our lives and do what He says, we will have our needs

met and realize a fulfilling life and not have to worry about anything. Space will not permit me to tell of all the promises Jesus has made. However, I can say that by trusting in Him I have found an enjoyable, fulfilling, and meaningful life. I have all I need and more. I have found love, acceptance, encouragement and support from fellow members of the family of God. Life is good! I have disappointments and frustrations at times, but nothing that is unbearable or permanent. What is more, I have hope beyond this present life and am looking forward to a home in heaven. I wish these things for you as well. Yes, it is a matter of faith and trust. As with Israel of old, God challenges us to "... taste and see that He is good" and to "... put Him to the test ..." and see that He will keep his word. What is there to lose? If these things are not true, we will still have had a good and meaningful life, but if they are true, and we haven't tried his way, we will have lost everything.

In conclusion, may you have a very merry and contented Christmas and may God bless you with a new year that is filled with hope and promise.

**Randy Morritt**  
Ice Lake Church of Christ

*Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year*

**From Ron, Russ & Families**  
Wishing you all the best in the new year!



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The Board of Directors and staff  
of Mnaamodzawin Health Services  
would like to wish you and your  
family Happy Holidays!



*Best wishes for the  
holiday season!*



*From the management & staff of*

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# Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
My name is Ben Mahoney and I am 3 years old. I am excited to see my cousins at Christmas and for you to come to my house! I would like a new dinosaur toy please. Can you bring a new toy car for my friend Holden? Bye Santa, careful out there!  
Love, Ben Mahoney  
P.S. I will leave out cookies for you, but Mom and Dad might eat them before you get here.

Dear Santa,  
I am 9 months old and this is my very first Christmas. So far I have been a super good boy, I sleep all night long I eat like a big boy I smile all the time, I'm currently learning about all the traditions of Christmas from my mommy, I'm learning how to stand on my own and hopefully walk soon. Some of my favourite things to do are watch Go Dog Go, cuddle with my mommy, play video games with daddy, and watch all my cousins play. This year for Christmas I would really love new bath toys, and some baby sensory toys, and maybe some yummy snacks.  
Love,  
Axel Pitawanikwat  
Little Current

Dear Santa,  
This year for Christmas I would like some bubbles and glow sticks, a new outfit and a pet bird. I'll leave some carrots for your reindeer.  
Love, Maxwell B  
Tehkummah

Dear Santa,  
My name is Maurika. I am 7 years old. I would like a Squishmallow and slippers for Christmas. Please and thank you!  
Love, Maurika

Dear Santa,  
My name is Chaycen. I am 7 years old. I would really like Pokémon cards for Christmas this year.  
Love, Chaycen

Dear Santa,  
My name is Gerry. I am 6 years old. I would like a drone and a hoverboard for Christmas.  
Merry Christmas!  
Love, Gerry

Dear Santa,  
My name is Joey. I am 6 years old. I would like Hot Wheels for Christmas.  
Love, Joey

remote control snow machine, and knex. I will bake you some cookies, leave you some milk and carrots for your deer. Thank you and Merry Christmas!  
Jace Middaugh  
age 8

Dear Santa,  
Hi, my name is Kenzie. I'm turning 4 years old just before Christmas. Thanks for my presents I got last year. This year I would like a doll and a pretend reindeer. I will leave you some cookies and milk and carrots in case your reindeer get hungry. Please fly safely.  
Love, Kenzie Cuning  
Nairn Centre

sticks, and tech decks. I will leave you cookies, milk, and 2 candy canes. Hope you fly safe.  
Merry Christmas.  
Love, Carson Cuning  
Nairn Centre

Dear Santa,  
My name is Parker Lowery. I am 7 years old. I loved my presents last year, and this year I would like lots of Hot Wheels and a hockey puck. I'll leave out some cookies, milk, and carrots. Have a Merry Christmas!  
Love, Parker Lowery  
Nairn Centre

**Tidings of Comfort and Joy**



We hope the holidays bring you serenity, happiness and all the comforts of home. We're grateful for the blessing of your friendship.

Pat and Marlene Boyle & staff  
**Boyle Marine**  
Little Current




Dear Santa,  
My name is Harmony. I live in Manitowaning. I am 7 years old. I would like a tv for Christmas this year.  
Love, Harmony

Dear Santa, my name is Brinley and I am 5 years old. I have tried to be a good girl this year but having a brother makes it hard. This year for Christmas I would like a Ken Barbie, magic mixies, a big squishmallow and sled for outside. I will leave you some homemade cookies, a glass of milk and veggies for your deer. Thank you! Merry Christmas!  
Brinley Middaugh  
age 5

Dear Santa, my name is Jace and I am 8 years old. I've tried my best to be a good boy this year, but sometimes it's just so hard. For Christmas this year I would like a sled, a hand ice auger,

Dear Santa,  
My name is Carson, I'm 10 years old. Thank you for my gifts last year. This year I would like flex & curve hockey

*Giving winter a warm welcome...*

**Merry Christmas**

Many thanks to all who helped make our year one worth celebrating from Ryan, Scott & Staff

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# Jewel Lake: A Cana

by Donald Harry Roberts

**J**ewel Lake was a small town in northern Canada where the snow sparkled like diamonds and the cold wind howled like wolves. The town was famous for its mines, where the workers dug deep into the earth to find precious gems. But the mines were owned by a man who was as hard and cold as the stones he coveted. His name was Mr. Grungford Rudely, and he was the richest and most powerful man in Jewel Lake.

Mr. Rudely cared nothing for the people who worked for him, or the town that depended on him. He paid them meager wages, forced them to work long hours and treated them with contempt. He was also the mayor of the town, having manipulated his way into the position by lowly means directed at the council members, some believed.

Once mayorm he used his authority to pass a bylaw that outlawed Christmas, the most beloved holiday of the town. He claimed that Christmas was a waste of time and money, and that the workers should focus on their work instead of celebrating. Anyone who disobeyed his bylaw would face a hefty fine... or worse.

The people of Jewel Lake were miserable and afraid, but they had no choice but to obey Mr. Rudely. They could not afford to lose their jobs or their homes, and they knew that Mr. Rudely had no mercy for anyone who crossed him. They had to hide their Christmas decorations, their gifts and their joy. They had to pretend that Christmas did not exist and that they did not care.

But there was one person who did not give up hope. His name was Jimmy Clark, and he was a young boy who worked in the mines with his father, Ronny Clark.

Jimmy had a rare disease that made him weak and frail and he needed a special medicine that was very expensive. Mr. Rudely refused to pay for Jimmy's medicine, saying that it was not his responsibility. He also refused to let Jimmy take a day off, even on Christmas Eve. Jimmy had to work in the mines with his father while his mother and his siblings waited for them at home.

Jimmy loved Christmas more than anything. He loved the lights, the songs, the stories and the spirit of the season. He loved the feeling of warmth and kindness that filled the air and loved the idea of a miracle that could change everything. He believed that Christmas was a time when anything was possible, and that someday, his wish would come true. His wish was to see Mr. Rudely become a good man who cared for the people of Jewel Lake, and who would help Jimmy and his family.

Jimmy knew that his wish was a long shot, but he never stopped hoping. He prayed every night and he wrote a letter to Santa Claus, asking him to visit Mr. Rudely and show him the error of his ways. He hid the letter in his pocket, and he planned to mail it on Christmas Eve, when Mr. Rudely was not looking. He hoped that Santa Claus would receive his letter.

On Christmas Eve, Jimmy and his father were working in the mine along with the other workers. They were digging in a dark and damp tunnel, using their pickaxes and shovels to break the rocks. They had to wear helmets with lamps, gloves and boots to protect themselves from the dangers of the mine. They had to carry heavy bags of stones to the carts, which were then pulled by horses to the surface. They had to endure the noise, the dust and the cold. They had to work hard, or else Mr. Rudely would punish them.

Jimmy was tired and hungry, but he did not complain. He tried to smile and sing to himself to keep his spirits up. He thought about his family, and how much he missed them and about Christmas, and how much he wished he could celebrate it. He thought about his letter to Santa Claus, and how he hoped Santa would read it. The letter was in his shirt in his pocket, close to his heart.

Jimmy waited for the right moment to mail his letter. He knew that Mr. Rudely had a mailbox outside his office where he received his mail from the town and that the mail man picked up outgoing letters. He knew that Mr. Rudely rarely checked his mail, because he did not care about anyone else's letters and that Mr. Rudely would not notice if one more letter was added to his pile. He knew that Mr. Rudely would not open his letter because he did not believe in Santa.

Jimmy waited until Mr. Rudely was busy yelling at another worker, who had accidentally dropped a bag of stone, waited until Mr. Rudely turned his back, and walked away.

When the coast was clear and no one was watching he took

his chance to sneak out of the tunnel and run to the mailbox.

Jimmy took his letter out of his pocket and held it in his hand. He looked at the envelope, which had his name and address on one side, and Santa Claus's name and address on the other. He looked at the stamp, which had a picture of a reindeer on it and looked at the seal, which had a sticker of a snowflake on it. He looked at his letter and hoped.

When Jimmy reached the mailbox and opened the lid he saw a stack of letters inside, all addressed to Mr. Rudely. He saw letters from the bank, the government, the suppliers and the customers, letters that were marked as 'urgent,' 'important' or 'confidential.'

He did not care about those letters. He cared about his letter. He cared about his wish.

He slipped his letter into the mailbox, on top of the others, closed the lid and whispered to himself, "Merry Christmas, Mr. Rudely. I hope you get a visit from Santa Claus tonight. I hope you see the light that will change your life."

He turned around, and ran back to the tunnel, rejoining his father and resuming his work. He didn't know what would happen next or if his wish would come true, but he knew that he had done his best, tried his hardest and followed his heart.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rudely was in his office, counting his money. He had a large desk, a large chair, and a large safe. He had piles of bills, coins and cheques. He had stacks of papers, contracts and deeds. He had everything he wanted, and he wanted everything he had and more...more...always more. He was even considering cutting the workers' pay, and laughing maniacally.

Mr. Rudely did not care about the workers, or the town. He cared about the mines and gems, especially the diamonds. He loved diamonds because they were cold and hard and brought lots of money to his safe. He cared mostly his money which he coveted more than anything. He loved the sound, the smell and the feel of his money and cherished the power, the prestige and the pleasure it gave him. "Yes, I love my money, and I despise most everything else," he said meanly.

Mr. Rudely hated Christmas more than anything. He hated the lights, the songs, the stories and the spirit of the season. He hated the feeling of warmth and kindness that filled the air, especially the idea of a miracle that could change everything. He hated Christmas and everyone who celebrated it.

He hated Jimmy Clark, the boy who worked in the mines with his father more than any other person in the world because he was weak and frail from a rare disease that made him a slow worker who needed a special medicine that was very expensive. And worst of all, the boy loved Christmas more than anything and wished for Mr. Rudely to become a good man. "I will fire him and his father first thing Christmas morning. That will teach them and warn the other workers not to complain or ask for special favours."

Of course, Mr. Rudely did not know about the letter or the wish or that Jimmy had mailed his letter through Mr. Rudely's own mailbox, on top of the other letters. Nor did he know that Jimmy had hoped for a miracle, and that Santa Claus had received his letter or that Santa Claus had already decided to grant Jimmy's wish, and that he had a plan to make it happen.



Mr. Rudely had no idea what that his life would change. He had a visit from three spirits, one of charity or that he would see the future. He did not know that he would have Christmas, and that he would

He knew nothing except his name, smiling and laughing all the way.

He laughed out loud and said to Mr. Rudely. You are the richest man in Jewel Lake. You have everything you want, you have no reason to complain. You have no need for Santa Claus. No need for anyone, or for Christmas.

He said this, and he believed it was wrong.

That night, Mr. Rudely went to his mansion on the outskirts of the town. He had a fireplace and a big clock. He had Christmas ornaments and a lot of things. He was alone, and he liked it that way.

At last Mr. Rudely went to his bed. He dreamed, and he dreamed, and

In his dreams came the first time he had ever seen a young girl with long blonde hair, wearing a white dress and she carried a basket. She showed him the past, and to remind him of what he once had, and that you once had.

She took his hand and she led him to the window and she flew out the window. He cried out in fear, "I will fall!"



# Indian Christmas Tale



with the spirit of kindness.

He saw his childhood and he remembered and felt.

He felt the warmth of his mother's embrace and the sound of her lullaby. He felt the joy of his father's praise, and the sight of his smile and the love of his parents, the happiness of home and the deep kindness that they gave him, and the kindness that he returned.

He saw his school and felt the excitement of his teacher's lessons, and the wisdom of his words. He felt the fun of his friends' games, and the laughter of their jokes, the respect of his classmates, and the admiration of his mentors. He felt the kindness that they gave him, and the kindness that he gave them.

Mr. Rudely felt the passion of his lover's kiss, and the beauty of her face and the thrill of his partner's dance and the grace of her moves. That was his young self who felt the devotion of his fiancée and the promise of their future.

For a moment Grungford Rudely forget his meanness and felt the kindness that he gave, and received. Then the moment passed when he felt the kindness that he lost, and the kindness that he forgot.

Then he cried and said to the spirit. "Spirit, why do you show me this? Why do you make me feel this? Why do you remind me of this?"

The spirit smiled and she said to him. "Mr. Rudely, I show you this because you need to see this. I make you feel this be-

cause you need to feel this and I remind you of this time in your life, because you need to remember it. You need to remember the kindness that is Christmas, and the kindness that is life."

Then the spirit of kindness was gone. She left him and Mr. Rudely woke up.

Mr. Rudely saw the clock, and the time. He saw that it was midnight, and that it was already Christmas Day. The first spirit had come and gone but there were yet two more to come. "But it's just stupid dreams, actually terrible nightmares," he groaned.

But then.

"Merry Christmas, Mr. Rudely. You have seen the past, and you have felt the kindness. You have seen the kindness that you had, and the kindness that you received and that you lost and forgot. You have seen the kindness that is Christmas, and the kindness that is life.

It was the second spirit. The spirit was a young boy, with short brown hair and green eyes. He wore a red suit and he carried a sack. He grinned and he said to him. "Mr. Rudely, I am the spirit of hope. I have come to show you the present, and to inspire you with the hope that you still have secretly, and that you can still give. Come with me and see."

He took his hand and they flew out the window that was still open.

Soon Grungford Rudely saw the town and the people and he heard them—the whispers of the workers and the prayers of the families who hoped for a better life; and a better boss. He heard the prayers of the families who hoped for a merry Christmas, and a miracle.

He heard the voice of Jimmy and the voice of his father who hoped for Mr. Rudely to become a good man, and for his own health. He heard the voice of Jimmy's father, who hoped that Jimmy would get the medicine he needed.

Then came the voice of Santa Claus and the voice of his elves. He heard them hoping for Mr. Rudely to learn his lesson. He heard the voice of the elves hoping for Mr. Rudely to receive a great gift.

He heard the voices, and he listened.

Mr. Rudely began to feel the hope that they had and gave. He sensed sharing and giving.

He felt, and he wondered, but he still felt the anger that had grown in him over long years and the hopelessness that went with it.

Angrily Mr., Rudely said, "Spirit, why do you make me see and hear this?"

The spirit grinned and answered him.

"Mr. Rudely, because you need to see and hear it before you are lost forever in the darkness of despair. You need to be inspired to the hope that you still have and can still give, but have forgotten. You need to be inspired by the hope that you could share, and the hope that you could spread. You need to be inspired by the hope that is Christmas, and the hope that is life."

The boy vanished and Mr. Rudely awoke just as the clock chimed one o'clock, and it was still Christmas Day. And as the clock chimed he heard, "Merry Christmas, Grungford Rudely. I am the spirit of charity. I have come to show you the future, and to warn you of the consequences of your actions if you do not change your ways. Come with me and see." And out the window they went.

"I don't like this. I want nothing to do with the future. I already know mine. I am rich beyond dreams and happy." But in that moment he felt something else, something he had not felt in decades. It was the sadness of the workers and the despair of the families.

He felt the anger of the townsfolk, who had suffered under his rule for years and who had rebelled against him. He felt the hatred of the mob who had stormed his mansion and who burned it down.

He felt the loneliness of his grave where no one came to visit and no one mourned, no one cared.

These were consequences to his actions, and the results of his choices that had hurt others, and that, at length, had hurt himself which ultimately led to his downfall, and his death.

He felt the fear, and he said to the spirit, "Spirit, why do you show me this? Why do you make me feel this? Why do you warn me of this?"

The spirit nodded and she said to him, "Mr. Rudely, I show you this because you need to heed the consequences of your actions that hurt others. You need to heed the results of your choices that will lead to your downfall, and your death. You need to heed the warning."

She said this and faded away. Mr. Rudely woke up and he saw the clock. He saw that it was two o'clock, and that it was still Christmas Day and the third spirit, charity, had come and gone. There were no more to come. This was the moment of his one and last chance to change and live free of the darkness he had built around himself.

And he said to himself, "Merry Christmas, Mr. Rudely. You have seen the future, and you have felt the consequences of your actions and the results of your choices."

He said this, but was still unsure what to do—if he could change—but then there was a knock on his door.

Mr. Rudely answered the knock and he saw a man dressed in a blue coat and a white beard. He saw a man, sitting in a sleigh with reindeer. The man was smiling and laughing.

"Santa Claus!" Mr. Rudely cheered. "What are you doing here?"

Santa Claus smiled, snapped his fingers and they were inside.

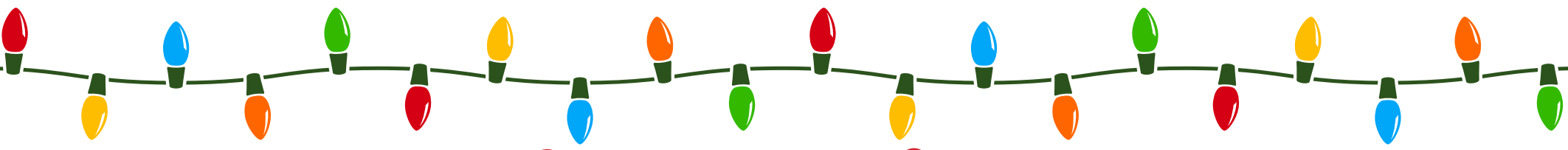
"Mr. Rudely, I am Santa Claus. I have come to visit you, and to give you a gift. I got in through the chimney, of course."

Santa laughed again and went on. "And Mr. Rudely, you have been a very naughty boy. You have been greedy, selfish and cruel. You have hurt others, and you have hurt yourself. You have made bad choices, and you have faced bad consequences. You have been naughty, and you deserve coal."

He took out a lump of coal from his sack and threw it at him. It hit him on the head and he said to him, "Mr. Rudely, you have also been a very lucky boy. You have been visited by three spirits who have shown you the past, the present and the future.

*(continued on Page 17)*





# Letters to Santa

*(continued from Page 11)*

Dear Santa,  
My Name is Ayda Charlie. I am 3 years old. This year I have done my best to be a very good girl, i teach my little cousin Axel how to crawl, I play with my best friend Stevy and I show Brantley how we share toys! I say please and thank you and I help Nana and Papa with all sorts of things. Some of my favourite things to do are help make supper, cud-

dlewith mommy, do some arts and crafts, go for drives in papa's truck and i really love eating popsicles! This year for Christmas I would really love a pink care bear, and maybe some nail polish, and a few things for bath time.

Love Ayda  
Age 3  
Little Current

Dear Santa,  
I met you for the first time this year and sat on your knee, and I thought you were pretty cool! I just smiled the whole time! My mommy and daddy say you'll come back on Christmas with presents. I'll leave you some milk and cookies, and maybe an apple for your deer. Could I have a toy doctor kit, please? I like to fix my family's pretend bo-bos with my other toys, but they just

don't do the trick. Merry Christmas, Santa!  
Love, Ella A. Mindemoya

Dear Santa,  
My Name is Brantley Mccurdy. I am 1 Years old. This year I have been the best boy I can be. I eat every meal. I learned to sleep in a big boy bed. If I see something that belongs to someone else I give it to them and I do my best to protect my sister. Some of my favourite things to do are watch big trucks on TV with papa, be outside, dance and have sleepovers at grandma and grandpa's house. This year for christmas i would really love a fire truck like uncle Chris, some new trucks and maybe a new blanket for my big boy bed

Love Brantley  
Age 1  
Little Current

Dear Santa,  
My name is Ayla. I am 6 years old. I would really like an Iphone for Christmas.  
Merry Christmas!  
Love, Ayla



## Island Funeral Home

Invites You to Join Our

# Candle Light Service

With Reflections From:

Rev. Catherine Hazlitt  
Dawn Dawson  
Father Paul  
Rev. Janice Frame

At Island Funeral Home  
On Sunday, December 17, 2023  
Visiting starts at 6:30pm  
Service starts at 7:00pm  
All are welcome

Donations to local charities are welcome



## Har-Cor Greenhouse

Come visit our greenhouses in the spring!  
Green Bay, ON 705-368-1168

*Santa called us up to say,  
his entourage is on the way.  
Led by heartfelt thanks  
and best wishes, too,  
from all of us, to all of you!*

Greetings from Dave, Cheryl, Jonathan,  
Megan, Rachael and Logan





# Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
Ho ho ho!  
This is my third letter to you! How time flies.  
I'm in daycare now and I would like to wish all my daycare friends and my teachers a very Merry Christmas. Can you please make sure to bring them something special? Thank you, Santa!  
This year I would like some Play-Doh, arts and craft supplies and new boots. I love shoes.  
Please give my best to Mrs. Claus, the elves and the reindeer. I have an Olive reindeer that lights up and sings. I like her very much.  
Thank you, Santa and Merry Christmas!  
Safe travels on Christmas Eve,  
Julia McCutcheon-Case  
Age 2  
Sheguiandah

Dear Santa,  
My name is Peyton, I am so excited for Christmas this year. I've been a good girl. I would like a doll and a pink bouncy ball. I will leave some milk and cookies for you, also some carrots for your reindeer. Thank you and Merry Christmas!  
Love, Peyton Cooper  
Manitowaning

Dear Santa,  
My name is Emily. I am 6 years old. I would like a Magic Mixie for Christmas this year.  
Love,  
Emily

Dear Santa,  
Hi, my name is Noah James and I am 3 years old. I have been a good boy all year. I would like a truck and some markers and a sketch pad because I like to draw. Maybe

some paint too. I also would like you to bring something for my mom Jaylen and my dad William and my half-brother Lucus.  
I will leave you some milk and cookies and carrots for your reindeer.  
Thank you Santa  
Love, Noah James  
Age 3  
Sudbury

Dear Santa,  
My name is Easton, I am 10 months old. I am excited for my first Christmas. My Mom and Dad say I've been a good boy. I would like a toy dump truck. I will leave some milk and cookies for you, also some carrots for your reindeer. Thank you and Merry Christmas!  
Love, Easton Cooper  
Manitowaning

*(continued on Page 18)*



*May you enjoy a glad and glorious Yuletide season.  
We have truly valued your kind support this year.  
Thank you from all of us.*



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from the staff at  
**Rainbow Ridge Golf Course**



*Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year!*



*We would like to take this opportunity to thank our customers & friends for their continued support & patronage.*

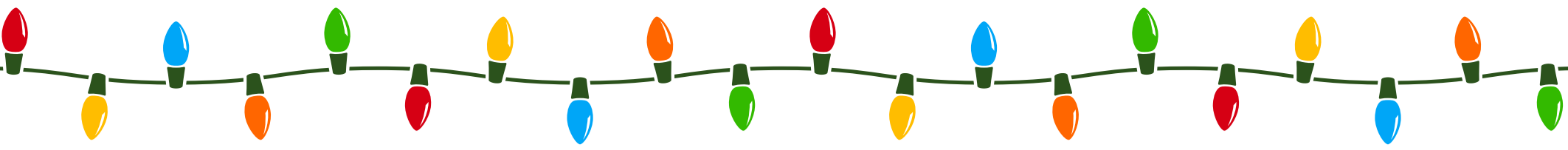
From Randy & the staff of




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Thank you for your support through the year!

From the owners and staff at

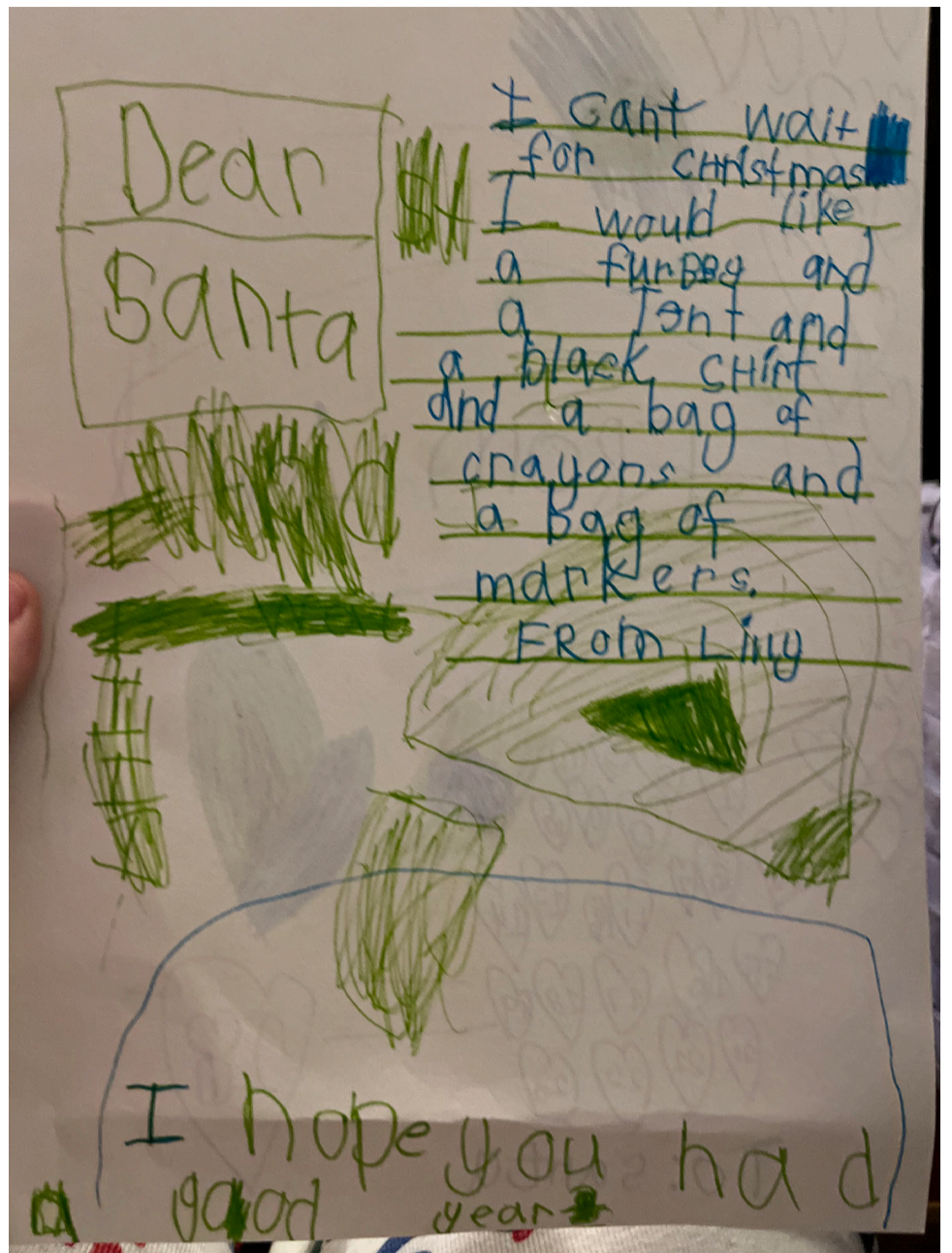
# Orr's valu-mart in Little Current

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy Christmas holiday season and our very best wishes for a wonderful 2024.

**HOLIDAY HOURS:**

**Closed: Christmas Day  
Boxing Day  
New Year's Day**

**Special Hours: 8 am - 5 pm on  
Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve**



A letter from Lilly Barnes.

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year!





# ...Jewel Lake

(continued from Page 13)

You have seen the kindness, the hope and the charity. You have been lucky, and you deserve a chance.”

As Santa said this, he took out a letter from his pocket, gave it to him and said, “Read this, it is a letter from Jimmy Clark, the boy who works in your mines. He wrote this letter to me, asking me to visit you and show you the error of your ways. He wrote this letter to me, hoping for a miracle, wishing for you to become a good man. Jimmy asked me to give you a chance. Mr. Rudely, this is your gift. This is your chance. This is your miracle. This is your choice. You can choose to ignore this letter, and continue to be a naughty boy. You can choose to ignore this letter, and face the consequences of your actions. You can choose to ignore

this letter, and lose everything that matters. Or you can choose to read this letter, and become a better man, change your life, gain everything that matters. Indeed, the choice is yours, Mr. Rudely. Ho Ho Ho, the choice is yours.”

He said this, left him and he flew away.

And as he flew away, and Santa said with another jolly “ho, ho ho.” “Merry Christmas, Mr. Rudely. You have seen the past, the present and the future. You have seen the kindness, the hope and the charity. You have seen the kindness that you had, and the kindness that you received. You have seen the hope that you still have, and the hope that you can still give. You have seen the charity that you could have, and the charity that you could give. You have seen the letter, and you have received the gift. You have a chance. You have a Christmas, and you have a life. You have a life, Mr. Rudely. Ho, Ho, Ho, you have a life.”

Santa was gone but Mr. Rudely had the letter and he read it. He saw the words and he heard the voice of Jimmy Clark, and he heard the wish.

He felt the kindness, the hope and the charity and something else that made him realize what he had done, and not done, what he had been, and not been. He

realized what he had, and did not have, what he wanted and did not want and at last what he needed, and did not need.

When Mr. Rudely realized all these things he felt his gift rush into his heart.

“Merry Christmas, Mr. Rudely. You have been shown the past, the present and the future and you have received the gift and you have a choice that will give you a chance. You choose to change your life, to make it better and merry.” He said this out loud, and he meant it.

Mr. Rudely woke up and he saw the clock and he was shocked because he saw that it was a week earlier. A week before Christmas, and a week before the nightmare of his downfall. It was a week before he had seen the spirits, and a week before he had received the gift and that it was a miracle. He saw that it was a chance to go back in time.

He got up, got dressed went out. He did things. A lot of things. He made things better and merrier.

Mr. Rudely became a better boss. He raised the wages of his workers, and he improved their conditions, gave them bonuses and holidays. He gave them respect and kindness.

As mayor he repealed the bylaw that outlawed Christmas, and

he restored the joy of the town. He funded the public services and he supported the local businesses. He listened to the people and he helped them with their needs.

He made things better by being a better person, donating to charities and he volunteered for causes. He apologized to the ones he had wronged. He smiled at the strangers, and he befriended the lonely.

Mr. Rudely made more things merry by celebrating Christmas. He decorated his mansion, and he invited the town to a feast, sharing joyfully.

He gave gifts to his workers and special gifts to the poor and promised they would not stay poor.

Then Mr. Rudely beckoned Jimmy Clark and his father to his office. “Merry Christmas to you both and I have a special gift for you, for Jimmy. I think the work in the mine is too hard on you, Jimmy. I will bring you into the office and when you go to the drug store you will find a new prescription to help you with your disease which I understand may one day even cure you.”

And so, Mr. Grungford Rudely became a wonderful man, boss and mayor. Ho, Ho, Ho.... Merry Christmas.



*O Holy Night...*

*May this Holy Season inspire us all with renewed love and hope...that we may each enjoy a "Merry Christmas."*

**Greetings from**

**LAFARGE**

Canada Inc.  
Whitefish River Terminal Birch Island, Ontario



**Public Health  
Santé publique  
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS**

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

*Mino Niibaanaamaang*

**JOYEUSES  
FÊTES**

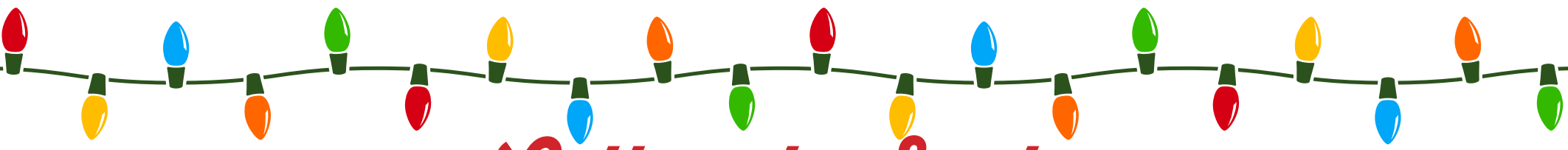


**Merry  
Christmas**

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season from the Town of Gore Bay Council & Staff.

Welcome to  
**GORE BAY**  
Serving Western Manitoulin since 1890





# Letters to Santa

*(continued from Page 15)*

Dear Santa,  
I am almost 2 and such a big boy. This year I have learned a lot and I have been a very good boy. I really enjoyed seeing you at church and playing with the bells. So, since I'm on the good list, this year I would like a dinosaur to snuggle with at night. My favourite movie is the trolls. I really love reading so I would like some new books. Please

and thank you!  
I will leave cookies and carrots for when you come visit me on Christmas!  
Love, Hunter  
M'Chigeeng

Dear Santa,  
I'm 4 years old. My name is Aliyah. My brother Ryan is 2. We have been good and so excited for Christmas. I would like a unicorn and Ryan wants a dino rawr. If you could also bring us a mud kitchen too. Please remember to leave something special for our Mom and Dad, and our grandparents.  
Thanks Santa,  
Love Aliyah and Ryan Kelly  
Sarnia, Ontario

Dear Santa,  
We are so excited for Christmas and have been good boys too. My name is Jay I'm 3 years old. Nash my brother is 2, he would like a bike. We both want some dinosaurs, tonko trucks and a camera. Our baby brother Hudson is 5 months old and would like some teething. Please remember to leave something special for Mom and Dad and our grandparents.  
Thanks Santa,  
Love, The Lamontagne Brothers  
Espanola, Ontario



Dear Santa,  
My name is Adelynn Corbiere, I am three years old. This year for Christmas I would like an Elsa doll, Barbie house, a cart and please bring Alexa for Beau. I would also like candy canes and snacks.  
Merry Christmas!  
Adelynn Corbiere

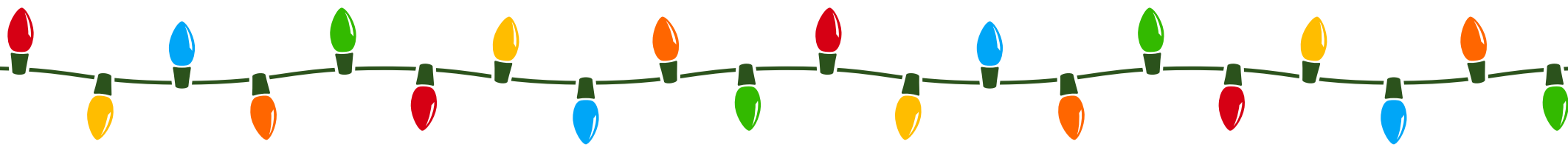


**On behalf of all the UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service, may the spirit of the season surround you with peace and joy.**



**Please remember: Don't drive impaired.**





# Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
Hi my name is Paige. I am 10 years old. I go to L.C.P.S. Today I learned that you are Canadian is that true?

Here is my list...

1. Art
2. 2. Dimand art
3. 3. Makup/elf or Saphara
4. 4. Curtins
5. 5. Comforter
6. Can't wait to see what I get christmas morning.

Bye!!!

Paige

Little Current

Dear Santa,  
Hi my name is Beau I am 8 years old. How old are you? For Christmas I would like an Amazon Alexa and Jibo so I can talk to them and they can tell me funny jokes. I will leave you milk and cookies.  
Merry Christmas,  
Beau Corbiere

Dear Santa,  
I cant wait for Christmas. I would like a fur baby and a tent and a black shirt and a bag of crayons and a bag of markers.  
From Lilly  
Little Current  
I hope you had a good year

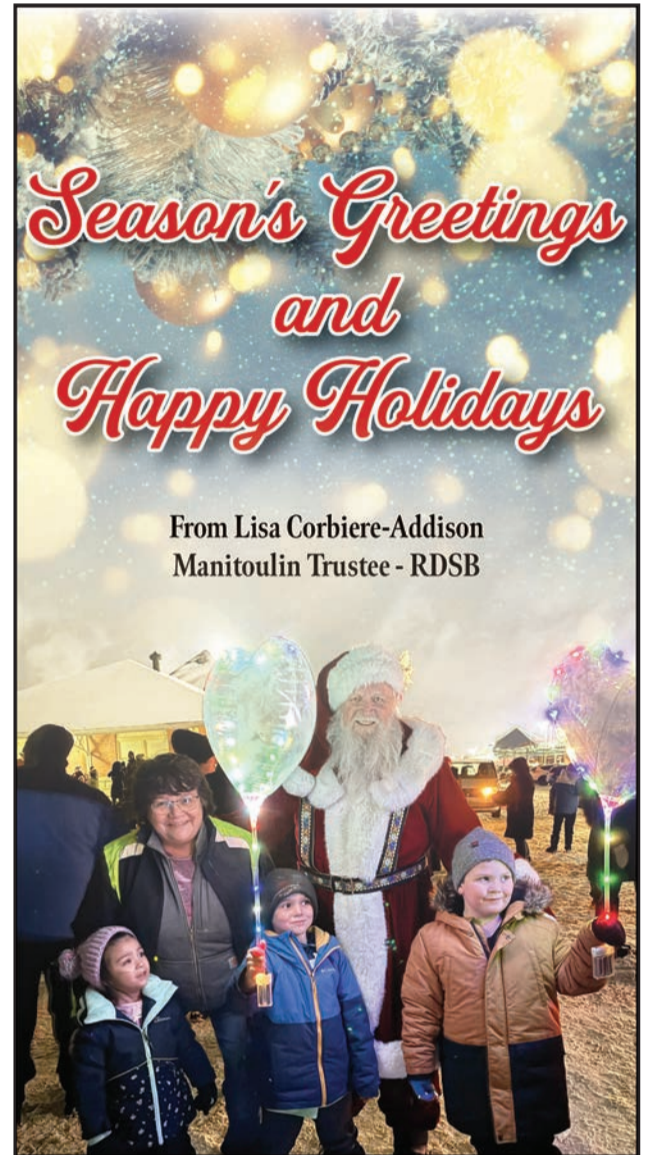
Dear Santa,  
I hope you have had a good year. This year I hope you visit my house again. We have some nice new Christmas lights this year I think you will like! I would really like a pair of blue unicorn slippers.  
Love always,  
Brinley Barnes  
Little Current

Dear Santa,  
Hello, my name is Jason. I am 6 years old! This year I have been nice. For Christmas this year, I'm wishing for a grown up Mew two plushy, and the baby Mewtwo Pokemaon plushy. I also want a sonic lego set. I hope you get everyone oresents.  
From Jason  
Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa,  
I cant wait for Christmas. I would like a fur baby and a tent and a black shirt and a bag of crayons and a bag of markers.  
From Lilly  
Little Current  
I hope you had a good year

Dear Santa,  
My Name is Stevy Mccurdy. I am 3 years old This year I have tried to be a very good girl! I eat all my supper, i am really good at sharing my toys with my brother i learned how to say sorry when i accidentally hurt someone, i use my nice words when i want something and i help my mommy whenever she needs it. Some of my favour-ite things to do are watch paw patrol, play with the doll house, cuddle with my stuffed animals and go to daycare to see my best friend casey jo. This year for Christmas I would really love a new baby doll, some new clothes and maybe some dino-saur stuff.  
Love Stevy  
Age 3  
Little Current

Dear Santa,  
I would like a Christmas tree and decorations for my room.  
Callum O'Hare  
age 3  
Little Current



*happy*  
**HOLIDAYS!** 

*From Lindsay, Lisa & staff of*  
**BJ'S & ADDISON'S**  
OK TIRE  

*From Brendan & staff of*  
**B.A.M.M.**  
BRENDAN ADDISON MOBILE MECHANICAL



 6243 HWY 540, M'Chigeeng

**Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year**

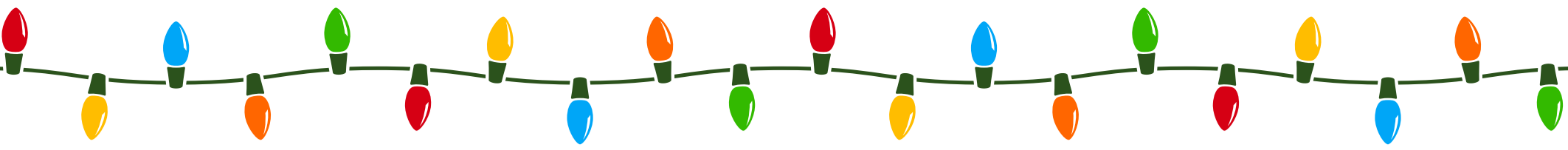
from  
**Mindemoya Foodland**

**Holiday Hours**  
December 24 - 8 am to 4 pm  
December 25 - Closed  
December 26 - 9 am to 2 pm  
December 31 - 8 am to 4 pm  
January 1 - Closed

**Regular Hours**  
Mondays to Sundays  
8 am to 8 pm

**11 Yonge Street, Mindemoya  
(705) 377-6200**





# Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
Hello! Hope you are doing great! My name is Gabriella Shawanda. I am 8 years old. I live in Canda AOK. I have been very good this year. I holed a door for people. For Christmas please bring me 1. A Doll 2. And a stuffy Dog 3. And a Negako Doll. Thank you so much!  
Love, Gabriella Shawanda

Dear Santa,  
Hello! Hope you are doing great!  
My name is Ryland. I am 11 years old. I live in AOK. I have been very good this year. I have been SUPER good this year because I punched the Grinch. For Chrstimas please bring me: 1. Cbox gift card's and Roblox Gift cards 2. Lego's + Monopoly. 3. A safe where I can put my stuff in it. Thank you so much!  
Love, Ryland

Dear Santa,  
Hello my name is Eastin. I am 8 years old! This year I have been nice. For Christmas this year, I'm wishing for Robuxs, 1200 V-bucks. I want oculus quest 3 and I want a Ipad 2 dollars elf  
From Easton,  
Merry Christmas!



Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year  
Joyeux Noël et  
bonne année  
Bekaada miinwaa Minwaangwod  
Minnwaa Nimkodaading

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

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

Wishing you  
the very best  
this holiday  
season!  
From the  
entire staff!

**Mindemoya**  
**Home**  
hardware  
building centre




Wishing you a warm and wonderful holiday season  
and all the very best in 2024!

705-282-2640 **Manitoulin**  
TRANSPORT

www.manitoulintransport.com

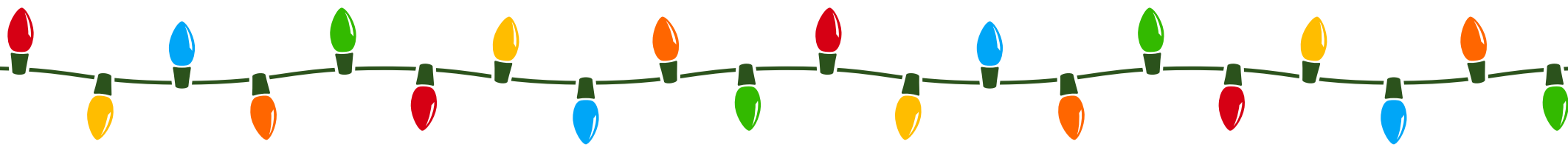
**NearNorth**  
CUSTOMS BROKERS

**NEW NORTH FUELS INC**

Sudbury: 705-560-2400

www.newnorthfuels.com 705-368-2640





Santa has been busy on Manitoulin, including a stop at the Gordon/Barrie Island Advent market recently.



Coming Soon  
Spring 2024...

**OUR NEW STORE**  
361 Hartley Road  
**SPRING BAY**

**Merry Christmas**

*Merry Christmas*  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR



*From all of us at...*



4 Robinson Street, Little Current  
705-368-2272 • [www.cassondentistry.com](http://www.cassondentistry.com)



**Your Manitoulin *Tim Hortons* destination restaurant is a place where you can "dine in or drive thru" during the holidays.**



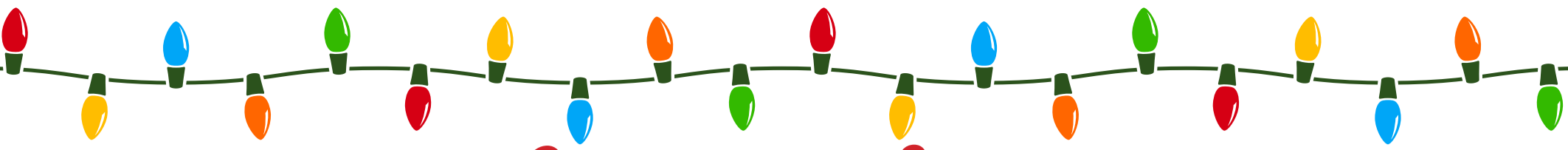
You can also order on the app!



**The management & staff of our Little Current location**

would like to thank you for the tremendous support during the past year and to wish you a happy new year ahead that is "always fresh," just like your coffee at our stores!





# Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
 This Christmas, I am 10 years old. This year, I have been good some of the time. What I would like most this Christmas is My family and Friends and I promise to leave out bad stuff for you!  
 133 Vbucks badeblades 100\$ Xbox gift cards nerf guns/darts money Legos.  
 Merry Christmas, Santa  
 Love, Callaway,  
 P.S. Please say "Hi" to Twinke my Elf for me!

Dear Santa  
 Merry Christmas!  
 My name is Bryannce Owl. I am 27 years old. This year I was nice. Here are a few things that I would like for Christmas I wish to have my son and Daughter to celebrate with un see them open their gifts.  
 With love,  
 Bryanna Owl

Dear Santa,  
 Hello, my name is Ava S. I am 10 years old! This year I have been nice. For Christmas this year, I'm wishing for Demon Slayer sweater or jacket, all the Demon Slayer stuffies or Z, Big Kawie stuffei, more Elf on The Shelf.  
 From Ava Shawanda  
 Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa,  
 Merry Christmas! My name is Jaxson T. I am 8 years old. This year I was nice. Here are a few things that I would like. Lego and game card and dvd.  
 With love, Juxson

Dear Santa,  
 My name is Carter Stonepoint. I live at 5-64 Lake Road. This year I have been nice. Some things I've done this year are- worked past normal job expectation. For Christmas I wish for \$5000 cc  
 Merry Christmas!  
 From your friend Carter

Dear Santa,  
 Hello! Hope you are doing great! My name is Elise. I am 6 years old. I live in AOK. U have been very good this year, yes. For Christmas please bring me 1. LOL spris 2. Blake TS 3. Slime.  
 Thank you so much!  
 Love, Elise

Dear Santa,  
 My name is Kayson. I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice. This year I would like to have Mario game. Mario Hot Wheels track.  
 With love,  
 Kayson

Dear Santa...  
 Hello, my name is Lynndra. I am 11 years old! This year I have been nice. For Christmas this year, I wishing for air Force 1. Air Pods. Grinch blanket. Plorad camera. iPhone 13. Loo, braslet Ket. Sooaks, T.S. Tickets. Ect: Other. Stanly  
 From Lynndra  
 Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa,  
 Merry Christmas! My name is Kaiden D. I am 7 years old. This year I was naughty and nice. Here are a few things that I would like, trains, tracks, blocks, slime, tablet.  
 With love,  
 Kaiden

Dear Santa,  
 Hello! Hope you are doing great! My name is Roane D. I am 5 years old. I live in AOK. I have been very good this year. I try to help Mom and grandma. For Christmas please bring me 1. Robot Dinosaur 2. Airplane 3. Tablet. Thank you so much!  
 Love, Roane



MANITOWANING  
**Freshmart**

**HOLIDAY HOURS**

Open daily from 9AM to 6PM  
 Fridays - 9AM to 8PM  
 Sundays - 11AM to 4PM

Closed:  
 December 25th & 26th, 2023  
 January 1st, 2024

Mike, Dawn and the team at  
 Manitowaning Freshmart  
 wish everyone a

**Merry Christmas &  
 Happy and Safe New Year!**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Up Top Sports SHOP**

At D.A. Williamson and Sons  
 'The Hardware Store' - Mindemoya  
 705-377-5748  
 www.uptopsports.com

**BEST WISHES FOR 2024!**



# Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas! My name is Freya I am 6 years old. This year I was happy nice. Here are a few things that I would like: A new beanie boo, furkies magic mixies lamp,  
With love, Freya  
A happy Christmas

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas, I am 4 years old. This year, I have been naughty (but nice). What I would like most this Christmas is transformers and robots and I promise to leave out cookies for you  
Merry Christmas, Santa!  
Love, Hudson Gibson.

P.S. Please say "Hi" to reindeer for me!

Dear Santa,  
My name is Madison T. I'm 8 years old. This year I have ben nice. This year I would like to have radd house LOL doll house barbie house barbie car  
With Love,  
Madison

Dear Santa,  
Hello my name is Eastin. I am 8 years old! This year I have been nice. For Christmas this year, I'm wishing for Robuxs, 1200 V-bucks. I want ocyclus quest 3 and I want a Ipad 2 dollars elf  
From Easton,  
Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa,  
My name is Dalton Hill I am 5 years old. This year I have been nice. For Christmas this year I would like Grave Digger trax, Lego and the Ghostbusters Fire House. I am moving to my new house before Christmas so my elf Buddy will have to give you my new address I will make sure to leave you and the reindeer a special treat!  
Love Dalton

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**JK AUTOMOTIVE**  
YOUR CAR CARE SPECIALISTS

- Diagnostics • Tune-Ups
- Tires • Suspensions
- Brakes • Exhaust • A/C
- Batteries • Tire Storage
- Safety Inspections
- Wheel Alignments
- Self-Storage Units



Thank you to all our customers for their continuing patronage and support.  
Joe & Kim Moor and staff

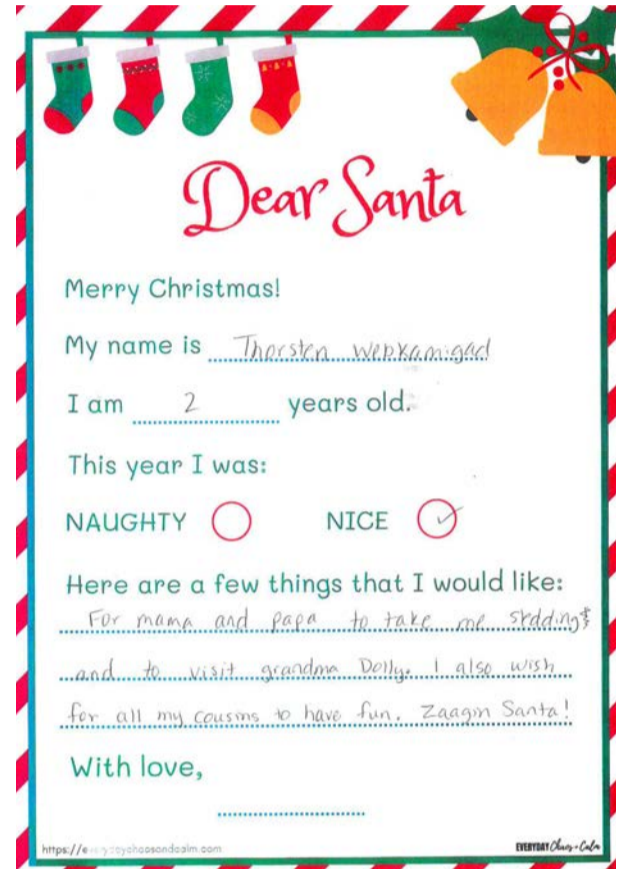
**1428 Lakeshore Road**  
"On top of the hill" in Kagawong  
705-282-CARS (2277)

Dear Santa:  
I hope you and Mrs. Claus are having a nice time at the North Pole. Is it cold there? I bet your elves have been really busy getting ready for Christmas.  
I really liked the jewelry box and jewelry you brought me last year. Thank you.  
Could you please bring my own cellphone this year I would be very happy.  
Your friend,  
Elizabeth E. The Johnston rink, including Angela, Spencer, Mike and Parker were the first event winners in the Providence Bay Open Cash Spiel held the first weekend in December.

Dear Santa:  
I have been a very good boy this year. You can ask my Nana and Poppa. I will put out some cookies and milk for you and a carrot for your reindeer. I would really like an iPad for Christmas and a toy for our new cat Cupcake.  
Thank you,  
Ethan E.

Dear Santa,  
My name is Rilynn Milynn. I'm 8 years old. This year I have been nice. This year I would like to have Gabby toys. Roblox games, mario track. Lego. Phone. Make up kit pleas  
With love,  
Rilynn

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas!  
My name is Ryden. I am 12 years old. This year I was nice. Here are a few things that I would like: Halo mego contrux, v-bucks and the new call of duty, 5 xbox gift cards and 13500 v-bucks.  
With love,  
Rayden



**Dear Santa**

Merry Christmas!

My name is Thorsten webkamigad

I am 2 years old.

This year I was:  
NAUGHTY  NICE

Here are a few things that I would like:  
For mama and papa to take me skidding  
and to visit grandma Dolly. I also wish  
for all my cousins to have fun. Zaagin Santa!

With love,  
.....

https://www.psychopassion.com

A letter from Thorsten Webkamigad.



Here's a special picture I drew for you Santa!

Dear Santa,  
My name is Ophelia  
I live at home  
This year I have been...  
 Naughty  Nice  A bit of both!

Some nice things I've done this year are -  
being a nice friend  
I've been happy!

For Christmas, I wish for -  
A santa character and a reindeer.  
A present for my puppy  
Princess lily

Merry Christmas! from your friend Ophelia

A letter from Ophelia.

**HAPPY Holidays!**  
**GICHTWAA**  
*Giizhigadkeg*  
**JOYEUSES Fetes!**



**MICHAEL MANTHA, MPP | MICHAELMANTHA.COM**





# Merry Christmas

We just couldn't wait one more minute to deliver our best wishes to all the kind folk who have helped make this past year a merry and bright one for us. Thank you!



MCQUARRIE MOTOR PRODUCTS  
WWW.MCQUARRIEMOTORPRODUCTS.CA  
ESPANOLA 705-869-1351  
GORE BAY 705-869-1351

CERTIFIED SERVICE



Your Family of  
**Guardian**  
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41 MEREDITH ST. E.  
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**Mindemoya**  
11 YONGE ST.  
705-377-5411

**Manitowaning**  
147 ARTHUR ST.  
705-859-2323

Manitowaning Mill



MANITOWANING MILL  
HOME BUILDING CENTRE  
705-859-3105  
FAX 705-859-2006  
EMAIL: SALES.MANMIL@EASTLINK.CA

Here's How  
to show your Holiday  
spirit this season