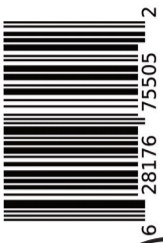


Merry Christmas to Manitoulin Island
and to readers and business friends nearby and far away

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The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



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Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, December 20, 2023



SANTA STOPS IN SHEG—Santa had seen the press over the new basketball court in Sheguiandah First Nation in this newspaper and couldn't help but stop by to give it a try. After all, the jolly red elf needs to keep his stamina up for his many appearances and the big night on Christmas Eve. Who knew Santa was a baller, but he was sinking baskets left, right and centre before our very eyes. He's a man of many talents, that Santa Claus.



Mindemoya's Highway 551, King St. corner granted 4-way stop status

by Michael Erskine
CENTRAL MANITOULIN—It has been a long and sometimes frustrating road, but Central Manitoulin council received a welcome Christmas present in the form of an email from the Ministry of Transportation this week. Council has long sought a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Highway 551 and Highway 542 (King Street) in the town of Mindemoya, and the email confirmed the ministry has approved the change.

"It has been on council's agenda for years," confirmed Central Manitoulin Mayor Richard Stephens. "It has been a long, long time, two or three different terms of council."

Mayor Stephens suggested that the change of heart by the MTO may have been influenced by an accident that occurred at the intersection a couple of years ago. "That might have been the turning point," he said. But the mayor went on to add the caveat that there were signs in place when that accident occurred and it

...continued on page 11

'Roundup' will face class action lawsuit

Canada's high court decrees

by Tom Sasvari
TORONTO—Koskie Minsky LLP has announced that the Ontario Superior Court of Justice has certified a national class action lawsuit against Monsanto and Bayer centering on allegations that Roundup products cause non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL). The lawsuit was commenced in December 2019. The motion for certification was heard in March 2023 by Justice Duncan Grace. The court public released its decision on December 11.

"My first reaction to this news is to cheer," stated Paul Darlaston of Kagawong. "But the more skeptical side of me is to say that in cases like this they can bury you in lawyers. But anything that makes these companies less untouchable, the better."

Petra Wall of Spring Bay said she recently received a letter from Canadian author Margaret Atwood through a third party

...continued on page 11

Island participants at COP28 conference in Dubai share their views

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre, LJI Reporter

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Manitoulin Island had two citizens with roles at the recently-concluded COP28 Conference on the environment, an event that ended in the hard-won statement urging nations to shift away from fossil fuels, strive for net-zero emissions and aim to maintain the 1.5°C warming target.

Within six years (2030), countries at the event committed to tripling renewable energy and doubling energy efficiency.

While hailed as a breakthrough, the agreement notably lacks a radical phase-out of fossil fuels, prompting mixed reactions.

Despite its strides, critics view COP28's progress—especially in phasing out fossil fuels—as inadequate. Assessments by the International Energy Agency confirm that current pledges won't limit global warm-

ing to 1.5°C. The conference, held in oil territory, witnessed heated debates on divesting from fossil fuels, with the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) hosting its pavilion for the first time. This sparked criticism from environmental activists, highlighting the disproportion between oil and gas representatives and Indigenous delegations.

At the summit, Linda Debassige, the former chief of M'Chigeeng, spoke at the Canada Pavilion on a panel addressing Indigenous perspectives on climate change's impact on water access. She recounted a pivotal moment when the COP28 president, sensing tensions, urged delegates to set aside policies and adopt a more humanistic approach, fostering collaboration through cultural connections. In this spirit, "We

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The Manitoulin *West* Recorder



Students in the Grade three-four class along with their teacher Heather Jeffkins, at Charles C. McLean Public School, took a moment to pause from their packing large shoeboxes full of treats and items they are sending to a large group of Canadian Armed Forces members for Christmas as part of the 'OP Troop Support' program.

Charles C. McLean students send Christmas cheer to overseas troops

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—The Grade 3-4 class at Charles C. McLean Public School are going to make a large group of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Christmas holidays a little brighter by sending each a large shoebox full of treats and items as a “Merry Christmas from Manitoulin/Happy Holidays from the Haweaters.”

“This year we are sending treats to 19 CAF members who will be spending the holidays far from their homes and families,” said teacher Heather Jeffkins.

“This is the 18th year my class and I have adopted deployed CAF members,” said Ms. Jeffkins. “I first started what I call ‘Op Troop Support’ in 2006, and my Grade 7 and 8 students shipped 75 shoeboxes to troops deployed with OP Medusa in Afghanistan. We continued shipping boxes to CAF members serving in Afghanistan until 2011. In 2012, we started supporting soldiers at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). Over the years we have supported members working with OP Calumet (Egypt), OP Soprano (South Sudan), Op Impact (Middle East), OP Reassurance (Europe), OP Unifier (Europe) and CFS Alert (Canada’s High Arctic), as well as a variety of Royal Canadian Navy Ships on patrol across

the world.

Each of the packages has two letters in it, one from a student and a second from Ms. Jeffkins on behalf of the class, stating “Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays from Manitoulin Island! Please find enclosed in your box an assortment of goodies. I hope some of the items are treats you might be wishing for this holiday season, as you find yourself away from your homes and families. My students and their families donated many of the items you see. If you happen to find a bottle of maple syrup from Island View Farms in your box, it was donated by Verna and Peter Tallman. The Manitoulin Coffee Company, a local business started by one of my former students, Brianna Deschamps, donated the bag of coffee in your box.”

It was further explained in Ms. Jeffkins’ letter, “We also had financial support from the C.C. McLean staff, several community members, Lyons Memorial United Church and the Lyons Memorial United Church Women (UCW) group, which allowed us to purchase extra treats. All of this support has allowed us to make sure the boxes are full and ready for sharing, too!”

“You are one of 19 CAF members who have been

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My Ol’ Blues celebrates 30 years of keeping people cozy and fashionable

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—Gore Bay businesswoman Kathy Antonio says it is amazing that it has already been 30 years since she started her apparel manufacturing company, My Ol’ Blues.

“Thirty years. Amazing. I never thought starting out that it would get this far,” Ms. Antonio said.

“When I started, I didn’t really know where this would lead. I was a full-time figure skating coach and single parent. The recycled hats I was creating were selling by word of mouth and the orders just kept coming in.”

“I had neither design/pattern-making nor sewing skills, just determination to expand the hori-

zon,” said Ms. Antonio. “As demand for my products grew, a firm vision for the business, which was officially registered November 1, 1993, had to be put in place. To this day, I have not wavered from my vision statement, ‘Quality products, designed and manufactured in Northern Ontario by Northern Ontario people.’”

Reflecting on the past 30 years, there has been many uphill struggles, turning points and wonderful memories made, said Ms. Antonio. Due to a growing business with employees, location came in to play twice. My Ol’ Blues began in a basement in Sudbury. As the products became more known, more requests came in to wholesale to stores, the first being Pit’s House of Treasures in Sudbury. A handful of stores followed in the area, putting a strain on space and time.

In 1995, Ms. Antonio relocated to another basement in the town of Espanola where she grew up and was the head coach of the Espanola Skating Club. During

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Over 200 Domtar employees have accessed Action Centre

by Tom Sasvari

ESPANOLA—Having been in place for about six weeks, the Unifor (Domtar) Action Centre has already been a benefit to laid-off employees of the Domtar Pulp and Paper company, a union representative told The Expositor after the grand opening of the centre last week.

“I think we’re still far away from everyone now being employed,” stated Dustin Drouin, Unifor Local 156 president, after a funding announcement was made by the province at the grand opening of the action centre, held December 12. “The action centre will provide valuable information on retraining, how employees can upgrade their skills, access resources, resume writing and much more.”

“We have had 215 employees that have had needs come through the action centre,” said Mr. Drouin.

The Ontario government is investing \$426,000 in the new action centre to help the 484 pulp and paper workers impacted by the Domtar lay-

...continued on page 8

Auditor General’s report confirms challenges faced by Northern Ont. hospitals

by Tom Sasvari

ONTARIO—The recent auditor general report backs up the concerns raised by hospital officials from across Northern Ontario, including the Manitoulin Health Centre and local and provincial politicians.

Michael Mantha, MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin said after the recent release of the report that, “the Auditor General Report shows us in black and white the level of neglect that this government has for our publicly funded hospitals and healthcare facilities in Northern Ontario.”

“The report outlined ongoing closures in hospital services across the North: hundreds of patients waiting for long-term care and home-care service who are stuck in hospital, Northern communities struggling to fundraise for diagnostic imaging equipment without ministry support and a failure to account for Northern Ontario’s unique healthcare needs in the government’s provincial strategies,” said MPP Mantha.

“It also revealed that under this government more and more money is going to private, for-profit staffing agencies, which costs us all up to three times more for the same services,” continued MPP

Mantha. “Between 2018 and 2023, the use of agency nurses increased 25 times for Northern hospitals. The 29 hospitals surveyed in the report spent around \$78 million on agency staff in 2023 alone.”

“We now see beyond a doubt that communities in Northern Ontario are being underserved by the Ford government when it comes to healthcare,” continued MPP Mantha. “With many small and rural hospitals facing growing financial strain and patients waiting longer to receive care in the North, it’s time to act. I’m calling on the Minister of Health to commit to commit to implementing all the recommendations of the auditor general’s report. Create a funded healthcare plan that addresses the unique needs of communities in Northern Ontario and ensure Northerners have timely and patient-centred care wherever they live.”

Paula Fields, president and chief executive officer of MHC, told The Expositor, “Small, rural hospitals like MHC are often the entry point into the healthcare system in remote areas and strive to provide timely, high quality and culturally safe care to a diverse population. The auditor

...continued on page 7

Bill to ensure safe drinking water access for First Nations met with mixed reactions

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre, LJI Reporter

OTTAWA—The long-standing call for access to safe and clean drinking water across Canada has taken a significant step forward with the introduction of a pivotal Bill in the House of Commons. Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services, unveiled the proposed legislation as part of the government’s unwavering commitment to establish robust, safe drinking water and wastewater laws, done in close consultation with First Nations.

Embracing the principles outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, this landmark legislation underscores the intrinsic rights of First Nations, recognizing their crucial role as stewards of clean water and addressing their specific needs. The development of this Bill involved extensive engagement, prioritizing the voices of First Nations communities and organizations. Beginning in 2018, this inclusive process engaged directly with First Nations rights-holders, representative institutions, and critical organizations like the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

The proposed federal Bill, C-61, aimed at establishing drinking water standards for First Nations, has generated diverse reactions. Indigenous Services Minister Patty Hajdu introduced the Bill, envisioning it as a protective measure for water sources, setting national standards, and ensuring sustainable funding. While some, like Chief Chris Moonias of Neskanataga First Nation, hope for swift action to prevent prolonged advisories, Moonias feels excluded

from the legislation’s development, deeming it reflective of colonialism.

Ontario Chief Glen Hare told The Expositor, “Up north, the remote communities especially, you can’t bathe or cook. All children are required by law to go to school; if they don’t attend, they are apprehended. If you can’t bathe your children and clean their clothes, they get apprehended anyway, leaving families with the fallout of not having clean water. Anyone who comes into our backyards for mining and revenue must clean up the mess

...continued on page 8

Manitoulin OPP investigates fatal ATV collision

CENTRAL MANITOULIN—The Manitoulin detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating a fatal single all-terrain vehicle collision.

On December 15, shortly after 2 pm, the Manitoulin OPP and Manitoulin-Sudbury Paramedic Services responded to a single all-terrain vehicle collision on Perivale Road in Spring Bay.

The Expositor has learned that 28-year-old Michael Cranston, who is originally from Manitoulin but now lives in Espanola, was pronounced deceased at the scene. No other injuries were reported.

The investigation is ongoing with the assistance of the OPP Traffic Incident Management Enforcement team.

Leonard St. Louis

Leonard and I first met on Michael's Bay Road on the day of the picnic, August 26, 2023. The event was organized by the Michael's Bay Historical Society. Leonard was standing beside his vehicle on Michael's Bay Road. The writer stopped to find out about parking locations. He was kind and helpful, a visitor himself, when he shared this information. In the parking area, Leonard elaborated a bit more about some of his connections with the early Michael's Bay settlement. The writer was doing an article for The Expositor at the time. Recently we met by phone to further elaborate his knowledge of this historic town and the role his ancestors played here.

"Second Great Grandfather Horace Theodore Bisson, on his paternal father's side, was born in October of 1834 in Beauharnois, Quebec. Horace married Philomine Gohier (Moomey) of Montebello, Papineau Quebec in Hoganburg, NY in 1859. Horace and Phoebe came to Manitoulin about 1878. They had 11 children and the two youngest boys, Willie and Gus, were born at Providence Bay Manitoulin Island. He was a grist mill operator and rented the company mill March 1, 1880. "He was favourably known as an honest man and a first-class miller. The farmers in this section will be glad to learn that Mr. Bisson is to be their miller" (The Manitoulin Expositor; March 6, 1880). He moved his family to Massey in 1883. Phoebe died in 1904 and Horace died at Massey in 1920. Horace and Philomine's ('Phoebe') eldest daughter was my Great Grandmother Alena (Leonie) Bisson, born in 1862 in Hull, Quebec. She lived to be 89



Radio Operator Albert J St Louis with the Canadian Merchant Navy WWII.

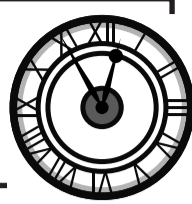
years old and died at Carbon, Alberta.

"Second great grandfather, also on my father's side, was Michael Hagan, born in August 1832 in County Wicklow, Ireland. He was the first Island connection, arriving about 1870. He came to Manitoulin as a widower. He married Mary Marie Morrison of Creich, Isle of Mull, Scotland. They had four children in Albion Twp. that were sent to close family when Mary died at age 33 near Collingwood. Michael later married Mary Ann Stephens in Michael's Bay where he worked as the Blacksmith. His shop was at Main and Kate Streets to the north of the town. His work was important because he could fashion a plethora of metal items useful for logging, milling, hunting, shoeing horses, or for any other trade, as needed. In their remote location, it could be challenging to get these items quickly, or at all."

"From an excerpt from 'Through the Years' covering February of 1989, we learn about an 1874 shopping trip. An early pioneer went to Michael's Bay with two friends, bringing his oxen Brandy and Duke, to carry the goods back home. They left at the break of day and got to Michael's Bay about 11 am, judging their



Now and Then
A Celebration of Life on Manitoulin
Mnaachtoong Maadsewin
By Petra Wall



Leonard, Dianne and Audrey St. Louis.

directions by the sun or the moss on the trees, which grew heavier on the south side. As they approached mid-town, they could hear the "ring of the anvil from Michael Hagan's Blacksmith shop." Our pioneer needed a new tapping gauge for maple syrup. "Jim McCutcheon was already at the shop, getting two beetle rings made to split cedar and a frow to make shingles. Jim had cleared a piece of land and had to cut rails for cedar fencing. While his gauge was being made, our pioneer went to the store to order his flour and sundry items on his list. He got home again after dark."

"Michael Hagan and Mary Marie Morrison's son, my great grandfather, was William Duncan Hagan born in Albion Township, Peel County. He was married to Alena Leonie Bisson, originally from Hull, Quebec, at the Wikwemikong Holy Cross Mission Settlement in 1879. William died within three years in a logging accident at Michael's Bay. William had stated that 'even God couldn't throw him off the log jam.' But he was wrong. There was no documentation about the recovery of his body. Alena's second husband Caswell Reid would die at age 58 from the kick to the head by a horse in his barn at Orrville, Parry Sound District. They had seven children together. Alena's third husband Jack Gibson moved them to Alberta where she later died at age 89."

"William and Alena's daughter Mary Philomine Hagan, my grandmother, was born in October of 1879 in Providence Bay and baptized at Wikwemikong Holy Cross a Jesuit Mission on Manitoulin Island. She married (Hermes) Herman St. Louis, 10 years her senior at Massey. She died in St. Joseph's Hospital in Sudbury in 1966. They had 10 children and ran a boarding house at Worthington near Victoria Mine. By 1921 eight boarders lived with the family and worked as miners. In 1927, when the mine caved in, Mary and Herman bought a farm near Whitefish, ON. Their youngest child, my father, Albert Joseph St. Louis was born in August of 1917 in Victoria Mines, and died in 1973

in Toronto at age 55. Victoria Mines is a ghost town now; however, the mine has reopened recently."

"My father Albert worked at INCO at the Creighton Mine and in 1943 he joined the Merchant Navy, a Canadian Crown Corporation of the Dominion of Canada, tasked with supplying the allies with needed resources during WWII. My father left Sudbury and trained at the Radio College of Canada in Toronto in 1943 and graduated 1944. He became a Commercial Radio Operator and sailed on several 'Park' ships, named after Parks in Canada, two of which were oil tankers. He was Chief Radio Officer on his last ship, the Highland Park. The Merchant Navy was later referred to as the 'Unknown Navy' and after the war, the ships were sold off and all the sailors and officers returned to regular life. Sadly, these sailors and officers were never officially recognized by Canada as being part of the war effort. "The Canadian Legion years later did lobby the Canadian government on their behalf to recognize these courageous war participants. Their ships had been attacked during the war to stop the supply of the armies. Official recognition and war pensions by Canada did not come for some 50 years after WWII and many years after my father had passed away."

My mother Annabelle Cowan, the youngest of eight children, was born in 1922 to Annie Powers and James M. Cowan. James was a respected architect building many schools, churches, convents, homes and hotels in Toronto, North Bay, Port Dover, and other places in Ontario. Annabelle worked for a printer, at Eaton's, had her own home and auto insurance business, and later worked as an administrator for Atlas Air Conditioning and Heating Ltd."

"My parents were to be married on Dad's birthday near the end of the war in 1945, but Dad's ship was on the wrong side of the Panama Canal on August 29, 1945, so he didn't make it home for his wedding. There had been a 'stay of warfare' at the time but leader-

ship felt the Japanese would not honour the ceasefire so Dad stayed overseas until safe passage was granted through the Panama Canal. The best man, Albert's brother Victor, died in a mine accident at the Noranda Mine, PQ while Albert was overseas. Albert asked Jim Kennedy a friend he had made at the radio college to take on that role for their September 10, 1945, wedding at St. Helen's Parish in Toronto."

Leonard was born to Albert Joseph and Annabelle (Cowan) St. Louis, on November 11, 1950, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Toronto, as had all their children. He was born three minutes before his twin, Lorne. He would have nine siblings Donna, Bernard, twin girls Mary and Annabelle who died at birth, his twin Lorne, Yvonne, Robert, Janet and Theresa.

The Canadian Government helped the navy veterans return to work after the war. "Dad found work with Metropolitan Life, selling insurance policies, and collecting premiums. In 1959, in partnership, he purchased and became president of a small business, Aqua Soft Water Softeners Ltd., 45 Scarlett Road, Toronto. Trucks and staff were used to pick up and deliver the five-foot slender tanks so the zeolite could

as populations increased and boundaries changed. This meant many elementary and high school changes in the Dixie area for our family of eight children."

"St. Joseph's Hospital, Toronto, is where we were all born. My mother always said the only time she was in a hospital was when she was giving birth. School began for me in the community hall of St. Patrick's Church. In later years we attended Cubs and Scouts in that same hall. Our teacher was a lady with an unusual name, Mrs. Beer. Let me just say that it wasn't our best year. Later, we were moved to the four-room St. Patrick's School at the same location. This was the humble beginning of the Dufferin-Peel Separate School Board."

"When we were young, holidays were special events. Lorne and I were born on Remembrance Day. Mom would tell us that we had a holiday because it was our birthday, and we were special. Christmas, New Year's and Easter were always special times too. My mother was a wonderful cook and prepared great feasts of turkey with gravy only she could make with all the special dishes and desserts and rum-soaked Christmas cake she made months in advance. My mother worked at Eaton's and was loyal to them. With so many children at home, going shopping became easier with the Eaton's catalogue. She could order clothes, gifts and just about anything we needed by phone, and it would be delivered in brown paper packages or boxes. After bedtime, Christmas Eve, she would transform the living room sofa and furniture into a display of gifts from Santa. Each



Leonard on a Muskoka cottage and boat ride in 2019.

be regenerated with salt. When his health changed in later years, dad sold the business and started to sell central air conditioners for Atlas Air Conditioning, Mississauga. My mother Annabelle also worked there in the installation and service department."

"My mother's early memories would bring laughter and include me in the double stroller with my identical twin. I recall the upset caused when they all thought I was Lorne or vice versa. Apparently, I would tease him and steal his hat and things got interesting. At age three, we moved from west Toronto to the rural area of what is now Mississauga. RR #1 Islington was our mailing address which Canada Post changed several times over the coming years

child had a section dedicated to the gifts especially for them. We would have new clothes, toys, and age-appropriate items we had asked Santa for. It was truly a marvel to wake up early and see what had miraculously happened around the Christmas tree while we slept."

"We could not enter the living room until everyone was up. With little sleep, Mom and Dad would wake exhibiting great surprise along with the kids. It was not necessary that the gifts be wrapped, in fact, the display of everyone's things was a remarkable sight in itself. I think the organization to pull this off was not truly appreciated until years

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Team Wall, including, from left, second Don Robinson, vice Raymond Beaudry, lead Dawn Wall and skip Mike Wall won the memorial bonspiel.

Wall rink wins 2nd annual Marc Hovingh Memorial Spiel

LITTLE CURRENT—Another successful Marc Hovingh Memorial Spiel was held December 15 and 16 at the Little Current Curling Club.

The event was able to raise over \$12,000 for local Manitoulin Food Banks. Sponsors included the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, Manitoulin Transport, Anmar, Bob's Service Centre, Remax The Island Brokerage, Technical Mining, Sudbury Police Association and Ontario Provincial Police Association.

Marc Hovingh gave his life serving his community honourably as a police officer with the Ontario Provincial Police. Everyone who attended and supported the event collectively continue to serve the community in Marc's name. Lianne Hovingh and her

three daughters were able to participate in the event.

Team Wall was able to take top spot winning the A event final. Team Wall included Skip Mike Wall, vice Raymond Beaudry, Second Don Robinson and lead Dawn Wall.

Prizes were donated by many local businesses: Turners, Loco Beanz, Guardian Pharmacy, Island Grass Roots, Jeffrey's Honey, Faith Rosborough, Breakaway Sports, Rona Little Current, Dreamers Cove, Napa Manitoulin, OTR Fitness, Pat Noble Lumber, Remax Manitoulin and Boarderline Boardshop.

The Marc Hovingh Memorial Spiel was organized by Kyle Chandler, Jordan Chandler and Margot Bickell.



A crafty Christmas

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 177 hosted a successful Christmas crafts afternoon complete with hot dogs, hot chocolate and, you guessed it, Santa Claus and his elves!

photos by Michael Erskine



Law & Order

WTPS investigates sudden death call

The Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service (WTPS) is continuing an investigation into a sudden death in the community.

On Friday, December 8 at approximately 5:40 pm, WTPS officers were dispatched to assist Manitoulin-Sudbury Paramedic Services with a possible sudden death incident that occurred at a residence on the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory (WUT).

Officers attended the residence and observed ambulance personnel on scene performing life saving efforts on a person in medical distress. After several minutes, life saving efforts were called off and the person was pronounced deceased by a qualified medical practitioner.

The residence was secured by police with WTPS personnel being assisted in the investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Forensic Identification Unit.

The incident was deemed to not be suspicious at this time and a postmortem was scheduled. The name of the deceased was not released pending notification of next of kin.

The incident remains under investigation.

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

Festive RIDE campaign commences

Now that the Christmas season is upon us, the WTPS will be conducting Festive Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) checks throughout the community.

Statistics show that during the month of December impaired driving incidents do increase. In an effort to continue to keep the roadways and the community safe, police will be conducting RIDE checks throughout the community. The police would like to remind the public to not drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs and to report any suspected impaired driving incidents.

By working together, the police and the community can ensure that the holiday season is enjoyed by all.



A cruiser full of cheer

The Manitoulin Ontario Provincial Police held another successful annual 'Stuff-A-Cruiser' event at the Mindemoya Foodland in Mindemoya, last Saturday. Constable Marie Ford told the Expositor, "Tonight was a little cold and damp, but our amazing Manitoulin community came out and supported the Manitoulin Family Resources Food Bank. We loaded the pick-up truck full of toys and non-perishables and donations of \$1,365 dollars." She explained from November 1 to December 14 the local OPP collected 653 non-perishable food items and an amazing assortment of toys for children of all ages including electronics, dolls, crafting supplies, interactive books, superhero figures, games, puzzles and DVDs to name a few. She noted Gateway Casino donated a huge amount of toys for the cause, as part of an employee challenge to the local cause. In photo from left is volunteer Dayne Tipper, OPP Constable Marie Ford, OPP Constable John Robertson, OPP Auxiliary officer Chris Bajc, and volunteer Linda McCulligh, who were on hand to collect items at the event held in Mindemoya.

Friends and Neighbours

Kagawong Team Fergmeijer

It was the night before Christmas, and in our puntastic tradition,

Here's Team Fergmeijer's annual Christmas column submission!

Not a Christmas goes by without our annual reflection, So sit back and enjoy our fond recollection. Last winter was the first for our rink's brand new roof! It made sure local skaters were more weatherproof'd. It was a good year for turkeys, and other birds of a feather,

Including a rare visitor - the fine Meriweather. New champions were crowned in the race to see cranes, John and Paula were first, the officials proclaim! When a building inspection threw a major curveball, The township got out of it a new fire hall. It was a crazy summer with fire bans and smoke, Who knew what to expect each day when we woke? Spontaneous dancing was expected to happen When a new concert series kept our toes all a-tappin'. The Museum presented a vintage photo exhibit (We couldn't pass on the chance to say "flibbertigibbet!") NorthWords and Jabbarong, with their focus on stories, Showcased our township in all of its glories. In August, a beach movie brought relief from our stress-

With a tale of true love and some R.O.U.S's And what would a summer be without a sighting of Steve?

We are the biggest Paikin fans, after all (we believe). The Park Centre continued to welcome the masses With feasts, markets, workshops and many dance classes New mailboxes arrived all shiny and sturdy, Atop concrete pedestals, they sure do look purdy. Work finally finished on replacing the foot bridge, Are we excited? We just don't have the verbiage! Looking back on the year is always such a treat, And with these rhyming couplets, our retrospection's complete.

From Kagawong's self-appointed laureates of pun. Merry Christmas Kagawongians, each and every one!

Barrie Island Lillian Greenman

Lorne and Dawn Calback and family from Sudbury visited his parents George and Carolyn Calback last weekend.

Silver Water Karen Noble

On Saturday, December 10, there was a Community Christmas dinner at the Silver Water Community Hall. The meal was excellent and there was a very good

turnout. On Monday, December 11 in the afternoon, we had the recycle bins open and had a lot of households out.

Chair yoga was held Monday afternoon at the hall and there were several cars in the parking lot.

Shawn Noble took Chad Chevrette to Sudbury on Tuesday for an early doctor's appointment.

On Tuesday, December 12 it was fire practice. They had another new member join, Brian.

Kate Duncanson and husband, Chip Tomisch arrived on Tuesday for a visit with her mother, Myra Duncanson. They visited Chip's Dad on their way here and stopped to visit Kate's dad, Charlie Turner, in the hospital.

On Wednesday, December 13 Albert Meijer and I went to Sudbury to do some shopping. On the way home, we had four deer cross very close to the front of the car near Jerusalem Hill.

On Thursday, December 14, there were 14 out to play euchre. Natasha McVey with 93 points and me with 92 points split the money jar.

I continue to work on knitting projects that I want to finish for Christmas. On Thursday morning I made six dozen cookies, new recipes, one I will make again.

Euchre is cancelled in Burpee/Mills after Monday, December 18, until January 8, 2024. Euchre is cancelled in Meldrum Bay after Friday, December 15 until January 5, 2024. Silver Water will continue euchre.

The recycle bins will be open on Saturday, December 23. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!

...confirms challenges faced by Northern hospitals

...continued from page 3
 general's report exposes the challenges that small rural hospitals are facing: underfunding, depletion of health human resources, supports to implement Indigenous best practices and an overall lack of planning by the provincial government."

"The Ontario Hospital Association and small rural hospitals are asking the ministry to work with them in the development of a healthcare strategy that meets the needs of Northern Ontario inclusive of financial recovery assistance, adequate ongoing base funding and sustainable long-term solutions to the health human resource crisis," said Ms. Fields.

"Hospitals such as MHC took a leadership role and lived by our values of respect, passion and truth in supporting the community through a pandemic only now to face challenges that cannot be resolved independently or remotely," continued Ms. Fields. "We are hopeful that the ministry will be responsive to the recommendations made in the report so MHC can continue to meet our mission 'to contribute to the health and well-being of all who come to us in need.'"

Dr. Stephen Cooper said, "It seemed there were two things that the auditor general was saying that were very pertinent. One, that the Ministry of Health does not have a Northern health care strategy in place, which is true. The auditor general said we need to recognize the challenges being felt and what leads to poorer health outcomes."

"Secondly, the ministry has a number of mechanisms or measurements to support healthcare in the North, but it is not consistent in the measurements," said Dr. Cooper. "The ministry responded by accepting the criticism and from an auditor's perspective they want to see good value for the money."

"Many of the auditor general's criticisms are well founded, such as the shortage of physicians, doctors and nurses. We have shortages in the hospital sectors, especially in areas like Manitoulin Island," said Dr. Cooper. "And that large portions of



the hospital budget is spent on (agency) nurses because we don't have the resources."

Acting Auditor General Nick Stavropoulos said Ontario has no central plan to help hospitals tackle nurse shortages that has led to temporary emergency department closures, while a significant portion of ER patients are only there because they don't have a family doctor.

There were more than 200 unplanned temporary emergency department closures in 23 Ontario hospitals between July 2022 and June 2023 due to doctor and nurse shortages, the report states.

Mr. Stavropoulos said the government has no central plan to help hospitals maintain nurse staffing levels to avoid ER closures, nor was there a province-wide strategy on staffing issues in long-term care homes.

"Instead, the ministry and Ontario Health generally relied on hospitals to manage these situations independently, typically by closing their emergency departments or using more expensive agency staff where possible," the report said.

"A province-wide strategy to help hospitals and long-term care homes maintain appropriate staffing levels is critical for the sector's success moving forward," said Mr. Stavropoulos.

Physician and nurse shortages and the lack of a dedicated healthcare strategy for Northern Ontario create barriers to timely and equitable patient care," said the auditor general. "Northern hospitals become increasingly more reliant on agency nurses than other parts of Ontario. While these nurses fill important gaps, this comes at a much higher cost. The

province needs to ensure better access to appropriate and equitable levels of care for people in Northern communities."

The audit found that patient care and access to services more readily available in southern Ontario are limited by staff shortages at Northern hospitals. For example, physician and nursing shortages led to obstetrics services closing at 10 hospitals in the region between July 2022 and September 2023, and four remained closed as of September, with three of those closed for more than one year. Ontario Health, the provincial agency responsible for overseeing hospitals, does not centrally monitor all instances of service closures at hospitals.

Northern hospitals also face the high cost of nurses hired from agencies to address staff shortages. Between 2018-2019 and 2022-2023, the use of agency nurses increased 25 times for hospitals in Northern Ontario compared to about two and a half times for hospitals in the rest of the province. "Agencies charged the Northern hospitals that we visited during this audit about three times the hourly rate of a permanent nurse, in addition to accommodation and travel costs, in 2022-2023," the report says.

The audit also found more than 330 patients occupying Northern hospital beds were waiting for long-term care or home care. This limits hospitals capacity to care for other patients and adds to wait times," said the report. It will cost an estimated \$65 million in funds that the province could have saved if spaces in other care settings had been readily available. The cost to keep a patient in a hospital is higher than long-term care

home, and a long-term care home costs more than home care.

The auditor general said, "Ontario hospitals are expected to purchase magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) scan machines by fundraising, but many Northern hospitals are located in rural areas, which may make it challenging to raise the required funds to purchase these machines."

"The lack of a province-wide strategy to help hospitals prevent emergency department closures in addition to ongoing staffing shortages continues to put a strain on hospitals," said Mr. Stavropoulos. "This means that patients are less likely to receive effective, timely care when they need it."

The audit also found that a lack of nursing staff to quickly triage patients who are brought into emergency departments via ambulance delays paramedics from returning to communities to respond to other emergency calls. While some paramedics and hospitals have worked together to improve turnaround times, not all hospitals have consistently adopted these best practices.

"We found there were over 200 unplanned emergency department closures involving 23 hospitals, mostly in rural or remote areas, between July 2022 and June 2023, largely due to nursing and doctor shortages. If it wasn't for a Ministry of Health program that provides doctors to fill these gaps on an interim basis, there could have been an estimated 400 additional closures during the 2022-2023 fiscal year," the report found.

"To address these shortages, hospitals also rely on nurses from agencies at significantly higher hourly rates than permanent nurses. This can range from more than \$75 per hour compared to the \$35 to \$50 per hour that full-time hospital nurses make," reported the auditor general. "The province should work with hospitals to address challenges in Ontario's emergency departments and develop new ways to improve access to timely care."

"The worsening staff shortages have been fuelled by the provincial Bill 124, which limits nurses and many other public sector workers to maximum annual pay hikes of one percent," the auditor general said.

Within an hour of Mr. Stavropoulos' news conference about his findings, the government announced a new auditor general, Shelley Spence.

LITTLE CURRENT

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WEEKLY WINNER!
 Congratulations to Peter Craig!
 The "draw" prize winner of \$1036.00
 Thank you to Green Acres Manitoulin - Family Campground & Restaurant for sponsoring the 24th Progressive Raffle Lottery!

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THE PROGRESSIVE JACKPOT WILL BE WON!
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 TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT LITTLE CURRENT LIONS CLUB ON FACEBOOK

Pet Save Manitoulin

HOLIDAY SPECIAL
\$9.00

Holiday Fundraiser

In the spirit of holiday giving, Scott Veterinary Services in Mindemoya (705-377-5666) is offering **HOMEMADE, FREEZE-DRIED** liver bites for sale. All proceeds will be divided evenly between Pet Save Manitoulin and Manitoulin Pet Rescue. Spoil your furry family members and support these fantastic rescues this holiday season.

valu-mart Orr's Freshmart

Bahá'í Writings

Beautify your tongues, O people, with truthfulness, and adorn your souls with the ornament of honesty.

—Bahá'u'lláh

To find out about local activities or call or text 705-210-0529
www.bahai.ca www.bahai.org

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December 25 to January 3
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 Regular Hours

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

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

...Bill to ensure safe drinking water access for First Nations

...continued from page 3

behind them. After someone rapes your land, they call on us as chiefs to clean up the mess. We are tired of cleaning up after everyone after they take all the profits. We as rights holders since day one shouldn't have to take responsibility for this."

The bill's key provisions are designed to: mandate the minister of Indigenous services to collaborate with First Nations in providing safe drinking water on their lands; Strengthen funding commitments to ensure sustainable water services on par with non-First Nations communities; Establish national drinking water and wastewater standards, respecting First Nations' preferences; enable water agreements, fostering collaboration between First Nations, Canada and provincial/territorial governments; Pave the way for a First Nations-led Water Commission to bolster community control over water services; and uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, emphasizing consultation in federal decisions.

This proposed law follows the repeal of the previous Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act, marked by Chief Erica Beaudin of Cowessess First Nation as a historic stride toward securing clean water for Indigenous communities. However, concerns linger regarding consultation inclusivity, as Nunavut MP Lori Idlout stresses the need for broader input beyond national Indigenous organizations.

Yet challenges persist, exemplified by Chief Moonias' plight in Neskantaga, where, despite plant upgrades, the community still lacks clean water. Chief Moonias anticipates the boil water advisory hitting 30 years and intends to request a completely new water treatment system from the government. The proposed Bill signifies progress, but challenges in execution and community inclusion persist.

MANITOULIN ISLAND

STORE HOURS

DECEMBER

MON	CLOSED
TUES	11 - 6
WED	11 - 6
THURS	11 - 7
FRI	11 - 6
SAT	11 - 6
SUN	CLOSED

DEC 24 to DEC 27 - CLOSED

THURS 28	11 - 5
FRI 29	11 - 5
SAT 30	11 - 5

SUN DEC 31 - CLOSED

JANUARY

JAN 1 to JAN 10 - CLOSED
STORE REOPENS THURS JAN 11

MON	CLOSED
TUES	11 - 4
WED	11 - 4
THURS	11 - 8
FRI	11 - 4
SAT	11 - 4
SUN	CLOSED

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Thank you for drinking responsibly.

...Domtar employees have access to Action Centre

...continued from page 3

offs in Espanola get back to work quickly. A wide range of services and tailored supports will be offered to help workers transition, including seminars on resume writing and cover letters, job searches, financial planning workshops and mental health resources.

"To prepare for the future of work, we need to build a stronger Ontario that leaves no one behind," said David Piccini, minister of labour, immigration, training and skills development. "Our government is proud to invest in the Unifor (Domtar) Action Centre to give a hand-up to the hard-working men and women of Espanola so they can land better jobs and bigger paycheques for themselves and their families."

Working in partnership with Unifor Local 74, Unifor 156 and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 956, the action centre will provide customized resources to help

affected workers prepare for other well-paying manufacturing work in Northern Ontario. The centre will also connect workers with the resources and training they need to find jobs in forestry, the skilled trades and other in-demand industries.

as possible for all affected members of the mill. We are looking forward to getting our members into the action centre for retraining and any skills upgrading they may need, and value the partnerships made and the important labour adjustment commitment to

Domtar employee and a current Espanola town councillor, was at the grand opening of the action centre. "I was an instrument mechanic (at Domtar) for almost 40 years, but I've been retired for a while now."

He explained a committee had been formed of representatives of Unifor, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and LAMBAC in setting up the action centre.

"There is a lot of work available out there, although some of it is not the same as employees being able to work in Espanola," said Mr. Duplessis. "I know some of the former employees are working in Sudbury, and some are getting jobs in other areas, like mining and mill camps."

"And there are still workers at Domtar now until the next set of layoffs," continued Mr. Duplessis. He said the shutting down of Domtar is like a loss in the family. "Especially when you live in a small community and everyone knows each other. It is a loss. I feel for everyone that has lost their job," he said, noting he had been involved in the Domtar executive for a long time as president of Local 74. "I hope the action centre works for all the workers and they all find employment."

Mr. Drouin added that the action centre, which is at 77 Centre Street in Espanola, will remain open until October 31, 2024.

In September, Domtar announced it was shutting down after years of ongoing financial losses. Employees on the pulp side of the business worked their final shifts two weeks ago.

"Although our ultimate wish would be for all Unifor Local 74 membership to have the opportunity to work together again one day, we are grateful to have been granted approval for the Unifor (Domtar) Action Centre," said Chris Presley, Unifor Local 74 president. "We would like to thank the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and Unifor National for the contributions and supports we have been given during this difficult time. Our action centre coordinators and peer helpers look forward to helping our members find the resources that will help them ease into this transition. This would not have been possible without the partnership between the ministry and Unifor."

Mr. Drouin said, "Unifor Local 156 is very grateful to National Union and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) for the quick response in getting the Unifor Domtar Action Centre up and running. We hope to make the transition as easy

help these efforts."

"Since learning of the plan to idle Domtar's Espanola Mill, government has been there for workers to ensure they have the supports they need," said Graydon Smith, minister of natural resources and forestry. "Today's investment reaffirms that commitment as we continue to support workers impacted by the closure."

Michael Mantha, MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin said, "Nobody likes to see employees displaced or a business shut down. But this action centre will provide positive opportunities, service providers, resources and mental health supports. We all deal with stress and job loss differently and it is imperative that these services are available when and where it is needed."

MPP Mantha said at this point there have been individuals to assess the Domtar mill and paper plant, but he understands nothing concrete has come in the form of an offer to purchase the business.

Ken Duplessis, a former



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- **Continuing Care** - Can identify, assist and facilitate appropriate ongoing care

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info@noojmowin-teg.ca

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...C.C. McLean students send Christmas cheer to overseas troops

...continued from page 3
officially adopted by the members of my Grade 3-4 class. They have worked hard to create cards and artwork that you might hang up to bring you a touch of "Kids from Home." I hope you enjoy their efforts," wrote Ms. Jefkins. "They range in age from 7-9 and have all the enthusiasm of that age group."



Students are hard at work preparing goody bags for Canadian soldiers currently serving.

"This is the 18th year my class and I have adopted a group of CAF members working far from home," continued Ms. Jefkins. "I think the work you have chosen to do is amazing. I have great respect for all who serve. You are our second project this year with military connections, the first being a project with CAF members based across Canada, which I call Op

Flat Stanley."

"I feel very strongly about supporting Canadian Forces members, both those at home and those deployed to both combat, NATO and UN Missions. From our little Island to where you are in the world, please know

that we are wishing you a Merry Christmas/Happy Holiday and a safe and happy new year. We appreciate the work you are doing so far away from home and family," wrote Ms. Jefkins. She explained, "I am trying hard to educate my stu-

dents about the role of the CAF and the sacrifices that both the serving members make, as well as the sacrifices their families make when they are far away. Thank you for choosing to serve, you play such a very important role in our world.

Ms. Jefkins stressed, "I would like to point out that we couldn't have done this project without the support of our community over the last 18 years. No matter what I have asked for (treats, financial donations, caps from Manitoulin Transport, soccer balls from BMO, toothbrushes and toothpaste from local dentists, boxes for packing the treats or even extra hands to help pack boxes, our Island communities have always stepped up and

helped. Some years I have had to kneel on the boxes to get the lids to close because they were so full of treats!"

"Over the years, several hundred Canadian Armed Forces personnel have benefited from the generosity of Islanders, when they are serving far away from home and country, sometimes in dangerous locations," said Ms. Jefkins. "The feedback I have received from the recipients always says how much they have enjoyed the treats, and often how they have chosen to share them with their colleagues because the boxes are so full. One year, a group of soldiers even decided to share their maple syrup at a joint breakfast with other UN Peacekeepers from around the world, some of whom had never tasted it

before."

"This year, a former recipient sent me an email providing me with the names of eight Canadians working at UNMISS in South Sudan and asked if my 'team of elves could do their magic' to ensure each of them got a package. Each of these Canadians working through the United Nations will be getting a package, because thanks to the Island community, my elves have lots of magic to work with again this year," added Ms. Jefkins.

Along with providing treats and items for CAF members, some of the subjects that the students have covered with the project this year include global citizenship, art, math and literacy (including cursive writing).

...My Ol' Blues celebrates 30 years of keeping people cozy, fashionable

...continued from page 3

this period, she was introduced to Grassi Point Trading Co. from Burlington by Marion Pitkethly of Pit's House of Treasures. This Canadiana sales agency quickly took My Ol' Blues across the country, requiring a cohesive collection. Ms. Antonio explained polar fleece was becoming a mainstay of everyone's wardrobe and it was a natural fit and direction to head with the hats and accessories being produced. Plus, Canada had one of the largest quality producers of polar fleece, Huntington Mills, out of Quebec. It wasn't long before Ms. Antonio moved into apparel design with emphasis on outerwear. "It was a little hectic creating patterns for ages two to adult, but with a lot of samples to try on and using friends and family, apparel became a reality."

The first order being the Espanola Skating Club jackets followed by a Canadiana Collection known to this day as "Maple Leaf Mania Wear."

In 1997, My Ol' Blues required another expansion of space. Ms. Antonio also made the decision to retire from



Happy Anniversary! My Ol' Blues apparel manufacturing company is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Kathy Antonio started the Gore Bay based business. In photo left to right is Mari Ausmees, Kathy Antonio, Kim Orford, Brenda Pakkala, Rebecca Strain. Missing from photo is Lena Sukhanovska and summer student Bella Jefkins.

coaching figure skating and also expand into the retail industry.

Choosing a way of life and still being in Northern Ontario, My Ol' Blues relocated to Gore Bay October 17, 1993 to the old Turner Funeral Home building. The building included a main floor production area, space for a retail store, upper-level space which now includes three apartments and a separate home on the property for Ms. Antonio's family. She said the move has become a game changer, solidifying a loyal retail clientele who are now fourth-generation MOB customers, with a central location that has serviced wholesale, corporate and non-profit and private label customers, a well-rounded customer base. "With the help of Canada Post and Manitoulin Transport and various other courier services, our supplies arrive quickly and our finished products get shipped out across the province, Canada and internationally just as quick," she said.

My Ol' Blues has remained small with Ms. Antonio overseeing all aspects of the business. Currently she has six employees plus her summer student Bella. Kim Orford

...continued on page 10

When you encourage me, I feel empowered. Caring adults matter.

Quand tu m'encourages, j'ai l'impression de découvrir mes pouvoirs. Les adultes bienveillants comptent.

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<p>January 16th - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Little Current, Manitoulin Hotel & Conference Centre</p>	<p>January 18th - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Garden River Recreation Centre, 48 Syrette Lake Road</p>
<p>January 17th - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Sagamok First Nation Community Hall, 5507 Star Road</p>	<p>January 19th - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Sudbury Northbury Hotel & Conference Centre, 50 Brady Street</p>

For FREE Registration,
please register at cabel@waubetek.com
by Thursday, January 11th, 2024

Storytime with Santa event in Gore Bay council chambers a huge success

GORE BAY—The Storytime with Santa event held in the Gore Bay council chambers last Friday evening was a huge success!

"I have to say the Story-

time with Santa was a success," stated Kelly Chaytor, a Gore Bay town councillor and member of the Gore Bay Union Public Library board, which hosted the

event. "We had roughly 30 kids. It was a packed council chamber."

Ms. Chaytor said some families attended the library for the first time and for many kids it was also their first time in the library. "We had kids sign up for their library cards, and many took books out. It was great to see as this was the main reason the library board suggested this event, to get families and kids back into the library."

"As the kids came into the council chambers, they got to pick a cookie to enjoy, and then waited patiently for Santa to arrive," said Ms. Chaytor. "Santa greeted everyone and made his way to his chair. He read 'The Night Before Christmas' to the children. After Storytime Santa let families take photos. And as everyone left, they went home with another cookie to enjoy."

"I heard so many compliments and thank yous for organizing this event," said Ms. Chaytor who praised



Santa Claus took time out from his busy schedule at this time of the year to take part in the Storytime with Santa event, hosted by the Gore Bay Union Public Library and held in the Gore Bay council chambers last Friday. The council chambers was packed with children and their families. In photo, Santa reads the classic 'The Night Before Christmas.'

the efforts of librarians Johanna Allison and Anya Wright, community members who baked cookies and special elves Aria Wright, Emma and Cameron Chaytor.

"Kids helped me build

our book tree as well," said Ms. Chaytor. She noted the book tree will be on display at the town office until Thursday night.

"It made me so happy that so many families attended Storytime with

Santa. I am looking forward to organizing this event next year with some changes if the library board and community want it again," added Ms. Chaytor.

Don't spend Christmas alone!

Again this year, the elves are providing a

FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER
Monday, December 25
1:00 pm at
Little Current United Church

Call the Expositor Office to register and arrange a ride, if needed.
(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!)

...My Ol' Blues celebrates 30 years of keeping people cozy

...continued from page 9 started on November 11, 1993, and has worked part-time/full-time over the years and has become known as Kathy's 'right arm man' in the workshop and someone she is proud to call a trusted, good friend. "We are a very close-knit group," said Ms. Antonio. "Many employees have come and gone over the

years, but several are still close to the company and stay in touch regularly. The camaraderie that we share in the workplace has overflowed into our loyal customer base which we regard as our MOB VIP family. Each and every one is important to us, and the majority are on a first name basis."

My Ol' Blues was recognized by the PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise

with the Unshakeable Business of the Year Award in 2021. The award goes to a woman owned business, with a successful and notable track record for three years or more, that has taken financial risks, managed the business successfully and given back to the community.

Recently My Ol' Blues, "was invited to be part of the nation-wide BMO #WraptheGood holiday

campaign," which Ms. Antonio feels is another highlight of this year. "Looking back, who would believe creating a few hats for a part in the play, Jitters, produced by The Espanola Little Theatre, back in March of 1993 would have led to 30 years in the Canadian apparel industry with the past 26 years of production happening on Manitoulin Island."

NOTICE BOARD

14 Water Street East (Post Office Building)
 Town of NEMI P.O. Box 608 Little Current, ON POP 1K0

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Mayor MacNevin and Council would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas season!

Christmas Office Hours

Municipal Office – Dec 25 & 26 Closed
 Recreation Centre – Dec 25 & 26 Closed
 Landfill – December 26 Open – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Join us at the Recreation Centre for some of our upcoming sessions...
 Contact : lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca for more information.

Sit Fit is back!
 FREE sessions
 Starting at 11:00 am on Thursdays
 Main Hall at NEMI Rec Centre

Winter Walking
 Weekdays in the Main Hall, NEMI Rec Centre
 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Holiday Skates
 December 28 from 2pm to 3pm
 Sponsored by Century 21 Integrity

December 29 from 2pm to 3pm
 Sponsored by REMAX The Island Real Estate Brokerage

NEMI Rec Centre Holiday Hours
 December 24: No Public Skating
 December 25 and 26: Closed
 December 27: 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm
 December 28-31: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
 January 1: Closed

Family New Year's Eve Gathering
 At NEMI Rec Centre, December 31 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 Skating, refreshments, activities in the lobby.
 End the year enjoying family and friends!

Looking for a gift for the person who has "everything?"

How about tickets to the 2024 NOCA Curling Provincials Championship? January 23 to January 28, 2024.

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 NORTHERN ONTARIO
MEN'S & WOMEN'S
CURLING CHAMPIONSHIP
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 Manitoulin TRANSPORT

...Mindemoya's Highway 551, King St. corner granted 4-way stop status

...continued from page 1
remains to be seen whether the four-way stop intersection will be effective in preventing future collisions. "It's a case of 'wait and see'," he said.

been the subject of several studies by the MTO over the years, but the result had always been that the four-way stop was not warranted.

Mayor Stephens noted that there had been consid-

erable turnover in the ministry in recent months. "There's been quite a change of people," he said. "Sometimes, fresh eyes can make all the difference."

Mayor Stephens indicated that the new four-way

stop at the intersection is expected to be installed in the spring.

The mayor suggested that, if it had been up to the municipal council to make the decision, the four-way stop would have been in

place many years ago. "When a number of government levels are involved, it can sometimes take a long time," said Mayor Stephens. "But it often helps to have that collaboration. Kind of like the House

of Commons and the Senate, it helps to have a sober second thought."

Mayor Stephens said that he was pleased to see that the MTO had finally decided to approve the four-way stop.

...'Roundup' will face Canadian class action lawsuit

...continued from page 1
indicating, "her concern that birds are dying all over because of all the insecticides and chemicals in our atmosphere."

"I'm always concerned about these chemicals and pesticides being used," said Ms. Wall. "Several years ago, hydro was having ditches sprayed to kill off phragmites and other vegetation. But they were doing it so indiscriminately and doing it by hand instead of mechanically. And there were no signs posted that said they were using these chemicals to spray. I even found them spraying on our property. They also sprayed over a well."

"I helped start up a petition, which was signed by 300 people in the area, voicing concerns with the spraying of pesticides and chemicals in the environment," said Ms. Wall. "I gave a copy with the signatures to our MPP Michael Mantha, and he took it to Queen's Park. But after he presented this all we received was a nice form letter stating how much they appreciated the petition and bringing up the issue. We also took the petition to council for Central Manitoulin at the time, but they had no interest in calling for banning of the use of pesticides even in ditches."

"I think it would be great if we went organic on the Island," said Ms. Wall. "We would get more people here to enjoy the Island's ambience and enjoy the food because they would know all the food was safe to eat."

In certifying the lawsuit as a class action, Justice Grace noted in his reasons that a class proceeding would provide "easier access to justice" and that "it is bound to be more economical than the pursuit of multiple individual claims." He also commented in his decision, "Lawsuits of this kind are not for the faint of heart. As is clear from the experience in the United States so far, glyphosate litigation has been hard fought."

"That applies to this action, too," Justice Grace said in the release. "The record before me consists of more than 17,000 pages of factual and legal material. Every aspect of the statutory test was the subject of written and oral argument. It does not appear that any expense was spared."

The class action is brought on behalf of individuals who have been exposed to glyphosate-based products distributed and sold by the defendants, the release notes.

In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, as "probably carcinogenic to humans." The lawsuit alleges that the defendants either knew or should have known that significant exposure to Roundup products causes cancer, in particular, NHL. Despite this knowledge, the lawsuit alleges that the defendants continue to distribute and sell these products without providing sufficient warnings about their potential cancer risks. Additionally, the lawsuit alleges that the defendants engaged in years of

deceptive practices to mislead the public about the safety of Roundup, thereby aiming to safeguard their profits, Koskie Minsky reports.

The Class is represented by Jeffrey DeBlock, an NHL survivor. Mr. DeBlock was diagnosed with NHL when he was 17 years old, after using Roundup as part of his summer job on a local farm. After his diagnosis, Mr. DeBlock went through extensive treatment, which has permanently impacted his health and quality of life. Mr. DeBlock commenced this action to seek justice on his own behalf as well as other class members.


Mr. Darlston said, "The European union banned the use of these herbicide chemicals, including in particular glyphosate, which was supposed to be phased out this year. However, I recently read that they have been given an extension of 10 years."

"The certification decision is a significant milestone in our effort to hold Monsanto and Bayer accountable for the alleged harm caused by Roundup," said Jonathan Ptak, a partner at Koskie Minsky LLP, one of the firms prosecuting the class action. "Our legal team is committed to vigorously representing Mr. DeBlock and all class members. This lawsuit is not only about seeking compensation for past wrongs but also about ensuring corporate accountability and public safety going forward. The extensive evidence presented in our certification motion underscores the gravity of the allegations and the importance of this case."



Wishing you a holiday season filled with joy, and a happy New Year!

Maurice, Carole, Elyse, & Eric



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...Island participants at COP28 conference in Dubai share their views

...continued from page 1 invited everyone to come together in their own traditional ways and share their cultures as a means of coming to the table as a collective," Ms. Debassige told The Expositor following the event's wrap-up closing event.

Craig Hughson, originally from Little Current but who now lives and works in Toronto, attended COP28 as a strategic government relations specialist, a role he characterizes as a media manager, working for COP28.

Mr. Hughson told The Expositor plainly that, "we weren't sure if we were going to see an agreement reached. The gavel (ending the event) could have dropped at any time."

The UAE Consensus comes after a full year of diplomatic engagements and two weeks of impassioned negotiations. It is the culmination of the COP28 president's goal to propel a new architecture for climate finance to deliv-

er on the central aims of the Paris Agreement.

"The world needed to find a new way. By following our North Star (The Paris Agreement), we have found that path," said COP28 President, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber during his closing speech. "We have worked very hard to secure a better future for our people and our planet. We should be proud of our historic achievement."

"We must accelerate a just, equitable transition to renewables. The science is clear: The 1.5-degree limit is only possible if we ultimately stop burning all fossil fuels," said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in a speech during the opening days of the summit. "Not reduce. Not abate. Phase out—with a clear timeframe."

A shift away from fossil fuels means, for mineral-rich Canada, in particular areas of Ontario's Canadian Shield, new mining developments to produce "critical minerals" required for the manufac-



Linda Debassige, far right, the former chief of M'Chigeeng, attended COP28 as a Canadian delegate. Ms. Debassige spoke at the Canada Pavilion on a panel addressing Indigenous perspectives on climate change's impact on water access.

ture of batteries for the next generation of vehicles. Canada has mandated that, by 2035, all new vehicles produced and sold must be "zero emission."

At COP28, Jayce Chiblow of Garden River First Nation, representing Indigenous Climate Action, highlighted the challenges and concerns regarding the UAE Consensus. While acknowledging the positive shift away from fossil fuels, Ms. Chiblow cautioned about the difficulties in overcoming cap and trade systems. Additionally, she warned against what her organization terms "false solutions," such as nuclear power, emphasizing the threats posed to ecosys-

tems and Indigenous lands by mining minerals like uranium.

This "race to mine" to meet the demand critical minerals poses particular concerns for leadership and members of the Indigenous communities on whose traditional territories their efforts are expected to take place.

The Ring of Fire in Ontario has become a hotbed for mining claims, primarily due to the discovery of valuable minerals like chromite, nickel and copper. Political pressure to build infrastructure for mining has intensified, with comparisons made to the economic potential of the Athabasca oil sands. The area's mineral wealth,

especially nickel and copper crucial for electric vehicle production, has drawn significant attention.

The rush for mining opportunities, however, clashes with ecological concerns. The Ring of Fire sits within the Hudson Bay Lowlands, home to extensive peatlands that store substantial amounts of carbon and act as a buffer against climate change. Disturbing these peatlands could release stored carbon dioxide, exacerbating environmental issues.

The Ontario government's Critical Minerals Strategy aims to leverage the region's mineral wealth to bolster the province's manufacturing economy. The strategy emphasizes

creating a robust domestic supply chain and attracting investors with favorable business conditions.

Recent legislative changes, notably Bill 71 or the Building More Mines Act, have raised alarms. These amendments grant the Minister of Mines unprecedented powers, consolidating roles and potentially compromising safety and environmental standards. The changes remove key governmental oversight, allowing industry-affiliated individuals to oversee their companies' closure plans and granting leeway for mines not meeting regulatory requirements.

Indigenous groups like the Muschkegowuk Council in Ontario's Northwest area, representing various communities, have strongly criticized the amendments. They deem the changes unsafe, unconstitutional and a threat to their lands and well-being.

Climate change and extreme weather events, for example, could put the stability of tailings storage facilities at risk for cataclysmic tailings dam failures at legacy mining operations as increased climate variables have not been considered in the engineering and construction of current tailings dams. Reliable data for climate change adaptation is critical for determining the life cycle of new and existing tailings storage facilities. Climate

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...Island participants at COP28 conference in Dubai share their views

...continued from page 12
adaptation funding for economically repressed countries and communities was a topic of concern at COP28 summit, with some countries criticizing the vague language on where the financing would come from. The current \$100 billion annual budget has been missed in the past, and expires in 2025.

Ms. Chiblow also stated that plans for carbon capture and storage are also problematic as it is unproven technology. "In order to ethically transition from fossil fuels, we must ensure that Indigenous land-based knowledge is not only included but centred. In order for just transition to occur, there must be Indigenous-led, just transition. Our organization is mostly concerned with providing people with the necessary information to make decisions for a better future for everyone. One of the things I have noticed when we do education and trading, there is a fear of divestment from fossil fuels because it provides jobs to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike."

When The Expositor asked Mr. Hughson about the potential drawbacks to shifting to 'green energies' through the mining industry, he observed optimistically that, "Canada has long been critiqued for mining and exporting the materials to be processed overseas. If it's going to happen anyway, we should consider what keeping this industry on domestic soil could mean for our economy."

With the new changes to the mining act, there are renewed concerns that entrusting corporations to

protect the ecosystems in which they operate, particularly when looking at what has recently happened in Attawapiskat where a March 25 report released by DeBeers Canada indicated its study had revealed high levels of mercury in both the watershed and fish, recommending band members eat only a certain amount of fish per week and that some varieties, walleye and whitefish, should only be consumed once a month.

The issue stems from the now-closed Victor Diamond Mine in the Cochrane Districts, where water pumped from the mine's open pit into the Attawapiskat River triggered a rise in mercury levels.

In Sudbury, Vale (formerly the International Nickel Company of Canada Ltd. INCO) and Glencore (formerly Falconbridge Nickel

Mines Ltd.) have big plans to mine for nickel to compete in the electric vehicles industry. Frontier Lithium is exploring two lithium deposits in Northwestern Ontario that have enough resources to build almost 500,000 batteries per year for electric vehicles.

The question of the settlement of the Robinson-Huron and Robinson-Superior treaties has some seeing mining and resource speculation in Northern Ontario as a dangerous gamble. As we approach a closing of these treaties, the area becomes a safer economic bet for resource extraction. When asked about the potential for new mines to be opened up in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, Ms. Debassige told The Expositor, "we are looking at two levels of government that have received del-

egated responsibility. We, as First Nations, often become a jurisdictional pinball. When we look at things from treaty territory, there is very little to ensure Indigenous voices were heard. So, it becomes really quite complex. Things are a mess already and they will become more of a mess, depending on what the government sees as a priority pathway." She also says that the global community needs to change the way it thinks about water, "less as a commodity but more as a holistic need for everyone on the planet."

Ms. Debassige also went on to say that "climate change is impacting the ability to access safe drinking water. Forest fires and floods are affecting access to treated water as well as

aquifers drying up. It is clear that source waters from around the planet are drying up. Some countries are doing really well integrating traditional knowledge from their First Peoples. There is a lot of technology around the world that is really interesting and the world could benefit from coming together and sharing our different knowledges. Some countries are treating climate change as a non-partisan issue, which I think is needed here in Canada."

The timeframe for the phasing out of fossil fuels allows time for developing new technologies, but will depend on collaborative measures globally, federally, provincially and locally by all sectors.



Stuffing for a good cause

Firefighters gather for a photo following a Stuff-Ambulance event hosted by Orr's Valumart on Friday, December 15. Andrew Orr and company were doling out hot chocolate to help raise funds for Manitoulin Family Resources' food bank. The toys and non-perishable food items collected by the firefighters, police and paramedics were duly stuffed into an ambulance throughout the afternoon. Folks dropping in with an item for the effort were gifted with a hot chocolate—folks also had the option to buy a hot chocolate, with all proceeds going to Manitoulin Family Resources.

photo by Michael Erskine

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

sister

If we were to say that this is a significant birthday for you, you would say, "It is just another day." Well, too bad.

As our second oldest sibling, we decided to recognize your special day anyway. It must have sucked to have your birthday two days before Christmas. I am sure you received a few blended birthday/Christmas gifts over the years. You have always been the direct and practical one in the family. If anyone has needed anything, you have been there for every one of us.

We love you a lot, Linda Beatrice Bailey.

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- BOUGH
- CHRISTMAS TREE
- DECORATE
- DISPLAY
- FIREPLACE
- GARLAND
- HOLLY
- INFLATABLE
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Island Singers bring the house down at ‘Christmas for a Silent Night’ concert

by **Holly Scott**
 MANITOULIN—Those who attended the Island Singers concert, Music for a Silent Night, last weekend heard an exceptional event. The concert, conducted by Chris Theijsmeijer, transported them into a corner of the heavens where ethereal music resides.

“Every song gave me goosebumps,” said Rose Diebolt after the concert.

The Island Singers opened in a reflective tone as various members sang a brief line about what “Christmas Is” to them. The song is a lovely arrangement of two familiar holiday songs which leave the audience with wishes for a Merry Christmas.

“Jubilate, Alleluia!” clipped along with enthusiasm as the choir lifted their voices with pure joy of singing.

New to the Island, violinist Sonya Mulder accompanied the choir for the song “Pavane for a Silent Night” set to the music of Maurice Ravel. The score perfectly showcased the solemn dance between the violin and the piano accompaniment performed by Mike McCormick.

So identified with Christmas is the splendid work of the “Messiah” that we’ve come to expect to hear at least one portion of this classic oratorio. This is where the Island Singers lifted the audience into the heavens. Their performance of the monumental “For Unto Us a Child is Born” was filled with soar-



Sonya Mulder, on violin, takes a bow at the behest of conductor Chris Theijsmeijer following a performance of ‘Pavane for a Silent Night.’

ing melodies and sheer musicality. Choir and audience together were transported into the wonder and tenderness of the Child’s birth, a babe who, resoundingly would be called “Wonderful Counsellor; The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.” As the song closed with a violin-piano filigree, our spirits were filled, knowing that in the dark season of Christmas, there is always light and hope.

The concert might have ended here, and all would go home completely satisfied. But there was more.

The next set of songs, introduced by chorister Ray Bauman in Spanish, English, Dutch and possibly a few other languages, came from countries around the



Katelyn Lentir accompanied the choir on her upright bass, adding some swing foundation to the jazzy Christmas carol ‘Swing Down Angels.’

globe. “Fum, Fum, Fum” sung by the choir came from Spain.

A group of eight singers from Kagawong brought us the Austrian, “Snow Carol” (Still, Still, Still) beautifully layering three melodies on top of each other, perhaps like layers of snow on a Manitoulin evening. The group continued with the contrasting jazzy version of the British carol, “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen.”

The choir returned to the stage for a carol from France, “Sing We Now of Christmas” with a stirring arrangement, full of flair for the singers, and a wildly challenging piano accompaniment brought to life by Mike McCormick.

“Fruitcake” was a wacky piece, a recipe for making the holiday cake. I don’t know if it was the long bass notes droning out about sifting the flour, or the sopranos chirping at electric speed the need for cinnamon, or maybe it was the tenors talking over everyone about the nuts, but when the full choir was engaged, everyone was laughing.

After the intermission the tenors and basses returned to the stage to sing, “I Believe in Father Christmas” arranged by Mike McCormick, orchestrated with Sonya Mulder on the violin.

Following this, the voices of the trio, Ramona Jaggard, Annalee Cooper and Michelle Cooper blended perfectly in the gentle Brahms “Lullaby.” The song

especially showcased the soprano voice which easily soared with beautifully sung phrases.

The next song “Boxing Day,” was also composed by Mike McCormick, who is the guitarist in the famous comic group, The Arrogant Worms. The group regularly produces songs on their website called “Patreon.” “Boxing Day” is destined to be a seasonal classic about the unrestrained push to shop for deals right after Christmas. In the premier performance of this song, the Theijsmeijer brothers, Chris and Arik, along with Mike brought laughter to all as they reminded us how ridiculous humans can be on the day immediately after Christmas.

Ethan Theijsmeijer’s solo, “Song for a Winter’s Night” by Gordon Lightfoot, painted a sad picture. The song is a love letter that reminds us of our dear ones who we miss so much at Christmas time, those who we long to hold once again. Young Ethan accompanied his singing with deft guitar stylings.

Always a highlight of the Island Singers concert is when the audience joins in to sing. The combined voices on “Silent Night” was anything but silent and filled the church with lovely, full-hearted song. The Little Current United Church might want to check that their roof is still intact.

While still on the nighttime theme, the women of the Island Singers sang

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Expositor staff photos

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MANITOULIN TROUT FARMS



Kohyn Eshkawkogan youngest player for AAA U16 North York Rangers

by Tom Sasvari

TORONTO—Fifteen-year-old Kohyn Eshkawkogan, a member of M'Chigeeng First Nation, has been selected to play in the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL) 2024 Top Prospects game. The game, to be held January 17 in Toronto, will feature the top 40 GTHL under-16 AAA hockey players.

"It is a big deal for Kohyn," stated Kevin Eshkawkogan of his son being selected to play in the game. "There will be scouts looking at the players, as well as family and friends in attendance."

Kohyn is the youngest player on his team, the North York Rangers U16 AAA of the GTHL. Kohyn, who is a defenceman, is a



Fifteen-year-old Kohyn Eshkawkogan is quickly becoming an Ontario top prospect.

plus 40 this season and has seven goals and 19 assists.

Kohyn is also eligible for the Ontario Hockey League

draft in 2024.

Prior to this season, Kohyn played for the Mississauga Reps U15 AAA in the GTHL and played for Team Ontario at the 2023 NAHC. In the 2021-2022 season, he captained the Nickel City Sons U14 AAA of the NOHL and played for the U15 AAA squad. Kohyn also suited up for Draftday North America Selects when they participated in an international tournament in Czech Republic and an event in Nashville, Tennessee. He has participated in various tournaments in the Toronto Region, playing against elite teams.

Mr. Eshkawkogan said his son "is pretty dialed in and focused. He follows a player development model, carefully watching what

and how much food he takes in each day, and follows a weekly skills and training performance program."

"And he follows the medicine wheel teachings for physical, mental and spiritual wellness," said Mr. Eshkawkogan. "He works with a sports psychologist on a regular basis. Kohyn takes a very individual, personalized approach to all of this."

One of best parts of Kohyn's game is "that he has the ability to control the play," said Mr. Eshkawkogan. "I'm one of the co-managers of the team (North York Rangers), and Kohyn is the type of player that can break up a play by the opposing team and move the puck up the ice very quickly. He is very

excited and pumped on the inside but very calm on the outside."

Kohyn recently played in a Silver Stick hockey tournament. "Up until the Silver Stick tournament, not many scouts knew who he is. But a lot of (Ontario Hockey League) team scouts are now looking at him. I know at one game there was a scout who came to watch another player, and asked who No. 73 is (Kohyn's number)."

However, it is not only hockey that Kohyn is excelling at. He is a Grade 10 student at Hill Academy in Caledon (whose alumni includes Mitch Marner of

the Toronto Maple Leafs). "Melissa and I have always encouraged Kohyn to get a good education." Kohyn had a mid-term average of 87.5 percent in his classes overall. "His goal is to be named to the academic team by the end of the year (average of 90 percent)."

"Kohyn's goal is to play in the OHL," said Mr. Eshkawkogan. "His team went to the Rochester USHL hockey league showcase and they won. He got introduced to a number of (US) NCAA university recruiters. So, if things don't work out with the OHL, he could potentially go to an NCAA school."

...Island Singers bring the house down at concert

...continued from page 14

about the constellation, "Orion," the warrior high above the earth whose stars reveal themselves one by one as twilight turns to darkness. Hidden within this seemingly gentle piece are complex harmonies, difficult rhythms and a four-part vocal range which the women performed with exceptional skill and sensitivity.

Perhaps one of my favourite songs was "Underneath the Starry Skies." Centred in the middle of the song was the traditional lullaby, "Sleep My Child and Peace Attend Thee." Several in the audience could be seen singing the lullaby with their eyes closed, no doubt remembering when they sang this song to their little ones.

Even through the long nights of winter, "Dawn" eventually comes. And because the nights are long, we often get to see the sun rise in the mornings. This modern piece uses musical word painting to convey the feeling of those first rays creeping over the horizon. The Island Singers gave us shivers as we felt the sun come up.

If "For Unto Us" was the highlight of the first half of the concert, "Love's Pure Light" was perhaps the high point in the entire concert. This song blends the words and melody of "Silent Night" into a gorgeous new concert piece that

soars and floats with five-part harmonies, building from a gentle start into a full fortissimo acclaiming that the tender babe was the Son of God. The arrangement falls to a quiet peace as the choir closes on a simple, sustained chord. I hope to hear this song again soon.

We were delighted to hear Katelyn Lentir accompany the choir on her upright bass, adding some swing foundation to the jazzy Christmas carol "Swing Down Angels."

The Island Singers closed with "A Vaughan Williams Christmas," which left us with the reminder—sing joy, sing joy!

Next year, the Island Singers will be celebrating 60 years of performance on Manitoulin. The choir began back in the '60s as the Little Current Glee Club under the direction of Ruth Ashley, which became the Manitoulin Glee Club in the '70s, and eventually transformed to become The Island Singers in the late '80s under Dorothy Anstice's leadership. Plans are underway for a Spring concert which will bring together those who have sung with the choir over the years. Anyone who has been part of the choir is invited to connect with Chris Theijsmeyer or one of the choir members. Stay tuned as details of this exciting event come together.

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M'Chigeeng graduates feted at Education Awards Night

by Tom Sasvari

M'CHIGEENG—For the first time in several years, the community of M'Chigeeng First Nation (MFN) was able to hold its Education Awards Night to recognize all students from elementary school through post-secondary school studies.

"I would like to welcome and thank everyone for coming out this evening for this very special event," stated Morgan Hare, M'Chigeeng First Nation chief at the M'Chigeeng First Nation Education Awards Night, held this past Saturday evening in the local community complex. "Walking into this room this evening, you could feel the energy. Tonight, we are recognizing the academic achievements of our students, post-secondary graduates since 2019, elementary and secondary school graduates in the current year," said Chief Hare. "I attended Manitoulin Secondary School and Lakeview School when I was younger. It is a real honour to be here tonight."

"We are also recognizing our graduates from our employment and training program, run by John Ense," continued Chief Hare. "About 75 graduates will get their graduate certificates this evening. Congratulations to all our graduates, you all have the support of MFN staff and council."

Chief Hare noted when the MFN education department had put in a proposal to band council for funding support to put on the education awards evening, "it was a no-brainer that we would cover these costs. We feel education for our children



Lourdes Taukei, left, who is the M'Chigeeng Princess 2023, was presented with a graduation certificate at the education awards. At right is Robert Beaudin, co-master of ceremonies for the evening.

is so important, and it is so important to support our students' activities every year," he said in reading the names of all the council members.

The education department "has our support every year," stated Chief Hare. He told all the people who packed the main complex room, "We are in the process of looking at building a new elementary school for Lakeview that will be very exciting. We will be holding more meetings in January which will be exciting. I think it will become a reality in the next few years that this will take place."

Chief Hare said MFN received Jordan's Principle

funding to be able to provide free lunch every day for its students at MSS. "We have already received \$1 million for a language initiative for our daycare. We will be able to push forward the use of our language in our young children. By doing so, the language becomes strong by incorporating it into our young students, something that was not in place in the 1970s and 1980s." He acknowledged the MFN staff and education members for putting on the event, and to all education staff and directors.

Masters of ceremonies for the evening were Robert Beaudin and Kimberley Debassige, Director of Education. "To all our gradu-



Lakeview Public School student Ayden Louks, right, is presented with a graduating certificate by Travis Corbiere at the M'Chigeeng First Nation Education Awards.



Dream Saunders spoke on behalf of post-secondary school graduates at the M'Chigeeng First Nation Education Awards. Ms. Saunders is a graduate of the Child and Youth Care Diploma program at Mohawk College.

ates, looking at the education program over the past four months I find it amazing to see the number of graduates there are. The number of graduates is very high and shows how

successful our students are."

"To be celebrating about 75 graduates this year is amazing to me. The investment in education has to happen at an early age, and it is being shown by these numbers," said Chief Hare.

"It is great to see so many in attendance here this evening," said Ross Armstrong, MFN deputy chief.

"Students must work very hard to be successful and need to set high goals for themselves," said Mr. Armstrong. "I would like to say thank you and congratulations to all the graduates. Be proud of who you are, Anishinabek."

MFN councillor Jean Debassige said, "I stand here tonight with pride. We are here to celebrate the hard work of our students, everyone from Junior Kindergarten, Grades 1-8, secondary school and post-secondary school graduates. It is important and I

can't say how important it is that we accept every child into our care. We don't all learn the same way, and we need to recognize the gifts all our students have."

Ms. Debassige said, "Elementary school is the foundation for high school. Poor academia starts after Grade 8, at least that is the way I see it." She said students learning and using their language is very important. "The language we speak identifies each and every one of us. My heart sings when I hear young ones say aanii or answer me when I say that. After tonight, I need each one of you for support. I am going to be calling on all of our language speakers in the community to get together in a way that you are proud to speak your language. And then we will take that to those that want to learn the language. I will be calling all our elders and language teachers in promoting our language in our community. And a person cannot learn the language just in school. It is not enough. Those that want to learn the language have to do so outside of the school as well."

The Lakeview Kindergarten class then sang two Christmas songs.

Kimberley Debassige, MFN director of education, said, "It is a wonderful thing to be involved in this evening. And thank you to the young ones who bring such life to all of us." She congratulated all the student graduates and education staff for all their efforts.

Ms. Debassige then introduced M'Chigeeng princess 2023, Lourdes Taukei, who welcomed everyone to the

...continued on page 21

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...M'Chigeeng graduates feted at Education Awards Night

...continued from page 20 event.

Dream Saunders, a post-secondary graduate in the child and youth care diploma program at Mohawk College, bade welcome to all graduates and community members. "I feel honoured to be able to speak to you this evening as a 21-year-old graduate of the child and youth care diploma program at Mohawk College (2023)." She explained she wanted to work in this field and work in the community to help provide positive growth for young people. "My dream is to support the youth of M'Chigeeng," she said in noting the positive influence and support her parents, Cole McLaughlin and Cher Beaudin, have had on her.

Tyger Louis, a graduate of Bachelor of Arts Degree with honours in Law from Carleton University in 2022, said, "I didn't just graduate from school. I graduated another chapter of my life. In life there are no pauses, things keep moving." He said there is more to school than just studies, there is life learning on how to be a young person and adjusting to new situations. He acknowledged the tremendous support he has received from his family in pushing him to be a better person.

Anthony J. Debassige, a Bachelor of Arts Honours Psychology Degree Concentration in Health Psychology graduate at Carleton University in 2020 had returned



Students in the Kindergarten class at Lakeview Elementary School delighted the huge crowd on hand for the M'Chigeeng First Nation Education Awards by singing a couple of Christmas songs in Anishnaabemowin.

to school at the age of 47. He noted the thousands of pressures on a person going to school, whether they are younger or 47. "When you are a younger person you are following your dreams, while as an older person you are pursuing education possibly for other reasons," said Mr. Debassige, who noted going back to school was in large part due to his daughter, "and wanting to be as good a dad as I can be."

Lakeview School graduates, June 2023 included Ayden Louks, Lourdes Taukei, Kingston Abel Armstrong, Dawson Armstrong Shogga, Marie-Ense Cheechoo, Ethan Ense, Trytan Ense, David Enosse, Gjiwednong Fox, Courtney McGown-Abel, Nyla O'Connor, Aurora Panamick, Alexis Young, Leila Young, Damara Wassegijig and Kaleb Panamick-Taibossigai.

Secondary school graduates, June 2023 Ontario Secondary School Diploma

recipients included Odemin Beaudin, Damion Debassige, Aysia Francis-Debassige, Kal Hunter Debassige, Alina Hare, Landon Hare, Keisha Hildebrand and Jude Debassige.

There was a total of 40 post-secondary school graduates for 2022-2023 including Nolan Ace, Jodie Beaudin-Brant, Nicole Cadieux, Megan Corbiere, Victoria Corbiere, Kristen Crawford, Kalie Bakka Migwans, Roger Timothy Beaudin, Shelby Calderon, Laura Day-Corbiere, Eden Beaudin, Lisa Bertrand, Katelynn Corbiere, Valerie Corbiere, Warren E.J. Corbiere Jr., Alayna Cranston, Grace Marie Debassige, Melissa Debassige-Kasunich, Destiney Harper, Natalie Lukiw, Richard Migwans, Ruby Panamick, Nea Saunders, Anthony J. Debassige, Jessie Mary Debassige-Vincent, Ashlynn Hare, Haley Johnston, Harmony Kaiser-Fox, Lacey McFarlane, Aiyana Nah-

wegahbow, Jasmine Roy, Lisa Still, Stephanie Trudeau, Ernestin Debassige, Deidre Debassige, Lesley Johnston, Tyger Louis, Tiffany McGregor, Dream Saunders and Megan Tomy.

Post-secondary school graduates 2019-2021 included Krystine Abel, Tanya Armstrong, Cassandra Bisson, Brooke Debassige, Jacob Genereux, Jamie-Leigh Letourneau, Terra Paul, Nea Saunders, Hope Ace, Faith Beaudin, Penny Roy-Corbiere, Victoria Corbiere, Deborah Debassige, Sylla Halls, Cheyenne Oechsler, Zack Paul, Rachel Wepler, Brooke Addison, Roger Beaudin Jr., Renee Corbiere, Warren E.J. Corbiere, Jacqueline Fantetti, Sarah Jimenez, Skylar Parker and Reign Ryan.

The MFN Local Delivery Mechanism (LDM) employment and training 2021 graduates included Sue Ellen Bebonang, Treena Debassige, Kali Corbiere, Austin Glover, Amber Debassige, Theresa Ouimette. 2022 graduates: Gerard Armstrong, Justice Corbiere, Russell Debassige, Luke Armstrong, Dakota Hare, Thompson-Corbiere Jr., Cole Corbiere, Meeshen Corbiere, Vince Migwans Panamick. 2023 graduates: Trey Bebonang, Andrew Corbiere, Dustin Corbiere, Hunter Corbiere, Ian Corbiere, Nicholas Osawabine-Corbiere, Brett Ense, Jacqueline Ense, Tyler Johnston, Maren Kasunich,

Ryan LeBecque, Alicia Corbiere McLean, Christine Migwans, Lynn Migwans, Cameron Osawabine-Corbiere, Cole Ouimette, Cherylyn Panamick and Steven

Radulovich. During the evening, the local ladies' drum had performed, as did singer Aiyana Louis.

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Wiikwemkoong High School holds 25th Annual Christmas Gala and Awards ceremony

by Michael Erskine
WIKWEMKOONG—The students and staff of Wiikwemkoong High School were decked out in style to celebrate their academic successes and dance the evening away during the school's 25th Annual Christmas Gala and Awards Ceremony. The gala was held on Friday, December 1 in the school gymnasium.

The evening was hosted by Vice Principal Cameryn Beaudry who acted as master of ceremonies.

Lisa Osawamick and Warrior Kweok started out the evening with an honour song, followed by welcoming remarks from Principal Harold Fox.

There were plenty of awards on hand. The first being the Canada and the World Awards, sponsored by John and Jennifer Capin. These awards are presented to students with the highest achievement in a Canadian Studies Course. The 2022-2023 recipients were: Intermediate: Hope Eshkibok, Jasmine Staruck and Ryley Wassegijig-Migwans, while senior awards were presented to Tryce Francis and Blaine Naokwegijig.

The Business Award,



Hudson Jocko took home an armful of awards.

photos by Dwayne Animikwan

sponsored by Enaadmaagehjik (Wiikwemkoong Development Corporation) are presented to students with the highest achievement in a business studies course. The 2022-2023 recipients were Janelle Dokum and Amelia Osawanimiki.

The Trades Award, also sponsored by Enaadmaagehjik, is presented to a student with the highest achievement in a trades-related course. The 2022-2023 recipient was Brannon

Wassengeso.

The Hairstyling and Aesthetics Award, sponsored by Shears to a New You, is presented to a student with the highest achievement in a Hairstyling and Aesthetics course. The 2022-2023 recipient was Hailey Trudeau.

The Life Skills Class Participation Award, sponsored by Wikwemikong Community Living, is presented to a student in the Life Skills class with the best participation throughout the year. The 2022-2023 recipient was Indiana Flamand-Pitawanakwat.

The Manitoulin Fine Arts Association Award is presented to a graduate who demonstrates interest and skill in art. The 2022-2023 recipient was Stella Flamand.

The Grade 9 Native Language Award, sponsored by Peggy Pitawanakwat and Bernie Brant, is presented to a student with the highest achievement in a Grade 9 Native Language Course. The 2022-2023 recipient was Hudson Jocko.

The Wikwemikong Heritage Organization Award is presented to a student who demonstrates excellent skill and technique in all art forms. The 2022-2023 recipients were Junior: Hope Eshkibok and Senior: Brianna Mishibinjima.

The First Nations Studies Award, sponsored by the Wikwemikong Heritage Organization, is presented to a student with the highest achievement in a First Nations Studies course. The 2022-2023 recipient was Landon Meade-Pangowish.

The Anishnaabemowin Award, sponsored by the Wikwemikong Heritage Organization, is presented to a student who demonstrated achievement and fluency in a Native Lan-

guage course. The 2022-2023 recipients are Intermediate: Hudson Jocko and Senior: Janelle Dokum.

The Mathematics Scholar Awards, sponsored by the Wikwemikong Health Centre, are presented to students with the highest achievement in each grade level for Mathematics. The 2022-2023 recipients are Grade 9: Oksana Nootchitai, Grade 10: Landon Meade-Pangowish and Grade 11: Cadence Aibens.

The Wiikwemkoong Board of Education English Scholar Awards, sponsored by the Wiikwemkoong

ble contribution to the Land-Based Learning Program. The 2022-2023 recipient: is Aiden Neganegijig-Ballyk.

The Little Current Royal Canadian Legion Award, Branch 177, is presented to a graduate student pursuing post-secondary education. The 2022-2023 recipient is Aiden Neganegijig-Ballyk.

The Environment and Resource Management Awards, sponsored by Wikwemikong Tech Services, is presented to a student with the highest achievement in the Environment and Resource Management

Science Awards, sponsored by the Anishinabek Nation, are presented to students with the highest achievement in a science course. The 2022-2023 recipients were: Grade 9, Aaliyah Osawamick-Scarlett; Grade 10, Jasmine Staruck and Senior; Aiden Neganegijig-Ballyk.

The Parent Council Attendance Awards, sponsored by the Wiikwemkoong High School Parent Council are presented to a student in each grade with the best attendance throughout the year. The 2022-2023 recipients are: Grade 9, Brady Recollet; Grade 10, Andrew Tabachak; Grade 11, Blaine Naokwegijig; and Grade 12, Stella Flamand.

Academic Excellence Awards, sponsored by the Wiikwemkoong chief and council, are presented to students with the highest overall grade average in each grade. The 2022-2023 recipients were: Grade 8, Ava Wakegijig; Grade 9, Hudson Jocko; Grade 10, Jasmine Staruck; Grade 11, Amelia Osawanimiki; and



Students, staff and families gathered at the awards ceremony and gala.

Board of Education, are presented to students with the highest achievement in English courses at each level. The 2022-2023 recipients were: Junior, Julia Wemigwans; Intermediate, Amelia Osawanimiki; and Senior, Julia Wemigwans.

The Manitoulin Expositor Award is presented to a student in the workplace pathway with the highest achievement in a Workplace English Course. The 2022-2023 recipient is Haley Manitowabi-Trudeau.

The Mnamaadawin Physical Education Awards, sponsored by Mnamaadawin Active Living Studio, are presented to students with the highest achievement in Healthy Active Living courses for each grade level.

The 2022-2023 recipients were: Grade 9 girls, Emma Recollet; Grade 9 boys, Hudson Jocko; Grade 10 girls, Aaliyah Osawamick-Scarlett; Grade 10 boys, Hudson Jocko; and Senior, Isabella Manitowabi.

The Co-operative Education Award, sponsored by the Andrew Manitowabi Group, is presented to a student with the highest achievement in the Co-operative Education Program. The 2022-2023 recipient was Amelia Osawanimiki.

The Manitoulin Nature Club Bursary, sponsored by the Manitoulin Nature Club, is presented to a student who has made a tangi-



A table of awards awaits distribution to the hard-working recipients.

course. The 2022-2023 recipient was Dakota Mishibinjima.

The Ross Trudeau Memorial Creative Award, anonymously sponsored, is presented to a student who demonstrates achievement in a music or art course. The 2022-2023 recipient was Jasmine Staruck.

The Mooseguy Memorial land-based Award, also sponsored anonymously, is presented to a graduate who shows interest in Land-Based Learning. The 2022-2023 recipient was Dorral Recollet.

The Mackenzie Nodin Peltier Award, sponsored by Jillian and Lanny Peltier and family, is presented to a student who demonstrates resilience and perseverance. The 2022-2023 recipient was Stella Flamand.

The Anishinabek Nation

Grade 12, Ben Lewis.

An honour song performed by Lisa Osawamick and Warrior Kweok closed out the awards, followed by congratulatory remarks from Wikwemkoong Board of Education portfolio holder Marcia Trudeau-Bomberly. Education Director Maureen Peltier then delivered her remarks praising the student's accomplishments.

The organizing committee for the awards night and gala were Candi Cheechoo, Erika Kaboni, Valerie O'Leary, Jillian Peltier and Krista Ziemanis. The board, staff and students offered a g'chi-miigwetch to all of the awards and gala sponsors and to the Wiikwemkoong High School maintenance staff.

The evening concluded with staff and students dancing the night away.



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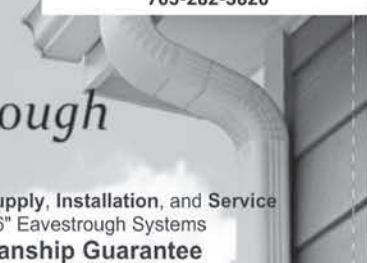
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real estate

House for sale, duplex with bonus self-contained granny flat. All suites with private decks, well maintained and clean. Upper suite is 1,700 square feet with three large bedrooms, lower suite has one bedroom with a one bedroom self-contained granny flat complete with bathrooms and kitchens, three fridges, stoves, washer and dryer. Beautiful yard with fire pit. Minutes away from beach, excellent fishing, horseback riding, ferry and golf. Let tenants pay your mortgage or housing solution for extended family needing housing. Call 705-210-0233, will text pictures to you. Located on Manitoulin Island. **29-31p**

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**

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**

The Little Shoppe around the Corner at Knox Church in Manitowaning has now closed for the season. Thank you to all our customers and we will see you in the spring! **31p**



Attention Skiers and Snowshoers
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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 1-888-4AI-Anon (1-888-425-2666, M-F, 8 am - 6 pm ET) http://www.al-anon.org. For meetings including electronic in Northern Ontario go to OntarioNorthAl-Anon.com. Please note the only Alateen meetings available in Northern Ontario are on a mobile app. Look for the app under Al-Anon Family Groups. **Tfn**

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

coming events

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**

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**

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**

A Christmas Eve Service will be held at St. Andrew's By the Sea United Church in South Baymouth at 7 pm on Sunday, December 24 and at Knox United Church in Manitowaning at 9 pm. Knox United Church will also have its fourth week of Advent service at the regular time of 10 am on Sunday, December 24. All are welcome to attend these services. **31p**

in memoriam

SMITH—In loving remembrance of Wilheimina J. Smith (Eadie) April 15, 1936 to December 18, 2005. Love Leaves a Memory Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed and very dear. For death leaves a heartache, No one can heal. And love leaves a memory No one can steal. Forever loved, Daughter, Marilyn **31p**

thank you

Card of thanks
 Amanda Albrecht and her family would like to thank you all for your support and kindness since her double-lung transplant. Thanks to those who organized, helped and supported the fundraiser brunch, bake sale and silent auction held for her in Tehkummah. Also thank you to those who helped out in any other way. It is all greatly appreciated. God bless you all. **31p**

personal

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

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, bnannc@gmail.com. Ask us your questions, tell us your concerns. **Tfn**

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SCAN ME!

...Now and Then: Leonard St. Louis

...continued from page 5 later. New Year's day was an occasion for another feast. Mom served a large goose or two smaller ones instead of turkey. Mom was always very busy raising the family and Dad would always be tasked with the grocery shopping on Friday nights on his way home from work. On Saturday mornings he would be off again with some of us in tow, to go to a favourite butcher shop to buy meat and fish for the week, a routine that went on for many years."

"In 1956, when I was six,

we were moved south to the St. Edmonds School in Applewood Acres area among apple orchards. For Grades 7 and 8 we went to St. Alfred's School further north, literally amid an apple orchard. Leonard and Lorne also took over older brother Bernard's paper route for The Toronto Star when Bernard got allergies and asthma. "The route stretched from Highway 27 to Dixie Road and included a trailer park development land owned by the Pallett family on the north side of Dundas Hwy. We delivered

the Toronto Star newspapers strapped to a rack on the back of our bikes and every Saturday we had to collect the money and that was always a challenge. A common refrain was come back next week."

Many summers, weekends and after school were spent working for Pleasant View Farms owned by the Pallett family. I worked for the princely sum of 30 cents per hour. They had a large orchard growing several varieties of pears, apples, cherries, and plum trees that had to be pruned, sprayed, and picked. Chickens in the barn had to be fed, watered, and straw added for bedding. Eggs had to be collected and manure removed. Often, we would wash the eggs held in large metal baskets in a special heated tub, candle the eggs for defects and package them for sale. We would load the truck up and travel the egg route on Saturdays, selling potatoes, carrots, apples,



The St. Louis family Hermeus, Mary, front center and Albert, Leonard's dad, front row far left.

pears, plums and live chickens from the back of the truck. Unfortunately, we had to break the chicken's necks when they were sold to the customers."

"They also ran a farm supply business for the local fruit farmers in the area. This included wooden and cardboard pint berry boxes, bushel fruit baskets for harvesting the crops, spray chemicals, fertilizers,

shovels, rakes, guns, nails, nuts and bolts, fence wire, bird and animal feed, seeds, seed potatoes, eggs, and about anything a general store would have available. They had many rental tenants living on the property."

"Saturdays was garbage collection day, using an old tractor and trailer. We disposed of everything at the dump on the property as there were no environmen-

started to work at the local Shell garage. I had enough of school at that time. I began my Auto Mechanic Apprenticeship, pumping gas, driving the tow truck and weekends at another local Shell gas station in Summerville. Meanwhile my twin brother Lorne had finished high school and he urged me to go back to school. I acquiesced and started in a general business program at Sheridan College with the first introduction of community colleges in Brampton and later Oakville. I started late in the school year and Lorne tutored me with an arrangement he made on my behalf with the registrar. I was able to do this only with his encouragement and help. I graduated from the program with an Honours Diploma in 1972. I am forever in his debt."

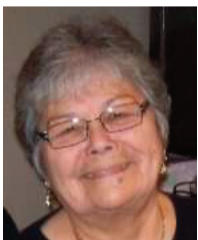
"After graduation, I joined Lorne when I was accepted and registered in a General Arts program at St. Jerome's College at the Uni-

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Death Notices

MARY GRACIE PICHINS MCGREGOR
June 9, 1942 - December 10, 2023



In loving memory of Mary Gracie McGregor, of Whitefish River First Nation who walked through the Western Doorway in the early morning hours of December 10, 2023, to journey to the stars. She passed peacefully and surrounded in love at the Manitoulin Health Centre at the age of 81. Mary Gracie was born in Wikwemikong. She worked in the Manitowaning Hospital and later at the hospital in Little Current. She was a court worker for N'Swakamok Friendship Centre for many years before reluctantly retiring at age 75. She loved her job and the people she worked with. Mary Gracie loved to create treasures for her family. She made quilted blankets, beadwork, knitted socks, sewed home accessories, dance regalia and created jewellery. She was a wonderful seamstress who sewed most of the clothes without a pattern. She also loved to fish, often outcatching whoever was on the boat with her! Mary Gracie was involved in the community for many years. She was on Band Council in the '60s. She was a tireless fundraising volunteer for St. Gabriel Lalemant Church as well as sitting on Parish Council for many years. She leaves her children Lucy Ann (Don W. Trudeau) Donna (Patty), Don (Sandra) and Gail (Kiki) (Stephen Pelletier) to mourn her passing. Also left to grieve are her grandchildren Donnelly, Kigen, Akeshia, Paskwamoostoois, Donald (Little Man), Arran, Anthony, Kihwi, Kiana and Waasnodekwens. She was Chi Mama to Aanimikwam and Kieston. Mary Gracie is also survived by her sisters Medora (Don) Hicks, Joy (Gordon) Gauvureau and brothers David (Susan) and Ronald Manitowabi and brother-in-law Peter (Sue) McGregor. She leaves behind many nieces, nephews and cousins with whom she fostered special relationships. Mary Gracie also leaves to mourn, her very many special friends whom she considered as family. She will be sadly missed by James McGregor, her companion of 20 years and in recent days they were happily united in the sacrament of matrimony and his children Harold (Linda), Gerry (Cathy) and Colleen. We would be remiss not to mention her other boys, M'Koons and Milo. She was predeceased by her husband Donald McGregor. She was also predeceased by her parents David and Agatha (nee Mendoshkong) Manitowabi, sisters Catherine Manitowabi, Shirley McKay and Veronica Jacko and her brother Peak Manitowabi Sr. She was also predeceased by her Mother-in-law Victoria McGregor, sisters-in-law, Mary Jacko, Estelle Cywink, Colleen Font, Lillian McGregor, Violet Bonadio, Olive and Shirley McGregor and brothers-in-law Robert and Alan McGregor. She rested at the Whitefish River Community Centre at 10:30 am on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. Funeral mass was celebrated at St. Gabriel Lalemant on Thursday, December 14 at 11 am, Father Mark officiating with interment that followed in the Birch Island Cemetery. Arrangements by Bourcier Funeral Home Ltd. Espanola.

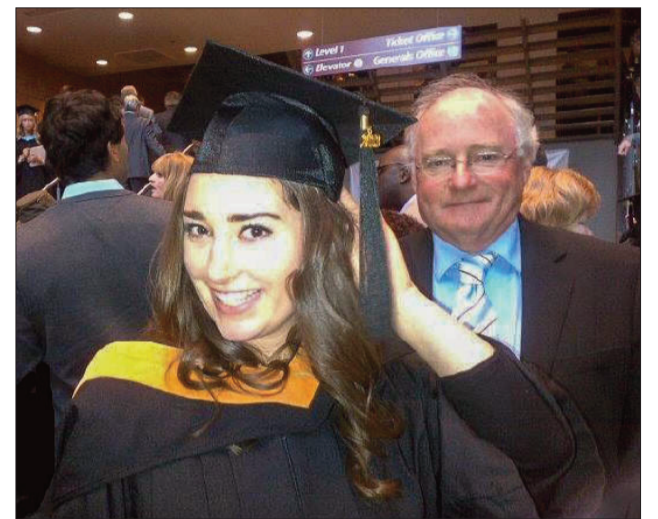
HOWARD LINLEY

January 21, 1931 - December 11, 2023



Howard passed away peacefully surrounded by family at his residence in Copper Cliff, December 11, 2023 at age 92. Born to Margaret (née Dinsmore) and William Linley of Gordon Township, Manitoulin Island. Deeply missed by his wife Lois (née Johnston), his children Jennifer Machum (Mike Machum, predeceased), Margaret Linley (Miguel Mota), John Linley (Lucy, née Mohan), Angie Linley (Nick Morgan); his grandchildren Jessica, Rebecca, Savannah, Josh, Dahna, Deidra, Serena, Fergus, Soren, and Zidene; and his great-grandchildren Molly, Spencer, Seth and Samuel. He is survived by his sisters Evelyn (Jack) and Judy (Weldon), and predeceased by his siblings Albert (Jean), Arthur (Lottie), Lois (Delbert), Janice, Edward (Jane) and Lyle (survived by June). Howard eventually became a stationary engineer with Rio Algom and before that held many different positions, including as a constable on the Copper Cliff Police Force. He was a remarkably fit and strong man. He played and coached hockey well into middle age, he loved to hunt, and he raised beef cattle on the family farm. He was an avid sports fan, cheering on the Toronto Maple Leafs and Toronto Blue Jays to the bitter end. He also thoroughly enjoyed sudoku and reading. Howard loved his family and spent many happy times on the farm at Kagawong with family and friends. We will remember him as a kind and generous man with a sharp intelligence and a great sense of humour. The Celebration of Life was held at Bryston's in the Park, Copper Cliff, Wednesday, December 13, 2023. Internment to be held at Kagawong Cedars Cemetery, Manitoulin, in the spring. Donations may be made to the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, Sudbury Branch, 435 Notre Dame, Suite 101, Sudbury, ON, P3C 5K6, info@chhasudbury.com or the charity of your choice.

Memorial donations are gratefully appreciated and can be made at the admitting office to the auxiliaries of the Manitoulin Health Centre and the Renovation Fund in both Mindemoya and Little Current and the Gore Bay Manitoulin Lodge Auxiliary Incorporated, 3 Main Street, Gore Bay, Ontario, P0P 1H0 and the Manitoulin Centennial Manor Fundraising or Manor Auxiliary, Postal Bag 460, 10 Robinson Street, Little Current, Ontario, P0P 1K0. Donations can also be made to the Manitoulin District Cenotaph Fund, Box 656, Little Current, Ontario P0P 1K0 or Pet Save Manitoulin, Box 393, Gore Bay, Ontario P0P 1H0.



Audrey and Dad at the UOIT graduation June 6, 2013.

tal regulations then. After school, I would feed, water, and bed a few beef cattle on the property. After my 16th birthday I was tasked with driving old stake trucks with farm materials back and forth to other family-owned farms south of Lake Simcoe with stops in Mount Albert and other locations."

Cutting roadside grass with a tractor and mower in the Mississauga, Port Credit and Lorne Park areas was a job Leonard took on in his mid-teens. "I didn't have my driver's licence yet, but I could drive a tractor from job to job. The following year Bernie, my older brother took me to an auction in Schomberg where my anxious bids finally won a new blue Ford 2000 tractor. Later I purchased a John Deere rotary mower attachment to do custom mowing."

"My Dad co-signed my loan with the St. Patrick's Credit Union and I was in my first business venture. The noxious weeds on the side of the road and vacant lots had to be cut as designated by municipal regulation in Peel County. In the winter, I added a front-end loader for snowplowing for neighbours and for a nearby, small industrial park."

High school for Leonard was the new St. Applewood Heights Secondary School for Grades 9 and 10. Grade 11 was at Gordon Graydon Secondary School. "After that I left school for a while and

continued to learn more about auto mechanics concurrently returning to auto mechanics work and attending Centennial College in Scarborough for basic, intermediate and advanced automotive programs. The best part at Waterloo was living in residence with my brother who was already attending one year before me."

"I got to meet our lifelong friends and my future wife, Dianne MacTaggart while I was there two for years and one summer. My twin brother went on to the University of Western Ontario to earn an MBA. I graduated from Waterloo with a Bachelor of Arts. I found work, returning to auto mechanics at a Ford Dealership and soon applied for a job teaching auto mechanics and small engine repair at the Orangeville District Secondary School. I was hired on a special Ministry Letter of Permission prior to attending teachers' college."

In 1975, Leonard and Dianne were married in Sarnia. Dianne was a truly remarkable teacher of Junior Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grade 1 for 39 years in Dufferin County. They would have one daughter, Audrey, who is a very capable nurse consultant in private healthcare in Toronto. That year, January 1975, the Orangeville District High School also took Leonard on after he was accepted at Queen's University for their new Techno-

...continued on page 27

...Now and Then: Leonard St. Louis

...continued from page 26
logical Education Internship Program.

He would be in a 'probationary' period in the many shops at their high school teaching Grades 9-12. "It was a conundrum at first as I needed a job to get into the Internship program at Queen's University and also needed acceptance from the Internship program to get a job. Following an interview in Toronto I was accepted at Queen's to the first internship program under the technological education umbrella which included many other trade programs too. I would attend classes

for many shops including automotive, woodworking, electronics, computer drafting graphics design and printing, photography, commercial foods kitchen, and cosmetology and hair design. This program was the largest of all the technological programs in the school board and represented a major change in the system and opportunities for the students."

"I hired many people to do the work and spent much time ensuring that all the details were looked after so the students would have a seamless experience." He completed his teaching



Lorne, first row far left, and Len in their Grade 1 photo at St. Patrick's Elementary School at Dundas and Dixie Road in Mississauga.



Leonard St. Louis at the Arctic Ocean sign in Tuktoyaktuk, NWT.

in the summer from June to late August and during March break and work teaching in the school system the rest of the year. I also worked on cars when I had some spare time." After two years of teaching, Leonard wrote a 12-hour exam which included six hours of a practical, hands-on component. He came away with a Bachelor of Education from Queen's University.

He passed Automotive Technician Trade exam with distinction in Toronto which gave him a Class 'A' Automotive Technician Inter-Provincial Standing Certificate with a Red Seal in this field. Leonard went on to get his M.Ed. (Master's in Education) at Brock University in St. Catharines. After that, he earned an Honours Technological Specialist Certification and Principal's Course Qualification. Lastly, he earned Supervisory Officers Program Certificate, a Ministry of Education program.

Orangeville High School took Leonard on for part-time administrative duties, in training, essentially working as a Vice-Principal. He changed schools a few times coming to Applewood Heights where he had attended Grades 9 and 10, and then moved to Brampton North Park Secondary School and finally, St. Thomas Aquinas High School, part of the Dufferin-Peel Separate School Board system.

"This proved to be the most challenging leadership role as Technological Education Director. A new school was being opened, with a large technological program. It started with 42 portables in the yard and transformed, in time, to a new three-story school. It was my responsibility to put together the technological program for the students Grade 9-12, developing facilities, purchasing equipment, and hiring staff

career as an education officer with the Ministry of Education Curriculum Assessment Policy Branch at 900 Bay Street in Toronto.

"On the home front in 1979, Dianne and I bought a 100-acre farm in Mono Twp. We built a new home and outbuildings and took down the original century home. A neighbour still uses our land to grow hay, soybeans, red wheat and canola. We manage to keep things clean, tidy and trees trimmed. I still do automotive repairs in a small shop at our farm. The shop is in a small building that was part of a display at a plowing match. We took it down and rebuilt it on the farm. It houses our tools and the farm tractor."

Leonard has been active in politics mostly at the provincial and federal levels of government for many years. "My first campaign was in 1984 in the riding of Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Simcoe, a huge rural geographic area, Prime Minister John Turner was leader of the Liberal party and seeking to win his first national election as prime minister. I think he would have made a great prime minister." In 1985 Leonard sought the Liberal nomination for Dufferin-Caledon provincial electoral district. "At that time David Peterson was Liberal Premier of Ontario seeking to be reelected. There were seven candidates in the running to win the Liberal nomination in Dufferin-Caledon electoral district. It was a long and a difficult race especially while I was teaching full time."

Following Dalton McGuinty's time as Premier of Ontario Leonard worked and supported Kathleen Wynne and attended her leadership win at Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto. "All of these races were exciting times to be involved while taking a civic responsibility to

ensure that our province and country is led by capable, caring, and competent people. I have tried to do my part. In 2015, I participated in the campaign when Justin Trudeau was elected as Canada's 23rd Prime Minister of Canada. I travelled to Rideau Hall for Justin's swearing-in ceremony and the presentation of his first cabinet, a first to appoint equally 50 percent women and 50 percent men. It was an honour to meet and speak with Justin and Sophie Trudeau on that beautiful day, November 4, 2015."

Were you named after anyone? "Yes, Herman St. Louis, my grandfather. Herman is my middle name. He raised a family of 10 children, my father Albert was the youngest, with my grandmother Mary Philomine Hagan in Massey, Victoria Mines, Whitefish and Sudbury."

Favourite family holiday? "We often did family travelling and camping, all 10 of us in the 1963 Ford Country Squire Station wagon, at Naughton, Sudbury and many provincial Parks such as Killbear, Kilarney, Gogama, Grand Bend. In 1967 we attended Expo '67 in Montreal."

Favourite television show? "I am a news junkie both locally and internationally. I enjoy the history channel and some comedies and dramas."

Favourite sport? "I played broomball at university, snow skiing in Utah, Banff and Whistler, water skiing on Lake Muskoka and golf in many places."

What are your strengths? "Teaching auto mechanics, renovations, research, carpentry, electrical work, plumbing and genealogy are my main strengths. In 1983 and 1984 I built our home on the farm. Later I helped Lorne build a cottage in Muskoka, and many other home additions and renovation projects for family members. The family research began in 1998."

Travels you are enjoying now? "We spent a month in Florida at 'Legends,' a gated golf community twice now. In March we will be there for the third time. I have travelled to Austria as a teenager to ski. We met Royals William and Catherine, now Prince and Princess of Wales, in Yukon Territory and made an adventurous trip past the Arctic Circle to Tuktoyaktuk, NWT at the Arctic Ocean. We made several trips to Vancouver, PEI and Nova Scotia. Dianne has done more international travelling to Portugal,

Belgium, The Netherlands and England with our daughter Audrey and her sister-in-law, a doctor."

What did you enjoy most as a parent? "Family is especially important to us both, it has been a joy to see Audrey grow and succeed." Audrey a graduate of UOIT in Bachelor of Nursing and Science is a very experienced RN. She is creative, dedicated, thoughtful and independent. She demonstrates great leadership and makes good decisions and we are truly blessed to have her. She is very helpful and connected to her cousins and loves to travel."

Associations you were involved with? "I sat on the Dufferin County Housing Authority Board for several years and had several consecutive political appointments. I ran for the Liberal Party a couple of times and supported both John Turner and Justin Trudeau with their campaigns. I support-

ing on my heels. I had L2 and L3 burst fractures and nerve damage. It took me a year to heal."

If you could go back in time is there anything you would do differently? "I would try to relax more, but I seem to need to stay busy too."

Recipe for happiness? "Be fair, work hard, help others and take time for yourself with time to reflect."

Anyone who inspired you? "Both my parents provided great strength enduring today. Albert, my dad, was hard working, clever, resourceful, determined, caring, with strong values and was civic minded, a leader in our neighbourhood and community. He loved learning languages, travel, music and politics. He was voting delegate in Ottawa in 1968 when Pierre Trudeau was elected to the Liberal Leadership. He instilled my interest in politics with a



Leonard St. Louis and future Prime Minister John Turner during the 1984 election campaign.

ed many other local candidates in their campaign pursuits for elected office. Recently I worked for Bonnie Crombie for the Ontario Liberal leadership campaign. Bonnie won!"

What are you most afraid of? "Mostly snakes and heights are challenging. In 1988, I fell from a bank barn roof in Angus. I was there cutting weeds with the tractor and at the end of the day decided to check the barn steel roof as it needed replacing. I climbed the ladder and scrambled far up the roof before I realized just how steep the slope was. I slipped, slid off, land-

goal to making things better in the community. He practiced and played the violin at home and at parties. Everyone loved my mother, Annabelle. She made friends easily because she was gentle, kind, caring, fun, classy and organized and gave of herself endlessly. Annabelle's cursive writing, memory and recall was truly amazing. Even with a family of eight children she made time for everyone, welcomed boarders and guests into her home. She loved people, parties, and dancing."

"My mother-in-law Mary Jeanne MacTaggart was a

caring, comforting, hard-working, genuine individual, welcoming, funny, a terrific listener with an infectious laugh. Mary Jeanne held firm values with unwavering faith. I have worked with about a dozen different principals in my education career and only three stood out for me, Gary Murray, a classy competent guy with his finger on the pulse. He was sincere, and a terrific orator and great leader. Another was Bridget Harrison, a stellar individual and leader, a straight shooter, very experienced, proactive and responsive at Applewood Heights SS. Lastly, Lorne Howcroft, a respectful person who was all in, one hundred percent for the kids. He was fearless and able to take principled stands on issues with amazing credibility."

"I recall coming to Manitoulin and Sudbury as a child. One trip in the mid 1960s on the Norisle was particularly rough. We were travelling with our camper trailer to visit my Dad's family. Only Dad kept his WWII sea legs. The rest of us were very sick. Dad arranged a berth on the ferry, but I found myself on the deck, lying in the chilly rain. We wound up driving to Sudbury in the dark," Leonard continues.

"I came back to Manitoulin to do genealogy research in 2018. Dianne and I stayed in a big house, with a large verandah, for a few days. It was a great bed and breakfast in Central Manitoulin. We did our research in the Central Manitoulin town office. We also went to Gore Bay to the lands titles office. We drove around and saw the Purvis whitefish tubs being loaded from the fishing boat onto trucks to be taken to the processing plant. A side trip was made to Massey where part of our family, the Bissons, and the Hagans had lived and worked. We came back in 2019 to do more genealogy research on the Island."

"Manitoulin has always been a focal point because of the ancestors who lived here. This year I came back for the Michael's Bay picnic that celebrated our early pioneers, those who came here to start a new life. Manitoulin is serene and quiet, a diamond in the rough. I love the scenery and the Providence Bay Beach. We had an enjoyable dinner in the Providence Bay School House in 2019. At the Gore Bay Museum, we heard that a script had been written and an attempt was being made to make it into a movie to tell the story about the Dodge heir and his tragic death while on his honeymoon."

"In summer of 2023 on the Island, it was like going back in time when I walked into Ward's Store in Tehkummah. I enjoyed the rustic atmosphere and a good conversation with Ross Ward. He was an elementary teacher in Wiikwemikoong for many years. I also saw three beautiful deer crossing the 2nd Concession Road on the recent trip. We look forward to returning again to visit a neighbour who has a place on Manitoulin and to attend

Graduates and staff celebrate at Kenjgewin Teg's awards ceremony

by Jacqueline M. St.Pierre,
LJI Reporter

LITTLE CURRENT—In a heartwarming celebration of achievement and dedication, Kenjgewin Teg recently hosted its awards ceremony at the Manitoulin Conference Centre on December 5. The event brought together graduates, faculty, presenters and families to honour outstanding accomplishments and commemorate the invaluable contributions made by individuals within the community.

A poignant highlight of the ceremony was the recognition bestowed upon graduates through the In Memoriam awards presented by families of community members who have passed away. These awards were a testament to the graduates' academic excellence and personal achievements, emphasizing their lasting impact on the community, dedication to Anishinaabe culture and the attainment of personal milestones.

Brenda Francis, director of human resources at Ken-



The Ryan Jones Memorial Award was presented to Kino-Maage Gimaa (president) Elizabeth Peltier.

Kenjgewin Teg, led the event as the emcee, guiding the proceedings that featured a keynote address by Giselle McGregor, an esteemed alumna from the Whitefish River First Nation. Ms. McGregor shared her transformative journey toward becoming an Anishinaabe culture-based educator, attributing her success to her education at Kenjgewin Teg.

The ceremony recognized the following students for their remarkable achievements:

Kenjgewin Teg Board of Directors, Declan Allison; The Kim Corbiere Mino Bmaadziwin Memorial Bursary, Jesse Cachene; Charles Shawanda Memorial Award, Melissa



A drum ceremony honours the award recipients during the Kenjgewin Teg Awards ceremony.



Kenjgewin Teg president presents a 10-year appreciation award to Amy Debassige.

Jacko; Sara Peltier Memorial – Educational Excellence, Austin Pangowish; Lloyd Debassige Memorial Award, Darryl Enosse; Ryan Jones Memorial Award, Elizabeth Peltier; Kino-Maage Gimaa (President), Krista Payette; Lewis Debassige Memorial Award - Kenjgewin Teg Leadership, Iosefo Taukei.

The Board Awards went to the following students: Whitefish River First Nation, Krista Payette; Sheguiandah First Nation, Darryl Enosse; Sheshegwaning, Tyler Lewis; Aundeck Omni Kaning, Austin Pangowish; M'Chigeeng, Trinity Grenier; Zhiibaahaasing, Dakota Hare; Constance Lake, Charlene Sagon; Sagamok, Steven Fox-Radulovich; Brian Bisson-Baa Memorial Award, Charlie Halverson; Martin Bayer Award, Christopher Spong; Glen Crawford Award – Embracing your Educational Journey, Lynnette Ominika.



Kenjgewin Teg president presents a five-year appreciation award to Melanie Francis.

Additionally, accolades were bestowed upon dedicated staff members who have shown exemplary commitment to cultural education and unwavering support for both past and present students.

The Kenjgewin Teg Employee Recognition Program, designed to acknowledge and reward staff for their unwavering dedication and contributions to the organization's success, celebrated these outstanding staff members: Distinguished Service Award, Joanna Panamick – Lifelong Learning Team Assistant; Innovation of the Year Award, Robin Anderson – Marketing and Communications Specialist; Outstanding Service to Education Award, Adam Kastoff - Literacy and Basic Skills Assistant/IT Support Technician.

The Employee Recognition Program aims to spotlight significant achievements that benefit the organization. An Employee Recognition Committee, comprising representatives from various areas of Kenjgewin Teg, meticulously reviewed employee contributions, nominations, and affiliations to select the deserving recipients of these prestigious awards.

The ceremony served as a poignant tribute to the collective achievements and unwavering dedication of graduates and staff, underscoring the invaluable impact of education, community support, and cultural preservation at Kenjgewin Teg.

Orr's Valumart fundraises for Sean and Danielle Coleman family's medical expenses

by Michael Erskine
LITTLE CURRENT—When Andrew Orr learned about the challenges being faced by the Coleman family, the owner of the Valumart franchise in Little Current set about doing something to help.

"We are hoping to make it an amazing Christmas for Sean and Danielle Coleman and help Sean recover from his battle with cancer," said Mr. Orr.

Mr. Orr enlisted the aid of Kendra Edwards Design to create a limited edition grocery bag. Design in hand, Mr. Orr commissioned 2,500 of the bags and those bags have now landed at the store in Little Current and are ready for distribution.

"The bags will sell for \$2 and 100 percent of the proceeds will go to helping Sean and Danielle Coleman recover from cancer," said Mr. Orr.

"Sean was diagnosed December 2021 with acute lymphatic leukemia after a 10-year remission from multiple myeloma," noted Ms. Coleman. "After intense chemo/radiation Sean left for Ottawa in the spring of 2022 for his second stem cell transplant."

Treatment completed, Mr. Coleman headed back into the embrace of his loving family on September of that year. He wasn't home long when Mr. Coleman began to feel fatigued and found he was having difficulty walking. Being that he had just returned from a



Sean and Danielle Coleman (seated) and their two sons at home. This will be the first Christmas Mr. Coleman has spent at home with his family since 2020 due to his battle with cancer and other health issues.

long absence from home, Mr. Coleman was not looking forward to the hospital.

Sent to Sudbury, Mr. Coleman was informed that he had an internal shingles virus (varicella zoster) that was causing inflammation in his spine and encephalitis in his brain.

That diagnosis led to a stint in the intensive care unit from September to

December 2022. Although he received "amazing care" from the staff in Sudbury and was discharged the following January 2023, a short time later he was Toronto-bound where he received rehabilitation for the spinal cord injuries. Thanks to those efforts, Mr. Coleman was able to return home in June 2023 and live at home independently.



Orr's Valumart employees join store owner Andrew Orr with samples of the reusable grocery bags that are a fundraiser for the family of Sean and Danielle Coleman. From left are: Alex, Reuben, Mr. Orr, Jacob, Ethan, Christopher and Ken.

Canada may have a national healthcare system, but there are plenty of expenses that remain uncovered when dealing with the kind of health challenges being experienced by the Coleman family.

"This will be the first Christmas Mr. Coleman will spend at home with his wife and two children since 2020," said Mr. Orr as he and a group of Orr's Valumart employees gathered for a promotional photograph for the bags at the front of the store. "It would be a great feeling to write them a cheque for \$5,000

after all they have been through."

The bags feature a silhouette of Manitoulin Island and are emblazoned with the appropriate slogan

photo by Michael Erskine
"Manitoulin Strong." The bags are available for purchase for \$2 at Orr's Valumart in Little Current.

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NEW PRICE

149 Yonge Street, Kagawong
Riverfront Century Home
MLS #2112936, \$429,000




PRICE IMPROVEMENT


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MLS #2112756, \$99,000



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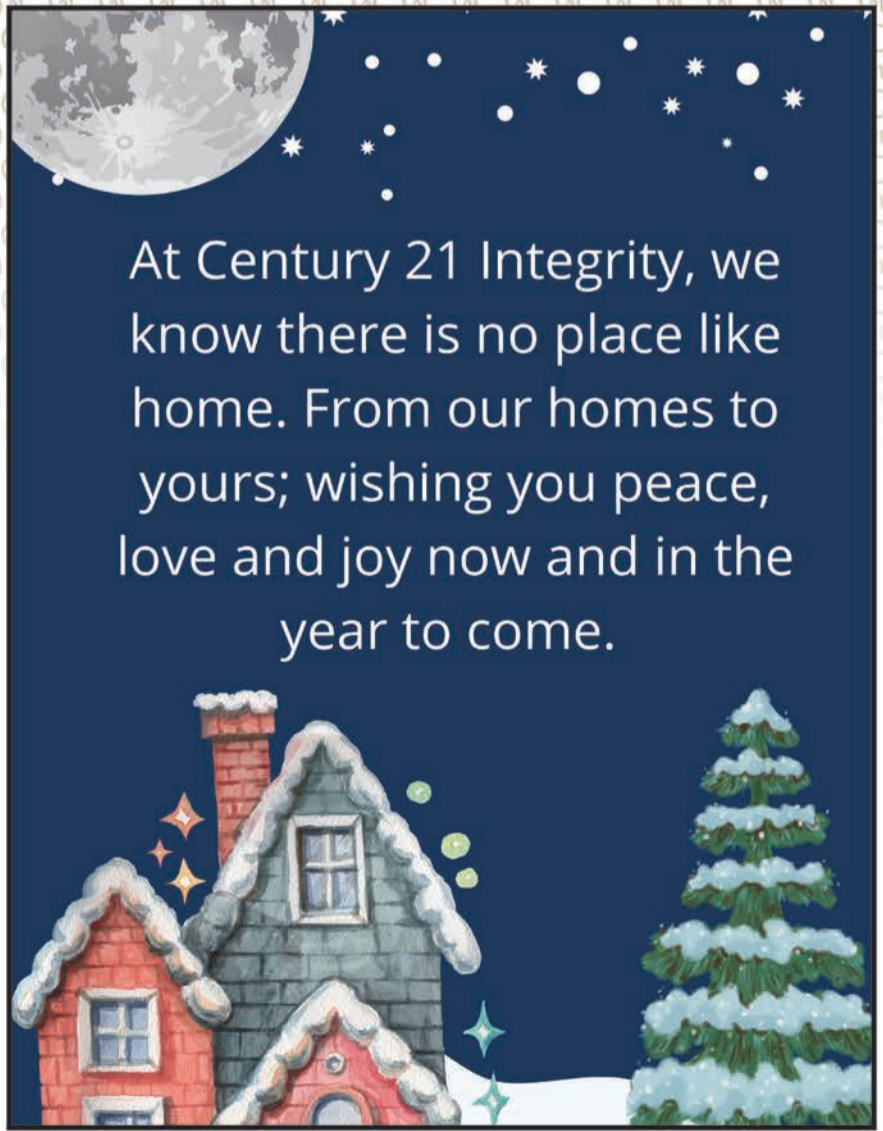
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May this festive season bring you joy, warmth, and cherished moments with your loved ones. As we reflect on the past year, it is clients like ours that have made our journey truly meaningful, and for that, we extend our heartfelt thanks.

In the spirit of gratitude and community, we kindly ask for your support in the form of referrals. If you have friends, family, or colleagues who are considering buying or selling a home, we would be honored to provide them with the same exceptional service that you have experienced.

Your recommendation means the world to us, and we are committed to delivering outstanding results to those you refer.

At The Lewis Team, we believe in the power of relationships, and your trust is the cornerstone of our success.

We look forward to continuing our partnership in the coming year and beyond.

Wishing you a festive holiday season filled with laughter, love, and prosperity.



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Karen Bond
705-497-4006

Corey McCutcheon
705-562-3496

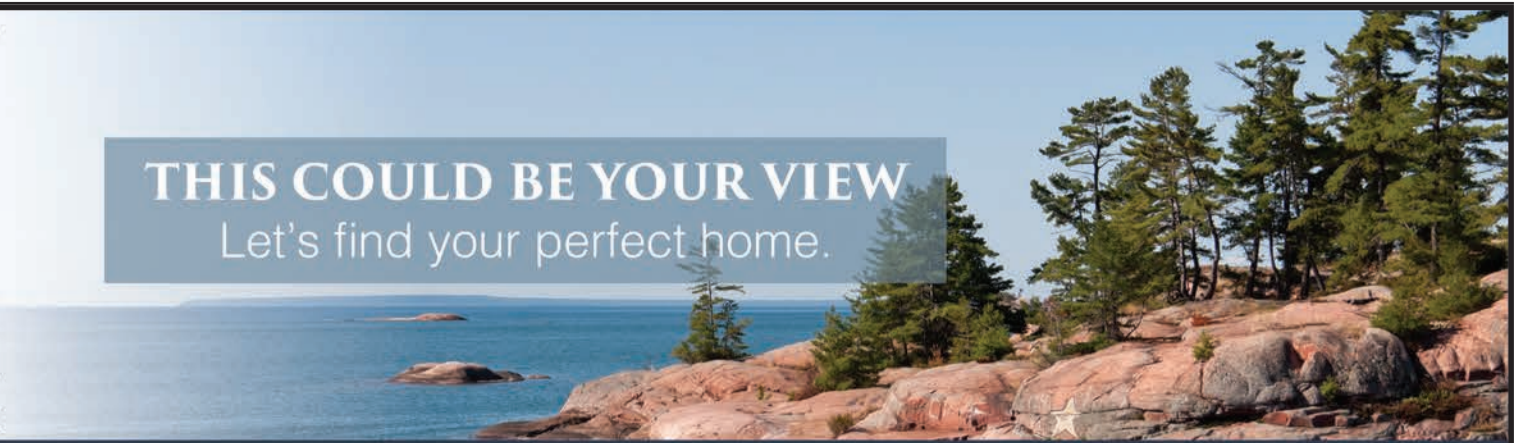
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26 Meredith St E., Little Current

1-800-461-0123 or (705)368-2381



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



Our Gingerbread building contest is back!

Build a dream gingerbread home and enter the 'J.A Rolston Realty's Sweetest Listing' contest! To enter you must take a photo and include a note that states "Looking to buy? Contact J.A Rolston Realty" submit your photo by direct message to our Facebook page.

*Submissions will be open until 11:59pm Christmas Day!
Winner will be announced December 28th 2023,
prizes can be claimed Monday, January 15th, 2024.*

1st prize is \$500!
(\$400 in Visa gift cards and \$100 to a registered Manitoulin charity of the winners choice!)

"Newly frosted roof and gum drop shingles? We'll take it!"



All we want for Christmas is your listing!

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HAPPY
Holidays

FROM BOUSQUET REALTY



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We would like to thank all of our wonderful clients for their continued support!

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Jack

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MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR

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Little Current, Manitoulin Island

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Frosty Cup rules!

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—To say the seventh annual Frosty Cup benefit hockey game had a dramatic ending would be a huge understatement!

In the final game of the tournament, the Pearson team won by a score of 5-4 over the Wiikwemkoong (Peltier) team in the Sportsman's division. But it was how it

The Pearson team included Stu Pearson, Samuel Assinewai, Jordan Trudeau, Hunter Chiblow, Greg Paquet, Niibin Moore, Lukas Abotossaway, Rob James, Steve Green, Wass Nashkama, Ryan Lanktree and Shannon Debassige.

In the 40+ division, the Noland team defeated team Blodgett in a convincing 4-1 win. The Noland team included Tom Flood,



The Pearson team won the Sportsman's division championship at the annual Frosty Cup Benefit hockey tournament, held in Gore Bay this past weekend. The Pearson team won the final game over Wiikwemkoong (Peltier) team by a score of 5-4 in the championship final.



The Underdogs (shown in photo) won the women's division championship at the annual Frosty Cup Benefit hockey tournament held in Gore Bay this past weekend. The Underdogs beat Northern Storm in the championship game 2-0.



The Noland team (shown in photo) won the 40+ division championship, defeating Team Blodgett in the championship game by a score of 4-1.

was won that was so dramatic.

It took two spectacular stops by goalie Shannon Debassige, on penalty shots, after regulation play, to preserve the win for the Pearson team.

Tyler McQuarrie, Bill Slaght, Ryan Stewart, Ken Noland, Phil Makrackin, Tristen Hall, Don Cook, Don McCabe, Travis Orford, Nevin Merrylees, Brad Bailey and

...continued on page 4A

Manitoulin Sporting Life

Ice Chips to Canoe Quips
by Larry and André Leblanc



Indigenous Team Ontario

Reese Shigwadja is suiting up this weekend for Indigenous Team Ontario at the 2023 US Box/Lacrosse Association 'Border Wars Tournament' in Oakville. She will be joined by her sister Mackenzie Shigwadja as trainer. Both girls are proud members of Wikwemikong Unceded Territory.

Mackenzie presently plays attack for the Brock University women's field lacrosse team where she is a captain and leading goal scorer. Mackenzie previously played for Team Ontario in 2017 and 2019, helping her team win Gold and Bronze at Canadian Nationals. She has also played for the Haudenosaunee Nationals field lacrosse team at the Brogden Cup in Maryland in previous years.

Reese currently plays for the Burlington Blaze U17 box lacrosse team who dominated and won their zone finals this season. This summer, she played for Team Ontario at the North American Indigenous Games in Nova Scotia, helping her team capture Silver. Reese also plays for the St. Catharines Athletics U19 team, who won Gold in their provincials this year.

This fall, Reese suited up for Empress Lacrosse in Buffalo as well as the U17 and U19 Haudenosaunee Nationals field lacrosse teams at Brogden Cup in Maryland, playing against the US and Canadian national teams. This winter, she will be headed to California with the Haudenosaunee Selects Jr. team for USBOXLA Nationals.

Both girls are currently training with the Women's Haudenosaunee Nationals team, preparing for the 2024 World Box Lacrosse championships in New York. Wow, what a resume. Good luck, Reese and Mackenzie!

Local player to League Showcase!

Known as the 'Ko Show' by his teammates, Kohyn Eshkawkogan has been selected to one of the top shows of his young playing career. Kohyn was selected (badly mangling his name in the process!) in a streamed, live broadcast of roster announcement for the 2024 GTHL Top Prospects game coming up in the New Year! He is the only Indigenous selected this year and perhaps ever in the game's 13 iterations. The announcement is still on YouTube if you want to check it out.

This is an annual event featuring the League's top Under-16 'AAA' (formerly minor midget) players at that all-important OHL draft age. The game features celebrity coaches from the many GTHL and NHL alumni. The list of event alumni includes current NHL standouts, Connor McDavid, Darnell Nurse, Max Domi, Sean Monahan, Sam Bennett, Tom Wilson and many more.

The game is set for January 17 at the Carnegie Centennial Centre in North York. Tickets are going fast as there are not any sales at the arena and it always sells out! Streaming opportunities are to be announced!

Congratulations.

Lady Panther Points!

This week saw the U-18 Panthers travel to Haileybury on Saturday for one of their Tournament style formats for their league play. In game one of their double-header game against the Temiskaming Shores Puckhounds 'BB' women's team, they were on the wrong side of a 4-2 final but considering their opponents are ranked one level higher, they did fantastic!

Coach Hughson relayed that the girls continue to work very hard and are bringing their newly learned practice skills to the games, so they will continue to make progress towards their year-end goals. A

special shout-out to Gracie Gibson who got the pink hard hat for team MVP for this game as chosen by the coaching staff. Scot added, "Her heart and work ethic are always present!"

In game two, they again found themselves with a learning score of 6-1. Coach Scot explained that, "I say learning because we continue to learn as this season progresses and bring these lessons with us to our upcoming practices. This score is not indicative of the game we played though. It was 3-1 starting the third period but with a short bench due to injuries and a lot of our players just getting better from nasty illnesses, the gas tanks were drained. In my opinion, the first period of this game was the best period of hockey that our girls have played all season."

The team staff are very proud of the way they continue to battle and improve with every game. This game saw Izzy Hughson earn the pink hard hat as chosen by the previous game's recipient. This is their customary practice but since Camaryn Ramsay was unable to attend these games due to injury, the coaching staff picked Gracie in net for game one. Izzy came up with some huge, timely saves early in the game to keep them right in it.

For the double-header, they showed great effort by all the players on Saturday as they battled through sickness, injuries and a long travel day to play some great hockey. Mr. Hughson was very impressed with the team's ability to persevere through all obstacles.

The highlight for this week will be their game against the WTPS (Wiikwemkoong Tribal Police Services) Freeze coming up Thursday (December 21) night in Wikwemikong at 7 pm. Sounds like Mr. Peltier and crew are getting ready for a tough game. Rumour has it that they have bolstered their roster significantly and are even hitting the ice for a practice before the game. It will be the longest night of the year after all, hopefully it doesn't feel that way for the Freeze.

It is going to be a very fun night with some great hockey action, so why not get on out and cheer both teams on? Don't forget that admission is only \$2 or a non-perishable food item, with these items being sent to the Wiikwemkoong Food Bank.

World Junior camp invitee!

Congrats to Michael Buchinger (Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory) of the Guelph Storm (OHL) for being named to Team Canada Selection camp roster for the 2024 IIHF World Junior Championships. Incidentally, scrolling through past rosters of the GTHL Top Prospects game and there is Michael listed for Team Stacey-Primeau-Tucker for the December 2019 game!

Word spreading far of Wicky Tourney!

Gerry Baibomcoway is one through promoter. He is recruiting for a big three division tournament on February 16 - 18. Depending on his all-important conscripting of teams, there is a chance of significant prize money, like \$10,000 based on eight teams in the men's open division. Gerry boasts that, "It is only a seven-hour drive from Val D'Or, Quebec!" An under-22 category has a \$750 entry fee and a chance at a \$2,000 payout. The women's division is looking for six teams at only \$500 a roster to a pot of two grand! Contact Gerry through Facebook.

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

Espanola Paper Kings join in Noojmowin Teg sponge puck tourney program finale

by Michael Erskine
 MANITOWANING—The six-week Noojmowin Teg Health Services program aimed at promoting healthy

activities came to an end December 13 at the Assiginack Arena with a special bonus—four members of the Espanola Paper Kings

came to join in the fun. “We promote physical health to you by providing them with sports and recreation,” said Noojmowin Teg

Healthy Living Youth Program Coordinator Mark Peltier. “I have been doing an after-school sponge puck hockey program for six

weeks. Today is the final session so we brought in some guests today from the Espanola Paper Kings. As you can see, the smiles are

there and everyone is having a good time.” The Espanola Paper Kings ...continued on page 4A



Espanola Paper Kings came to play. Defenceman Spencer Horgan, left, Forward Blake Peters-Davey, program participants Hudson Brock and Chloe Moggy, Noojmowin Teg Healthy Living Youth Program Coordinator Mark Peltier, Defenceman Sean Short and Forward Jack Lynes pause for a photo following the final sponge puck hockey practice at the Assiginack Arena.

photo by Michael Erskine



Participants in the Noojmowin Teg Health Services sponge puck hockey program enjoyed a great session with the Espanola Paper Kings.

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KINA Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services
 Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services (KGCF) is a designated Child Welfare Service delivering Child Protection Services within seven member First Nations in the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin. KGCF 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:

Finance Team Assistant
 Case Aide

Manitoulin Island or Sudbury:

Central Bookings/Reception

CONTRACT positions:

Manitoulin Island or Sudbury:
 Health & Safety Officer

Sudbury:

Full-time Home Cook
 Education Team Lead

Apply to: Human Resources at hr@kgcfs.org and quote the position title in the subject line.

***All postings close on December 29, 2023 at 4pm EST.**

To view the postings and detailed job descriptions, visit our website at:

www.kgcfs.org/employment-opportunities

At KGCF 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.

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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

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 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”

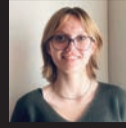
Education Director, M'Chigeeng First Nation,
 P.O. Box 333 M'CHIGEENG, ON P0P 1G0
 Fax (705) 377-4980

LATE OR INCOMPLETE applications will not be considered. Miigwetch for your interest, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Preference will be given to Anishinabek people. www.mchigeeng.ca

For complete job description, please contact Education Department at 705-377-5362 or directorofeducation@mchigeeng.ca

The Christmas countdown is almost over! There are just a couple days left until the Christmas break begins but that does not mean MSS students are not busy. Students are finishing up units, studying for tests and participating in Twelve Days of Christmas events. Additionally, the halls of MSS have been lined with decorations, creating a joyful atmosphere for students

M.S.S. Kids in the Halls



Alexandra Wilson Zegil

to work and celebrate. The Twelve Days of Christmas event happens annually at MSS. When there are just 12 school days left until students leave for Christmas break, the Student Council organizes a festive event every day in collaboration with other


groups in the school. Some of the highlights from this year's Twelve Days of Christmas include: On Tuesday, December 12 the MSS robotics team fired up an old robot – Lyn – and began to drive it around the school during lunch. Accompanying the robot

were Christmas decorations, robotics team members, and most importantly, cookies. Members of the robotics team baked sweets the night before and brought them in to give to students as their robot drove by.



Santa and Mrs. Claus hang out by the display.

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NURSE (FULL-TIME RN & RPN)

Signing bonus, competitive wages, benefits, pension
Manitoulin Centennial Manor

Manitoulin Centennial Manor a 60-bed long-term care facility located in Little Current, Ontario, on beautiful Manitoulin Island.

Reporting to the Director of Care (DOC), the Registered Nurse and Registered Practical Nurse will enhance the effective management and quality of nursing practice in keeping with the Standards of the College of Nurses of Ontario, Long Term Care Standards and Extencicare Standards.

Responsibilities

- Ensure resident care is provided with established nursing standards and principles, physicians' orders and administrative policies, as well as observe, report and record vital signs, symptoms and conditions of residents and initiate remedial health measures where appropriate. Assure observance of required techniques in nursing care.
- Assess residents and develop, implement, review and evaluate resident care plans. Monitor residents' health, note changes in condition and assess need for referral to doctors; process and implement physician orders.
- Organize and direct functions and activities related to provision of care to residents including restorative care and palliative care as required. Interpret and implement established policies, procedures and regulations.
- Plan, direct, supervise and evaluate the work of nursing and personal care staff assigned to the unit. Orient and train new personnel and may participate in in-service education. Monitor performance and conduct performance appraisal and refer problems to the Director of Care.

Interested candidates, please contact:

Sylvie Clark RN, Director of Care
Manitoulin Centennial Manor
Address: 70 Robinson Street, Little Current, ON P0P 1K0
Phone: 705-368-2710 ext. 316 | Fax: 705-368-2694
Email: SClark@extencicare.com



On Wednesday, December 13, two students from Student Council, Anika Smith and Katelyn Shank, dressed up as Mr. and Mrs. Claus and handed out candy to anyone who got a self-

ie with them. The two students brought smiles to several faces with their humorous costumes and attitudes. Additionally, Anika and Katelyn have been painting windows of the school with scenes themed around each day's Twelve Days of Christmas event.



On Thursday, December 14, the musical theatre group hosted a singing contest in the cafeteria. Each participant had to sing a Christmas carol on the spot and if they could not think of a new song to sing, they were out. Students got to

enjoy several rounds of this game, winning prizes each time.

On Friday, December 15 the Student Council invited everyone to decorate a gin-

...continued on page 4A

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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

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

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.



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

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 Fax: (705)285-4532

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

...Espanola Paper Kings join in sponge puck tourney

...continued from page 2A Kings are a Canadian Junior A hockey team based out of Espanola and are members of the Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League. The Paper Kings

play their home games at the Espanola Regional Recreational Complex.

Taking part in the final session were Espanola Paper Kings Defenceman Spencer Horgan, forward Blake Peters-Davey,

Defenceman Sean Short and Forward Jack Lynes. It was hard to determine who was having a better time, the students, the Jr. A players or Mr. Peltier. The on-ice action was fast and furious but the smiles were broad.

"Thanks for having us," said Mr. Short as the players headed off the ice, he and his teammates agreed they were having a great time with the kids.

...Frosty Cup rules!

...continued from page 3A Brad Hawke.

After six consecutive years as champions in the Women's division, Northern Storm was defeated by the Underdogs in the finals.

The Underdogs team included Randi Lovelace, Whittier Gauthier, Hailey Prior, Aysia Debassige, Savannah Cor-

biere, Grace Webb, Kayley Boduc, Lindsay Dantouze, Zena Pregent, Dream Saunders, Abby Smith, Tara Dantouze, Gabby Corbiere and Harmony Kaiser.

There was a total of 16 teams in the tournament.

Both the Gore Bay-Western Manitoulin Rotary Club and the Royal

Canadian Legion Branch 514 were involved in hosting the tournament. The Rotary Club ran the bar at the Gore Bay arena over the weekend and the Legion hosted a Frosty Cup dance on Saturday evening.

The tournament is held each year to raise funds to support a family, individual or group in need

....Kids in the Hall

...continued from page 3A gerbread cookie during lunch. A booth was set up at the front of the cafeteria with icing, sprinkles, candy and cookies. The cookie creations students came up with varied from vampire gingerbread men to festive cookie cats to cozy sweaters.

Some other 'Twelve Days of Christmas' events included, hot chocolate day, ugly sweater day, 'Kahoot' contests, buyouts and a baking

exchange.

Every December, students and teachers decorate their homeroom's door for the Door Decorating contest. This contest harnesses friendly competition to add a touch of winter magic to the halls. Students transform their ordinary classroom doors into cheerful, festive, and humorous holiday scenes. MSS hallways are now lined with doors adorned with wrapping paper, Christmas trees or stockings. The winner of



this year's competition was Ms. Bauer's Grade Eleven University English class with their 3D Christmas mantel. The mantel featured handmade ornaments, twinkling lights, a wreath and a snowglobe, making their door radiate with holiday cheer.

Have a safe and happy holiday, Mustangs!


Until next time, go, Mustangs, go!

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! help wanted

! help wanted

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Children's Community Network
Réseau communautaire pour enfants
is currently seeking a
Mental Health Clinician - Urgent Response Program
for the Sudbury/Manitoulin, Algoma and
Nipissing/ Parry Sound/Muskoka areas
Hybrid work arrangement
Permanent, full-time, 35 hours/week
Salary range: (Bachelors) \$35.73 - \$42.90
(Masters) \$38.59 - \$46.33

The Children's Community Network (CCN) is non-profit agency providing services to children, youth and their families. CCN offers a flexible work environment with a positive, caring and supportive culture. CCN offers professional development opportunities for employees to ensure continued growth and skill building in their roles.

The successful candidate will play a key role in the treatment of individuals diagnosed with Autism who are referred to the Urgent Response Program. They will work with the Urgent Response Coordinator, Behaviour Therapist and family to support the development of a caregiver mediated treatment plan and provide supportive therapy.


The successful candidate will have a Master's degree in social work or one of the helping disciplines (i.e. psychology) and must be registered and in good standing with the college of Social Work or Psychotherapy. Those candidates with an Honours degree may be considered. The successful candidate must have a minimum 5 years' experience developing and implementing behaviour treatment plans and experience working with children/youth with Autism; experience working in a multidisciplinary team, assessment and intervention skills and experience with data collection and analysis. The successful candidate will have knowledge of both theory and the application of systemic interventions, child development, childhood disorders and syndromes, family/individual mental health assessments and intervention. The candidate must be self-motivated and able to work independently.

Exceptional leadership, inter-personal, problem-solving, written and organizational skills are further requirements for this position. Bilingualism is considered an asset.

A valid driver's licence, access to a vehicle and current insurance are required as travel throughout the assigned area, although limited, may be expected. The successful candidate must provide a clear vulnerable sector criminal reference check. The potential candidate will be expected to primarily work from home.

Those interested in this position should send their current resumes to:
Mary-Katherine Howe, Executive Director
Children's Community Network
Tel: (705) 566-3416 ext. 2547
Email: mhowe@ccnsudbury.on.ca
Posted: December 14, 2023 (until filled)

Children's Community Network welcomes and encourages applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations are available on request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. We would like to thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



Children's Community Network
Réseau communautaire pour enfants
is currently seeking a
Child and Youth Worker
for the Sudbury office
Hybrid Work Arrangement
Full Time permanent, 35 hours/week
(includes evenings and weekends)
Salary range: \$23.63 to \$35.11 per hour

The Children's Community Network (CCN) is a non-profit agency that provides services to children, youth and their families. CCN offers a flexible work environment with a positive, caring and supportive culture. CCN offers professional development opportunities for employees to ensure continued growth and skill-building in their roles.

The successful candidate will provide direct care to children and youth with a variety of needs, including developmental and mental health needs, while providing temporary relief to the caregiver. The candidate will provide safe, stimulating and recreational support in the client's home or in the community. They will support the client's growth and development through skill-building in areas of daily living and other areas of need outlined in the client's respite plan. They will provide professional services using a strength-based approach.

The candidate will possess a diploma in Child and Youth Work with a minimum of two years' related experience or an equivalent combination of education and experience. The candidate will have knowledge of child development, childhood disorders and syndromes. They will have a thorough knowledge and ability to apply behavioural intervention strategies, the ability to work both independently and as part of a team, possess exceptional interpersonal and conflict resolution skills, organization and time management skills.

The successful candidate must be willing and able to work evenings and weekends in order to accommodate client needs. A valid driver's licence, access to a vehicle and current insurance are required as travel throughout the assigned area is required. Bilingualism is considered an asset.


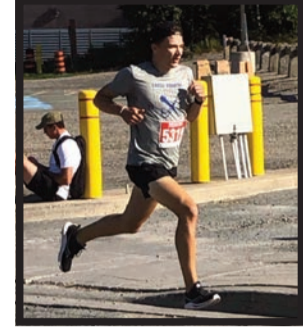

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Manitoulin Secondary School

PLAYER PROFILE

by Mackenzie Green

BRODIE PENNIE

Proud Supporter of our MSS Mustangs

With skates laced, a helmet secured and stick in hand, Brodie can be found making the most of every second he spends on the ice! Off the ice, he can be found lacing up his spikes as he dominates the trails and track. No matter the sport, Brodie consistently brings an element of determination and a competitive drive to his game. Wrapping up his final year at MSS, Brodie has achieved outstanding goals, establishing himself as a fantastic team player and role model for the next generation of Mustangs!

Prior to becoming a Mustang, Brodie was a student at Assinack Public School in Manitowaning. Throughout his elementary school career, Brodie sported the green jersey for the All Stars in a variety of sports. Brodie could be found leading the pack in cross country races and on the track. However, he wasn't limited to running. Brodie also participated on the flag football, basketball, volleyball, soccer and three pitch teams. While balancing a busy school sports season, Brodie also played competitive hockey for the Manitoulin Panthers before returning home to the Manitowaning Wolves where he continued to play minor hockey. As Brodie reflects upon his elementary school years, he recognizes a specific track meet in Sudbury as his favourite memory. Brodie explains that the opportunity to compete against high level competition across the school board was extremely fun.

The first year of Brodie's high school experience was impacted by COVID, limiting athletic opportunities. However, he continued to stay active by running consistently. Despite the wrench COVID threw in Brodie's athletic plans and high school experience, he did not get discouraged as he continued to try new things and find another athletic outlet. Upon return to sports, Brodie became a member of the volleyball team in Grade 9 where he helped his team attend NOSSA.

In his next years of high school, Brodie focused his energy on the sport of cross country and track. In Grade 10, Brodie made his second NOSSA appearance and first at NOSSA cross country, taking the gold. He punched his ticket to NOSSA where he finished in the top group, allowing him to compete on the provincial stage at Lakefield College. Following the cross country season, Brodie had a breakthrough track season, where he placed first in the 800m at NOSSA, qualifying him for OFSAA. In his first year as a senior, he had a dominant cross country and track season, where he won NOSSA cross country as well as the 1500m and took silver in the 800m. This year, Brodie secured the back-to-back win at NOSSA cross country, leading him to his last OFSAA cross country where he placed 23rd in the province. As he waits for track season, Brodie is playing minor hockey to pass the time.


When the warm weather finally forces Brodie to hang his skates up, he quickly swaps his hockey stick for a bike. Brodie enjoys biking around town, swimming and fishing. Brodie can also be found working in his community at the pharmacy in Manitowaning.

When Brodie is not on the go, he is likely in the classroom. Among the various courses he has taken over the years, Brodie favours kinesiology. Brodie explains that he loves learning about how the human body works and the application to sports. He especially enjoys applying his knowledge to real-life situations, which is why he also likes physics.

As Brodie reflects on the past four years of sport and studies at MSS, he credits some of his accomplishments to his pal, TJ. He notes TJ joined the cross country team as a rookie this year, which inspired Brodie to always try new things and step out of his comfort zone.

In only a few more months, Brodie will retire as a Mustang, moving on to the next chapter of athletics and academics, likely running for the University of New Brunswick and studying kinesiology. With his dedication and hard work he is sure to excel, just as he has at MSS!


Proud Supporter of our MSS Mustangs



368-3565
282-2496
Randy Noble

Proud support of our MSS Mustangs

Helping you get in the game



breakaway

sports and cycle

your local destination for sports gear and apparel.

A proud cheerleader for all island athletes and their journey to the top!