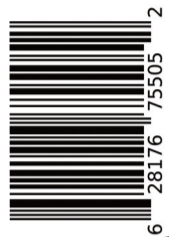


HAPPY HOLIDAY READING!

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR
2024!**

- ★ *Renaissance Man Mike Farquhar writes funny songs too: On page 18* ★ *'Star Wars: A New Hope' being dubbed into Anishnaabemowin: On Page 14* ★ *New-ish to Manitoulin profiles international sailors: On Page 13*
- ★ *Mystical Manitoulin has a touching holiday theme this month: On Page 5*
- ★ *MLB legend Ken MacKenzie remembered: On Page 5* ★ *Waubgeshig Rice talks to Wiky High students: On Page 6*
- ★ *Legends of Canadian curling coming to Little Current: On Page 25*
- ★ *New Ukranian residents of Manitoulin relate Christmas in the Old Country: On Page 19*
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The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



FISHING • YACHTING • CAMPING • HUNTING

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

Vol. 144 No. 32 \$1.90 + GST

Little Current, Ontario

Thursday, December 28, 2023



A ROADSIDE HOME—While beaver lodges and the national rodent's dam-building skills are all around us, the dam at the right of this photo and the beaver lodge in the rear of the frozen pond are roadside attractions on the Townline Road in the Northeast Town where they can be seen just west of the Limekiln Corner on the south side of the road: right there, with the dam nearly connecting to the roadway's shoulder.

Expositor staff photo

MPP Michael Mantha meets with Algoma-Manitoulin hospitals on healthcare crisis

by Tom Sasvari
ELLIOT LAKE—Without a substantial increase to base funding for small and rural hospitals and regulations on agency nursing staff, as well as an overall plan to address the health inequities faced by Northerners, the current crisis in healthcare will continue and services will deteriorate, says Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Michael Mantha.

"From Manitouwadge to Manitoulin, our public

hospitals are under tremendous strain to continue providing adequate healthcare," MPP Mantha said. "The budgets of hospitals in small and rural Northern communities are being stretched to a breaking point and the Ford government is sitting on the sidelines letting a crisis worsen in our healthcare system."

Following the recent Ontario Health Coalitions

...continued on page 8

Billings councillor quits; council asks integrity commissioner to probe alleged violations of his oath of office

by Tom Sasvari
KAGAWONG—Citing irreconcilable differences between himself and the Township of Billings leadership, relating to accountability, transparency and financial integrity and feeling this has led to his no longer being able to effectively serve as a councillor for the township, Billings councillor Jim Cahill has resigned effective immediately. However, the accusations Mr. Cahill made in an email he sent to council members and the township CAO has led to the township forwarding the matter to the township integrity commissioner.

"To suggest that council is hiding something is disrespectful

and patently untrue," stated Billings Mayor Bryan Barker in a statement. "I resent the implication that the township is operating in the manner that Mr. Cahill is suggesting. At the council meeting on December 19, 2023, the township received the audited financial statements from Free-landt Caldwell Reilly, LLP Chartered Professional Accountants that in itself confirms that the municipality is operating with financial integrity."

"The Water System Financial Plan 2021-2027 that Mr. Cahill refers to was included in the 2022 council orientation package provided to Councillor Cahill and all

...continued on page 7

Norgoma joins Norisle: last voyage to the wrecker

by Tom Sasvari
SAULT STE. MARIE—At the recommendation of town staff, which was reviewed by Sault Ste. Marie city council at a meeting last week, the M.S. Norgoma is going to be decommissioned for \$395,000.

"The proposal for decommissioning was approved," stated Tom Vair, Deputy CAO for Community Development and Enterprise Service for the City of Sault Ste. Marie, after a council meeting December 18. "There really weren't any questions (posed by council to the recommended proposal). I had provided an overview to council and council was unanimously in favour of decommissioning the Norgoma."

The report to Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and members of city council from Mr. Vair states, "The purpose of this report is to seek council approval for the decommissioning of the M.S. Norgoma.

Numerous reports have been provided to city council in the past regarding the M.S. Norgoma. The vessel is currently owned by the City of Sault Ste. Marie and docked at a slip leased by Purvis

...continued on page 8

No paper next week

This edition is the final one for 2023. As usual, The Expositor will not publish one week during the holidays and the next issue will be dated Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

The Expositor Office will be closed during this time and will reopen Thursday, January 4.

The staff at The Expositor Office wishes our readers and business associates and their families a wonderful New Year!



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(CLOSED MONDAYS)

SATURDAY

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8 AM - 6 PM

COFFEESHOP
8 AM - 5 PM

THE SOURCE, CLOTHING AND GIFTS
11 AM - 5 PM

SUNDAY

GROCERY, GAS BAR, HARDWARE
12 PM - 6 PM

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The Manitoulin *West* Recorder



Manitoulin Secondary School Metal Robotics FRC6865 team members Robyn-Ashley McNaughton, right, and Alexandra Wilson-Zegil display the children's book 'Robofriends and the MowZone' that was recently published.

Manitoulin Secondary School robotics team pens children's book 'Robofriends and the MowZone'

M'CHIGEENG—The Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) Manitoulin Metal Robotics FRC6865 held an official launch of its children's book called 'Robofriends and the MowZone.' While the book has only very recently been published, the book is already sparking interest in children who have read it.

"One of our team mentor's daughters read the book and has been designing robots ever since," stated Alexandra Wilson-Zegil at the book launch held at the school on Wednesday of last week. "It is really cool to know that the book is sparking interest in young children."

The engaging story combines robotics, environmental sustainability and teamwork with interactive elements and discussion topics.

Ms. Wilson-Zegil, who wrote the book, Robyn-Ashley McNaughton, who did the drawings, and two other of the team members, Alexis McVey, and Samuel Pennings outlined that the book was inspired on the return trip from Houston where the Manitoulin Metal Robotics had participated in an international competition. A five-hour layover in Atlanta on their way home gave team members an opportunity to brainstorm ideas for new projects.

"It was on this layover in Atlanta, between flights, that some of the members of the team were wondering what we could do next," said Ms. McVey.

"It was decided, 'let's do a children's book'."

When the team got back home, they brainstormed the book idea and further developed it. It took about eight months from the initial idea to the book being published.

Recognizing that strong reading and writing skills are fundamental for success in all fields, students wanted to give children opportunities to read fun books about robotics, while promoting environmental education and sustainability, along with developing their reading skills.

The main characters in Robofriends and the Mow Zone are named after past Manitoulin metal robots—Jed, Sam, Lyn and most recently, Bumblebee, who plays a lead role.

The story unfolds "as a team of Robofriends gets ready for a picnic when a danger enters the garden. Now, the friends have to work together to protect what matters most."

A group of students brainstormed the story idea last May and Alexandra Wilson-Zegil wrote the book during the summer. Robyn-Ashley McNaughton developed a visual story board and finished the illustrations so the book could be published in time for the holidays.

"I remember all the text on the blackboard we had all put together through brainstorming," said ...continued on page 11

Santa gets some big-time help from MFR volunteers

by Margery Frisch

MINDEMOYA—A room filled with volunteers, operating as a well-oiled machine; Santa's helpers have been busy at the Freshwater Community Church these last few weeks. The church in Mindemoya graciously allows Manitoulin Family Resources (MFR) to move in, set up and slowly work their magic of providing Christmas hampers to hundreds on the Island. One large room is like a warehouse, filled with food and volunteers putting boxes together and filling them up.



Food is piled high, ready for Christmas hampers.

"Right now we're sitting at 740, last year was 1,050, but we were also looking after Wiik-wemkoong. This year their food bank is taking on their clients, otherwise we'd be around 1100 to 1200," Vanessa Glasby said. Ms. Glasby is the Food Security Program Supervisor at MFR. "It's still a busy year. It's a little bit lighter than usual because we're down one community, but we'll probably have up to 800 clients before the end of the week," she said. Most of the clients are referrals from various organizations

and the organizations come and pick up, and distribute the Christmas baskets to their own clients. Some are self referrals and those are the numbers that fluctuate and are difficult to predict.

The Christmas hamper project is intense, and it begins early in the fall. Letters are sent out to main contributors asking for monetary donations. Food is purchased in bulk from Valu-Mart and Foodland, and then there are

...continued on page 11

DSB paramedics feted with Governor General awards

by Tom Sasvari

TORONTO—Two paramedics within the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (MSDSB) area, including one from Manitoulin, have been recognized for their efforts, having received Governor General Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal bars for providing exemplary emergency medical services for 30, 40 and 50 years. Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones, presented 65 paramedics with their first, second or third bars to the long-serving and deserving paramedics on December 13.

"Dwayne Elliott of Manitowaning and Daniel Tremblay of Espanola received their Governor Gen-

eral Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal bars for providing exemplary emergency medical services for 30 years on December 13 at Queen's Park in Toronto," said Donna Stewart, Chief Administrative Officer of MSDSB. "Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs president Michael Sanderson and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones presented Mr. Elliott and Mr. Tremblay their 30-year bar; these two are long-serving, deserving paramedics."

"As the CAO of MSDSB, I am extremely proud of these two paramedics for all that they have accomplished in their roles over the years and the signifi-

...continued on page 12

Ontario takes action against invasive species, implementing stringent regulations in 2024

by Jacqueline M. St.Pierre, LJI Reporter

ONTARIO—In a decisive move to safeguard its ecosystem and economy, Ontario has announced strict measures against invasive species. The province, known for hosting the highest number of invasive species in Canada, has initiated prohibitions and restrictions on 10 new non-native species under the Invasive Species Act.

Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, emphasized the critical need for action, stating, "Invasive species damage our ecosystems, impact our ability to enjoy outdoor activities, and harm our economy by threatening key sectors like forestry and agriculture."

The invasive species, once established, pose significant challenges in control and eradication, rendering them highly damaging to the natural environment. The Invasive Species Act of 2015 lists 42 species, four groups, one family and two carriers and provides legislative tools to restrict and prohibit these invasive entities.

The updated regulations now include several species of fish, aquatic plants and invertebrates in the prohibited category. Additionally, certain groups of aquatic and terrestrial plants will face new restrictions effective January 1, 2024.

The government has also initiated consultations to revamp the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan to address the evolving threat of invasive species more effectively. Ontario invested over \$5 million in 2023-24 across various programs and educational initiatives throughout the province to support research, monitoring and management efforts.

The potential impact of invasive species on various sectors, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, healthcare, tourism and recreation, was estimated to be as high as \$3.6 billion annually in Ontario by the Invasive Species Centre in 2019.

Liam Campbell, from Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association (MSIA), highlighted concerns about the invasion of Eurasian Water-

...continued on page 10

Manor in midst of COVID-19 outbreak

by Michael Erskine

LITTLE CURRENT—After weathering the pandemic with relatively flying colours, Manitoulin Centennial Manor has been wrestling with a COVID-19 outbreak that has impacted half the residents and a good portion of the staff.

"We have a COVID-19 outbreak that started on November 30 with 18 residents on the upper floor and 12 residents on the lower floor for a total of 30 residents testing positive," Manor administrator Don Cook told the Manor board at its December 21 meeting. "There were 13 staff testing positive at the same time."

Mr. Cook informed the board that "we know it was brought in from the community, but we did have it spread from resident to resident."

The administrator pointed out that it was difficult to tell if staff had contracted the virus from work or in the community. But added that, "at the same time some staff did become positive while off work."

"Thankfully, things are getting

better," said Mr. Cook. "We have one resident who has to wait a while to be tested but it seems to be tapering off."

One of the challenges under the current regime, explained Mr. Cook, is that since nearly all the residents have been inoculated, they do not express much in the way of symptoms.

"By the time we pick up on it, they have been walking around for quite a while infecting other residents," he noted. But on the other side of the coin, the virus is not having the same harsh symptoms.

Manor staff continue to monitor new residents as they come in to ensure they are up-to-date on vaccines. Mr. Cook noted that COVID-19 boosters have been given to all residents that are ready for their next shot and have consented to receive them.

In other Manor news, Mr. Cook noted that the long-term care home currently has one open bed, with a wait list of 18 people, 10 of which will be reviewed.

Legislation designed to reduce gun violence receives Royal Assent

OTTAWA—On December 15, Bill C-21, an Act to amend certain Acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms), received Royal Assent, immediately bringing into force a series of measures to

combat gun crime, including the national handgun freeze, new "red flag" laws (also known as emergency weapons prohibition orders) and increased penalties for firearms smuggling and trafficking.

"With Bill C-21 becoming law, Canada has taken a major step in strengthening gun control and combatting gun violence. I want to thank those who have championed and advocated for these measures and who worked so hard to see this legislation adopted. Your input and your support have been invaluable and have contributed to building safer communities from coast to coast to coast," said the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs, in a release.

...continued on page 12

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

editorial

Island is fortunate to have Manitoulin Family Resources

In last week's issue of The Expositor, the December 20 paper the week before Christmas, an advertisement acknowledged and thanked the 2023 donors to The Expositor's "Christmas Charity Challenge" that sent a very full Suburban load of food, knitted winterwear and new toys to the Manitoulin Family Resources (MFR) Christmas hamper campaign.

The ad also acknowledged that this event was the 30th annual challenge that involved primarily Little Current businesses and institutions.

The 30 years of this December tradition parallel the dramatic growth in the demand—year 'round—on MFR to boost Island citizens' food security.

Thirty years ago, when then – Expositor staffer, the late Ruth Mohommand, conceived of a local charity challenge to assist MFR at Christmastime, the demand for food and gifts to fill the "hampers" MFR delivered to those in need at Christmastime was relatively low and events like the papers in various Island communities were enough to fill those hampers, combined with individual and business cash donations.

In fact, the paper's initial charity challenge three decades ago was initiated the previous year, at the very first "Christmas in the Park" event at Kagawong's Park Centre when the same Ms. Mohammed prettily decorated a nice Christmas tree and stayed with it through the length of the event where people were encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to her table at the Park Centre over the course of the weekend, and someone would win the decorated Christmas tree through a draw.

Things were much simpler then.

Now, in 2023, although community events like the one still organized by this publication and other similar ones remain important to the MFR's food bank missionary, but the need now, compared to 30 years ago, reflects an enormous growth in Island people and families needing help to survive from month to month, not just at Christmas-

time.

In this year's MFR contribution to the 2023 Ontario Hunger Report, Manitoulin Family Resources reported an amazing 4,289 individuals served in the year that began on March 31, 2022 and ended April 1, 2023. That number represents 1,569 Manitoulin households, a dramatic 27.6 percent increase in new clients over the same period the previous year.

Manitoulin Island has a population hovering around 14,000 people so, considering households alone (1,569) served and if we consider a Manitoulin household has 2.5 residents, for 5,600 families/households that means that a whopping 22 percent of families were food insecure for all or part of the past year and were served by MFR's food bank. One cannot imagine this number improving as we pass the half-way point in the next cycle that will end April 1 of next year.

Thirty years ago the food bank was very much add-on to MFR charter activity of providing a shelter and transitional housing to women and their children at risk because of domestic violence.

That remains central to MFR's mandate, of course, but who now considers MFR as solely a shelter and doesn't also think of its vital role operating the Island's food bank and thrift store?

Thirty years ago the focus was on community donations to help people have a brighter Christmas. Only a few years prior to that, these seasonal donations were met by local service clubs and church groups.

Now, the focus is servicing people who have become food insecure every week and every month, all year long.

Manitoulin's experience in this respect mirrors the province and the national picture.

We are fortunate here that we have had an organization like MFR whose management, staff and board realize it has a role to play and, over these three decades, has quietly expanded its services to serve the community, individuals and families in times of need.

letters

COP28 deserves kudos but Canada not so much

"Canada's domestic policy is hugely hypocritical"

To the Expositor:

At the COP28 climate negotiations, I am proud to say that Canada fought hard for a deal that includes a transition away from fossil fuels. For 30 years the UN climate negotiations had skirted around the basic fact that the climate crisis is a fossil fuel crisis. Hopefully this is a global turning point.

But Canada's domestic policy is hugely hypocritical. During COP28, Canada unveiled its flagship climate policy, the Emissions Cap frame-

work that officials admitted was specifically designed to allow for the continued expansion of fossil fuel production. I call on my local MP and other political leaders to correct this hypocrisy. It's time to end the fossil fuel era by closing Big Oil's loopholes in our climate policies. Let's start with a better, bolder Emissions Cap without delay.

Mary Yett
Tehkummah

Doing what you can with what you have is an Island tradition

A tale of the Star of David at Christmas

To the Expositor:

It has been a contention of mine that when you do what you can with what you have, you can influence others around you. In the 1960s a number of homes had external fir trees with lights. My father wanted to do something just a little different. Although he was a decent handyman, he could not make an accurate five-pointed wooden frame in the shape of a star. But he could make a simple six-pointed star with two even-sided triangles. Coincidentally, of course, emulating the shield of David Star on the flag of Israel. He painted the frame yellow and ran rows of blue Christmas lights on each row of the frame.

In those years most everyone had TV tower antennas. So, he climbed the tower and hung the six-pointed star from it with four trailing rows of blue lights representing star lights shining over our home. So, for Christmas 1970, the Star of Bethlehem shone over one home in Wiikwemkoong. The next Christmas, others emulated us, but we were the first.

Sincerely yours

Allan Trudeau
Wiikwemkoong

Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare makes opioid statement re: families

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre,
LJI reporter

TORONTO — December 18, 2023, Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare released a statement addressing the profound impact of the opioid drug crisis and other factors affecting the loss experienced by First Nations children. In his message, Chief Hare reaches out to the children of First Nations communities who have lost parents, caregivers or loved ones, assuring them that they are remembered and cherished during this holiday season. He emphasizes that they remain in our thoughts and hearts, offering them solace and support.

"The impact of addiction and overdose continues to have devastating consequences on the well-being and future of our communities, particularly our youth, who are experiencing loss at accelerating rates," said Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare. "Factors relating to the loss of our community members are not limited to opioid-related deaths. However, this is a major factor and has only increased since the pandemic. We have also seen children losing loved ones to ongoing issues of violence and COVID-related illnesses. However, the opioid crisis has become a pandemic in itself."



Shutterstock

Information derived from a report jointly compiled by the Chiefs of Ontario and the Ontario Drug Policy Research Network reveals a staggering 132 percent surge in opioid poisoning-related deaths among Indigenous individuals during the initial year of the pandemic. Shockingly, 87 percent of these fatalities were linked to fentanyl.

The report underscores the critical necessi-

ty for First Nations communities to have comprehensive access to harm reduction resources, such as naloxone and addiction treatment services.

"It is heartbreaking to witness how this is affecting our children, leaving so many without the guidance, support, and love of their parents and family members, especially during the holiday season, when no child should feel alone. The emotional trauma experienced by these young lives is immeasurable, and we must acknowledge the urgency of addressing this crisis with compassion and support for those affected in our community."

"I call upon all levels of government to work with First Nations leadership to implement targeted initiatives that address the factors leading to addiction and provide tailored support for children being directly impacted by loss surrounding the opioid crisis. Immediate steps must be taken to ensure our children receive the care and resources necessary for their healing. By guiding our efforts with compassion and a commitment to the well-being of our children, we can build a future where every child can thrive," said Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare.

obituary

Ken MacKenzie: A Gore Bay sports icon passes

The only pitcher to post a winning record in the New York Mets inaugural season

A Gore Bay born icon has passed away. Ken MacKenzie, who was born and raised in Gore Bay and played Major League Baseball, passed away at the age of 89 years old at his home in Guildford, Connecticut on December 14. Mr. MacKenzie, who played for the New York Mets in their inaugural season in 1962, was the only pitcher on that team to post a winning record.

“He has to be the best ballplayer to ever come from Manitoulin Island,” stated Jim Thibault, originally from Gore Bay, who now lives in the Ottawa area.

“Yeah, I knew Ken well. He was a really nice guy,” said Mr. Thibault.

“I used to build boats and Ken played ball,” said Doug Smith, who noted, “I used to catch for Ken when he practiced pitching when I was around 16-17 at Grandfather Smith’s in town where I lived.”

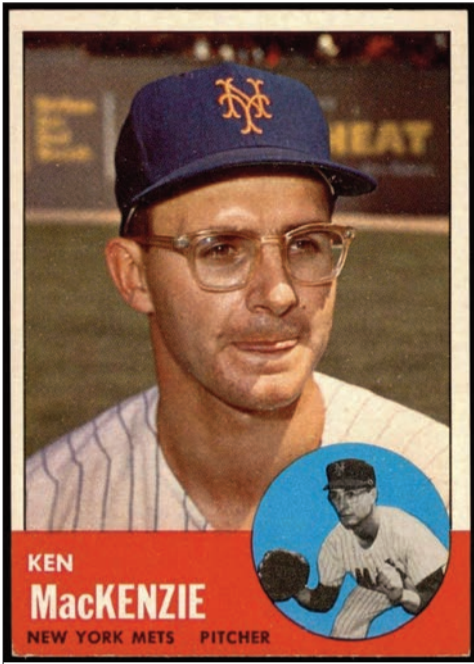
“I used to catch for him when he practiced, but that ended when someone was swinging a bat in front of me,” quipped Mr. Smith. “I was glad I built boats and someone else was pitching or swinging baseball bats.”

“Ken ended up being the best pitcher on the worst team in the big leagues.”

The Society for Baseball Research (SABR) reported that Kenneth Purvis MacKenzie was born on March 10, 1934.

Mr. MacKenzie was a left-handed relief pitcher in Major League Baseball from 1960-1965. He played with the Milwaukee Braves (1960-1961), New York Mets (1962-1963), St. Louis Cardinals (1963), San Francisco Giants (1964) and Houston Astros (1965).

A member of Yale University Class of 1956, Mr. MacKenzie lettered in hockey and baseball at the university. As a graduating

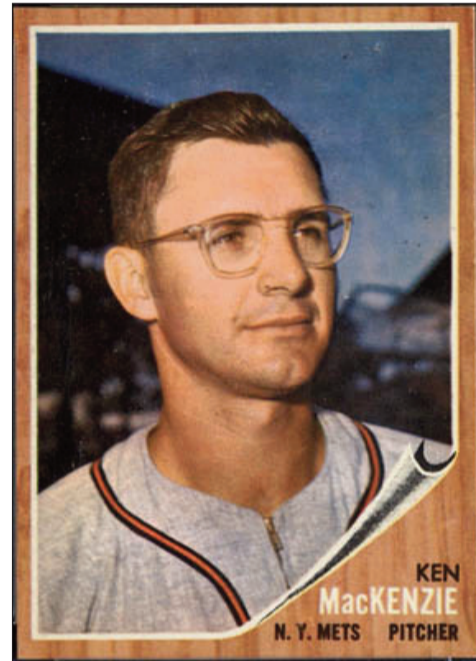


Gore Bay icon Ken MacKenzie, who was born and raised in Gore Bay and played major league baseball, passed away at the age of 89 years at his home in Guildford, Connecticut on December 14.

senior in 1956, he won second-team All-Ivy honours for hockey and served as captain of the baseball team. He won 19 games and lost six in his three collegiate seasons. In each of those years, his teams won the Big Three Championship, the competitive series involving Yale, Princeton and Harvard, according to Wikipedia.

Noted baseball writer Jay Horowitz was quoted by Sport World News as writing in a touching tribute that Mr. MacKenzie’s unwavering pride in his Mets heritage was so profound he once checked himself out of

a hospital bed to attend the Met’s Old Timers Day game. “As a left-handed relief pitcher from Canada, he left an indelible mark on the team and its fans. His passing is not just a loss to those who knew him but to the entire baseball community,” wrote Mr. Horowitz.



Ken MacKenzie was an amazing pitcher, one of several talented Islanders to be drafted over the years.

Mr. MacKenzie signed with the Milwaukee Braves in 1956 and began working his way through the club’s farm system, becoming a relief specialist in 1959, his third professional baseball season. After working in 14 games for Milwaukee in brief

trials in 1960 and 1961, his contract was sold to the expansion New York Mets on October 11, 1961, one day after that year’s expansion draft.

An original New York Met, Mr. MacKenzie posted a five-win-four loss record and was the one only among 17 pitchers on the 1962 Mets to win more games than he lost on the team which suffered 120 defeats. Manager Casey Stengel said of him, “He’s a splendid young fella with a great education from Yale University. His signing with us makes him the lowest paid member of the class of Yale ’56.”

In 1963, Mr. MacKenzie again was the Mets lone over .500 pitcher, winning three of four decisions for a team which would lose 111 games. He was traded to the pennant-contending St. Louis Cardinals on August 5, 1963.

Mr. MacKenzie bounced from the Cardinals to the Astros through his 1965 campaign, spending time in Triple A in the process.

All told, Mr. MacKenzie won eight of 18 decisions in 129 games pitched (all but one as a reliever) with five career saves. In 208 innings pitched, he allowed 231 hits and 63 walks with 142 strikeouts.

Mr. MacKenzie coached baseball and ice hockey at Yale between 1969 and 1979. He moved to the Yale alumni office following his coaching tenure, retiring in 1984.

Harold Dewar played against Mr. MacKenzie as a member of the Providence Bay baseball team when they were both growing up. “Ken was a really good hockey player as well as a good ballplayer. Ken was one of the best athletes to come out of Northern Ontario.”

by Dorah L. Williams

Christmas can be a wonderful time for family celebrations, but it can also be bittersweet for those who have lost loved ones. The enduring bond that bridges the gap between the living and the departed seems especially poignant during this most magical time of the year.

Here is a heartfelt shared experience from a memorable Christmas night when a beloved soul returned to offer his ongoing affection and support when it was most needed:

“I’ve often recalled a story my grandfather shared with me over the years. He had many older siblings in his large family and kind of got lost in the crowd (as he called it) growing up on their farm. He was a quiet and withdrawn little boy, except with his eldest brother, who always looked out for him.

Granddad had always needed glasses to correct his poor vision, but this wasn’t addressed until he was school-age, and his teacher discussed it with his parents. He described to me his amazement at seeing everything around him so clearly, especially trees, when he finally got his glasses. What had once been green blurs now appeared with individual leaves on the limbs. That made a lasting impression on him even as he spoke of it more than half a century later. His eldest brother must have seen the awe and appreciation he experienced as it first occurred and understood how vital those lenses were to him.

His glasses changed his life, and he was so grateful for them. He wasn’t as timid anymore and became more extroverted at school and home. But, one day, they were lost after he’d tucked them into his coat pocket, thinking that would keep them safe as



he horsed around with his friends. He was distraught. Not just because he needed them to see correctly, but mostly because his parents were very stern and he feared their reaction of needing to purchase him another pair when they could scarcely have afforded the cost the first time.

His eldest brother saw how frightened and upset Granddad was about the lost glasses when he got home later that day, and after they unsuccessfully retraced the whole route he had taken when they fell from his pocket, it was decided it would be best to not concern their parents about the matter until he could figure out how to help replace them as quickly as possible.

But within days, a tragic accident claimed the life of Granddad’s brother, leaving the whole family devastated. As Christmas arrived, their household was engulfed in grief and no one gave any thought to holiday festivities that year, especially my grandfather. He had lost a brother and his best friend and protector, and he became even more withdrawn than ever.

On Christmas night, my grandfather cried himself to sleep, as he had since his brother’s passing.

But he swore, later that night, he was awakened by his late brother’s spirit sitting down on the edge of his bed beside him. The room was in complete dark-



ness, except for his brother, who was clearly visible to him, even with his poor eyesight, and seemed to be glowing with a soft golden/bluish light. Granddad was obviously still in awe from that sight as he described it to me years later.

His brother smiled at him but didn’t say a word. He held a canning jar containing several coins and gently shook it as the money rattled together and against the glass. Then he nodded towards the bedroom’s closet they had once shared. Granddad glanced towards the closet, but before he could look back upon his brother again, he was gone.

Even if he was dreaming, the outcome was still remarkable — but he insisted he was fully awake and it wasn’t a dream.

Granddad did not go back to sleep that night but waited til

morning to creep out of bed and search inside the closet. He didn’t find a glass canning jar like his brother had been rattling. But he did discover an envelope sticking out from under a book on a corner shelf at the back of the closet. His brother had initially printed the word “trip” on it, but then crossed it out and replaced with the word “GLASSES”. Inside the envelope was a sizeable collection of coins.

His brother had been saving up every cent he could earn for a much-anticipated trip to Toronto in the new year with their older cousins. His excitement at seeing the big city was all he talked about until Granddad’s glasses needed to be replaced.

My grandfather found the courage to tell his parents his glasses had been lost, but before they responded, he showed them the envelope of coins his brother had planned to use to help cover the cost to replace them.

He said his father began to come out of the fog of his unbearable grief when he held that envelope and stared at his late son’s words upon it. It was the first and only time Granddad ever saw him cry, and that seemed to be the starting place for the whole family’s healing.

My grandfather told me this story twice. Once when I was in my early teens and struggling to come to terms with the death of a close friend, and then again years

later as an adult when I visited him shortly before his death.

The second time he shared this story with me, he was suffering from advanced dementia and had difficulty even remembering who I was. Yet he again described, in detail, that same indelible memory of his brother’s spirit visiting him on that mournful Christmas night to let him know he was still looking out for him.

After Granddad’s death, all of us grandkids got to choose a special keepsake from his personal belongings. Of course, I chose the small gold-rimmed glasses, purchased with his brother’s coins that he had always cherished and kept safely tucked away for so many years. He had shown them to me in my youth when I was first told this story (which made it seem even more real to me then), so I knew where he’d always kept them for safekeeping and how significant they were.

They mean so much to me now, too — not just as a keepsake of my beloved Granddad, but also as a tribute to the wonderful Great Uncle I never got the chance to know but will never forget.”

Wishing you all peace and joy this holiday season — and as Charles Dickens had Tiny Tim proclaim in the most celebrated Christmas ghost story of all time: “God bless us, every one!”

Do you also have an exciting and mystical tale to tell? Whether you’ve experienced a haunting, a mysterious cryptid sighting, or a brush with the inexplicable, please share it with Canadian author Dorah L. Williams at dorahlwilliams@gmail.com

Your story, too, could be featured in an upcoming column of Mystical Manitoulin!

Author Waubgeshig Rice talks all things writing at Wiikwemkoong High School

by Michael Erskine

WIKWEMKOONG—Best-selling author and former CBC journalist Waubgeshig Rice dropped in to Wiikwemkoong High School recently to share a little bit about himself and his love of writing with students at the school. Mr. Rice's second novel, 'Moon of the Crusted Snow,' was published in 2018 and became an instant Canadian classic and best-seller, with the New York Times lauding him as one of "the Indigenous novelists reshaping North American science fiction, horror and fantasy."

In 2014, Mr. Rice was the recipient of the Debwewin Citation for Excellence in First Nations Storytelling from the Anishinaabek Nation. By 2018 the nascent journalist found himself as the new host of 'Up North,' the CBC's local afternoon show on CBC Northern Ontario. He continues to contribute to the CBC as a guest host on the program 'Unreserved.'

Encouraged by colleagues Mr. Rice left the CBC in 2020 to concentrate on writing and with their assistance he applied for and received Ontario Arts Council grants to enable him to pursue his writing dreams in earnest.

It wasn't that Mr. Rice was new to writ-



Students Ava and Measah chat with Waubgeshig Rice following the author's talk.

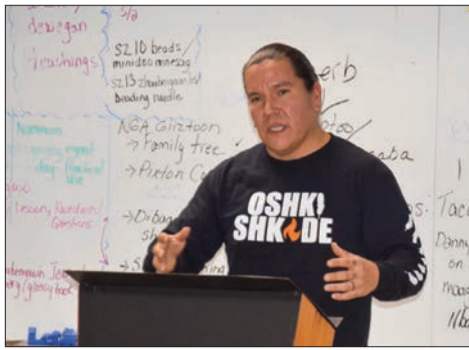
photos by Michael Erskine

ing, in fact, he revealed to his young audience that he had been writing since a very early age while growing up on the Wasauksing First Nation near Parry Sound. Writing provided him with an outlet for his creative side, while helping him to discover his own identity.

He spoke of how his early days in school writers and elders would come into his school to share their knowledge. Sent to Rosseau Lake College in Muskoka, an independent school, he was immersed in the world of 'White' literature, he came to believe that Indigenous people didn't write books. "That wasn't our world, I just thought that was the way it was, just not something we do as Anshinaabek, write novels and get published"—until one day his Auntie Elaine Kelly came to check in with him. He told her his best subject was English and about the books he was reading.

"This big, long list of White authors," he recalled telling her. "She said, 'oh yeah,' the way aunties do and we started talking about other stuff."

Later, when his birthday and Christmas came along, she began sending him books by Indigenous authors such as Richard



Best-selling author Waubgeshig Rice delivers an inspirational talk to students at Wiikwemkoong High School.

Watermase, Lee Marigold, Louise Erdick, Richard Van Camp, Thomas King, Marilyn Demout, Murry Campbell.

"All these authors who were doing really awesome stuff back in the 80s and 90s, but I didn't know about them at all because I wasn't learning about them in the public school system," he said. "When I started reading these books, especially Richard Wagamese (from the Wabaseemoong Independent Nations in Northwestern Ontario and author of Indian Horse) I thought 'holy jeez,' there is an Anishinaabe guy writing about Anishinaabe things." It was a book he could hold in his hands.

"It was totally life-changing for me," he said. "It opened my eyes to a different way of expressing myself and it validated my experiences as a rez kid. For the first time I was reading about rez stuff in a novel, it really inspired me to try and do stuff like that myself."

He began "writing stuff down on a pad, short stories and things I noticed that interested me." Some of those stories he wrote as a young student, revised and rewritten, became his first book, a collection of short stories.

"It's cool to see how the world has changed," he said. "I am excited to see the things that you will create. It's totally different now than when I was your age. I wanted to let you know that I came from a community much smaller than yours, and I was able to get on this career path."

Mr. Rice then read from his latest novel, 'Moon of the Turning Leaves,' a sequel to 'Moon of the Crusted Snow,' and set in the same post-apocalyptic world, 10 years later, where a group of Anishinaabe have retreated back into the bush as the technological world as we know it has come to an end as electrical power has completely disappeared. But that community enjoys elders who still have traditional knowledge.

Following his reading, students asked him questions.

The first was whether his book would be turned into a movie. Mr. Rice revealed that his novel was optioned, but that it did not come to fruition. He remains hopeful that, with this second novel, it might become a series.

Asked if writing was his only job, Mr. Rice replied that he has been fortunate that he is a full-time author now, although he does do other things such as writing tours, speaking engagements and still does some

journalism work, but added with a laugh that, when it comes to writing, he intends to "ride it out as long as I can."

Mr. Rice admitted to one questioner that he is an intergenerational Maple Leafs fan. "My dad was a fan," he said, noting that was when they were regular Stanley Cup contenders. "They are still pretty good and exciting," he chuckled.

"What provokes your creative imagination?" asked another student. "There is a lot of things that do. What inspires me the most is being Anishinaabe," he said. "Knowing about our ways of life. Making connections with other authors and learning about other cultures." He noted that there are some universal aspects of life on "the rez."

"Also, exploring questions about myself, my community," he said. "Grabbing those little moments that mean a lot to you and resonate throughout your life. A lot of what I write about now is from things I experienced when I was your age."

He pointed out that the outside world tends to "only know us from the bad stuff. But that it is the positive things that really make up who Anishinaabe are." Mr. Rice stressed that writing is not the only creative outlook that is available.



Wiikwemkoong student Liam presents Waubgeshig Rice with a gift of appreciation.

Wiikwemkoong Ogimaa Rachel Manitowabi asked if some of his motivation to write the book was to encourage people to go back to the old ways of living.

Mr. Rice responded by noting how, when he was 24 and had come home to Wasauksing First Nation with his brothers to look after his parents' home. The power went out and it lasted for a long time. Travelling into Parry Sound, they learned that it was a massive power outage impacting east side of North America.

"We were totally in survival mode," he said. Over the several hours they checked on relatives, checked out the food stocks and went fishing. "That's what's on the menu from now on we thought," he said. The brothers came to realize that in the case of the end of the world, the rez was the best place to be.

Mr. Rice advised that using images, all the senses about a particular thing you want to write about, "what you heard, what you smelled, what you tasted, not in great detail, but some details helps make things more realistic. As a writer, you want to make human connection with your reader,"

he suggested.

When it comes to apocalyptic setting, Mr. Rice recalled a conversation with his grandmother about the blackout. "My grandmother said pffth... we are Anishinaabek, we have already experienced the end of the world." His family was forced to leave the mainland and settle on Parry Island.



Waubgeshig Rice poses with Wiikwemkoong High School Principal Harold Fox following the author signing copies of his books for him.

"Looking across the water, we could see the trees being cut down, later the other things started to happen like residential schools," he said. Their world ended in those interaction, but they have survived and kept their traditions despite it all.

Mr. Rice took the students through the three-year process of writing his novel, six months of research, then creating an outline and then endless revisions and rewrites. "The original draft was a lot bigger than this," he said, holding up a copy of his new book.

Following his presentation, Liam Wassegesso presented Mr. Rice with a gift from the students of Wiikwemkoong High School and thanked him for his inspiration. Ogimaa Manitowabi also presented Mr. Rice with a welcoming gift from chief and council.

Mr. Rice said that the most important part of the process was having the opportunity to come and share his experiences with youth the way others had for him when he was a student.

Vice-principal Cameryn Beaudry said how proud he was that the school was able to host such an accomplished author "and for our students to be able to delve deeper into what is out there. This is a great way to show them how to segue into journalism and writing. For our kids to be able to see that, kudos to Dwayne Animikwan and Ms. (Natalie) Parrington for making this happen and to Mr. Rice for coming out today."

Principal Harold Fox said, "Miigwetch to Waubgeshig Rice for helping us here at Wiikwemkoong High School. We are so proud of his accomplishments, not only as a journalist, but also as an author, and discovering an Anishinaabe point of view and lifelong learning."

Throughout Mr. Rice's presentation, the students were particularly attentive and engaged. The general consensus of Mr. Rice's presentation from students approached for comment was, in a typical teenage assessment, "it was good."

Friends and Neighbours

Kagawong Team Fergmeijer

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas filled with family, friends, food and presents. We find that it's the after-Christmas lull that is toughest for us. Especially now that we are trying to overcome our addiction to Boxing Day leftover sandwiches. This year, we are going cold turkey. We thought about making some treats to get us over the hump, but the cookies we made kept quietly laughing at our drawings. That will be the last time we make snickerdoodles!

Last Thursday was Manitoulin Secondary School's annual awards night. Local businesses and organizations came together and an astonishing \$50,000 plus was given out to support recent graduates who have gone on to post-secondary education and apprenticeship programs. Congratulations, graduates!

In political news, Billings Councillor Jim Cahill has resigned, leaving a seat on council vacant. Council will appoint a new councillor in February. Interested residents can apply for the seat. Details for applying will be made public in January. We thank former Councillor Cahill for his hard work while serving the community.

The next township council meeting is January 16, 2024 and will be virtual. Agenda package and virtual meeting

connection details can be found at billingstwp.ca/council-meetings/2024-council-agendas-and-minutes/.

The local KFC (Kagawong Fitness Centre) at 91 Main Street has been closed while the fire hall was rebuilt and it looks like it will continue to be closed for the foreseeable future. Plumbing/wastewater issues were discovered while it was closed down and will need to be addressed before it can be used by the public again. The township is looking into possibilities and costs of repair.

Billings Township has officially welcomed Harmony Hancock on board as Director of Finance/Treasurer! Ms. Hancock has been working for the township on a contract basis, but the town wisely snapped her up in a full-time position this month.

Happy 29th birthday wishes go out to several Kagawongians (and some Kagawong-adjacent folks, too): Matt G, Darren H, Deb F, Mel H, Jen W-F, Chris T, Bev W as well as our Mainland Mom are all celebrating another year of being awesome! Our advice for the festivities is that it is best to avoid marble cake. You don't want to break a tooth.

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

Is your dearest wish for the holidays to be able to read all of the Christmas editions of this column? Okay, maybe world peace is your dearest wish, but just know that you can catch up on all of Team Fergmeijer's past columns in

our archive at <https://teamfergmeijer.blogspot.com/>

Please note that the municipal office will be closed December 25 through to January 1, 2024. Likewise, the municipal landfill will be closed December 31 and the library will be closed December 30 and January 2, 2024.

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

Now that Christmas is over, we've had time to process all the holiday music we've been listening to non-stop this month. It seems to us that Mariah Carey beginning with "I don't want a lot for Christmas" and then revealing all she wants is 'you' is more of a burn than a romantic statement. Have a great week, and a very happy new year!

Barrie Island Lillian Greenman

Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season and a healthy New Year.

Manitoulin Sporting Life

Sports people have wishlists, too!

It's that time of year when the sky can be the limit for kids (of all ages) to think of their hopes, goals and aspirations for the holiday season and for the new year fast approaching. People involved in some way with sports can have a huge variety of needs and wishes, like the necessity for more hockey officials or perhaps the desire for one's wrist shot to somehow accomplish rising above that danged dasher board. The former wish might just have been me back in my own "squirt" (Mite, U-6, etc.) days as a young Manitowaning player (pre-Wolves?). Only those listed below will truly know if theirs or my wishes for them will come true in the end but here is hoping!

The Manitoulin Panther U18 girls have really been improving! They are steadily seeing themselves individually and as a team getting in on this age and spirit of continuous improvement. Thursday night saw them travel to the Thunderdome in Wiikwemkoong for the highly anticipated game against the Tribal Police Services (WTPS) Freeze. All of the good-natured heckling would finally come to a head as both teams squared off in what hopes to be an annual event.

Coach Scot Hughson filled me on some of the fun like, "One last taunt to our Lady Panthers was served by Constable Peltier just before the opening face-off and right after the players received awesome gifts from the WTPS. He gave the girls one last opportunity to back out of the challenge, but that was met with laughter as the starting lineups moved into position!"

The Lady Panthers opened the scoring in what proved to be a seesaw battle of great fun as the game progressed. Constable Jamie Peltier tied it up by scoring the first goal for the Freeze. The play continued back and forth but after getting up on the LPs 6-3, the Panthers battled back hard and, with their goalie pulled, ended up hitting the goal post as the final buzzer rang, ending the game at 6-5 with the Freeze prevailing.

With so many smiles on the faces of all involved, of course the score hardly mattered. It was a fantastic night that not only saw some great hockey play-making from both sides but provided the opportunity for the Lady Panthers to give back to the community. Admission fees were only two dollars or a non-perishable food item. They ended up with a couple of food boxes collected as well as being able to make a monetary donation of \$130 from admission fees to the Wiikwemkoong food bank.

Of note was the game MVP, as selected by the Lady Panthers, to Greg Mishibinijima, who was presented with their trademark pink hard hat and he wore it with pride during the post-game presentations. Coach Scot also noted that a meal of Wiky tacos was provided to all participants afterwards. They were absolutely delicious and we would like to thank Jennifer Recollet for catering the great meal. Also, a thank you goes out to Seraphine Aibens for organizing this part of the event.

He also wanted to thank a couple of call-ups who helped fill out their injury/sickness-shortened bench. Victoria Pitawanakwat, who relished at the opportunity to play against her dad Jeff, and Carolyn Simon, who fit in quite nicely on our team and maybe someday we will see her don the Lady Panther jersey again!?

Chi-Miigwech to everyone who came out to enjoy this night, making it a huge success. They will now take a Christmas break and resume game action on January 6 with a double header in North Bay vs. the Junior Laker B squad. This should prove to be a great couple games as we battle against our rivals, whom they will see again to play-off against for a chance to represent our region at the OWSA Provincial Championships, Scot relayed. As well, the team wanted to wish you a "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all our players and staff. Thank you for your continued support. It is greatly appreciated!"

Carter George is a 17-year-old net-minder with deep Manitoulin roots. His Dad, Mike, was a standout goalie here back in the day but his son may have eclipsed him! Carter has had many accolades and awards

in the last while, including a gold medal playing for Team Canada at the Hlinka-Gretzky Cup to an 'OHL Player of the Week' nod. Carter's stats are amazing, all the while playing in a tough division for the Owen Sound Attack who are not front-runners. His save percentage is currently .910 with three shut-outs.

He was also selected to attend the prestigious OHL Prospects Game coming up on January 24th. Carter is currently rated by Central Scouting with a "B" designation, which generally translates to a second or third-round selection in this spring's NHL draft! Just before the draft Carter will also get to attend the NHL Combine to give a front-row seat to scouts.

I had a brief chance to talk to the very polite Carter last week and when pressed for some possible wishes or goals for the near future, he said without hesitation: "Make the playoffs!" The Attack are lucky to have such a team-minded player despite all his personal accomplishments. A quick web search for Carter has him talked of very highly.

One blogger (Steelflyers) has him as his second-ranked goalie but "is my favourite of this draft class," and "unlike most guys featured in this article, Carter can win games all by himself." Carter has "become unbelievably patient between the pipes. I believe this trait has most scouts drooling because it is George's innate ability to wait until the opposing player makes a move before he decides to counter it that sees him being labeled a bit of a shootout prodigy." And on and on! Best wishes, Carter, and may you make the playoffs and much more—your hard work will be rewarded.

For Kohyn Eshkawkogan, let's see: his team, the North York Rangers U16 AAA, just beat the No. 1-ranked team in the world—the Vaughan Kings. They also just beat the No. 3 team in Canada, the Toronto Marlies. For his wishlist, he and his team are playing in the Toronto Marlies Holiday Classic and they all wish to win the tournament.

The behind-the-scenes people, of course, have wishes, too! Mindemoya's Sean and Delray McCarthy have an often thankless job on the minor hockey executive. Sean says that as an organization that is run by volunteers, we are always looking for more to help out. Especially with their 3-on-3 tournament that they hold over Easter weekend in Little Current. This event brings in a large portion of their budget for the season which helps to keep the registration fee low. So, "If we had a wish, I think it would be to get lots of volunteers to help out with our 3-on-3 tournament as well as have a good amount of teams participate. We are also looking for team sponsors to purchase new game jerseys for our Mindemoya teams. We can be contacted at mindemoyathunder@gmail.com."

Wiikwemkoong's Kelly Babstock has signed with Lugano in Switzerland to finish off this season. Babstock started this season with the PWHL's New York squad. Best wishes and luck in Switzerland, Kelly!

Finally, a wish from someone who knows the sporting world inside and out, Jackie White. She has been an athlete and a tireless volunteer and champion of keeping Assiginack active in her duties with the town for years. When I asked if she had a wish, she took it in a generous direction and it is a great way to sum it up for anyone, at any age and in any position.

"As I get older but not necessarily wiser, I have learned a few life lessons. One of the most valuable ones is to try the stuff you want to do, don't worry about being embarrassed or failing or being made fun of. Simply try it. Who cares if you fail, but you may just discover a new career, a new passion or a new hobby.

Living on Manitoulin provides you with unique opportunities you won't find anywhere else. There are amazing parks all over the Island, some open year-round like McLean's Park in Assiginack that has groomed trails in the winter. Give snowshoeing or cross-country skiing a try. If crafts are your thing, check out the Island municipal websites, they all have great activities throughout the year (assiginack.ca is one)! But most importantly, don't not try something based on fear. Go for it.

...integrity commissioner to probe

...continued from page 1
members of council," continued Mayor Barker. "To state otherwise is ludicrous and misleading. To confirm, staff was directed at the December 12, 2023 council meeting to bring forward a Municipal Owned Water System Policy with respect to the operations and financials of the municipal water system in the second quarter of 2024 including engagement with the water users and the financials regarding the water bank account. Once the numbers are reconciled, there will be full disclosure to council and the public."

"Mr. Cahill's actions of reaching out to the public and media in this fashion shows his disregard for the Township of Billings policies and by-laws and are in contravention of his Oath of Office and Council Code of Conduct," continued Mayor Barker. "This matter has been forwarded to the Townships Integrity Commissioner for further review."

"I resigned last week (December 14)," Mr. Cahill told the Expositor. "I spoke to Mayor Bryan Barker on the phone and then I sent my resignation email to council members and the township's CAO."

"It is (because of) my irreconcilable differences with township leadership that I am resigning and I feel I am no longer effective in my job as councillor," said Mr. Cahill. He explained in his resignation email to Mayor Barker, "Due to irreconcilable differences between me and the township of Billings leadership; it has become apparent to me that I can no longer effectively serve as a councillor for the township. For this reason I resign, effective immediately, from my township of Billings councillor position and committees that I currently sit on as a Billings councillor."

Mr. Cahill explained, "The irreconcilable differences relate to accountability, transparency and financial integrity. Section 224 of Ontario's Municipal Act outlines the role of council, and by extension, the role of individual councillors. Section 224, subsection (d.1), specifically states part of the role is to ensure the accountability and transparency of the operations of the municipality, including the activities of the senior management of the municipality." Subsection (e) goes further to state that part of the role is also 'to maintain the financial integrity of the

municipality.' My interpretation of what accountability, transparency and financial integrity mean is, in my opinion, quite different from what Billings leadership's interpretation is, so different that the differences are not reconcilable."

"The Old Mill waterline played a role in my final decision to resign, but there were other experiences with township leadership that also played a role," Mr. Cahill said. "The Old Mill Waterline situation was the latest, and was

the straw that broke the back."

Mr. Cahill explained that on December 13 he was made aware by a member of the public that the townships' previous council passed a '2021-2027 Water System Financial Plan' in 2020. In 2020, council passed a financial plan for the water system for Billings, a seven-year budget cash flow reserve for repairs and maintenance. However, this plan was not mentioned by the Mayor or

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Fixing Our Felines Manitowaning




A Holiday Special Deal

We are still hoping to place both Domino and Tootsie together in a new home. They are friendly, playful and loving.

Here's the deal: Adopt Domino for \$375 and Tootsie for \$185 (a savings of \$190!). Happy Holidays! Please call or text us at (705) 918-2879 or send us a message on our Facebook page.




Bahá'í Writings

The Kingdom of God is founded upon equity and justice, and also upon mercy, compassion and kindness to every living soul.

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

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WEDNESDAY: 4 PM - 9 PM
THURSDAY: 4 PM - WHEN TRIVIA ENDS
FRIDAY & SATURDAY: 4 PM - 1 AM

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

...Norgoma joins sister ship Norisle: last voyage to the wrecker

...continued from page 1
Marine at Algoma Steel.”
“City staff have made numerous attempts to find

a home for the vessel with many different proponents,” wrote Mr. Vair. “Two agreements for the sale of the vessel were

entered into (The Sweet Shop, Tobermory: Jeff Dwor, Port Colborne) but neither proponent was able to conclude the agreement.”

As has been reported previously, The Sweet Shop had indicated it was interested in the vessel, but that agreement was cancelled when the group was unable to secure a berth in the municipal marina. And Mr. Dwor had signed an agreement with the city that he wanted the vessel, but he also backed away from the agreement and owning the vessel.

“Staff have had discussions with a number of other proponents (six) to try and find a home for the vessel since these agreements were terminated but none of the groups expressing interest have been able to move forward,” Mr. Vair told council. “This is largely due to the cost of relocating the vessel, costs of refurbishment, ability to find a suitable location to dock the vessel and the requirements of host municipalities to provide funds in escrow should the vessel need to be decommissioned.”

Mr. Vair noted, “Since the last council report, the news media covered the story of the Norisle, a sister-ship to the Norgoma. The Township of Assiginack council approved a proposal from Marine Recycling Corporation (MRC) to dispose of the S. S. Norisle at a cost of \$743,000.”

He explained city staff “had contacted MRC and Purvis Marine to obtain updated quotes for decommissioning the Norgoma. MRC provided a quote of \$643,000 (for the relocation and decommissioning) and Purvis Marine has quoted \$395,000 with the condition that the city cover the landfill fees associated with disposal of non-ferrous materials, including contaminants.”

Mr. Vair said staff also explored the option to scuttle the vessel for a dive site. “In discussions with experts in the field, it was advised that the Norgoma



The Norgoma, which has been berthed in Sault Ste. Marie for many years, will soon see the same fate as the Norisle and is destined for the scrapyards.

would require extensive environmental work to ensure the vessel is clean of oil and other contaminants. Further, it was indicated the process for approval would take a significant amount of time. It is anticipated significant costs would also be incurred to undertake the environmental work, continue to pay docking and insurance fees while approval is obtained and to make arrangements to tow and scuttle the vessel. For these reasons, this option was not pursued further.”

Mr. Vair stated in his report, “Given the city has been unable to find a credible proponent with the financial capacity to follow through with relocating the Norgoma, staff are recommending the Purvis Marine offer to decommission the vessel be accepted.” Staff estimated the cost of accepting the non-ferrous materials at the landfill is approximately \$5,000-\$8,000. The cost provided by Purvis Marine, while a significant sum of money, is well below the cost charged to the Township of Assiginack.

“City staff made significant effort to find a new home for the vessel in an attempt to avoid the costs of decommissioning,” continued Mr. Vair. “The probability for a viable solution

appears to be very low at this point and it is not recommended to incur further expenses for insurance and docking fees.”

The 185-foot long Norgoma, which had served as a means of transportation between Owen Sound and Sault Ste. Marie, and had been a car ferry between Tobermory and South Baymouth, had been acquired by Sault Ste. Marie in 1975. They had provided it to the St. Mary’s River Marine Heritage Centre in 1981 to continue to operate it as a museum ship and tourism attraction. However, it struggled to maintain its viability.

The vessel was reconveyed to the city and options to sell it had been looked at.

“The Norgoma has been docked at Purvis Marine, just west of Algoma Steel for several years, at the cost of \$40 per day,” Mr. Vair told the Expositor.

Mr. Vair explained, “In March, the ship vessel will be transferred over to Purvis. Currently the city has been paying the docking and insurance costs and the vessel has been deteriorating.” He said, “I think with everything that Assiginack Township went through decommissioning the Norisle, I think it threw off a lot of proponents.”

“The Norgoma will be staying put. It will get cut up right where it is by Purvis. The decommissioning will take place right where the ship is located.”

...MPP meets hospitals on healthcare crisis

...continued from page 1

report on hospital closures and the Auditor General’s damning report on Northern healthcare, MPP Mantha spent last week meeting with hospitals across Algoma-Manitoulin to understand the extent of the crisis in our communities.

MPP Mantha said meetings with hospital leadership confirmed what the Auditor General reported is happening in communities across Algoma-Manitoulin. Chronic underfunding of hospital budgets is being compounded by the high cost of agency (nurse) staffing, the physician shortage across Northern Ontario and a one-size-fits-all approach to healthcare funding by the province that does not reflect the realities Northern hospitals face.

“I visited several of the hospitals this week and will be revisiting some in the near future,” MPP Mantha told the Expositor after a meeting with officials of the Manitoulin Health Centre last Wednesday. “I wanted to reconnect with the hospitals based on the Auditor General and Ontario Health Coalition reports on the alarming concerns that have been raised concerning Northern Ontario hospitals. There are a few common themes expressed by all those hospitals I visited, one being the absolute need for substantially more base funding for hospitals to provide and maintain services.”

“Another common theme among all hospitals is the attention the government needs to pay toward the ongoing high cost of nursing agency staffing. There is absolutely no control in place on this, including how much hospitals are being charged,” stated MPP Mantha. “Hospitals are mandated to have nursing services in place, but these agency nurses are calling for double or triple what hospitals normally pay. I have heard as much as \$150 per hour.”

“There are also the challenges of a lack of doctors as well, and even administration professionals are hard to get. If hospitals lose one or two individuals in key executive, it puts the hospitals in a very difficult position. It’s the same issue with nursing, if they lose one or two individuals, it can be devastating,” continued MPP Mantha.

“It is a crisis. And has been for a long time. And the top executive and administration and front-line workers have been doing remarkable work with what they have available to them,” MPP Mantha told the Expositor. “They have gone over and above and will continue to do so. But the government needs to recognize there is a crisis in Northern hospitals and provide the help and support needed.”

Paula Fields, president and chief executive officer of the MHC, along with other MHC representatives, met with MPP Mantha. “We met with Mike on his visit. He is trying to better understand the current situation with small, rural hospitals. We’re hoping his advocacy along with that of the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) will result in a plan for small, rural hospitals.”

...continued on page 10

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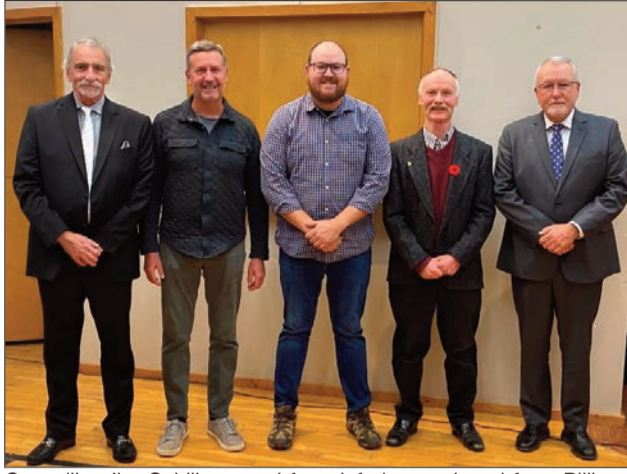
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...councillor quits; council asks integrity commissioner to probe

...continued from page 7
 CAO Emily Dance at our meetings discussing the Old Mill Waterline project. At our last meeting (December 12), there was no mention of a reserve or budget in place.”

Mr. Cahill continued, “this township water system financial plan outlines that there is a township water bank account and this water bank account is the township’s water reserve. The water system financial plan also outlines that for the Old Mill Road waterline project, the non-grant portion of the project, which we know now is \$449,351, would be funded using the water bank account/water reserve. There is no mention in the plan of using capital cost recovery for water users/properties to fund the non-grant portion of the Old Mill Waterline project. The township’s water bank account/water reserve is supposed to fund this (cost) according to the township’s water system financial plan.”

“The water system financial plan indicates that the water bank account/water reserve held a beginning balance of \$286,470 at the start of 2021,” continued Mr. Cahill. “This water system financial plan was approved by last council but I don’t know why current township leadership, during the several meetings this year about the Old Mill waterline projects, has never referred to this water



Councillor Jim Cahill, second from left, has resigned from Billings council due to irreconcilable differences between himself and Billings Township leadership. In turn, the township has turned the matter over to the integrity commissioner for further review.

system financial plan or to the water bank account/water reserve to fund the non-grant portion of the Old Mill waterline project (the \$449,351)?”

Mr. Cahill continued, pointing out “current council was informed at the December 12 council meeting that a water bank account existed, however, the balance in this account was unavailable at that time. Instead of using the water bank account/water reserve to pay for \$449,351, the township is looking to pass a by-law in January 2024 charging water system users/properties \$207,997, \$888.88 per each of the 234 water system users/water properties, with the township (all taxpayers) funding \$241,353 of the \$449,351 non-grant funded portion of the waterline project. Water system users/properties have already paid water

fees to build the balance in the township’s water bank account/water reserve and the balance in the water bank account/water reserve should, in my opinion, be used first as a funding source for the \$449,351 non-grant funded portion of the project. Water users should not be asked to pay twice for the non-funded portion of the project. However, there first needs to be a balance in the water bank account/water reserve before the band account/reserve can cover any of the non-grant funded portion of the project.”

“I regret that I did not know about the township’s water system financial plan ahead of the many council discussions about the Old Mill Road waterline project,” continued Mr. Cahill. “My bad for not reading every report in the township’s database. Now

that I know what I found out on December 13 about the water system financial plan and water bank account/water reserve, I believe that the township’s water bank account balance/water reserve balance should be disclosed to council during an open council meeting and seriously discussed by council at an open council meeting before council votes on the capital cost recovery Old Mill Road waterline project bylaw in January 2024. The outline of which was passed by council during the December 12 council meeting, again passed before council was aware of the township’s water system financial plan. Once the balance in the water bank account/reserve is known, in my opinion, council should direct staff to use these funds first to fund the non-grant portion of the project before looking to water users to fund any non-grant portion.”

“Additionally, council should direct staff to fully reconcile the township’s water bank account/water reserve in order to account for the \$286,470 water account/reserve balance at the beginning of 2021, right up to current water account/reserve balance, and report findings back to council. Also in my opinion, the public and council should receive a written explanation from township leadership as to why the 2021-2022 water system financial plan and the

township’s water bank account/water reserve were never disclosed to council in any Old Mill Road waterline project reports, or discussed with council during any Old Mill waterline project reports,

or discussed with council during any Old Mill waterline project council meetings, other than the revelation of the existence of a water bank account at the December 12 meeting.”

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...Ontario takes action against invasive species

...continued from page 3

milfoil in local biodiversity. He urged caution among individuals dealing with species like minnows, stressing the importance of accurately identifying and handling these species to prevent unintentional transfers between ecosystems.

He did say, however, that many of the species of fish included on the new list are very small and cautioned those licenced to harvest minnows to identify all species of minnow before allowing them to be brought to another body of water.

"People who use recreational vehicles such as boats, personal watercraft, quads and other ATVs should also take care to rinse their vehicles and trailers if they are going to be using them from place to place. Often, aquatic and land plants can be transferred from one ecosystem to another by accident," Mr. Campbell said.

The regulated species and groups span various categories, from fish and aquatic plants to mammals and terrestrial plants, each carrying potential impacts on biodiversity, water quality and habitat preservation.

Colin Cassin, the policy manager at the Invasive Species Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, told The Expositor, "People should think of the difference between prohibited species and restricted species like this: if the species is prohibited, it means that it's an invasive species that hasn't taken hold in our local ecosystems and we are trying to prevent that from happening. If the species is restricted, there is already a population

we are trying to control and phase out."

Efforts to identify invasive species have improved using tools like EDDMapS. This web-based mapping system allows for the documentation of invasive species and pest distribution, aiding in creating a comprehensive understanding of their prevalence. EDDMapS aggregates data from multiple sources, including volunteer observations, to establish a robust network of invasive species and pest distribution data accessible to various stakeholders.

Ontario's stringent measures against invasive species signify a proactive step towards preserving its natural ecosystems and safeguarding vital economic sectors from the detrimental impacts of these intruders.

The following species and groups will be prohibited in Ontario effective January 1, 2024: ide (fish), eastern and western mosquito fishes (fish), red shiner (fish), oxygen weed (aquatic plant), nutria (mammal), genus salvinia (watermoss - aquatic plant), genus procamburus and genus pacifastacus (crayfish).

The following species and groups will now be restricted effective January 1, 2024: Eurasian water-milfoil (aquatic plant), floating primrose-willow (aquatic plant), flowering-rush (aquatic plant), tree-of-heaven (terrestrial plant), genus azolla (water ferns - aquatic plant).

Call toll-free 1-877-847-7667 to report any illegal activity involving invasive species to the ministry.

...MPP meets hospitals on healthcare crisis

...continued from page 8

"It is a health crisis affecting small, rural hospitals," said Ms. Fields.

"I want to recognize these frontline workers and leadership teams at these hospitals, for their hard work and using their resources effectively to provide care to communities," said MPP Mantha.

"If the upcoming spring provincial budget does not include a substantial increase to base funding for small and rural hospitals, regulations on agency staffing and a plan to address the health inequities faced by Northerners, services will continue to deteriorate for Algoma-

Manitoulin and we will be faced with a serious crisis in public healthcare in the not-too-distant future."

MPP Mantha is encouraging people in Algoma-Manitoulin to add their voice by submitting to the pre-budget consultations. Written submissions or requests to appear can be sent to MOFconsultations@ontario.ca

"Absolutely, the public needs to raise concerns they are seeing or hearing about in healthcare and to express to the province what is required," said MPP Mantha.



NOTICE BOARD

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

Happy New Year!

RESCHEDULED

Please be advised the Council meeting of January 2 has been rescheduled to January 9 at 7:00 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!

Brrrr! It's getting cold out!



Many donations of warm clothing were accepted for

Manitoulin Family Resources.



A huge thank you goes out to everyone who donated items this year!



The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



...Santa gets some big time help from Manitoulin Family Resources volunteers

...continued from page 3
the food donations from the various food drives: stuff a cruiser and the Expositor donations, among many others that take place in the fall and early winter months. The end result is this impressive warehouse of groceries. “We did about four transports full of food this year,” Vanessa says, proudly. “We started bringing stuff into the church on December 9th. And the church has been very generous to allow us the space...because we can’t do this at the food bank, we just don’t have the room,” she said.

The whole sanctuary of the church is the toy department, where the volunteers wrap the toys for the kids, and get them sorted. The toys are donated,



Santa’s elves were busy packing a record number of Christmas hampers last week.

photo by Margery Frisch

either through the telethon in Sudbury or from individuals and every child gets at least one toy, or more if there are enough. Everyone gets a hat, or some gloves from the knitwear collection of donated items.

The sanctuary of the Freshwater Community Church does indeed appear to be Santa’s workshop, with wrapped gifts sorted by age and gender in the pews, row upon row. For Sunday service, the toys are moved to the back of

the church and the table set up in the front, for the wrapping of gifts, is also cleared away. A lot of work added to an already heavy schedule, but no one seems to mind. There’s a dedicated group of volunteers who have been doing this for



decades and they take it all in stride.

“I’ve done this for years,” said one volunteer, “but this is my first time helping here. It just feels good to be a part of this.”

For those wishing to volunteer to help with the wrapping, the sorting and the filling of boxes, the ideal time to contact Manitoulin Family Resources is in November. This is when lists of volunteers are made; hours available to work are noted and schedules are compiled. It’s an intricate and thoroughly organized schedule. “Usually it’s Monday to Friday. We don’t do weekends and we don’t do evenings, so it’s a little tricky for those who work full-time,” Ms. Glasby said.

...MSS robotics team pens children’s book ‘Robofriends and the MowZone’

...continued from page 3
Ms. Wilson-Zegil. “Another distinct point was when we all helped with the golf tournament (at Brookwood Brae Golf Course in Mindemoya) in September. We all worked on the book that day and we finished writing the book on the story board. It made us feel that this book was really happening.”

Ms. McNaughton said it took her about three months to finish the graphics for the book. “I would work on the book on the bus to school in the morning, then at lunch, and

then on the way home.”
“When I saw the first copy of the book I was amazed and said, ‘oh my God,’” said Ms. McNaughton

Various members of the robotics team completed the editing and layout under the umbrella of MSS Publishing. The printing was outsourced to Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing.

Launched in 2017, Manitoulin Metal Robotics is a Canadian FIRST robotics team. They are dedicated to environmental sustainability and overcoming any challenges through



The Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) Manitoulin Metal Robotics FRC6865 team held a launch of their children’s book, ‘Robofriends and the MowZone,’ on December 21. Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Michael Mantha visited with the students earlier in the day. From left is Lizzie Elliott, Xander Thompson, MPP Michael Mantha, Alexandra Wilson-Zegil, Robyn-Ashley McNaughton, Eric Wahl.

resilience, creative problem solving and community.

Robofriends and the Mow Zone is the first book in the Manitoulin Metal Robotics FRC6865 Literacy Series. The book sells for \$15 on amazon.ca. and is also available at the Manitoulin Expositor offices in Little Current and Gore Bay. Proceeds will support the team’s travel to the World Championships in Houston in April as well as another book in the series.

**CHRISTMAS BREAK
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 Sponsored by The Island Animal Hospital and Manitoulin Tree Service.
- December 29th, 2023 from 10 am - 12 pm**
 Sponsored by Mindemoya Home Hardware and Huron Island Time.
- January 2nd, 2024 from 10 am - 12 pm**
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- January 3rd, 2024 from 10 am - 12 pm**
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- January 4th, 2024 from 10 am - 12 pm**
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- January 5th, 2024 from 10 am - 12 pm**
 Sharpe Farm Supplies and JMH Farms Inc.

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FOR MORE INFO: Visit us on Facebook or at www.centralmanitoulin.ca

North 46

NEW YEARS MENU

APPETIZERS

Charcuterie Board
2 meats, 2 cheeses, pickles and olives.

Manitoulin Mushroom Bruschetta
Local blue oyster mushrooms, tomatoes, red onions, garlic and herbs on toasted sourdough drizzled with balsamic reduction.

Chicken Sliders
4 Buffalo chicken sliders topped with spring mix, red onions and blue cheese on a mini Brioche bun.

MAIN

Surf and Turf
8oz bison steak, 4 grilled shrimp, roasted potatoes and roasted vegetables.

Mediterranean Penne
Onions, tomatoes, spinach, zucchini, kalamata olives and red wine tossed in pesto and topped with feta cheese.

Manitoulin Whitefish
Pan-fried local whitefish topped with dill garlic butter, served with choice of mashed potatoes, fries or rice and seasonal vegetables.

DESSERTS

Choose from our menu. Based on availability.

December 31, 2023
\$52/person + tax
4pm - close

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or take out

Manitoulin Hotel & Conference Centre
66 Meredith St. E., Little Current

NORTH46
RESTAURANT

..Legislation designed to reduce gun violence receives Royal Assent

...continued from page 3

"The safety and security of everyone in Canada is our government's top priority, and it requires strong action to protect individuals from gun violence," said the Honourable Arif Virani, minister of justice and Attorney General of Canada. "These changes to the law, taken together with the recent reforms to the bail system to

address repeat violent offenders, will help keep people safer. We will continue to crack down on firearms smuggling and trafficking, target violent crimes involving handguns and address the alarming role of guns in gender-based violence, including intimate partner violence."

Since 2009, handguns have been the most used weapon in firearm-related violent crimes in Canada. With the passing of this legislation, the national freeze on the sale, purchase and transfer of handguns has been codified in legislation (Firearms Act), restricting the transfer and importation of handguns into Canada. The handgun freeze came into effect by regulations made on October 21, 2022.

To address risks to victims, including gender-based and intimate partner violence where a firearm is present, new 'red flag' laws are also now in force. This will allow any individual to apply to the court for an emergency weapons prohibition order against a person who possesses firearms and poses a danger to themselves or others.

Other significant changes to address the criminal use of firearms have immediately come into force, including increased maximum penalties for weapons smuggling and trafficking offences from 10 to 14 years.

Other measures will come into force 30 days following

...continued on page 23



Happy New Year
2024

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023

START THE NEW YEAR WITH A PARTY!

DJ TOM A HAW
9 PM - 1 AM
\$10 PERSON
LITTLE CURRENT LEGION
AGE OF MAJORITY

...DSB paramedics feted with Governor General awards

...continued from page 3

cant impact that they have made on the lives of those we serve," said Ms. Stewart.

Mr. Elliott told The Expositor, "My award is for 30 years of service, although I am finishing my thirty-third year as a paramedic. I've always been on the Island, based out of Little Current, since I started." Mr. Elliott said he first started as a paramedic in December, 1990, starting with Bill Cranston of Manitoulin Ambulance Service at that time.

"There have been some good improvements made over the years in our profession. We have better equipment and training, and the profession has developed over the years with the advent of defibrillators, and being able to administer drugs in the field when a patient requires it," said Mr. Elliott.

"It was a very nice cere-

mony, with paramedics from across Ontario receiving the awards," said Mr. Elliott. He pointed out he joined the first response team in Manitowaning when he was 16-years-old and joined the Assiginack Volunteer Fire Department at the age of 19. He was hired as an ambulance paramedic when he was 19 years old.

The paramedics received a ribbon and medal at their 20-year service recognition, and a bar for every five years after, with the first bar signifying being a paramedic for 10 years.

The late Governor General of Canada, Romeo LeBlanc, created the medal in 1994 as part of the Canadian Honours System. This medal recognizes paramedics who have provided the highest standard of care and conduct. To qualify, at least 10 years of service must have been in the field, on duty, involving potential risk.



Local paramedic Dwayne Elliott, of Manitowaning, left, and Daniel Tremblay of Espanola received their Governor General Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal bars for providing exemplary emergency medical services for 30 years on December 13 at Queen's Park in Toronto. Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs president Michael Sanderson and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, presented the two paramedics with their 30-year bar.



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

by Heather Marshall

With its laid-back lifestyle and camo-chic fashion sense, the Island might seem the last place on earth you would expect to find anyone accustomed to living alongside the world's jetsetters and beautiful people cruising on super yachts anchored in places like Mallorca or Greek and Caribbean islands. But then, newcomers to Manitoulin are full of fascinating and surprising stories.

A case in point is Donna and Colin Clay-Marshall, she of the twinkly green eyes and impish laugh who steps in as a cashier during rush periods at Foodland in Mindemoya when she is not the store's file manager; and he, one of the team on the Island installing high speed internet and cable TV as a fibre-optic splicer for Poirier Technical Solutions.

Both Donna and Colin are a long way from their birthplaces in Essex and London, England where they lived what must feel like a lifetime ago given

NEW-ish to Manitoulin



Colin and Donna Clay-Marshall. Their lifetime of adventures. Colin was trained as an electrician, an occupation he pursued until he and Donna met through mutual friends 35 years ago. At the time, she was at university pursuing a geology degree with the intention of becoming a teacher.

The pair quickly discovered they shared a passion for sailing. Colin so much so that he attained yacht master's credentials. A Yacht Master is a highly skilled professional responsible for the safe operation and overall management of a yacht. Putting those skills to the test, in 1997 the duo packed up for a year with plans to return to England so Donna could complete university while continuing to travel and sail. They never returned home, however. Instead, they did a long-term detour that provided them with experiences worthy of a feature film.

In 1996, the family of five (mom, dad and three chil-

dren) sailed on a 36 foot Benneteau sailboat from England to France, then down the Atlantic coast to Portugal, through the Strait of Gibraltar and into the Mediterranean. The sailed to the South of France, Tunisia, Morocco, Balearic Islands, Sardinia, Malta, Greece, Turkey and finally



Now that's a fish—catfish that is.

made a stop in Barcelona, Spain before planning to cross the Atlantic to the US. They ended up staying in Barcelona for 17 years where they bought a house and launched new careers. Both started working on private super yachts, working for celebrities such as Sir John Paul Getty, Tommy Hilfiger and Ramon Abramovich.

The family had their own suites on these massive vessels during the summer and winter seasons when the ships were at sea and lived a relatively normal family life, with Donna homeschooling the kids. Their



World travellers.

two older daughters eventually went off to boarding school, but their younger son spent his school days learning about the world around him aboard luxury yachts.

Donna was the first to become land based, teaching English as a second language while she raised their children and cared for her ill mom who had joined them in Spain. Colin began working for a yacht refinishing company in Palma Mallorca, just across the strait from Barcelona, where he moved up to the level of general manager. After Donna's mom's passing, Colin moved to the US where he worked in West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale for a company that had bought out a yacht refinishing company. It was his job to ensure the takeover went smoothly.

The family's travels took them to a variety of exotic

destinations, including the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt where Donna took up a volunteer position teaching English as a second language to members of a local Bedouin tribe. The job came with her own Camel whom she named Rupert. Meanwhile, Colin achieved his dive master and Nitrox diving certification, diving in some of the world's most dangerous sites including the Blue Hole in Dahab, depending on where the ships were moored. When they were not somewhere on the Mediterranean during the summer months or in the Caribbean during the winter, the yachts would be in drydock for retrofitting. The family spent the shoulder seasons at their home in Barcelona where Donna would pick up her teaching gig again.

As impressive as their superyacht years may sound, Colin says his greatest thrill was serving as captain of the very famous yacht, the Black Knight, until taking her back to her home port in Fort Lauderdale where she still serves as the committee boat for the America's cup.

One of their daughters eventually moved to Canada where she married and now lives with her husband in Woodbridge. That led Donna and Colin to visit Canada frequently and, before long, they concluded it was time to set down roots themselves again. In 2010, they made Canada their new home as well. They initially lived in Woodbridge before moving to Newmarket. Once they

got permanent residence status, Colin worked for an electrical company while Donna was employed by a repossession company.

In addition to being a yacht master, Colin is also a dive master and was encouraged by friends to make a trip to Tobermory as it's such a great place to explore shipwrecks. When they saw the Chi-Cheemaun ferry and asked where it went, their love of sailing and adventure kicked in again. On one of the last crossings to Manitoulin in the fall of 2020, they made their first trip to the Island and stayed at the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre in Little Current.

Smitten by what they saw, Donna and Colin stayed an additional day, went into overdrive in search of a house, and made an offer on their now home in Kagawong all before returning to the city after the long weekend. The couple had to wait two long weeks to find out if their offer was accepted, since someone else was ahead of them in bidding on the property but that deal fell through.

"We went away for a weekend and left with a new house," laughs Donna. "And we were back in no time. We had to give two weeks' notice at our jobs down south, but we packed up and moved up by the end of the month."

Before they even had a chance to unpack, Colin was headhunted for a position

...continued on page 14

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Partnership to create Anishnaabemowin version of ‘Star Wars: A New Hope’

TREATY 1 TERRITORY, WINNIPEG—Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council and the University of Manitoba announced Monday, December 18 that they have an alliance with Disney/Lucasfilm to create an official Anishnaabemowin (Ojibwe) version of ‘Star Wars: A New Hope.’ Auditions for voice actors are expected to take place during 2024 in Winnipeg.

Partners in the project include Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council (DOTC), with Director of Operations Maengan Linklater as the project lead; the University of Manitoba; Disney/Lucasfilm; and APTN.

The project is supported in part by the Government of Canada through the Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program from Canadian Heritage. Additional support will be provided by Disney/Lucasfilm and APTN.

“A New Hope, one of the most iconic movies of all time, being available in Anishnaabemowin (Ojibwe) will help showcase this language to the world,” said the Honourable Pascale St-Onge, minister of Canadian Heritage. “It is my hope that this is just the beginning of many projects where stories are made available in First Nations, Métis and Inuit languages. Our government will always be there for communities in their efforts to cherish and revitalize their languages because they are an integral part of culture and identity and contribute to a sense



The poster for a new edition of ‘Star Wars: A New Hope’ features Anishnaabemowin. The new release will be dubbed in Ojibwe.

in language we can hear our history and hopes for the future,” said the Honourable Dan Vandal, minister of Northern Affairs and responsible for PrairiesCan and CanNor. “Our government, together with our partners, are acting to remedy the damage that colonization has caused to Indigenous languages. Projects like this are crucial to revitalizing Indigenous languages and bringing them to new audiences so Indigenous peoples can see themselves and their languages have a place at home and in a galaxy far, far away.”

Script translation, auditions for Anishnaabemowin voice actors and sound recording will take place in Winnipeg, with sound mixing and post-production scheduled to occur at Skywalker Sound in California. Plans are to have a Winnipeg premiere as well as showings at theatres across Canada and the intent is for this version of the film to air on APTN. Further details and timelines will be announced as the project progresses.

“This is an exciting project that seeks to restore the Anishnaabe language to the galaxy,” said Mr. Linklater, “and DOTC gets to say it did the Kessel Run in less than 12 parsecs.”

“Like the Force, our language surrounds us, penetrates us and binds our communities and culture together,” said Cary Miller, associate vice-president of Indigenous Scholarship, Research and

Curriculum at the University of Manitoba. “Projects like this that make our language more accessible are foundationally important to encouraging our youth to carry on our knowledge—including that of science and technology—which are embedded in our Anishnaabe language.”

“Working on the Navajo version of ‘Star Wars: A New Hope’ was a highlight of my career,” said Lucasfilm Senior Manager of Distribution Operations Michael Kohn. “I am very excited to revisit this type of project again and hopefully preserve and expand the Ojibwe language for future generations.”

“APTN is proud to partner on this project, which will help make a classic film more accessible to our Anishnaabe audience,” said Mike Omelus, executive director of content and strategy at APTN. “Language revitalization is fundamental to our work as an Indigenous broadcaster. This is an incredible way to celebrate Anishnaabe culture, language and identity.”

While there are many Indigenous languages in Canada, Anishnaabemowin, or Ojibwe, was chosen because it has about 320,000 speakers in Canada and the US and is the most spoken Indigenous language in Manitoba, Ontario and Minnesota.

“Gi-ga-miinigoowiz Mamaandaawizwin” (“May the Force be with you”).

of belonging.”
“Language is how knowledge is kept and handed down to future generations, with-

...Newish: Colin and Donna Clay-Marshall

...continued from page 13

installing fibre optic cable, a skill that capitalizes on his training and experience as an electrician, for the company that won the Manitoulin contract to do the work. Donna continued to work remotely for her former employer when they first arrived but, extrovert that she is, found it to be too lonely and isolating so applied for a job at Food-

A keen fisherman, Colin has enjoyed the chance to do some serious fishing since making the move. Even prior to living on Manitoulin he was profiled on the TV show, Fishing Canada, for his prowess at fishing big carp while living in Spain and for landing a 163-pound catfish on the River Ebro in Spain and a carp over 53 pounds on Lake Cassien in France.

“This is my place of rest,” he says. “I’m definitely done travelling as we’ve found a

very special spot and made a lot of friends, including our beautiful neighbours.”

Donna chimes in, “I don’t miss life on the high seas with the rich and beautiful set one bit. We’ve been there, done that! I absolutely love my boss, Carole Patterson, and my wonderful Foodland work colleagues and am so glad to be living here.”

Heather Marshall and her husband worked as journalists and consultants in the National Capital Region for more decades

than they care to admit before making their Sandfield cottage their permanent home. A lifelong learner, Heather loves discovering new things and people and relishes the opportunity to write about newcomers to the Manitoulin. If you would like to share your story or know of recent arrivals we should meet, send a message to HAMarshall@proton.me

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Songwriter Mike Farquhar pens songs of life, love on Manitoulin Island

by Alicia McCutcheon
KAGAWONG—Mike Farquhar of Kagawong is well-known across Manitoulin for his keen sense of humour, but what readers may not know is that the practical joker is also a songwriter and musician in his own right.

This Christmas, the Farquhar grandchildren received a special gift from their grandfather—a songbook of all the Mike Farquhar family hits, complete with a QR code that will send them to a YouTube page to hear their granddad singing his heart out. The songs have been lovingly uploaded, complete with art by son Evan.

“I just thought it would be a neat thing for the grandkids to have,” Mr. Farquhar shares. “They can go and listen to their crazy ol’ grandpa whenever they like!” he laughs with his trademark eye twinkle.

Mr. Farquhar was long known for his job as the front man of Farquhar’s Dairy, and for many years, Kool-It Ice. Kool-It Ice was eventually sold to other parties and when he retired from Farquhar’s Dairy, Evan thought he could use a hobby.

“I think he was kind of admiring what I was doing at the time, playing gigs at the Anchor Inn,” Evan says. At the time of retirement, Evan had a popular Friday night live music show at the Anchor. He encouraged his dad to pick up the guitar again, and he did.



Eat, drink, and be merry! A Mike Farquhar songbooks delights.

It was an instrument that would suit his love of songwriting well. Mr. Farquhar has been penning songs since he was a young man.

“As long as I can remember, I’ve been making up songs or changing the lyrics to popular songs of the day,” Mr. Farquhar shares with his grandkids. “I remember getting together with three friends to form a rock and roll band in my teenage years and practicing and performing for dances at the old Shaftesbury Hall or at our Grade 12 class-operated coffeehouse. That coffeehouse, the ‘Castle’ we called it, began as a class project. Our Grade 12 homeroom teacher, Mr. Brauma, was very innovative.”

The Castle was located in an old mansion overlooking the North Channel owned by the late Barney Turner. When they heard it was destined for the wrecking ball, the class approached Mr. Turner and asked him to let them transform it into a coffeehouse. He agreed, and the students set to work transforming the space with candles and checkered tablecloths.

The coffeehouse attracted talent, with the help of Mr. Brauma, from as far away as southern Ontario, and was deemed a success. Music has always been an important part of Mr. Farquhar’s life.

In fact, his first attempt, ‘Sweater Waving Gal,’ is an

ode to wife Marilyn and a cheeky account of one of their first dates—an evening on the beach near the late Dr. Jack Bailey’s North Channel Drive cottage. The story of ‘Sweater Waving Gal’ and the accompanying lyrics start the songbook (scan the QR code with your phone to have a listen to this first Mike Farquhar original).

Mr. Farquhar took Evan’s advice seriously, and has been a serious student of the guitar since retirement, even picking up lessons each winter at the Farquhar holiday home in



Scan this code to listen to ‘Sweater Waving Gal.’

Florida. He takes great joy in jamming with son Evan, too.

Other tracks in the ‘crazy grandpa’ songbook include such titles as ‘The Anchor Inn Song’ (sung to the tune

of ‘House of the Rising Sun’), ‘Sunburnt Bra Song,’ ‘Love is Such a Wonderful Feeling,’ ‘Manitoulin Redneck Party Song,’ ‘Help Me RONA,’ and ‘Sunny Day Man,’ among many more.

Mr. Farquhar’s infectious sense of humour—and kind heart—is evident in his musical musings about life and love on ‘the Manitoulin.’ This gift to the Farquhar grandchildren is one that will surely be cherished for years to come.

To hear more of Mr. Farquhar’s music, search ‘Mike Farquhar’s songs’ on YouTube.

Manitoulin's Ukrainian refugees describe history and traditions in their homeland

by Michael Erskine

MANITOULIN—Art Donskov and his family have settled on Manitoulin Island and are discovering what it means to be Canadian at this time of year. The Expositor dropped in to chat about Christmas traditions in Ukraine with Mr. Donskov at The Bear restaurant in Little Current where the popular executive chef has introduced Manitoulin Island to the wonders of sushi and some traditional Ukrainian foods.

"We are not orthodox, we are contemporary," cautions Mr. Donskov as the conversation begins.

The first big difference between Christmas in Canada and the West is that in Ukraine the birth of Christ is celebrated on January 7—in the Orthodox Church tradition.

But there are strong similarities to Canadian custom as well. "Usually, there is a big table with family and friends," he said. "There are 12 traditional dishes, we don't have them all—we are not that traditional," he



Art, daughter Eva and wife Yulia will be celebrating a traditional Canadian Christmas this year.

smiles. But when it comes to the table and friends getting together and having a

good time, that runs strong. "We enjoy each other's company and it is a time to put aside differences," said



Kutia is a traditional dish made with unground grain.

Mr. Donskov, adding that, wisely in any community across the globe where getting together in harmony is concerned that, "We don't talk politics."

The 12 traditional dishes are: kutia, a porridge made from unground wheat, rice, barley or oats with the addition of sweet ingredients like honey or jam, dried fruits and such which symbolize eternal life and heavenly bliss; borsch, a hearty soup, usually cooked with meat, but usually as a "Lent recipe" without meat for Christmas Eve, Ukrainians usually use dried mushrooms, beets, carrots, beet kvass, dairy butter and flour. The lent soup is often served with small dumplings (vushka) called "ears." These dumplings are made from dough and are stuffed with mushrooms; mushroom gravy, a light sauce that includes dried mushrooms, bulb onions, flour, oil and spices, prepared

very thick, similar to modern cream soups; Varenyky, served Christmas Eve these savory perogies are stuffed with stewed cabbage and onions; the familiar holubtsi (aka cabbage rolls) is a traditional dish usually made of cabbage leaves, rice, and meat. Yet since the festive Christmas table traditionally includes lean dishes, Ukrainians use a mixture of potatoes, mushrooms, onions and carrots instead of meat. Cabbage leaves are filled with vegetable stuffing, fried in a pan with a little vegetable oil, and then stewed in tomato paste; pickled herring, using bulb onion and a marinade made of water and spices that should be marinated for at least 24 hours; speaking of marinated, marinated mushrooms are sometimes a separate dish prepared much like the herring; Ukrainian Christmas bread or "kolach" is a slightly sweet yeast bread that is braided and shaped into an oblong loaf or three round braids stacked one on top of the other. A candle is placed in the middle and is an essential part of the Christmas Eve supper; stewed cabbage is a simple dish that each home has its own recipe for added herbs and spices; haricots can be served as a salad or a stew—to cook the salad, you boil white haricots, combine them with grated onions, sliced bell peppers, tomato paste and vinegar, while to make the stew you cook the haricots together with dried mushrooms, bulb onions and garlic; pampushky are considered an essential accompaniment to borscht, similar in taste to donuts, they are small buns made

of yeast dough based on wheat flour—for the festive Christmas table, pampushky are prepared with a sweet filling and fried in oil then sprinkled with powdered sugar; finally, there is compote, a light drink made using dried fruits according to taste, such as dried apples, pears, prunes,



Vushka or "ears" are small dumplings.

of yeast dough based on wheat flour—for the festive Christmas table, pampushky are prepared with a sweet filling and fried in oil then sprinkled with powdered sugar; finally, there is compote, a light drink made using dried fruits according to taste, such as dried apples, pears, prunes,



Soviet St. Nickolas replacements Father Frost and Snow Maiden. Shutterstock

raisins or a mixture of different ingredients, the fruits are boiled in dried fruits in water and then honey is added.

"Christmas is a holy family day," shared Mr. Donskov. "Waking up Christmas morning, children open gifts (adults too). It is a time for close family members, my sister usually comes over."

Christmas is a time to



Kolach is a donut-like complement to borscht.

bury all old grievances, a time to celebrate goodwill among men.

Christmas in the Orthodox tradition holds a secondary celebratory importance to Easter and the Resurrection of Christ, and the 19th of January, a week after Christmas with the baptism of Christ.

Huge changes came to Ukraine some 100 years ago with the arrival of the Soviets, noted Mr. Donskov. The officially atheistic ideology tried to forcefully separate the Ukrainians from religious practices. To that end, knowing that they could not hope to do so without some type of celebratory holiday, they brought in two New Year celebrations: January 1 and the "old New Year" of January 14. "There was no official celebration of Christmas," noted Mr. Donskov. "But people did, they

just kept it on the down low."

Another key difference that is somewhat the same is Santa. Ukrainians and Russians have St. Nicolas, the patron saint of children. St. Nicolas Day is December 19 and is a celebration of "good. On the 19th a child gets gifts.

There is also Grandfather Frost, Ded Moroz, who Soviets had originally also banned, but later adopted as a more non-religious holiday icon. He and his granddaughter Snow Maiden, Snegurochka, brought gifts to children during New Year's parties, much like Santa and his reindeer on Christmas.

Today, although its origins are steeped in Christian ideology, Ukraine has largely replaced the religious aspects with a more western commercial approach, noted Mr. Donskov. He was reluctant to talk about the current state of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine.

The mainstream Christian religion in Ukraine has been the Orthodox Church has been riven apart by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with the Russian patriarch supporting Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Ukrainian branch severing ties—then splitting internally as well.

He and his family will be celebrating Christmas in the mainstream Canadian version, he noted. "We will assimilate," smiles Mr. Donskov. He had his family are applying for their permanent residency, with a firm eye on becoming Canadian citizens.

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services

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

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

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- Work directly with students from Junior kindergarten to Grade 8 at Little Current Public School.
- Work in collaboration with students, parents, teachers at L.C.P.S., AOKFN Education Counsellor, Band Manager and Chief & Council.
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The Band Representative will report to the Family Resources Supervisor.

Position Summary
The Band Representative will represent M'Chigeeng First Nation (MFN) band membership children regardless of location, before the courts. The Band Representative will ensure the heritage, cultural traditions, identity and rights of MFN children are protected and preserved by all parties involved in child welfare matters.

Essential Functions

- Adhere to all MFN protocols & by-laws.
- Act as an advocate at all child protection hearings and to lobby for prevention and intervention solutions directly affecting band membership children.
- Process intakes and assessments, obtain informed consent, collect client family background/case history and develop a plan of care.
- Work with clients and appropriate workers to assess situations, identify issues and develop safety plans.
- Practice strict confidentiality, privacy, ethical and non-bias approaches.
- Assist to seek appropriate extended family placements and develop alternative safety plans in consideration of the child's needs and prevention of removal from community.
- Respond and intervene in family crisis situations where children require immediate attention and prevention of child abuse and neglect.
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Robyn Best named principal of Charles C. McLean Public School

GORE BAY—Robyn Best is returning to the elementary school she graduated from and taught at for many years. Ms. Best will take over the position of principal of Charles C. McLean Public School in Gore Bay when classes resume on Monday, January 8.

“A proud graduate of Charles C. McLean Public School, Robyn Best looks forward to returning to

her home community as principal,” a Rainbow District School Board (RDSB) release states. Ms. Best, “began her career with RDSB in 2004 teaching Grade 1 at Central Manitoulin Public School (Mindemoya) until 2006. She went on to spend 16 years teaching at C.C. McLean in various capacities, including Kindergarten, Grade 3 and Special Education. In 2008-2009, she also served as a part-time Special Education Resource Teacher at Assiginack Public School


(Manitowaning).”

Ms. Best, “Has been vice-principal at Little Current Public School since September 2022. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Laurentian University and a Bachelor of Education from Nipissing University.”

RDSB also announced that Nicole Nicolas-Bayer has been promoted as principal of Indigenous Education, and Kristen Pichette has been appointed principal of Lasalle Elementary School.



Principal Robyn Best



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- 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

...Legislation designed to reduce gun violence

...continued from page 12


Royal Assent, including the enactment of new offences related to the possession and distribution of computer data for use in illegal firearms manufacturing, for example by 3D printing “ghost guns,” and the classification of illegally made firearms as prohibited.

Some measures in this legislation, including the new “yellow flag” license suspension regime and enhanced license revocation provisions, will come into force at a later date through an Order in Council. This will allow the necessary engagement and preparation to take place.

This legislation’s measures align with the recommendations put forward in the

Final Report of the Mass Casualty Commission, released on March 30. It includes eliminating firearms access for those who are involved in intimate partner violence, stalking, or who are subject to a protection order.

These measures are part of the government’s comprehensive plan to keep communities in Canada safe from gun crime. It includes secure borders, where resources have been added to fight smuggling and stop guns from coming into Canada; and a robust legal framework, the national handgun freeze, and strong prevention strategies, notably the Building Safer Communities Fund, which aims to stop gun crime before it starts.



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.

Those interested in this position should send their current resumes in confidence to:

Mary Katherine Howe, Executive Director
 Children’s Community Network
 Tel: (705) 566-3416 ext. 2547
 E-Mail: mhowe@ccnsudbury.on.ca
 Posted: December 14, 2023

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.

spirituality

Happiness is the result of doing God’s will (obeying God) JOHN 13:17. Unhappiness, depression, mental illness, suicidal tendencies are the result of disobeying God. The reason why there is so much unhappiness, depression and mental illness is that 99% of people don’t believe this, they reject what God in the Bible says on this subject. DEUT. 28 is a chapter that deals with blessings for obedience (to the decalogue) and curses for disobedience. Among the curses in DEUT 28:28 is a confused mind. You can reject this, but it is thus says The Lord (Yahweh). God loves you, Jesus came to pay the price for your sin, JOHN 3:16 and He offers you hope. He wants you to enjoy abundant life. JOHN 10:10.

The Bible is the seed, LUKE 8:11. Just like a seed of a flower, vegetable or tree has the power in it to become a flower or a tree, God’s word is the seed that can produce the blessings of happiness and mental wellness. The health God offers includes mental, emotional, physical and spiritual and God himself and all the power is the universe is standing ready to bring to pass everything He promises in His word. As the word is the seed, all these blessings become a reality when we first accept that the Bible is the word of God and the truth.

God says: “If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways (that means repent), then will I hear from Heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land,” 2 CHRON. 7:14. JOHN 1:9 says: “If we confess our sin, God is willing and able to forgive our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” At Christmas time people remember that Jesus came to be the savior. He wants to be your savior and Lord. At New Year, many people make new year’s resolutions. The most important resolution is to accept the bible as God’s word to you.

To study it to find out what God’s will for your life is, and then do it, I repeat, do it, for without obedience all the knowledge of God’s will won’t do you any good. And I guarantee when you make this resolution and stick with it, this New Year will be the happiest and most blessed you have ever experienced because God himself is standing behind His word to have this seed grow and mature and bear fruit. Nobody has to be depressed or in misery.

God loves you. He offers you hope for a bright future. Have a happy new year.
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Bluegrass in the Country announces the lineup for this year's festival

by Tom Sasvari

PROVIDENCE BAY—The headliner for the 2024 annual Bluegrass in the Country festival is a US band, the first band that has made a direct trip from its US location to perform at the festival.

"David Peterson and 1946 is the first American band we've had directly from the US. Claire Lynch is from the US but now lives in Toronto," said Ben Lentir, entertainment coordinator for the event.

David Peterson and 1946 are from Nashville, Tennessee and it was the band that approached Mr. Lentir and the Bluegrass organizers about performing at the music festival.

"Mr. Peterson heard about our bluegrass festival on a radio station in the US," said Mr. Lentir. "He looked it up and actually approached me about performing here. So, we talked and came up with a deal."



The headliner for the 2024 annual Bluegrass in the Country festival is the US band, David Peterson and 1946. Mr. Peterson is shown in photo.

"I have to admit I was shocked when I received Mr. Peterson's first email inquiring about Bluegrass," stated Mr. Lentir. "It proves our festival name is getting out there. And having this band here will be a good drawing card and publicity for our event now and in the future."

"I'm thrilled and excited that as the event coordinator we have drawn a band like this as our headline performer," continued Mr. Lentir.

"Drum roll please. Our 2024 headliner for Bluegrass in the Country is

David Peterson and 1946," a cjt5

post on the festival website states. "Every so often a new day dawns. In 1946, Bill Monroe (along with Lester Flatt and Earl Scuggs) had all the right ingredients come together for the first classic recordings for Columbia, and Bluegrass music was formed. This new music captured the imagination of a whole new generation of fans and musicians and changed forever the face of American music."

"Over the past three-quarters of a century Bluegrass has changed and evolved, but no group of musicians has recaptured the original essence of the founding group of Mr. Monroes' quite like this band. Based in Nashville, Tennessee, David Peterson and 1946 has drawn upon the style and content, recaptured the primal excitement and

energy, and attracted the same kind of popular interest as that of the first Bluegrass group. Listen closely and you will hear strains of Bill Monroe, Chubby Wise, Cedric Rainwater, Lester Flatt and Earl Scuggs. You'll also hear traces of other early Bluegrass and seminal country music pioneers interspersed among the varied tunes that 1946 plays. Driving instrumentals, solemn gospel quartets, heartfelt trios and old-style duets. "Tears in your eyes' vocal solos, blazing original tunes, and

a 'treat for your eyes' stage appearance are what David Peterson and 1946 are all about."

"Mr. Peterson and 1946 will be coming up early, Friday evening (June 7) and will perform Saturday (June 8)," said Mr. Lentir.

Bluegrass in the Country 2024 will take place June 7-9 and Mr. Lentir pointed out the lineup is complete.

On Friday, June 7 the entertainers will include 2nd Line Bluegrass, Ben

Lentir, Simply Blue and Granite Hill. On Saturday the lineup will include Avery Drive, Simply Blu, Granite Hill, 2nd Line Bluegrass, Canucky Bluegrass Boys, the Barrel Boys, and David Peterson and 1946. On Sunday morning three bands will perform, including Ben Lentir, Robbie Shawana and The Barrel Boys.

While it takes a lot of hours on the computer and working to get each Blue-

grass festival in place, "it is well worth it as it benefits Manitoulin Special Olympics (MSO)," stated Mr. Lentir. "MSO are special people. It does take a lot of work and without our volunteers it wouldn't be the success it is today. And our business sponsorship is what makes the event take place. Without our sponsors and volunteers, we wouldn't be able to make this event a reality every year."

"It's amazing how people come together on Manitoulin Island for a cause and an event," said Mr. Lentir. "All the hard work we all put in is very satisfying in the end. Country and blues music is a passion of mine and being involved in this event every year is fun."

Bluegrass in the Country has a new website this year and tickets for the festival are now available, said Mr. Lentir.

Death Notices

BARRY VAN HORNE



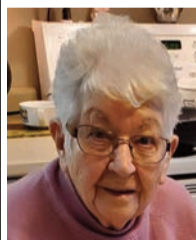
It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of Barry Van Horne on December 9, 2023 at the age of 83. Beloved husband of 61 years to Lynda. Loving father of Alan (Donna) Van Horne. Much loved Poppa to Taylor, Lauren and Sarah. Cherished brother of Karen Opheim and uncle to Cheryl (Shane), Debbie (Brent), Darren (Jari) and Suzanne (Andrew). Great-uncle to Delaney, Dayne, Colbe, Piper, Aevynn, Torynn and Hadley. He will be sadly missed by best friend and adopted brother, Jim Philp (Bonnie) and daughters Jennifer and Amy. Barry proudly worked at Vale (INCO) for over 30 years, retiring in 1993. Barry enjoyed woodworking and made countless pieces of furniture and a wide variety of other items. He also enjoyed doing the larger carpentry projects like framing houses and home renovations. He built his own workshop in which he spent many hours building and tinkering. He was especially proud of the camp he built on the bush lot near Mindemoya. Many summers were spent entertaining family and friends along with hosting a number of deer hunts. The family wishes to thank Todd and the staff at Walden Family Drugstore for being much more than just a pharmacy. A special thank you for the care and assistance provided by Kate, Julie, Lindsay and all the staff at Bayshore. Thank you also to the nurses, doctors and support staff on 6 South at Health Sciences North. In keeping with Barry's wishes, there was no funeral service. For those who knew Barry, please honour him by remembering the times spent with him over the years. Please share your thoughts, memories and photos at IslandFuneralHome.ca.

Island

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JESSIE MARIE BELL (nee Honess)

February 11, 1933 - December 15, 2023



In loving memory of Jessie Marie Bell (nee Honess), who passed away peacefully on her terms on Friday, December 15, 2023 surrounded by all of her children. Predeceased by her parents Llewellyn and Lila Honess, siblings Calvin, Ken and Mary. Survived by her brother-in-law Roger Bell and sister-in-law Marjorie Bell and siblings Helen McColeman, Jean McKay and Blanche Purvis. Mom was married to Floyd Bell (predeceased in 2003) for 52 years. She raised five children Donna (Ches), Marian (Bruce), Jeff (Debbie), Joanne (Bob), Lila (Glen), had nine grandchildren Derek, Trevor, Leanne, Dylan, Bradley, Evan, Scott, Mackenzie, Landon and two great-grandchildren Kaleb and Jordan, all of whom she was so proud of. Also predeceased by her much loved sisters-in-law Daisy Elliott and Bessie Honess and dear friends Claire Bell and Mary Bell. The old girls are together again! Mom had a full and busy life beginning on the family farm in Mills Township on Manitoulin Island, moving to Sudbury as a newlywed, raising her children and resettling in 2006 on her beloved Manitoulin for the remainder of her life. Mom would want to be remembered with a smile and a kind memory like one of her favourite statements, don't worry, be happy! A service will take place at Mills Cemetery in the spring as per Mom's request, a date will be announced. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to a charity of your choice in Mom's memory if you wish. There are some things that never, ever leave us. A mother's love is one of them. Till we meet again, Mom.

BARBARA JEAN ERSKINE

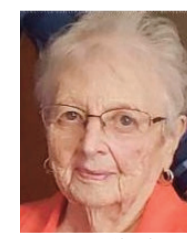
September 25, 1955 - December 21, 2023



It is with profound sadness and great love that we announce the passing of Barbara Erskine. Barb passed away at her home in Kagawong on December 21, 2023, with her loving partner Susan Snelling by her side. Their beloved pets Joy and Sparky were present and attentive throughout her passing. Barb was born in Etobicoke to Robert Erskine and Iris McGinnis, both predeceased. Mourning her loss are her partner of 35 years, Susan; her sister Patricia and brother-in-law Al; her family members Sheila, Peter, Pam, Liz, Rob, Katherine, Andrew and Chris; and many friends. She worked as a psychologist, including at the York Region Separate School Board, and for 18 years at Noojmowin Teg Health Centre on Manitoulin Island. After retirement, always up for diverse new challenges, she served as a municipal councillor in the Township of Billings, as general manager of Split Rail Brewing, and as a Board member of the Kagawong library. She will be remembered for the impact she had as a political analyst, boundary-pusher and committed community volunteer who always showed up. Barb was known for her great cooking and baking and she and Susan enjoyed hosting some amazing dinner parties. She loved to be active and was known by her Kagawong neighbours for her daily walks and runs, no matter the weather, often with her dog Roscoe. Barb took up meditation in her thirties, hockey in her forties, nature photography in her 50s, and strength training in her 60s. She was also a dedicated environmentalist and bird watcher. She and Susan enjoyed travelling and being at home on her beloved Manitoulin, home of the Anishinaabeg. Thanks are due especially to the staff of the Mindemoya Hospital emergency department who provided such caring support to Barb throughout her illness and to friends who stepped in to help in so many ways. Donations in Barb's memory may be offered to the Mindemoya Hospital Auxiliary or to the Billings Public Library.

NOREEN LORETTA LEESON (nee Young)

July 5, 1936 - December 3, 2023



In loving memory of Noreen Loretta Leeson (nee Young) who passed away peacefully at home in South Baymouth on Sunday, December 3, 2023 at the age of 87. Beloved wife of Reg Leeson. Loving mother of Nancy (Grant) Moggy and Blaire (May) Leeson. Grandmother of Darren (Jennifer) Moggy, Clarissa Moggy, Andrew (Michiko) Leeson and Brandon Leeson. Great-grandmother of Elliot and Emmet. Cherished sister of Grenville (Valerie) Phillips. Cooking and baking were Noreen's greatest passion in life. She was an avid member of the United Church and UCW and loved to help out at any function they hosted. She was a proud member of The Eastern Star, Spanish River Chapter and was affiliated on January 21, 1982. She became Past Patron during the year 1987-88. Family and friends gathered at Island Funeral Home for visitation on Friday, December 8, 2023 from 10 am to the time of the service at 12 pm with Rev. Martin Garniss officiating. Burial will take place in Hilly Grove Cemetery in the spring.

Island

FUNERAL HOME LIMITED



The Canucky Bluegrass Boys are always a great favourite at the Bluegrass in the Country festival in Providence Bay. This year sports an outstanding lineup that includes top acts and plenty of local talent as well.

Legends in the curling world are coming to Manitoulin on January 23-28

by Tom Sasvari
LITTLE CURRENT—If it is great, competitive curling you are craving, the Northern Ontario Curling Association (NOCA) Men's and Women's Provincial Championships should fill your appetite. There will be legends in the game on hand, rinks from all over Northern Ontario and several local curlers taking part.

"It will be an excellent event," stated Joe Cooper of the Little Current Curling Club (LCCC) which is hosting the Northern Ontario championships, taking place January 23-28. "There will be a total of 20 rinks taking part, 14 on the men's side and six on the lady's side. We have teams from Thunder Bay, North Bay, Sudbury, Copper Cliff, Sault Ste. Marie, Little Current and Timmins."

The Jordan Chandler rink (which will include his brother Kyle Chandler) from the Little Current Curling Club will be taking part. Mr. Chandler's rink made it to the semi-finals in 2018, the first time the Island had hosted the Northern Ontario championship.

"Another rink with a local flavour will be the Assad rink (Copper Cliff Curling Club) with Chris Gordon and his son Matt on the team," said Mr. Cooper. "Chris, who is the son of Bruce and Helen Gordon of Little Current, grew up in Little Current and lives in Sudbury now."

Mr. Cooper also pointed



The action was fast and furious during the last time the championships were in Little Current.

out coaches for two of the teams are icons in the sport of curling. "Al Hackner will be coaching one of the men's teams while Rick Lang will be coaching one of the ladies rinks. Mr. Hackner, nicknamed the "Iceman" will be coaching the Trevor Bonot rink out of the Fort William Curling Club in Thunder Bay. He and Rick Lang won the world championships together in 1982 and 1985, has won the Brier, and have been winners in seniors and mixed division team competitions."

"Rick Lang will be coaching the Krista McCarville rink, which is the defending champion, from the Fort William Curling Club in Thunder Bay," continued Mr. Cooper.

The full lineup of men's rinks includes the defending champion Tanner Horgan rink from the North-

ern Credit Union (NCU) Community Centre in Sudbury, the MacEwan rink from Sudbury, the Bonot rink from Thunder Bay, the Jordan Chandler rink from Little Current, the Adams jr, Warkentin and Burgess rinks from the Port Arthur

Cliff, the Hunt rink from YNCU Curling Centre, Rajala rink from NCU Community Centre, the Deschene rink from YNCU Curling Centre and O'Bright rink from the North Bay Granite Club.

The ladies' rinks include



The NEMI Recreation Centre main ice is converted to curling lanes for the event.

Centre, the Minogue rink from the North Bay Granite Club, the Silver team from Fort William Curling Club, Assad rink from Copper

the defending champion McCarville rink from Fort William Curling Club, Johnston rink from the North Bay Granite Club, McCormick rink from Idyl-

wylde Curling Club in Sudbury, Deschene from McIntyre Curling Club of Timmins, Burns rink from NCU Curling Centre in Sudbury, Despina rink from the Fort William Curling Club in Thunder Bay.

"The men's division will have a triple knockout format, meaning each rink can lose two games and still qualify for the finals," said Mr. Cooper. On the ladies' side, "they will take part in a round-robin format."

"The teams will have a practice day on January 23, with the competition to start on January 24 at 9 am

with three draws," said Mr. Cooper.

Opening ceremonies will take place on January 24 at 6 pm, with a player/sponsor reception to take place at 7 pm in the NEMI recreation complex.

"With the event to take place in January, local businesses in Little Current and across the Island should do well," said Mr. Cooper.

Mr. Cooper stated, "again this time in hosting this event we have been very fortunate in relation to the sponsors we had come forward to provide support."

See ad on Page 10.

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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.

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



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A LAKE MINDEMOYA CHARMER
MLS#2111109 - Mindemoya
\$550,000

WANNA BUILD? START HERE!

WISHING YOU ALL THE BEST FOR 2024!



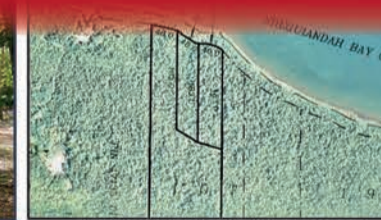
SOUTH BAY ACCESS BUILDING LOT
MLS#2113802 - Manitowaning,
\$79,900



VACANT LOT ON QUIET STREET IN LITTLE CURRENT
MLS #2113839 - Little Current
\$49,000



SHOP & COMPARE! 100 ACRES WITH HUNT CAMP IN CENTRAL MANITOULIN
MLS#2110511 - Central Manitoulin,
\$239,900



TWO WATERFRONT LOTS 150 FEET WATERFRONT AND APPROX 2 ACRES EACH!
MLS# 2113423, \$85,000
MLS#2113397, \$95,000

50 PLUS YEARS

SERVING MANITOULIN FOR OVER 50 YEARS YOUR ISLAND CONNECTION!

50 PLUS YEARS



Steve Rolston, B.A.
Broker of Record
Evenings: 705-348-2381



J. Alan Wright
Broker
Cell: 705-869-7568



Rob Norris H.B.A.
Agent
Cell: 705-968-0030



Al Frank
Agent
Evenings: 705-859-3297



Alan Mihelchic
Agent
Cell: 705-282-4602



Lori Edwards
Office Manager
705-368-2381



Meredith Morris
Marketing & Rentals Manager
705-368-2381



Happy

2024

NEW YEAR

From your Island Brokerage



Chris Bousquet
Broker of Record
705-368-2271



Scott McDougall
Salesperson
705-210-0044



Abbie Drolet
Broker
705-348-0067



Rebecca Deeg
Salesperson
705-348-0237



Jack Bould
Salesperson
705-282-8441



Mathieu Page
Broker
705-207-1282

Brokerage Listings



90 McVey Dr, Little Current
MLS 2114311 | \$555,000



SOLD

2180 HWY 551
MLS 2113455 | Mindemoya



88 Moggy Pkwy, Assiginack
MLS 2114179 | \$89,000



35 Bay St, Manitowaning
MLS 2114553 | \$598,000



Con A Smeltzer Rd, Tehkummah
MLS 2114399 | \$39,000



52 Thorne St, Mindemoya
MLS 2111339 | \$549,000



WATERFRONT LOT

0 Russell St, NEMI
MLS 2109615 | \$169,000



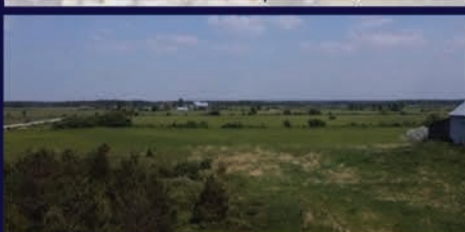
0 Doc Strain Dr, Gore Bay
MLS 2109586 | \$89,000



63 Rainbow, Mindemoya
MLS 2113393 | \$659,000



2989 540 HWY, Honora Bay
MLS 2111341 | \$60,000



0 HWY 551, Providence Bay
MLS 2110436 | \$67,500



A C R E A G E

600 Brittainville Rd
MLS 2108547 | \$80,000



WATERFRONT LOT

PT LT 16, Perch Lake
MLS 2114428 | \$48,000



89 Leeson Bay Tr, Assiginack
MLS 2110928 | \$239,900



1161 Bay Estates S, NEMI
MLS 2113220 | \$165,000



Gaida's Sideroad, NEMI
MLS 2114554 | \$45,000