

♥ For Valentine's: Ann and Jack Sargent 'flew' into each other's arms. *Read their story on Page 16*

♥ AND THE WINNER IS: Valentine's poetry contest entries on Page 14

The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



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Wednesday, February 14, 2024



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!—Nancy Anwhatin Glover shows off the red leather roses she created for Valentine's Day gifting. Ms. Anwhatin Glover was one of the crafters participating in the M'Chigeeng Winter Carnival last weekend.

photo by Michael Erskine

Part I of a series

50 years of the Little NHL

The last 'founding father,' Jim McGregor, pleased founding ideals remain important

EDITOR'S NOTE: This year marks 50 editions of the culturally important Little NHL (Native Hockey League) tournament and, over the weeks leading up to the Markham event, Expositor reporter Gina Gasongi Simon will trace the evolution of the tournament from its origins as a two-day local event in 1971 at the old Little Current arena to the massive undertaking it is today with nearly 250 teams participating from all corners of the province. This week's installment, the first, examines its origins in the 1970s.

by Gina Gasongi Simon
BIRCH ISLAND—To truly understand 'home ice advantage' we must realize the growth of hockey in Canada and the need for opportunity for First Nations children to play the sport. Those seeds of equity and opportunity were planted in 1971 by Jim McGregor, Jim Debassige, Norman Debassige, Earl Abotossaway and Rev Len Self, SJ.

The tournament was established based on four pillars: sportsmanship, respect, citizenship and education.

During its humble beginnings



Jim McGregor and his long-time partner, the late Mary Grace McGregor back in 2021 when he was presented with the Citizenship Award for all his work to develop and promote the LNHL.

In December 1971, a mere 17 teams registered for the 1st Little Native Hockey League (LNHL) tournament hosted in Little Current.

The last standing member of the original founding LNHL

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Supreme Court of Canada rules Indigenous child welfare is a First Nation responsibility

by Tom Sasvari

TORONTO—The Chiefs of Ontario are celebrating the news that the Supreme Court of Canada has declared the federal government's Indigenous child welfare law constitutional.

"This morning, we heard that the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Metis children, youth and families, is

constitutional, and that Canadian law recognizes Indigenous peoples have the right to self-government and jurisdiction over their children and family services," said Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare. "We celebrate this news coming out of the courts this morning, and we will continue to move forward in asserting and exercising our right to self-government and self-determination

as sovereign nations."

The Supreme Court of Canada unanimously upheld the federal government's Indigenous child welfare law, dismissing a Quebec government's appeal in a landmark decision. The decision was made last Friday morning, reversing a Quebec Court of Appeal decision to declare the law partly unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court in its decision concluded "the act as a whole is constitutionally valid. Developed in co-operation with Indigenous Peoples, the act represents a significant step forward on the path to reconciliation."

Bill C-92 became law in 2019. It affirms Indigenous nations have jurisdiction over child and family service and outlines national minimum standards of care.

CBC News reported the Quebec government opposed the law on jurisdictional grounds, arguing the federal government overstepped its legislative authority,

would require the Minister of Health to establish an advisory committee with the mandate to make recommendations for improving the facilitation of reasonable access to health services for people in Northern Ontario. The Bill would do this by means of "reasonable, realistic and efficient reimbursement for travel costs."

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MPP Mantha's bill seeks hike for Northern health travel grants

by Michael Erskine

ESPANOLA—Algoma-Manitowlin MPP Mike Mantha held a press conference in Espanola this Monday, February 12 highlighting his Private Member's Bill aimed at improving the Northern Health Travel Grant (NHTG) through the establishment of a review committee headed up by the Minister of Health. The issue is an important one for those living in the North, emphasized the MPP during a conversation with The Expositor.

"Northerners rely on the NHTG to make sure that no one is denied the care they need because of the costs," said Mr. Mantha. "My office is constantly hearing from constituents who are waiting weeks, if not months, to get a meager reimbursement that barely covers a portion of the costs of travel and accommodation."

Mr. Mantha's bill would enact a Northern Health Travel Grant Advisory Committee, which

M'Chigeeng gets Jordan's Principle funding for Little NHL teams

by Tom Sasvari

M'CHIGEENG FIRST NATION—Through approval of a sizable funding amount from Jordan's Principle, as well as fundraising carried out by members of the community, about 55 youths from M'Chigeeng First Nation will all be able to take part in the 50th annual Little Native Hockey League (LNHL) tournament in March.

"The funding we have received from Jordan's Principle will help out immensely with the costs all our young hockey players (and families) taking part in the Little NHL in Markham," said Morgan Hare, chief of

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Nurses demand fair share of \$3.1 billion federal funds for health given to Ontario

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN—Local health and provincial government representatives all agree that the announcement by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Ontario Premier Doug Ford of a \$3.1 billion agreement in funding toward healthcare to cut patient wait times and deliver better health care is good news, but everyone is cautious to wait and see the details.

Prime Minister Trudeau, along with Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced a new \$3.1 billion agreement last Friday to improve healthcare in Ontario. This investment is intended to help increase access to family doctors, reduce wait times, hire more health care workers and ensure faster care for Canadians, including mental health care.

"It's exciting news," said Dr. Maurianne Reade, president of professional staff for Manitowlin Health Centre (MHC). "I'm interested to see more information on the increase in the number of health providers in the province."

It still represents a lot of work and time for faculty at medical and nursing university programs training medical students to build and expand enough so that we have the work force that is so desperately needed."

Dr. Steven Cooper, who is a member of Ontario Health said,

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Early Deadline

Because of the upcoming Family Day long weekend, advertising and country correspondence deadlines for the February 21 issue of The Expositor are as usual moved ahead a day to this Thursday, February 15 at noon. Please take advantage of the long winter weekend to enjoy our wonderful Island with your family. The Expositor Office staff will be doing the same and will be closed next Monday!

MANITOULIN CHRYSLER



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The Manitoulin *West* Recorder



The cast of Manitoulin Secondary School's 'Beauty and the Beast' rehearses for its upcoming presentations.

Manitoulin Secondary School theatre presents Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast'

M'CHIGEENG—The Manitoulin Secondary School Musical Theatre Program is thrilled to present a musical production of Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast' licenced by Music Theatre International.

An iconic tale for all ages, 'Beauty and the Beast' recounts the story of an arrogant young prince and his castle staff who fall under a spell that will only be broken if he learns to love and be loved in return.

"Students are involved in every aspect of the production, from building and painting sets and props to sound, lighting, hair, makeup and set changes," says Yana Bauer, MSS teacher and play producer. "The production also features several elementary (school) cast members who are excited to be on the

main stage."

"Everyone is welcome to join us for a magical experience in support of arts education at Manitoulin Secondary School (in M'Chigeeng First Nation). Don't miss it," added Ms. Bauer.

Public performances will take place on Friday, February 16 at 7 pm, Saturday, February 17 at 2 pm, Friday, February 23 at 7 pm and Saturday, February 24 at 2 pm in the school cafeteria.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for youth 12 and under and can be purchased at the door, the Gore Bay IDA as well as Guardian pharmacies in Mindemoya, Little Current and Manitowaning. Tickets can also be purchased through TicketSpice online.

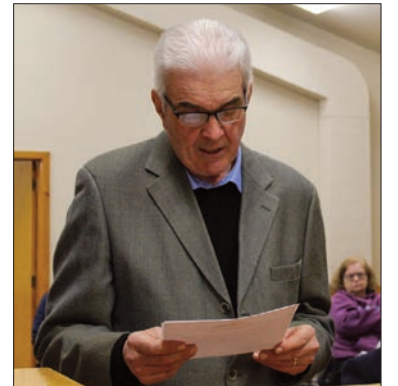
In a tie-breaker draw, Ian Anderson named as new Billings councillor

by Tom Sasvari

KAGAWONG—Ian Anderson, the former mayor of Billings Township, has been appointed by council as the new councillor for the remainder of the 2022-2026 term of council. However, it took the pulling of Mr. Anderson's name card out of a container (by the township clerk) along with fellow candidate John Foster's name to break the tie vote of council members.

Council appointed Mr. Anderson to the vacant council seat during a council meeting held on February 6, where six candidates had put their name forward for the seat left vacant by former councillor Jim Cahill who resigned in December. Each candidate had the opportunity to present a 10-minute speech to council. The candidates included Ian Anderson, William Gerald Concannon, Marc Anthony DiLello, Deborah Flaxman, John Foster and Michael Toppazzini.

After each candidate gave their speech and were asked two questions by each of the current coun-



Ian Anderson is sworn in as the new Billings Councillor by Emily Dance at a meeting held February 6.

cillors, a vote took place on the candidates by council members. A tie vote took place with Councillor Michael Hunt and Mayor Bryan voting in favour of Mr. Anderson and Councillors Vince Grogan and Dave Hillyard voting in favour of Mr. Foster.

In his submission to council Mr. Anderson said, "Good evening, your worship and councillors. It is

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Sheguiandah water users facing another increase to their bills

by Alicia McCutcheon

NORTHEAST TOWN—Council for the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands set a public meeting date of March 5 before the 2024 water and wastewater rates are set for residents of Little Current and Sheguiandah. Little Current residents will see an increase of \$21 a year to their water and wastewater rates (bringing the quarterly total to \$138.13 for both water and sewer) while Sheguiandah residents will see an increase of \$92.58, bringing their quarterly water bill to \$408.91.

CAO Dave Williamson spoke to council about the capital projects for both Little Current (coming in at over \$20,000 for water and \$75,000 for wastewater projects) and Sheguiandah water treatment plants are needing in 2024, the highest ticket occurring in Sheguiandah at over \$197,000.

Mr. Williamson reminded council that Sheguiandah's water treatment plant costs a great deal to run, as does any water treatment plant, but with a limited number of users on the system to cover said costs.

Ward 3 Councillor Dawn Orr pointed out to Mayor Al MacNevin and fellow members of council that the water rates for Sheguiandah are almost three times as high as those in Little Current.

"We're a small community with lots of seniors on fixed incomes," Councillor Orr said. "Many sim-

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Manitoulin Northshore Victims Services offers new programming for victims of violent crime

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre,

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

LITTLE CURRENT—Manitoulin Northshore Victims Services presented at the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands' (NEMI) council meeting and unveiled a new comprehensive program to aid victims of violent crime. The Victims and Vulnerable Persons Division (VPD) of the Ministry of Community, Children and Social Services (MCCSS) has established the Victim Quick Response Program+ (VQRP+) to provide timely assistance to eligible victims. To be eligible, the victim must reside in Ontario, the crime must have been committed in the province (or in part in cases of human trafficking) and the individual must not be charged criminally in the reported incident.

The program is being sponsored by NEMI, the Municipality of Assiginack, Central Manitoulin, the Township of Billings and Domtar after NEMI declared intimate partner violence (IPV) and other forms of family violence a state of emergency, as was reported by The Expositor in December of 2023.

Eligible crimes include attempts to commit murder, child abuse, criminal harassment, elder abuse, hate crimes, historical child sexual abuse, homicide, human trafficking, IPV, non-consensual distribution of intimate images, sexual assault, serious assault and voyeurism. Victims

service also provides safety planning that might include mobile tracking systems for victims of IPV and criminal harassment to help prevent continuing violence and to help the individual feel safer as they work to recover from the crime.

The ministry has allocated increased funding specifically for anti-human trafficking programming. All expense limits under the VQRP+ program have been raised for direct victims to a maximum of nearly \$30,000 for eligible expenses within specific timelines.

The Ontario Provincial Police

statistics for Manitoulin District between April of 2022 and March 2023 showed that there was a total of 294 incidents, including 34 non-domestic violence-related assaults, 13 incidents of criminal harassment including stalking, 103 cases of domestic violence, nine incidents of homicide, 26 incidents of sexual violence, five cases of human trafficking and a single case of elder abuse were reported. Over one-third of reports were domestic violence-related, a staggering number. Most reports came from police services and self-referrals.

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Island Waste Partnership Committee inks deal with company to recycle Islanders' textiles

by Tom Sasvari

CHAPLEAU-BRUNSWICK HOUSE—An agreement has been reached by the Island Waste Resource Partnership Committee (IWRPC) with Sic Sox Circular Ltd. to have bins located in Kagawong that will hold local residents' unwanted textiles.

"We have been approved for a recycling facility on the Brunswick House First Nation (close to Chapleau) to start shredding textiles," stated Jerret Paquette who co-owns the company with his mother, Dr. Doris Mitchell. "Our main goal is to divert textiles from landfills and transfer stations and turn them into blow-in house insulation in our plant."

"We have bins set up in locations from Thunder Bay to North Bay, although at this point we are missing the Sudbury area," Mr. Paquette told The Expositor. "And once the Manitoulin Island bins are in

place, the demand for these bins will increase."

"By diverting these textiles, these materials can be diverted from our landfills and transfer stations," said Billings councillor Vince Grogan chair of IWRPC. "It will be beneficial to everyone on the Island. Sic Sox Circular initiative originates in Brunswick House First Nations. Jerret and his mother, who live in Chapleau, launched this project last fall. And we are partnering with them through the committee and Billings township and will be discussing the pros and cons and necessary changes that need to be made to have pick-up bins around the Island. This is all a work in progress."

"So far, four communities on the Island have shown an interest in this initiative, Central Manitoulin, Gore Bay, Gordon/Barrie Island and

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Manitoulin Ice Showdown 2024 cancelled due to weather

MANITOULIN—Manitoulin Ice Showdown event partners, Wikwemikong Tourism, Explore Manitoulin and the Wikwemikong Anglers, have been closely monitoring the weather and lake conditions and with the unseasonably mild winter, they have made the tough decision to cancel.

"This the first time in the history of our event that we have had to cancel but in the interest of public safety we are forced to make this decision," states Wikwemikong Tourism Manager Luke Wassegijig.

As per the rules, there will be a full refund given to all paid participants except for those who have won an early bird cash prize. Wikwemikong Tourism will be mailing payment to all paid participants in the coming weeks and asks for your patience as they work through this process.

Event organizers thank everyone who supported the event, especially the generous sponsors who have helped make this one of the best tournaments in the North. If you have any questions or would like to confirm your mailing address, please contact Jason Manitowabi at 705-859-3477.

Be safe and fish on!

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Alicia McCutcheon
publisher

Tom Sasvari
editor-in-chief

Michael Erskine
associate editor

Jacqueline St. Pierre
local journalism initiative reporter

Xoë Roy
production manager

Michelle Cuning
production assistant

Debbie Bailey
circulation

Robyn McGauley
advertising sales

Marilyn Harasym, Kerrene Tilson
accounts

www.manitoulin.com
Phone: (705) 368-2744
Phone: (705) 282-1912
Fax: (705) 368-3822
general email:
expositor@manitoulin.com
letters to the editor email:
editor@manitoulin.com

Publications Mail
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Freelance Staff:

Mike Brock, Betty Bardswich
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Specialists:

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"who dares not offend, cannot be honest"

One Manitowaning Road

opinion

editorial

Conservative Party's plan to abolish innocence until proven guilty dangerous

The man who would be prime minister has placed the current catch and release approach to violent criminals square in his sights—something most Canadians can get on board with—but as usual, with politicians of all stripes these days, Pierre Poilievre twists the truth to accent his point and in the process threatens to end one of our most cherished democratic liberties—the right to be innocent until proven guilty.

Law and order has always been a stalwart plank in the Conservative Party's electoral posturing—even when crime was demonstrably on the steady decline—more a facet of an aging baby boomer collection of criminals than any governmental action or inaction. When crime is on the rise, "soft on crime" accusations rise even more to the fore.

Mr. Poilievre continuously throws out the slogan "jail not bail." It's a nice fast sound bite. But he backs that policy statement with facts and figures culled from fantasyland (albeit cited from communications coming out of lotusland west). The man who would be PM alleges that the same 40 offenders were arrested 6,000 times in one year—an allegation that is demonstrably not only untrue. He goes on to compound that twist by laying down the erroneous claim that those arrests were for serious violent offences and that the perpetrators were released "within hours."

The numbers being cited by Mr. Poilievre are somewhat "real" but spun through twists that would make Chubby Checker proud. The crimes being referred to are not violent offences, but rather property crimes—you know, the kind of crimes most often committed by the poor, the dispossessed and the marginalized in society. By his rhetoric, Mr. Poilievre would suggest those people should be denied bail—presumed guilty.

Mr. Poilievre also conveniently contracts the timeframe to accentuate the negative—without any proof of the proof.

Like everything else he deems "broken" in Canada, Mr. Poilievre lays the blame for the catch and release system on the current prime minister. Oddly, our nation is regularly being cited as one of the best, if not the best, places in the world to live is not Justin Trudeau's fault. Luckily for the Tories, Prime Minister Trudeau seems to have become a lightning rod for all of the post-pandemic frustrations of Canadians while reaping none of the benefits of having kept the economy (and many households, particularly those headed by the young and marginalized) afloat.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees that anyone charged with an offence has the right to not be denied reasonable bail without cause. True, part of the Liberal's Bill C-75 was aimed at making it easier to obtain bail—provisions that were aimed at reducing the number of Indigenous, Black and otherwise "racialized" persons, as well as the mentally ill, incarcerated in the justice system. The Liberals have attempted to course correct somewhat with Bill C-48, passed in response to police chiefs and provincial premiers, that is squarely aimed at the very repeat violent offenders Mr. Poilievre conflates in his rabble-rousing sound bites.

The Charter of Rights and Freedoms is messy, inconvenient (especially for Conservative premiers who want to run roughshod over it for expedience's sake) and sometimes downright frustrating. But it beats the alternative—tyranny of the majority and mob rule.

Too often, populists stand ready to throw the baby of our liberties out with the politically expedient bathwater of reactionary politics.

Catch and release is a problem that must be addressed, true, but not at the expense of innocence until proven guilty. Society must be protected against the monsters who dwell within our ranks and there are legal levers and tools in place, imperfect though they may be, to ensure we live in a country where peace, order and good government prevail.

letters

Conservationist alarmed by proposed Sandhill crane hunt

We could see this bird back on the brink of extinction

To the Expositor:

As an avid birder, naturalist and conservationist, I was disappointed to read that a Sandhill crane hunt is being proposed for portions of Northeast Ontario, which includes the region I reside in (Temiskaming) and for Manitoulin Island.

The move is apparently being praised by hunters and farmers alike. But what about the many bird lovers and naturalists on Manitoulin and around the North Shore?

Balanced reporting would have included the Manitoulin Naturalist Club's viewpoint on the issue.

I am a regular watcher of what is called the "great migration" where Sandhill cranes migrate each spring and fall through Northeast Ontario and Northwestern Quebec.

I have observed that the birds arrive before crops are planted in the spring when the ground is still frozen and they return south in the fall after the crops have been harvested.

So how exactly is the crop damage happening?

How many actual complaints against the birds have been officially documented?

But if there is crop damage happening, is there not a more humane way of managing that? Why can't ultrasonic sound machines, holographic scare tape, bird repellent, bird spikes and raptor decoys be used to keep birds away?

Remember the passenger pigeon?

The population of the passenger pigeons, and other extinct species of birds were deemed sustainable, so what exactly does sustainable mean anyway?

When man can't control nature, we tend to want to conquer and dominate it.

As it stands, Sandhill cranes are legally protected by the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act 1994.

If hunters and farmers are to be respected for what they chose to do, why can't birders be respected for protecting what they do?

And this is not an issue about the right to hunt.

What it is about is protecting a species that was on the brink of extinction and, through careful wildlife management, has made a return to healthy numbers, just like the trumpeter swan.

In her book, 'Silence of the Songbirds', renowned Canadian ornithologist Bridget Stutchbury notes the Wood thrush, Kentucky warbler, Bobolink and the Eastern kingbird—the migratory songbirds—are disappearing at a frightening rate. By some estimates, we may already have lost almost half of the songbirds that filled the skies only 40 years ago.

As well, Sandhill cranes have a low birth rate. Crane pairs, which mate for life, produce most of their eggs after they've been together for at least three years.

If over a period of time their habitat is threatened and they have low birth rate years, we could indeed see this species on the verge of extinction in Ontario.

Please contact your local MPP if you are opposed to the possibility of a Sandhill crane hunt.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Nielsen
Cobalt, Ontario

Key trends in cycling tourism unveiled in new report

by Michael Erskine

TORONTO—Ontario by Bike has released a new study that sheds light on cycling tourism trends in Ontario and the news is good for Manitoulin.

According to the study, cycling in the province is continuing on the upswing, with recreational cycling, touring and event participation heading the list of popular activities. Manitoulin scores on all three. Longer distance rides are also on the rise, which Manitoulin offers in spades with its well-mapped cycle routes crisscrossing the Island.

The report indicates that in 2023, 58 percent of cyclist taking part in the report did one or more overnight trips that included Ontario and 38 percent did two or more, while a whopping 68 percent did three or more day trips that included cycling.

Becoming cycle-friendly is a big plus for businesses. Of the 1,680 businesses certified as bicycle friendly by Ontario By Bike, 47 percent of cyclists visited one or more during their trips—with accommodations and food and beverage businesses being where cyclists spend the big dollars.

Cyclists are also getting slightly younger, with more riders under the age of 44 and few-



The Manitoulin Passage Ride is gaining popularity year over year.

er being retired.

When it comes to cycling in a group, 49 percent stated that they frequently ride with a group or cycling club with the most frequently cited trip planning resource being recommendations from trusted sources including ride friends and family followed by a number of other info sources and websites. Thanks to Manitoulin Island Cycling Advocates, our Island has a great app for that through Driftscape.

Manitoulin scores on these fronts as well, with the popular Manitoulin Passage Ride attracting large numbers of cyclists each year.

The report offers some interesting insight into the coming cycling season, with e-bikes continuing to grow in popularity. Some 22 percent of cyclists participating in the study already own one or more e-bike in their household and 17 percent are considering purchasing one soon.

With the end of the pandemic has come a corresponding increase in cycling events, with recreational/community and charity/fundraisers being the most popular.

There has also been a marked increase in those who are cycling year-round.



Miss Universe Canada, Madison Kvaltín of Gore Bay, with the Robotics Team.

‘Chasing the Fire’ theme of Good Life Youth Conference

by Margery Frisch

M’CHIGEENG—Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) was the location for the Good Life Youth Conference sponsored by Noojmowin Teg. This year, Given Cortes and Corey MacDonald organized the speakers and programs with the theme Chasing the Fire.

“We chose fire to go along with the teaching of finding the fire within,” Mr. Cortes said. “Our facilitators and keynote speakers have pursued their dreams, they have found their fire, and so we are

time at the school. These are painful memories for her. “That’s part of our history and I’m not afraid to say it anymore. I used to be so afraid to share anything that was painful to me, but we need to see it for what it is.”

Her talk was instructional for the youth in the audience and, in the end, she acknowledged that much has changed at MSS—the building itself, as well as an atmosphere of acceptance between its walls, for which she was grateful.



Archery participants included Daynara Cyr, Charmaine Webkamigad, Phsophia Webkamigad and Winter Cyr.

hoping they can share that information with the youth, The conference has been around for a long time, but this is the first time Corey and I have been asked to organize it. We decided to add, in addition to the speakers, opportunities for the kids to move around, have freedom to choose what they wanted to do, and have some physical activities going, instruction in various sports, as well as the formal stuff,” he added.

Alma Jean Migwans opened the ceremonies with a gathering song and prayer. She talked briefly about MSS and what it was like for Indigenous students in her

The morning keynote speaker, Lyndsay Taibossigai, shared with the audience the struggles she has endured, her own personal difficulties on top of the loss of her brother to substance abuse and suicide. In addition to telling her story she was sharing the story of BEAM Paints. How she discovered these paints, made right here on Manitoulin Island, how painting improved her mental health and how, through a series of events, she came to work with Anong Migwans Beam and BEAM Paints. Hers was a story filled with optimism and encouragement for young listeners, giving them a sneak peak at the illustra-

tions she’s done for a children’s book she has in the works.

There were two scheduled keynote addresses, and in between there was lots going on around the school. Information tables were set up for Noojmowin Teg, Kenjgewin Teg, Mnaamodzawin Health Services, Tobacco Wise Ontario and Public Health Sudbury District. Jonn Naveau had cedar tea and smudging in the Three Fires Lounge, where Niibin (Clarice Pangowish) was on hand to share traditional teachings; Badminton Pro Training was going on with David Peltier in one part of the gym, while archery was being taught on the other side of a partition that was drawn over the entire length of the room. Later in the day boxing and kickboxing drills were taking place.

The MSS Robotics team was on hand with stations set up for teaching code, designing and making buttons, all the while working on their latest robot. Just before lunch, they had a breakthrough in their connections—foreign to an outsider, but exciting news to everyone else in the room—green lights lit up everywhere. A cheer went up before everyone filed out to grab some lunch. Prepped, of Little Current, provided lunch for all in attendance and it was well received.

Madison Kvaltín, otherwise known as Miss Universe Canada, entered the cafeteria as lunch was winding down. She was so unassuming in her casual attire (even while wearing her crown) and so down to earth the young audience was drawn to her instantly.

Mr. Cortes introduced her as the keynote speaker and she quietly and confidently began her talk. She grew up in Lively. She says she was a tomboy who never really fit in at school. She loved being outdoors and enjoyed all kinds of sports. When she was approached about entering a beauty pageant her immediate response was ‘no!’ She was won over in time, of course, and she discovered that she could become a role model, that young girls would listen to what she had to say, and she could, in fact, effect change in people’s lives, and in the world. She entered the world of pageantry, not realizing the

intensely hard work required.

“It’s not all about beauty,” Ms. Kvaltín explained. One of her passions is body confidence, having struggled with an eating disorder in her younger years, she feels her position as Miss Universe Canada gives her a platform to foster body confidence and mental wellness. However, the first time she entered the Miss Universe pageant she did not win, she was first runner up. This made the title all the sweeter and made Ms. Kvaltín more determined to win the next time. She worked incredibly hard, “There was a whole new mentality going into it the next time,” she admitted. And it paid off.

“Becoming Miss Universe Canada was a major goal of mine these last few years, and now that I’ve achieved that, it’s taught me to set new goals and go for them. Don’t be afraid of failure,” she told her audience. “Beauty fades, but the impact you leave on the world can last a lifetime,” she said. She confided that she learned this truth from her Pageant Director for Miss North Ontario many years ago, but it’s an important truth to always keep in mind. Her last message to those present, was the importance of

looking after their own health, bringing attention once again to her passions: body confidence and mental wellness.

Miss Universe Canada stayed on to answer questions and to have her picture taken with all who wanted a picture with her and just about everyone in attendance did want a picture with this young woman who exudes beauty both inside and out.

Many of the afternoon’s sessions at the conference were repeated activities of the morning schedule, but also included the opportunity to test out one’s creativity as well as BEAM paints in a workshop with Ms. Taibossigai.

This year’s Good Life Youth Conference, according to Mr. Cortes, was “Engaged.” With so many other events going on that day, in M’Chigeeng alone, he felt the turnout was just right. “Our theme this year was ‘Chasing the Fire,’” he said, “next year we plan to work on a different element—could be water. We’ve always had a Good Life Conference, but we’re rebranding,” he said. And we look forward to what comes next.



Lyndsay Taibossigai of M’Chigeeng was one of the keynote speakers at the Youth Conference.

Law & Order

Manitoulin OPP investigates sudden death in Sables-Spanish

SABLES-SPANISH RIVERS—The Manitoulin detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is investigating a sudden death in Sables-Spanish River.

Shortly after 9 am on Tuesday, February 6, members of the Manitoulin OPP, Manitoulin-Sudbury Paramedic Services and Sables-Spanish Rivers fire department responded to a medical call on First Street in Sables-Spanish.

A person, 26, from Massey, was located deceased in the residence.

The investigation is ongoing with the Manitoulin Crime Unit under the direction of the office of the Chief Coroner and the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service.

A post-mortem examination is scheduled at a later date in Sudbury.

There is no threat to public safety, reported the Manitoulin OPP.

Break enter and theft being investigated

WIKWEMKOONG—The Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service (WTPS) is continuing its investigation into a break enter and theft in the community.

On Thursday, February 1 at approximately 8 am, the WTPS received a call of a break, enter and theft that occurred at a residence in the main village area of the Wikwemkoong Unceded Territory (WUT).

Officers attended the residence and were advised by the complainant that the break and enter occurred sometime between January 30 and February 1. Unknown suspects had entered the residence and stole several items including electronics and cash.

Some of the other items that were noted missing included PlayStation 5, Lenovo Laptop with laptop bag, Manitoba Snowy Owl Boots, a Sony Bluetooth speaker, Galaxy tablet, beaded lanyard, earrings, diamond rings and a wedding band.

Anyone with information on this incident or any other investigation can contact the Wikwemikong Tribal Police at (705) 370-3141 or through the communications centre at 1-888-310-1122, or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.



MP Carol Hughes tables petition calling for increased volunteer firefighter tax credit

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN—A local fire department chief agrees with Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing MP Carol Hughes in petitioning for an increase to the volunteer firefighter tax credit.

“Right now, the tax credit is \$3,000 and it would definitely help if it was increased,” said Martin Connell, fire chief for the Billings Township volun-

teer fire department. Increasing the tax credit to \$10,000 would be a huge incentive for new and additional people to sign up to be a member of the fire department. “I think (MP Hughes) is on the right track. I think if this went through it would encourage more young people to join fire departments.”

MP Hughes stated in a release, “Volunteer firefighters account for 71 per-

cent of Canada’s total firefighting essential first responders, and an additional 8,000 essential search and rescue volunteers who respond to thousands of incidents each year.”

Ms. Hughes stood in the House of Commons February 5 to table a petition demanding an increase to the volunteer firefighter tax credit from \$3,000 a year to \$10,000 per year for those committing to 200 hours of service.

“That comes out to only about \$450 per year, or \$2.25 an hour,” said MP Hughes. “But if volunteers work more than 200 hours, the tax credit becomes even less. These essential volunteers not only put their lives on the line, but also play an important role in keeping property taxes low.”

“Way back when we got the credit in place for firefighters of \$3,000 in the provincial budget,” MP Hughes told *The Expositor*. “As we saw last year, we are looking at longer and more difficult fire seasons with weather conditions the way they are, and it could mean more fires. We need to support volunteer firefighters even more, especially when they are going through more training, being on the scene of an increasing number of fires and, for example, search



MP Carol Hughes

and rescue personnel being called on more to help handle fires. It just makes sense to increase the tax credit to \$10,000,” she said, noting her colleague Gord Johns has a petition out that is calling for this increase. “We are putting a push for this increase now and hopefully the government will consider this increase when they table the federal budget.”

“These volunteer firefighters are putting their lives on the line to fight fires,” said MP Hughes. “And they have to undergo a lot of training to be prepared, which is not taken into account. The key is for all these firefighting personnel to get home safely at the end of the day.”

MP Hughes reiterated calls from the petitioners for the government to support Bill C-310 and increase the firefighter and search and rescue volunteer tax credit ahead of the 2024 fire season, particularly after last year’s record-breaking fire season.



WTPS welcomes new recruits!

Wikwemikong Tribal Police Services (WTPS) recruits have graduated from Ontario Police College and the Provincial Police Academy. The recruits will now be off for additional training with other OPP detachments before returning to WTPS. Acting Chief of Police Jason Spooner, Constable Jamie Peltier and Special Constable Sasha attended the graduation ceremony in Borden, Ontario. In photo back row left is Cst. Brylin Hacking-Schwan, Cst. Justin Godin, Cst. Dale Recollet, Acting Chief of Police Jason Spooner, Cst. Raven Manitowabi, Cst. Sierra Pangowish. Front row left Special Cst. Sasha Pitawanakwat, and Cst. Olivia Manitowabi.

Friends and Neighbours

Kagawong Team Fergmeijer

For those of you who might be unfamiliar with Team Fergmeijer ... saying we love a cheesy joke is a definite punderstatement. We hope that the joy we get from this column is apudantly clear, but while we love what we do, writing this column each week can sometimes feel like a huge pundertaking. Each week we have to sit down and put pun to paper, and it can be fundamentally exhausting. Especially because we need to make sure we get the pun-chlines just right. Hopefully, our punchant for jokes has not offended you. If they do make you a bit pun-comfortable, just give it a chance - this column really groans on a person over time.

Today we are celebrating Valentine’s Day and Short Poems for a Short Month! Sprinkled throughout today’s column will be some love-themed poems. Have a short poem you’d like to share? Email it to fergmeijer@gmail.com to participate.

Congratulations to Ian Anderson who was appointed to the vacant council seat last week. Several interested citizens put their hats in the ring and were given the opportunity to address the mayor and council before voting commenced. Although there was an initial tie, Mr. Anderson was ultimately appointed to the position.

*Roses are red, our poems are short;
Some make you laugh, some make you snort!*

At time of writing the community rink is closed again due to the warm weather. Please stay off the surface as long as the rink is closed so we don’t undo all the hard work the volunteers put into making and maintaining the ice surface. Follow the township Facebook page for regular updates on the rink.

*Roses are red, Kagawong is pretty;
We’d rather live here than in a big noisy city!*

Attention all youth! Want to come work in the best village on the Island? Kagawong summer student position applications are now open for two marina assistants, one public works assistant, one museum assistant and one library assistant. Check out the township website for more details (<http://billingstwp.ca>) but don’t dilly-dally ... applications will only be accepted until this Friday, February 16. For more information, contact Tiana at the township office, at tmills@billingstwp.ca.

*Roses are red, February has been sunny;
Our column this week is particularly punny!*

Be our guest! The Manitoulin Secondary School Musical Theatre Program cordially invites you to their 2024 production of Disney’s Beauty and the Beast. With singing

and dancing galore, all accompanied by a live band, it is an upbeat show perfect for the entire family. Performances run Friday, February 16 (7 pm) and Saturday, February 17 (2 pm), as well as the following weekend, Friday, February 23 (7 pm) and Saturday, February 24 (2 pm). Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for youth under 12) and can be purchased at the door, online at bit.ly/MSSmusical, or at participating pharmacies across Manitoulin.

*Roses are red, poetry’s not easy;
All of our efforts seem pretty cheesy.*

It’s back! Don’t miss Kagawong Winterfest on the Family Day weekend! On Saturday and Sunday there will be family pick-up hockey (contact Andrew at 705-968-0375 for more details). On Monday, February 19 from 10 am to 3 pm, there will be skating and sliding for the whole family at the rink/Park Centre, with free hot chocolate, hot dogs, pizza and treats! Indoors at the Park Centre, stop in to see family-friendly displays from Trapper Ian Anderson and Manitoulin Streams from 11 am to 1 pm. The fun continues at the Park Centre with an afternoon of family fun and movement with Candice of Body Stories Dance from 1 pm to 3 pm. Thank you to the Parks, Recreation and Wellness committee for hosting!

In case anyone is interested, Team Fergmeijer’s favourite love song is “My Punny Valentine.” Have a great week!

Meldrum Bay Elaine Bradley

Friday, February 2 at euchre there were four tables with two sitting out. High lady was Diane Jones with 75 points. High man was Murray Duncanson with 67 points. Ladies’ lone hands went to Millie Kelly with three and men’s lone hands went to Bob Benedict with three. Most euchres went to Brenda Carter with 11 and nobody brought home the juice. The 50/50 was won by Joyce Benoit. The money jar was safe.

On Sunday, February 4 the church was opened for its first monthly winter meeting. Sixteen people attended and enjoyed the brunch afterwards. Rev. Jamie Nelder played the keyboard and spoke. Thank you, Jamie! We all enjoyed the service and the get-together afterwards. At the church and in the hall were displays of some of the quilts and baby things that had been prepared by the volunteers for disaster relief.

It’s been an amazing week weatherwise. We were traveling on 540 today and first two, then three more deer bounded across in front of us. We were glad we did not hit them. They looked very healthy and as if they were enjoying the warmer weather. At the bridge at Lake Wolsey there was

an eagle proudly sitting on the osprey’s nest. We’ll see how that turns out as the year progresses.

We received a new shipment of towels for the aid packages that will be prepared here. More work awaits the volunteers.

Silver Water Karen Noble

DonnaKay and Doug McDonald went to Gore Bay a few weekends ago to watch their great-grandson, Ryder Varey, play hockey. They also went to watch their other great-grandson, Maverick Varey, play hockey on the weekend of January 20. Both boys went to Sault Ste. Marie to participate in a hockey tournament last weekend.

Friday, February 2, we went to Meldrum Bay to play euchre.

Gladys Duncanson and I walked on Saturday. The weather was perfect for the outing.

There were 15 people from the west end who travelled to Tehkummah on February 4 for a euchre tournament.

Monday was Gladys’ birthday. When I stopped in she was on the phone with son, Craig.

Monday night, we played euchre in Burpee and Mills. There were five tables full.

Exercise class is being held on Tuesday afternoons with Nell Staalstra leading for four weeks.

Fire practice was held Tuesday evening.

Line dancing is at the Silver Water Community hall on Wednesday evenings.

There were seven tables of euchre players at the Silver Water hall on Thursday night.

Bill Sundercock phoned me on Thursday and we chatted for a while.

Janet Joyce phoned to tell me she got all the towels shipped to be ready for packing into the hygiene kits starting in April. Thank you to Manitoulin Transport for donating the shipping.

Sara-Lyn Arnot has a new dog named Dolly. Dolly is tiny, friendly and busy being trained.

I had a phone visit with Alfreda Wickett. Happy 65th birthday to her son, Paul, and congratulations to him on retiring.

On Family Day weekend there will be a lunch and euchre tournament on Sunday, February 18 in Meldrum Bay. On Monday, February 19 there will be a potluck lunch and euchre in the afternoon instead of playing in the evening.

Condolences to the family of Roy Graham.

Happy Valentine’s Day to everyone on February 14!

...Ian Anderson named as new Billings councillor

...continued from page 3
my privilege to be considered for this vacant councillor position for Billings Township. In addition to my personal statement, which is included in tonight's agenda, I have a little more to add at this time."

"I currently sit on the Lake Kagawong Resource Committee," said Mr. Anderson. "In addition to ensuring the wise use of this significant inland water body, I believe we need to remain vigilant to protect the lakes water quality."

"It is far easier to protect water quality than to rehabilitate a water body if it becomes polluted. Public education is key to ensure our fresh water remains fresh," said Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Anderson recently participated in a Zoom meeting with Steve Lichty, lead consultant for Capital Part Consulting whose company is preparing Billings Township's new strategic plan. "It was a great exchange of ideas with five other engaged members of our municipality," he said.

"The information already assembled in the interior report No. 1 was most interesting and confirmed a number of things going on in Billings," continued Mr. Anderson. "Our growth in the last 4-5 years is remarkable. Some report in excess of 20 percent (permanent residents). With growth comes the need for more services."



Ian Anderson was elected as the newest member of Billings township council at a meeting last week. Mr. Anderson, who was the former mayor of the township was voted in by council among six candidates for the position. In photo back row left, councillors Michael Hunt, Ian Anderson, Vince Grogan. Front row left Mayor Bryan Barker and Councillor Dave Hillyard.

"Our aging population was confirmed with approximately 53 percent of our permanent population being 55 years or older. This clearly suggests to me that we need to plan more for the elderly soon," he said.

Mr. Anderson said, "Our asset management plan needs to be an integral part of our new strategic plan. We need to plan better for long range asset maintenance/report and replacement."

"Waste management is ongoing and I applaud the current efforts of this council and their lead as we collectively—with our neighbours on Manitoulin—work toward a more sustainable and greener future," said

Mr. Anderson.

"I have always had a deep interest in public service and municipal politics," said Mr. Anderson, noting both his grandfather and father were councillors and Reeves of the joint township called Belmont and Methuen. His father went on to be warden of Peterborough county.

Since his term as Billings mayor ended, Mr. Anderson said he has continued to keep himself informed on the significant topics being addressed by council.

"I believe that a member of council should be an effective communicator and a listener, work well in a team environment in council and with staff, work

toward long range planning in an affordable manner to further the township strategic plan, explore all reasonable options for long-term waste management, ensure the taxpayers are updated in a timely fashion on capital projects, be a strong supporter of our library, museum and our townships recreational programs, ensure that our roads remain safe and well-maintained, ensure we have good fire protection and support our excellent team of volunteer fire-fighters, and that council be accessible and accountable," he shared with council.

"I would like to thank everyone for putting your names forward. It was with a great deal of difficulty that we have made a decision," said Mayor Barker. "And I want to thank everyone in the crowd for being in attendance here tonight, for this very important consideration. On behalf of council, I want to welcome Mr. Anderson to council. His past experience and extensive knowledge of the township will be a benefit at the council table."

"It's an honour and a privilege to be back on Billings council," said Mr. Anderson. "I'm grateful for this opportunity to serve the community and will make one promise, and that is to do my best for the residents and the future of Billings."

...new programming for victims of violent crime

...continued from page 3

Victims Services Executive Director Amy Collins announced the new programming that will be made available for persons living on Manitoulin Island and the North Shore from Walford to Nairn Centre. Victims, loved ones or witnesses can call police services 24 hours a day to secure short-term crisis response that includes emotional and practical assistance as well as referrals for long-term care if necessary. Victims services accept calls from police services, community partners including agencies and self-referrals and can dispatch a team of two specially trained crisis responders to the scene. Support

services such as security items and other necessary items are also available.

Long-term supports include counselling, shelter, assistance if involved in the

court process, financial aid, community assistance, bereavement programming, addictions and mental health, restraining orders and peace bonds and court and legal aid services for child custody and access cases.

Practical supports include accompaniment, safety planning, clothing, food, personal hygiene products, emergency transportation, emergency kits, gas cards, and short-term hotel accommodations, all available based on the individual's needs and what they have been the victim of.

The presentation emphasized the importance of victims reaching out for help. Supported victims are less likely to recant, are better prepared for court, have greater chances of recovery and can assist in ongoing investigations. It was also noted that police services can attend to other emergencies knowing that victims are supported elsewhere.

To reach Manitoulin Northshore Victim Services please call 705-370-3378.



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...Island Waste Partnership inks deal with company to recycle Islanders' textiles

...continued from page 3 Billings," said Mr. Grogan. "And hopefully after we meet with all the communities and First Nations with the proposal, the bins can be set up in more communities. With this initiative it will not cost the communities or residents anything."

Mr. Paquette explained that he and his mother, Dr. Doris Mitchell, who still works as a locum occasionally at the Mindemoya Hospital and who has property on Manitoulin Island but lives in Chapleau, came up with the idea.

"We have been working on this for over a year," said Mr. Paquette. "The idea came to my mother when she was looking in her closet one day and found baskets full of old socks that nobody wanted to wear. She donates a lot of her old clothes and things to the local thrift store. Anyway, she came upon a big bag of old socks. And she said we needed to find a better way to figure out what to do with these types of items."

"We started the company here, where we actually will pick up textiles at residents' doors. There will be bins across Northern Ontario, and by the end of February at least a couple on (Manitoulin) the Island and hopefully more soon," said Mr. Paquette.

Materials including clothing, bedding and pillows, industrial textiles, shoes, handbags and stuffed animal toys can be dropped off in the bins, said Mr. Paquette. He explained, "We will not be shredding clothing and other items that are still usable. We will sell them in our Sic Sox Thrift Store in Chapleau and online. The rest of the materials will be sorted by material and shredded using European-made equipment designed to do this." These materials will be made into a new type of home insulation.

Any synthetic materials that are not going to be used will be used outside the company's market. As well, additional textiles will be reused to make a



Jerret Paquette who co-owns Sic Sox Circular Ltd. with his mother Dr. Doris Mitchell, displays one of the bins that soon be located in several locations on Manitoulin Island. Local residents will be encouraged to put their unwanted textile in the bins, for shredding and eventually to turn them into blow in house insulation.

brand of Sic Sox socks and mittens.

It will take at least two or three years for the company to start making a profit, and Mr. Paquette said once they do it, they will donate 10 percent of profits back to programs that support

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and gender equality.

Mr. Paquette said, "And there are some things that we can't process everything well, like shoes; if we can sell these and other items, okay, but if we can't, a por-

tion will be donated to homeless shelters."

"The whole idea is to keep textiles etc. out of landfills and transfer stations and benefit the environment," said Mr. Paquette.

The bins being used are over five feet tall and three feet wide and are all in the colour pink.

"We do a weekly route to pick up materials in the boxes," said Mr. Paquette. "That is why we are trying and hopeful of getting as many set up on the Island as we can."

"Vince (Grogan) had originally got in contact with us," stated Mr. Paquette. "I was looking to somehow get bins located on Manitoulin. Originally, we were looking at just Little Current but to drive to the Island for materials in one bin wouldn't make much sense. We are hopeful to have at least 7-10 on the Island." He lives in Sudbury where he works as a server/bartender at a restaurant and drives back and forth to Chapleau on a

regular basis.

"Our thrift store is in Chapleau and the shredding factory will be located on the First Nation (Brunswick House), and it will provide jobs in the community," said Mr. Paquette.

"There will be no costs associated to municipalities or First Nations who have the boxes located in their community," said Mr. Paquette. The bins are cleaned out every week.

"Jerret will be part of a delegation at our (Billings council) meeting on February 20 to launch the program," said Mr. Grogan. Township staff, "is finalizing a letter to request a delegation to all the communities on the Island and the UCCM," said Mr. Grogan. "We will be launching this program after our council meeting February 20. We are hoping to have a total of at least seven bins located in different communities on the Island, for residents and visitors to use."

...Sheguiandah water users facing another increase to their bills

...continued from page 3 ply can't afford that," she said of the over \$400 quarterly rates.

For comparison, looking at other small community water rates, Assiginack's Sunsite Estates' water users paid \$1,734.48 annual-

to be forwarded to the premier and other provincial offices, recognizing the effect water treatment plants have on small, often rural, communities and their residents, which follows:

"The current economy

levels of government recognize this fact and provide funding assistance that can be accessed based on operational and financial need.

"Whereas the current housing accelerator fund provides financial support for small communities and water and distribution systems are considered eligible under the program guidelines; and whereas one of the primary criteria for this funding is the ability to prove that the funds will accelerate the development of housing stock on the water or distribution system; and whereas many smaller communities are not experiencing the level of growth necessary to meet the requirements of the program for growth in housing stock; and whereas the water and wastewater systems in those communities represents a higher cost to operate per capita than the systems in larger built-up areas; and whereas the cost of main-

taining those systems on a user-pay basis is creating undo financial hardship for the limited number of residents on those systems; therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin

and the Islands requests that the Province of Ontario implement a funding stream for water and wastewater systems that primarily utilizes operational and financial need as a criteria and furthermore,

that a copy of this motion be forwarded to Premier Ford, the Minister of Housing, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Michael Mantha, MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin."



Quarterly water rates have exceeded the \$400 mark for Sheguiandah users in 2024.

Shutterstock

ly in 2023, slightly more than Sheguiandah's proposed 2024 annual rate of \$1,635.88. In South Baymouth, residents pay for both water and sewer. Their total annual billing is \$2,142.64. Any other Manitoulin communities on town water systems have considerable more households footing the costs.

Councillor Orr reminded council that a few years ago the municipality was able to apply for funding to help offset some of the costs. The councillor then proposed a motion, which was passed,

has stretched the financial capabilities of municipalities and taxpayers to the point where they do not have sufficient financial resources to meet the ongoing demands of everyday living. This has created a situation where residents, who are struggling to pay their daily expenses, lack the financial resources to maintain the critical infrastructure required to sustain the water and wastewater systems that service their homes. It is critically important that the other

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...Part I of a series: 50 years of the Little NHL

...continued from page 1 members, Jim McGregor of Birch Island, remembers fondly that first tournament. "I thought it would be a one-time deal. It was a lot of work at first, getting the word out, and then it seemed to spring a life of its own."

After that initial tournament Jim thought that was it, but folks started asking, "When will the next tournament be?"

"My sons told me how much they enjoyed the tournament and suggested, 'We should do it again, Dad.' And so, I thought about it for awhile and then started making calls. It just took off. The next year it was in Espanola. After that I barely had to say two words about the next year and the next year, people and communities were right there, offering to host and organize."

As it continued to grow, it was moved to other locations like Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay, along with other smaller locations but because it has gotten so big, it required a bigger venue.

The modern day LNHL, according to organizers, has a record number of 246 teams suiting up and hitting the ice in what will mark the 50th anniversary of the LNHL.

For many First Nation communities, this tournament is a hallmark hockey event for all players, parents, family and community members to participate from the ice to the stands. It is a gathering with the potential for positive change toward hockey equality.

A growing addition to the historical tournament



Jim McGregor, second from right, stands proudly next to his grandson Gordon Corbiere holding the winning banner for the Midget Champions at the 30th Little NHL tournament anniversary.

will witness a record 38 girls' teams registered in the competition, proving the original seeds planted flourished as the number of participants grew, making this now the largest Indigenous youth hockey tournament in the province.

"Build it and they will come" they say, and the numbers don't lie, just do the math. When you calculate the players, team staff members and fans that number explodes into the thousands. This year's theme "Honouring our Water" has exceeded expectations for many, including members of the original organizing committee.

Jim has been a constant presence at the tournament and figures he has been to more than half the tournaments. "It is a big deal. It brings families and communities together to celebrate and have fun."

For him, it's more than hockey. "The LNHL has proven itself. I am pretty happy with the publicity

the tournament is receiving. It's not about me, it's about these kids. Some kids tell it was a moving experience for them. They gained confidence and when I asked them, 'what are you doing now?' some tell me they went off to school to obtain a degree in law or science. I marvel at the positive energy and determination of our young people. We need more chances and opportunities afforded to them, to prove they can make it," Jim explained.

"You see some of the same faces year after year at the tournament." New generations take to the ice, children and grandchildren of former participants in the tournament. Jim especially loves seeing players grow up throughout the years. "You know some have moved on to make the big leagues; some are satisfied just having played in this tournament."

To get there takes months of fundraising



Maxie Simon, one of Wikwemikong's greatest hockey players, stands proudly beside his grandson, Chris Simon, while Chris is being inducted into the LNHL Hockey Hall of Fame back in March 2016. Presenting the certificate are members of the LNHL executive Paul Williams and Lloyd McGregor.

campaigns for all First Nations communities. Those passionate volunteers, coaches and family members need to be commended for all their efforts. A gathering of this caliber requires an endless score of volunteers at all ends of the spectrum. That in itself is another story, to do justice for those individuals.

For some, the tournament may seem to segregate Indigenous players but to those involved, it has eliminated barriers to participation and truly fostered inclusion—not only creating conditions of safety but also a place to show your colours and shine.

Over the years various NHL scouts and even NHL trophies have been displayed at the LNHL. The most coveted, the Stanley Cup, made its appearance back in 2019. Motivated... There are always good stories shared at the LNHL and moments of inspiration that stand the test of time.

This year's host is the

city of Markham, which underwent stringent competition to become the host city. The majority of matches will be held in Markham; however, arenas just a 'stones-throw-away' located in Richmond Hill and Stouffville will be used to host some of the matches.

A gala will be held at the Hilton Toronto Markham Suites Conference and Spa on March 9 with a total of 15 individuals to be inducted into the LNHL Hall of Fame. The three categories are Alumni Players, Builders of the LNHL and Friends of the LNHL.

To headline the evening gala will be Wikwemikong's Crystal Shawanda. Followed by Opening ceremonies, which will include a host of festivities combined with a presentation on the history of LNHL, to be held March 10, at the Markham Civic Centre from 12 noon until 7 pm.

As the last founding original LNHL member, Jim says, "I'm really looking

forward to the LNHL celebrations. I never realized I would make it to see 50 years. I am the only guy left standing and when I think about that, it is quite a milestone. Looking back, I never thought we would make it this far."

The LNHL brings youth together to play with pride and showcase their communities and is grateful to partners such as Ontario First Nations Technical Services, TD, Ontario Power Generation, St. Clair College, Abbey's Goal, Hydro One, Agnico Eagle, Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation, NADF and Society United Professionals for generously supporting the tradition that creates so many lasting memories and friendships.

Honourable mention for advocating hockey development in their communities goes to George Francis Henry, Paul Williams, Marian Jacko, Henry and Margaret Shawanda, Tom Nolan, Ted Nolan, Chris Simon, Gerard Peltier, Kathryn Corbiere, Pat Madahbee, Lloyd McGregor, Violet McGregor, Elizabeth Debassige and Marvin Assinewai— just to mention a few alumni.

New LNHL President Chico Ralph and mentor and former president Marvin Assinewai of AOK are working diligently behind the scenes to try and bring as many alumni and the founding members, their spouses and family to the event. Both gentlemen agree, "If it were not for all the support and the love of the LNHL, it would not exist, or have grown the way it has. Come March break, the LNHL is where it is at," Marvin chimes in.

...continued on page 10

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...Nurses demand fair share of \$3.1 billion federal funds

...continued from page 1
“happy for sure with the announcement. Definitely, we are short both doctors and nurses on Manitoulin, but it will be a while before we see these increases in

staffing, although the program to bring trained physicians from other countries who are not yet licenced in Canada might help.” He pointed out that it can take about six years

before physician and nursing students complete their university education and are working on the front lines.

“Every dollar announced will benefit the people of Ontario, so that is good news,” said Michael Mantha, MPP for Algoma-Manitoulin. “The key to me is what is going to be announced in the upcoming provincial budget. If there is nothing to increase base funding for hospitals, and to curtail the extreme costs that hospital and long-term homes are facing with the cost of having to get agency nurses to fill gaps who are paid three times more than nurses in these hospitals and long-term care facilities, this will not be positive.”

“I welcome the announcement that has been made, but I am cautiously optimistic and want to see the details on

how this is going to benefit hospitals and long-term care homes,” said MPP Mantha. “The province has a habitat of making these lavish funding announcements, and then later we find out they have been sitting on the funding when they should be put into health care, roads, infrastructure and other things needed in communities in Ontario. I give them credit when credit is due, such as this announcement, but let’s wait and see all the details first.”

Premier Ford said, “this new 10-year agreement will help support our ongoing work in Ontario to connect more people to convenient care close to home. Right across the province we’re making historic investments in health care to build more hospitals, bring on more doctors and nurses, expand home and community care and reduce wait times. We look forward

to continuing to work with our federal partners to ensure Ontarians get the health care they need and deserve.”

“Canadians value our universal public health care system, but recently this system has not been living up to its promise,” said Prime Minister Trudeau. “That’s why we’re signing agreements with provinces and territories to help ensure Canadians can access reliable, timely and safe health care. Today’s agreement with Ontario will increase access to family doctors, reduce backlogs, increase the workforce and make the health care system work better. Let’s give Canadians the quality health care they expect and deserve.”

Sylvia Jones, Ontario’s minister of health said, “Ontario is making historic investments to help improve the patient experience through ‘Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care.’ As we continue to put our bold plan into action, today’s agreement will complement our ongoing work to ensuring Ontarians have unparalleled access to convenient care in their communities, no matter where they live.”

The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) congratulated the prime minister and premier on signing the agreement. “Over time, this agreement will facilitate the creation of new health services capacity and capa-

...continued on page 19

...50 years of the Little NHL

...continued from page 9

In keeping with the four pillars of LNHL, current President Ralph explains that, off the ice, there are booths in the arenas that provide young people information about education and career opportunities. While the arenas are thundering with cheering crowds and everyone vying to get the best view of the ice surface, the last monumental pillar, Jim McGregor, will humbly take his place as a motivator and role model while mingling amongst the crowd of cheering fans.

For Jim, what will resonate is “seeing all those smiling faces of children and hearing the beat of the drums during the opening ceremonies. The LNHL will always have a special place in my heart,” he concludes.

Next week, this series will examine the evolution of the tournament through the 1980s.



NOTICE BOARD

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

Mayor and Council
would like to take this time to wish everyone
a safe a happy Family Day.
There is nothing better than family, so start making
the memories of a lifetime!

Tax bills are out
Please be advised that the interim tax bills are in the mail.
If you do not receive yours shortly, please contact our office.
Reminder: During the year, you will receive two bills due in four installments - February 29, April 30, July 31 and September 30.
Don't forget: This is a great time of year to sign up for pre-authorized payments.
For more information, call Melanie at 705-368-3500 ext. 225

Important Public Notice
Please be advised the Council for the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands will be reviewing the Water and Wastewater Budget at the Council meeting of March 5 at 7pm in the Council Chambers located at 14 Water Street.
At this meeting, Council will accept verbal and written input prior to making their decision.
The proposed rates for the users of the Little Current and Sheguiandah water systems are as follows:
Little Current: Water quarterly \$138.13
Sewer quarterly \$138.13
Sheguiandah: Water quarterly \$408.91
Written submissions can be sent to:
Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands,
Box 608, Little Current, ON, POP 1K0
or dropped off at 14 Water Street.

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

Let's get moving at the NEMI Rec Centre!

NEMI Rec Centre Weekly Activities:
Sundays 9:00 - 10:00am (beginner skating)
10:00 - 11:00am (public skating)
Tuesdays “NEW” 1:00 - 2:30pm (adult skate)
3:30 - 5:00pm (public skate)

— Sit Fit will resume on February 20th

Evening Pickleball for experienced players is moved to Thursdays 6:00-8:00pm

Family Day Glow Skating:
Monday, February 19th 3:30pm - 5:00pm
Wear your bright colors to make it more fun.
Glow sticks, glow in the dark make-up and tape available.
No cost!
Sponsored by NEMI and Noojmowin Teg

Workshops @ the NEMI Rec Centre:
Wonton Soup and Egg Rolls
February 28th at 6:30pm
Cost \$15

Scone dogs and tacos
March 6th at 6:30pm
Cost \$15

To register, please email lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca

Upcoming events:
Indoor Yard Sale in the Main Hall
February 24 from 10am - 2pm
No charge for your space, table and chair provided.
Contact lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca to reserve your spot.
Please remember PRE-REGISTRATION is a must.

For reservations and take-out, call (705) 368-9966 ext. 504



Valentine's Day Dinner

(\$48 per person)

Appetizers:

Starter Soup or
Salad of your choice - Caesar, Greek or Garden

Main:

Shrimp Alfredo (creamy Alfredo sauce with 5 grilled shrimp) or
North 46 Surf and Turf (8 oz. bison steak and 5 grilled shrimp) or
North 46 Mediterranean Penne (onions, tomatoes, spinach, zucchini, Kalamata olives, red wine and garlic tossed in pesto and topped with feta cheese)

Desserts:

Choice off the menu based on availability.



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Saturday, February 10

Wednesday, February 14

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Woman with strong family ties to Manitoulin named Royal International Miss Role Model Canada 2024

by Tom Sasvari

SUDBURY—Montana Brandow compares winning her first national title to making the “pageant Olympics.”

“I started competing in 2018 and have been competing every year, chasing my dream to represent Canada. Winning this title to me is like winning the pageant Olympics,” said Ms. Brandow, who just turned 24 this year after winning her first international competition. She won the title of Royal International Miss Role Model Canada 2024 on December 9.

Ms. Brandow, who has strong family connections to Manitoulin Island, will be heading to Orlando, Florida in July to compete against other international winners. “I am very excited!” she stated. “I will be there for a week at the Royal International Miss Role Model Pageant.”

The Royal International Miss (RIM) webpage states, “The Role Model program was created to recognize and award young women for their outstanding community service. Here at RIM we are dedicated to teaching leadership skills through giving back to others. Valuable life lessons learned through volunteer service will serve these girls well, long after their pageant careers are over and as they grow into confident and compassionate citizens in their communities. Girls are eligible to compete for the Role Model title alone or in conjunction with competing for a divisional title at both the stage and national level.”

“I signed up for the Canada competition in September and was crowned on December 9,” said Ms. Brandow. “The competition was held virtually in Alberta this year. It was different and the crowning took place online.” She said the preliminaries will possibly be held in Ontario next year.

“In Orlando there will be roughly between 70-80 girls competing in my division and over 300 overall. The participants are from all over the world, including Canada, USA, Australia, United Kingdom and many other countries,” explained Ms. Brandow. “At this competition 35 percent of the role model judging criteria is for the interview, 10 percent for resume/essay, 20 percent portfolio/scrapbook, 20 percent evening gown and 15 percent personal introduction.”

“My platform is on sustainability and agriculture and how to make a better impact on our world,” said Ms. Brandow. “If I am selected there is an opportunity to go to New York Fashion Week to be on the runway. The winners of the role model division also receive a grant to help put their platform more into action. This would help me to offer more workshops and increased options to provide resources and education to help others with their sustainability practices. A lot of people do not know where their food comes from so it is important for our generation to understand how to create and sustain a healthy planet for



Montana Brandow, who has strong family ties to Manitoulin Island will be heading to Orlando, Florida in July after winning the title of Royal International Miss Role Model Canada in December.

photo provided

the future.”

Ms. Brandow is a young woman who has consistently won the community service award category in her pageant competitions. She is recognized in the Sudbury community for a number of events she has promoted and participated in, as well as establishing her own environmentally friendly programs. She says that volunteer work is a huge priority in her life and if there is some type of event she

can help with, she will. She has put in over 4,500 volunteer hours over the past few years in such places as the Sudbury Bunny Rescue, Massey Fair and more.

“Some of the amazing opportunities I have been involved in were raising over \$1,000 for local charities by participating in six different five kilometre runs. I also raised \$350 in the Polar Plunge. I had that on my bucket list, and it was cold last year. Freezing! It was a shock to my system, but I was very happy to be able to offer my support. ‘Freeze for a reason’ was spot on!”

“I also volunteered at the Sudbury Women’s Centre,” said Ms. Brandow. “In addition, I donated to various local missions providing over 100 blankets, clothing and hygiene products to help out. I also have an educational Instagram that can help teach you about sustainability at @keepitsustainable_you.can.”

Ms. Brandow grew up on a small homestead in Massey, so she is quite comfortable raising chickens, turkeys, rabbits and pigs. “I love cows. I used to show them at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. I am also a seven-time grand champion at the local show in Massey and my nickname is ‘the Dairy Queen.’” I happily worked for a few years at the Emery Farm in Massey. We have a small homestead with chickens, pigs and turkeys. I have always been involved in the 4-H club, so I have considerable experience with sustainability skills.”

Part of Ms. Brandow’s focus is on educating others and teaching them how to garden and pick their own products. “As I have always been a nature enthusiast, this platform feels like home to me and makes it easy for me to help others,” she said,

Ms. Brandow says she will be part of the Flour Mill Community Garden this spring to help others develop their gardening skills. She will again be taking part in the Coldest Night of Year walk this year to raise funds.

Ms. Brandow is looking for sponsors to help her prepare for her upcoming pageant in Orlando. Your sponsorship will help to cover the cost of fees, wardrobe, accommodations and more. While she will need monetary donations, there are other ways people can help. She is looking for business sponsors who can assist with hair, makeup and nails. If anyone can provide additional wardrobe choices, this would also be welcome.

If you would like to help, Ms. Brandow can be messaged on her Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/montana.brandow> or you can email her at mbrandow116@gmail.com. Etransfers can be made from any bank to her email mbrandow116@gmail.com



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The Expositor's annual Valentine poetry contest

Love with coffee beans

When I first met you, I didn't know
The next three years would be so long ago
Such a short time to love and hold
But such a long time to watch it unfold

We laughed and cried and I held you tight
Through all of those cold painful fights
Through your tears, you were able to smile
Keeping us all in awe of this child

I'm blessed to have had you for so much time
All to myself but not just mine
You were a child of love and came here to teach them
I hope that your heart was able to reach them

So many plans we made for the future
In spite of the war we fought with your tumour
My little bean, you will always be
Even though four was as old as you'll see

For my grandson who gained his wings July 1, 2022.

Brenda Lacourciere
Little Current



And the winner is...

Rocking Chairs for Two

Stay by my side the long years thro'
The young years have gone; at least we are two.
So busy we were then,
With friends, family and working, too.
Now life has slowed down,
We've time to sit, side by side on the porch,
Enjoying the view.
The chickens are fed; the dog snoozing lies,
The laundry is hung outside to dry.
The paychecks have dwindled,
They come once a month,
But the mortgage is paid off, and the kids long gone.
The hair on our head is as white as the snow on the roof,
But we're still rocking together,
Enjoying the view.

Lorna Wismer
Silver water



This is a neighborhood love story and a tribute to the animal loving couple who were responsible for reuniting a family with their lost cat.

Tamarack Binks: A Love Story

Only a few months ago,
When winter winds left us cold to the core,
A fluffy black cat came a wandering,
Up our stairs, 'cross the deck, to our door.

For days it would greet us 'round four,
Meowed just to let us know it was there,
Then plopped down in front of the door,
When it moved on, we never knew where.

Turns out our neighbourhood cat had a route,
Travelled near and abroad to say hi,
Some neighbours must have given it food,
We all wondered where it came from and why.

Though we all fell in love with this cat,
Two neighbours came up with a plan,
"To find its home, as a matter of fact,
We'll post a picture wherever we can".

Christine and John went above and beyond,
For this kitty with a penchant to roam,
They performed a Christmas miracle,
Sweet Binks, once our Tamarack mascot,
Is now remarkably and happily home.

Happy Valentine's Day, everyone!

From,
Deborah Wilson
Tamarack Lane, Honora Bay



DAVE

Our love has lasted through the years
Through clouds and sunshine, smiles and tears.
Good friends, family, well known faces
Graced our home, our lives, our spaces.
And now you're gone.
I feel your presence always near.
Your spirit, and that face so dear.
The love and memories all, are mine.
You'll always be my Valentine.

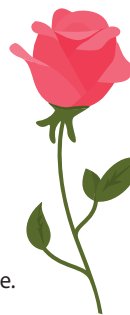
Carol Lang



No More Tomorrows

If tomorrow was my last day
to live my life with you,
I spend every waking moment
making all your dreams come true.
We'd live a life so happy;
there would be no wasted time.
I'd hug and kiss and love you
and tell you, "I'm glad that you are mine."
If tomorrow was my last day,
I'd want to be sure you know
that you're my one and only love
and I truly love you so.
If I could see tomorrow,
I hope you that will be here.
I want to spend my life with you
and hold you close and near.
I would pray for another day
and hope this life goes on.
I want us to be here together
with hopes that tomorrow will always come.
I want you to know, always, my darling,
that you are truly, my only one.

To Murray, My Love,
Melody Hore
Evansville



To you, my love, I give my heart for this wonderful
Valentine's Day,
So please take my hand and be my valentine.
Yours truly,
Susan Leblanc
Little Current



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CLOSED Sunday and Family Day (Monday, February 19)

The Manitoulin Snowdusters

are hosting a

Poker Chip Run

February 1 to April 6, 2024

In Memory of Todd "TC" Corbiere




Hand \$30.00 each, Dinner \$60.00 each, Dance \$30.00 each
or Hand/Dinner/Dance \$100.00 each or \$180.00 per couple

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Businesses will not be stamping sheets that are not in your name.
Also, there is a chance to get double point values.

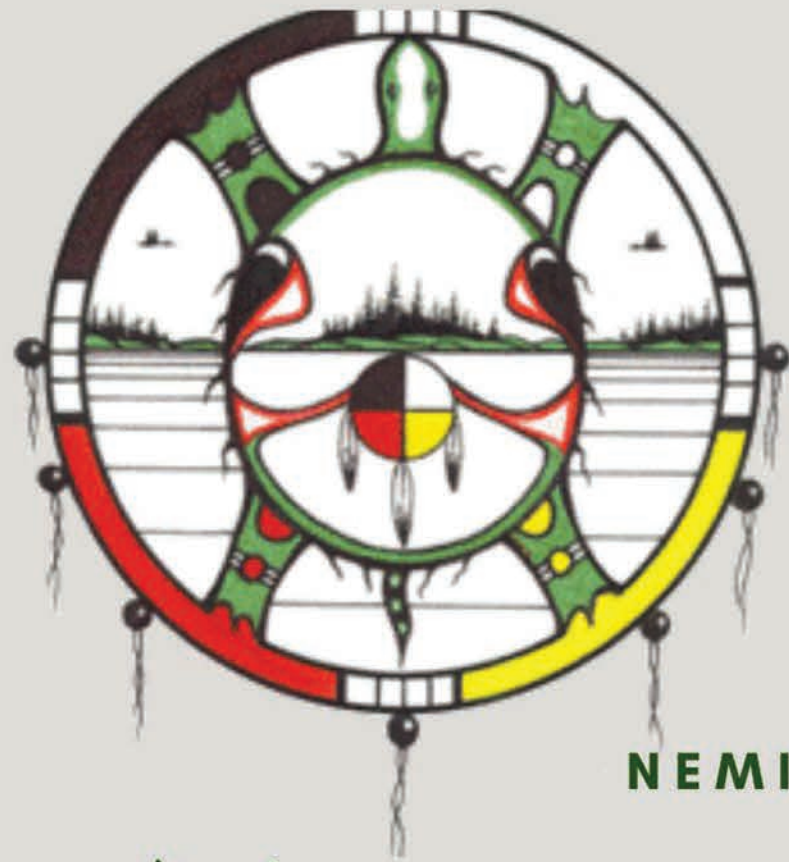
Travel by **Car** or **Snowmobile**
(valid OFSC Trail Permit required by snowmobile).



Proceeds will be divided into prizes, funds for club special projects and a scholarship/bursary in memory of Todd "TC" Corbiere.

For more information or to register to participate:
Call/text Chris at: (705) 862-2616 or laidley67@gmail.com
Also available after January 25, 2024 at:
Betty's Confectionary in Gore Bay, Loco Beanz in Manitowaning,
General Store & Gas in Birch Island, Buie's in Spring Bay,
Herbert Fisheries in Killarney, and Laidley Stationery in Little Current.

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PRESENTS..**



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FEB 22: 9AM-1:30PM**

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TO REGISTER, CONTACT

rebecca.milne@mnaamodzawin.com
or call 705-368-2182 ext.271

A NEW-ish to Manitoulin Valentine love story

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

by Heather Marshall

Aviation movies have been a Hollywood mainstay for decades and more than a few of them have centred around couples whose relationships soared after meeting at airports. But even scripts for movies such as *Up in the Air* and *Love Takes Flight* cannot rival the real-life story of romance or the 57-year long and still going strong marriage of Ann and Jack Sargent.

Ann Van Aalten grew up in Den Helder, Netherlands and immigrated to Canada along with her family as a young teenager, initially settling in Brantford, Ontario. She had only been in the country a few years when her mother took seriously ill. Ann was obliged to quit school and take on a waitressing job to help raise and support her three younger siblings. She found employment at the Kitchener Airport, where she soon met a young flying instructor named Jack Sargent.

Jack was born and raised in Toronto but moved to Hespeler, now known as Cambridge, when he was 16 and began flying almost as soon as he got there. "I drove by the Kitchener Airport one day and saw a big sign saying, 'learn to fly'. I had saved money from having been a newspaper delivery boy and had worked in a textile factory in Hespeler when I finished high school, so I jumped at the chance to become a pilot."

Jack was a natural for the profession. After getting a private pilot's licence, he soon acquired a

commercial licence and then earned an instructor rating. After a short stint as a flying instructor in Carp, he landed a job back in Kitchener training air cadets in the mid 1960s. It was there that he met Ann, who was preparing meals for the cadets training at the airport. Within short order, their romance evolved to marriage in 1966, a new job opportunity arose for Jack as an instructor with Toronto Airways at Buttonville Airport, and the young couple launched a long life together of sky-high travel adventures.

The 1960s was a period of unprecedented growth in air travel as flights became more accessi-

ble to the

general public

and not just the upper

class. The introduction of jet aircraft and increased competition among airlines made the travel option both more available and affordable. As a result, there was a huge hiring boom for pilots. Jack applied to Air Canada and became a commercial pilot for the company in late 1967, following training in Montreal and Winnipeg.

Around this time Jack's parents moved to the Carolinas to retire, and the couple bought their house in Hespeler where they raised their two daughters, Cathy and Caroline, and stayed until 1984. When their youngest daughter Caroline became a major horse enthusiast, they bought a 10-acre property in Rockwood near Fergus where they lived for the next

decade. In 1994, they downsized to a condo in Cambridge so they could

spend their winters in Florida.



Welcome to Manitoulin, Jack and Ann Sargent! This photo, taken at Bridal Veil Falls, was snapped during the couple's first visit to Manitoulin.

spend their winters in Florida.

"Ever since we got married, we went to Daytona Beach each year because we both love stock car races," explains Anne. "We started out buying a double-wide trailer for our winter stays, but we later bought a house in a fly-in community called Spruce Creek just outside Daytona as we had our own airplane by then. Jack had lots of time off work, since pilots can only fly a certain number of hours, so we could travel back and forth year-round to our home down there."

The couple moved several more times, buying another house in Leesburg to be close to Canadian friends who wintered in the area and, from there, moved to a new community developed by the late Jimmy Buffet called Margaritaville. They sold that property too when the pandemic struck and they were unable to travel back and forth. Aside from pandemic-related restrictions, they decided that they didn't like the politics and increasing violence in the

sunshine state and sold their last property there.

Instead, they took advantage of unlimited flying passes that were available as a perk when Jack retired in 2002 after 35 years with Air Canada. The lifelong travellers toured extensively throughout Asia and Europe and took frequent cruises.

It was only once their daughter, Cathy Sargent, moved to Manitoulin in 2018 to work at the Mindemoya Hospital that they became aware of the Island and what it has to offer. The premature death of Cathy's spouse from a major heart attack prompted them to make yet another major decision about retirement life and one final move. They bought a house in Bay Estates in May 2022 to be closer to Cathy and her son, Brandon, who also moved up from Southern Ontario to join his mom and now lives with her in Sandfield.

Brandon initially worked at Three Cows and a Cone in Little Current before also finding employment at the Manitoulin Health Centre.

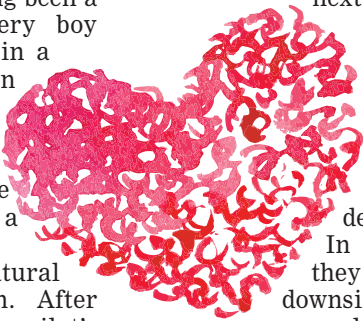
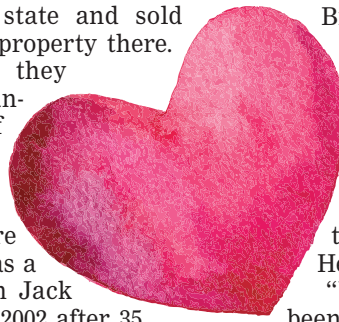
"We had only been up to Manitoulin to visit Cathy two to three times prior to moving here ourselves. But we recognized that time is of the essence given our health and ages and we agreed to make the move now while we still can," explains Ann. "We also continue to visit our daughter Caroline and granddaughter Isabelle, who live in Calgary, as often as we can."

The couple bought a fully furnished house in Bay Estates that they have since remodelled and redecorated. They love their home and gardens, the local area, and their magnificent waterfront view of Lake Huron. They have found it takes more time than they expected to get to know local people and set-

tle into the community, but that is something they are hoping will change soon.

"We have had a life full of travel and adventure," says Jack. "I am content to be grounded and just put down roots close to my family again."

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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...Nurses demand fair share of \$3.1 billion federal funds given to Ontario

...continued from page 10
bility, help ensure reduced unnecessary reliance on acute care hospitals and ensure more people have

access to care in the right setting," said Anthony Dale, president and chief executive officer of the OHA. "The OHA is grateful

for the renewed support from both the federal and provincial government in targeting key gaps in the health system such as wait times, access to primary care and staffing pressure. The announcement comes at a time when continued partnerships and investments in all areas of health-care services are needed to allow care to be delivered in the most appropriate setting and in the most cost-effective manner."

The Ontario Nurses Association (ONA) also welcomed the news to provide funding but added that they have no faith that the Ford government will direct the funds to where they are most needed, to invest in the public system, not the for-profit, private corporations.

"Nurses welcome new federal funding for health-care in Ontario, which is desperately needed in our public healthcare system," said ONA president Erin Ariss, RN. "Yet the brutal truth is that our provincial government has withheld existing funds for the public system Ontarians treasure. Mr. Ford has failed to retain

nurses and handed taxpayer dollars to private, for-profit corporations to perform non-urgent procedures. Where is the requirement that federal taxpayer dollars go to the public system in this agreement? The federal government and Ontarians must demand accountability from the province."

Ms. Ariss added that despite the repeated, misleading statements made by health minister Sylvia Jones that Ontario added 80,000 new nurses, Ontario continues to have the fewest RNs per capita in Canada. "Nurses must renew their registrations annually," she said. "If we have so many new nurses, why is it that Ontario is seeing hundreds of emergency departments continuing to have to close due to nurse staffing shortages?"

"The premier spoke glowingly about getting shovels in the ground and clinics performing procedures, all of which fails to improve what's happening across the province when it comes to access to the system our patients need and deserve," continued Ms. Ariss. "ONA will continue to speak out and demand real accountability and improvements to the public system."

Under the agreement, Ontario will continue to deliver on its 'Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care' and create new primary care teams to help more people connect

to family doctors. With more family doctors, as well as nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists and social workers, health teams will ensure families can access timely, quality primary care. This will also help reduce backlogs for surgeries and wait times in emergency rooms while improving access to care for patients without a family doctor, especially in rural, remote and underserved areas.

To fill healthcare shortages, Ontario will add hundreds of new family physicians and nurse practitioners, as well as thousands of new nurses and personal support workers. Enrollment in healthcare education programs will be expanded by over 700 spots, including over 70 in Northern Ontario. To keep building the talent for the future, Ontario will support students with tuition fees, help practicing professionals gain new skills and bring more health workers into the field.

The agreement will also make it easier for Canadian and internationally trained doctors and health professionals to practice in Ontario, so they spend less time dealing with red tape and more time helping patients in need. This includes removing barriers to foreign credential recognition, simplifying licensing processes and increasing program access for highly educated and skilled

health professionals. The province will modernize digital infrastructure, from information reporting, to collection, to sharing. By expanding the availability of electronic health information and increasing the number of health care professionals who can securely access and share this information healthcare will be more convenient, connected, and patient-centred.

Mental health is a central pillar of this important investment, it was announced. Ontario will add five new Youth Wellness Hubs to the 22 that opened since 2020, making it faster and easier for youth to connect to much needed mental health and substance use services in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

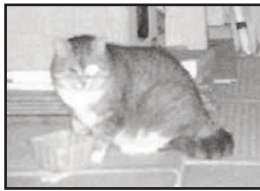
The federal and provincial governments will engage and work with Indigenous peoples to address gaps and systemic inequities in Indigenous healthcare services and improve access to culturally safe care. Under the agreement, funds will go to Ontario's Support for Indian Residential Schools Burials Funding program, which provides culturally safe mental health supports to survivors of residential schools, families and communities. As we move forward on the shared path of reconciliation, safe and timely healthcare is a priority for Indigenous communities, the release adds.

IS ANYONE MISSING A CAT?

We have 2 cats living outdoors on Bayshore Road in Honora. The black cat, which has a small white mark on his chest, has been around for 2-3 months while the other cat, which has either an injured or missing eye, has only recently been seen in the area.

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coming events

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services

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

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

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

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

Come one, come all to the Little Current United Church Hall on February 16 from 7 to 9 pm (and every two weeks after that) to enjoy George Williamson and colleagues for a night of entertainment. Donation towards Manitoulin Family Resources food bank appreciated. **38-39p**

The MSS Musical Theatre Program invites you to be our guest for the 2024 production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. With singing and dancing galore, all accompanied by a live band, it is an upbeat show perfect for the entire family. Performances run Friday, February 16 at 7 pm and Saturday, February 17 at 2 pm, as well as the following weekend, Friday, February 23 at 7 pm and Saturday, February 24 at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased online atbit.ly/MSSmusical or at participating pharmacies across Manitoulin. **39c**

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. Wednesday, February 21 at the Mindemoya Town Chambers 2 to 4 pm; Sunday March 24 at the Manitowaning Family Health Team 2: to 4 pm and Wednesday, April 24 at the Mindemoya Council Chambers 2 to 4 pm, but support can be given over the phone. 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 Cranstoun, 705-272-7531, bnann@gmail.com. Ask us your questions, tell us your concerns. **Tfn**

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thank you

The family of Elwood Lewis would like to express our heartfelt thank you for all the love and support we have received not only during his passing but throughout his entire senior years!

As you, all will know, Elwood appreciated every visit with you all and it didn't matter if you stayed five minutes or five hours he would always invite you back "when you could stay longer." Thank you all for those visits; it made the days shorter for him when he could no longer head out to visit you! Elwood had the most amazing PSWs throughout his older years and special helpers who meant the world to him! Hailey, he adored you and we cannot thank you enough! The helpers that came while "the best wife in the world" was in the hospital in Sudbury; you made it possible for him to stay at home! Thank you all for the loving care and listening to his stories (more than once we are sure).

To the Mindemoya Hospital nursing staff, doctors, physio and support staff, you put our faith back in the health care system. As Elwood would say "he was treated like a King" during his five weeks in the hospital! Every one of you treated him like he was family and we cannot even begin to thank you for making the last days of his life so comfortable! Maggie - you are a true gem for being with him and us the last hours! Finally, thank you for flowers, cards, messages and food brought to the house, Simpson's Funeral Home and the Flower Hutch for such a perfect flower arrangement that absolutely was Elwood to a tea!!

Thank you all for making this 92-year-old's life so enjoyable! He can now continue his stories and songs with all of his old buddies who he missed dearly! Bernice, Brenda, Marilyn, Leanne and families **39c**

wanted

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

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notice

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

church services

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Robinson Township Fire Chief Position

Robinson Township Volunteer Fire Department is seeking a **Fire Chief** to begin duties on July 1, 2024. Currently the position involves some 400 hours a year and would be considered part-time. Robinson Township is located on Western Manitoulin Island. For more details, reply to: **Paul Sorbara, Chair** Local Services Board of Robinson Township psorbara@outlook.com

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Tender submissions can be mailed, faxed or hand delivered to: **Sheguiandah First Nation** 142 Ogemah Miikan Sheguiandah, ON POP IWO Fax: **(705) 368-3697**

Tender submissions will be accepted until **February 16, 2024.**

...Supreme Court rules Indigenous child welfare a First Nation responsibility

...continued from page 1
infringed provincial jurisdiction and effectively recognized Indigenous peoples as a third order of government. However, the Supreme Court concluded the federal government was within its jurisdiction and did not create a third level of government, but rather recognized rights already protected by the aboriginal rights section of Canada's Constitution.

The Court also wrote "the

act creates space for Indigenous groups, communities and peoples to exercise their jurisdiction to care for their children. The recognition of this jurisdiction invites Indigenous communities to work with the Crown to weave together Indigenous, national and international laws in order to protect the well-being of Indigenous children, youth and families."

In 2022, the Quebec Court of Appeal ruled that the Act does indeed fall under federal jurisdiction and that Indigenous peoples' right to self-government in relation to child and family services

is an aboriginal right protected under section 35.

However, the Quebec Court of Appeal ruled that Indigenous child and family service laws could not take precedence over provincial law in situations where they are conflicting or inconsistent. Both Quebec and Canada appealed this ruling to the Supreme Court.

"Finally, after a long and exhausting process, the Supreme Court has ruled that bill C-92 is constitutional and Indigenous peoples can continue to enact laws and exercise governance and jurisdiction over

the care of their children," said Regional Chief Hare.

"We're pleased that the Supreme Court has said that the Act protects our right to self-government in the area of child and family services," said Regional Chief Hare. "The Court has directed the federal government and provinces to take measures to address the over-representation of Indigenous children in care."

"We are also pleased to see a strong statement from the Supreme Court that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is part of Canadian

domestic law," continued Regional Chief Hare. "We look forward to working with the Crown to ensure its full implementation."

"This ruling will be seen as a landmark decision and we, as First Nations, have always and will continue to take care of our children, youth and families. While we celebrate this court ruling, we also take this as an opportunity to say what we have always known, that First Nations have always had the rights and jurisdiction of Nations," continued Regional Chief Hare. "At the point of first contact, First Nations were, and

continue to be, fully functioning nations and will continue to exercise authority under those auspices. We will continue to assert and exercise our rights, regardless of what the colonial systems state and attempt to impose."

Regional Chief Hare added, "the Chiefs of Ontario look forward to continuing the path forward and continuing the dialogue to ensure an approach to child and family care that is both culturally appropriate and fully First Nations-led."



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We love you forever, Larry, Dad, Boppa!

Always yours, your loving wife Ruby, Greg, Kendel, Jared, Eric and Sean.

39c

...MPP Mantha's bill seeks hike for Northern health travel grants

...continued from page 1

To establish its mission, the committee would be required to consult with all relevant stakeholders, "including, at minimum, the stakeholders specified in the Bill," said the MPP. The committee would be required to report its recommendations to the minister. The minister, in turn, would be required to inform the Assembly of the recommendations that the minister will implement.

To that end, Mr. Mantha's Bill would set up a committee "composed of persons that the minister believes will make useful contributions to the committee's work, including, recipients of NHTGs; and health care providers working in Northern Ontario.

The Bill goes on to assert that the health minister "shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the



MPP Michael Mantha held a press conference in Espanola on Monday on his proposed Bill.

composition of the committee reflects the diversity of the residents of Northern Ontario and, in particular, includes women, Indigenous people, members of racialized groups, persons with disabilities, seniors and persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression."

Over the 12 years Mr. Mantha has been Algoma-Manitoulin's MPP, he has personally tried to make up some of the difference between the actual cost of travel for medical necessity of his constituents by providing accommodation at his Toronto-based apartment.

"In fact, there is a family coming to stay at my apartment for three days as they have an appointment at Sick Kids," he said.

One of the key changes Mr. Mantha would like to see in the NHTG is a sliding scale on the distance needed to qualify. He points

out that people living in Espanola who must travel to Sudbury for medical procedures would not qualify under the current guidelines. "They are right on the cusp," he said. "The same goes for residents of White River who must travel to Wawa for appointments."

The costs of travel, particularly in these inflationary times, far outweigh the small amount of reimbursement coming from the NHTG, notes Mr. Mantha. "Those who don't have their own transportation are even further burdened," he said.

Mr. Mantha's Bill is up for debate in the legislature this coming Thursday, February 15, and he said that he hopes to find broad, non-partisan support for his solution to the shortcomings of the NHTG system. The NHTG is clearly falling short, he said. "It's time we start working on getting it fixed."

Death Notices

ANNIE CATHERINE MADAHBEE BREYER

March 19, 1929 - February 2, 2024

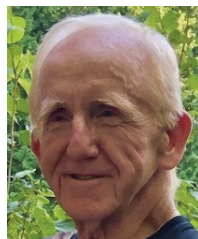


Annie Catherine Madahbee Breyer, eldest member of Aundeck Omnikaning First Nation, passed away peacefully at the Manitoulin Health Centre on February 2, 2024 at the age of 94. Born at home to Mary Louise (nee Corbiere) and Peter Madahbee on March 19, 1929.

Loving mother of Margaret (Roy), son Fred (Marilyn) and beloved grandson Jonathan. Predeceased by husbands Fred Lodder and Harry Breyer. One of 17 siblings, she leaves behind sisters Patsy Corbiere (Roger, deceased) and Anita Panamick (Jim); brothers Archie Madahbee (Virginia) and Patrick Madahbee (Charlotte) and countless people who lovingly called her Auntie. She was a wonderful, gentle lady who brightened the lives of those who were fortunate enough to spend time with her. There was grace in Annie's steps, love in every gesture she made. We will never forget her love for her family. A respected Elder and positive role model, she will be greatly missed. The design on her ribbon skirt incorporates her love of flowers and that she was a member of the Bear Clan (Makwa). The ribbon colours relate to the seasons, directions, elements and the cycle of life. They speak of the need for balance, harmony and respect as bringers of happiness, qualities she portrayed throughout her life. She made the world a better place. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Donations in her memory may be made to Wikwemikong Nursing Home Building Fund, Manitoulin Health Centre, Manitoulin Pet Rescue or the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB). Arrangements entrusted to the Lougheed Funeral Home.

ROY GRAHAM

July 31, 1949 - January 29, 2024



Roy Graham passed away peacefully with his family at his side on Monday, January 29, 2024 in his 75th year. Born on July 31, 1949 in Mindemoya, an only child of the late James Allan and Vera Lois (Shaver) Graham. Roy and his beloved wife Julie (Virag) Graham married in 1975 in Peterborough and together moved to Gore Bay in 1980, bringing Roy back to his Haweater roots. He was a loving and loved father of Jennifer, Heather (Cory Heggstad) and Rob; cherished and proud grandfather to Graham, Julia and Morgan. Roy was known for his entrepreneurial spirit, sharp business acumen and the ability to connect with people and build strong, long-lasting relationships. Roy was a strong, loving and dedicated man who supported and loved his family and always opened his heart and home to new friends. When living on the Island, he was active in his community in many ways but in particular as a member of the Gore Bay Masonic Lodge #432 A.F. & A.M. where he had worked his way up to serve as Master in 1991. Roy enjoyed all sports but certainly had a strong passion and talent for baseball and curling, both of which he played competitively for years. Roy was also an avid hunter, although at the "Just One More" camp, more poker was played than hunting. From a young age, he spent a special week in November on the Island with his father and friends. It was a tradition he carried on and cherished deeply with his son Rob and so many dear friends, making lasting memories with many stories to reminisce. Roy will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by all who knew him. A Celebration of Life will be held in June at Graham's Camp when the lilacs are in full bloom. If so desired, donations to the ALS Society of Canada (<https://donate.als.ca/page/116715/donate/1>) would be appreciated.

BEVERLEY JANE McOUAT

1958 - 2024



Peacefully, at home, Beverley Jane McOuat passed away in her 65th year on January 31, 2024. Beloved daughter of the late Helen and Colin McOuat. Bee was the cherished sister of Barbara (Neil), Ralph (Marie-France) and the late Brenda McOuat. Auntie Bee to Douglas, Jess, Adrienne (Mo), CJ (Tatiana) and Angelina, and was great-auntie Bee to Cameron, Caelen, Cole, Neil and Colin. Bee had deep and enduring friendships. She will be greatly missed by her devoted friends and colleagues. A charismatic entrepreneur, Beverley launched one of Toronto's very first chip wagons, in tandem with her event catering company, PartyTime. She returned to Vankleek Hill to manage Farmers Supply Company/Home Hardware. She went on to create Netherdale, her bed and breakfast in East Hawkesbury, where she hosted many guests, friends and family. Bee was renowned for her lavish and delicious dinner parties and events. She supported and encouraged many local businesses and artists in the community and volunteered at the local hospital. Bee was a supporter of a number of different causes, including a children's school in Madagascar. In a message to our family, the school wrote to say that Bee was a most kind-hearted person who wanted peace and happiness for all. Her generosity and love of life were her hallmarks. Bee was an adventurous traveller, her spiritual home was Manitoulin Island. She made many pilgrimages there, where she reconnected with family. Beverley's friends and family feel her loss profoundly. She will always have a place in our hearts. A Celebration of her wonderful Life will be held at a later date. Donations in Beverley's memory may be made to the Montreal General Hospital Foundation, 514-934-8230, on line at <https://www.codelife.ca/in-memory-Beverley>, or by mail to Montreal General Hospital Foundation, 1650 Cedar Ave, Montreal, Qc H3G 1A4.

...M'Chigeeng First Nation gets Jordan's Principle funding for Little NHL teams

...continued from page 1

the M'Chigeeng First Nation. "And the fundraising that Kim Aelick and Debbie Debassige did over the recent B.J. Corbiere Memorial Tournament raised a sizable amount. Along with some other fundraising that had been done in the community from other events, and the approval of funding from the Jordan's Principle, it brought the funds to a level that there will be no hardship to the kids or any of

the families."

"M'Chigeeng First Nation is delighted to announce approval of Jordan's Principle funding in the amount of \$105,578 which will provide invaluable support to our children and youth hockey players," a statement on the M'Chigeeng Facebook page by Enaagdenjig (band manager) Roger Beaudin explains. "This funding will enable their participation in the upcoming Little Native Hockey

League (LNHL) scheduled March 10-15 in Markham, Ontario. The goal is to support all M'Chigeeng children playing in LNHL as well as children/youth that our supporting our community."

Mr. Beaudin explained, "Jordan's Principle has recognized the importance of supporting young athletes from M'Chigeeng, and as a result, has approved the allocation of funds to cover various expenses associated with the LNHL tournament." These approved costs include accommodation, meal and gas money. The total for a registered child/youth is estimated at \$1,500.

"This funding not only encourages the participation of M'Chigeeng's young athletes in the LNHL tournament but also reflects the commitment of Jordan's Principle to ensure equitable opportunities for children and youth in Indigenous communities across Canada," continued Mr. Beaudin. "We are so excited to witness our young athletes' achievements at the LNHL tournament and look forward to their incredible journey in Markham. Chi-miigwetch to the work provided by previous Jordan Principle navigator Joy Simon and the M'Chigeeng LNHL fundraising committee."

Ontario helping libraries provide public internet access

by Tom Sasvari

ONTARIO—The Billings Township Library is one of 155 throughout Ontario that will benefit from an investment of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) to provide libraries with reliable access to digital resources and in-demand services.

"Public libraries are a critical part of the infrastructure that makes our communities thrive," said Neil Lumsden, minister of tourism, culture and sport. "This increased investment in public libraries will ensure people across the province have reliable access to the digital services and in-demand services that they require to learn, grow and thrive."

Upeka Allani, press secretary and media relations for MTCS told The Expositor that the libraries listed are eligible recipients (in Algoma-Manitoulin) of Internet Connectivity Grant program funding, serve populations of 20,000 or less and are confirmed to have submitted their invoices to the Ontario Library Service for reimbursement: Billings Township Public Library and libraries in Blind River, Hilton, Hornepayne, Manitouwadge, Sagamok, Spanish, St. Joseph Township, Thessalon Public Library, Thessalon First Nation Public Library and White River Public Library.

The funding announcement will increase the support provided to Ontario's public libraries last year by \$122,000, enabling up to 155 eligible public libraries that serve communities of 20,000 or less, in particular, those in small, rural and First Nation communities to be fully reimbursed for the costs of providing publicly accessible internet access.

Ontarians rely on their local public library to access online tutoring and homework assistance, training resources, learn or improve their language skills and build and maintain social connections.

Since 2018, the Internet Connectivity Grant program has provided the province's public libraries with more than \$3 million to ensure the communities they serve have reliable access to the internet.

"Access to reliable, high-speed internet is more critical than ever in an increasingly digital world and in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Michelle Arbuckle, executive director, Ontario Library Association. "With more services, resources and businesses shifting to virtual platforms, the Ontario government's enhanced investment in the Internet Connectivity program will support public libraries by helping to make high-speed internet and digital resources available for all Ontarians."

"High-speed internet is critical for public libraries to offer the residents and communities they serve with access to digital resources and learning tools, subscription-based databases, and government services," said Dina Stevens, executive director, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries. "Public libraries also provide reliable internet access to Ontarians of all ages who cannot otherwise access or afford it. The enhanced internet connectivity funding from the Ontario government will ensure public libraries serving hundreds of thousands of Ontarians in smaller communities will be able to continue providing access to fast, reliable internet services."

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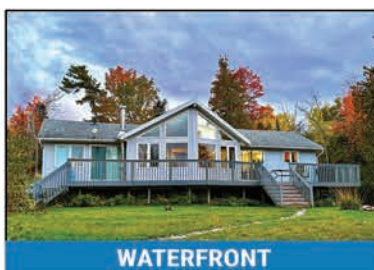
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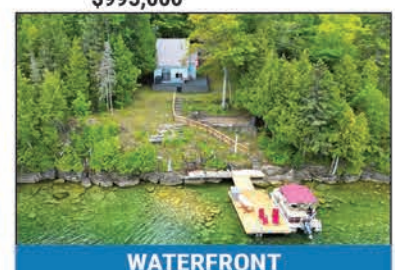
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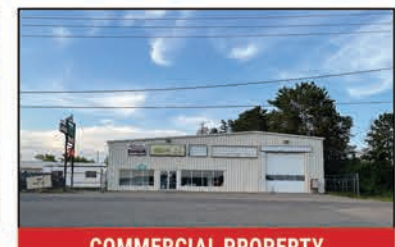
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Little Current, Manitoulin Island

Wednesday, February 14, 2024



Manitoulin Special Olympics (MSO) curling coaches Ellen Holroyd and Janet Anning flank the members of the MSO rink that will be part of the Ontario team at the Special Olympics Canada National Games starting February 27. They include Tyler Madahbee, Dylan Danville, Dayne Tipper, Austin Recollet, William Leclair. Coaches are Kathrine Tipper, left, and MSO coordinator Janet Anning, right.

photo by Katherine Tipper

Special Olympics athletes, coaches preparing for national championships

MANITOULIN—Manitoulin Special Olympics (MSO) athletes are gearing up to head to the Special Olympics Canada National Games taking place in Calgary, Alberta, February 27-March 2. Six athletes and three coaches will be part of Special Olympics Ontario's team roster attending from Manitoulin.

"Matthew Bedard, from Manitowaning, will be competing in snowshoeing. He competed last February in Huntsville and qualified to race at Nationals in the five-kilometre, 800 metre (winning gold medals in both) and 1,600 metre races," said Kathrine Tipper, an MSO coach. "Matthew has been coached by Joanne Mellan using the trails at McLean Park. Joanne will be Matthew's coach in Calgary. Steve Redmond has also been helping Matthew with dryland training once a week. Matthew also trains on his own with direction from both of these volunteers as well."

"MSO's curling team that competed in Sault Ste. Marie last March also qualified to move on to compete at the Nationals (who won a gold medal at the regionals)," said Ms. Tipper. "This team consists of team skip Tyler Madahbee, vice Dylan Danville and second Dayne Tipper from Mindemoya, lead Austin Recollet from M'Chigeeng First Nation and lead William Leclair, from Kagawong."

"The team has been practicing out of the Providence Bay Curling Club weekly since last November," said Ms. Tipper. She pointed out MSO coaches Ellen Holroyd and Janet Anning will be the team's coaches in

Calgary. Heather Niven and Marc Lefebvre have also been helping weekly with coaching in Providence Bay. "Some of the athletes on this curling team have also been playing in the house leagues of Mindemoya and Providence Bay curling clubs."

Sandra Graham, from Kagawong, will also be attending the games as a five-pin bowling coach for Team Ontario.

"All the athletes/coaches are pumped and excited to be attending these games," said Ms. Tipper. "Manitoulin Special Olympics Bluegrass in the Country's annual fundraising event has helped offset some of the costs for athletes to be able to attend the national games in Calgary, so many thanks to the sponsors and folks who purchase tickets and attend this festival."

"We are all wishing all six of these athletes on Team Ontario the best of luck and to have fun. Manitoulin is very proud of these fine gentlemen," said Ms. Tipper. She noted the Special Olympics motto is 'Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.'

The team will be flying out to Calgary on February 26, with opening ceremonies to be held the evening of February 27, the competition beginning February 28-March 2. Closing ceremonies will take place on the evening of March 2 then the team flies back home on March 3. To learn more about the games go to <https://calgary2024.specialolympics.ca> or google "Special Olympics Winter Games Calgary 2024."

Manitoulin Sporting Life

Ice Chips to Canoe Quips

by Larry and André Leblanc



Off Their Rock, Hockey!

Kohyn Eshkawkogan and his North York Rangers are climbing the rankings and are now 4th in Canada (M.H.R.) and in the OHL Cup Top 10 Rankings.

The Rangers recently had big wins over the historic Toronto Marlies 7-1 and the prominent Toronto Young Nationals 17-1! Kohyn picked up one goal and five assists in those two games.

He now has a total of 46 points (9 G, 37 A) in 58 games. His defensive prowess and offensive contributions are also captured by a noteworthy plus-minus statistic which has him leading the NYR team with an impressive plus 66! He is also rapidly climbing the various OHL prospect lists and is expected to be a high draft pick in April's OHL draft.

Jack Bridgeman kept his hot hand going as the Nickel City Sons U15AA returned to league play last week. In a 3 game set against the North Bay U15AA Trappers last weekend, Jack notched both markers in a 2-1 win, netted a hat trick in a 5-0, scored the winner on a beautiful victory and potted a pair in a 4-1 win. Up next were the Copper Cliff Reds U15AA on Wednesday, where Jack's backhand pass from Captain Adrian Potvin resulted in a 2-0 victory, the first win for NCS after 5 ties between the teams. Jacob Beaudet, familiar to those who attended the NOHA Christmas Skills camp over the break where he was goalie coach, had an outstanding game, earning the shutout.

Abby Roque, a Wahnapitae First Nation member and a US National team member,

is also on the roster for the New York entry in the inaugural season of the PWHL. Abby has six points in nine games for the yet-unnamed team in the Professional Women's Hockey League. Her Dad, Jim, was the coach for the Lake Superior State University hockey team and then a pro scout.

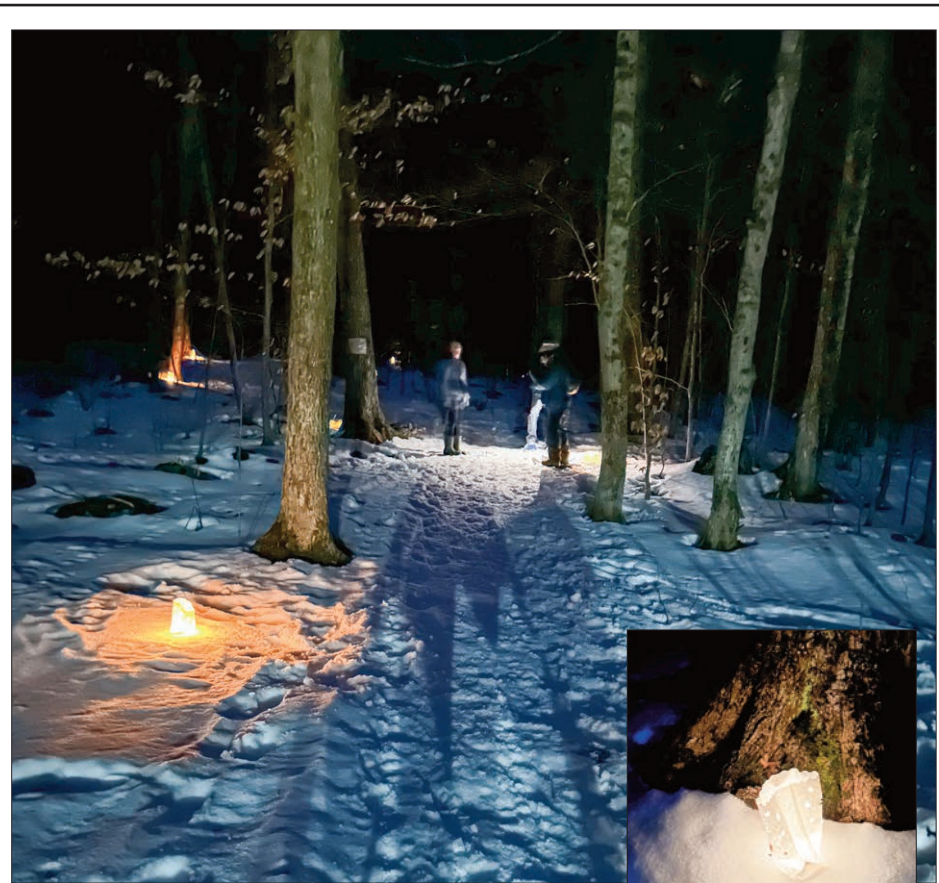
Tying the knot fishing!

I'm sure that fiancées Carly and Brian were pleased with the colder weather this week. Their 'Tying the Knot' Fishing Derby-type stag and doe is in a couple of weeks. Fingers crossed that they have safe ice for the March 2-3 festivities.

There are still tickets available and the pair have amassed over \$6000 in prizes for people who want to fish or not! Novice angler entries are \$20 per ticket and are for anyone who just wants to fish, no fishing experience needed. Advanced angler entries are \$40 per ticket. They are for those with experience fishing and more advanced raffle tickets are \$10 each to get entered into the draw for raffle prizes. Each fishing ticket also gets you an entry into the raffle.

Among their prize haul is an Otter Vortex Pro Cabin Thermal Hub Shelter (2-3 people) up for grabs in the advanced division. Guided local fishing tours, gift cards and other fishing supplies for the novice. BBQ and patio chairs, Yeti cooler, tickets to either the Sudbury Wolves or Sudbury Five games. Check out Brian Stapleton's Facebook page for ticket info.

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



Snowshoe in the moonlight

A candlelight snowshoe event was hosted by the 1st Manitowaning Girl Guides and the Township of Assignack, at McLean's Park in Assignack this past Saturday evening.

Manitoulin Streams Outdoor Angling Trade Fair to take place in Kagawong May 18 & 19

by Tom Sasvari

KAGAWONG—The Manitoulin Streams Outdoor Angling Trade Fair will have a lot for every member of the family to take part in and enjoy.

Liam Campbell of Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association (MSIA) told The Expositor, “We have a number of local businesses starting to sign up for the Outdoor Angling Trade Fair, which is set to take place on the May long weekend, May 18-19, at the Park Centre in Kagawong. We’re going to have several different competitions that are open for anyone to take part in. There will be a fly-fishing casting for distance, a casting accuracy anchor toss, a kids’ fishing derby for kids 17 years of age and under with two different age groups, 14-17 and 13 and under. And we are also trying to get a dunk tank set up for the weekend.”

The kids’ fishing derby will coincide with the official opening of the walleye season, so the derby will specifically focus on wall-



eye fishing, Mr. Campbell told The Expositor.

“We have some guest speakers confirmed for the fair including Neil Debassige of Fuel the Fire Television and Moe Gauthier, owner of Screamin’ Reels Sportfishing Charters.”

There will be live music on hand featuring Aiyana Louis of M’Chigeeng First Nation along with more local talent expected to perform over the weekend as well.

“There will also be an educational component to the weekend (with MSIA) providing educational guided stream tours,” con-

tinued Mr. Campbell. “Noojmowin Teg will be holding a wildlife cleaning trailer, with several types of fish and possibly a bear to clean as well.”

“Right now, we have around 20 local businesses who are interested in having tables set up for the weekend,” said Mr. Campbell. The organizers are looking for Island businesses selling their wares like outdoor and angling related products, boats, ATVs, kayaks and other outdoor vehicles, artisan products made from natural resources and organizations in the outdoor sector. “Right now, we have 10

businesses registered but we expect to have many more sign up.” He pointed out space is available to have about 40 businesses on hand. We know for instance Berry Boats will be on hand as well as Allen’s Automotive, We Have the Wood and Vertex Baits. We will also have Deborah Ireland, an animal artist, on hand.”

“We haven’t heard officially, but there will be a Science North booth as well,” said Mr. Campbell.

There will also be both live and silent auctions taking place, raffle tables and a 50/50 draw.

“We are trying to provide enough things to see and do that people are going to spend the entire weekend in Kagawong,” said Mr. Campbell. He also noted there will be a passport

program in place where kids will get a sheet and grid indicating where businesses are located in the community as well as getting the sheet stamped at every business kids and their family explore in Kagawong.

“The whole idea of the fair is to promote local businesses, Manitoulin Streams restoration and projects and increase visitors to the township and Kagawong on the May long weekend. Our idea is that if this fair is successful to have a roaming trade fair show in another Island community every year or every second year.”


More vendors are being sought for the event, with prices for a booth being as low as \$35. “We are also looking for more business event sponsors and volun-

teers to help run the event,” said Mr. Campbell. The Billings recreation committee and climate action committee are providing a few volunteers to help out and the Manitoulin Secondary School robotics team has committed to help out as well.

Mr. Campbell said one thing the event doesn’t have yet is food vendors. “We are definitely looking at having food vendors; we have space for as many as five for the weekend.”

For more information on the attractions, events and admission prices for the event, contact Manitoulin Streams at email Anglingtf.Manitoulin@gmail.com, online at manitoulinstreams.com and by phone (613) 857-9877.

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WIKWEMIKONG TRIBAL POLICE SERVICE

Position: Experienced Police Officer Full-Time – Permanent
Location: Wikwemikoong Unceded Territory
Responsible to: Chief of Police, Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service

The Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service is accepting applications from a police officer who has served or is currently serving with a Canadian police agency.

Summary: The Police Constable will be responsible to the Chief of Police and will maintain law and order in a community-based setting within and around the Wikwemikong Unceded Territory.

Key Duties/Responsibilities:

- Preserve the peace.
- Prevent crimes, other offences, aiding assistance and encouragement to other persons in their prevention.
- Assist victims of crime.
- Apprehend criminals, other offenders and others who may lawfully be taken into custody.
- Lay charges and participate in prosecutions.
- Execute warrants and perform related duties.
- Perform the lawful duties that the Chief of Police assigns.
- Respond to calls for service.
- Successfully complete prescribed training.
- Commitment to Community-Based Policing principles and practices.
- Display cultural competence when interacting with members of the community.
- Participate in community events and cultural gatherings.
- Assist in the development and implementation of projects, acting as a resource to team members and other units.
- Undertake assignments, including traffic point duty and crowd control, as required.

Basic Requirements:


- Ontario Police College Certificate or equivalent as recognized by the Ontario Police College.
- Diploma in Police Foundations or Degree in Law and Criminal Justice an asset.
- Must possess a valid class G Ontario driver’s licence.
- Possess current First Aid/CPR Certificates.
- Documentation showing you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as approved by the Ministry of Health or have valid exemption pursuant to the Human Rights Code.
- Basic computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft Outlook and Office.
- Must have awareness of First Nation culture and traditions.
- Be physically able to perform the duties of the position.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality a MUST.
- Be prepared to take an Oath/Affirmation of Office and Secrecy.
- Be of good moral character and habits.
- Pass a detailed background check that includes security clearance checks, credit and reference checks.

Employment packages are available for pick up at the WTPS office or can be emailed to those interested. Interested applicants are to forward their completed electronic employment package, letter of interest/cover letter, detailed resume, copies of relevant diploma/certificates and three work-related references to:

Attn: Richard Flamand, Human Resources Manager
richard.flamand@wtps.ca
Deadline to Apply: Ongoing until filled.

Please note: Applications will be screened. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Interviews will be scheduled and at that time a decision will be made to consider an experienced officer for hire. The qualified candidate(s) will be subject to a comprehensive background investigation. The candidate will be notified before any contact is made with their current police service.

Members of the Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service participate in the Ontario Pension Board (OPB) pension plan. It is compulsory for members to contribute to the plan. Experienced officers who have contributed to another pension plan may contact their current plan administrator to determine if their plan is transferable.



WIKWEMIKONG TRIBAL POLICE SERVICE

Position: Special Constable – Court Officer - Permanent
Location: Wikwemikoong Unceded Territory
Responsible to: Chief of Police, Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service

The Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service is accepting applications for Special Constable – Court Officer. Applicants will be required to successfully complete any additional training deemed necessary as a condition of employment. All new hires are expected to have a valid and completed OACP certificate and medical forms as per attached OACP link www.oacpcertificate.ca.

Summary: The Special Constable – Court Officer program is a great opportunity for members to learn on the job roles and responsibilities. The WTPS will be accepting applications who possess experience in the court system and will be responsible to the Chief of Police.

Key Duties/Responsibilities:

- Knowledge of relevant sections of legislation such as the Criminal Code, Young Offenders Act, Youth Criminal Justice Act, Family Law Act, provincial offenses and municipal by-laws to coordinate court proceedings, prepare briefs and other court documents.
- Knowledge of court processes, procedures, operations and scheduling to coordinate and monitor court proceedings.
- Knowledge of processes and procedures for prisoner search to conduct searches of prisoners and persons taken into custody at court proceedings. Knowledge of basic prisoner care as prescribed by policy to attend to and escort persons in custody. Knowledge of relevant sections of WHMIS and workplace safety to take DNA samples and escort prisoners.
- Knowledge of application software programs to prepare, update and maintain court-related records and to register sex offenders. Organizational skills to coordinate and track all arrangements and documentation pertaining to detachment case files being processed in court.
- Problem solving skills to assess documentation and information requirements for Crown prosecutors et al, and follows up with paperwork that has not been included in Crown briefs or has not been prepared, in the process of managing case files.
- Act as a liaison with services with the court and monitor the progress of files through the court system.
- Provide court security services for the detachment, the court and to participate in the escort of offenders.
- Ensure the preparation and proper completion of all related information and documentation by uniform officers.
- Assist WTPS officers with community’s policing and safety concerns.
- Display cultural competence when interacting with members of the community.
- Perform shift work that include weekends and holidays.
- Such other duties, not inconsistent with the above, as the Police Chief should direct.

Requirements:

- Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada of at least 18 years of age.
- Post-Secondary Diploma in Law and Security or related program.
- Copy of OSSD and Post-Secondary Diploma/Certificates.
- Copy of OACP Certificate, include all accompanied documents such as hearing/vision assessment, two-week fitness log and OACP waivers.
- Copy of valid class G Ontario driver’s licence.
- Copy of current First Aid/CPR Level C Certification.
- Basic computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft Office.
- Must have awareness of First Nation cultures and traditions.
- Be physically and mentally able to perform the duties of the position.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality a MUST.
- Be prepared to take an Oath/Affirmation of Office and Secrecy.
- Be of good moral character and habits.
- Pass a detailed background check that includes security clearance checks, credit and reference checks.
- Documentation detailing you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as approved by the Ministry of Health or have a valid exemption pursuant to the Human Rights Code.

Employment packages can be emailed to those interested. Please send in your request for an employment package to: **Richard Flamand, Human Resources Manager** at richard.flamand@wtps.ca.

Interested applicants are to forward their completed employment package, letter of interest, detailed resume and three work-related reference letters to:

Attention: Richard Flamand, Human Resources Manager
richard.flamand@wtps.ca
Deadline to apply: Ongoing until filled.

Please note: All applications received will be screened for content and only those selected will be extended a personal interview.

Little Current Curling Club donates new camera equipment to MSS

by Tom Sasvari
MANITOULIN—The Little Current Curling Club has donated the newly purchased camera/video equipment that students and staff of Manitoulin

Secondary School (MSS) used to stream last month's Northern Ontario provincial curling championships back to the school. "This is a very generous donation to our school; the

camera equipment cost several thousand dollars," stated MSS teacher Chris Theijmsmeijer after a presentation to the school by Joe Cooper on behalf of the Little Current Curling

Club, which hosted the provincials last week. Mr. Cooper explained, "As part of the contract to host the 2024 Northern Ontario Curling Association (NOCA) provincial curling championships, the event needed to be streamed. The host committee purchased the camera equipment and MSS agreed to stream the event on YouTube."

club, but it would have cost \$12,000 plus accommodations for the video crew," said Mr. Cooper. "So, I approached the high school. We bought the video equipment and they said they would stream the event, and they did a great job."

stream games. We do some live streaming of sports at the school like basketball and volleyball. Mr. Cooper had asked if we could stream the curling championships."

Mr. Theijmsmeijer said "It was great to see the curling event locally and being hosted in Little Current. One requirement the curling club had in hosting the event was that they had to

"And now they have graciously donated all the camera equipment back to our school," Mr. Theijmsmeijer said, noting MSS students and staff had volunteered to stream the NOCA playdowns.

The equipment is valued at \$6,600.



The Little Current Curling Club has donated camera equipment which they had purchased for the Northern Ontario Curling Championships to Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS). Students and staff at MSS had agreed to stream the curling championship event on YouTube. In photo from left are MSS staff and students (with the equipment) Chris Theijmsmeijer, Avery Barnes, Abrielle Mishibinijima, Jordan Smith, Melanie Cheng, Angela Johnston. Missing from photo is Landen Harasym.

photo provided

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WIKWEMIKONG TRIBAL POLICE SERVICE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – 1 YEAR CONTRACT

Position: Civilian Crisis Responder
Location: Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory
Responsible to: Chief of Police, Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service

The Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service is accepting employment applications for a Civilian Crisis Responder position.

Summary: The Crisis Responder will be responsible for helping individuals, families and the community in times of personal crisis as well as for cases of crisis prevention and education. The Crisis Responder will provide counselling and resources to help mitigate the effects of crisis situations including, but not limited to, family violence, police interventions and drug/alcohol related issues. This role will require to create accurate and detailed records and case notes as well as develop and maintain sustainable relationships with other professionals in the community.

The Crisis Responder will work as an integral part of a multi-disciplinary team to provide crisis response services to persons with disabilities. Using a clinical assessment and solution focused therapy methods, the Crisis Responder will provide immediate relief and stabilization to individuals experiencing crisis and trauma. This individual will be responsible for conducting on-site assessment of clients and the administration of individual and situational appropriate treatment. They will also provide recommendation and aid in the coordination of any necessary continued treatment plans.

Knowledge and Skills:

- Excellent human relations and interpersonal skills to maintain professionalism to members of the public and external agencies.
- Experience in crisis service considered an asset.
- Ability to multi-task in a fast-paced business environment.
- Knowledge of social, education and healthcare systems that case manage at risk individuals.
- Ability to exercise professional judgement, analyze and solve issues effectively in a variety of situations.
- Excellent assessment, interviewing and counselling skills.
- Interaction with clients in a sensitive, tactful, diplomatic and professional manner always.
- Advanced communication skills required, written and verbal.

Key Duties/Responsibilities:

- Provide immediate care to individuals and families experiencing crisis and trauma through mobile crisis outreach.
- Conduct assessment of individuals with the ability to refer to the appropriate community organizations.
- Interview clients to assess situations and determine the types and level of services required.
- Assist in finding opportunities, solutions and resources to address the individual's social and behavioural needs.
- Conduct on-site risk assessment and mental status examinations, determine risk of harm, required level of care and immediate treatment plan.
- De-escalate crisis through provision of immediate solution-focused therapy.
- Manage the transfer of client information to the receiving community organization, as per information sharing agreements.
- Liaise with a range of multi-disciplinary professionals who are involved in a clients' care, ensuring a smooth and coordinated approach, especially when multiple organizations are involved.
- Monitor and evaluate clients, provide follow-up and documentation to all parties.
- Respond to individuals and/or family members by telephone or on a walk-in basis to provide information and support for their needs and situation.
- Other case management duties as assigned.

Basic Requirements:

- College diploma in related field or other considered an asset.
- Minimum Grade 12 Ontario Secondary School Diploma or equivalent.
- 3 – 5 years of previous work experience in the social work field considered an asset.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office software applications.
- Must have awareness of First Nation culture and traditions.
- Must possess a valid class G Ontario driver's licence.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality a MUST and be prepared to take an Oath/Affirmation of Office and Secrecy.
- Must be of good moral character, no criminal record and must pass a background check.
- Provide proof of COVID-19 double vaccination record from Ministry of Health.

To apply for this position, interested applicants are to forward their completed employment package, letter of interest, detailed resume, copies of relevant diploma/certificates, and 3 work related reference letters electronically to:

CONFIDENTIAL – Crisis Responder
Richard Flamand, Human Resources Manager
richard.flamand@wtps.ca

Posting Deadline: Open until the position is filled.

Employment application packages are available for pick-up at the WTPS detachment or can be emailed at the request of the applicant.

Individuals of Anishinaabe ancestry are encouraged to apply. Please note, applications will be screened. Only those applicants who pass the screening component will be invited for an interview. Interviews will be scheduled and at that time a decision will be made to consider the successful applicant for hire.

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WIKWEMIKONG TRIBAL POLICE SERVICE

NEW RECRUIT OFFICER - FULL-TIME – PERMANENT

Position: New Recruit Police Constable
Location: Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory
Responsible to: Chief of Police, Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service

The Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service is accepting applications for a New Recruit Constable. Applicants will be required to successfully complete any additional training deemed necessary by the Ontario Police College as a condition of employment. The new recruit must attend and successfully pass a 13-week basic recruit training course at the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Ontario, for the March 2024 intake. **All new hires are expected to have a valid and completed OACP certificate and medical forms as per attached OACP link www.oacpcertificate.ca.**

Summary: The New Recruit Police Constable will be responsible to the Chief of Police and will maintain law and order in a community-based setting within/around the Wiikwemkoong Territory.

Key Duties/Responsibilities:

- Preserve the peace, prevent crimes, other offences, provide assistance and encouragement to other persons in their prevention.
- Assist victims of crime.
- Apprehend criminals, other offenders and others who may lawfully be taken into custody.
- Lay charges and participate in prosecutions.
- Execute warrants and perform related duties.
- Perform the lawful duties that the Chief of Police assigns.
- Respond to calls for service.
- Successfully complete prescribed training.
- Commitment to Community-Based Policing principles and practices.
- Display cultural competence when interacting with members of the community; perform 12-hour shifts (days and nights) including weekends and holidays.
- Participate in community events and cultural gatherings.
- Assist in the development and implementation of projects, acting as a resource to team members and other units.
- Undertake assignments, including traffic point duty and crowd control, as required.

Basic Requirements:

- Diploma in Police Foundations or Degree in Law and Criminal justice an asset.
- Copy of OACP certificate, include all accompanied documents such as hearing/vision assessments, two-week fitness log and OACP waivers.
- Copy of valid class G Ontario driver's licence.
- Copy of current First Aid/CPR Level C Certificates.
- Basic computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft Outlook and Office.
- Must have awareness of First Nation culture and traditions.
- Be physically and mentally able to perform the duties of the position.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality a MUST.
- Be prepared to take an Oath/Affirmation of Office and Secrecy.
- Be of good moral character and habits.
- Pass a detailed background check that includes security clearance checks, credit and reference checks.
- Documentation showing you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as approved by the Ministry of Health or have valid exemption pursuant to the Human Rights Code.
- Any relevant certificates related to the position being applied for.
- Candidates with a strong application may be asked to attend the fitness pin test, by invitation only.

Employment packages are available for pick up at the WTPS office or can be emailed to those interested. Interested applicants are to forward their completed electronic employment package, letter of interest, detailed resume, copies of relevant diploma/certificates and three reference letters to:

Attention: Human Resources Manager, Richard Flamand
richard.flamand@wtps.ca
Deadline to Apply for March 2024 Intake: Ongoing until filled.

Please note: Applications will be screened and only those selected will be contacted for an interview.



SHEGUIANDAH FIRST NATION JOB POSTING

POSITION: Band Manager
LOCATION: Sheguiandah First Nation
ACCOUNTABILITY: Chief and Council
EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Short-term Contract
HOURS OF WORK: Regular Office Hours (flexibility for evenings and weekends)
TENTATIVE START DATE: ASAP

Reporting directly to Chief and Council, the Band Manager will be responsible for the successful leadership and management of all programs and services within the Sheguiandah First Nation (SFN) organization in accordance with strategic direction and SFN Vision, Mission and Values.

Specifically, the Band Manager will be responsible for developing and implementing the strategic plan of the organization, overseeing administration, operations, financial management, program/services and ultimately ensuring that SFN fulfills its mission and vision.

DUTIES:

- Liaise between SFN Administration and Chief and Council on all aspects of band administration
- Financial management of operations including planning, budgeting and implementing the Strategic Plan developed by Chief and Council to ensure fiscal responsibility
- Oversee all departments, programs, services and activities
- Act as the liaison between SFN Chief and Council and all external agencies and governmental stakeholders
- Maintain and expand network of external stakeholders in an effort to enhance community supports, initiatives and/or programs
- Other duties as assigned by Chief and Council

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Undergraduate degree in Business Administration, Finance/Accounting, Public Administration or related field
- Graduate degree in Business Administration, Finance/Accounting, Public Administration would be considered an asset
- Posses a minimum of five (5) years of senior management experience, preferably within a First Nation organization
- Broad understanding and knowledge of First Nations governance
- Able to negotiate, resolve conflict, supervisory and leadership skills
- Provide a recent Criminal Records Check

Please submit an application that includes a cover letter, resume, three (3) work related references, CRC and VSC. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Deadline: February 16, 2024

Direct Applications to: "Band Manager"
 Human Resources
 142 Ogemah Miikan
 Sheguiandah, ON P0P 1W0

Email: humanresources@sheguiandahfn.ca

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



SHEGUIANDAH FIRST NATION JOB POSTING

POSITION: Interim Elders' Coordinator
LOCATION: Sheguiandah First Nation
ACCOUNTABILITY: Health Centre Manager
EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Temporary Full-Time
HOURS OF WORK: Regular Office Hours - Evenings/Weekends
TENTATIVE START DATE: ASAP

Under the direct supervision of the Health Centre Manager, the Elders' Coordinator is responsible for the effective and efficient delivery and administration of the Elders' Program, providing community support services to on reserve age groups of 65 plus, and also targets seniors aged 55 plus. The Elders' programming also makes every attempt to emphasize our local Indigenous traditions, and teachings, while enhancing and improving the quality of life and living for clients by allowing them to live independently, as well as meeting their wishes for as long as possible to receive palliative care service at home. In addition, the Elders' Coordinator will ensure quality care and appropriate supportsystems are in place for clients, family and their caregivers.

KEY JOB FUNCTIONS:

- Provide programming suited to the needs of the Elders, in a manner that will improve their quality of life
- Maintain and complete all reporting requirements for SFN and Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
- Networking and referrals for agencies/resources to help with clients needs and/or programming supports
- Provide programming that is holistic, impactful and encourages traditional/cultural sharing/learning
- Other duties, as deemed appropriate by Sheguiandah First Nation Management

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum Grade 12 diploma
- Ability to organize, facilitate and multi-task
- Must be resourceful and able to work individually and co-operatively as part of a team
- Valid Ontario Class G Driver's Licence, with a clear driving abstract and can be insured by SFN's insurance company
- Submit a satisfactory criminal record check/vulnerable sector check
- Proficient in oral and written communication skills
- Available to work flexible hours
- WHMIS, Health & Safety in the Workplace, Valid CPR/First Aid Certificate, Safe Food Handler's Certificate
- Ability to speak the Ojibway language would be an asset

Please submit an application that includes a cover letter, resume, three (3) work related references to:

"Elders' Coordinator"
 Human Resources
 142 Ogemah Miikan
 Sheguiandah, ON P0P 1W0

Email: humanresources@sheguiandahfn.ca

Preference will be given to Indigenous applicants. Applicants are encouraged to self-identify.

We thank all applicants in advance for their interest but advise only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



BOARD VACANCY OFF-RESERVE REPRESENTATIVE

The Noojmowin Teg Health Centre Board of Directors seeks an application to fill a Board vacancy specific to First Nation/Indigenous members living off-reserve.

Noojmowin Teg Health Centre is comprised of a multi-disciplinary team of health professionals who provide community-based, integrated and on and off-site services that include: Traditional Healing and Cultural Support Services, Primary and Clinical Care Services, Mental Health and Addictions Services and Health and Wellness Programs and Services to the seven First Nations and off-reserve Anishinabek populations living within the Manitoulin Island District, Espanola and area.

Noojmowin Teg Health Centre is seeking one (1) board member that is interested in making a difference for Indigenous health; Specifically, applicants must live off-reserve. The off-reserve applicant will have familiarity with board governance, strategic organizational planning, funding and reporting requirements and experience in reviewing budgets is an asset.

The length of each term is four (4) years. The successful applicant must commit to attending monthly regularly scheduled board meetings, and other special meetings (annual general meeting, strategic planning, etc.) throughout the year, participating in up to 15 meetings per year.

For more information about the organization, please visit the website at: www.noojmowin-teg.ca.

Pre-requisites:

Please submit the following:

- Cover letter (outlining reasons for your interest and what strengths you bring to the board)
- Resume or description of experiences relevant to the position
- Three (3) relevant references with contact information
- Current and clear Criminal Reference Check
- Must be able to provide proof of Status or Indigenous ancestry

Send "Confidential" to:

Attn: Board Chair c/o Noojmowin Teg Health Centre
Hwy 540, 48 Hillside Rd., Postal Bag 2002
Little Current, ON P0P 1K0
Ph.: 705-368-0083 ext. 235, Fax: 705-368-3922
Or email: debbie.francis@noojmowin-teg.ca

Deadline: Posting is open until filled

Miigwetch/Thank you to those who express interest and submit an application. Only those under consideration will be contacted.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Current available positions:

- **Facilities Maintenance (Full-time)**
- **Psychologist (Full-time)**
- **Nehbookaat Gehnwehdung – Traditional Knowledge Keeper (Full-time)**
- **Traditional Intake/Care Coordinator (Full-time 4-month contract)**
- **Aging at Home Van Coordinator (Part-time)**

For job details please visit:

www.noojmowin-teg.ca/about-us/employment

Submission Pre-Requisites:

Please submit a cover letter, resume, a copy of registration and list three (3) work-related references.

Applications can be sent by email at info@noojmowin-teg.ca, by facsimile at (705) 368-3922 or by mail:

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

To learn more about employment opportunities, call (705) 368-0083 ext. 248.

Miigwetch/Thank you for your interest in applying to Noojmowin Teg Health Centre.



SHEGUIANDAH FIRST NATION JOB POSTING

POSITION: Band Representative
LOCATION: Sheguiandah First Nation
ACCOUNTABILITY: Lead Band Representative
EMPLOYMENT STATUS: Permanent Full-Time
HOURS OF WORK: Regular Office Hours (flexibility for evenings and weekends)
TENTATIVE START DATE: Immediately

Under the direct supervision of the Director of Operations, the Band Representative is knowledgeable with child welfare and protection processes including advocacy and court processes.

DUTIES:

- Understanding and knowledge of the Child and Youth Family Services Act.
- Ensure SFN members are aware of their rights in child welfare proceedings.
- Liaise between families and CAS agencies and community service providers.
- Assist in the recruitment of foster homes and customary care providers.
- Liaise with relevant parties to gather relevant information.
- Court preparation and attendance, including oral presentations if required.
- Complete Plans of Care and make recommendations for placement of child/ren.
- Prepare, respond to and process legal documents.
- Provide referrals and supports to families, as required.
- Flexibility to respond to all “after hours” and emergency calls at minimal notice.
- Attend interviews and visits by police or child welfare agencies.
- Maintain and update client files as required.
- Able to work in a fast-paced environment
- Practice self care
- Other duties as may arise, or as requested by the Director of Operations or Chief and Council

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Diploma or Degree in Social Welfare or Child and Youth Worker and/or extensive work experience
- Demonstrated knowledge of Child and Youth Family Services Act and customary care
- Direct experience working within a First Nation organization considered an asset
- Possess a valid Class G driver’s licence and access to reliable vehicle
- Must possess proper insurance (\$2 million liability)

Please submit an application that includes a cover letter, resume, three (3) work related references, CRC and VSC.


Deadline: **Open until filled**

Direct Applications to: “Band Representative”
 Human Resources
 142 Ogemah Miikan
 Sheguiandah, ON P0P 1W0

Email: humanresources@sheguiandahfn.ca

Preference will be given to Indigenous applicants. Applicants are encouraged to self-identify.

We thank all applicants in advance for their interest but advise only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



FULL AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY RN, RPN and PSW Manitoulin Centennial Manor

Manitoulin Centennial Manor has openings for full- and part-time permanent care staff. Come and join our highly skilled caring team providing top quality care to our residents.

Responsibilities include:

- Full direct care of residents that ranges from:
- Ensuring care is provided with established nursing standards and principles, physicians’ orders and administrative policies to assisting with activities of daily living and providing emotional and social support, depending on position.

Qualifications:

- Appropriate current certificate of competence from the College of Nurses of Ontario required.
- Registration or eligible for registration with the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.
- Completed a PSW program that meets the appropriate standards established by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the National Association of Career Colleges, or the Ontario Community Support Association and must be a minimum of 600 hours in duration (including class time and practical experience time).

Compensation includes:

- Competitive wages, health and benefit package and pension.
- Signing bonus and relocation bonus with free accommodations for up to 6 months.

For more information or to submit your resume, contact:

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

! help wanted

! help wanted

! help wanted



KINA Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services

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.**

We are now seeking candidates for the following positions:

CONTRACT positions:

Manitoulin Island:
 JP Service Coordinator: Closes February 23, 2024

Manitoulin Island or Sudbury:
 Service Supervisor: Closes February 16, 2023

All postings close at 4pm EST

Apply to: Human Resources at hr@kgcfs.org and quote the position title in the subject line.
 To view the postings and detailed job descriptions, visit our website at: www.kgcfs.org/employment-opportunities

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



210 boul Mead Blvd
 Espanola, ON P5E 1R9
 Telephone/Téléphone: (705) 862-7850
 Fax/Télécopieur: (705) 862-7805
<http://www.msdsb.net>

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board is a municipal service management organization created by the provincial government to oversee the local planning, coordination and delivery of a range of services and programs divested to the municipal order of government. The specific programs our DSB is responsible for are: Ontario Works, Community Housing, Paramedic Services (Land Ambulance) and Early Learning and Child Care services.

The following employment opportunity is now available to anyone interested in joining our highly dedicated workforce:

Finance Summer Student - Espanola
Temporary Full-Time
 Competition #2024-01-AD
 Closing date: **February 23, 2024**

Integrated Human Services Summer Student - Espanola
Temporary Full-Time
 Competition #2024-02-IHS
 Closing date: **February 23, 2024**

For position details, visit Job Opportunities on our website at: www.msdsb.net/index.php/careers

While all responses are appreciated, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.



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

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

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

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

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

Interested applicants please submit: cover letter, resume, three (3) current work-related references (with contact information) & education certification by to:

“ENAAGDENJGED”
M'CHIGEENG FIRST NATION
 P.O. Box 333
M'CHIGEENG, ON P0P 1G0
employment@mchigeeng.ca or Fax 705-377-4980

CLOSING DATE: OPEN UNTIL FILLED

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

KENJGEWIN TEG

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

KENJGEWIN TEG 

JOIN OUR TEAM!

We offer:

- A Flexible Work Environment
- Competitive Benefits Package
- Anishinaabe Aadziwin Environment & Language Learning Opportunities
- Professional Development Opportunities & More!

Currently Recruiting For:

- AP/AR Clerk (Finance)
- Finance Manager
- Dean of Pathways

Learn More & View Job Descriptions:
kenjgewinteg.ca/careers



Dean of Pathways

Classification: Manager M4 Middle-Manager/Salary Grade Band M
Qualified Level Salary Range: \$86,732 - \$96,368 - \$106,005
Underhire Level Salary Range: \$75,456 - \$83,840 - \$92,224
Advanced Qualification Salary Range: \$98,006 - \$108,895 - \$119,785

Position Objective:

The Dean of Pathways will be responsible for providing strategic leadership on academic programs and curricula ensuring students are provided with quality instruction and support services in a welcoming learning environment. This position will act as an academic and student services leader by providing program delivery supervision, coordination, administration and financial budgeting while monitoring and reporting on key achievement and program deliverables including data management. The Dean of Pathways will ensure the integrity of programs and services that are in alignment with Anishinaabe Aadziwin.

Qualifications:

- Must possess a minimum of a Bachelor of Education
- Must be a member in good standing with the Ontario College of Teachers
- Applicant must possess Principal's Qualifications is preferred or commit to completing the Principal's Qualification course in an identified timeframe
- Have a thorough understanding of operating a private secondary school in Ontario for Ministry Inspection
- Minimum of five years of demonstrated substantial management experience in a secondary or adult learning environment.

Job Knowledge and Skills:

- Must have an appreciation of the Anishinabek culture, principles, values, language, history and customs; and be supportive of Anishinabek practices, language revitalization and protocols
- Ability to write and format moderately complex correspondence, including memos, letters, proposals and reports
- Strong knowledge of general office procedures involving budget management, and reports
- Strong time management skills, multi-tasking skills and the ability to prioritize tasks with minimal supervision
- Intermediate – Advanced knowledge of Microsoft Office (Outlook, TEAMS, Word, Excel, Power Point)
- Familiarity with Brightspace LMS
- Familiarity with SIS
- Strong understanding of PLAR – PPM132
- Knowledge of Trauma Informed Educational practices
- Ability to maintain filing systems and databases

Finance Manager

Classification: Manager M2 Department Head – Salary Grade Band J
Qualified Level: (\$72,308 - \$80,343 - \$88,377)
Underhire Level: (\$62,908 - \$69,899 - \$76,888)
Advanced Level: (\$81,710 - \$90,788 - \$99,865)

Position Objective:

The Finance Manager ensures legal and regulatory compliance of the organization for accounting and financial reporting functions in accordance with GAAP for non-profit organizations. This position is responsible for the establishment and implementation of financial policies, procedures, internal controls and reporting systems. This supervisory position reports to the Director of Operations and is responsible for the overall accuracy of financial transactions within the organization's general accounting, accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll functions.

Qualifications:

- Possess a Bachelor of Commerce Degree (Qualified Level Salary Grid)
- Minimum of three (3) years of financial management and supervision experience with the SAGE financial management system
- Financial management and budgetary experience up to \$10M annually

Job Knowledge and Skills:

- Ability to work as a member of a multidisciplinary team
- Effective communication skills to work effectively with individuals in all teams, including external stakeholders (i.e. organizations and government agencies)
- Highly self-motivated and self-directed individual capable of multi-tasking; able to work with minimal supervision
- Detail-oriented and analytical thinker; strong problem identification and problem resolution skills
- Adaptability and flexibility' decision-making and judgement
- High level of proficiency with Microsoft Office suite of software, especially Excel spreadsheets
- Must have an appreciation of the Anishinabek culture, principles, values, language, history and customs; and be supportive of Anishinabek practices, language revitalization and protocols

Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable Clerk

Classification: O2 Organizational Support and Services – Administrative Support – Salary Grade Band C
Qualified Level Salary Broadband Range: \$37,038 – \$41,152 – \$45,268
Underhire Level Salary Broadband Range: \$31,909 - \$35,455 - \$39,001
Advanced Level Salary Broadband Range: \$41,446 - \$46,051 - \$50,655

Position Objective:

The Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable Clerk reports to the Finance Manager and is responsible for providing financial, administrative and clerical services. This includes processing and monitoring payments and expenditures, processing and monitoring receipts and revenues. This position's primary role and responsibilities is to perform these services in an effective and efficient manner to help ensure that Kenjgewin Teg finances are accurate and up to date, and vendors and suppliers are paid within established time limits and monies are received within appropriate time limits. This position is responsible for the overall accuracy of financial transactions within the organization's general accounting, accounts payable, accounts receivable and payroll functions.

Qualifications:

- Possess a two-year Accounting Diploma from an accredited post-secondary institution (Qualified Level Salary Grid)
- Minimum of two (2) years of experience with responsibilities related to financial processes and procedures
- Experience with the SAGE financial management software
- Experience with financial reporting is preferred
- Budgetary experience is considered an asset

Job Knowledge and Skills:

- Ability to work as a member of a multidisciplinary team
- Effective communication skills to work effectively with individuals in all teams, including external stakeholders (i.e., organizations and government agencies)
- Highly self-motivated and self-directed individual capable of multi-tasking; able to work with minimal supervision
- Detail-oriented and analytical thinker; strong problem identification and problem resolution skills
- Adaptability and flexibility with decision-making and judgement
- High level of proficiency with Microsoft Office suite of software, especially Excel spreadsheets, Microsoft Outlook and Microsoft Teams
- Must have an appreciation of the Anishinabek culture, principles, values, language, history and customs; and be supportive of Anishinabek practices, language revitalization and protocols

Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Human Resources Department for a FULL job description to provide the scope and understanding of the positions responsibilities.

Please note that the successful candidate must be willing to travel when required, possess a valid Ontario driver's licence and have access to a reliable vehicle. For further information, please contact the Director of Human Resources at humanresources@kenjgewinteg.ca. Interested individuals can send a complete application package that consists of: Cover letter, a detailed resume, three (3) current (within one year) letters of reference, two of which must be professional on organizational letterhead and authored by direct supervisor and written permission to contact references. Please note that the successful candidate will be required to provide a current Vulnerable Sector Check. Applications can be received marked confidential through email at humanresources@kenjgewinteg.ca or by mail to:

Kenjgewin Teg "HR – Job Title"

c/o Director of Human Resources

374A Hwy. 551, P.O. Box 328, M'Chigeeng, ON POP 1G0

Please note: Kenjgewin Teg's Fitness for Duty Program is implemented, which is designed to promote the development and maintenance of the highest possible levels of worker health and safety in an efficient and productive workplace. Kenjgewin Teg has taken steps to ensure that the organization is inclusive within the school community. This includes the shared practice of First Nation tradition of smudging.

Late applications and incomplete application packages will not be considered. While we thank all applicants, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Personal information contained in applications will be used for recruitment purposes and collected as per Freedom Of Information (F.O.I.) And Protection Of Privacy Act, 1987.

Niven, Lefebvre rink takes Mindemoya mixed bonspiel



Winning the second event championship at the annual mixed bonspiel held at the Mindemoya Curling Club this past weekend was the rink of, from left in photo Kathy and Doug King, Bev and Dave McDermid.

photo by Susan Whycott



The Mindemoya Curling Club held their annual mixed bonspiel this past weekend. The winners of the first event and the Dr. Jack and Mary McQuay memorial trophies was the rink made up of from left in photo, Greg and Heather Niven, Jeanne and Marc Lefebvre. Jan McQuay presented trophies to the winning team.

photo by Susan Whycott



The third event winners in the annual Mindemoya Curling Club mixed bonspiel included from left in photo, Sherri and Gord Louttit, Sherry and Dan Forest.

photo by Susan Whycott

! help wanted **! help wanted**



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
SEASONAL STUDENT POSITIONS

The Township of Billings is accepting applications for a number of seasonal student positions for the spring/summer of 2024.

Contract length varies from 8-12 weeks (35-hour work weeks) depending on position and successful applicants' availability.

MARINA ASSISTANT (2 POSITIONS)
PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANT (1 POSITION)
MUSEUM ASSISTANT (1 POSITION)
LIBRARY ASSISTANT (1 POSITION)

Eligible students must be planning to return to school full-time in the fall, be eligible to work in Canada and be at least 15 years of age upon commencement of employment.

Applications (cover letter and resume) will be accepted until Friday, February 16th, 2024 at 12pm and must be submitted by email.

Please direct enquiries and applications to:
Tiana Mills, Deputy Clerk at tmills@billingswp.ca

Please note that only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Applicants must meet funding partner eligibility criteria, including age/student status for funded positions.

! help wanted **! help wanted**



Children's Community Network
Réseau communautaire pour enfants
is currently seeking a
Director of Finance and Administration
for the Sudbury area
Hybrid Work Arrangement
Permanent, full-time based on 35 hours per week
Annual Salary: \$86,950 - \$92,500

The Children's Community Network (CCN) is a non-profit agency which provides services to children, youth and their families. CCN offers a flexible work environment with a positive, caring and supportive culture. Reporting to the Executive Director, the Director of Finance and Administration will be a highly qualified and motivated Director who will provide strategic financial leadership, manage risk and ensure compliance. This position plays a critical role in partnering with the Senior Leadership team in strategic decision making and operations. The Director will be a hands-on and participative manager who leads and develops the internal capacity to support and oversees all financial functions including the following areas: finance, business planning and budgeting, audits, insurance, human resources administration, payroll/benefits and information technology.

Position requirements will include but are not limited to:

- Bachelor's degree or diploma in Finance, Business Administration, Accounting or related field.
- At least 5 years of overall Senior Financial Management role, preferably in the not-for-profit/charitable sector.
- Experience in final responsibility for the quality and content of all financial data, reporting and audit for an organization.
- Ability to translate financial concepts to collaborate with program colleagues who do not necessarily have financial backgrounds.
- Ability to multitask and work under pressure to meet deadlines.
- Proficiency in financial reporting to funders and government.
- Knowledge of accounting and reporting software, computer competency with Sage 50 Premium, Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Experience in payroll/benefits/HOOPP pension and human resource management with knowledge in related legislation and Acts including the Employment Standard Act and Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.
- Experience with IT operations, including operating systems, security tools, applications, Microsoft Azure infrastructure and management, email systems, while ensuring projects are delivered smoothly on time and within budget.

A valid driver's licence, access to a vehicle and current insurance are required. 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 in confidence to:


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


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.


Manitoulin Secondary School

PLAYER PROFILE

by Mackenzie Green







Proud Supporter of our
MSS Mustangs

SCARLET MOHR

Whether it is volleyball, basketball or spikes in hand, Scarlet is always ready to jump on any opportunity to move! As a rookie Mustang, Scarlet brings a positive attitude and enthusiasm to all of her athletic endeavours. Her involvement in sports has instilled a love for athletics that is evident in every minute of gameplay. Scarlet has already established herself as an excellent all around player, creating a promising athletic future for her time at MSS!

Before Scarlet was a Mustang, she was an Eagle, rocking the purple jersey for her elementary years. At Central Manitoulin Public School, Scarlet took advantage of the variety of sports offered, participating in cross country, flag football, soccer, volleyball, basketball and track and field. The wide variety of different sports is something Scarlet loves about athletics. Although she was recognized in various sports throughout her public school years, she notes that track and field was her favourite because of the variety of events that were offered and the fun trips her school took to compete.

This year, Scarlet has wasted no time in transitioning to high school sports. So far, she has already been a part of the junior girls' basketball team. Although their team was small, they were mighty, fighting their hardest during every game and never giving up! Scarlet notes that what made their season memorable was travelling with friends to compete and watching as the team constantly made improvements. Currently, Scarlet finds herself on the volleyball court in the second half of the junior girls' season. Their team will travel to CASS in the upcoming weeks where they will compete in the NSSA championships with hopes of continuing to NOSSA. Scarlet looks forward to the upcoming track season as well.

Aside from her involvement in MSS athletics, Scarlet has also taken an interest in some of the clubs that are offered. This year, Scarlet is an active member of the MSS mental health club, Headstrong.

When Scarlet takes the black and gold jersey off, she can be found staying active while caring for her farm animals. Scarlet finds that they are a great motivation for her to continue to be active and enjoy beautiful weather. When the cold weather hits and the ice and snow arrive, Scarlet likes to spend time going sledding and ice fishing. This past summer, she also worked with her mom and nana at Kat's Pet Supplies as well as volunteering at RibFest and the Mindemoya Haunted Trail.

In her free time, Scarlet takes a deep interest in horses. Having three of her own, Scarlet is constantly staying active! Her horse, Athena, is a paint horse whom she spends a large portion of her free time riding and bonding with. Scarlet's family also shares a miniature horse named Fidget, who loves to go for walks around her property. Lastly is her mom's horse, Legend. When Scarlet isn't riding, she loves to be around her horses, brushing them, walking them and being entertained by all the laughs that they bring to her!


In the classroom, Scarlet is as dedicated to her academics as her athletics. She thrives through brainstorming and problem solving, pushing her to especially enjoy math. She has always found it interesting and engaging and has found that new concepts often come easily to her. Despite the business of sports and school, Scarlet found time this year to volunteer as a timekeeper for local hockey games.

One reason why Scarlet excels in athletics and academics may be because of her parents. Scarlet notes that her parents are her biggest supporters. They always supported and encouraged Scarlet through trying new activities and following her dreams. Scarlet has learned from her parents to work hard to reach all of her goals in life and that they are always there to help her.

Although Scarlet still has three more years rocking the black and gold, she is interested in a career in equine behaviour. She finds horses fascinating and would one day like to expand her knowledge and become a horse trainer.

With Scarlet's dedication and fun-loving attitude, she is sure to reach all of her goals, on and off the court!


Proud Supporter of our
MSS Mustangs



368-3565
282-2496
Randy Noble

Proud support of our
MSS Mustangs

Helping you get in the game



breakaway
sports and cycle

your local destination for sports gear
and apparel.

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



SUDOKU

	5		3		8			
	2	3		4	1			
7	9	4	8				5	3
2		7			6			
					5	2		8
5		8			9	7	4	
9	8		7	1		5		
1						4		
		2	6		3			

Level: Beginner

Here's how it works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1-9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4	7	2	6	5	3	9	8	1
1	3	5	9	2	8	4	6	7
2	8	6	7	1	4	5	3	9
6	1	8	2	3	9	7	4	5
3	6	4	7	5	2	1	8	9
2	4	7	1	8	6	9	5	3
5	3	9	6	8	1	7	4	2
7	9	4	8	6	3	5	2	1
8	2	3	5	4	1	6	7	9
9	5	1	3	9	7	8	2	4

ANSWER:

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	
8			9			10		
11					12			
13			14		15			
16					17			
18				19	20			
			21			22		
			23			24		
		25			26			
	27				28			29
							30	31
							32	33
	34						35	
36							37	
38							39	
40							41	
42								43

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One point south of due east
- 4. Coagulated blood
- 8. Fortifying ditch
- 10. Devotee of Hinduism
- 11. Trunk of a tree
- 12. Bank note
- 13. Capital of Guam
- 15. Study again
- 16. Covered with hoarfrost
- 17. Opening
- 18. Legendary Rolling Stone
- 21. Stray
- 22. Computer storing system
- 23. Signal
- 24. Pitching statistic
- 25. Human being
- 26. Malaysian isthmus
- 27. The "Blonde Bombshell"
- 34. A gland
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Endangered
- 37. Three-dimensional
- 38. In a way, precipitated
- 39. God associated with dissolution
- 40. Blemished
- 41. Flow or leak slowly
- 42. Disco legends The Bee
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A way to board
- 2. Get down
- 3. Highly seasoned sausage
- 4. First day of month
- 5. Eurasian shrubs
- 6. The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
- 7. Small lake
- 9. Belief
- 10. Sunrooms
- 12. Metric weight unit
- 14. Vasopressin
- 15. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 17. One-time family room staple
- 19. Got back together
- 20. Anger
- 23. Sang merrily
- 24. Sea eagle
- 25. Military men
- 26. Kilo yard (abbr.)
- 27. Found in the sea
- 28. Protects from weather
- 29. Type of medicine
- 30. City along the Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away
- 34. Lack of disunity
- 36. One-time European Commission officer

PUZZLE SOLUTION

M	C	G					T	E	E									
A	L	L					M	I	A	M	I							
D	A	U	B				M	E	G	A	N							
M	I	T	O			U	H	F		L	I	N						
A	R	E	N	A		E	G	O		E	E	L	S					
N	E	I	G	H		B	O	R	H	O	O	D	S					
						O	A	R		S	A	G						
						M	O	N	K		F	I	F	E				
						A	R	A		A	R	E						
						S	P	R	I	N	G	B	R	E	A	K	E	R
A	N	A	S			R	N	A			S	C	A	L	E			
B	E	L				M	E	W				E	B	A	N			
B	R	A	G	A								D	O	T	E			
E	D	D	I	C									B	E	G			
						S	S	B						S	S	E		

JAN 31 ISSUE

HOROSCOPES

FEB. 11 - FEB. 17

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Creativity may prove elusive this week, Aries. You want to get into a crafty project but you simply can't find traction just yet. Don't give up too soon.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, a distracted friend or loved one may not be good company over the next few days. Reach out and offer to be a sounding board to help this person re-center their focus.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Are you feeling preoccupied, Gemini? You can't seem to focus on one thing or another and friends will start to notice when you are in their company.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Romantic matters are going very well right now, Cancer, even if you may not feel entirely confident. The person who cares for you will not notice your insecurities.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

The more challenging path may prove the best one to take as your work on a certain task, Leo. Dig in and start figuring a way out to the other side.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, there is so much to do around the house that you may not know where to start. Spring cleaning comes a month or two early. Ask for help if you're feeling frazzled.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

You may be in the mood to expand your knowledge on one or more subjects, Libra. Visit the library or a bookstore and pick up something that piques your interest.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you may pick up on some vibes when hanging out with others that just don't fit in with your line of thinking. Give it some time before you cut any ties. You may be misinterpreting.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

There has been a lot going on in your life, Sagittarius. You may be experiencing some apprehension about the future. Take every concern individually and give it thought.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Information coming to you could have you feeling nervous about your financial security, Capricorn. If this is outside your area of expertise, you may want to sit down with a planner.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Confusing messages from work may find you reconsidering plans that you already put into motion, Aquarius. Get more information before modifying your plans.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, your mind is all over the place right now, so it could be difficult to focus on mundane things like chores or other activities right now. However, don't push them off.