

Part III of the series **The Little NHL at 50:** See Page 5
 Players and families recall good memories over the decades



The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



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IN MEMORIAM—The Mindemoya Minor Hockey Association held a jersey retirement ceremony for local hockey player Kyle Smith, 20, who passed away at Christmas. Mr. Smith wore No. 4 on his jersey with the Mindemoya Thunder (shown high above centre ice at the Mindemoya arena last Friday evening). The jersey number has now been retired. Taking part in the Kyle Smith memorial jersey number retirement puck drop ceremony are, from left, Grayson Orford, Gore Bay Bruins; Kyle 'Butch' Watson, (Kyle Watson's uncle); Larry Watson (Kyle Smith's grandfather); and Landen Smith, captain of the Mindemoya Thunder U18 team and Kyle Smith's brother. **See story on Page 9.**

photos by Tom Sasvari

Retiring physician at Northeast Family Health Team means possible unrostering of 700 patients

Manitoulin Central FHT has also unrostered patients but they still have access to other FHT services

by Alicia McCutcheon

NORTHEAST MANITOULIN—Seven hundred patients rostered with the Northeastern Manitoulin Family Health Team (NMFHT) could soon be cut loose from health team services if a replacement physician is not found by May to replace Dr. Ken Barss, who has announced his retirement.

Dr. Anne McDonald, lead physician with the Little Current Medical Associates (LCMA), shared this startling news with the council for the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands during its February 21 meeting.

Dr. McDonald explained that the LCMA is currently recruiting for six physicians and one nurse practitioner. Should a physician be found, Dr. McDonald said it is unrealistic to expect a doctor to take on the same patient load as the current physicians.

"The expectations of the workload is not conducive to retention," Dr. McDonald explained, noting that the Manitoulin Central Family Health Team has lost a couple of recruits due to this fact. "There's a good chance that Dr. Barss' patients will lose access to the FHT and its services."

An ad in the February 21 and 28 editions of this newspaper gives notice of the end date of Dr. Barss' medical practice as May 1, 2024. It explains the options for further care, including attending the emergency room for urgent care, attending a virtual nurse practitioner at the North East Virtual Care Clinic, calling 811 and, for Indigenous patients, by contacting Noojmowin Teg.

"If you need to transfer your health records to another provider, please visit the NMFHT to sign a release for them," Dr. Barss explains in the notice. "I wish to thank my patients for allowing me to take

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Great Lakes ice coverage is at 3 percent but good news is there's little evaporation

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

GREAT LAKES—Meteorologist and researcher Bryan Mroczka from the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory remarks that this winter stands

out as unprecedented in the historical records.

"We have approximately 51 years of dependable ice data for the lakes, and never before in February have we observed ice levels as low as this," Mr. Mroczka stated. "The Great Lakes

basin is experiencing historically low levels, with Lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron all reaching their lowest points for this time of the year."

As of February 13, ice cover on the lakes is less than three percent, significantly below the long-term average of over 35 percent for this stage of winter—more than 10 times the current ice cover. When the lakes remain relatively open during winter, it can result in substantial evaporation and decreased lake levels. However, this winter presents a different scenario.

"While the lakes aren't frozen solid, they're still maintaining cold temperatures," Mr. Mroczka

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Freedom Convoy supporter pleased with high court's call on Emergencies Act

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre,
 Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
OTTAWA—In January, a federal judge deemed the government's application of the Emergencies Act to disperse convoy protests in early 2022 as excessive, citing an

infringement on protesters' Charter rights. Federal Court Justice Richard Mosley expressed that while the protests revealed an unacceptable breakdown of public order, the government's use of the Emergencies Act lacked the

MSS Mustangs off to OFSAA

by Tom Sasvari
M'CHIGEENG—Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) Mustangs' alpine skiing and snowboarding athletes posted some very good results at the Northern Ontario Secondary School Association championships, with two athletes qualifying for the provincial championship.

"We had six athletes take part in the NOSSA alpine skiing championship," said Jordan Smith, sports coordinator at MSS. "The event was a combination of a giant slalom run and a slalom run with the two race times combined."

"Jack Pennie was first overall
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Two MSS students win Shad placement

by Tom Sasvari
MANITOULIN—Two Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) students have been accepted into the prestigious Shad Canada program this summer. Xavier Mara and Alexandra Wilson-Zegil of MSS are joining six other Rainbow District School Board (RDSB) students who will be participating in the program.

"I'm very excited to have been accepted," stated Alex. "I have heard several people talk about what it is, and I am really looking forward to taking part in the program."

"It is pretty awesome to be selected for the Shad program," stated Xavier, a Grade 11 student at MSS. "It's a great opportunity and I'm very excited to be going."

"Shad provides students with transformational learning and networking opportunities," said

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Alexandra Wilson-Zegil



Xavier Mara



Some Northeastern Manitoulin Family Health Team patients, if they are unrostered, may be turning right to seek services at the emergency department at MHC in Little Current rather than left to the Family Health Team clinic's front door.

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The Manitoulin *West* Recorder



The top-place finishers are, from left, Amber Brizuela (CMPS), Piper McGale and Ada Nichols (both of LCPS). The champs stand with Legion public speaking chair Charlie Adam.

photo by Margery Frisch

Legion Branch # 177 hosts public speaking competition

by Margery Frisch

LITTLE CURRENT—On Sunday, February 25, the Legion Branch 177 was packed with young students and their families as the Legion brought back the public speaking competition for elementary and intermediate school children.

Eleven students took part in three separate categories. In Grades 1 to 3 the top three speakers were: first place, Piper McGale (LCPS); second place, Emily Anstice (APS); and third place, and Lilly Massicotte (LCPS).

In the Junior division, Ada Nichols took first place (LCPS), Ryan Mulerickal came in second (CMPS) and Brianna Beck took third place (LCPS). The intermediate division had only two entries and Amber Brizuela took first place (CMPS), while Brooke Simon was second (LCPS).

Willa Wilson and Michael and Linda Erskine, the judges of the competition, had a difficult task deciding the winners. "It was very close," Ms. Erskine said. "They were all so good and so brave to get up and speak in front of the crowd. They're all winners, really."

"From this Branch, the first-place winners will go on to zone. If they win there, it's on to district and lastly provincials," Legion member Charlie Adam said. Mr. Adam was Master of Ceremonies for the competition, with his wife Carmen lending a hand, organizing the paperwork, the certificates and the medals.

Billings council told fitness centre building in poor shape

by Tom Sasvari

KAGAWONG—Billings township council has directed township staff to investigate options for the 91 Main Street Kagawong Fitness Centre including demolition, selling the building and having the building remain in its current state with the intent for renovations to take place over time.

Billings Mayor Bryan Barker provided some background on the issue, noting at the regular meeting of council on December 19, 2023 staff had recommended conducting a staff-level (public works and municipal project management) review of the condition of 91 Main Street with the purpose of providing more information to council. The building had been placed out of service as a result of complexities related to the fire hall project, namely that the build-

ing was not safe for occupancy/use once the structural instability of the old fire hall was fully realized. In addition, the wastewater connection to the fire hall treatment system was disconnected until the fire hall rebuild was complete. It had also become evident that the sewage lift pump in 91 Main Street, located in the lower floor washroom, was not functioning. Finally, it was evident that the lower floor washroom itself, used by gym members, had seriously deteriorated and had experienced significant water damage, both from plumbing issues and some exterior water penetration. Thus, the need for further assessment.

A preliminary walk-through of the building took place on January 22. This included both levels of the

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Algoma Public Health votes 'no' to merger with Public Health Sudbury and Districts

by Tom Sasvari

SUDBURY-SAULT STE. MARIE—There will be no merger of the board of health for Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD) and the Algoma Public Health (APH) board. While the board in Sudbury voted in favour of the merger, the APH board in Sault St. Marie voted down the proposal.

Both health unit boards voted on the proposal at separate meetings held on Tuesday, February 20. At its meeting, the Sudbury board of health voted unanimously in favour of the merger, specifically developing a joint business case to propose to the minister of health on a merger of the two public health agencies.

However, APH board voted in opposition. "Today's (PHSD) deliberations were in response to the ministry of health's August 2023 announcement encouraging voluntary mergers and providing merger support funding for public health units," said Rene Lapierre, chair of the PHSD board of health. "On behalf of board members, I would like to extend our gratitude for the thoughtful and extensive work by both boards of health, the medical officers of health,

and staff from both public health units over the last few months to gather the information necessary to make an informed decision."

Mr. Lapierre told members of the media at a media scrum at the end of the PHSD board of health meeting, "The way the system works, a recommendation to the government has to be an agreement of the health units. We will submit to the government that we voted in favour of the merger. But that is where this will stop. Both boards had to agree to the merger to proceed to the next steps."

Mr. Lapierre said, "My personal position on the data that was collected is that (the merger) could have been beneficial. But I understand the concerns of the APH board and respect each board's decision."

As for another health unit with which to merge, Mr. Lapierre said, "At this time, I cannot see this taking place. I don't think there is enough for the board to be able to make that decision. He said discussions between the two boards began in November. The fea-

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OPP Constable John Hill recognized by Wiikwemkoong for service to community

WIKWEMKOONG—Wiikwemkoong Tribal Police Service (WTPS) and community leadership have recognized Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Constable John Hill with a plaque in recognition of his efforts and dedication in working with the community and the police service as a member of the OPP provincial liaison team.

"We wanted to recognize the tremendous work John has done as a member of the provincial liaison team," stated Jason Spooner, Acting Chief of Police/Staff

Sergeant of WTPS. "2023 was a tough year with a lot of major, serious calls in the community and he was on the scene for all of them helping the police and the community. He has provided a lot of hours assisting the community and police and in discussion with Chief Ogimaa Rachel Manitowabi we decided we should recognize

him for all his efforts."

Constable Hill explained, "I work with the provincial liaison team, which is an initiative that came out of the Ipperwash Inquiry. This liaison team was developed as a way for the OPP to have better connections with (First Nations) community and

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Manitoulin man collects cans to support Maison McCulloch Hospice

by Michael Erskine

LITTLE CURRENT—Kevin Hutchinson has a lot of hobbies—too many, he jokes—and most involve being outdoors, but one of his favourite hobbies, collecting the pull tabs from aluminum cans to support the hospice in Sudbury, has a very special meaning for him.

Mr. Hutchinson began collecting the tabs for wheelchairs, but he decided to switch to supporting the Sudbury hospice. "I am collecting them in memory of George Hagen, he taught me trapping and stuff," said Mr. Hutchinson. "He was in the hospice in Sudbury."

Mr. Hutchinson said that he had told his friend what he was doing even before Mr. Hagen wound up in the hospice himself. "I told him what I was going to do even before he got sick, and he thought it was a great idea and suggested we get the fish and game clubs involved," recalled Mr. Hutchinson. "But by the time we had got started, George got sick and wound up in the hospice himself."

"A lot of people don't know this, but the hospice in Sudbury is not 'funded,' they rely on fundraising," he said. "I was just reading in the paper that the folks there depend on the food bank."

The Hutchinson garage on Loon Trail, located to the right just off the

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A dozen Manitoulin Health Centre Auxiliary members (and their supports) took part in the second annual Rock-a-thon at St. Bernard's Catholic Church last Saturday. They raised an impressive \$6,000 plus in funds for patient care.

Little Current Hospital Auxiliary has a rocking good time raising funds for MHC

by Margery Frisch

LITTLE CURRENT—One might think sitting in a rocking chair, rocking back and forth for five hours would be a piece of cake. Well, yes, there was cake, but that's beside the point. One must haul one's rocker into the building, set it up and then sit down. A 10-minute break each hour

does not seem long enough, and before you know it, it's back to rocking, with Marilee Hore keeping tabs and taking to task anyone who, in a lapsed moment, stops rocking.

On Saturday, February 24, 12 members of the Little Current Hospital Auxiliary took part in a major fundraiser, their sec-

ond annual Rock-a-thon. Joining them for the entire day, with borrowed rocking chair, was Paula Ferguson, vice-president of clinical services and chief nursing officer for Manitoulin Health Services.

There was food (yes, cake too), as everyone brought something to share. There was knitting—lots of knitting—and there

was music. The camaraderie was evident, with lots of laughter and conversation, making the five hours fly.

"I remember in Grade 8 we did a rock-a-thon for our class trip," said Carole LaBelle, who came up with this idea for the group last year. "We always support

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opinion

editorial

Family farmers are becoming an endangered species

Agriculture was the foundation of Manitoulin Island communities and culture, for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, with the family farm forming its footings. But the rising cost of farmland, equipment, fuel combined with the often Miprecarious state of profitable returns on farm produce are coming together in a near-perfect storm that threatens the existence of the family farm.

Would-be young farmers are being priced out of the market by deep pocketed land speculators who have discovered agricultural land to be a safe and sound location in which to park money in these troubled times. Much like the escalation in residential property casts that has locked many young families out of the dream of home ownership, those who wish to continue their farm lifestyle can no longer afford to enter the market.

The beneficiaries of this land inflation are the large corporations which already control much of the agricultural output of the nation. Not that agri-corp industry is evil, or if so, it certainly falls into a category of "necessary" evil as the economies of scale help to keep the cost of production down. But the rising cost of agricultural land has to be covered by someone—and that someone is, inevitably, the consumer.

As the consolidation of agriculture into ever-larger corporate operations has benefits, it also helps to accelerate the consolidation of wealth into the hands of an ever-shrinking oligarchy that technology has made possible like never before.

This is an issue whose impact stretches far beyond the farmgate and into each and every household, no matter how far removed from the fields in which our food is produced.

There are programs out there to assist young farmers in following their heritage and dreams, but those programs fall far short of what

is needed to ensure that a new generation of farmers can follow in their parents' footsteps. As a result, the family farmer might feel quite at home on an endangered species list.

A quick glance around the Island at the average age of our remaining farmers will confirm the obvious, they are quickly aging out—many quite literally dying out.

The bumper stickers/memes exhorting the viewer to "thank a farmer" for the food on their table may soon be replaced with "thank a corporation" as the number of traditional "farmers" dwindles out of existence.

The equation surrounding the decline of the family farm is complex and there is no "easy fix" for this ongoing trend, but just because finding solutions to an issue is challenging is no reason for society to simply throw up its hands and walk away saying "there is nothing to be done."

The removal of the carbon tax from farm inputs would be a start to helping to make farms more sustainable, while most of the benefits from such a move would land in hedge fund pockets, it would also make the business case for smaller scale farming more solid.

It is long past time for society to recognize the growing endangered status of the family farm and take steps to find solutions. This is not a trend confined to the shores of Manitoulin Island, but rather one that is taking place from sea to shining sea. A concerted effort must be undertaken to find solutions—and not ones that create a new class of serf beholden to faceless agri-corps for their land.

The federal and provincial governments, together with the agricultural associations should set up a national inquiry into the decline of the family farm and consultations aimed at finding those solutions—while there are still farmers left to thank.

letters

Howland farmer rebuts Sandhill crane hunt concerns

When wildlife consume 25 percent of the crops farming becomes unsustainable

To the Expositor:

As a farmer who resides on Manitoulin Island, I would like to set the record straight by correcting the misinformation reported in a letter in the Manitoulin Expositor on February 14 ('Conservationist alarmed by proposed Sandhill crane hunt' Page 4). Many farmers have been hoping for a reduction in the numbers of Sandhill cranes and Canada geese. Farmers are acting as conservationists and environmentalists. Our livelihood depends on this fact. Farmers are the stewards of the land and feed the masses of wild animals and birds and the non-farming population. When the number of wildlife becomes so large that over 25 percent of a crop can be destroyed something has to be done to stop this problem. To quote Chris Sharp, a biologist who completed a research project on Manitoulin and North Shore reporting about the destruction of crops by Sandhill cranes, the article posted by the CBC on Sept 18, 2020, not only called the Sandhill cranes a nuisance, he wrote that they are a little like velociraptors running around in the fields eating grains. Many farmers here have tried everything recommended to deter the birds from destroying the cereal crops and potatoes. Quoting Sharp in the article, "the birds tend to congregate in the spring just after the crops are planted and will pick out the new seeds or the newly emerging shoots." He also stated that they are congregating in areas like Timmins, New Liskeard, Matheson and Manitoulin all the way to Quebec. When the cranes are in standing cereal crops, they also trample a lot of the crop. In my opinion, the destruction is worse after a rain or a wet spring. It is also my understanding these birds can eat their weight in food each day. Could these birds be classed as an invasive species? My father is eighty-nine. Neither of us can remember seeing the Sandhill cranes before 10 years ago. It would be worth looking into the history in this area to see if the Sandhill cranes are or could be classed as an invasive species. A possibility other than a hunt could be for these organized conservationists to come and investigate the spring damage and again at fall harvest times. This could be educational for the so-called environmentalists and would give them the opportunity to fairly compensate farmers for the destruction. Don't believe farmers want to waste time hunting these birds. Until fair compensation is forthcoming, I support the fall hunt and would put forward a request for a spring hunt starting as soon as possible.

Self-proclaimed Environmentalist,

Paul Skippen
Green Bay



The Skippen farm proudly boasts its status as a century farm.

Ministry of Health increases Wiikwemkoong ambulance funding

by Michael Erskine

TORONTO—Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) directors received some welcomed news from the province during their last board meeting. The Ministry of Health is ponying up an extra \$158,744 in additional base funding and up to \$555,645 in one-time funding for the 2023-2024 funding year. That brings total funding for operating expenses at the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory ambulance station up to \$3,238,349.

In her letter informing the board of the latest increase in funding, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health Susan Picarello cautioned the DSB, "We appreciate your cooperation with



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the ministry in managing your funding as effectively as possible. You are expected to adhere to our reporting requirements, particularly for in-year service and financial reporting, which is expected to be timely and accurate. Based on our monitoring and assessment of your in-year service and financial reporting, your cash flow may be adjusted appropriately to match actual services provided."

EMS manager Paul Myre noted that the operation of the EMS station in Wiikwemkoong is 100 percent funded by the province. The costs involved were included in the DSB budget.

Part III of a series

50 years of the Little NHL

Players and families recall good memories of the tournament over the years

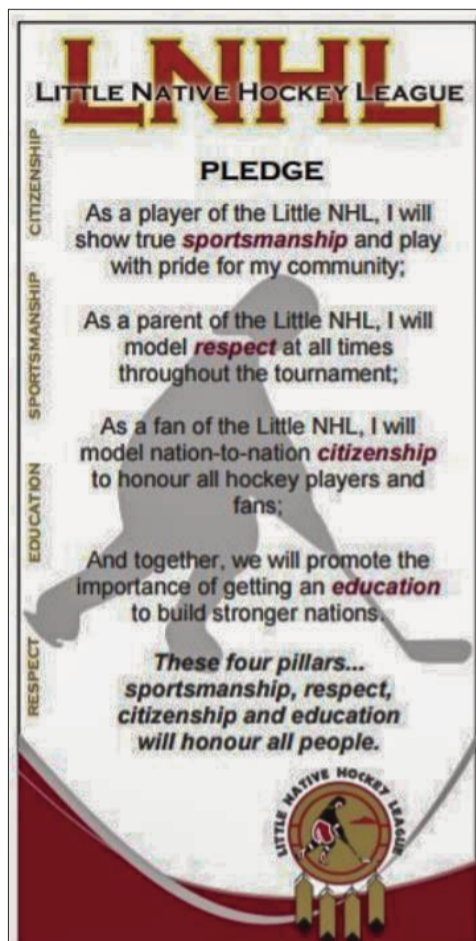
EDITOR'S NOTE: This year marks 50 editions of the culturally important Little NHL (Native Hockey League) tournament and, over the weeks leading up to the Markham event, *Expositor* reporter Gina Gasongi Simon will trace the evolution of the tournament from its origins as a two-day local event in 1971 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 third, examines the fond memories of players and their families.

by Gina Gasongi Simon

Money is a big requirement for Indigenous children and First Nation communities to participate in one of the most expensive sports due to the high cost of equipment, ice time, rink rentals and travel. To get to the Little Native Hockey League (LNHL) requires all hands-on deck, from every community member, parents, grandparents and extended family. Each has gone the extra mile, acting as one entity to raise enough funds for every child who wants to participate, from Tykes to Midgets.

"Come near LNHL time, it was in the air, the entire community gathered, parents and managers helped in fundraising efforts," said longtime player and coach Roger Beaudin of M'Chigeeng First Nation. "We never depended on anyone or the First Nations leadership to pay. Each community did their own fundraising efforts."

He recalls one year when it became a community effort. "We joined forces and put on a 'monster bingo' with big prizes, bottle drives, 50/50 draws and bake sales. All parents participate and do their part to



LNHL Executive and First Nation communities are proud to say that every single effort by parents, coaches, managers, extended family is all volunteer. The motto of Citizenship is a pillar the tournament leans on to pull off the success it has for the past 50 years.



The M'Chigeeng Pee Wee Champs at the LNHL tournament held in Peterborough.

assist where they can, with the support of their families."

The LNHL was formed in 1971 on Manitoulin Island, and the NHL National Hockey League in 1917 in Montreal; the irony—the costs and benefits to the smaller league are spread throughout, while the larger league has a small circle of incorporated benefactors. After the top-heavy payouts very little trickles down to the communities or children.

We all know that behind the scenes, matches and showdowns of the LNHL are hidden stories. Stories that go beyond the scores and statistics and play-by-play. Stories that capture the passion and pain, desire and dedication.

"We have been fortunate in our desire to play and support the cause is like one big family," Mr. Beaudin says. "We sacrificed space and time, and it wasn't unusual to have numerous kids sharing a hotel room with a chaperone or two."

Mr. Beaudin recalls playing in the LNHL in Sudbury. "We all stayed on the high school gymnasium floor in Lively, on the outskirts of Sudbury. We didn't get much sleep, as there was always someone waking everyone up, but I remembered laughing a lot."

Take the parents' view, all those hockey dads and moms. Both create traditions and checklists with their children. Most agree it's a fine line within Anishnaabe family tradition as to who does what. Traditionally, for the most part, it's the moms who prepare the meals, make the checklists, pack

the lunches and prepare the snacks. Packing was another big chore, extra socks, warm clothes, and bathing suits were a must, along with all the hockey gear.

The dads, for the most part, are coaches and drivers, bringing pop and snacks between games and keeping the team in tow. In the changing rooms, both parents make sure every child's skates are tied tight, helmet on and a hockey stick in hand before stepping on the ice. Both stand screaming in the stands, cheering on their little stars; and we can agree both parents' roles can be fun and demanding.

It's fascinating when you think about it—it's like packing for a portable modern-day camping trip to the city. Coolers and sleeping bags are a must for hockey tournaments, as you don't always have private accommodations, nor access or the energy to go to the grocery store, let alone know where one is located. To pack for a tournament is a true art of packing as many extra and activities as you can, along with extra kids and all the hockey equipment.

It's not just a family affair, it's a community affair with lots of memories. "Before we could afford buses, parents would volunteer. I was fortunate my older brother was my coach, so I rode with him. It was, and still is, a big deal to go to the city and play hockey. We played in Parry Sound one year and I remember, as we drove out of town, there was a sign at the local Kentucky Fried Chicken, 'Closed: out of chicken.' Us kids, along with our parents, we sure had a good laugh about that," Mr. Beaudin laughs.

According to LNHL president Chico

Ralph, the city of Markham stands to make millions in revenue from the tournament.

Not only do people prepare and fundraise the whole year to come to the tournament, but "they also save to shop," says executive member Pat Madahbee. "I've heard of people while down for the LNHL buying a new truck or car. So, you just never know what people will buy or how much they will spend because the quality of choice and quantity is there for the pickings," he explains.

Another notable story from the late '90s was a final Pee Wee game in Peterborough. "It was a real nail biter, right down to the final goal," Mr. Beaudin shares. "We always had a rivalry between Wikwemikong. This particular year we made a team combined with players from M'Chigeeng and Whitefish. In the end we ended up in a tie. So, after so many ties, it was decided to remove one player every two to three minutes from the five-player line-up. It came right down to one player and a goalie left on each side. Call it the luck of the draw, but when the referee dropped the puck it bounced, our player got to it first and sailed down the ice on a break-a-way and scored the tie breaking goal. Our team went wild, as we skated on the ice and all piled onto our goalie, Lisa Corbiere Addison."

"She stole the show, goal after goal. Lisa



James Beaudin, son of Roger Beaudin, practicing on their back yard arena. Back in the day nearly everyone had a back yard arena and in the summer road hockey was popular. Roger fondly remembers at Christmas time, "We would be buying the kids new nets for the summer."

thing you can't describe, you have to be there, says Mr. Beaudin. "We have our cheering sections, loud and proud, and as the games wind down to the finals, everyone is cheering, for every goal scored. It thunders."

Developing very strong friendships with other hockey parents, grandparents and coaches is formed fundraising, coaching, carpooling and joining the "fan ship."

Taking place over the 2024 March break, the annual hockey tournament is an opportunity to see and experience new things that are synonymous with family time. "It's part of our calendar of events," says Mr. Beaudin. "We go there to celebrate our love for the game of hockey and family. It's ingrained in our psyche."

The Cultural Festival portion of the LNHL to celebrate the 50th anniversary on opening night March 10 promises to be spectacular. "Each host community, over the years, has done a magnificent job to make opening ceremonies special." Mr. Madahbee recalls one year, "Fort William First Nation hosted and designed this gigantic tipi. It was all lit up as it descended from high up in the arena to the arena ice, and then each side dropped down exposing a medicine wheel combined with the four sacred colours. That was a memory!"

For generations, the original teachings of the Anishnaabe have contained the four sacred colours. Red represents the Indigenous peoples of the world, yellow represents people of Asian and South Asian descent; black represents the Black race and White represents the Caucasian race. Each race is said to have its significance and gifts to offer to humankind. The four colours will always be found in and about the arenas, displayed in artwork and on team flags.

Over the years, with the growth of the LNHL tournament has been the introduction of new technology and applications to help make keeping track of all the teams, players and games schedules an easier and timely process. "It's tough to keep track of all the games and rules," says President Chico Ralph.

"Sometimes you're viewed as the bad guy



The 2019 LNHL Midget Champions hailed from Aundeck Omni Kaning.

played her heart out," Mr. Beaudin continues. "She was dynamic. She played with us all through the regular season, so of course she was coming with us to the LNHL. It was a bittersweet victory, even with Wikwemikong missing some of their top players due to a suspension. We had some good players, like Garnet Ace who went on to play for the Sudbury clubs and is now a scouting agent."

So, there are doors of opportunity after playing in the LNHL. Whether watching or coaching you marvel at the skill of the players. "Some of the kids that play in the tournament are phenomenal," Mr. Beaudin continues. "Take Samuel Assinewai, from AOK. He was always one of our fastest and smartest players. He played for the Sudbury clubs, and went on to play for the Flint Firebirds, much like Junior A tier of the OHL."

To play at the LNHL in an arena that has a capacity to accommodate more than two or three entire First Nation communities in its stands and ice surface is like a dream for the kids.

The atmosphere in the arenas is some-

or bearer of bad news. But rules have to be followed. In tie breakers, we now utilize the 3-on-3 stop play and if that does not result in a winner, we move to the player shoot out and then the sudden death, first goal wins," he explains.

Keep in mind after the game the precious moments shared with the kids. Rehashing the game, memorable moments, with their emotions running high whether win or lose, you have to keep them prepared for the next game or the trip home.

"In our hearts all the kids are champions. Every kid gets a medal for participating. I remember one year handing out medals to these little novices, eight- and nine-year-olds. One kid says, 'We got a medal and we didn't even win!' and his little buddy pipes in, 'and we didn't even score a goal!' I told them, 'You're all winners and we will see you next year.' To that they all chimed in, 'We'll be back! We'll be back!'" Games evolve and so do the players

For more information on the format, location, sponsors, games and activities visit the website at <https://lnhl.ca>

Human Trafficking victim support specialist shifts focus to combat trafficking

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

MANITOULIN—In a move aimed at bolstering efforts to combat human trafficking, Jessica Summers, the anti-human trafficking coordinator for Manitoulin Northshore Victim Services (MNVS), has transitioned into a new role as a victim support specialist. Ms. Summers brings her expertise to MNVS in a bid to provide crucial support to those affected by this heinous crime.

Human trafficking, a widespread issue globally, involves various forms of exploitation such as commercial sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced marriage and organ trafficking. Despite misconceptions, trafficking is not confined to borders or specific demographics; it affects individuals from diverse backgrounds, with vulnerable populations, including Indigenous women and girls, at heightened risk. Statistics from 2016 state that Indigenous women, who only make up four percent of the Canadian population, make up approximately 50 percent of trafficking victims.

Ms. Summers highlights the insidious nature of trafficking, which often begins with recruitment through coercion, manipulation or false promises. Victims, ensnared in a cycle of abuse and exploitation, may develop trauma bonds with their traffickers, making it difficult to break free from their control. Even after escaping, the likelihood of returning to their trafficker remains high, underscoring the complexities of recovery and reintegration.

The recruitment sources for trafficking are varied, ranging from social media platforms to trusted community members, making it crucial for individuals to remain vigilant and recognize red flags indicating potential exploitation. Signs such as restricted freedom, sudden behavioural changes, or unexplained bruises should prompt immediate action and intervention. Human trafficking is defined as: "Recruiting, transporting, transferring, receiving, holding, concealing or harbouring a person, or exercising control, direction or influence over the movements of a person, for the purpose of exploiting them or facilitating their exploitation." Ms. Summers emphasized that human trafficking "is not consensual sex work done by persons over the age of 18" nor "the smuggling of persons over interna-

tional border," the latter specifically to do with persons seeking asylum.

Local statistics from victim services agencies underscore the prevalence of trafficking within communities. From April 2022 to March 2023, MNVS, Algoma Victim Services and Sudbury and Area Victim Services collectively provided support to over a hundred individuals involved in trafficking, with a significant proportion being female. The majority of human trafficking that occurs in the district is commercial sexual exploitation.

In light of these alarming figures, collaborative efforts involving law enforcement, support services, and community outreach are essential to combat trafficking effectively. Individuals are urged to seek assistance from dedicated helplines and organizations such as MNVS, the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline and Angels of Hope Against Human Trafficking, among others, to report suspicious activity or seek support for themselves or others affected by trafficking.

Victims services is launching a new support program for victims services that includes safety plans, financial support as well as counselling and community support. If you suspect that you or someone that you love are the victim of human trafficking you are encouraged to reach out for support. Where to seek assistance:

Manitoulin Northshore Victim Services:
705-370-3378
(24/7 via Police)

Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline:
1-833-900-1010 (24/7)

Manitoulin Family Resources Crisis:
705-377-5160 (24/7)

Angels of Hope Against Human Trafficking:
705-822-8630

Kids Help Phone:
1-800-668-6868 (24/7)

Crime Stoppers Tip Hotline: 705-222-8477

Police non-emergency:
1-888-310-1122

Or for emergencies:
dial 9-1-1

Northern hospitals are poised for catastrophe says MPP

by **Tom Sasvari**

QUEEN'S PARK—Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Michael Mantha pressed Ontario premier Doug Ford during Question Period in the legislature on February 22 on the financial pressures facing public hospitals in the North. Following a worrying report by Ontario's auditor general in the fall

and a letter sent by the chief executive officers (CEOs) of 25 Northern hospitals, MPP Mantha said it is beyond time for the government to act on hospital's funding concerns.

"Last November, 25 hospital CEOs wrote a joint letter to your government about the precarious financial situation that they are in," MPP Mantha said. "They outlined the fact that Northern hospitals have been directed by the ministry to avoid closures, support surgical recovery and avoid service reductions while at the same time they are coping with the financial pressures of private agency staffing, the impacts of Bill 124, infrastructure costs and inflation, as well as the pending discontinuation of the locum incentive program on March 31."

Despite these pressures being communicated to the government months ago, there have been no funding increases to support Northern hospitals. "When this letter came to my attention, followed by the auditor general's scathing report I went out to meet with the leadership teams at each hospital in Algoma-Manitoulin"

said MPP Mantha. "Northern hospitals are approaching a crisis that will impact services and will mean emergency room closures, services suspended and potentially complete hospital closures."

Paula Fields, president and CEO of the Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC) confirmed, "No, we haven't received any information (from the province) on funding and the current fiscal year ends in five weeks' time."

"There are a lot of moving pieces and challenges

and things ending, like the temporary locum incentive program that emergency rooms count on it. There has been no word if there is going to be an extension or a replacement program," said Ms. Fields.

"We are still waiting for answers on all the challenges facing hospitals in the North," said Ms. Fields.

MPP Mantha called on the government to meet the requests of Northern hospitals to stabilize their services and commit to annualized funding increases that match their needs.

Drug Strategies warn of increased risk of overdose

SUDBURY DISTRICT—The Community Drug Strategies group has received reports of an increase in the number of drug poisonings (overdoses) and unexpected reactions from the use of substances in the Sudbury and district area.

"While we cannot confirm the substance(s) causing the overdoses, this situation serves as an important reminder to the community that street drugs may be cut or mixed with substances such as benzos (benzodiazepines), xylazine, fentanyl or carfentanil. Frontline workers warn that more toxic substances may be circulating locally," a Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD) release February 21 states.

An overdose occurs when a person uses a substance and their body is unable to handle the effects. As a result, the brain is unable to control basic life functions. The person might pass out, stop breathing or experience a seizure. Overdoses can be fatal and non-fatal.

"To prevent overdoses and to save lives, avoid mixing drugs, including prescribed, over the counter and illegal drugs," the release says. "Avoid drinking alcohol while using other drugs, use caution when switching substances. Start with a lower dose than you usually would. If you haven't used in a while, start with a lower dose. Your tolerance may be lower."

"When using substances, consider the following options: have a trusted person with you who can provide support as needed. Visit an overdose prevention site such as The Spot (Reseau ACCESS Network) in Greater Sudbury," the release continues. "Connect with the National Overdose Response Service at 1-888-688-6677. Access the Brave App. Avoid using drugs when you are alone. Carry a naloxone kit and call 911 if you suspect an overdose."



MPP Michael Mantha

Friends and Neighbours

Kagawong Team Fergmeijer

Team Fergmeijer wasn't initially going to celebrate Leap Day, but eventually we decided to jump on the bandwagon. Did you know a person born on February 29th is called a 'leapling'? If this is you and you need ideas about where to celebrate your birthday, may we suggest IHOP? We were wondering, instead of an extra day every four years, could we just sleep in for an hour every day for six days out of the year? Will Office 365 work on a leap year? If you get married on February 29th, do you only have to remember your anniversary every four years?

The next Manitoulin Streams Youth Rangers event is just around the corner! Youth in Grades 1-8 are invited to join Manitoulin Streams on Wednesday, March 13 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Park Centre in Kagawong, making it a perfect mid-March-Break activity. Participants will do some maple tree tapping, and enjoy a pizza lunch. Cost is \$10 per child, with limited space available. Contact get-involved.manitoulinstreams@gmail.com for more information or to register.

Town council approved a new Municipal Owned Water System Ad-Hoc Committee. The town will be issuing a call for members on their website soon (billingstwp.ca).

The community rink is closed at the time of writing due to the mild weather. Follow the township Facebook page for the most up-to-date information as conditions can change pretty quickly.

It's true! One half of Team Fergmeijer heard a Canada Goose honk its way across the sky just last week. Given the unseasonably warm winter, it is possible we might see the iconic Sandhill Cranes arriving early this year. Will you be the first to hear the majestic coo of the cranes? Email any sightings to fergmeijer@gmail.com to participate in our annual Sandhill Crane challenge!

The final submission in our short contest of Short Poems for a Short Month is the shortest of short poems - a simple rhyming couplet:

In leap year's span, an extra day we earn,
A fleeting gift, for time's swift turn.

Do you know what the best part of a leap year is? You don't have to endure our leap-themed puns again for another four years. Have a great week!

Meldrum Bay Elaine Bradley

Friday night at cards was a fun get together. As we were playing, one person said, "one thing about Meldrum, there's always laughter." It really is a fun get together. There were three tables and two sit outs. High lady was Lois Wismer with 74 points; high man was Doug Carter with 68 points; ladies' lone hands went to Myra Duncanson with three; men's lone hands went to Rick Bradley with three; 50/50 draw and special prize went to Harold Rogers.

Sunday was the Fun Day. The stew and chili were excellent as were the large variety of excellent deserts. The beef came from Jim and Birgitte Martin. After the meal there was a euchre tournament. Rose Van Every and Diane

Jones were big winners. They had 85 points and went home with \$100; second place went to Erwin Thompson and Marie Leeney with 84 points and \$40; third place went to Doug and Brenda Carter with 77 points and \$28. Congratulations from all of us. Special mention goes to people from Tehkummah who braved the snowstorm to come to eat and play. 50/50 winners were Marie Leeney with \$28 and \$22, Elaine McDonald with \$21.50 and \$21.50, Lois Wismer with \$23 and Donna Kay McDonald with \$23.50. The draw prize was fresh homemade bread won by Natasha McVey and Myra Duncanson. By the time the event started the snow had stopped and the sun came out. Thanks to everyone who organized, set up, cleaned and cooked for the event. It was a real success.

Rick and I had a couple of trips cross Island and we couldn't believe the change in weather. From snow packed roads to bare roads and plus seven, the weather extremes have been amazing. Thursday, February 22 we saw three people out ice fishing on Lake Wolseley. We wondered how the fishing has been.

Rick was saying one day, I wonder when the seagulls will return. On Tuesday there was a huge flock of seagulls at the Lake Wolseley bridge. The fox has been wandering hopefully through our yard on a daily basis, but we have no more chickens for him to poach. I'm hoping spring is here, but I am sure the weather has a few more surprises for us.

Just a reminder that March third will be the monthly church service here in Meldrum. If you're in the area, come and join us.

...man collects can tabs to support Maison McCulloch Hospice

...continued from page 3
road into Harbour Vue Marina, is home to a very large collection of bags filled with aluminum can tabs. So how many does he have right now?

“Okay, a five-gallon pail is 25,760 and I have 10 of those, so I have 257,000 right there,” he said. “I was reading online the other day that they say it takes about a million to buy a wheelchair—so I am a quarter of the way there—that’s not too bad.” That’s over 151 pounds.

Of course, Mr. Hutchinson and his family don’t personally guzzle that much pop and other beverages. “No, no,” he laughs. “I have a lot of people collecting them for me. People give me a handful, people give me a bag or half a pail. I take them all.” When he is at a party or other gathering, Mr. Hutchinson often suggests people collect the tabs.

Mr. Hutchinson referenced Greg Young in Wiikwemkoong as one of his most prolific suppliers. “He has been really good; we have done some trading in trapping equipment and we have been doing this with the trapping council.”

Although the pop/beer cans can be traded in for cash, Mr. Hutchinson says he is basically only interested in collecting the tabs as



Kevin Hutchinson shows off his haul of can tabs. He is collecting the aluminum tabs as a fundraiser for Maison McCulloch Hospice.

photo by Michael Erskine

they are pure aluminum. “I don’t want cans, no,” he said. The aluminum in the tabs is pure, explains Mr. Hutchinson, and therefore commands top dollar. Cans themselves are painted and are a lower grade commanding a lower price at the recycling centre.

But he notes that his campaign works in compliment

with other organizations who do utilize cans as a fundraiser. “The tabs are small and easy to collect; you can pop a bunch of them into your pocket pretty easy,” said Mr. Hutchinson. “Pop cans can take up a lot of room.”

“Minor hockey in Gore Bay collects cans as a fundraiser, for example,” he

said. “They collect the cans and have supplied me with a lot of tabs.”

Some tabs themselves are painted. Mr. Hutchinson holds up a hefty bag filled with red-tinged tabs. “I sort them out,” he explained. Those tabs will not go to waste, just bring in a little less lucre.

Maison McCulloch Hospice in Sudbury is a one-level, free-standing building which provides 10 rooms with beds and individual bathrooms for residents that would benefit from a palliative approach to care. The unique architecture of the hospice provides a residence which looks and feels like home rather than an acute or long-term care facility and provides individuals with privacy—while still providing open access to common spaces so residents can interact with each other and service providers. The building is fully accessible and includes the technology, equipment and supplies to provide quality 24/7 palliative care.

“They are really wonderful people there,” said Mr. Hutchinson.

Mr. Hutchinson said that he was open to having people drop off tabs to his place at 62 Loon Trail in Little Current, or he could come pick them up.

...Algoma Public Health votes ‘no’ to merger with PHSD

...continued from page 3
sibility study gathered information and explored the merits and risks of a merger. It is too late to look for another health unit with which to merge.” He pointed out documentation and evidence have to be submitted to the province by the end of March. “It took 10 weeks for the subcommittee to work with the consultants to come up with the report on the merger.”

PHSD medical officer of health Dr. Penny Sutcliffe said the feasibility study that had been carried out had been targeted specifically to a merger with APH. She said, “this feasibility study provided a look at the benefits and risks of a merger with just Algoma.”

“Our health system is under considerable strain, and we know that it’s critical to invest in a strong public health system to keep us healthy, from kids to seniors and from oral health to safe drinking water. We have a longstanding and excellent relationship with (APH), from frontline staff to senior leadership and I know that both agencies remain committed to acting in the best interest of local communities to achieve the health equity that our areas deserve,” said Dr. Sutcliffe. “Today’s decisions mean that our existing relationship continues and we look forward to future collaborations in support of local public health.”

Dr. Sutcliffe said the merger was a very difficult

decision for everyone involved to make. The data looked at the overall benefits and the overall risks involved. “I observed an increase in staff capacity with a larger catchment area and learning from each other to provide more capacity and even better overall service.”

Sally Hagman, chair of the APH board indicated “there were a number of reasons why we didn’t vote in favour of the merger. We focused on the district we serve and the residents we serve in the Algoma district. We have an extremely well-oiled machine, and in reaching our client base.”

“We enjoyed the time we discussed the proposed merger with PHSD. When looking at the composition

of the board, we have 13 board members (APH) that would be decreased by 50 percent,” said Ms. Hagman. “And we wanted to know staff members in our unit would be remaining now and in the future, along with the 25 programs our health unit delivers.”

“There was also the funding situation,” Ms. Hagman told The Expositor. “It would potentially cost huge dollars to convert the two health units’ financial systems to one. In terms of provincial funding, unfortunately the 34 public health units in the province are all standalone finance systems in terms of funding (from the province). It would be hard to manage and basically (with a merger) we would have had to start all over from scratch.”

Ms. Hagman said the APH will communicate their decision to its stakeholders and staff that things will continue as they have.

When asked whether he thought the province would force a merger, Mr. Lapierre said, “Technically the government can pass this type of legislation, but as they indicated previously, they were requesting all public health merger talks being voluntary.”

...Const. John Hill recognized by Wiikwemkoong

...continued from page 3
police services.”

“I have been working full-time with the provincial liaison team since October,” said Constable Hill.

Constable Hill said “(Acting Police) Chief Spooner is a very encouraging and kind man, and he wants to make sure officers’ efforts are appreciated, as does Ogimaa Manitowabi. It is a credit to them and their leadership that these efforts are recognized, and good relationships are built.”

Wiikwemkoong Ogimaa Rachel Manitowabi and Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service Acting Chief of Police Jason Spooner, right, present Ontario Provincial Police Constable John Hill with a special recognition.



...a rocking good time raising funds for MHC

...continued from page 3

our children, with all the things they have going on, well now it’s time for them to support us,” she said. “Last year was a complete surprise with how well we did. I would have been happy with \$1,000, I thought, if every member brought in \$100, it would be great. We made over \$5,000 last year!”

This year, two long time members each

brought in over \$1,000 in donations. Marilee Hore, treasurer of the auxiliary said the final tally this year came to \$6,279! St. Bernard’s Church, where the event took place, donated the rental fee back to the auxiliary for their cause. All members agreed, the public’s positive and generous response was overwhelming.

“It’s a good, fun time with a bunch of great ladies,” Ms. Labelle said, as she rocked on.

LITTLE CURRENT

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Bahá’í Writings

He, verily, shall increase the reward of them that endure with patience.

—Bahá’u’lláh

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Child care agencies are facing a shortage of foster parents

by Michael Erskine
MANITOULIN—Child care services across the province are issuing urgent appeals for foster families and the need for diverse caring homes in which to place children in crisis has never been greater, even as the number of children in care has declined since the earlier 2000s—with some agencies describing the shortfall as “dire.” Many stalwart foster families are “aging out” and the number of new families coming into the fold are not keeping pace with the need.

The Expositor caught up with the two child care services that support families on Manitoulin, Kina Gbezgomi Child and Family Services (Kina) which is the most recent organization and deals with Indigenous children and the Children’s Aid Society for the Districts

of Sudbury and Manitoulin (CAS) to discuss the need.

“There definitely is a need for more foster care families,” said Jessica Orr, communications and public relations specialist with Kina. “That isn’t limited to just Manitoulin and Sudbury, but is something being experienced right across Ontario. The Ontario Association of Children’s Aid Societies is looking at a campaign right now to encourage more foster families.”

The greatest shortage in this region tends to be for infants and teens, said Ms. Orr.

CAS (and now Kina, to some extent) is a dreaded name among many families, as fears that children will be seized and taken out of their communities, but that is very far from being the truth. Less than one percent

of children are taken into care as a result of a CAS or Kina intervention.

Elaina Groves, CEO of the Children’s Aid Society for the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin, explained that “When a family becomes involved with a Children’s Aid Society, every effort is made to support the family to ensure children live safely with their family. If a child cannot live safely at home, their parents are supported to seek help from extended family, kin, friends and their community to ensure a child lives safely with people they know and trust.”

That is not always possible, however. “When those placements are not available, children may be brought into the temporary care of CAS where foster parents provide children and youth with safe, family-

based care until children return home to their parents,” noted Ms. Groves. That is where foster parents come into the picture.

“Foster care provides children and youth with a safe family setting during a time of crisis,” said Ms. Groves. “In many situations, foster care can provide vital support that enables parents to address issues that are putting their children’s safety and well-being at risk. In most situations children placed in foster care are reunified with their families once the issues that led to the child needing to be in care have been resolved with the support from CAS and community partners. In other situations, foster care can open new doors to safety, permanency and well-being for children and youth.”

Needs vary considerably

with each case, noted Ms. Groves. “Children may need foster care for just a few days, a week, several months, or possibly even longer. Foster parents work with CAS staff as part of a team to develop and support a plan of care for each child or youth in their care. The preferred plan is to reunite a child or youth with their family. Sometimes the plan may include exploring alternative permanency options such as kinship care, legal custody by a family member or foster parent, an independent living situation, or adoption.”

The key element involved is that foster parents provide stability and a caring home that encourages a child or youth’s growth and well-being. While the legal responsibility for the child or youth remains with Children’s Aid Society, foster parents play an important role in a child or youth’s daily life.

Taking a child into your care is not easy and there are costs involved as well, but the CAS is there to help ensure that a foster family is not out of pocket with the associated costs being defrayed and a stipend to help make up for the time and effort involved.

The fostering application process also takes time and may be influenced by factors such as the applicant’s ability to possibly care for children with complex needs, siblings and teens. All foster parents must undergo two key components of the approval and training process: home visits by a CAS worker and a Structured Analysis Family Evaluation (SAFE)—a

home study comprehensive assessment that helps determine the eligibility, suitability and readiness to become a foster parent; Parent Resources for information, Development and Education (PRIDE) a mandatory provincial 27-hour training program that must be taken by all prospective foster parents in Ontario.

The assessments include the other members of the family unit and anyone else living in the home where the foster child will be placed. “Anyone living in the home over the age of six is assessed to ensure that the family is a good fit,” said Mr. Orr. This is particularly important in the Kina instance, as there is the added aspect of maintaining First Nations’ values, culture and traditions—important considerations given the damage caused by the Residential School System, the ‘60s Scoop and other historical suppressions of Indigenous culture.

The rewards of becoming a foster parent can be immense and worth all of the effort, as the difference being made in child’s life during one of the most traumatic times they will experience by a caring and nurturing foster family cannot be overstated, noted Ms. Groves, who speaks from personal family experience.

To learn more about becoming a foster parent, contact KGCFs.org/become-a-foster-parent/ for Kina (or call 1-800-268-1899) or CAS-DSM.on.ca for CAS through their webpages (or call 705-566-3113).

...council told fitness centre building in poor shape

...continued from page 3
building, as well as an extremely cursory external review. Although brief and not at all in-depth, this visit was enough to confirm simply returning the building to use ‘as-it was’ will cost several thousand dollars.”

Staff had sought council direction on moving forward with one of three options; request a quote on a building assessment report for further details on renovations and upgrades; investing options and costing for the building being in a safe state and investigate options for demolition.

“Looking at the finances for the building, the total energy cost for the building in 2023 was approximately \$4,300, and we as a township received rent of approximately \$4,800 per year for the upper floor of the building being rented,” said Councillor Vince Grogan. “Considering all of this it doesn’t make much sense. I feel more comfortable with the third option (investigate options for demolition). There is just not the value in the building as it sits. In my opinion it is not worthy of investigating this further.”

“I disagree entirely,” stated Councillor Michael Hunt. “I would love to see it (building) replaced, but at least fix it up for use again. When the building was open there were always people using the gym. It was very well occupied. I think it would be a good investment and is one of the township assets.”

“I can’t disagree with Councillor Hunt that the building was used,” said Councillor Ian Anderson. “But if we don’t repair the building are there any other options in the township to have the equipment and



Billings council has directed township staff to investigate several options for consideration for the 91 Main Street Kagawong Fitness Centre.

open a fitness centre?”

Mayor Barker said this has been previously discussed and there is nothing in place at this point.

Councillor Dave Hillyard informed council he had been in contact with the town of Gore Bay on its fitness centre. “They are looking for more members to use their fitness centre at \$30 per month. The fitness centre is open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year and they have top-line fitness equipment available. I hate to see the closing of a building or business, but I’m not sure the revenues being gained from the building and the costs involved in repairing it is enough.”

There are merits with demolishing the building, said Mayor Barker. He raised a concern that if demolition of the building takes place, the township could be faced with costs if the penstock under the fitness centre show there is mould or asbestos.

Council was informed the penstock had been located in its current loca-

tion well before the building was constructed over top of it.

Todd Gordon noted the building is old, and the township recently finished its asset management plant and has about 21-23 facilities that have to be managed and maintained by the township.

“Another consideration is that we have just finished three major projects (in the township) that all had cost overruns,” said Mayor Barker. “Another consideration is that we could turn the building into an arts studio/gallery. And we could budget for repairs over time.” In the condition assessment for the building the costs to repair the building is \$143,862.40 in 2024.

“It may be more prudent to close the building for now and budget over time to repair it,” said Mayor Barker. “Personally, I don’t like to see vacant buildings, and we have to be financially responsible as well. We could look at keeping the building as sound as we can, for now and do repairs

over time.”

It was felt by Councillor Hillyard this would only delay the inevitable and costs would increase over time. He also suggested the building could be sold to an arts and crafts group for \$1 and it would save the town approximately \$150,000.

After further discussion council agreed to add demolition and selling the building along with remain in current state with intent for renovations over time to be added to the list of options to be further investigated by township staff.


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PICTURE
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Mindemoya Thunder retires No. 4 jersey in memory of Kyle Smith

by Tom Sasvari
MINDEMOYA—The Mindemoya Minor Hockey Association (MMHA) held a memorial jersey retirement ceremony for local hockey player Kyle Smith, 20, who passed away at Christmas.
 “Good evening and thank you everyone for coming tonight. We will begin with a ceremonial puck drop. Please welcome Kyle’s grandpa Larry Watson and uncle Kyle Watson to the ice

we need to do. Tonight, we remember, we honour and we play for a young man that was taken from us far too soon.”
 “Kyle played his entire hockey career here in Mindemoya, making lasting memories each season,” said Mr. Stapleton. “It is the Mindemoya Hockey Association’s sincere honour to be able to retire Kyle’s No. 4 jersey. Starting next season, no player from Mindemoya

push him a little harder as he was the biggest kid on the ice by at least a foot.”
 “I used to tell him, ‘You have to be more like uncle Butch.’ He was always a gentle giant on the ice and maybe it’s a good thing he wasn’t like his uncle because by the age of 13 he would have spent all his time in the box of shame (penalty box), just like his uncle did,” wrote Mr. Sheppard. “No matter where I

Everyone joined in a moment of silence followed by the start of the hockey game.
 Adam Smith told the Expositor prior to the game, “It’s pretty spectacular what the minor hockey association is doing. It’s been a pretty rough go the last couple of months.”
 “Kyle certainly didn’t deserve that (he battled cancer for five years),” said Mr. Smith. “He always had a great attitude. He made

things easier for everyone else.”
 “Kyle loved hockey, he had surgery in 2019 and was not able to play anymore,” said Mr. Smith. “Hockey was his main go-to hobby.”
 “The support from the community has been overwhelming,” stated Mr. Smith.
 Kyle William Lawrence Smith passed away on December 25, 2023, at the age of 20. Kyle is survived by his parents Adam and

Erin Smith (Watson), his older brother Ethan (Aryanna), twin brother Ashton, youngest brother Landen, grandparents Larry and Laura Watson of Sandfield and Shelley and Wade Ingold of Glencoe, his girlfriend Naomi Naokwegijig, many aunts, uncles, cousins and family Kyle loved dearly.



Brian Stapleton, president of the Mindemoya Thunder Minor Hockey Association addressed the players on the Mindemoya and Gore Bay U18 hockey teams and the large crowd on hand for the memorial jersey retirement ceremony for local hockey player Kyle Smith, 20, who passed away at Christmas. Mr. Smith’s Mindemoya Thunder jersey with his number four (which has been retired) was displayed over centre ice at the Mindemoya arena as part of the ceremony.

(along with Mindemoya Thunder captain Landen Smith, Kyle’s brother, and Gore Bay Bruins captain Grayson Orford),” said Brian Stapleton, coach of the Mindemoya Thunder U-18 hockey team prior to a play-off game in the Mindemoya arena last Friday evening.
 “I would like everyone to take notice of Kyle’s jersey hanging at centre ice and think of him as we play one of his favourite songs,” said Mr. Stapleton.
 Mr. Stapleton explained, “Tonight, everyone has gathered here to play or watch a hockey game, but before we do that there is something more important

will wear Kyle’s No. 4. This is now Kyle’s number and always will be.”
 “The following words were prepared by Paul Sheppard, which I will be reading on his behalf,” said Mr. Stapleton. “It is with deepest regret that I have to make a speech for this memorial, but Adam and Erin (Smith, Kyle’s parents), it is an honour to do so. I am proud to have been little Butch’s coach.”
 “For some that don’t know, I have coached for many years in Mindemoya,” wrote Mr. Sheppard. “I think I was on the bench for over 10 years with Kyle. I always enjoyed trying to

met Kyle, at school, the street or anywhere at all, he always spoke to me. For most of you, you wouldn’t know this unless you watched Mindemoya hockey back in the 1900s. Kyle and I had another bond, we both wore No. 4. I would like to think he picked that number because of me—ha. But probably like the rest of us, it was the number we were first given.”
 Mr. Sheppard wrote, “Adam and Erin, you have done so much for Mindemoya hockey; president or manager, the list goes on and on, and you did so without many thanks. While doing all that you have also achieved something even greater, raising four great young men. All of us will never forget Kyle. May you rest easy, little buddy, and the No. 4 rests with you. Proud to have worn number four.”

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NOTICE BOARD

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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 5th at 7:00 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 submission 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.

Summer Students Needed

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The NEMI Library needs you!

The NEMI Library is looking for community-minded individuals to sit on their board.

Please contact them at 705-368-2444 for more information or visit <https://nemi.olsn.ca/nemi-library-board>.

Half Load is now on.

Please be advised due to the unseasonable weather half loading has been put on all NEMI roads with the exception of Hwy 6 and 540.

Join us at the Recreation Centre for some of our upcoming sessions...

Workshops at the NEMI Rec Centre:

Felt Flower Wreath

March 5th at 1pm. Cost \$10.

Scone Dogs and Tacos with Pam Roy

March 6th at 6:30pm in the kitchen. Cost \$15.

Decoupage Planter

March 12th at 1pm. Cost \$10.

To register email lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca

MARCH BREAK activities for kids at the NEMI Rec Centre:

All activities are FREE for kids!

Monday, March 11th: Public Skating 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Pizza from scratch at 11:00am

Tuesday, March 12th: Public Skating 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Cake Decorating at 11:00am

Wednesday, March 13th: Kids Crafts 11:00am - 12:00pm

Public Skating 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Thursday, March 14th, Laser Tag 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Public Skating 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Friday, March 15th, Wooden Bird Feeders 11:00am - 12:00pm

Public Skating 1:00-2:00pm

To register your child or grandchild, email: lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca

Please remember PRE-REGISTRATION is a must.



Members of the alpine ski team pose for a photo.



Xavier Mara and Grace Pennie represented MSS in snowboarding.

...Two MSS Mustangs off to OFSSA this week

...continued from page 1

in the boys' high school division and qualified for the Ontario Federation of Secondary School Association (OFSSA) event," said Mr. Smith.

"Grace Pennie finished second overall in the girls' division," said Mr. Smith. "Grace had amazing times in her races. Unfortunately, only the top skier overall moves on to OFSSA in this division. Grace was beaten out by an exceptional skier."

"Our four other athletes posted good times and numbers but didn't qualify for OFSSA," said Mr. Smith. He pointed out that because of weather conditions this winter there were no North Shore championships this year, in either skiing or snowboarding.

The NOSSA alpine skiing championships took place at the Adanac Ski Hill

in Sudbury on February 21.

"MSS had two competitors in the snowboarding NOSSA championship," continued Mr. Smith. The event was held at Mount Dufour in Elliot Lake on February 21.

"Xavier Mara finished fourth overall in the boys' division, but qualified as the second top individual," said Mr. Smith. He explained the three athletes that finished from first to third in the race were all part of the same team, meaning they were in the team division.

"Grace Pennie took part in snowboarding, finishing 14th in the girls' division," said Mr. Smith. Lara Pennie was coach of the Mustangs snowboard team, with Paul Stewart supporting the MSS ski team.

Jack Pennie in alpine skiing and Xavier Mara in snowboarding will be competing at the provincial championships this week.

...Great Lakes ice coverage is at 3 percent

...continued from page 1

explained. "With water temperatures reaching their current lows, substantial evaporation requires extremely cold air. Since we're not experiencing such frigid temperatures, the evaporation is somewhat restrained. It's happening, but it's under control."

Just four years ago, in 2020, Lakes Huron-Michigan recorded record-high ice levels. However, the Great Lakes watershed has since transitioned to a more bal-

anced state. The latest forecast from the Army Corps of Engineers for the Lakes Huron-Michigan basin suggests that water levels might dip slightly compared to last year but are expected to remain marginally above the long-term average.

If this forecast holds true, it implies that there will still be ample beach space to enjoy this summer, along with sufficient water for boating and other recreational activities on the lake.

ASSIGINACK'S WINTER WONDERS

MARCH 2, 2024

COME AND ENJOY A WINTER CARNIVAL IN MANITOWANING AT THE FAIRGROUNDS.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE.

11 AM TO 1 PM - WINTER WANDER. GRAB YOUR FRIENDS/FAMILY AND HOP IN A CAR AND GO ON AN ADVENTURE TO FIVE UNIQUE LOCATIONS IN ASSIGINACK. COLLECT POINTS AND SEE IF YOU WON A CASH PRIZE! EVENT STARTS AT THE ARENA.

1-2 PM - COSTUME SKATE WITH PRIZES!

1-2 PM - CUPCAKE DECORATING, CRAFTS AND COLOURING AT THE ARENA.

2-3 PM - SPONGE PUCK.

3-4 PM - SLIDING CONTEST WITH PRIZES. WEATHER PERMITTING.

2-4 PM - SNOWSHOEING AROUND THE TRACK. WEATHER PERMITTING.

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...Two Manitoulin Secondary students win prestigious Shad placement

...continued from page 1

RDSB Director of Education Bruce Bourget. “The program fosters personal growth, nurtures gains in exploration, collaboration and innovation, and helps prepare students for their post-secondary studies.”

Students in Grades 10 and 11 with an aptitude for curiosity, excellence and resilience are accepted into the Shad program which prepares them to take on social and economic challenges. Selection criteria includes academics, extracurriculars, creativity, innovation and a commitment to excellence.

Program participants hear from acclaimed professors, experts and entrepreneurs, explore university campuses, take part in hands-on and virtual workshops, develop life-long friendships and learn about future education and careers in science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics (STEAM). Above all, they are able to collaborate with a project team on an innovative solution to a real-world problem.

“It’s a month-long program that is hosted at 20 different universities across Canada,” said Alex, who is a Grade 11 student. “Basically, for the month you wake up in the morn-



ing, eat breakfast, attend lectures, take part in outdoor activities like camping and learn from top professors 24/7.”

“Students have to apply for the program and as soon as the applications opened on September 15 I applied,” Alex continued. She explained the application process is pretty extensive. And you have to provide two references and fill out letters and answer several questions. I had to answer four different questions including outlining a challenge in my life and how to help fix it. I focused on the lack of female representation in STEAM. In my experience at the robotics world championships last year in Houston, I noticed a lack of girls in certain areas like building (robots). I want to get young girls interested in this. So, I

created a bunch of lesson plans and sent them to the elementary schools on the Island.”

“I don’t know which university I will be going to for the program, we will be finding out at the end of March,” Alex continued. “You do get to list which ones you would like to take the program at. I am very anxious to find out which university I will be taking the program at. But I’m sure all the campuses are amazing and provide different quality experiences.”

When asked what her future career plans are, Alex, who is also The Expositor’s own Kids in the Hall columnist, said, “It changes quite a bit, from communications and psychology, science, communications and possibly law school.”

Alex is a member of the MSS Robotics team, a student senator representing MSS, a member of the MSS student council, worked at the Gore Bay Medical Centre in the doctors’ office last summer and has played Manitoulin house league hockey for about 13 years.

Xavier said, “This program is recognized by a ton of universities. And there are thousands of students who apply every year. It is incredible that two students from Manitoulin Island have been selected this year.”

“At this point, I would like to go somewhere for engineering, probably south to live in the city,” Xavier continued. Among the universities he indicated he would like to take the Shad program at included McMaster and Waterloo. “I listed a lot of universities in Ontario.” He also included the University of British Columbia as an option.

“One of the questions I answered on the Shad program application form was to come up with a problem in our community and what you did to help fix it. We live in Manitowaning and my dad works in Wiikwemkoong,” said Xavier. “During COVID, we built a couple of UV sterilization units and gave them to the senior folks at the (Wiikwemikong) nursing home and for the clinic in Wiikwemkoong.”

After high school, Xavier would like to go to university to take engineering and get into the technology industry in some capacity.

“The Shad program begins on June 27 until the end of July,” said Xavier. “I’m pretty excited to be going.”

“I extend sincere congratulations to our student participants,” said Mr. Bourget. “I wish them the very best during this important journey of discovery.”

The two MSS students along with Kate Turner of Lively District Secondary School, Isaac Longston, Megan Martin and Samuel Dumais of Lockerby Composite School, and Lillian Li, Peter Xiong and John Liao of Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School will join hundreds of secondary students from across Canada to explore the exciting world of STEAM as part of the Shad program.

...continued on page 15

...Freedom Convoy supporter pleased with high court’s call

...continued from page 1

qualities of reasonableness, such as justification, transparency and intelligibility. Justice Mosley emphasized that there was no national emergency justifying the act’s invocation.

The case, argued by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Constitution Foundation and individuals with frozen bank accounts, contended that Ottawa did not meet the legal threshold for employing the unprecedented legislation. The government intends to appeal the decision.

The Emergencies Act was invoked by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s government on February 14, 2022, in response to prolonged protests in Ottawa and blockades at border points. The act granted law enforcement significant powers to remove and arrest protesters, freeze finances and commandeer tow trucks. Justice Mosley’s ruling scrutinized the economic orders, stating they infringed



Holden Rhodes donated \$25,000 to the Freedom Convoy cause and as a result, had his bank account frozen.

on protesters’ freedom of expression and violated Charter rights by allowing unreasonable search and seizure of financial information.

The judge acknowledged the potential for serious violence but asserted that it did not meet the Act’s requirements, particularly as the situation at

Coutts had been resolved without violence. The government argued that the measures were targeted, proportional and temporary, emphasizing the threat to national security.

Holden Rhodes, who owns the Killarney Mountain Lodge and has a stake in Manitoulin Brewing Company, donated \$25,000 to the protest against the COVID-19 vaccine measures despite having received government subsidies for his businesses. He spoke with The Expositor about Justice Mosley’s decision saying, “I think Federal Court Justice Richard Mosley considered the evidence before him and provided a well-reasoned decision concluding, among other items, that there was no national emergency and that the federal government’s decision to declare one was unreasonable and ultra vires of the Emergencies Act. The Emergencies Act was renamed in 1988, replacing much of what was previously



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Post office, BMO building listed for sale by Township of Assiginack

by Tom Sasvari
 MANITOWANING—The building that houses both the post office and the Bank of Montreal offices at 115 Arthur Street in Manitowaning has now been declared as surplus by Assiginack township and is now going to be offered for sale by tender.

“At our last meeting we had decided that the building would be declared surplus,” said Councillor Dwayne Elliott who inquired as to an update on the process being followed.

Alton Hobbs, chief administrative officer for Assiginack, told council, “A package has gone to our solicitor and the tender package should be out the first week in March and will be advertised in The Expositor, the township website and on social media.”

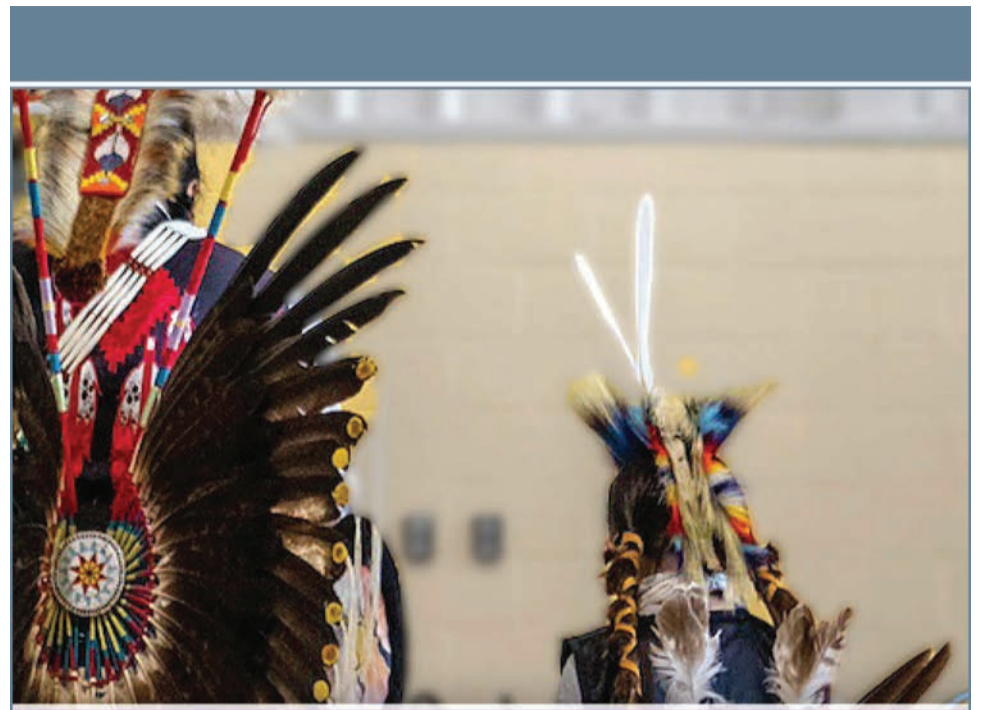
As had been previously reported, Assiginack has had two engineer reports carried out on the building and council has looked at the cost of rebuilding the building to

code or constructing a new building. Mayor Brenda Reid indicated the costs are astronomical for each option. She pointed out that should the municipality fix the building (to remain as the building landlord), Assiginack would not make enough revenue to make this worthwhile and that all these costs would be borne by the taxpayers.

To repair the building will cost an estimated \$1,322,100. New construction would cost \$1,724,380. A third option had been proposed by Mayor Reid (which council supported), to put the building up for sale by tender.

The township also had the building appraised and this amount was \$175,000.

Mr. Hobbs told The Expositor after last week’s meeting that the new owner of the building would be taking over the existing leases with Canada Post and the Bank of Montreal which expire in 2026 and 2028.



NOOJMOWIN TEG HEALTH CENTRE ROUND DANCE “Honoring our Families”

Saturday, March 2, 2024

WHERE: 4 Directions Complex
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DRUG AND ALCOHOL-FREE EVENT
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For more information, contact:
 Shawna Jacko
 MMIWG Cultural Support/Anishinabek
 Services Coordinator
 shawna.jacko@noojmowin-teg.ca
 Mobile: (705) 968-0782

4:00pm - Pipe Ceremony with a Feast to follow
 6:00pm - Round Dance
 11:00pm - Giveaway and light snacks/refreshments

MC: Darren McGregor
 Stick Man: Robert Stonepoint
 Head Elder: Gerry Kaboni

Invited Singers:
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 • Gerry McComb
 • Thaila Sarazin
 • Chris Simpson-Johnston
 • Lee Simpson-Johnston
 • + Additional singers to be acknowledged



For more information, visit Noojmowin-teg.ca or call (705) 368-0083



Dressed up dogs

The Manitoulin DogKnits booth, operated by Karen Keshen, was one of the busiest vendor tables at the Kagawong winter market held in mid-February.

photo by Tom Sasvari

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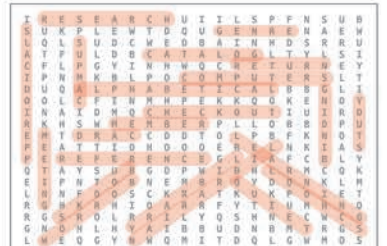
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S	U	K	P	L	E	W	T	D	Q	U	G	E	N	R	E	N	A	E	W
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L	W	E	Q	G	Y	N	W	Q	M	I	T	D	Q	L	G	W	M	O	S

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ALPHABETICAL
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- BORROW
- CAMPUS
- CARD
- CATALOG
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Winter carnival fun and games blossom across Manitoulin Island and beyond

Whitefish River First Nation hosts winter fun

by Michael Erskine

BIRCH ISLAND—The sun was shining brightly on the crowd gathered outside the Whitefish River First Nation fire hall as the community celebrated its 51st Winter Carnival with plenty of fun family games and camaraderie. The laughter and encouragement as competitors sawed logs, tossed frying pans and other outdoor activities was infectious. The list of events was impressive and culminated in a family

gala where Awesome Auntie Marti Pitawanakwat and Awesome Uncle Curtis Nawehgahbow were honoured with their titles. The competition was tough. “We had to do some kind of crazy call and do a jigging dance,” she laughed. “There was quite a few of us there.”

Aunties and Uncles are the volunteer backbone of most community activities, and the recognition of their efforts was particularly appropriate at a community event that depends on their help to make things happen.

Meanwhile, the community hall was a buzz with laughter and happy children as they did crafts and visited vendors and community groups who were raising funds for their various causes. Popcorn, candy floss joined chili and scone on offer at the canteen to help keep the energy level up.



Awesome Auntie Marti Pitawanakwat and Awesome Uncle Curtis Nawehgahbow.

dance Saturday night.

The carnival began on Thursday, February 22 with a winter carnival pageant and



The frying pan toss was a popular competition. But (inset) there was at least one equipment casualty.



Almost there... the log sawing competition provided a great opportunity for some good-natured teasing.



Popcorn and candy floss were big hits during the Whitefish River First Nation winter carnival.

Sheshegwaning FN held a Winter Fun Day



Dean Roy, right in photo, tries his hand in the nail driving competition at the Sheshegwaning Winter Fun Day.



Scarlett Roy was one of the many participants in the balloon stomp game.

photos by Tom Sasvari



Children and adults had a lot of fun in the three-legged race.



Who has the fastest slapshot?

Kagawong celebrated Family Day in style



Liam Campbell of Manitoulin Streams provided information and answered questions from residents at a booth set up at the Family Day Kagawong Winterfest.



Billings township volunteer firefighter Jim Chambers is shown boiling maple syrup to make yummy candy.



Trapper Ian Anderson shared information on animal furs on Manitoulin, trapping, animal tracks and more in the Park Centre.

photos by Sharon Jackson



There was a huge crowd on hand for the Family Day Kagawong Winterfest events held on Monday, February 19. Sliding was a big hit behind the Park Centre.

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...Retiring physician means possible unrostering of 700 patients

...continued from page 1 part in their healthcare for the past 25 years.”

Dr. McDonald told The Expositor that Dr. Barss has 700 patients rostered to his practice, 100 of which are with located outside the catchment area due to moving away but remaining rostered. Under the terms of FHTs in Ontario, all patients located outside of a FHT’s catchment area will be unrostered once a physician retires. This still leaves 600 patients who may soon find themselves without a physician come May 1.

“Every patient (of Dr. Barss) will be sent a letter stating their options: a nurse practitioner virtual clinic, prescriptions refills for a year, transferring health records, a letter of follow-up that can be presented to either a walk-in clinic or a new practitioner or, in cases requiring urgent care, a visit to the emergency department.

Dr. McDonald told The

Expositor that there are already about 150 patients on the waitlist for the Little Current Clinic who have no family doctor. How these people, plus those 600, will be dealt with in terms of first come, first served, should a new physician be found is still an unknown.

“We are working hard at trying to figure out a way to give unrostered, but in-catchment (area) patients at least some services at the FHT in the future,” Dr. McDonald continued. “We’ve never done that before and don’t know for sure if we will be able to. There are lots of roadblocks and sacrifices. It certainly won’t be the same type of service offered previously if we are able to do it.”

There are also unrostered patients at Manitoulin Central FHT, who were left without a physician when Drs. Sebastian and Mitchell left the practice. Dr. Maurianne Reade told The

Expositor that they are also actively recruiting for replacements doctors, but those patients are still able to access care from the FHT, such as nurse practitioners.

A heavy workload

On top of running clinics at the FHT, physicians are also expected to take shifts in the Manitoulin Health Centre emergency room and inpatient unit. Dr. Cooper is the medical director of the Wikwemikong Nursing Home and he and Dr. Mackeracher take turns each week going there for the day. Both physicians are part of the NMFHT.

Similarly, Dr. Poenn is the medical director of Manitoulin Centennial Manor and Dr. McDonald also goes there and shares the responsibilities of taking calls from the nurses when a physician is not present.

“Collectively, we have just under 6,000 patients in all our practice locations,

not including the nursing homes,” Dr. McDonald explained. “Dr. Quackenbush goes to Aundeck Omni Kaning (AOK), Drs. Cooper and Meikleham to Whitefish River First Nation and we all go to Wiikwemkoong regularly to see our patients. Patients who live in Sheguiandah First Nation and most of the patients in AOK come to the Little Current clinic to see us.”

Drs. Quackenbush and Barss (with the help of Dr. Gillanders from Mindemoya) run maternity/obstetrics clinics twice a week for the whole Island and beyond and are on call for delivering babies.

Other than the possibility of Dr. Barss unrostered patients losing all services at the FHT, “there is no plan for any of the rest of the physician group to change physician services to any of the communities within our catchment area which includes NEMI, Whitefish River, AOK, Sheguiandah and Wiikwemkoong,” Dr. McDonald assured.

“Most, if not all of the First Nations clinics have their own community health nurses not affiliated with family health teams who can provide pap tests, immunizations/injections, well baby care, etc.,” Dr. McDonald continued. “Homecare services and wound care by nurses are also separate from the family health team. Noojmowin Teg also has nurse practitioners and doctors that go to all the First Nations and we encourage patients to reach out to them if they are Indigenous and wish to access their services.”

“We want to be able to service everyone but there just aren’t enough hours in the day,” she added.

“Money’s not the problem, it’s the bodies,” said

NMFHT director Judy Miller. “The group is burning out.” Ms. Miller noted that the Little Current emergency department was staffed throughout January by locum physicians from Alberta. “Come March, we’re back to bare bones.”

Recruitment

Next month, Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC) will play host to a community site visit through the Practice Ready Ontario program.

“Practice Ready Ontario streamlines the process for internationally trained family physicians or general practitioners who have completed post-graduate training and have an established track record of work in another country to practice in Ontario,” the Touchstone Institute website states. (The Touchstone Institute has been tasked with implementing the program.) The aim is to see 50 new physicians practicing in Ontario by the first year of the program.

Dr. McDonald explained that there are 31 candidates and 41 sites approved under the program, MHC being one of them. Should a physician candidate choose a site, they are given three months to test it out. If they wish to sign on, they must sign a contract for a three-year return of service to that site. The candidate would hold a restricted licence with the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons and be assigned a supervisor until they pass the Ontario exam (any time within the three-year timeframe).

And as always, the MHC recruiter has been working tirelessly to entice new physicians, as well as locums, to Manitoulin.

“We will continue to work ferociously on the recruitment of new physicians who can help provide

care again to any patients who are affected by this and future retirements,” Dr. McDonald said. “Part of our recruitment strategy is to make sure the job we are asking new physician hires to do will be sustainable so that we are able to retain them long term.”

Community involvement

Dr. McDonald and Ms. Miller are hoping to resurrect the NMFHT community advisory committee with potentially new faces to the mix. The goal is to have a range of community members that could assist with new recruits and their families, people who can help answer questions about the programs and services on Manitoulin as well as to offer suggestions on how to get involved, help spouses find work, childcare, recreation etc.

“A new graduate won’t have a lot of finances at the start,” Dr. McDonald explained, pointing to the cost of schooling and, in the case of Practice Ready Ontario, the fees involved there.

Dr. McDonald shared with NEMI council that some communities offer welcome packages to new physicians. She pointed to The Expositor’s free one-year subscription to those who have just moved to Manitoulin as an example. Gift certificates from businesses, a break on rent until they become established, a signing bonus from the municipality are some techniques other communities use, she shared.

Patients of Dr. Barss will be receiving their letters in the mail or electronically soon. To read the formal notice, please see Page 18 of this newspaper.

...supporter pleased with high court’s call

...continued from page 1

known as the War Measures Act. The Emergencies Act is an act of last resort and, prior to February 14, 2022, had not been invoked since its enactment in 1988. Before that, the War Measures Act was only invoked three times since its enactment in 1914 being the First World War, the Second World War and the October 1970 FLQ crisis.”

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre swiftly criticized both the government and Prime Minister Trudeau personally, asserting, “He instigated the crisis by fostering division.” Mr. Poilievre expressed on social media platform X, “He then violated Charter rights to suppress citizens illegally. As Prime Minister, I pledge to unify our country for the cause of freedom.”

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh reluctantly acknowledged his party’s support for the Emergencies Act’s invocation, attributing the crisis to a direct failure of Justin Trudeau’s leadership and the inaction of other levels of government. Speaking at a caucus meeting in Edmonton, Mr. Singh

stated that his party will closely monitor the appeal proceedings.

Mr. Rhodes went on to say that he thinks “the seriousness of this legislation being one of absolute last resort; the rarity of the Emergencies Act being invoked (two world wars and then by a father (1970) and son (2022)); it was revoked by the federal government nine days after it was invoked as there wasn’t support for it in the Senate; and the overwhelmingly peaceful behaviour of the protesters involved in an isolated geographic area where protests typically occur.”

Despite the government’s claim of necessity, Justice Mosley’s decision sets a precedent, emphasizing that emergency powers should be used sparingly and carefully. The government’s plan to appeal sets the stage for a potential legal battle, possibly reaching the Supreme Court of Canada. The decision contrasts with the Rouleau commission’s findings, which concluded that the Emergencies Act was appropriately invoked, citing a failure in policing and federalism during the protests.

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Notice of Medical Practice Closure – Dr. Ken Barss

With mixed emotions, I wish to announce that I will be retiring and closing my medical practice on Manitoulin effective **May 1, 2024**. Unfortunately, a replacement physician has not been found.

For further care:

- As always, for urgent or emergency medical issues, please call 911 or attend your closest emergency room.
- For non-urgent issues, if you cannot access a care provider, you can contact the North East Virtual Care Clinic to see a nurse practitioner virtually. Website: <https://www.nevirtualcare.ca/> Phone: 1-888-684-1999
- You can also access care through Ontario Health811 by calling 811 or visiting them online.
- There are other online providers for virtual care in Ontario, but some of these are not covered by the provincial insurance plan (OHIP) and there may be a fee.
- If you are Indigenous, you can access care providers through Noojmowin Teg Health Centre at (705) 368-0083.

If you need to transfer your health records to another provider, please visit the Northeastern Manitoulin Family Health Team to sign a release for them. I wish to thank my patients for allowing me to take part in their healthcare for the past 25 years. I have truly enjoyed working here. My thanks also to the people of Manitoulin for warmly welcoming my family to the Island. Manitoulin is truly a special place and we are lucky to live here.

LCPS named Jays Care affiliate school

by Tom Sasvari
LITTLE CURRENT—Toronto Blue Jays fever has apparently hit Little Current Public School (LCPS).

The school is now a Jays Care affiliate school with sponsorship through the Blue Jays Foundation, and the interest in the program from students has been incredible, said Grade 8 teacher Jennifer Casement, who spearheaded the program.

"I was blown away by the interest of the students in the Blue Jays program," stated Ms. Casement. "The kids are very excited about the program and talking about it, you will hear them



asking 'when is the next Blue Jays day?' When we launched the program, I expected we might get 30 students taking part. We have over 60 students from Grades 4-6 participating and have approximately 12 Grade 8 students helping out in being captains and providing leadership and equipment managers."

Ms. Casement said she noticed a few things last fall around the school community and an increased interest from the students in baseball and the Blue Jays, a need for new equipment and (most recently) a need for this type of programming in the winter months. Ms. Casement, with the help of a few other teachers, are delivering this eight week 'fun-damental' program filled with skills, drills and games to the Grade 4-6 students. "The program consists of four weeks of games, mirroring the spring training program our Toronto Blue Jays are currently attending in Florida, along with four weeks of a round-robin tournament (aligned with the Blue Jays' opening day in April). There is a

strong sense of community and fun at LCPS, along with a love of baseball."

The Jays Care Affiliate program sponsorship is open to schools in remote areas and Indigenous schools. "Schools apply, as I did in the fall. We were accepted and received free equipment and an eight week program outline from the Blue Jays. The first part is to mirror the Blue Jays in the spring training focusing on 'fun-damental' skills, drills and games," said Ms. Casement. "The whole program will provide a spring training before the kids get involved in baseball and softball in the summer and fall ball with the Island elementary school tournament.

"In April we will be holding an indoor round-robin tournament over four weeks," said Ms. Casement. "I wanted to start the program for the students to have fun, get out and get moving and allow all of them to be able to be part of a team, work on some skills and drills. All while having fun. The socialization is very important for the students."

"We received 15 new baseball gloves for the school," said Ms. Casement, who has lived on the Island for the past three years. "We needed new equipment and for the kids to have more socialization and a fun activity, post COVID."

in memoriam

ROWLAND—In loving memory of Charles Rowland. My love, Another year has passed since you were called home. Now you can join Ma and Pa on special occasions who were called home before you. Now my love, all we have left are the old memories to hold in our hearts and prayers when thinking of you. Taking a stroll alongside us, if only in our dreams. So will say adios, amigo. Till we meet again, My love, gone but not forgotten, so will be in our memory and prayers. With love, Sheila, Lilly and family, Clarence and family, nieces and nephews. **41p**

STRAIN—In loving memory of a dear brother and uncle, Harold, who passed away March 1, 1980. He meant so much to us, But nothing we can say, Can tell the sadness in our hearts. We think of him each day, He was always true and tender, He lived his life for those he loved. And those he loved, he remembered. Sadly missed, Gary, Elva, David, Jim and Karen **41c**

McQUARRIE—In loving memory of John McQuarrie who passed away March 1, 2022. Rest in peace eternal. Our love forever, Arlene and family **41p**

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services

Are you a cancer survivor and need someone to talk to on Manitoulin? Meetings are held monthly on a rotating basis around the Island. Sunday, March 24 at the Manitowaning Family Health Team from 2 to 4 pm and Wednesday, April 24 at the Mindemoya Council Chambers from 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, bnanncc@gmail.com. Ask us your questions, tell us your concerns. **Tfn**

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

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**

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

coming events

Knox United Church Rummage Sale in Manitowaning is open Wednesdays to Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm. Clothing, household, books and miscellaneous. **37-41p**

Come one, come all to the Little Current United Church Hall on March 1 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. **40-41p**

Worlds Day of Prayer at Silver Water United Church on Thursday, March 7 at 11 am. Lunch at Stop 540 Diner; UCW meeting held at the Silver Water United Church at 1:30 pm. All ladies are welcome! Bring a friend! Come to all or any part of the day. **40-41c**

St. Patrick's Day potluck supper, Sunday, March 17 at 5 pm at the Silver Water hall. Admission is a cash donation with proceeds for the Angel Bus our objective is to raise \$500. Hosted by the Silver Water United Church. **41-43p**

Come celebrate St. Patty's Day with us at the Sheguiandah Seniors' Hall, March 17 from 4:30 to 6 pm. Serving Irish stew, bread, pistachio dessert, tea and coffee. \$25 each. **41-43p**

notice

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

church services

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

thank you

Jon and I wish to thank all those who sent cards, food, plants and calls after the passing of our husband and father, David Organ. We would also like to give a big thanks to Dr. Barss, Anne Gervais and Dr. Jeffery for taking such good care of David over the years. **41p**

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**

Husqvarna or Stihl chainsaw, 90cc or bigger. Will trade for maple firewood. Call 705-358-5904. **40-41p**

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**

rental

Furnished, newly renovated, open concept apartment for rent in Providence Bay. Suitable for one person or a couple. Close to beach. Call/text 416-994-8508 for details. **40-41c**

McDermid Rink takes Providence Bay ladies' bonspiel

by Tom Sasvari

PROVIDENCE BAY—Team McDermid won the first event at the Providence Bay Curling Club annual ladies' bonspiel held February 16-18.

The McDermid team defeated the Sherry Forest rink in the first event final. The McDermid rink included Pam McDermid, Angela Johnston, Suzanne Jackson and Bev McDermid. They were presented with the Glenda Campbell Memorial Plaque by Nancy Head for winning the first event.

The winner of the second event was Team Allen. Team Allen included Brittany Allen, Sharon Allen, Joanne Mellan and Robin Cooper. They were presented with the Colleen Edwards memorial plaque by Jack White. The runner-up in the second event was Team Orford, made up of

Kim Orford, Regan Millsap, Katherine Tipper and Sharon Stephens.

The BayMouth Babes rink won the third event. The rink included Lenora Tann, Lorie Leeson, May Bowerman and Janet Anning. They defeated Team Whitby which included Alex Liscano, Sarah Gray, Ann Wind and Colleen Beirness.

Barbie was this year's theme for the bonspiel which included sixteen teams.

"We would like to recognize and thank our local businesses and community members who support us with donations throughout the year and at our bonspiels. With their support, we are able to have successful and fun bonspiels and they help keep our curling club operational," said Patti Jo Woods.



The Providence Bay Curling Club held its annual ladies bonspiel February 16-18. The winners of the first event who were presented with the Glenda Campbell Memorial Plaque was from left Nancy Head, Bev McDermid, Angela Johnston, Pam McDermid and Suzanne Jackson.



Jack White presented the second event winners with the Colleen Edwards Memorial Plaque. The rink included Brittany Allen, Sharon Allen, Joanne Mellan and Robin Cooper.

photos by Patti Jo Woods

Death Notices

PAULETTE VIRGINIA MILLER

(nee Hotte)

September 21, 1950 - February 15, 2024



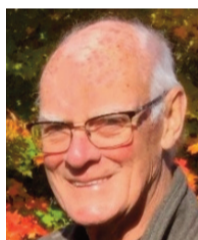
In loving memory of Paulette Virginia Miller (nee Hotte), who passed away peacefully at the Mindemoya Hospital on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at the age of 73. Forever loved and missed by her husband Ron Miller. Loving mother of Julie (Robert) Huc, Ryan (Katie) Robertson, Jennifer Peeble-Miller and James (Jennifer) Miller. Cherished grandmother of Allyson Huc, Emmalie Huc, Austin Peeble, Audrena Peeble, Logan Miller, Madison Miller and Decan Miller. Predeceased by her parents Celestin and Elisabeth Hotte (nee Osmond). Sister of Sandra (Daniel) Grainge (both predeceased), Donna Barr (predeceased), Brenda (Fritz) Hotte and Lori (Edward) Dzingala. Aunt of Robert (Bobby) Brooks, Steven Brooks, Leah Barr (Patrick Brown), Edward "Eddie" (Kristine) Dzingala and Scott "Scottie" Dzingala. Great-aunt of Ayala Brown. Paulette will be missed by many friends. Cremation has taken place. Family and friends gathered at Simpson Funeral Home on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 10:30 am. Please pass on condolences and share a memory through the Simpson Funeral Home, Gore Bay, Ontario, www.simpsonfuneralhome.ca.



Death Notices

BRIAN GARRATT

1934 - 2024



On February 14, 2024, Brian Garratt passed away with family at his side at the Manitoulin Health Centre, Mindemoya on Manitoulin Island. He was in his 90th year. Brian was born in Beighton, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England on May 3, 1934. During his youth Brian developed an interest in design that led him to earn a Diploma in Architecture from the Birmingham School of Architecture in 1957. He became an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects and, after moving to Canada with his wife Kathleen in 1958, he became a member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Brian's first job in Canada was with the architectural firm of Kyles and Kyles, which was in Hamilton, Ontario. A few years later Brian opened his own office in Stratford called Kyles, Kyles and Garratt. Brian completed many prominent projects in Stratford and the surrounding area. He also served the community as a long-time member and President (1969-70) of the Kiwanis Club. After retiring from the architectural practice of Garratt and Marklevitz in 1994, Brian and Kathleen moved to Manitoulin Island where they built the family's log home on Ice Lake. Brian was an active member of the St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Kagawong. Friends described Brian as caring, ethical and kind. He fostered long-lasting relationships built upon mutual respect. Brian was a skilled craftsman, as was reflected in his paintings, furniture building and wood carvings. His common sense and calm approach to solving even the most complex problems was a valued trait that will be missed by his children. Brian was deeply loved and will be cherished in memory by his wife of 67 years, Kathleen Garratt, and his family. He is survived by his children, Deborah (Jim Provias), Sandra (Paul Martin), Karen, Rodney (Jada Garratt), and Linda (Brian Melnick), grandchildren Angela, Marc, Charlotte, Hayden, Michelle, Kory, Lauren, Robin, Malcolm, Simon and Emmanuel, and great-grandchildren Austin, Alexandra, Chance and Willow. Brian was preceded in death by great-grandchild baby Logan. The family would like to acknowledge their appreciation for the compassionate care provided by staff at the Manitoulin Health Centre. Please pass on condolences and share a memory through the Simpson Funeral Home, Gore Bay, Ontario www.simpsonfuneralhome.ca. In memory of Brian, donations may be made to St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church at 184 Main Street, Kagawong, ON, P0P 1J0. A private family Celebration of Life will be held in the summer on Manitoulin Island.

PATRICK RUSSEL McCOLMAN

March 16, 1940 - February 12, 2024



With great sadness we announce the passing of Patrick Russel McColman, father, husband, uncle and friend. He passed peacefully after a short illness at Health Sciences North on February 12, 2024. Born in North Bay in 1940, Patrick married his beloved wife Madeline on December 31, 1961. They lived in Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury, eventually settling on Manitoulin Island where they lived for 28 years. Although Patrick was involved in a life-changing mining accident in 1974, he never wavered in his commitment to his family and his community. He had a strong desire for service and he showed this trait as a councillor with the Billings Township on Manitoulin Island. Always devoted to serving his community, he was the founding Captain of the #2915 Irish Army Cadets of Canada (Capreol), a Life Member of 45 years as a 3rd degree Knights of Columbus member and a long-time member of the Lions Club. Other non-profit organizations he volunteered his time with were the Red Cross and the Royal Canadian Legion. He spent his retirement years woodworking, repairing small engines and on the creative side, enjoyed working with stained glass and baking. He was a determined man who never took no for an answer. He spoke of the need to never give up and many can attest to this trait with stories and experiences. Patrick is survived by his daughters, Patricia Dunnet (Doug) and Cynthia Fitzgerald (Travis); grandchildren Kennedy Banyard (Robert), Avery Fitzgerald, Liam Fitzgerald (Jessie), Cameron Dunnet (Hilary) and Cas Dunnet. Fondly remembered by sister-in-law Barbara McColman, Cathy Pankuch (Tony), Eileen Sobkowich (Ed), Dorothy Doebele (Werner), Lawrence Oster (Kathy), Brian Oster, John Oster, Diane Senger (Larry); many nieces and nephews and by special friends Steve and Helen Killam. He was predeceased by his children Ernest and Victoria, and his loving wife Madeline; parents Gertrude and Ernie, and brothers Raymond (Alma) and Reginald; in-laws Leo and Margaret Oster, Leo Oster Jr., James Oster, Joan McTavish (Ken), Nora Paulenko (George), Rhonda Oster, and Norma Oster. Funeral services will be announced at a later date. Donations can be made to the Royal Canadian Legion or a charity of your choice.

ARTHUR HENRY JOSEPH

OSTERKRUGER

1940 - 2020



We knew this day would come, just not when, that we would have to write an obituary for our dad, brother-in-law, uncle and friend to many. Joe's family has recently learned that he passed away in his 80th year at his home in Toronto in January 2020. The youngest child of Pete and Jenny

(Muenster) Osterkruger, Joe was born and raised in Gordon Township. The family eventually moved to Gore Bay, settling into their home on New Street. Many will remember Joe from his years living and working on Manitoulin, primarily in Gore Bay. He was gregarious, kind, lovable (and oh so handsome!). Joe moved to Toronto in the mid 60s where he married and had two daughters. There was no happily ever after for the young couple and divorce followed. Joe and his oldest daughter returned to the family home in Gore Bay to live with his mother Jenny. The death of Jenny in 1974 started a chain reaction of events that dramatically impacted Joe. He eventually returned to Toronto where he lived for almost three decades. Joe was a sensitive individual who struggled with a personal and complex sadness that kept him absent from the family who loved him. Joe is survived by his daughters Karen and Cathy, grandchildren Lily and Sawyer, brother-in-law Barkley Hawkins, sister-in-law Betty Johns, and a bouquet of nieces and nephews included in the Towns, Hawkins, Osterkruger, Kruger, Ogsten and Bailey families. In Heaven, along with Pete and Jenny, Joe is reunited with his siblings Karen, Edith, Gus, Archie, Armand, Evelyn, Mysa and Molly. The Joe we all remember was a kind and loving man who was full of laughter, willing to lend a helping hand, who stuttered but always got his point across and one who will never be forgotten. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

*There is no night without a dawning
No winter without a spring
And beyond the dark horizon
Our hearts will once more sing...
For those who leave us for a while
Have only gone away
Out of a restless, care worn world
Into a brighter day.*

- Helen Steiner Rice



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Island Indigenous businessperson helps forge The Road Ahead at future of food event

by Michael Erskine

OTTAWA—Island businessman Nishin Meawasige was recently invited to appear on a panel discussing The Road Ahead—Building bridges for the future.

Mr. Meawasige, co-owner and partner of Manitoulin Brewing Company was joined by moderator Kallie Wood, president and CEO of the National Circle for Indigenous Agriculture and Food (NCIAF) and fellow panelists Jolene Johnson, CEO and founder of Wabanaki Maple, Isaiah Robinson, deputy chief councillor of Kitsoo Xai'xais Nation and general manager of the Kitsoo Development Corporation in British Columbia.

The panelists were part of the Future of Food event held last week at Ottawa's Shaw Centre and during their 45-minute panel discussion, they explored what industry stakeholders are now calling "a generational opportunity available to entrepreneurs, businesses and organizations interested in entering the fields of agriculture and agri-processing."

"Most importantly, it was about elevating our current local farmers and food producers and letting the industry at large know that Manitoulin Island and Northern Ontario has much to contribute to this industry," noted Mr. Meawasige. "The panel was about recognizing the prominent role Indigenous individuals, communities, businesses and associations have in helping advance this industry towards regenerative and holistic approaches at scale. Indigenous traditional teachings and beliefs are needed more now than ever to support local, regional, national and global food security."

Ms. Johnson's East Coast company, Wabanaki Maple, creates a unique maple syrup product by aging the syrup in bourbon barrels, while Mr. Robinson oversees the operations of a British Columbia salmon farm. Mr. Meawasige's operation, Manitoulin Brewing Company, has garnered impressive awards for their beers named for iconic Island features.

"There were 750 participants at the conference, including university students, multi-national corporations, businesses and government officials and educational institutions" drawn from across the continent, he noted.

Indigenous communities harbour a largely under tapped resource of labour, an important consideration in these days of labour shortages. "It was also a great opportunity to showcase and speak on Indigenous agricultural practices and their role in sustainability," he noted. Those practices go back millennia, such as the mutually advantageous interaction of the famed three sisters, beans, squash and corn—traditionally grown together in Indigenous agriculture.

The Future of Food conference attracted an impressive battery of speakers, including Michael McCain of Maple Leaf Foods, Bob McDonald, host of CBC's Quirks and Quarks, The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, federal min-



Nishin Meawasige, co-owner and partner of Manitoulin Brewing Company, second from left, was joined by moderator Kallie Wood, right, and fellow panelists Jolene Johnson, CEO and founder of Wabanaki Maple, Isaiah Robinson, deputy chief councillor of Kitsoo Xai'xais Nation and general manager of the Kitsoo Development Corporation in British Columbia.

ister of agriculture and agri-food, Alanna Koch, board chair of the Global Institute for Food Security and a host of others.

"Manitoulin Island provides a perfect example of the kinds of things that are taking place in creating sustainable agriculture and agri-food production," noted Mr. Meawasige, who said he was pleased to have the opportunity to introduce Manitoulin on a national stage—but he noted that a remarkable number of people he met at The Future of Food were actually aware of Manitoulin Island. "I was surprised at how many people not only had already heard about Manitoulin, but knew where it was," he chuckled.

Indigenous communities harbour a large workforce that despite being highlighted in the Ontario Growth Plan remains far too underutilized, noted Mr. Meawasige. First Nations and Indigenous communities not only represent one of the largest available labour forces in the North, they also have a wealth of traditional knowledge on how to approach agriculture from a sustainable perspective that remains largely untapped.

The benefits of encouraging greater Indigenous participation in the agricultural industry are immense—with estimates of a boost exceeding \$1.5 billion in primary agriculture's contribution to the nation's gross domestic product.

That is not to say there are not already many Indigenous farmers out there—there are 5,405 Indigenous farmers according to the last census. That represents 2.1 percent of the total farm operators in Canada but falls short of the five percent Indigenous people make up of the entire population—meaning there is plenty of room for expansion—to hit parity, there will need to be 7,731 Indigenous farm operators, roughly a 140 percent increase. The increase from the previous census was five percent, so there is a far way to go yet.

GDP related to Indigenous primary farming operations was estimated to be \$351 million, or one percent of Canada's primary agriculture GDP in 2021 against the GDP contribution of non-Indigenous farm operations level at \$35.9 billion. The estimated primary agriculture GDP per farm operator was \$64,900 for Indigenous and \$140,100 for non-Indigenous, for a GDP per farm disparity of \$75,200—a result of historical challenges related to the Indian Act, the '60s Scoop and other social barriers that have kept Indigenous communities out of the economic prosperity loop.

"This isn't about me," insists Mr. Meawasige as the interview concludes, but through forums such as the The Road Ahead—Building bridges for the future the word on Indigenous agriculture is getting out there and that is thanks in part to successful Indigenous entrepreneurs such as stepping up to offer insight to the industry.

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

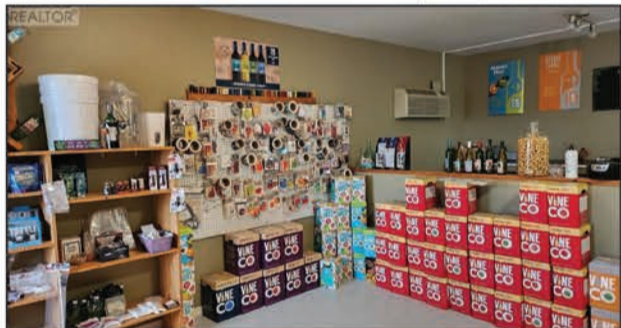


The busy **SPRING MARKET** ☀️ is around the corner and inventory is very limited!
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PRISTINE COTTAGE ON LAKE MINDEMOYA HAS IT ALL!
Northwest facing 1.5 storey cottage with wonderful views to enjoy those spectacular sunsets. The main open concept dining/living room area with cathedral ceiling has access via sliding doors to an expansive deck that overlooks the waterfront and provides new stairs down to the lake. The living room area has a WETT certified woodstove fireplace with stone hearth to keep you warm on chilly nights. In addition, the cottage features a main floor kitchen, large 5pc bathroom, the primary bedroom and a 2nd bedroom. The large open concept loft area has plenty of room and is presently providing 4 beds for the grandkids but this space has the potential for other uses. As well, the loft has an office space/nook area with a sliding door to an adorable balcony. The detached garage is 20' X 24' and has concrete floors, exposed stud walls and exposed floor joist/plywood ceilings. The garage has a second floor/loft area for additional storage. The crawlspace, comprised of concrete block walls, houses the utilities and additional storage. The site is landscaped with grass, flower gardens and mature trees.
A must see! Call now to book your showing!

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MLS#2113108 - Little Current,
\$98,500



88 ACRES WITH STUNNING 4800 SQ.FT. ESTATE HOME AND 6 GARAGE BAYS
MLS#2114222 - Manitowaning,
\$1,785,000



CUSTOM BUILD ON 9.3 ACRES WITH SEPARATE GARAGE IN TEHKUMMAH
MLS#2114258 - Tehkummah,
\$499,900



FURNISHED TURNKEY HOME AND INCOME PROPERTY IN LITTLE CURRENT
MLS#2113815 - Little Current,
\$329,000



RESIDENTIAL BUILDING LOTS ON COCKBURN STREET, LEVEL AND READY TO BUILD ON
MLS #2113839 - Little Current,
\$49,000



LARGE GROUND FLOOR SPACE THAT IS A BLANK CANVAS FOR YOUR NEXT BUSINESS
MLS#2108753 - Little Current,
\$155,000



SPRAWLING 5 BED, 2 BATH RAISED RANCH WITH 3-CAR GARAGE & 566 FEET OF NORTH CHANNEL WATERFRONT
MLS#2111420 - Little Current,
\$600,000



WATER ACCESS LOT ON YEAR ROUND ROAD
MLS#2113802 - Manitowaning,
\$79,900



90+ ACRES WITH RENOVATED 3 BED, 3 BATH HOME WITH STUDIO APARTMENT & WALKING DISTANCE TO DOWNTOWN
MLS#2113910 - Mindemoya,
\$699,000

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Brokerage Listings



2989 HWY 540, Honora Bay
MLS 2114967 | \$60,000



20 Third Ave, Manitowaning
MLS 2114785 | \$449,900



CONDITIONAL PENDING

4 Margaret St, Mindemoya
MLS 2114868 | \$799,000



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



NEW LISTING

949 Lakeshore Rd, Tehkummah
MLS 2115273 | \$599,000



PT LT 16 CON 3 PERCH LAKE
MLS 2114428 | \$48,000



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



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



26-27 Bay Estates Rd S, NEMI
MLS 2114678 | \$56,900



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



6 Sandy Point Rd, Manitowaning
MLS 2112427 | \$244,900



NEW LISTING

2-5 McBane Ln, Little Current
MLS 2115278 | \$440,000

FEATURE LISTING

15786 HWY 6, Manitowaning



MLS 2114937 | \$399,000



Detached Garage

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MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR

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Little Current, Manitoulin Island

Wednesday, February 28, 2024



Now and Then

A Celebration of Life on Manitoulin
Mnaachtoong Maadsewin



Richard and Sharon Stephens

The Stephens live in a well-wooded area that is an ancestral location for Richard. "This home and land have been in the family for five generations. We added a few rooms and made it a perfect family home for us and our children. We have six bedrooms above and a spacious downstairs."

Richard is well-known for his political role as the mayor of Central Manitoulin and his background in accounting. He operates Rainbow Accounting in Mindemoya. Sharon was a teacher and worked as a monitor and supervisor for supervised access services after retiring from teaching. The writer met Sharon in Ivan Wheale's art class years ago. Sharon's fine paintings are displayed in the living room among a charming collection of family photos.

"Paternal great grandparents Richard and Mary Stephens left the Essex area and arrived at Manitoulin Island in 1882. Over time, the family acquired 450 acres of land. Maternal great grandparents William and Elizabeth Kemp were the parents of Catherine who married



A group family photo at Christmas 2016 included Richard and Sharon Stephens, their children, children's spouses and the Stephens grandchildren.



The attractive couple on their wedding day.

Hugh Stephens. Hugh and Catherine are my paternal grandparents. My dad Ellwood was the second youngest child of eight. His father died from a falling tree he was cutting when Ellwood was three."

"Ellwood quit school at age 12 and worked and boarded at a neighbour's mixed farm, next to the Walt McDonald farm on the 14th Concession Road, Campbell Township. He met our mother Azetta Sterling while working there. Ellwood was a farmer-carpenter and eventually opened a furniture manufacturing business in Little Current, where the Laidley Stationary store is today." Richard was born in the old Red Cross Hospital in Mindemoya on August 14, 1944.

...continued on page 2A

Ice Chips and Canoe Quips

Manitoulin Minor!

Congratulations to the Gore Bay Bruins U-18s squad who won the Manitoulin Minor Hockey Championship last week. The Bruins swept the Mindemoya Thunder in their best of three series! Game 1 was Thursday with a 3-2 victory with goals scored by **Corbin Best**, **Aiden Case** and **Rylan Lock**.

In Game 2 on Friday, Gore Bay won 4-1 thanks in part to offense from **Eli Lock** (3) and **Aiden Case**!

Hats off to players: **Avery Nodecker**, **Kyle Nodecker**, **Blaec Quinlan**, **Ethan Witty**, **Aiden Case**, **Ryder Lockyer**, **Kowan Orford**, **Eli Lock**, **Jackson Chevrette**, **Alex Wilson-Zegil**, **Abby Hawke**, **Gage Patterson**, **Rylan Lock**, **Greyson Orford**, **Cody Campbell**, **Corbin Best**, **Tessa Merrylees** and **Hailey Hawke**. Not to be forgotten are some of the team staff. Their head coach is **Joel Lock**, assistant coaches **Brad Hawke** and **Travis Orford** as well as manager **Kara Hawke**!

Gore Bay's season record was 18 wins, one loss and one tie before playoff games. Here is a fun and rare fact, there were four sets of siblings: the Orfords, Locks, Hawkes and Nodeckers! That must be a record somewhere!

Panther Points!

It's playdown time! What an exciting night for the Manitoulin U-18 Lady Panthers team and fans on Friday night in the NEMI Rec Centre. It was game one of their regional playdown series that kicked off against the North Bay Jr. Lakers. In front of a huge crowd, the promise of a close, fast-paced game lived up to expectations. The Lakers jumped out to an early 2-0 lead before time expired in the first period. A bit of a slow start for home side Panthers but as usual, their players never quit.

In the second period, it was **Ava Corbieri** who opened the scoring for the Lady Panthers by banging home the rebound from a shot taken by **Nelly Toulouse**. This made the score 2-1 in favour of the Lakers but the Lady Panthers were taking the play to them. After being unable to capitalize on a golden opportunity her previous shift, **Zahara Dube** made no mistake on her next shift and buried one behind the Laker goaltender to tie the game at 2. After back-and-forth chances at both ends, the game ended in a tie as regulation time expired. This series is a first to 4 points so OT was not required to decide a winner in this game.

Coach **Scot Hughson** was, rightly, impressed with the game. "What a game!



In photo, back row, left, are Avery Nodecker, Blaec Quinlan, Ethan Witty, Ryder Lockyer, Eli Lock. Middle row left coach Joel Lock, coach Travis Orford, Kyle Nodecker, Aiden Case, Kowan Orford, Jackson Chevrette, Alex Wilson-Zegil, Abby Hawke, coach Brad Hawke. Front row left, Gage Patterson, Rylan Lock, Grayson Orford, goalie Cody Campbell, Corbin Best, Tessa Merrylees and Hailey Hawke. Missing from photo is team manager Dana Hawke.

Mustang minute

Congratulations to the Manitoulin Mustang senior volleyball squad who competed at the NOSSA championships last week, finishing fourth. Head Coach **Tina Penne-Balfe** was proud of the team as they had close games with all the teams and played the best they had all season against all strong teams. In their match against the eventual NOSSA winners, they took it to three games, winning the first set then narrowly losing the second set 25-23 and set three 15-12!

The team featured **Emery Watson**, **Harmony Panamick**, **Aspen Debassige**, **Mya Balfe**, **Saraya Eshkawkogan**, **Morgan Green**, **Maren Kasunich**, **Mackenzie Green** and assistant coach **Neil Debassige**.

Off his Rock, hockey!

Kohyn Eshkawkogan and the North York Rangers have wrapped up their 2023/24 regular season going 9-0-1 in the last 10 games! They closed out the season defeating the Toronto Red Wings 7-1 with the Rangers finishing with the most wins in the GTHL U16 AAA Division. After 36 games of league play, they wrapped the season with a 30-5-1 record and in the last 10 games are ranked No. 1 in Canada!

Kohyn is currently sitting with nine goals, 40 assists and is an incredible +70 on the season so far. Up next is the first round of the playoffs where they will take on the Don Mills Flyers. The winner of that series will advance to the league semi-finals and will earn a berth into the prestigious OHL Cup. Way to go, 'Ko Show!

As we talked about during pregame, winning is fun but not really important. The will to want to win is what is important, and our Lady Panthers left it all on the ice. It was 100 percent effort that allowed them to battle back to earn the point from this game. You could feel the happiness post-game from all team members. A special shout out to **Tessa Prior** who received the team MVP award for this game as selected by **Izzy Hughson** and approved by a huge ovation from the rest of the team! Tessa exemplified the will to win not just in this game but at practices as well. Keep it up, Tessa! This series has been what we have been working towards since the team was formed. It is awesome to see that all players are determined to work as a team to achieve this goal. Games two and three, I am sure will prove to be just as exciting as game one. Game 2 will take place in Verner on February 29 at 8:30 pm. If you can't make the trip down 17 to catch the action live, the game will be livestreamed on the **Jenny Panther** Facebook feed, wi-fi permitting."

Also, the team made the trip to Sault Ste. Marie on Saturday for a double header against the Junior Greyhounds. They were on the wrong side of 1-0 and 4-1 scores but the players played hard, keeping up their strong work ethics.

The girls have another busy week coming up, playing in Verner on Thursday night in their playdown series, then it is off to Hearst on Friday for our league playoffs. All games will be available on the Jenny Panther site!

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

...Now and Then: Richard and Sharon Stephens

...continued from page 1A

"I remember my mother sharing my being lost when I was three. We lived across from Andrew Dryden's farm. Mother contacted father telling him that she couldn't find me anywhere. Everybody was looking for me. I had decided to tour the riverside. Eventually someone spotted my white head bobbing along the shore and I was returned to safety," Richard shares. "I also recall being very cold once, walking that half mile to school. It was well known that our teacher, Mrs. Kerr, was quite strict, so I was apprehensive, approaching her with caution. She saw me, grabbed me, removed the mitts then rubbed my hands with hers. I was duly impressed with her kindness and no longer afraid."

"When I was about 17, I recall digging a hole for a fencepost with my three-year old brother Mark. He asked, 'What is the hole for?' I answered jokingly, 'I am going to bury that yappy dog of yours.' He answered, 'I am going to stop you.' 'And how are you going to do that?' 'With the hammer.' At this point he picked up the hammer and briskly applied it to my head. I saw stars for a few seconds, but then I laughed about it. It had been my fault from the start."

"I had six siblings. In order, Hugh the eldest, was 25 when he died in a construction accident in Smooth Rock Falls; Donald, the electrician, lives in Sudbury with his wife Sharon. I was next. Ruth became a



NEW CARNARVON COUNCILLOR— MR. RICHARD STEPHENS

The new councillor circa 1975.

nurse and now lives in Tillsonburg with her husband Richard Watters. Barbara also chose a nursing career. She and her husband Evert Jansen have a farm in Honora Bay. Luann, married to Cliff Butler, started as a teacher. When they moved to Texas she turned to real estate. The youngest, Mark, a cabinet maker, was 46 when he died in a car accident. His wife Patty, in Little Current, was left with five young sons."

"My childhood friend was Douglas Dryden, who lived across the road from us. His family eventually moved to Dryden's Corner. His mother, Grace, and Doug's two sisters operated

the telephone exchange there. Our dad built a general store and home for the Dryden family on the east side of Dryden's corner. The store sold gasoline, farm supplies and miscellaneous items."

"After high school, I moved to Toronto to finish my education and look for work. Dad took me to McKerrrow and surprised me with a \$100 bill before I got on the train to Toronto. I stayed with my cousin Emily Sterling and her husband Jim Harrison. Within two days I had a job selling subscriptions door to door but left soon after because that was not the job for me. I started with the Holden Company, which imported office supplies. I also enrolled in accounting and management courses. These were later supplemented at McMaster University where I finished with a professional accounting designation."

"A boarding house became my next accommodation. It was a wonderful way to meet people. When I met Sharon, in 1964, I was doing accounting for Canada Packers. I had moved into her mother's boarding house and was told no boarders were allowed to fraternize with her daughters. Initially, I had convinced her mother that I wasn't dating her daughter, despite my attraction to her. This lasted until the day her mother found Sharon sitting on my knee. I was banned from the house, but Sharon and I met secretly when she could get away."

Sharon shares a bit of her family tree. "Maternal great-grandparents were Charles and Anne (Kelly) McKenna of Irish and Scottish ancestry. Their daughter Katherine, my grandmother, born in 1880, married Louis MacDonald of Prince Edward Island. Louis, the son of John Angus and Mary MacDonald, was born in 1874. Grandmother Katherine visited with us one winter, in Toronto. She was genuinely nice and helpful too."

"My mother, Mildred, had seven brothers. When she was teaching, she met Emmett Anthony Cusack of Irish heritage. Emmett was a blacksmith, living near Charlottetown, PEI. Many families still had horses on their farms, and they kept Emmet busy. When I was little, I used to walk with my sister to the forge and sit on a horse while Dad shod it. Emmet enlisted in the army. When he returned from Europe after the war, he realized that blacksmithing was less in demand. Cars had replaced horses. He decided to try his luck in Toronto. Mildred taught school until she started her family. Sharon, born on April 24, 1946, was the third youngest. There were nine children in my family: Doreen, Bernie, Leigh, Kevin, Glen, Colleen, Sharon, Wayne, Pauline. They now live across Canada from PEI to Vancouver Island. Two siblings are deceased."

"My early memories

were riding in a buggy pulled by Billy, our horse. 'Hold up your head, Billy,' I urged him. I also liked to eat glue. When my mother told me not to eat the glue I asked my sister Colleen, 'I tasted it, and it was good wasn't it, Coddle?' (my pet name for her). One day at age five, I recall changing Wayne's diaper but didn't fasten the sides well. His diaper mess was spread everywhere and Colleen was blamed. I also recall a lightning storm. My brother Wayne was on the table. The lightning moved across

"In 1953, we moved to West Toronto, near Lake Ontario. My oldest brother Bernie had moved there earlier with Dad. Doreen remained on PEI. My mother bought some used mattresses when we moved into our first home. The mattresses were full of bedbugs and they bit my brothers. My mother burned the mattresses in the backyard! Mother got work at the Canadian National Exhibition and other places until she qualified to teach elementary school. Dad was doing mechanical repairs



Anita's boys Ryan and Liam (3).


the floor like a carpet being rolled out, knocking Wayne off the table and Leigh off his feet before it exited the house."

"I was eager to start school too before I could. I headed across the cattle field by myself and made it all the way to school. My sister had to take me home. When I did start Grade 1, I cut across the same cow field. This time I stayed in school."

for bigger companies. At 13, I went to a private girls' school, Loretto Brunswick. We wore uniforms. My favourite subjects were math and science. I worked at various summer jobs."

"I was a bit of a daredevil. At 13, my friend and I climbed up to the underbelly of the Don Valley bridge, over the express lanes. We were hanging on some of the metal rods when a

...continued on page 5A



WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES

**Whitefish River First Nation is hiring
for the following on-call/supply
opportunities:**

- On-Call/Supply Teachers
- On-Call/Supply Educational Assistants
- On-Call/Supply Custodians
- On-Call/Supply ECEs (Early Childhood Educators)
- On-Call/Supply Receptionist

Interested applicants are requested to submit a cover letter, resumé, one (1) work-related reference and one (1) character reference (with contact information) to:

**CONFIDENTIAL: "Indicate Position of Interest"
c/o Human Resources
Whitefish River First Nation
17-A Rainbow Ridge Road, P.O. Box 188;
Birch Island, ON P0P 1A0**

**Email: jobapplications@whitefishriver.ca
Fax: (705)285-4532**

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



HOUSING ASSISTANT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Full-time - Term (8-week contract) with high possibility of
extension, \$28/hour, 35 hours/week**

The Housing Assistant reports to the Housing Manager and is responsible for assisting with implementing and delivering housing programs and services. The Housing Assistant shall demonstrate good customer service skills, be highly organized, understand the value of following work plans to keep tasks on track and work independently. This Housing Assistant must have excellent interpersonal skills and be able to follow directions, combined with good questioning skills to gather the information necessary to carry out tasks.

The Housing Assistant will be responsible for:

- Recording and data entry of files for minor maintenance and renovations services to all WRFN band residential and CMHC units under the WRFN Housing Department;
- Assist with meetings as required;
- Scheduling appointments;
- Researching and organizing information pertinent to the Housing Department;
- Record any requests for assistance in the regular preventative maintenance programs and tasks in the WRFN units;
- Filing and able to maintain neat and accurate records;
- Provide weekly, monthly and quarterly reports as required;
- Other general clerical work such as photocopying, note-taking, formatting documents.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Mature individual with minimum grade 12 or equivalent or a combination of related training and experience with an interest in housing programs;
- 1-2 years of relevant work experience in an assistant role would be an asset;
- Experience working with information and database management would be an asset;
- Excellent interpersonal skills;
- Excellent written communication skills;
- Excellent computer skills and ability to use Microsoft Office and web-based conferencing platforms (Zoom, MS Teams, etc.);
- Good understanding of the protection of privacy and confidential information.

OTHER:

- Cultural sensitivity; ability to work with all members of the community;
- Ability to understand and follow written guidelines, policies and procedures;
- Well organized and able to prioritize.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

**Interested applicants must submit a current cover letter, resumé, one (1) work-related
reference and one (1) character reference (with contact information) to:**

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

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



Another week at Manitoulin Secondary School has drawn to a close, leaving students and staff that much closer to the March Break. Despite the anticipation of this holiday, MSS has been busy with sports, extracurricular activities, field trips and more!

A huge round of applause to the MSS Musical Theatre Group for a successful performance season! This year, students worked hard on Disney's 'Beauty And The Beast.' Every detail from the singing and dancing to the costumes made it the perfect retelling of the "tale as old as time." The hard work put into this musical paid off with a series of performances that culminated in their final show on Saturday, February 24. The auditorium saw 1,000 people gathered to watch the show over the span of two week-ends. Each night was met with a standing ovation from the audience.

Students interested in gardening had the opportunity to learn from an expert on Wednesday, February 21. A guest from Three Forks Farm came in at lunch to discuss garden planning and preparation. According to their website, Three Forks Farm specializes in growing "high-quality, safe and certified organic vegetables," making them the perfect candidates to pass on their knowledge to the next generation of gardeners.

Of course, it wasn't all business this week! On Thursday, February 22 students hit the slopes at Boogie Mountain in Espanola for a ski trip. Those new to skiing and snowboarding were able to take lessons on stopping, turning, and even using the ski lift. More experienced skiers and snowboarders spent the morning sailing down the trails, with beginners joining them later on. MSS hopes to provide another ski trip to students in the near future.

Speaking of the slopes, the MSS Alpine Ski and Snowboard team was very successful at NOSSA. Grace Pennie of the girls' ski team came in second place, Xavier Mara came first in snowboarding and Jack Pennie was first for skiing and is headed to OFSAA. Congratulations to our athletes!

For the past two weeks, students have had the opportunity to vote for their favourite Spring Formal themes. The formal, annually hosted by the Student Council, is tentatively scheduled for May. Students had to pick from three themes: Red Carpet, Golden Hour and Under the Stars. At the end of the voting period, Under the Stars won with nearly 60 percent of the votes. Community members interested in helping with the dance are asked to email the student council here: wils1162@rscloud.ca.

A Ryan Reynolds Movie Buyout is scheduled for this Friday, March 1 with tickets having been sold all week. Students who purchase tickets will get third and fourth period off to watch 'Free Guy,' starring Ryan Reynolds. The afternoon will be filled with popcorn, laughter and provide a reprieve from classes. Sports enthusiasts: don't miss your chance to showcase your skills at the upcoming badminton try-outs on February 27, 28 and 29. Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting out, everyone is encouraged to participate and give it their all. And finally, as we say goodbye to February, let's not forget that March Break begins on March 7. It's the perfect opportunity to recharge, relax, and embark on some new adventures. That is all for this week! Until next time, go, Mustangs, go!

! help wanted ! help wanted ! help wanted



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

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

Responsibilities and Duties:

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

Qualifications:

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

Requirements:

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

Salary: Commensurate with qualifications.

Closing Date: February 29, 2024 at 4:30pm

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

Contact mmaracle@gwek.ca with any questions.

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

And finally, as we say goodbye to February, let's not forget that March Break begins on March 7. It's the perfect opportunity to recharge, relax, and embark on some new adventures. That is all for this week! Until next time, go, Mustangs, go!

EDUCATION MANAGER
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Full-time with a competitive salary, group benefits and pension!

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

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

- Responsibilities:**
- Leadership and Administration:**
- Develop and implement strategic plans and educational initiatives in consultation with the Education Committee.
 - Establish policies that align with the cultural values of the Whitefish River First Nation community.
 - Coordinate and manage all education programs and services, including early childhood education, elementary, secondary, post-secondary and adult education.
- Curriculum Development and Delivery:**
- Collaborate with the principal, teachers, curriculum specialists and community members to develop culturally relevant and inclusive curriculum materials as needed.
- Budgeting and Resource Management:**
- Develop and manage the education budget, ensuring efficient resource allocation.
 - Identify funding opportunities, write proposals and coordinate financial reporting to secure and maintain funding.
- Stakeholder Engagement:**
- Build positive relationships and maintain effective communication with parents/caregivers, students, teachers, Elders, First Nation leadership and government agencies.
 - Collaborate with external partners to enhance educational opportunities, access to resources and community involvement.
- Student and Staff Support:**
- Provide guidance and support to students, parents/caregivers and teachers on educational matters.
 - Implement strategies to enhance student engagement, attendance and retention.
- Data Management and Reporting:**
- Collect and analyze data on student achievement, attendance and other educational indicators.
- Cultural Integration and Language Revitalization:**
- Promote the integration of cultural values, Anishinabek knowledge, worldview and language throughout the education system.
- System Navigation:**
- Provide education navigation and resources to students and parents/caregivers, including application assistance for post-secondary education.
- Supervision:**
- Supervise Shawanosowe School principal, day care supervisor, librarian, education assistant and bus driver(s).
 - Conduct annual performance evaluations for supervised employees.

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

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

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

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

Qualified candidates are requested to submit an application which will include an updated cover letter, resume detailing qualifications and experience as related to the position and contact information for three current professional references.

By applying, candidates permit the Whitefish River First Nation to contact any references or any past or present employers named in their application. Please indicate the position of interest and email your completed application to:

jobapplications@whitefishriver.ca to the attention of Human Resources by March 15, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. (Deadline Extended)

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

Have you ever seen an apport — solid objects that appear out of nowhere? Those who have witnessed this incredible phenomenon are understandably shocked and amazed. Are apports a sign of otherworldly activity or the power of the human mind? Either way, they are fascinating and have a profound effect on those fortunate enough to see them, as with these readers' experiences:

Definitely Wryd!

"My grandmother's family immigrated to Canada from Britain several years before World War II. For her birthday in December of 1936, my grandfather gifted her a gold gilded bible and enclosed a souvenir bookmark that commemorated the upcoming coronation of Edward VIII, scheduled for May 1937. They had polarized views on the monarch, so he playfully included it "to get her goat" it was said.

Within days, however, it was announced that Edward VIII was abdicating, and his younger brother, George VI, would instead be crowned the next King of England on that same coronation date in May. This unexpected turn of events made the bookmark very significant to my grandmother.

She had "never trusted or liked" the former Prince of Wales and thought his abdication was a blessing for the Brits, especially during the Second World War. So, to her, that bookmark (celebrating his coronation that was to never occur) was the embodiment of "Wryd," an old English word for "Fate," which my mother told me she had initially misunderstood to be "weird" as a child whenever her mother spoke of it.

And, as the family folklore went, she was forever lending it to loved ones during trying times, as though it was a magical talisman helpful in a crisis, whenever she wanted to reassure that everything will be alright in the end. It was "on loan" to others so often I don't recall even seeing it during visits to my grandparents, but I heard about it often.

Both my grandparents passed away in my youth, many years before my daughter's birth. The gold-gilded family bible (with the enclosed coronation bookmark) was bequeathed to my great-aunt, who lived in Britain.

A few years ago, shortly before her death, my mother reminisced again about that bookmark. Its recipient, my great-aunt, had died many years before, so we had no idea what became of that special keepsake, but my mom liked thinking back on how her mother enjoyed sharing that unique symbol of Wryd as she so often did.

So, having explained all of that, this is the mystical part: On my daughter's wedding day, my mother was no longer with us, and we were all missing her dearly. I also thought of my late grandmother and wished she could be there with us, too.

The day was rife with calamities, from significant issues with the flowers and catering to travel arrangements that



went horribly awry for many guests. As the day progressed, we struggled to keep our poise amidst the endless stream of last-minute problems.

Our bride's composure was on the verge of breaking when she realized that her bag, containing the essential items for the "something old, new, borrowed, and blue" tradition, had gone missing.

Trying to salvage the situation, I emptied the contents of my brand-new clutch purse onto the table beside her but doubted anything would be helpful.

My daughter, though, immediately spotted an item beneath the small pile of lipstick, eyeglasses, and tissues — an old bookmark.

It looked exactly as it had been described to me many times. We were both stunned to see it there, knowing it wasn't possible, yet my daughter stood holding it in her hand, smiling with relief.

Her bridal gown was her "something new," and the bookmark provided the "old" (from 1936), "borrowed" (from her great-grandmother), and "blue" (the colour of the embroidery woven throughout the design). And it was shared with her, when needed most, as always.

I can't possibly explain or understand how it suddenly appeared then and there as it did. But it did, and replaced the stress of that day's many mishaps with laughter and joy. And made our grandmother's presence strongly felt on that very special day."

Winter Lilacs

"A few years back, when the COVID virus struck our household, I was the last family member to catch it.

Temporarily losing my sense of smell was the worst symptom for me, but fortunately, no one else had that problem, too. But here's where things took a turn for the mysterious.

While I was down and out, battling the virus and that fever wave, the rest of my family, now mostly recovered, repeatedly mentioned an almost overwhelming scent of lilacs that would suddenly waft through the house. The catch? I couldn't smell a darn thing, so I had no idea what they were going on about.

In the dead of winter, with nothing in bloom on our bushes outside of course, and no freshly cut flowers inside, that whole "Phantom Lilac" mystery was a head-scratcher

for everyone.

I noticed it coincided with my fever spikes because whenever I felt at my worst, someone would call out that the scent had returned, permeating the whole house. And, they all agreed each time, that it smelled just like Nan, who had died years before but was always enveloped in that same scent throughout all the years she was with us.

Now, just when I thought things were odd enough, they got even stranger. As my health improved but my sense of smell wasn't restored yet, that strong floral scent was no longer detected by the rest of the family, or at least they stopped mentioning it — but then something remarkable occurred (that I could appreciate, too).

A blur of colour caught my eye outside the frosty bedroom window as I lay in bed recovering — it was a small sprig of freshly blossomed lilacs on the otherwise bare dormant bush. It was brushing against the window in the frigid breeze. But how could that be, in the dead of winter? I didn't know then and I don't know still.

It was bizarre but also a wonderful gift that I'll always think was from Nan showing me she was there. It sure lifted my mental and physical spirits, and you can bet I still have that lilac sprig, now dried and kept in a small box on the bureau that once belonged to her."

Getting To The Point

"A few years ago, my husband was in terrible pain with his sciatica. He went to a chiropractor and tried physio and massage therapy, but nothing helped.

Our eldest daughter is a great believer in acupuncture because it once helped her so much while recovering from a car accident. She wished her dad would at least try it. But he adamantly refused. The thought of being "jabbed with needles" ended all discussions with him.

One day, she called to see if he was improving and implored him again to try acupuncture at least once to see how it went. And she received the usual resistance to that idea.

After putting down his phone after their chat, he asked me what was lying in the middle of the floor in the kitchen, a few feet away from where we sat at the table. I had not seen anything there until he pointed at it, and I had no idea what the object was or how it got there.

I picked it up and examined it but still had no idea what it was. It was an extremely long, thin, sterling silver pin but I'd never seen anything like it before.

I handed it to my husband, who stared at it silently for a few seconds and then laughed a bit nervously. He knew exactly what it was because, as he explained to me, he had been researching acupuncture earlier that morning, before our daughter's call, to see how big those needles actually are. But they looked too big and painful, in the

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Noojmowin Teg Health Centre
A place of healing

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 POP 1K0
Ph.: 705-368-0083 ext. 235, Fax: 705-368-3922
Or email: debbie.francis@noojmowin-teg.ca


Deadline: Posting is open until filled

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

! help wanted

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! help wanted



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 POP 1K0
Phone: 705-368-2710 | Fax: 705-368-2694
Email: SClark@extendicare.com

...Now and Then: Richard and Sharon Stephens

...continued from page 2A

police officer on horseback spotted us and ordered us to come back down, which luckily, we did. After Grade 13, I went to Teacher's College. I was 18 when I met Richard. After I got my driver's licence, Richard was brave enough to offer his car and expertise. I started to teach in Toronto at Our Lady of Victory, my old school, and St. Pius, both Catholic schools."

Richard continues with their combined story: "We married on December 26, 1968. By then, I had won



Horses are part of daughter Anita's life.

street and said, 'you shouldn't be out here, it's not safe this late at night.' After explaining our predicament, she insisted we come home with her for the night. She made us a nice breakfast after a good night's sleep and redirected us on our journey."

Richard became an audit supervisor for DND. "I was working in Windsor when a police officer stopped me on the street. 'We need you for a line-up,' he said. I was a bit apprehensive about this request. 'What if they pick me for something I didn't even know about?'" Never-

theless, I conceded and got into the lineup. Thankfully, they didn't pick me." In 1972, Richard left the government and became the accountant for Angelo's Hardware, a wholesaler in North Toronto.

"We moved back to Manitoulin, to Gore Bay, in 1975, where I was a corporate accountant with Manitoulin Transport. Sharon was a bit reluctant to leave the south, but in time felt comfortable." They renovated and added to the family farm home in Providence Bay and moved into it in 1976. In 1977 Richard

started Rainbow Accounting which operated first in Gore Bay and later in Little Current. Richard was also team manager for his son's hockey team. "I was in that arena every second evening until my five-year-old son turned 18 and left for college." In 1989, while at a hockey game, Richard bought a house in Mindemoya and moved his business there in 1990.

"We had a cow/calf operation from 1975 to 2008 when I sold all 35 cows and 10 horses because I faced open-heart surgery. Anita had become very interested

in the horses and still works with them in Australia today. Our travels have taken us to Australia, Alabama, Florida and Georgia where a Stephens, a possible relative, was the vice president of the Confederate Government."

"Our children did well. Anita became a teacher. She met her husband Tim Crombie in Australia where his dad manages a 13,000-acre ranch harbouring 3500 sheep and various crops. Anita and Tim live on the ranch with their two boys,

...continued on page 7A



Mathew, Janine, twins Hailey Anna.

over her mother, who had convinced the priest that it was all right for her daughter to marry a Baptist protestant. The reception was a little challenging because my family were nondrinkers and Sharon's family had paid for a bar. Our honeymoon took us to New York. We saw the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building among other attractions."

"I was working in London with the DND (Department of National Defense). Sharon moved into the tiny apartment with me. We shared a bathtub with our neighbours! We soon moved into a larger apartment in west London. Sharon taught Grades 7 and 8 at

Emily Carr School. The DND office was transferred to Barrie, and we followed in 1971. By then Sharon was pregnant with Anita, and she took a parental leave in her early months."

"The DND asked me to do an audit in Germany at some army bases. I arrived at Germany first, and Sharon joined me a few weeks later. By the time the audit was completed, Sharon was six months pregnant. We toured Europe hitchhiking and by train, seeing Germany, Austria, Lichtenstein, Belgium and France. We stayed in various hostels. One late night we were in Belgium and couldn't locate our hostel. A lady stopped us on the

! help wanted

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKER

DEPARTMENT: HEALTH SERVICES - FAMILY RESOURCES
Salary Range: CS - 2 (\$45,396 - \$55,484)
Employment Status: Full Time Regular

Position Summary:

Under the supervision of the Family Resources Manager, the Community Support Worker will provide short and long-term prevention and early intervention services and programs for children, parents and families of M'Chigeeng First Nation (MFN).

The CSW will develop, assist and support after-hours programming in the community, which is primarily the objective of this position and may require transport of youth, children and families. The successful CSW will be knowledgeable of M'Chigeeng values and traditions. In addition, positive teamwork and inter-department communication is crucial, as the CSW will be making necessary outside referrals as well as connecting clients to services within the community. Establishing and maintaining cooperative and collaborative working relationships with co-workers and community members is crucial. CSWs promote healthy lifestyles and healthy child parenting, while also recognizing and reporting child abuse or neglect in the community.

Essential Functions:

- Delivery of advocacy and referral services to and for M'Chigeeng First Nation Band members.
- Delivery of education programs and services in relation to short and long-term prevention services for band members.
- Delivery of counselling services when required, life skills training and coaching.
- Delivery of proactive workshops and/or training in relation to parenting and children's services.
- Development and implementation of parenting programs for community members.
- Development and implementation of cultural awareness activities.
- Ensure effective and efficient operation of program through monthly reports, staff consultations and meetings, case conferences and community meetings.
- Maintain community linkages as it relates to the delivery of prevention services and programs.
- Ensure high level of confidentiality in all areas of prevention services.
- Understand and be able to implement knowledge of family systems.
- Maintain linkages, internal and external, to the organization to ensure effective and efficient operation of preventive services to community members.
- Work closely with the employees working directly with youth.
- Ability to apply effective programs in relation to Child & Family Services.

Qualifications & Requirements:

- Diploma in or related to the field of Social Worker, equivalent education and experience.
- Good understanding of conflict resolution and mediation processes.
- Ability to engage children, relate with youth with understanding and in a strength-based approach and promote strong healthy family values.
- Proficiency with various computer software applications.

Other:

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Strong decision making, analytical and problem-solving skills for the unpredictable nature of work.
- Knowledge and experience in involving families, community, community supports and other systems in case planning.
- Have excellent time management skills and ability to multitask and prioritize to meet deadlines.
- Must have knowledge of Anishinaabe culture, traditions, and customs.
- Ability to speak and understand the Ojibwe language would be a strong asset or the willingness to learn.
- Self-motivated, ability to work independently with minimal supervision and is a team player.
- Willing to work flexible hours and weekends and ability to work under stressful situations.
- Must have or be willing to obtain First Aid /CPR, Mental Health First Aid; Applied Suicide Intervention Skills.
- Certification in ASIST and Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVC).
- Must have a valid G License with access to own vehicle.

**The successful candidate must submit a Police VSS prior to the start of the position.

Closing Date: March 1, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

If you are interested in this employment opportunity, applicants must submit cover letter, resume with three current reference contacts (two work related and one character reference) and copies of education qualifications to:

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKER

c/o Enagdenjged

M'Chigeeng First Nation, P.O. Box 333

M'CHIGEENG, ON P0P 1G0

Fax 705-377-4980 or email to: employment@mchigeeng.ca

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

! help wanted

! help wanted



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

Reporting to the Mayor and Council, the **Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk** is responsible for the strategic leadership and efficient delivery of all the municipality's administrative and operational services. As the key advisor to Council, you have the vision to develop and implement operational plans and ensure the coordination of services which align to and support our strategic priorities. In addition, the CAO/Clerk will be responsible for the statutory duties of the Clerk. You will recommend policies, plans and programs that benefit our residents by being innovative, accountable and fiscally sound. You will work to enhance the meaningful development of our community that is consistent with our vision and values while ensuring the effective utilization of resources through the priorities as identified by Council.

To explore this opportunity please visit the Township website at <https://billingswp.ca/employment-opportunities/> and apply via email by March 1st or sooner to: careers@waterhousesearch.net quoting project TB-CAO.

Should you wish to speak to our Executive Recruiter or to receive a detailed position description please contact Amy Oliveira at: 416-214-9299 x4, amy@waterhousesearch.net or Jon Stungevicius at 416-214-9299 x1, jon@waterhousesearch.net.

Claire's 5 Picks

- 'The Missing Witness' by Allison Brennan
- 'Missing Persons' by James Patterson
- 'Coming to Find You' by Jane Corry
- 'The House of Kennedy' by James Patterson
- 'The Book of Doors' by Gareth Brown

'The Missing Witness: A key witness goes missing and Detective Kara Quinn and FBI special agent Matt

News from the Mindemoya Library Book Mice

by Claire Cline

Costa must race to find the missing witness and get to the bottom of the avalanche of conspiracies that has rocked LA to its core...before it's too late. A good read

'Missing Persons': A wealthy business man approaches Jack Morgan, head of Private, the world's

largest investigation agency, with a desperate plea to track down his daughter and grandchildren who have disappeared without a trace. What at first seems to be a simple missing persons case soon escalates into something much more deadly.

'Coming To Find You':

Nancy's mother and stepfather have been brutally killed. After a trial that gripped the nation, her stepbrother has been convicted of the double murders. But the end of the trial is just the beginning of a new nightmare for Nancy. I can't say I enjoyed this book. I read it but was glad when I was finished so I could try another!

'The House of Kennedy': The Kennedys have always been a family of charismatic adventurers, raised to take risk and excel, living by the dual family mottos: "To whom much is given,

much is expected" and "Win at all costs." And they do-but at a price. This was interesting almost written like one of James Patterson's novels. A good read.

'The Book of Doors': This is a new author for our library. A debut novel full of magic, adventure and romance. Cassie Andrews works in a New York City bookstore, shelving books, making coffee for customers and living an unassuming ordinary life—until the day one of her favourite customers, a lonely yet charming old man, dies sitting at his usual table in the store. Cassie is devastated. She always loved his stories, and now she has nothing to remember him by. Nothing, that is, but the last

book he was reading and one other he left for Cassie. But the other book, covered in faded, cracked leather, is no ordinary book. It is the Book of Doors, and so the adventure begins. A good read.

Lots of new books to get through the winter, even though Spring is in the air; I think winter is not quite finished with us yet.

Remember Mahjong is here Wednesday mornings and crocheting and knitting Tuesday afternoons.

Our next Stay In Touch—help with your computers and phones etc.—will be on Saturday, March 2 from 10 am to 1 pm. Need help come in its free and plenty of help is available.

See you at your library!

Espanola wins 99th edition of Baxter Cup

by Tom Sasvari
ESPANOLA—The Espanola Curling Club has claimed the Baxter Cup after defeating the team from the Little Current Curling Club.

"After being down points following the first round in Little Current, the Espanola men's curlers rallied for 14 points in the second round of the competition (held February 20) to claim victory by a margin of 12 points," said Dave Cutler of the Espanola team. "It was certainly no runaway; Little Current was up by two points after the first round of games in Little Current."

Mr. Cutler explained on February 20 there were two games played in the afternoon with Espanola winning both games to tie up the competition. The

Espanola teams got hot that evening with all four rinks besting Little Current squads.

"We are already looking forward to next year when we celebrate 100 years of friendly competition in this annual event," said Mr. Cutler. He pointed out a big part of the event is the camaraderie that is shared among the two teams.

"With next year being the 100th anniversary there is a crew of people working to

get it organized," said Mr. Cutler.

The Espanola Curling Club participants included Gene Ertler, Don Farquhar, Steve Fensom, Dan Emiry, Marvin Tilson, Patrick Ramsay, Alvin Punkkinen, Everett Eadie, Jeff Mooney, Al Emiry, Dennis Shepitka, Logan Emiry, Steve Neufeld, Mike Dubreuil, Jamie Perlin, Blake Roque, Keith Stringer, Dave Gallant, Bill Lewis, Jeff Shepard and Dave Cutler.



The Espanola Curling Rink team has claimed the Baxter Cup trophy after defeating the team from the Little Current Curling Club.

...Mystical Manitoulin

...continued from page 4A
images he saw online, to consider.

But now as he held an actual one in his hand after it had somehow materialized onto the floor beside him, its size didn't seem nearly as daunting, and though he's never been a superstitious man, he acknowledged it must be "a sign" that he should make an appointment for his first acupuncture treatment.

It worked so well for him that he noticed a considerable improvement almost immediately.

Neither of us saw that needle again after that day, though my husband had carefully placed it beside his phone as a reminder to make an appointment and was eager to show it to our daughter at her next visit. It

vanished just as mysteriously as it had appeared.

However it came to be on our kitchen floor that day, it definitely did convince him to finally get the help he needed. He is now a strong advocate for this ancient practice and advises others to try it whenever he hears they are in pain."

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

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



Children's Community Network
Réseau communautaire pour enfants
is currently seeking a
Child and Youth Worker
Urgent Response Services Program
for the Sudbury office
Hybrid Work Arrangement
Full-Time permanent, 35 hours/week
(Monday to Friday – varying hours, including evenings)
Salary range: \$23.63 to \$35.11 per hour

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

The successful candidate will work directly with children and youth diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their caregivers to provide therapeutic respite. They will work in partnership with the Urgent Response Coordinator, Behaviour Therapist and Social Worker to implement the strategies identified in the behaviour treatment plan. The candidate will assist in modeling the recommended behavioural approaches to the child/youth's caregiver and will share successes, challenges and observations with the Urgent Response Services team. The candidate will provide safe, stimulating and recreational support in the client's home or in the community. They will provide professional services using a strength-based approach.

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

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

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

Mary Katherine Howe, Executive Director
Children's Community Network
Tel: (705) 566-3416 ext. 2547
E-Mail: mhowe@ccnsudbury.on.ca
Posted: February 12, 2024

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



Children's Community Network
Réseau communautaire pour enfants
is currently seeking a
Social Worker
Urgent Response Program
for the Sudbury/Manitoulin District
Hybrid work arrangement
Permanent, full-time, 35 hours/week
Salary range: (Bachelor's) \$35.73 - \$42.90
(Master's) \$38.59 - \$46.33

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

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

The successful candidate will have a Master's degree in social work and must be registered and in good standing with the college of Social Work. Those candidates with a Bachelor's degree may be considered. The successful candidate must have a minimum 5 years' experience developing and implementing behaviour treatment plans and experience working with children/youth with Autism; experience working in a multidisciplinary team, assessment and intervention skills and experience with data collection and analysis.

The successful candidate will have knowledge of both theory and the application of systemic interventions, child development, childhood disorders and syndromes, family/individual mental health assessments and intervention. The candidate must be self-motivated and able to work independently. Exceptional leadership, inter-personal, problem-solving, written, and organizational skills are further requirements for this position. Bilingualism is considered an asset.

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

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

Mary-Katherine Howe, Executive Director
Children's Community Network
Tel: (705) 566-3416 ext. 2547
Email: mhowe@ccnsudbury.on.ca
Posted: February 12, 2024 (until filled)

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



Children's Community Network
Réseau communautaire pour enfants
is currently seeking a
Behaviour Therapist
for the Sudbury/Manitoulin District
Hybrid Work Arrangement
Full-Time, permanent, 35 hours/week
Salary range: (Bachelor's) \$35.73 - \$42.90
(Master's) \$38.59 - \$46.33

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

The successful candidate will play a key role in the treatment of individuals diagnosed with Autism who are referred to the Intensive Treatment and Support Program. They will provide services to clients with complex needs and their families through the use of Applied Behavioural Analysis and positive behaviour supports.

The successful candidate will have an Honours Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree in Psychology, Disability Studies or another related field. Registration as a Board Certified Assistant Behaviour Analyst (BCaBA) or a Registered Behaviour Technician (RBT) is considered an asset. The successful candidate must have a minimum 5 years' experience developing and implementing behaviour treatment plans for children with Autism; experience working in a multidisciplinary team, including with BCBA and other registered clinical practitioners; experience in the development, implementation, data collection and oversight of clinical treatment programming for children and youth with Autism; excellent organizational skills to support planning for client services in a multidisciplinary context, case management, assessment and intervention skills and data collection and analysis.

The successful candidate will have knowledge of both theory and the application of systemic interventions, child development, childhood disorders and syndromes, family/individual mental health assessments and intervention. The candidate must be self-motivated and able to work independently. Exceptional leadership, inter-personal, problem-solving, written and organizational skills are further requirements for this position. Bilingualism is considered an asset.

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

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

Mary-Katherine Howe - Executive Director
Children's Community Network
Tel: (705) 566-3416 ext. 2547
Fax: (705) 521-7376
Email: mhowe@ccnsudbury.on.ca
Posted: February 12, 2024

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.

...Now and Then: Richard and Sharon Stephens

...continued from page 5A
 Ryan, 14, and Liam, 11. Ryan plays cricket. Liam, the adventurer, likes to jump over hurdles with his bike. During the week, Anita and the boys stay in Perth where the boys attend school. Weekends are spent on the ranch. Anita teaches and gives swimming lessons. In 1989, she was the Fair Queen at the Providence Bay Fair. In 1995, she was thrown from her horse and broke the side bones of her spine. She had to be taken by helicopter to Sudbury and wear a neck brace."

"Richard Jr., at age seven, decided to ride his bike to visit his friend in Providence Bay without telling his mother. She panicked when she couldn't find him, bundled up his baby brother and headed out to search. His parents were on the verge of calling the police and searching the river when a truck arrived and



The Stephens family, from left, are Richard Jr., Mathew, Richard, Anita and Sharon



Richard Jr.'s two girls, Jessyka and Addison.

out jumped Richard Jr. He received a lecture and lost his bike for a week. Today, he is married to Nadine of Grand Prairie and they live in Calgary. Richard is a sales executive with an oil company, Endurance Technology. Nadine is an accountant with MNP, and the couple has two girls, Jessyka, 12, a competitive soccer player who wants to go to Harvard and become a business executive and Addison, 9, who is more laid back, likes cheerleading and is a great help to family members."

"Mathew, born in 1982, was Jr. Fair King at the Providence Bay Fair in 1986. In 1992, he made his mother a Chinese birthday meal with chopsticks from scratch. In 1993, he was admitted to the hospital with blood poisoning from letting a calf suck his fingers. Today, Mathew is married to Janine Hanson, a rowing coach, who along with her eight-member rowing team, won silver in the 2012 Olympics. Mathew was a banker who also worked in insurance for the government of Manitoba. He now owns two businesses: painting lines in parking lots and 'mud whacking,' leveling off wet cement from the bottom. Matthew and Janine have 10-year-old twin girls, Anna, who plays soccer, and Hailey, a competitive swimmer."

"In 1976, I threw my hat in the ring for municipal council in Carnarvon Township. I lost by one vote to Tommy Farquhar. However, when Jack McDonald, a successful councillor and cousin of mine, retired early for health reasons, I was appointed to fill the position for the rest of his term. In 1978, I lost again to Doug

Collections? "Coins, and I am leaving them for our son."

Favourite television show? "Hockey, Funniest Home Videos and news on the CBC and CTV."

Awards? 4H. "My cousin John McDonald and I went to New Liskeard and won the top position for our presentation of 'methodology for judging livestock.'" Richard also won public speaking awards in Grades 7 and 8. Sharon was 'volunteer of the year' for Victim's Services in 2022.

Strengths? Richard: "Accounting and management skills." Sharon: "Patience, empathy and mediation."

Things you still want to do? "Downsize with a smaller house in Mindemoya and see the family more often."

First impressions when you both met? Sharon: "Country boy." Richard: "Pretty girl who likes short skirts." Both have volunteered for a variety of organizations over the years.

What did you enjoy most as a parent? Sports with the kids, for Richard. Cuddling them, teaching them values and watching them grow,

for Sharon.

What are you most afraid of? Sharon, "having a police officer come to the door with bad news."

Anything you would change if you could go back in time? Richard, "have more kids."

People who inspired you? Richard, "My dad, I tried to emulate him." Sharon: "My mother who was strict but overcame obstacles and took in homeless people."

Recipe for happiness? Sharon, "Always consider the other person's perspectives and love one another. Each day, think of something you are grateful for."

Pets? "Over the years we had a wide array of family pets: cats, dogs, horses, hamsters, birds, rabbits and even rats!"

A good memory? "In 1982-1983, we sponsored Anni Sorensen, an exchange student from Denmark. It was a wonderful experience."

Someone who inspired you? Sharon: "After an empty nest, my mother taught on a reserve in British Columbia and later managed a home for disabled people in Kenya. She died at 101 in the Gore Bay Nursing Home."

When Sharon first came to Manitoulin, Richard had to promise her it was for two years only. "After two years, Sharon had been acclimatized and it would have been harder for her to leave. It really is a unique and special place, with all the freshwater beaches and wide-open spaces that are safe to check out. People are friendly and there is a strong sense of community." Richard has been politically committed for the last 20 years. He is the current mayor of his community, doing a fine job, helping the people of Central Manitoulin with various projects, including the two-million-dollar upgrade of the roads and water-ditching in Mindemoya. The buildings are in good shape. "We are happy here now and we would like to finish current and anticipated projects to keep the people of Central Manitoulin happy, healthy and safe."



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 currently inviting applications for the following employment opportunities:

FULL-TIME position:
Manitoulin Island:

Child Well-Being Worker: Closes March 1, 2024

CONTRACT positions:
Manitoulin Island:

Education Liaison: Closes March 1, 2024
 Education Support Worker: Closes March 1, 2024

Sudbury:
 Case Aide: Closes March 8, 2024

All postings close at 4pm EST

To apply, kindly send your application to our Human Resources department at hr@kgcfs.org, ensuring to specify the position title in the subject line. For comprehensive job descriptions and to access the postings, please visit our website at: www.kgcfs.org/employment-opportunities

At 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.

Thank you for considering a career opportunity with us.

Manitoulin Secondary School PLAYER PROFILE

by Emery Watson



Proud Supporter of our
 MSS Mustangs

COLIN LINDNER

Whether it is sporting the black and gold for MSS or rocking the blue jersey for his Chill club team, Colin is constantly showing his love for athletics! During his past four years as a Mustang, Colin has always been found bringing determination and hard work to every sport he plays. He has made many positive contributions to Mustang athletics as he continues to work hard at his academics, being a great teammate and all around athlete. Wrapping up his final year at MSS, Colin has established himself as a talented and dedicated player and role model for the next generation of Mustangs!

Prior to becoming a Mustang, Colin attended Little Current Public School for his primary years. Here, he took advantage of every opportunity to play sports, participating in volleyball, basketball, soccer, track, baseball and hockey. Colin showed competitiveness and a love for athletics by always working towards improvement. He notes that one of his most memorable moments from his elementary days was competing with his school soccer team, bringing home a gold medal from a Sudbury tournament!

With a great love for volleyball, Colin has been found, for the last couple of years, playing for the Sudbury Northern Chill Volleyball Club. Here, he has made countless friendships and memories that will continue to stick with him! For his club team, Colin continues to work on his skills as a left side hitter. Despite this year being his last, Colin hopes to continue to jump at every opportunity to be on the court as he notes volleyball is his passion.

After four years representing the MSS Mustangs, the memories that Colin notes continue to stick out to him the most were getting to compete in three volleyball NSSSA competitions. This past season, the senior boys' volleyball team worked hard, constantly encouraging and picking each other up along the way. The team, led by Coach Wesno, was able to make it to AA NOSSA where they fought hard but sadly came up short. Prior to this season, Colin had also attended two other NSSSA Championships. These experiences continue to stay among many of Colin's best memories at MSS.

Not only does Colin show talent on the volleyball court but he also enjoys competing on the field. While training on the MSS track and field team, Colin found a new interest for javelin. After weeks of training and preparation, he was able to bring home a NSSSA gold medal as well as a NOSSA gold, advancing him to compete in Ottawa at the OFSAA 2023 Championships. With his great success during his Grade 11 season, Colin is excited to see what his final year at MSS will bring and is eager for the track and field season to commence!

Outside of his busy schedule, Colin enjoys fishing, hunting, riding sleds and occasionally gaming. When the warm weather comes around, Colin finds ways to stay active by walking his two jack russells, Ginger and Roxanne.

During the summer months, Colin works doing construction. He can also be found refereeing volleyball games outside of his own game play!

Although his time as a Mustang is coming to an end, Colin continues to work hard as he will soon be starting his new chapter. Colin acknowledges his dad and club volleyball coaches as some of the biggest inspirations in his life and sports. Looking up to players such as TJ Defalco from Team USA's men's volleyball team has also inspired Colin throughout the years to follow his dreams and work hard!

As athletics have played such an important role in Colin's life, he hopes to study mining engineering postgraduate and continue to play volleyball at the college level.

As he continues to work hard in his studies and enjoy his last few months sporting the black and gold, Colin has been an incredible role model to future generations of Mustangs. With his determination, hard work and competitive drive, he is sure to excel just as he has in his years at MSS!

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 MSS Mustangs

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SUDOKU

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

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!

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

ANSWER:

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

PUZZLE SOLUTION

FEB 14 ISSUE

		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		44				45	46	47
48			49		50		51					52		
53				54		55						56		
57			58		59				60	61	62			
	63	64						65						
		66						67						

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Gene type
- 5. Persian male given name
- 10. Type of protection
- 12. Cloud
- 14. One who returns to life
- 16. Gym class
- 18. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 19. Baby's dining accessory
- 20. Enchantress
- 22. Prefix denoting "in a"
- 23. Spiritual leader
- 25. Cavities
- 26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 27. Foot (Latin)
- 28. Sweet potato
- 30. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- 31. Land
- 33. More inquisitive
- 35. Dog breed: __ Apso
- 37. Stood up
- 38. Direct and uninhibited
- 40. Authorless
- 41. Blocking type of drug (abbr.)
- 42. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)
- 44. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 45. Macaws
- 48. Actress Remini
- 50. Polynesian wrapped skirt
- 52. City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)
- 53. Fitzgerald and Baker are two
- 55. Bowling alley must-have
- 56. A way to cool down
- 57. Ethnic group in Asia
- 58. A way to alter
- 63. Set of five
- 65. Removes from the record
- 66. Dummies
- 67. Set period in office

CLUES DOWN

- 1. DC Comics superhero
- 2. Brew
- 3. Play
- 4. Single-celled animals
- 5. Rough to the touch
- 6. Small island (British)
- 7. Often noted alongside cons
- 8. Preparation of rootstock
- 9. Atomic #44
- 10. Egyptian unit of capacity
- 11. About secretary
- 13. Particular groups
- 15. Poke fun at
- 17. Make certain that something occurs
- 18. Financial term
- 21. Justify
- 23. Arbiter
- 24. 007's creato
- 27. Czech name for Prague
- 29. Groans
- 32. American time
- 34. No seats available
- 35. __ Stahl, journalist
- 36. Left lip
- 39. Talk incessantly
- 40. Expresses atomic and molecular weights (abbr.)
- 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
- 44. Curdled milk
- 46. Running competitions
- 47. A team's best pitcher
- 49. Carthaginian explorer
- 51. World-renowned city
- 54. Most common Japanese surname
- 59. The bill in a restaurant
- 60. They __
- 61. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
- 62. Distinctive practice
- 64. One quintillion bytes

HOROSCOPES

FEB. 25 - MAR. 2

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Take a few days off from work if you find you have been running yourself ragged, Aries. The pressure to be the best may have gotten to you and you need a rest..

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Powering through a situation sometimes works, but not if you are feeling ill or injured, Taurus. Prioritize your health right now and take a step back if need be.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, there are always two sides to every story, so resist the urge to weigh in on a situation between friends right now. Get all of the information first and then stay neutral.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Listen to someone's feelings when they come to you and try to vent, Cancer. Exhibit some patience and help this person work through his or her issues

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

A great opportunity is coming down the pike, Leo. You will have to get your timing correct to maximize its impact on your life. Organize all of the elements you can control.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Advice from a loved one prompts you to reevaluate your plans for the coming weeks, Virgo. Step away from the situation to see how things might work.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

It is important to take the reins this week, Libra, particularly if you want to get noticed by those in positions of power. You need to be your own best advocate.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Sometimes the hardest thing to do in a situation is to stay silent when you don't agree with things, Scorpio. Keep in mind that others may not be ready to hear your advice.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Take ownership of any mistakes you have made and learn from them this week, Sagittarius. That is the only way you can grow as a person and make a difference in others' lives.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, are you ready to accept the consequences of your actions? If you go out on your own path when others are warning against it, you will need to confront the consequences on your own.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you may be ready to make a big move in your life, but others may not be there with you just yet. You need to find the timing that works for as many as possible.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, it may not be possible to put blinders on for every situation. However, sometimes it is advisable to look the other way in the name of keeping the peace.