



The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



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Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Water, MMIWG2S+ new dual focus for advocate Autumn Peltier

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre, LJI Reporter

ANISHINABEK NATION—At 12 years old, Autumn Peltier rose to international distinction after chastising Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the Assembly of First Nations winter gathering in 2016. The Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory youth had been a water advocate since she was eight years old, following in the footsteps of her role model and aunt, the late Josephine Mandamin, known for her work as the first water walker. Ms. Peltier was asked to present the PM with a water bundle. At the last minute, she decided to go off script, telling the leader that she was “very unhappy with his choices and the broken promises.” She cried on stage about the federal govern-



Autumn Peltier

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Historic trust fund issues settled with five Manitoulin First Nations

by Michael Erskine

MANITOULIN—It may have been a long time coming but the lifelong research work of Albert (Hardy) Peltier baa is finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel with the signing of the Manitoulin Project agreement between Canada and five Island First Nations. Mr. Peltier is probably best known to most on Manitoulin wielding a guitar onstage as a popular entertainer, but he was also a passionate advocate for First Nations rights and for decades sought redress for Canada's historical mismanagement of First Nations trust funds.

On December 10, 2023 the Canadian government agreed to compensate Aundeck Omni Kaning, M'Chigeeng, Sheguiandah, Sheshegwaning and Zhiibaa-haasing First Nations for the his-

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MEN IN UNIFORM—It's not often that you see two men in different military uniforms at Manitoulin Secondary School but the exception was at the school's annual awards night the week before Christmas. Rhys Allison, at right, is a first year cadet at Royal Military College in Kingston and, prior to that, was a member of the Manitoulin 348 Sea Cadets Corps where his last year was spent as the Corps' Coxswain. He is presented with Royal Canadian Sea Cadets Bursary in memory of Ed Kift by Manitoulin 348 Sea Cadets Commanding Officer Sylvain Boucher.

SEE FULL AWARDS AND MORE PHOTOS STARTING ON PAGE 17.

Trustees of Robinson-Huron Treaty litigation fund sign off

by Tom Sasvari

ROBINSON-HURON—The next step has been taken in the Robinson-Huron Treaty annuities case, with the trustees for the Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund (RHTLF), which includes 21 First Nations including all those on Manitoulin Island, signing the settlement agreement last week.

“It is a major step and part of the overall process,” stated Chief Angus Toulouse of the Sagamok Anishnawbek. “The governments of Canada and Ontario have completed their initial internal approval processes, so we needed to have all our trustees sign the agreement.”

The RHTLF trustees for the 21 First Nation communities met on January 3 at the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre in Little Current and signed the settlement agreement. The signed agreement will next be delivered to Ontario, to be signed by the Minister of Indigenous Affairs. Ontario will then transmit the signed agreement to Canada, to be signed by the Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations.

“We hope all of this will take place before the end of January,” said Chief Toulouse. He explained after this takes place, “then this will all be taken to the Ontario Superior Court Justice to release an order. And once this takes place it will then pretty much be it and will allow the funds to flow to our communities. In the mean-

time, our communities chief and council are holding engagement sessions to provide information and make decisions on fund disbursement at a local level.”

“No, we are not there yet (where the funds are distributed),” Chief Toulouse told The Expositor, but he said eventually each community will make their own decision on who the funds will be distributed.

As has been reported previously, on June 17, 2023 the RHTLF leadership and representatives of the governments of Canada and Ontario attended a ceremony and announced a proposed out-of-court settlement in the outstand-

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Reaction largely favours increase to small walleye possession limit

Concerns expressed on tourism impact as larger fish off limits

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN—There are differing views among anglers on changes made by the province to lower the possession size of walleye in fisheries management zone (FMZ) 10, which includes Manitoulin Island. Some anglers are upset with the changes, while others feel it is needed to help the walleye fish population recover on inland lakes.

FMZ 10 spans from Wawa across to Elk Lake, then down to the mouth of the French River. It's southern and western boundaries are the shores of Lake Huron and Lake Superior and includes

inland lakes on Manitoulin Island.

“I see for FMZ 10 walleye previously (under a sport fishing licence) you could keep one walleye over 46 centimetres and four in total a day, now you cannot take anything over 46 centimetres,” said Bill Strain, past president of the Little Current Fish and Game Club and former operator of Whitehaven Cottages on Sheguiandah Bay. “The thing that bothers me about this is that the MNRF (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) totally neglected the tourism aspect of

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Two communities in the running for storage of nuclear waste

One in Ontario's SW, other up North

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre, LJI Reporter

ONTARIO—The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is slated to close negotiations on its deep geological repository (DGR) in late 2024. The NWMO has been in discussion concerning Canada's 175-year-long plan to bury its nuclear waste since 2008, and the process

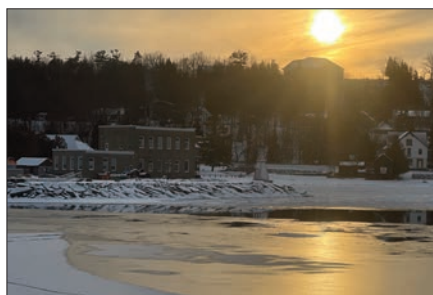
of developing the repository has been over 20 years in the making. Canada's nuclear electricity producers established the organization under the Nuclear Fuels Waste Act (NFWA) in 2002. The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) was established in 2002 and is funded by

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Great Lakes ice cover down, way down 2024 kicks off with 50-year low in ice coverage

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre, LJI reporter

GREAT LAKES—On January 2, a meme began circulating online that the Great Lakes had the smallest ice cover on New Year's Day in 50 years and that we are on track to see less than the seasonal average this year. The diminishing ice comes during a 50-year drop in ice cover that some scientists say is in part due to human activities contributing



Kagawong's Mudge Bay as seen during the first week of January.

to climate change.

“It's an extreme number,” said James Kessler, a physical scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL). “It is early in the season, and there is year-to-year variability. But on average, we are seeing less ice cover and shorter seasons.”

On New Year's Day, the ice cov-

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The Manitoulin *West* Recorder



This house owned by the Scott family in Mills was destroyed in a January 3 fire.

photo by Rick Graham

Tehkummah integrity commissioner finds former reeve at fault, but reparations not required

by Tom Sasvari

TEHKUMMAH—The Township of Tehkummah Integrity Commissioner (IC) has ruled that no penalty could be imposed on the former reeve because he is no longer a member of council. This following a complaint by a member of council on November 1, 2022 due to the cancellation of a regularly scheduled council meeting in October 2022. However, the IC report says there was a violation of the code of conduct found in the notice cancelling the meeting.

In an executive summary filed by IC Zachary T. Courtemanche to council on September 19, 2023, he reported he received complaints alleging violations of the township's code of conduct, specifically clauses 2,3,4,6 and 7 of the township's code of conduct, ethics and values on November 1, 2022. The complaint named the then reeve, David Jaggard, and another individual, as respondents. The complaint made a series of allegations, which largely relate to issues in contacting the township; delays in responding to communications and remarks made at council meetings with regard to this delay; access to township offices by members of council;

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January 3 fire razes Scott home in Mills Township

by Tom Sasvari

MILLS—It was fortunate that no one was injured when a fire destroyed a home in Burpee and Mills Township in the early morning hours of Wednesday, January 3.

"The house was fully engaged in flames when we got there," stated Rick Graham, Burpee and Mills fire chief, of the blaze that took place at 375 Scott Road in Mills, at a home originally owned by John and Laura Scott (both deceased) and now owned by Dave and Doug Scott. "There was not a lot we could do except to protect the surrounding buildings."

Mr. Graham said the Burpee and Mills volunteer fire department received notice of the fire shortly after 1 am on January 3. "There were only two people in the house at the time of the fire."

"One of the fellows in the house, Doug Scott, who was upstairs, woke up and started coughing, realizing it was from smoke caused by the fire," said Mr. Graham. "He began hollering at his brother to wake him up so he could also exit the house. They got out of the house with the clothes on their back and went to a neighbour's (also members of the Scott family) to call 911."

Mr. Graham said when the Burpee and Mills firefighters arrived on scene, the flames were moving up one side of the house. "I think the cause of the fire was electrical. The steel roof came down on top of everything. The house was made of wood and collapsed into the basement."

The old house also had a garage and woodshed adjacent to it. "Once the house caught

fire and spread to the outbuildings the fire went through the building quickly," said Mr. Graham. The flames also melted off the front of a truck that one of the two men owned. "The house is totally gone."

"The Burpee and Mills Fire Department had to wait for Hydro One to arrive to turn off the power to the house, and the latter arrived very quickly," said Mr. Graham. "I had called the Central Manitoulin Volunteer Fire Department as we were on our way to the fire, to assist in putting the fire out, but once I saw the situation I told them to stand down. One of their trucks and a couple of (firefighters) showed up to help out."

The firefighters were on the scene of the blaze until about 10 am Wednesday morning.

Ticket worth over \$80,000 unclaimed on Manitoulin

SAULT STE. MARIE—There is only one week left for the person who has the winning ticket to claim a prize worth \$80,754.80 from the Tuesday, January 17, 2023, LOTTO MAX draw. The winning ticket was sold in the Manitoulin district. The winning selection for this prize was 01-02-05-06-16-30-45 and bonus number 19, according to an Ontario Lottery and Gaming release.

Players must match six out of seven numbers plus the bonus number to win the secondary LOTTO MAX prize. Players have one year from the draw date to claim their prize.

"OLG makes sure the right prizes are paid to the right people every time," the release indicates. "Our prize claim verification ensures that prize ownership and eligibility is confirmed before a prize is paid. If you believe you bought the winning ticket, or lost it, please be prepared to provide specific details including where and when your ticket was purchased when calling OLG Customer Care at 1-800-387-0098."

OLG offers players several convenient ways to check lottery tickets: scan your ticket using the OLG app, check winning numbers on OLG.ca or sign up to have the winning numbers emailed to you, call OLG Win! Line at 1-866-891-8946, visit a lottery retail location and use the self-serve ticket checker or hand it to the retailer.

To ensure "You don't forget to claim your lottery prize, OLG asks lottery players to: sign their ticket right after its purchased, keep the ticket in a safe and memorable location until draw time. Check the tickets as soon as the draw is complete; or never lose a ticket when making your lottery purchase on OLG.ca and receive email notification if your ticket has won a prize." Information about unclaimed tickets can be found on the OLG.ca unclaimed tickets page.

in all of Northern Ontario. "At our (MMA) meeting in October we passed a motion requesting a meeting with Minister of Health Sylvia Jones to discuss issues about doctor and nursing shortages, the need for increased funding to hospitals and long-term care facilities, doctor recruitment support and other issues," said Ken Noland, chair of the MMA.

A letter from Naomi Lyzun, policy analyst, intergovernmental relations unit strategic policy branch of the Ontario Ministry of Health to the MMA, dated December 22 reads in part, "I am writing on behalf of the ministry of health regarding the (MMA) dele-

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Opioid-related fatalities in district dropped moderately in 2023

by Jacqueline M. St.Pierre, LJI Reporter

SUDBURY—New data reported by the Sudbury Community Drug Strategy shows a small but not insignificant drop in opioid fatalities, paramedic calls and overdose incidents at hospital emergency rooms. Further, the Sudbury opioid surveillance initiative indicated a slight decline in illicit drug use in the region. However, the numbers are still elevated, compared to the provincial average.

The Community Drug Strategy (CDS) is responsible for collecting the opioid surveillance data and it is reported on the Public Health Sudbury and District (PHSD) webpage, which also states that the numbers are only the initial numbers to date.

Still, the number of opioid-induced deaths in the Sudbury-Manitoulin districts from January 2023 to July 2023 shows 44 fatal overdoses compared to 62 in the same period in 2022.

According to these same records, it appears that the worst months for opioid deaths were January and April, with nine and 10 deaths occurring, respectively.

The current count for this year is reduced, yet the surveillance report highlights a noteworthy discrepancy. It indicates a local annualized mortality rate of 36.2 deaths per 100,000 people annually, markedly surpassing Ontario's overall rate of 17.4 deaths per 100,000 population per year. The total number of deaths in the Sudbury-Manitoulin District amounted to 112 in 2011.

The surveillance page included details on Greater Sudbury Paramedic Services' responses to opioid-related emergency calls from January to November this year. They attended to 604 suspected opioid-related incidents, as reported by CDS. This contrasts with the 661 incidents reported during the same period in the previous year, from January to November 2022. Figures were also gathered for the number of emergency department visits for confirmed opioid overdoses, according to the CDS report.

"From January 2023 to November 2023, there were 343 visits to emergency departments in the Sudbury and Manitoulin districts for confirmed opioid overdoses," said the newest report. "This compares with 419 visits to emergency rooms for the same period last year, January to November 2022."

While this decline raises hope locally, ER visits are still elevated compared to provincial numbers.

"This represents a local annualized rate of 179.4 visits per 100,000 population per year, significantly higher than the rate in Ontario overall, 80.8 visits per 100,000 population per year," said the CDS report. September was the worst month for ER cases of non-fatal overdoses in 2023, with 52 visits recorded.

Manitoulin Municipal Association delegation to meet with health minister on healthcare concerns

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOULIN—The Manitoulin Municipal Association (MMA) has received notice it will be able

to meet with the minister of health to discuss its ongoing concerns in regard to healthcare issues not only on the Island, but

WRFN postpones referendum on pot sales

by Michael Erskine

WHITEFISH RIVER FIRST NATION—A planned November community referendum on the sale of cannabis products in Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN) territory was postponed to a later date yet to be determined, confirmed WRFN Chief Rodney Nahwegahbow.

The community has held a number of referendums over the course of the intervening years since the legalization of cannabis, declining each time to approve the sale of such products within the reserve.

Community member Greg Sutherland postulated that the decision to decline to allow such sales was based in large part on the number of young families in the community and concerns over large numbers of strangers entering the community, particularly during the pandemic, and growing concerns over rising drug problems being experienced in many communities across the country.

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opinion

editorial

Leaving the UN would be madness—where does Poilievre stand?

A petition by Doug Porter of Burnaby, British Columbia calling for Canada to withdraw from the United Nations containing 60,000 signatures were endorsed online by Conservative MP and shadow cabinet member Leslyn Lewis. This, in a word, is madness personified.

There are plenty of reasons to castigate the United Nations General Assembly, even more, perhaps the Security Council, but when it comes to the UN bath water, there are literally many millions of babies who depend upon its work for their very survival.

The hard right factions that inhabit Western politics have increasingly encompassed conspiracy theories regarding shadowy "world government" figures to fuel their opposition to the gathering of the world's nations together in an assembly. That assembly was created with the aim of preventing a return of the kinds of global conflict that have too often engulfed the planet, causing many tens of millions of deaths in their wake. Today, such a conflict would threaten the very existence of the human race.

There is no question that the UN is a flawed instrument, but like democracy, it is the best option we have available. The predecessor to the UN, the League of Nations, was fatally hampered in its work when the United States (its original sponsor by the by) backed out. That may not have been the cause of the Second World War, but it certainly didn't help.

Today, we are faced with a UN General Assembly which was only able to put together a call for a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza by the omission of any mention of the terrorist organization Hamas, or the

plain point of fact that Hamas began the current conflict through the largest massacre of Jews (mostly women and children) since the Holocaust and the kidnapping of Israeli citizens—including at least one baby—and Canadian citizens.

Despite Hamas' repeated vows to continue its attacks and that it could not possibly have failed to anticipate the Israeli reaction, the best the UN could do was call for a ceasefire—full stop.

The spectre of horrendous civilian casualties has horrified the world, well at least much of the world, as Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre's pursuit of niche votes seems to trump those concerns.

The latest indication of Mr. Poilievre's ambivalence toward human suffering has been his failure to rein in his shadow cabinet colleague. If history is any indication, we may well expect him to double down on the matter. It is our fervent hope that the Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition will voice support for the work of the UN, even if it sometimes requires an application of nose plugs.

Canada was one of the founding members of the UN and served six stints on the UN Security Council. Our work in conjunction with the UN has more often been a source of national pride than dismay. Anger and frustration may be a useful dog whistle for attracting votes, but does little to foster the founding principles of the Canadian Constitution—those of peace, order and good government.

Mr. Poilievre should step up and clarify the Conservative Party of Canada's position on Canada's membership in the UN—otherwise we must accept that his silence tells the story.

letters

Robinson Huron Treaty affirms Anishinaabe ownership

Writer would gladly take the land rather than a cash settlement

To the Expositor:

In their own way, numbers are magic. Consider this one: 16,700. That's the number of square miles within the Robinson Huron Treaty area. It encompasses the eastern and northern shores of Lake Huron, from Batchewana Bay to Penetanguishene, and includes the islands.

Words are magic, too. For instance: "A" does not equal "T." "C" does not equal "R." "T" does not equal "E." Or, an Act does not equal a Treaty. A treaty can be made only between sovereign nations. A treaty, a covenant and a convention are internationally recognized, legally binding agreements.

The fact that "Indian" nations entered into the Robinson Huron Treaty was a recognition by the British Crown that Anishinaabek were, and are, sovereign nations.

Let's take that number, 16,700 square miles. How about 16,700 x an assumed value of goods and services produced in one year, say \$1,000, which would equal \$16,700,000. Now multiply that by the number of years from 1850 to 2024. So, the result is \$2,905,800,000. And that's not counting accrued annual interest.

Or, looking at it another way, how about 16,700 x another assumed value of goods and services produced in one year, say \$10,000, which would equal \$167,000,000. Multiply that by 174 years from 1850 to 2024, which results in \$29,058,000,000. Now imagine the accrued annual interest.

OK, let's stretch our imaginations again. Let's say 16,700 square miles of Anishinaabe lands x a further assumed value of goods and services produced in one year, for instance, \$100,000. That would equal \$1,670,000,000. How about multiplying that by 174 years? The result is: \$290,580,000,000. Just for fun, think about the accrued annual interest.

And, we all know that the value of goods and services produced within 16,700 square miles in one year far exceeds \$16,700,000, or

\$167,000,000, or even \$1,670,000,000. Just check the Ontario revenue numbers for 2023-2024, at \$188.2 billion.

Recall that the British offered, and the Anishinaabek accepted, \$4 per year per person, an annuity in perpetuity. The annuity in perpetuity was offered, and accepted, because the British realized that they could not afford to pay the principal price of the 16,700 square miles of land. Then, they thought about offering to pay the interest on the principal. Nope, they couldn't afford that, either. Finally, someone came up with the brainwave of offering to pay only the interest on the interest, an annuity in perpetuity.

In effect, then, the lands have not been purchased. So, Anishinaabek still own 16,700 square miles of land along the eastern and northern shores of Lake Huron, and the islands. In addition, the Anishinaabek did not sell the waters. So, if we're still sovereign, why are we bothering with domestic courts? As it is, neither Canada nor Ontario want to be bothered with enforcing the terms of the Robinson Huron Treaty. They're merely trying to bury the whole issue under their Canadian and Ontario laws. Not even any consideration of Anishinaabe laws in an international context.

There's been lots of talk about reconciliation. What is really needed is restitution—to restore as closely as possible what was taken from Anishinaabek in the first place.

If you ask me, I'll gladly take my share of 16,700 square miles of land and waters. I can make a living better that way than using cash, which goes flying out of the purse faster than it gets put into the purse.

Mii sa iw.

Marie McGregor Pitawanakwat
Dooganing

Observations on the issue of water and sewer taxes

Distressing that developers can sidestep attaching to the municipal systems

To the Expositor:

I read with some interest your extensive article on the resignation of former Councillor Jim Cahill from Billings council and his stated reasons for his resignation and I must say I was more than a little bewildered ('Billings councillor quits; council asks integrity commissioner to probe alleged violations of his oath of office,' December 28, 2023, Page 1).

This council has been in place for over a year. New councillors are provided training courses for what can be a challenging few weeks for them to have a clear grasp of their duties and how the municipality runs.

Those who are not Haweaters should have seen the municipal cycle running in the communities they came from. Other Manitoulin municipalities, on the whole, are run in much the same way.

General taxes collected are not necessarily spent within the municipality. School taxes, police, district service board etc. are simply passed through and municipal councils have only limited control over the details of how they are spent.

Mr. Cahill's main concern seems to have been with the water tax and how it is collected and disbursed (I think that's what his concern was – it wasn't totally clear in The Expositor story).

I'm not sure where Mr. Cahill lived before moving to Billings, but unless it was a community smaller than Billings it probably had a water filtration plant and maybe even a waste water treatment facility (sewage works) and those were funded through a water tax – distinct from the general property tax and which was collected and administered separately.

I can recall leading a very large project for a large municipality during the run up to Y2K. The very powerful treasurer was desperately

looking for funds to pay for General Y2K related project costs and word came down that she was contemplating tapping the water/waste water operational, maintenance and new projects fund (which was quite healthy at the time because it also had funds earmarked for some capital projects)

The two general managers involved both hit the roof and pointed out in no uncertain terms that this fund was segregated and could only be spent on operations, maintenance and new capital project work within the water/waste water services area.

All in all, over the 19 years Suzanne and I have lived in Kagawong, the Billings municipal financial administration has matured to a double entry book keeping system recommended by auditors and eventually imposed by the province of Ontario. That's not to say things are perfect!

When it comes to the water filtration and distribution system, I'd like to see a bylaw whereby developers are required to connect with the water distribution system when it is in reasonable reach of their proposed land development.

I can recall attending one council meeting when a developer presented his 20+ unit development and the mayor of the day asked "of course you'll connect with our water filtration/distribution system?" The developer replied "No, I can do it cheaper myself!" My mouth dropped. Here was an opportunity to amortize 20+ additional users on to the water tax base on a water filtration plant which (if I'm reading the numbers correctly), is operating at not much over 50 percent capacity! Well, I hope that loophole has now been rectified or will be soon!

Paul Darlaston
Kagawong

Six field teams report the results of the 56th Gore Bay Christmas bird count

by Terry Land

GORE BAY—The 56th Gore Bay Christmas Bird count, the fourth of the pandemic, was held on December 17.

The six field teams came to the end of the Lands' driveway to pick up their report form packages around 8 am and then set off to find and report all the species and individual birds found within their assigned area of the 24-kilometer diameter count circle.

The weather was more of a challenge than it had been in recent years which, no doubt, impacted the results. When not just overcast, there was rain-lots of it and a cold wind out of the south southwest maintaining a very steady 20 km/h. Over the day, the temperature fell from a morning high of 5 Celsius to just above freezing by the time the last of the field teams reported in.

There was no snow on the ground and only a little in the air. The North Channel was open as was Lake Wolsey and the other lakes and ponds of any size. One cell of the sewage lagoon was completely open though the cell next to it was frozen. The creeks had fast-moving water though the water was low with a significant exposure to the ground



A pine siskin was one of the songbirds identified in the 56th Gore Bay Christmas bird count.

photos by Terry Land

along the shores.

Between 3:30 and 4:30 pm, the field teams returned their list of birds and left information on their effort to include in the report to The Audubon Society and Birds Canada. Meanwhile Judy Land was coordinating the calls and emails from the thirty-one feeder watchers. We continue to be indebted to all field team members and the dedicated feeder watchers, without whom we could not accurately undertake the annual count. I was pleased to note that this year we had a new field team member and three new feeder watchers.

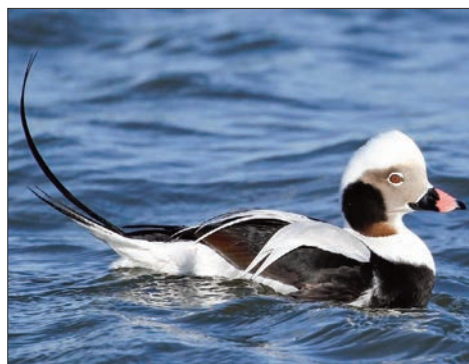
From the reports received and tabulated using the revised spreadsheets produced by Bruce Lindsay of Gore Bay, 3907 individual birds of 42 species were observed. Last year, by comparison, there were 4,213 individual birds and 47 species counted. There were also two count week birds, which appeared in the three days before the tally, but were not seen on the count day, a Green-winged Teal, and a Barred Owl.

Late in the afternoon a mystery bird showed up at a feed-

Mindemoya Christmas bird count a testament to a half-century of citizen science

by Phyllis Cacciotti

MINDEMOYA—Amazing. Half a century of citizen science thanks to a dedicated group of enthusiastic birders over the years on Manitoulin Island! Started in 1900, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is North America's longest-running citizen science project. People in more than 2000 locations throughout the Western Hemisphere participate in the CBC each year. The data collected by thousands of volunteer participants over the Christmas season contributes to one of the world's largest sets of wildlife survey data. The results are



This long-tailed duck was one of 2,987 birds, made up of 43 species identified in the 50th Mindemoya Christmas bird count.

Chris and Joan Bell for the past 49 years and they have contributed immensely both to the Manitoulin Nature Club and to birding overall on Manitoulin Island. A huge thank you to the Bells. Since it was my first year organizing and compiling the count, John Diebolt, Rodney Thompson and I met several times and learned the ropes as we went along. With their vast birding experience, their help was instrumental in a successful bird count. My husband, Robert, was also invaluable in working closely with us to design and set up automated spreadsheets to manage the count. Thank you all for your hard work in the background Robert, John and Rodney!

Saturday, December 16 was an overcast day with no snow on the ground. There was some drizzle during the day, winds between 15 and 25 km/hour and temperatures averaging between 1° and 4° Celsius. All of the major lakes and waterways were open, meaning that more ducks were present. Overall, it was a good day for the bird count.

At 7:45 am, seven teams (18 people) gathered at Trinity United Church in Mindemoya to pick up the report packages com-



The American goldfinch, in photo, was one of the songbirds identified in the 56th Gore Bay Christmas bird count.



A total of 29 white-breasted nuthatch were identified in the 56th Gore Bay Christmas bird count.

er. Unfortunately, we have yet to identify that bird sufficiently to satisfy the requirements of a rare bird report. The likely suspect is Townsend's Solitaire, not unknown on Manitoulin but believed not to have appeared on a count before.

The open waters of the North Channel and Lake Wolsey gave up the many ducks identified which would have been

missed if the water were frozen. Of particular note are the large number of Mallards at 256 and Common Mergansers at 508 species each. Returning to the count this year after an absence of several years were 10 Ring-necked Pheasants. The Mourning Doves, at 32 individuals, was an improvement over recent counts. 12 species of birds were represented in the count with five or fewer individuals. Two songbirds, totaling 1,007 individuals were also identified: The American Goldfinch and Pine Siskins.

As compiler of the Bird Count, I wish to thank the field teams and the feeder watchers who do their jobs diligently on this Citizen Science Project year in and year out, often in challenging conditions. Maybe next year more people will be able to take part, learning about the birds and having fun at a stressful time of the year.

Total birds-3,907, total species-42. They included: Canada goose-4, American black duck-8, mallard-256, long-tailed duck -1, bufflehead-1, common goldeneye-122, hooded merganser-23, common merganser-508, ring-necked pheasant-10, ruffed grouse-14, horned grebe-1, red-necked grebe-1, bald eagle juvenile-5, bald eagle-adult, rough-legged hawk-3, ring-billed gull-12, herring gull-247, rock pigeon (feral pigeon)-39, mourning dove-32, belted kingfisher-1, rede-bellied woodpecker-9, downy woodpecker-17, hairy woodpecker-18, pileated woodpecker-8, northern shrike-5, blue jay-126, American crow-315, common raven-164, black-capped

chickadee-347, red-breasted nuthatch-15, white-breasted nuthatch-29, brown creeper-1, golden-crowned kinglet-16, European starling-422, Bohemian waxwing-2, snow bunting-20, American tree sparrow-1, dark-eyed junco (slate-colored)-27, northern cardinal-10, house finch-9, pine siskin-353, American goldfinch-684, house sparrow-9.

plete with maps. By 8:15 am, the teams headed out into the field, binoculars were raised to eyes and many teams got out and walked various parts of their assigned territory. We met back at the church at around 4 pm to discuss the results, call the feeder watchers, have some warm cider and goodies, thanks to Maria Diebolt and Sue Wadge. We shared bird anecdotes, one of which was me ripping a piece of trim off our vehicle trying to back out of a feeder watcher's driveway (yikes!).

The data revealed the following: a total of 2,987 birds made up of 43 species. These numbers are on a par with Gore Bay as well



Another Northern Hawk Owl photo from a different angle.

photo by Rose Diebolt

as other neighbouring counts held this year. Compared to 2022, overall birds were up by 31.6 percent while the number of species only increased by two. The high number of goldfinches, crows and chickadees this year boosted our numbers.

The species and the number seen on the bird count included-three Canada goose, 23 long-tailed duck, 17 hooded merganser, 16 pheasant, six red-necked grebe, two ring-billed gull, 71 mourning dove, 20 downy

woodpecker, 1 kestrel, 121 raven, 31 white-breasted nuthatch, 20 snow bunting, 10 cardinal, 147 pine siskin, 1 peregrine falcon, 8 black duck, 4 bufflehead, 46 common merganser, 11 ruffed grouse, 13 bald eagle-mature and juvenile, 26 herring gull, 1 hawk owl, 15 hairy woodpecker, 184 blue jay, 348 black-capped chickadee, 7 golden-crowned kinglet, 5 tree sparrow, 5 purple finch, 926 American goldfinch, 64 mallard, 11 goldeneye, 1 red-breasted merganser, 5 common loon, 2 sharp-shinned hawk, 118 rock pigeon, 12 red-bellied woodpecker, 9 pileated woodpecker, 532 crow, 28 red-breasted nuthatch, 52 starling, 30 dark-eyed junco, 11 common redpoll and 24 house sparrow.

Our most notable sighting, a bird that may never have been counted before during the CBC in Mindemoya was the northern hawk owl. A raptor of the boreal forests, the northern hawk owl behaves like a hawk but looks like an owl and is a diurnal hunter. What a find, Rodney!

On Lake Manitou a field team spotted a flock of 20 long-tailed ducks which was somewhat unusual.

And what about our dedicated feeder watchers! This year saw 31 participants throughout our count circle, and in total, those 31 watchers saw 790 birds with 24 different species represented. Ray Webster had the largest single count at his feeders with a whopping 81 birds and 14 species.

I have to say this was a big learning experience for me and I thank each and every one of you for your assistance and your devotion to our feathered friends. We look forward to recruiting additional bird enthusiasts for the 2024 Christmas Bird Count and if you are interested in joining us, contact the Manitoulin Nature Club at manitoulinnatureclub@gmail.com.



The most notable sighting at the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in Mindemoya was the Northern Hawk Owl, a bird that may never have been counted before during the CBC in Mindemoya.

photo by Rose Diebolt

used by conservation biologists, environmental planners, and naturalists to assess the population trends and distribution of birds.

The Mindemoya CBC has been run by

M'Chigeeng arrest leads to two wanted in Toronto police officer stabbing

by Tom Sasvari

M'CHIGEENG—On Thursday, December 21, 2023, the United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin Anishnaabe Police Services (UCCM APS) along with the Manitoulin detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) arrested two parties wanted in relation to an off-duty Toronto Police Service officer being stabbed during a robbery earlier in the month at a Best Buy store in Scarborough.

The UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service and uniform members of the OPP were involved in the investigation. Those charged are Sharlene Migwans, 47, of

M'Chigeeng First Nation and Dwayne Coombs of the Greater Toronto Area who were both charged with robbery with an offensive weapon, aggravated assault on a police officer, assault with a weapon, weapons, carry a concealed weapon, possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 and possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000.

City News reported on December 20 that three of the four suspects in the stabbing of an off-duty police officer at a Scarborough Best Buy store earlier in December were in custody facing charges.

Jim Dimce Kaluzovski, 47, of Keswick was reported by City News as being arrested in Toronto on December 20 on numerous offences. Subsequently, the fourth suspect, Preston Calladine, 48, of Toronto was also later charged by Toronto Police.

Investigators revealed that the four suspects had been involved in the theft of a high-end television from the Best Buy store at 480 Progress Avenue in Toronto on the morning of Wednesday, December 6 that resulted in an off-duty officer being stabbed in the hand when he tried to stop the theft, suffering serious

injuries.

The accused remain in custody awaiting a bail hearing to speak to these charges.

“Community safety is a collaborative effort with our communities. Anishnaabe Police Service would like to remind the public that we need to work together to ensure the safety, protection and overall health and wellness of our communities,” a UCCM APS release explains. “We need your help, your information, and your assistance to affect change. Drug trafficking invites residual and lateral violence into your communities, such as home

invasions, serious assaults and homicides and leads to the erosion of our communities through addiction, homelessness and overdose deaths. We need to speak directly with the people who have the information that we require to ensure the safety and protection of our communities. Remember, information is best protected and utilized when the police can receive the information firsthand.”

“The UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service, OPP Community Street Crime Unit and Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service remains committed to working collaboratively and will con-

tinue to focus its efforts on major crime operations that pose a direct and elevated threat to the safety, security and wellness of our communities. This combined Integrated Street Crime Unit is a joint force operation and aims to identify and disrupt organized crime on Manitoulin Island through innovative technology, collaborative partnerships and traditional police work through innovative technology, collaborative partnerships and traditional police work resulting in the arrests of those involved, holding them accountable for their criminal activities and the seizure of illegal drugs, prohibited firearms and proceeds of crime.”

If anyone has further information regarding drug trafficking and organized crime, please contact UCCM Police at 705-377-7135 or Sudbury Rainbow Crime Stoppers at 705-222-TIPS (8477) or 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit an online tip at www.sudburycrimestoppers.com. Together we can make a difference.

OPP investigates fatal collision on Highway 17

SABLES-SPANISH RIVERS—Shortly before 2 am on January 4 the Manitoulin detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a motor vehicle collision on Highway 17 at Birch Lake Road.

Investigation revealed that a commercial motor vehicle struck a pedestrian. A 33-year-old person from Sables-Spanish Rivers was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The highway was closed for approximately seven hours after the accident.

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



Battle of the Badges

The Battle of the Badges hockey game pitted the Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service against the UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service in a game held December 22 at the NEMI recreation centre. The game drew a very large crowd, and attendees donated many non-perishable food items toward helping those in need. **SEE STORY AND MORE PICS ON PAGE 4A.**

Friends and Neighbours

Kagawong Team Fergmeijer

A very happy new year to Kagawongians near and far! We hope 2024 brings you all health and happiness. One of our resolutions this year is to cure our crippling fear of New Years and get over our Auld Langxiety.

The township has a vacant seat on council and they are looking to appoint a new councillor. The public is invited to apply for the position between January 10 and January 31. Full application details can be found on the township website, but here are the basic requirements: interested parties must be 18 years old, a Canadian citizen, a resident of Billings Township (or owner/tenant of land in the township). If you are looking to get involved and make a difference, contact the town office at 705-282-2611 for more information.

We were extremely saddened to hear of Barb Erskine's passing just before Christmas. You may have crossed paths with Barb as she served on town council or while she was volunteering within the community as a member of the Library board and the recreation committee. Or perhaps you bid on one of her amazing cakes at a local silent auction. Maybe you played pickup hockey with her or danced along with her at Zumba. Many raised a Split Rail pint with her. She impacted many with her kindness and was a relentless advocate for underserved populations. She will be missed. Friends are invited to gather at the Kagawong Park Centre Saturday, January 13th at 11 am for a memorial service for Barb, followed by a luncheon.

The next township council meeting is January 16, 2024 and will be virtual. The Old Mill Road water system improvements and cost reclaim plan will be on the agenda. Full agenda package and virtual meeting connection details can be found at billingstwp.ca/council-meetings/2024-council-agendas-and-minutes/.

Happy 29th birthday wishes go out to Harrison N. and John F. In honour of your very special day, we went all out and came up with a Birthday Haiku for you:

For your birthday, friend,
We wrote this haiku for you.
Worst present ever.

The weather might be getting colder, but you can get your artistic side all fired up with free online workshops with Manitoulin Island artist and art instructor Helen Siksek (in collaboration with 4elements Living Arts). The series of four online winter workshops are designed to guide you from thinking about art to communicating in a visual language, to creating art of your own. The first workshop is this Saturday, January 13, 2 to 4 pm and will be an introduction to land art with a slide presentation, brainstorming, creative activities and community chat. Contact Helen at helen@4elementslivingarts.org for more information and to register.

Feeling a bit scattered in the new year? The library can help you find peace of mind at its annual puzzle swap! Saturday, January 27, celebrate National Puzzle Month by bringing the jigsaw puzzles of your past to trade for the jig-

saw puzzles of your future! This free event is a great fit for newbies as well as puzzle aficionados who like to live on the edge. Mingle with other like-minded puzzle lovers and piece together which puzzle you want to take home with you. We really hope you can fit this into your busy schedule (we know you jigsaw what we did there).

Remember that time that person turned 29 years old? Or the time the township celebrated that special event? Want to see if Team Fergmeijer ever doubles up on their puns? Catch up on old times with the complete archive of Team Fergmeijer columns, all the way back to 2015! Check out <http://teamfergmeijer.blogspot.com> to get your fill of puns and haiku.

We are proud to share that even this early in the new year, we have already accomplished two-thirds of our New Year's resolution to “drink more water!” So far, we've managed the “drink more” part. Have a great week!

Barrie Island Lillian Greenman

Happy New Year, 2024. At Christmastime, George and Carolyn Calback had their daughter Joyce and husband Rob Rogers from Burlington for a few days.

Dave and Theresa Carlisle had their daughter Stephanie home for the Christmas holidays and Dave's mother Jerry on Christmas Day.

Doug and Linda Lane had Angela Wunsch and son Thomas from Drayton a few days after Christmas.

Murray Montgomery had his family Erin and David on Christmas Day.

Natalie and Roger Hayden and family were here after Christmas visiting with their family.

Scott and Enid Runnalls had their daughter Katie from Toronto home at Christmastime. Sandy and Jim Miller from Ottawa, Bill Runnalls from Winnipeg, Manitoba were here visiting family at Christmastime and gathered at Scott and Enid Runnalls for supper on Christmas Day. Also, Oliver and Barb Runnalls, two Manitoulin Lodge friends of Barb's (PSWs Aliza and Ariana), Cameron Runnalls and Micah, Jordan and Kate Miller from Kagawong and their sons Arie, Isaiah and Eli.

Silver Water Karen Noble

On December 15, I finally wrote my Christmas letter and then spent the weekend getting the long-distance cards written out and ready for mailing on Monday.

Friday night, I took Murray Duncanson and Donna Kay McDonald to euchre in Meldrum Bay. There were eight players and we had a lot of fun.

Shawn Noble went to Ottawa to pick up his daughters, Meghan and Tamara, who spent two weeks with him at the farm, then he drove them back in time for Tamara to celebrate her 20th birthday with her friends.

Monday morning, I went to Gore Bay. Partway there, I noticed that the side mirror was twisted around. I pulled over and fixed it. That was when I realized that it was smashed and that someone had driven their vehicle down the side of our car. After I got home from doing my errands, I called the OPP who sent two officers to take the report and lots of pictures. Next, I filled out the insurance claim online form.

Monday afternoon, there was chair yoga at the Silver Water Community Hall.

Tuesday, December 19, I drove to Peterborough to pick up my niece, Larissa Chevette. Her brother, Colton Chevette, went with me. He did a great job directing me. He had a good laugh when the OPP pulled me over before we got to Little Current. She pointed out that my licence plate sticker was expired. Our next stop was Service Ontario in Espanola to get it renewed. Once we turned east past Parry Sound, we were surprised to see snow and roads that were partly covered with it.

Wednesday, December 20, the three of us and Salem the dog drove back home. It was a long trip, but the weather was perfect and the traffic was sparse.

Thursday, there was euchre at the Silver Water Community Hall.

Saturday, December 23 the recycle bins were open in the afternoon.

Debbie Addison Brawn returned to her Dad, Arthur Addison, late on Sunday night after a few weeks in Southern Ontario.

Christmas Day, we invited Anne Boyd for supper and to help us complete a jigsaw puzzle of Santa and his sleigh.

Sunday, after church, Murray and Gladys Duncanson went to Espanola to their son, Blake, to spend Christmas with his family.

Clarke, Heather, Ethan and Aiden Duncanson arrived on December 27 to spend a few days with his parents, Murray and Gladys Duncanson.

Congratulations to grandmother, Diane Jones, and parents, Mike and Amanda Vanderform, on the birth of Bear Dawson on December 29th, in Sudbury. He weighed less than five pounds. He spent a few days in the hospital but is now home.

There was a well-attended New Year's Eve party at the hall starting with a potluck supper.

Larissa spent the day with me on January 4. We did the errands in Gore Bay, attended the UCW meeting in the afternoon at St Andrew's United Church, made brownies before supper and then went to euchre at the hall. Neither of us was in the running for any prize, but Shawn had the high score for the night. There were 14 players.

Happy Birthday to Albert Meijer on January 3.

Happy 40th Birthday to Chip Tomisch on January 9.

Condolences to the family of David King. Condolences to the family of Mary Coburn. Condolences to the family of Kathy Robbie.

...Tehkummah integrity commissioner finds former reeve at fault

...continued from page 3
then-Reeve Jaggard's lack of cooperation/participation on the scheduling of a special meeting; and improper meeting cancellation. In completing an inquiry into the complaint, the IC gathered documentary evidence (including emails, meeting minutes, a public notice and other applicable materials), interviewed the complainant, respondents and applicable witnesses in order to determine the facts underlying the issues in dispute. Interviews were scheduled commencing in November 2022.

"Several of the allegations were beyond the jurisdiction of the IC role, as defined by the Municipal Act," wrote Mr. Courtemanche. "In the course of the IC's review of the complaint and interviews with the relevant parties, it was confirmed that a second individual respondent was not a member of council nor was the individual a member of a local board during the times applicable to the complaint. To the extent that the complaint alleges violations of the code by this individual, those portions of the complaint are dismissed. Moreover, the cancellation of a meeting of council, as well as the calling of a special meeting by other members of council (cited by then-Reeve Jaggard in the cancellation), are matters which fall within the application and proper adherence to the township's procedural bylaw. Accordingly, the IC is unable to make any finding with respect to the proper cancelling (or scheduling) of meetings."

However, Mr. Courtemanche wrote, "A violation of the code of conduct is



Former Tehkummah reeve Dave Jaggard was the subject of an integrity commissioner report.

found in the notice cancelling the council meeting. A notice of that nature may cause an impact in view upon those about whom it is written. In particular, issues with the language of the notice could provide members of the township with an incorrect understanding of the actions taken by others." "Regrettably, the notice was careless in its summary of these events and does not assist in the inspiring of the public's trust in local government," wrote Mr. Courtemanche.

However, he pointed out in the current circumstance, Mr. Jaggard is no longer a member of council, his term having ended shortly after the complaint was submitted. "As Mr. Jaggard is no longer a member of council, it does not appear that council can impose a reprimand or suspension of remuneration. Accordingly, no recommended penalty is being made."

Current Tehkummah councillor Lorie Leeson (who had also been on the former council) had filed the complaint to the IC.

"I had a lot of concerns," she said.

On September 29, 2022, near the end of the former

council's term, a meeting of council members (except for Reeve Jaggard) had been held to consider funding the township had received for work on the John Budd Park and Bowerman memorial trails. The meeting also included the economic development officer at the time, Shelba Millette.

It was right after the meeting of council on September 29 when then-Reeve Jaggard cancelled a regular council meeting scheduled for October 4. "The reeve cancelled the meeting on October 4 which would have been our last council meeting (prior to the municipal election). We handed in the minutes (of the September 29 meeting) at 3:45 Friday afternoon but were told the meeting for October 4 had been cancelled," wrote Ms. Leeson. She pointed out the reasons given for cancelling the meeting were "pending legal counsel, ministry of municipal affairs and housing, integrity commissioner, ombudsman, other applicable municipal government agencies pending further information."

"It was indicated that an emergency was created when members of council held a meeting for which no notice was given (the September 29 meeting) instead of waiting for a later scheduled meeting, but in fact it was a specified meeting that was called for clarity for the whole council, by the whole council," wrote Ms. Leeson. She wrote at the time, "This notice was, and still is, posted on the door, office wall and website, etc. and everywhere posing questionable doubt that, with these allegations, it could quite possibly have people questioning the credibility of those running in the upcoming

municipal election."

The Expositor contacted the former reeve on the report, who said, "I was in attendance at the council meeting when the IC made his report to council. A lot of the complaints the IC doesn't deal with."

As for the cancellation of the meeting in October 2022, Mr. Jaggard explained the meeting had been cancelled under the authority of the procedure bylaw of March 28, 2019, section 3.7, "cancellation of council meeting" which states the reeve may cancel a meeting in an emergency. He says "the emergency" was created when members of council held a meeting for which no notice was given on September 29, 2022, instead of waiting until the regular monthly meeting that was scheduled five days later. He noted the special meeting had been suggested in an email to all of council by the former economic development officer who convinced the members of council to call the meeting and have it on their own.

Mr. Jaggard said the purpose and results of the meeting had to be investigated by the provincial authorities (previously noted in this story) and information provided. He said the decision to cancel had nothing to do with the upcoming election or leading people who read the notice to change their vote in the election.

"The special meeting had been encouraged by the EDO, who has been let go by Tehkummah," said Mr. Jaggard. "They were trying to get a motion passed and I told them we already had a meeting scheduled for the next week where this could have

all been discussed. Council had their meeting and had passed a motion for a contract to be awarded to a company." He said the November meeting was cancelled as with the election being held, council couldn't do anything significant at that point until the new council took over as they were in the "lame duck" period.

"I guess I should have provided a longer explanation on the actions of all the people involved in the process and why it was cancelled," said Mr. Jaggard. "Council's treatment of Barb (Griggs, treasurer) should be pointed out as well. They wanted to go in camera so members of the public would not know what council was saying." He added, "I haven't heard how much this report has cost the municipality."

Manitoulin Pet Rescue




Two Kitten Companions

Meiko is one of the most handsome kittens we have had in our rescue. Born in mid July, we still can't figure out why he hasn't yet been adopted.

Bella is 4 months old and is in the same foster home as Meiko. Both kittens get along well and could be adopted together.

If you would like to adopt either one of these kittens, please contact Kathy Jewell by phone at 705-377-4121 or by Facebook Messenger. Adoption fees apply.




Retiring principal recognized for outstanding leadership at Charles C. McLean Public School

by Tom Sasvari
GORE BAY—With his retirement as principal of Charles C. McLean Public School in Gore Bay, the school parents' council recently recognized him for his outstanding leadership at the school over the last two-and-a-half years.

At the C.C. McLean Christmas concert held December 20, Deanna Hardy, chair of the C.C. McLean Parents' Council, said, "We wanted to express our sincere gratitude for your outstanding leadership over the last few years at C.C. McLean. We appreciate your empathy, dedication and passion for the well-being and success of our students and staff. Your goals for the school have

proven to have created a motivated environment where students are able to excel academically, socially and emotionally."

"Not only has your leadership been appreciated within the school, your community involvement will not go unrecognized either," said Ms. Hardy. "Your efforts to create partnerships with community groups, parents and community members were very much noticed as well."

"As chair of the parents' council, we are truly grateful for the positive impact you have had on our school, your timeless commitment to our students' success at C.C. McLean and your dedication," continued Ms. Hardy.



Deanna Hardy, right, chair of the Charles C. McLean Public School parents' council congratulated former school principal Jamie Mohamed on his retirement and voiced the parents' councils gratitude for his outstanding leadership over the last few years at the school.

"Your drive for unwavering dedication, compassion and passion for education made you a wonderful principal and we feel privileged to have been a part of your journey," continued Ms. Hardy. "As you move on to your next chapter, please know that you have made a big difference in the lives of many."

"We want to express our heartfelt appreciation for your incredible leadership and the positive influence you have had on our school," said Ms. Hardy.

"We wish you nothing but the best as you move into retirement."

Mr. Mohamed retired from C.C. McLean at the end of December. He started as principal at the school at the end of August 2021.

Mr. Mohamed had joined the Rainbow District School Board (RDSB) in September 1997 at Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) where he taught a variety of subjects. He had served as vice-principal at MSS and Espanola High School.

Mr. Mohamed was promoted to principal of Little Current Public School in September 2008. He returned to MSS as principal in 2017.

Bahá'í Writings

Know that thy true adornment consisteth in the love of God and in thy detachment from all save Him.

—Bahá'u'lláh

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

MANITOULIN OFF-GRID SYSTEMS

SOLAR PANELS - MOUNTING SYSTEMS
INVERTERS - CONTROLLERS - BATTERIES
CABLES - ACCESSORIES

SALES - SERVICE - INSTALLATION

705-859-2933

...to meet with health minister

...continued from page 3

gation request for the upcoming 2024 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference in Toronto."

"I am pleased to inform you that the Ministry of Health has accepted your delegation request. Your meeting is tentatively scheduled for 8:25-8:40 am on Monday, January 22 with Minister Jones."

"We will have a delegation on hand to make the minister aware of our concerns and issues affecting Manitoulin and probably all of Ontario," said Mr. Noland.

It was pointed out at the MMA meeting in October by NEMI Mayor Al MacNevin that the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities would be taking the same issues to ROMA.



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

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

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...Water, MMIWG2S+ new dual focus for advocate Autumn Peltier

...continued from page 1

ment's decision to invest in the Kinder-Morgan transmountain oil pipeline expansion.

From that pivotal moment, Ms. Peltier soared into the global spotlight as an Indigenous advocate for water conservation. She addressed the United Nations and engaged with global leaders to champion the rights of Indigenous communities to access clean water.

By the age of 14, Ms. Peltier assumed the role of Chief Water Commissioner for the Anishinabek Nation. Her contributions earned her the prestigious Gov. General's Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, and she received four nominations for the International Children's Peace Prize, securing the runner-up position in 2022. Most recently, she was honoured as Canada's Walk of Fame Community Hero for the current year.

However, beyond the accolades, the 19-year-old ambassador remains dedicated to shaping a brighter future for Indigenous peoples. She passionately advocates for younger generations to speak out about their beliefs, urging world leaders to heed their voices.

As a teenager, Ms. Peltier began to learn more about the Indian Residential Schools legacy and its far-reaching impacts on her people, including Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+). Peltier experienced firsthand the intersections of racism and sexism in her work, not only from her contemporaries but from adults.

While she is best known for her work around water protection, her new focus is on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and gender-diverse people. This new message is a point of convergence with her former work.

The Expositor spoke with Rachel Arseneault, a band member of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, who works for the Canadian Environmental Law Association's Healthy Great Lakes Program as an Indigenous Engage-

ment Advisor and is currently a Ph.D. student at York University, who is completing her dissertation this year.

"In 2016, the National Inquiry into MMIWG2S+ found linkages between water insecurity and enhanced vulnerabilities for Indigenous women residing within these types of communities," Ms. Arseneault said. "That same year, the Verdict of the Coroner's Jury determined the same findings when an inquest was held for the mysterious deaths of seven First Nations youth in Northern Ontario. Both the National Inquiry into MMIWG2S+ and the Inquest found that individuals belonging to water-insecure communities are more vulnerable than everyone else with access to clean and potable drinking water, increasing their likelihood of encountering precarious situations. Ultimately, the National Inquiry into MMIWG2S+ and the inquest into the deaths of the seven First Nation youth

called for adequate funding and resources to address the water insecurity challenges in First Nation communities. These two government documents recognized the critical need for the social determinants of health to be met for First Nations in order to build stronger and more resilient communities."

Ms. Peltier's trajectory centers on dismantling colonial systems that oppress Indigenous communities in Canada, shaping her aspirations to pursue a career in law, specializing in criminal or human rights law. Driven by her fervent advocacy for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, a crisis that has personally affected her family, Ms. Peltier delves into the study of criminology. This pursuit is fueled by her awareness of the disproportionately high incarceration rates among Indigenous populations.

...Two communities in the running for storage of nuclear waste

...continued from page 1

Canada's nuclear electricity producers like Ontario Power Generation and Hydro-Quebec.

The organization has whittled down prospective sites to two communities: Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation in Northwestern Ontario and the Saugeen Ojibway Nation in the South Bruce Area in southern Ontario.

The NWMO intends to bury millions of bundles of used nuclear fuel in a network of chambers connected by massive tunnels, reaching a vertical extent below the earth's surface, matching the height of the CN Tower. If both communities reject the project, it would be a significant stumbling block for the \$26-billion project.

"Ultimately, if both areas say no, then we have to start over—and by we, I mean Canada," said Lise

Morton, the vice president of site selection. "We as a country would then be pushing this issue's resolution to the next generation."

"In this location, we've kind of been left out of the major boom that Ontario has been seeing so far," Mark Goetz said. "We've seen it to the west of us, to the Great Lakes, and we've seen it sprawling from Toronto to the east of us, but we haven't really benefited here a whole lot yet."

"South Bruce already has deep nuclear roots, with the Bruce Power plant nearby. A refurbishment project there is set to wind down around when the repository project would start up, providing opportunities for tradespeople," Mr. Goetz said.

South Bruce is already home to the largest nuclear reactor in Canada and the third largest in the world. The power plant comprises eight CANDU pressurized heavy-water reactors arranged into two plants (A and B) with four reactors each.

A significant portion of the community remains dubious of the project. Approximately 20 percent of the residents are working with Protect Our Waterways, a grassroots organization that is of the opinion that the technology is "untested, unsustainable and based on independent research, unwanted in our community," according to their website.

Protect Our Waterways also argues that aside from one confirmed site near a nuclear power plant in Finland, there needs to be an established best practice for a high-level nuclear

waste DGR.

South Bruce has still not recovered from the Walkerton incident in 2000, where thousands were affected by contaminated drinking water, leading to seven fatalities. "Fears about drinking water have lingered there long after the tragedy," said Bill Noll, vice chair of Protect Our Waterways.

"There is a big concern relative to water," Mr. Noll said. "Once you pollute the water, there's not much you can do about it."

While the First Nations Water Bill is in its infancy, legislative changes are still needed to hold corporations responsible for the cleanup of their operations.

Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation is concerned about the health of their watershed, as they have witnessed the generations-long detriment after a chlor-alkali plant in Dryden released around 10 metric tonnes of mercury into the Wabigoon River in the '60s and '70s. This affected both the English and Wabigoon Rivers. In 1970, Dryden Chemical, a Reed International subsidiary, reduced mercury levels in wastewater. The plant was decommissioned in 1975.

"That's the evidence right now of how an industry went astray or how government oversight wasn't there," said Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation Chief Clayton Wetelainen.

Within the planned repository, the radioactive materials would be under multiple layers of protection, and for contamination to happen, "everything has to fail," said NWMO senior transportation engineer Ulf Stahmer. He doesn't project a scenario where

that would occur.

The proposed sites are desirable for their geological properties, with the outermost layer of protection being the rock itself, selected for its low permeability, along with blocks of bentonite clay to form a seal. The properties of bentonite naturally attract radioactive materials and would be a natural failsafe, according to Mr. Stahmer.

He asserts that bentonite clay expands, exerting pressure that hampers microbial corrosion. Encased within this clay are containers crafted from carbon steel and coated in copper to stave off corrosion. These containers have undergone rigorous crush tests, simulating the weight of 500 to 700 metres of rock combined with two kilometers of ice, simulating conditions akin to a future ice age, as outlined by Mr. Stahmer.

"This container is built to endure the repository for an exceptionally extended period—practically indefinitely." Contained within these nuclear fuel containers are the fuel bundles or rods composed of corrosion-resistant Zircaloy. These bundles encompass the actual fuel pellets resembling thick watch batteries. Crafted from uranium dioxide powder and baked into a ceramic form, these pellets demonstrate a high resistance to water dissolution.

However, all the tests, planning and scientific speak do not allay the misgivings of the project's critics—southern Ontario-based Protect Our Waterways or We the Nuclear Free North.

"The whole thing is a

...continued on page 9

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...Reaction largely favours increase to small walleye possession limit

...continued from page 1
all of this. When they reduced the number of bass from six to three that could be taken in the North Channel previously, we lost 20 percent of our business.” He said it makes it more difficult to get tourists and families with children from areas such as Ohio to come up to fish if they can only catch four small fish.

Lou Shortt, current president of the Little Current Fish and Game Club said, “I’m not really happy with the new regulations. Number one, the sport fishers of Ontario are once again taking the brunt. How many people are going to come up from the US and parts of Ontario to catch and keep four fish that are no more than 46 centimetres?”

“It’s a little frustrating for a sports fisherman who comes to Ontario from Quebec, the US or other areas to try to catch a trophy sized fish and they can only catch four small fish,” said Mr. Shortt. “How is this going to help tourism? And commercial fishery operators

and nets can strip lakes like Manitowaning Bay and up the North Channel with nets and take all the big fish. It doesn’t make much sense to me.”

Long-time Manitoulin angler Dave Patterson took a different view of the fish regulation changes. “I’m in favour of the changes, in fact I think they should be tougher. Manitoulin Island should be in its own zone, say Zone 10b, instead of being included in all of FMZ 10.”

“For Lakes Manitou and Kagawong the regulations should be kept the same,” said Mr. Patterson. He said that historically, walleye is an invasive species in those lakes. In Lake Manitou, Mr. Patterson said walleye have killed off lake trout populations by eating the food that the trout would traditionally eat.

“For every other lake I think the take should be one fish (over 46 centimetres) and one under,” said Mr. Patterson. “The fishing is not what it used to be anywhere. I’d also like Lake



Avid angler Dave Patterson is happy with the changes made to walleye slot sizes.

Mindemoya closed off to fishing of walleye. It used to be among the best places around to fish (walleye) and basically now there is nothing in it.” He said the lack of stocking, overfishing and quagga mussels have had a major impact on this

fish population.

Moe Gauthier, who runs a local Screamin’ Reels Fishing Charters told The Expositor, “I haven’t dug into all the regulation changes, but they basically have eliminated people from keeping every fish

they catch. I don’t think this is a bad thing. In FMZ 10 the limits are still adequate.”

“Most of the people that come up for Island fishing in the North Channel are only allowed two fish. I have people come from places like Sarnia and Ottawa. They just want to come here to have fun and do some fishing,” said Mr. Gauthier.

“I think the changes will be good down the road for the fishery itself,” said Mr. Gauthier. “Let’s just say my heart is not broken with the changes in the fishing regulations. We have an incredible fishery but with the lack of stocking and other things it is not what it used to be, so I think the changes are a good thing.”

“The new regulations are good for the fish, and their future,” said Mr. Gauthier. “Four under (46 centimetres) is more than enough.” He said prior to the collapse of the salmon fishery in Lake Huron in the ‘90s he was of the opinion to keep every fish caught. “When the salmon fishery crashed, it showed how precious fish populations are and how quickly things can change. It changed me as an angler. And the same thing can easily happen to walleye.”

Members of the Gore Bay Fish and Game Club (GBFGC) discussed the issue at a meeting last week. Chris Robinson, president of the club said, “we think the changes are positive. Not having any fish taken over 46 centimetres will help protect the big

female walleye.” He said the club is in favour of the season being shortened by two weeks in the spring, now closing on the third Sunday in March instead of March 31 is also positive. “It protects the females who are ready to spawn under the ice.”

Megan Forbes, a spokesperson for the MNRF told the Expositor, “Walleye are the most targeted sport fish species among recreational anglers in FMZ 10 in summer and second most targeted in winter. Provincial monitoring results show that the walleye population in FMZ10 is among the lowest of northern FMZs, and particularly adults walleye abundance is below levels considered sustainable.”

“The previous possession limits for walleye were in place since 2008. There have been small improvements since 2008 in some indicators of walleye status within FMZ10, however, several indicators suggest that walleye populations remain stressed,” said Ms. Forbes. “Changes will help to ensure sustainable fisheries management, while helping to protect, preserve and recover walleye populations.”

Ms. Forbes explained, “There are well-established indicators (from studies/literature) of fish population health (e.g., low abundance, high growth rates, small number of age classes, low recruit age). These indicators were calculated from

...continued on page 10

...Two communities in the running for storage of nuclear waste

...continued from page 8

grand experiment,” said Brennain Lloyd, with the northern group. “There’s not a deep geological repository operating anywhere in the world. The NWMO likes to say, ‘Well, this is best international practice,’ but practice implies that it’s been done before. And there is no practice. Nobody has done this before.”

The NWMO sent officials and community members from South Bruce and Ignace municipalities on an all-expense paid trip to view the facility being developed in Finland. The Expositor has yet to determine if any Indigenous delegations participated in the trip.

Jodie Defeo and an Ignace councillor were a part of the group that ventured down into the formidable nuclear crypt, and she said she was impressed by the scale of the project.

“I can definitely talk to the footprint that they carved out of the land, (which) was only exactly what they needed,” she said.

“I can speak to the fact that there was economic stability in their community and in surrounding communities. And I can speak to the fact ... we wouldn’t be the first, that it will have been done before us.”

Zhooniyaa Matters





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<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">January 16th</p> <p style="margin: 0;">- 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. -</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Little Current, Manitoulin Hotel & Conference Centre</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">January 18th</p> <p style="margin: 0;">- 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. -</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Garden River Recreation Centre, 48 Syrette Lake Road</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">January 17th</p> <p style="margin: 0;">- 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. -</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Sagamok First Nation Community Hall, 5507 Star Road</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">January 19th</p> <p style="margin: 0;">- 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. -</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Sudbury Northbury Hotel & Conference Centre, 50 Brady Street</p>



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Creative art-making: Tracing a path to inner calm. Designing your own finger labyrinth.

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Saturday February 24, 2024
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...2024 kicks off with 50-year low in Great Lakes ice coverage

...continued from page 1
er on all five Great Lakes saw an average of 0.35 percent, below the nine percent average we typically see this time of year, according to data from GLERG. On New Year's Day 2023, more than four percent of the Great Lakes was covered in ice, while 2.35 percent was covered in ice on January 1, 2022.

While the low is staggering, climate scientists say that a one-day low is not as significant as consequential as month-long lows and that the most ice coverage generally occurs in February and March. In February 2023, the Great Lakes saw an all-time low of only sev-

en percent, significantly lower than the 35-40 percent that is the general average, according to NOAA's GLERG.

The Expositor spoke with James Kessler, a physical scientist from NOAA. He told us that while the organization collects and observes data points for each day, they often "collapse the data down" each year to one data point for simplicity.

In December, the North American Ice Service predicted this season's below-average ice cover across all five of the Great Lakes—Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario. Warmer temperatures prevailed in

December, and similar above-normal conditions are anticipated for January.

From 1973 to 2017, NOAA's analysis revealed a staggering 70 percent drop in the average ice cover of the Great Lakes. However, Mr. Kessler cautioned that this figure might be misleading as it measured the percentage change rather than the actual percentage point difference in ice coverage. Moreover, the Great Lakes collectively experience up to 46 fewer frozen days per season, with at least five percent of the lake's surface covered in ice. The most significant frozen-day declines are observed in Lakes Ontario

and Superior, per the Environmental Protection Agency's findings.

Mr. Kessler also said that while we might be at risk for another record low again this year if the warm weather persists, "in 2021, we had a record low January, the second lowest on record, and then we had a cold snap, and then the lakes froze 45 percent."

"You don't have to go back that far to find years with high ice coverage," Mr. Kessler said. "But since 1973, when we began collecting data, the trend is a five percent decline in ice coverage per decade."

Low ice coverage can impact weather events, such as shoreline erosion and lake effect snowstorms. Initially, the lake's expanse of open, ice-free water diminishes, resulting in shorter fetch distances. Subsequently, as the water temperature approaches freezing, there's a decrease in the total latent heat energy accessible to generate squalls. A complete freeze

isn't always required to cease the formation of lake-effect precipitation.

Liam Campbell of Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association (MSIA) says that reduced ice cover duration and extent on the Great Lakes could have several consequences for nearshore environments and the plants and animals that utilize them.

"Ice and water reflect light differently and absorb different amounts of radiation from the sun," he explained. "The amount of light reflected by a surface is called 'albedo'; ice has much higher albedo than water. This means that water reflects much less light and absorbs much more radiation, leading to warmer water temperatures. It occurs at a much larger scale at the earth's poles and is known as the ice-albedo feedback loop. As temperatures rise, there is less ice, and for shorter periods, this leads to an increase in water temperatures and a further reduc-

tion in ice cover. Hence the name of ice-albedo feedback loop."

He pointed out some of the immediate impacts that a long-term decline in lake ice coverage could cause for Island residents.

"Ice also protects the shorelines of the Great Lakes from harsh winter storms," Mr. Campbell continued. "If there is reduced ice cover through the winter, the wave action created from extreme weather events results in increased shoreline erosion. The energy from waves at a time of year when there are not as many plants to act as a buffer further increases the amount of shoreline erosion. This increase in wave action also has implications for some important fish species in the Great Lakes. Whitefish, for example, typically spawn in nearshore shoal environments (1-3 metres) from November to December when ice historically was beginning to form. Reduced ice cover

...continued on page 13

...increase to small walleye possession

...continued from page 9

broad-scale monitoring (BsM), data and compared to benchmarks and regionally. Values of these indicators in FMZ 10 suggest that populations are stressed compared to benchmarks and other lakes in Northern Ontario. Monitoring fish is a critical part of managing recreational fisheries. Population monitoring supports fisheries management by detecting changes in fish populations and aquatic ecosystems and can be used to describe the overall health of a population."


"BsM is the primary approach used to monitor fisheries across the province," continued Ms. Forbes. "The purpose of the BsM program is to provide information about the health of Ontario's inland lakes and recreational fish species, specifically at the fisheries management zone scale. Data collected through the BsM program is presented in reports used to help display and understand information on the status

of Ontario's fisheries."

Along with the regulation changes for walleye, for northern pike, the daily catch limits are six with a sport fishing licence, not more than 1 greater than 61 centimetres and non-greater than 86 centimetres. The daily limit is two with a conservation fishing licence, none greater than 61 centimetres.

For muskellunge, the daily limit under a sport fishing licence remains one. The minimum size limit under a sport fishing licence will go from 122 centimetres to 137 centimetres in the following water bodies: Echo River, Echo Lake, Mississagi River, Serpent River, Thessalon River, Wanapitae River, Spanish River, Goulais River and French River. The daily limit under a conservation licence remains zero.

The daily limit for bass under a conservation licence increases from two to three. The daily limit under a sport fishing licence remains unchanged.



NOTICE BOARD

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Town of NEMI P.O. Box 608 Little Current, ON POP 1K0

It's a new year and a great time to start automatic monthly payments for taxes and water!

Contact our office for more information on how to sign up.

Council and Committee Meeting Dates

January Meeting Dates:
 January 11, 2024 – Committee
 January 23, 2024 – Cancelled
 January 25, 2024 – Council and Committee

NEMI Council meetings are regularly scheduled for the
 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month
 Committee meetings are the
 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month.

Winter Parking Reminder

Please be reminded that as per our Traffic Control By-law Parking on all municipal roadways is prohibited effective November 1 of each year until March 31 of the following year between the hours of 2:00 am and 7:00 am
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Join us at the Recreation Centre for some of our upcoming sessions...
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Winter Walking: Weekdays 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
Sit Fit: Tuesdays 1:00 pm and Thursdays 11:30 am
Pickleball (experienced players only): Tuesdays 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Public Skating Sundays
 Beginners: 9:00 am - 10:00 am
 Everyone: 10:00 am - 11:00 am
 Everyone: Tuesdays 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Homemade Pasta Class
 January 17 at 6:30 pm
 Learn how to make homemade pasta and take some home after. Cost \$15.
 Email lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca to register.



MANITOULIN PLANNING BOARD

40 WATER STREET - UNIT 1 - P.O. BOX 240 - GORE BAY - ONTARIO - POP 1HO
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
CONCERNING A PROPOSED PLAN OF SUBDIVISION

TAKE NOTICE that the Manitoulin Planning Board will hold a public meeting to consider a proposed Plan of Subdivision under Section 51 of the Planning Act at the Manitoulin Planning Board Office 40 Water Street, Unit 1, Gore Bay, Ontario **TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M.**

THE PURPOSE of this application is for a Plan of Subdivision consisting of thirty-nine (39) lots for seasonal residential uses. The draft approval for the new lots will be conditional on provisions of the Official Plan for the Manitoulin District, the Provincial Policy Statement 2020 and the Zoning By-law No. for the Municipality of Central Manitoulin. The land subject to the Plan of Subdivision is described as Lots 7 and 8, Concession IV, excepting Part 1, Plan 31R-2831, located at #18 Tracy Road, Township of Carnarvon, Municipality of Central Manitoulin, District of Manitoulin.

ANY PERSON may participate in the meeting and/or make written or verbal representations either in support of or in opposition to the proposed plan of subdivision. If you wish to participate in the meeting, a written request must be received by the Planning Board Office, no later than January 23, 2024.

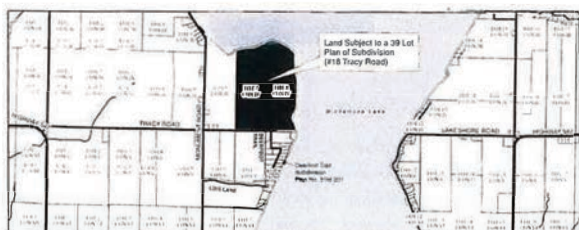
IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to The Manitoulin Planning Board in respect of the proposed plan of subdivision before the approval authority gives or refuses to give approval to the draft plan of subdivision, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of The Manitoulin Planning Board to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT).

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to The Manitoulin Planning Board in respect of the proposed plan of subdivision before the approval authority gives or refuses to give approval to the draft plan of subdivision, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

IF YOU WISH TO BE NOTIFIED of the decision of the Manitoulin Planning Board in respect of this proposed plan of subdivision, File No. SUB2023-01, you must make a written request to the Manitoulin Planning Board, at P.O. Box 240, Gore Bay ON, POP 1HO.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION relating to the proposed plan of subdivision is available by contacting the Manitoulin Planning Board in Gore Bay between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. [Ref. File No.: SUB2023-01].

Dated at Gore Bay
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...Trustees of Robinson-Huron Treaty litigation fund sign off

...continued from page 1
ing litigation around the 1850 Robinson Huron Treaty. Negotiations for the parties reached a proposed settlement that includes \$5 billion from both Canada and Ontario, for a total set-

tlement of \$10 billion for past losses. This is a major milestone in ongoing collaborative work to renew the treaty relationship and honour a treaty promise that dates back to 1850. The 21 Robinson Huron

Treaty First Nations have litigation against Canada and Ontario for breach of treaty. The First Nations claim that under the Robinson Huron treaty, the collective annuity to the First Nations and beneficiaries should have increased over time as resource revenues within the treaty territory increased. The annuity increased only once, rising from approximately \$1.70 per person to \$4 per person in 1875, and hasn't increased since.

Canada, Ontario and the 21 Robinson Huron Treaty First Nations have been working together at the negotiation table to find common ground for resolving these matters outside of the courts since April 2022. The proposed settlement

is an opportunity for Canada and Ontario to provide compensation to address past claims and to honour their treaty obligations and will support the Robinson Huron First Nations to invest in a brighter future for their communities and grow the local economies in the Treaty territory.

In 2014, the First Nations filed litigation relating to treaty annuities against the government of Canada and the government of Ontario.

In 2018, the Ontario Superior Court found that the Crown is obligated to increase the annuities provided under the Robinson Treaties to reflect the net revenue the Crown receives from resources harvested in the treaty territory.



Robinson Huron Treaty Litigation Fund trustees signed the treaty annuities case settlement agreement in Little Current on January 3. Among those taking part included in photo, from left, Roger Daybutch of the Mississauga First Nation, Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation, Duke Peltier of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory and Peter Recollet of Wahnapitae First Nation. Seated is Patsy Corbiere of Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation.

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For those who, like me, are still collecting Haweater coins, there is a fantastic new book available online.

Simply search online for **Haweater Coins of Manitoulin** to learn more about it or visit:

www.blurb.ca/bookstore

Not only is it a great read, but all proceeds from the book sales will be donated to the local Lions Club in Little Current.

...Historic trust fund issues settled with five First Nations

...continued from page 1
toric mismanagement of three claims.

While the settlement addresses those claims, the First Nations stress that the Manitoulin Project is not a land claim or settlement, but rather a redress of historic mismanagement of trust funds and that no lands or rights are being surrendered. Negotiations on land claims and other issues are ongoing and outside of the Manitoulin Project process.

Still, the process will result in a settlement amount—although the amount involved in the settlement has not yet been released to the public.

The settlement agreement will require the assent of band members with a voting threshold of 25 percent of membership for each of the five members of the Manitoulin Project.

UCCMM Tribal Chair and Aundeck Omni Kaning Chief Patsy Corbiere noted that she believes that vote may be pushed back to sometime in February as it will require considerable research on the part of band staff to ensure that all members—especially those off-

reserve—are fully informed of the details of the settlement and the voting process.

“Half of the band members are off-reserve and half on,” she said. “They are spread across the country and some are in the States. We have got to make sure we have contacted everyone.”

Although the threshold for the vote might seem high, Chief Corbiere suggested that, since money is involved, getting out the vote should be easier than for other canvasses of the communities.

The details of the three claims encompassed in the Manitoulin Project have not yet been released to the general public on the advice of the team's legal counsel.

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Pharmacists increase healthcare access through new prescribing authorities

by Lynn D'Souza and Thao Dao
Thao Dao—Earlier in 2023, Ontario was one of the last provinces to expand pharmacists' prescribing services to include 13 minor ailments. Minor ailments are health conditions that can be managed with self-care strategies or minimal treatment. These are generally short-term conditions and lab work is not usually required.

often the only choice remaining for patients who require immediate care. Pharmacists are now able to narrow this gap by triaging patients and prescribing when appropriate.

Initially, Ontario pharmacists were approved to prescribe for the following 13 conditions: bladder infections (uncomplicated), skin rashes (ex. eczema), cold sores, eye conditions (ex. pink eye), allergies, oral thrush, insect bites, menstrual cramping, heartburn and acid reflux, hemorrhoids, impetigo, tick bites and muscle sprains and strains.

The improvements seen on the healthcare system were so vast that Ontario added six more minor ailments to the list on October 1, 2023. These include: diaper rash, yeast infections, mild to moderate acne, canker sores, nausea and

vomiting in pregnancy and pinworms and threadworms.

If you are experiencing any symptoms related to the conditions listed above, be sure to contact your pharmacist for an assessment. Through a series of questions, they will either be able to prescribe you with a

treatment, recommend an over-the-counter product, or refer you to a physician if further assessment is needed. This is a government funded service; therefore, there is no charge to receive an assessment, as long as you present a valid Ontario health card. However, you may need to cover the cost

of a recommended over the counter product or prescribed medication.

Currently, the following pharmacies on the Island are providing minor ailment prescribing services:

Little Current Guardian Pharmacy, Mindemoya Guardian Pharmacy, Manitowaning Guardian Pharmacy, Gore Bay Guardian Pharmacy and Sweet Grass Pharmacy.



Thao Dao and Lynn D'Souza are pharmacy candidates at the University of Waterloo's School of Pharmacy and worked at Island pharmacies in the early summer.

NEMI Notes

Christmas present for NEMI

It may be a long time coming, but council for the Northeast Town approved a tender for a new front-loading garbage truck after the current truck, a standard compactor-style truck, has faced numerous breakdowns this year that have cost \$80,000 in repairs. The latest breakdown saw the replacement of two hydraulic pumps at \$10,000 each with the additional cost of 'purging' at \$3,000 per pump.

Three tenders were received for the new garbage truck: Joe Johnson, \$641,862.44 including HST; Commercial Truck, \$607,375 including HST; and Mid-Ontario Truck, \$633,302.85 including HST. Council passed a motion to approve the tender from Commercial Truck.

Councillor Bill Koehler had asked for figure on contracting garbage services out. CAO Dave Williamson explained that the costs of the new truck were comparative to contracting services out, but with the loss of flexibility of pickup, it would not be worth it.

The wait time for a new truck, from any of the vendors, is approximately 15 months. Staff is hopeful the current compactor truck will hold its own until it can be replaced.

McLean's Mountain Park washroom facilities

Council entered into an agreement with the Minister of Employment and Social Development to receive funds in the amount of \$82,056 for the creation of washroom facilities at McLean's Mountain Park.

Insurance tender

Council received one tender for municipal insurance from Marsh Canada Limited for an annual premium of \$228,604. This is an increase of \$22,000, or 9.9 percent, over last year's premium.

CAO Dave Williamson noted that this increase is not as high as has been seen in the market. Councillor Michael Erskine queried if this was as a result of a lower claims history from the municipality. The CAO agreed that, in part, it was.

...2024 kicks off with 50-year low in ice coverage

...continued from page 10

and increased wave action could significantly impact whitefish in the long run as the ice is no longer present to protect the eggs from wave energy and sedimentation caused by increased erosion."

Another form of erosion that is less known is called lakebed erosion. "Lakebed erosion typically occurs as part of a natural cycle, but it is increased during extended periods of low water, like the early 2000s to mid-2010s," Mr. Campbell explained. "When water levels are down, the energy from waves breaks further from shore than usual, which leads to erosion beneath the water away from the shoreline. While this isn't visible to us, its impacts certainly are. When water levels rise again after an extended low-water period, the nearshore environment beneath the waves has eroded away, leading to faster and steeper drop-offs nearshore. In another feedback loop, this leads to

increased shoreline erosion as the water has less shallow areas to break and lose energy, meaning it hits the shore with increased energy and erosional force."

Radiometry data and visible satellite imagery are vital tools for scientists in assessing sea ice extent. Each method has its own set of strengths and limitations, and for further insights, the National Snow and Ice Data Center is an invaluable resource. Certain satellites use gravity measurements to detect subtle ice sheet mass loss, while others use lasers to gauge ice elevation above land.

Mr. Kessler says that one aspect of ice measurement the NOAA still needs to perfect is the thickness of the ice. "It would be very interesting to have access to that data. However, we also do not want to encourage people to go out on thin ice to record it."

Since December 28, 2023, there have been three fatalities in Ontario involving people falling through thin ice.

THE WEEKLY WORD SEARCH

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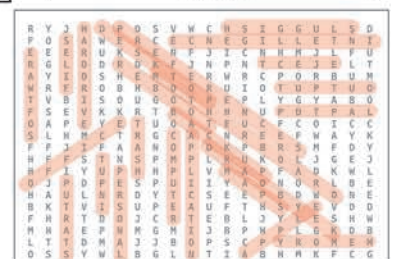
COMPUTER TERMS WORD SEARCH

R Y J H D P D S V W C H S I G G U L S D
 F O S A W E R C E C N E G I L L E T N I
 E E E R U K S E N F J I C N H M J L F U
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- APPLE
- APPLICATION
- BACKUP
- COMPUTER
- DESKTOP
- EJECT
- FILES
- HARD DRIVE
- INPUT
- INTELLIGENCE
- KEYBOARD
- LAPTOP
- MEMORY
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Whitefish River welcomes New Year with community celebrations

by Michael Erskine

WHITEFISH RIVER FN—The happy voices of young children accented the beat of the drum as the Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN) winter powwow got underway. The gathering in the community centre was the culmination of a day of King's Day celebrations that included a baby welcoming and feast. The winter powwow was hosted by the Family Well-Being Centre and Whitefish River First Nation.

The Boozhoo Oskabinoojiinh Giizhgdah (Welcoming New Life) tradition of celebration on the Epiphany, January 6, is an opportunity for the community to welcome its newest members and is a time of great joy. Taking part in the welcome were Charlie Mae, Mia, Rush and Jericho and their parents. Joining in the welcoming were Chief Rodney Nahwegahbow and band councillors Talon McGregor, Brian McGregor, Leona Nahwegahbow, Richard Shawanda and Leslie McGregor.

The well-attended winter powwow began at 7 pm and was led into the community hall dance arena by the eagle staffs, head veteran William Morin, head dancers Tim and Mariette McGregor and Junior Wawaskinga Princess Delilah McGregor, under the watchful eye of arena director Greg Sutherland.

There were four drums in attendance, including North Shore Oitchiidaa Singers, Genaabaajing Junior Singers, Young Biisineh and Anishinaabe Connection and the order of business was kept flowing by co-emcee Marti Pitawanakwat.

A number of vendors were on hand, including a young Chum in full dance regalia, who is continuing the entrepreneurial spirit of his forebearers with a host of traditional crafts and artisan work on offer.



The Whitefish River First Nation New Year's powwow had a great turnout of community members and dancers.



Welcome oshkabinoojiin! Whitefish River First Nation welcomed their newest arrivals on King's Day, with band councillors Talon McGregor, Brian McGregor, Leona Nahwegahbow, Chief Rodney Nahwegahbow, Richard Shawanda and Leslie McGregor welcoming (pink hat baby) Charlie Mae (parents Zach and Selena), baby Mia (parents Amy and John), baby Rush (parents Holly and Joe) and baby Jericho (parents Shoshanna and Joshua) gathering for a commemorative photo.

photo by Tammy Nahwegahbow



Whitefish River First Nation Little Miss Wawaskinaga Delilah McGregor follows head dancers Tim McGregor and Maretta McGregor.



Chum's Powwow Emporium was a popular vendor at the Whitefish River First Nation powwow.

The Manitoulin Snowdusters
are hosting a
Poker Chip Run
February 1 to April 6, 2024

In Memory of Todd "TC" Corbiere



Businesses are invited to participate in the event!

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



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

For more information or to register your business to participate, email Chris at: info@laidley-stationery.ca (Subject line: Poker Chip Run) or call/text Chris at: (705) 862-2616.

Deadline to register your business is January 15, 2024

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped make possible the **'Don't Eat Alone 2023' Christmas Dinner:**

Linda Bailey
Ivan & Betty Edwards
Darlene Bie
Monique Lumley
Wilberta Leeson
Jackie Bryant
Little Current Legion #177
Gail Griffon
Christina Jones
Little Current United Church

thank You!

Bruce & Rosemary Burnett
Century 21 (Jennifer Hooper, Julia Robert & Melissa Nicholson)
Beverly Morphet
Linda Bowerman
The Manitoulin Expositor
Lori Edwards
Charlene MacNevin
Norma & Lynn Hughson

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Manitoulin Secondary School Awards Night sets new record over \$60,000 in bursaries

by Michael Erskine
M'CHIGEENG—The 54th Annual Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) Awards Ceremony held Thursday, December 21 in the school cafeteria set a new record in the amount of awards distributed to MSS students. MSS Principal David Wichar noted that this year over \$60,000 in awards were handed out to the students, along with several academic achievement awards, setting a new school record.

“We are proud of our students,” said Mr. Wichar. “They are part of MSS’s wonderful history. Their contributions have left a unique mark on our school. It is our sincere hope that we have been able to prepare our graduates with the skills necessary to be successful in their chosen area of interest.” Mr. Wichar acted as master of ceremonies for the event.

Following the procession of award recipients into the hall, O’ Canada was led by Taylor Goodfellow and Cameron Measwasige, accompanied by guidance teacher Chris Theijsmeyer.

Rainbow District School Board Trustee Lisa Corbiere-Addison delivered greetings and words of inspiration to the graduates before the awards presentation being read by Mr. Wichar, vice-principal Steve Doane and vice-principal Rachel Goodfellow.

A. J. BUS LINES AWARD

(2) \$500.00
 To two deserving students continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms Maya Holson to Sydney Latva-Aro and Jared Toope.

ALL SAINTS’ ANGLICAN CHURCH GOOD SAMARITAN BURSARY

(2) \$250.00
 Awarded to one boy and one girl in the graduating class who demonstrated the Christian principles of caring and compassion. Presented by Ms Jill Ferguson to Rhys Allison and Katelyn Lentir.

DOUGLAS ALLEN BURSARY

\$5,500.00
 For the 2023 year the top two students from June graduation will receive \$3,000 each and the third student will received \$2,500. Presented by Mrs. Dawn Roque to Alexander Keatley, Jocelyn Kuntsi the top two students and Turner Smith the third top student.



The Douglas Allen Bursary of \$2,500 presented by Dawn Roque to Jocelyn Kuntsi.

OSWALDINE ARGMANN MEMORIAL BURSARY

(2) \$200.00
 Donated by the Argmann family to two graduates



Oswaldine Argmann Memorial Bursary \$200 Amy Heinen to Damion Debassige.



Oswaldine Argmann Memorial Bursary \$200 Amy Heinen to Odemin Beaudin.

continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Amy Heinen to Odemin Beaudin and Damion Debassige.

ART DEPARTMENT AWARD

(2) Gifts
 To two deserving graduates continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Jackie White to Marcus Otosquaioab and Steven White.

ASSIGINACK MUNICIPALITY BURSARY

(2) \$150.00
 To two Assiginack Students continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Jackie White to Marcus Otosquaioab and Steven White.



Assiginack Municipality Bursary was presented by Jackie White to Steven White.

BMO, BANK OF MONTREAL BURSARY

(2) \$250.00
 To two deserving graduates continuing post-secondary education in a business-related field. Presented by Mrs. Amy Heinen to Odemin Beaudin and Laura Orford.

SHANE BEBONANG MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$250.00
 Presented to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mr. Allan Davy to Gabe Hare.

RON BECKS MEMORIAL BURSARY

(2) \$250.00
 Presented to two deserving graduates continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Gillian Becks to Mckenna Barnes and Katelyn Lentir.

BEST BOOKKEEPING & ACCOUNTING BURSARY

\$250.00
 Presented to a student continuing post-secondary education in a business-related field. Presented by Ms. Maya Holson to Darwin

Wood.

BIG LAKE WOMEN’S INSTITUTE BURSARY

\$100.00
 To assist a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Brenda Knox-Thompson to Rylie Desroches.

BILLINGS MUNICIPALITY BURSARY

(2) \$200.00
 To assist two deserving Billings students continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mayor Brian Barker to Isabella Jefkins and Caleigh Quinlan.

REINER BLOK-ANDERSON MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$100.00
 Donated by Stan and Beth Ferguson to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Erin Ferguson to Darwin Wood.

BRAVISSIMO MUSIC AWARD

\$100.00
 Presented to an outstanding student in music, demonstrating both musical ability and leadership in the classroom and through extra-curricular activities, and who is pursuing post-secondary studies in a music related field. Presented by Mr. Chris Theijsmeyer to Jocelyn Kuntsi.

CARL BROWN AND SONS BUS LINES

\$250.00
 To a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Amy Heinen to Rylie Desroches.

JOHN BUDD MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$200.00
 To assist a graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Jill Ferguson to Macie Setterington.

BUIE MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$1,000.00
 Donated in fond memory of John and Mary Buie to a deserving graduate pursuing studies in aviation, accounting, or a health-related field. Presented by Mrs. Dawn Roque to Steven White.



Buie Memorial Bursary presented by Dawn Roque to Steven White.

BURPEE & MILLS MUNICIPALITY BURSARY

\$500.00
 To a deserving Burpee and Mills student continuing post-secondary education. This award will be held in trust.

CAMPBELL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY BURSARY

\$100.00

Presented to a graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Melody Hore to Isabella Jefkins.

CENTRAL MANITOULIN MUNICIPAL BURSARY

(3) \$250.00
 To assist three Central Manitoulin students continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Dr. Dale Scott to Laura Orford, Ward 1, Ethan Cooper, Ward 2 and Rylie Desroches, Ward 3.

CENTRAL MANITOULIN PUBLIC SCHOOL BURSARY

(2) \$100.00
 Awarded to a male and female graduate of Central Manitoulin Public School and Manitoulin Secondary School, and is continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms Kait Watson Smith to Zachary Gibbons and Katelyn Lentir.

CLASSIC SCHOOL OF DANCE AWARD

(3) \$500.00
 Presented to three former student of the Classic School of Dance who is continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Classic School of Dance Artistic Director Maja Mielonen to Mckenna Barnes, Katie Chapman and Jocelyn Kuntsi.

CORAL & JOHN COLLINS MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$200.00
 Presented to a graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Dr. Angela Johnston to Alex Hore.

COMMUNITY LIVING MANITOULIN BURSARY

\$300.00
 To assist a graduate continuing post-secondary education in a related field or to a family member that is supported by Community Living. Presented by Executive Director Ms. Adrienne Farquhar-Kuula to Hudson Hare.

CONTRIBUTION TO ATHLETICS AWARD

\$300.00
 Donated by Mr. Frank Gurney to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mr. Frank Gurney to Brett Mastelko.



Contribution to Athletics Award was presented by Mr. Argall to Brett Mastelko.

TODD CORBIERE MEMORIAL BURSARY

(11) \$150.00
 Donated in memory of Todd Corbiere to 11 deserving graduates continuing post-secondary education in a technical trades field. Presented by Mrs. Kate Corbiere to Mckenna Barnes,

Ethan Cooper, Damien Debassige, Rylie Desroches, Gabe Hare, Jayden Hembruff-Rohn, Cord Hughson, Nathaniel Kimewon, Riley Lockyer, Brett Mastelko and Macie Setterington.



One of 11 Todd Corbiere Memorial Awards was presented by Mr. Corbiere’s widow Kate Corbiere to Macie Setterington.

D. H. ELECTRICAL TRADES BURSARY

\$250.00
 Presented to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education in a technical related field. Presented by Mrs. Leslie Marshall to Jayden Hembruff-Rohn.

O. G. DAVIES MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$300.00
 Awarded in memory of former M.S.S. principal Gwynn Davies by his family, to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Lee Hayden to Jared Toope

O. G. DAVIES MEMORIAL CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION BURSARY

\$200.00
 Awarded to an outstanding Co-operative Education student who is continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Lee Hayden to Mckenna Barnes



OG Davies Memorial Co-op Education Bursary was presented by Lee Hayden to Mckenna Barnes.

ANNE DEBASSIGE MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$300.00
 Donated by the family to a deserving student continuing post-education. Presented by Nova and Drew Debassige to Aysia Francis-Debassige.

FAMILY STUDIES BURSARY

\$100.00
 To a deserving graduated continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms Caroline Black to Hudson Hare.

BETTY AND BILL FERGUSON MEMORIAL BURSARY

(2) \$250.00
 Presented in memory of Betty & Bill Ferguson to two deserving graduates continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Jill Ferguson to Cameron Ferguson and Cord Hughson.

FIRST GENERAL SERVICES, MANITOULIN DIVISION BURSARY

\$150.00
 Presented to a student continuing their education in a technical trade related field. Presented by Mrs. Karlene Scott to Ethan Cooper.

THE FLOWER HUTCH BURSARY

\$150.00
 Presented to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms Janis Hutchinson to Caleigh Quinlan.

MARIE FOSTER MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$150.00
 Donated by Yvonne, Kevin, Rebecca and Patricia Bailey in memory of Marie Foster to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education in a health related field. Presented by Mrs. Yvonne Bailey, Mrs. Patricia Stephenson and Miss Casey Joe Stephenson to Caleigh Quinlan.

FRESHWATER COMMUNITY CHURCH BURSARY

\$250.00
 Awarded to a deserving graduate who is pursuing post-secondary education. Presented by Pastor Josh Wilhelm to Rhys Allison.

FRIENDS OF MISERY BAY, STEVE & RITA HALL AWARD

\$150.00
 To a deserving student who is pursuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Amy Heinen to Landon Hare.

FUEL THE FIRE BURSARY

\$300.00
 Donated by Mr. Neil Debassige to a deserving graduate who is continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Miss Aspen Debassige to Nicole Cress.

MARCEL & WENDY GAUTHIER BURSARY

(2) \$300.00
 Donated by Marcel & Wendy Gauthier to two deserving graduates continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mr. Marcel Gauthier to Riley Lockyer and presented by Mrs. Wendy Gauthier to Katie Chapman.

EARLE GILMORE MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$250.00
 Donated by the family in memory of Earle Gilmore presented to a graduate continuing post-secondary education in the carpentry trade or a technical related field. Presented by Master EJay Gilmore to Rylie Desroches.



Earle Gilmore Memorial Bursary presented by EJay Gilmore to Rylie Desroches.

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KINDERGARTEN



Register Now!

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 | 5:30 pm

MANITOULIN ISLAND

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	PHONE	PRINCIPAL
Assiginack Public School	134 Michael's Bay Rd.	705-368-7010	Tracey Chapman
Central Manitoulin Public School	56 Yonge St.	705-368-7005	Melissa Brandon
Charles C. McLean Public School	43 Hall St.	705-368-7015	Robyn Best
Little Current Public School	18 Draper St.	705-368-2932	Heather Pennie

The English Program includes Core French starting in Grade 4.



Information Nights

For enrolment in Kindergarten, your child must be four years of age by the end of the calendar year.

Start the registration process online at rainbowschools.ca.

Please complete the Elementary Registration Form at rainbowschools.ca/register-now/registration.

Completed forms can be emailed directly to schools or sent to info@rainbowschools.ca.

NOTE: The registration process is not complete until school staff receive your child's identification documents, including birth certificate or birth registry/baptismal certificate, proof of residency, Ontario Health Card and an immunization record.



Register Now!

...Manitoulin Secondary School Awards Night sets new record over \$60,000 in bursaries

...continued from page 17
IRENE GOLTZ MEMORIAL BURSARY
 \$300.00

Donated by Samantha Ramage to a young woman who has demonstrated advocacy and/or leadership qualities at Manitoulin Secondary School. Presented by Mrs. Leslie Marshall to Katie Chapman.



GORDON AND BARRIE ISLAND MUNICIPALITY BURSARY
 (2) \$150.00

To two Gordon or Barrie Island students continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Reeve Lee Hayden to Isabella Jefkins and Mason Leighton.

GORDON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REVEREND WM. MUNRO MEMORIAL BURSARY
 \$150.00

Donated by the Manitoulin West District Women's Institute to a Western Manitoulin graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Melody Hore to Isabella Jefkins.

GORE BAY BURSARY
 \$400.00

To a Gore Bay student continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mayor Ron Lane to Mason Leighton.

GORE BAY DAY CARE BURSARY
 \$500.00

Presented to a deserving graduate continuing their education in a child care related field. Presented by Ms. Kait Watson-Smith to Hudson Hare.

GORE BAY MANITOULIN LODGE AUXILIARY INC. BURSARY
 (2) \$200.00

Awarded to two high school graduates who plan on pursuing studies in a health-related field. Presented by Ms. Jill Ferguson to Cameron Ferguson and Kali Francis.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL ACADEMIC AWARD Medal

This Bronze Medal is awarded for academic excellence to the student who achieves the highest average in their graduating year from a secondary school. Presented by Mrs. Lisa Corbiere Addison to Alexander Keatley.



Governor General Academic Award Medal was presented by RDSB Trustee Lisa Corbiere Addison to Alexander Keatley.

HAR-COR DIESEL AWARD
 \$150.00

Donated by Mr. Dave Harper to a graduate continuing post-secondary education in a technical related field. Presented by Mr. Allan Davy to Alex Hore.

MARC HOVINGH MEMORIAL BURSARY
 \$500.00

Donated in Memory of PC Marc Hovingh to a student who has demonstrated service and commitment to the community and is continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Lianne Hovingh to Landon Hare.



The Marc Hovingh Memorial Bursary was presented by his widow Lianne Hovingh to Landon Hare.

HOWLAND SR. CITIZENS BURSARY
 \$200.00

Donated by the Howland Sr. Citizens Club, to a deserving NEMI area graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Shan Keenan to Darwin Wood.

ICE LAKE COMMUNITY BURSARY
 \$300.00

Awarded to an Ice Lake area graduate continuing post-secondary education. This award will be held in trust.

ISLAND FOODLAND BURSARY
 \$100.00

To a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Dr. Angela Johnston to Damion Debassige.

J.K. AUTOMOTIVE BURSARY
 \$500.00

Donated by Joe and Kim Moor to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education in a technical related field. Presented by Mr. Allan Davy to Rhys Allison.

TED JACKSON MEMORIAL BURSARY
 \$250.00

In fond memory of former MSS Physical Education teacher, T.J. Jackson, to a graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Kait Watson-Smith to Jared Toope.



Ted Jackson Award presented by Kait Watson-Smith to Jared Toope.

JAKES HOME CENTRE BURSARY
 (2) \$500.00

Awarded to two graduates continuing post-sec-

ondary education. Presented by Ms. Kait Watson-Smith to Kaylee Assinewai and Noelle Naokwegijig.

KNOX UNITED CHURCH BURSARY
 (2) \$200.00

Donated by the members of the Knox United Church in memory of Mrs. Jean McLennan to two deserving Manitowaning students continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Dawn Roque to Macie Setterington and Steven White.

LEARNfirst EDUCATION AWARD
 (2) \$250.00

Donated by Mr. Neil Debassige to two deserving graduates who demonstrated leadership and excellence during their time at Manitoulin Secondary School and are continuing in post-secondary education. Presented by Miss Darci Debassige to Katie Chapman and Sabrina Shames.



LEARNfirst Education Award was presented by Darci Debassige to Katie Chapman.

LIFE TOUCH CANADA BURSARY
 \$100.00

To a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Leslie Marshall to Damion Debassige.

LIONS CLUB OF CENTRAL MANITOULIN BURSARY
 (3) 750.00

To three Central Manitoulin graduates who are continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Dr. Dale Scott to Rhys Allison, Ethan Cooper and Zachary Gibbons.

LIONS CLUB OF LITTLE CURRENT BURSARY
 (3) \$500.00

To three deserving students from the Northeastern Manitoulin area continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Erin Ferguson to Cameron Ferguson, Riley Lockeyer and Sabrina Shames.

LIONS CLUB OF SOUTHEAST MANITOULIN BURSARY
 (2) \$250.00

To two Southeast Manitoulin graduates continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Lisa Hallaert to Marcus Otsquaioh and Macie Setterington.

LIONS CLUB OF WESTERN MANITOULIN BURSARY, IN MEMORY OF PAUL SCHUTZ
 \$300.00

Awarded in fond memory of former Lion Paul Schutz to assist a Western Manitoulin graduate continuing post-secondary education.

Presented by Mrs. Amy Heinen to Mason Leighton.

LITTLE CURRENT FISH & GAME CLUB BURSARY
 \$400.00

To a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Club President Lou Shortt to Jorja Peltier.

LITTLE CURRENT GUARDIAN PHARMACY BURSARY
 \$200.00

To a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Jill Ferguson to Sabrina Shames.

LITTLE CURRENT MEDICAL ASSOCIATES BURSARY
 \$500.00

Donated by the doctors of the Little Current Medical Centre to a deserving graduate pursuing studies in the arts or humanities. Presented by Mrs. Leslie Marshall to Sydney Latva-Aro.

LYONS MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH BURSARY
 \$300.00

To assist a graduate who is continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Jill Ferguson to Mason Leighton.

M'CHIGEENG FIRST NATION CHIEF & COUNCIL BURSARY
 (6) \$200.00

To six deserving M'Chigeeng First Nation graduates continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Director Education Kimberley Debassige and Deputy Chief Ross Armstrong to Odemin Beaudin, Damion Debassige, Aysia Francis-Debassige, Gabe Hare, Hudson Hare and Landon Hare.

MANITOULIN BROADCASTING, COUNTRY 103 BURSARY
 \$250.00

Presented to a deserving graduate continuing in post-secondary education. Presented by Mr. Sylvain Boucher to Alex Hore.

MANITOULIN CATTLEMAN & SOIL CROP ASSOCIATIONS BURSARY
 \$300.00

Presented to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Dr. Angela Johnston to Isabella Jefkins.

MANITOULIN CENTENNIAL MANOR AUXILIARY BURSARY
 \$250.00

Presented to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education in a health-related field. Presented by Ms. Shan Keenan to Cameron Ferguson.

MANITOULIN COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTRE BURSARY
 (2) \$250.00

Donated by the members of the Manitoulin Community Fitness Centre to two deserving graduates continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms.

Gillian Becks to Sabrina Shames and Jared Toope.

THE MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR BURSARIES
 (4) \$125.00

Awarded to a deserving student in each grade who has made an outstanding transition from their previous grade(s). Presented by Ms. Alicia McCutcheon to Tristin Cyr, Gr. 9; Tim Arabadzhy, Gr. 10; Nyaeli Abotossaway, Gr. 11; and Adrian Debassige, Gr. 12.

MANITOULIN FAMILY RESOURCES AWARD
 \$300.00

Presented to a deserving graduate continuing their studies in a helping profession. Presented by Ms. Yana Bauer to Aysia Francis-Debassige.



Manitoulin Family Resources Award presented by Yana Bauer to Aysia Francis-Debassige.

MANITOULIN FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION BURSARY
 \$200.00

Awarded to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Erin Ferguson to Sydney Latva-Aro.

MANITOULIN HEALTH CENTRE AUXILIARY BURSARY
 (2) \$500.00

Presented to two deserving students continuing post-secondary education in a health-related field. Presented by Ms. Shan Keenan to Katie Chapman and Kali Francis.

MANITOULIN MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION BURSARY
 \$150.00

To a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education and who has been involved with the Manitoulin Minor Hockey Association. Presented by Mrs. Jackie White to Jared Toope.

MANITOULIN NATURE CLUB
 \$150.00

Presented to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education in an environmental related field. Presented by Mr. Allan Davy to Jorja Peltier.



Manitoulin Nature Club Award presented by Allan Davy to Jorja Peltier.

MANITOULIN NORTH SHORE AGRICULTURE FEDERATION BURSARY
 \$300.00

Awarded to a student that is a child of a Federation of Agriculture member. Presented by Mr. Bill Orford to Isabella Jefkins.

MANITOULIN PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC BURSARY
 \$250.00

Donated by the Manitoulin Physio Centre to recognize the academic and athletic achievements of a post secondary student athlete and is continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Nova & Drew Debassige to Nicole Cress.

MANITOULIN SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP
 \$250.00

Presented to a graduate who has made an excellent contribution to the school, in terms of school activities, school spirit and good citizenship and who is continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Caroline Black to Jocelyn Kuntsi.

MANITOULIN SECONDARY SCHOOL THREE FIRES CONFEDERACY SCHOLARSHIP
 \$250.00

Presented to a First Nation graduate who has made an excellent contribution to the school and is continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Erin Ferguson to Jorja Peltier.

MANITOULIN SNOWDUSTERS AWARD
 (2) \$200.00

Given to two graduates of M.S.S. who have demonstrated care and concern for the environment and who have shown commitment to volunteer organizations on Manitoulin Island. Presented by Mr. Allan Davy to Rylie Desroches and Brett Mastelko.

MANITOULIN STUDENT AID FUND BURSARY
 (5) \$200.00

To assist five deserving graduates continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Vice-Principal Rachel Goodfellow to Kaylee Assinewai, Jayden Hembruff-Rohn, Cord Hughson, Alex Hore and Gabe Hare.

MANITOULIN TRANSPORT AWARDS Plaques

Presented by Mrs. Janelle Addison and Mrs. Maya Marsland to the top students in their respective grades. Grade 9: Emery Watson; Grade 10: Autumn Davy; Grade 11: Mackenzie Green; Grade 12: Alexander Keatley.

MANITOULIN TRANSPORT INC. BURSARY AWARD
 (2) \$500.00

To two deserving graduates who are continuing their education in a Business or Computer Studies related field. Presented by Ms. Janelle Addison and Mrs. Maya Marsland to Odemin Beaudin and Dar-

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...Manitoulin Secondary School Awards Night sets new record over \$60,000 in bursaries

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win Wood.

MANITOULIN TRANSPORT INC. SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

\$1,500.00

Presented to a graduate of M.S.S. who is a son/daughter of an employee of Manitoulin Transport and who is continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Janelle Addison to Caleigh Quinlan.

MANITOULIN- WEST SUDBURY DAIRY PRODUCER SCHOLARSHIP

\$500.00

Awarded to a graduate of MSS continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Caroline Black to Isabella Jefkins.

MANITOWANING AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY BURSARY

(2) \$250.00

Awarded to two deserving Assiginack graduates continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Lisa Hallaert to Marcus Otosquaioab and Steven White.

MANITOWANING GUARDIAN PHARMACY BURSARY

\$200.00

To assist a student pursuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Dawn Roque to Marcus Otosquaioab.

MANITOWANING MILL HOME BUILDING CENTRE BURSARY

(2) \$250.00

To two graduates continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mr. Larry Karn to Zachary Gibbons and Katelyn Lentir.



Manitowaning Building Centre by Larry Karn to Zachary Gibbons.

JOAN MANTLE MUSIC BURSARY

\$100.00

In memory of Joan Mantle, honouring a graduating student who excels in music, academics and community. Presented by Mr. Chris Theijmsmeijer to Rhys Allison.

MASONIC LODGE EDUCATION BURSARY

\$500.00

Presented by Doric Lodge #455, Eastern Manitoulin, to a deserving graduate who is continuing post-secondary education and who has demonstrated courtesy, fairness, honesty and consideration for others. Presented by Worshipful Master Brent Forsyth to Sabrina Shames.

JOHN & JENNIE McCULLOCH MEMORIAL

BURSARY

\$200.00

To a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Erin Ferguson to Riley Lockyer.



Maria McDermid Memorial Bursary by Dr. Angela Johnston to Rylie Desroches.

MARIA McDERMID MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$100.00

Awarded in fond memory of a passionate Manitoulin educator, Mrs. Maria McDermid, to a deserving student who has demonstrated perseverance, good attendance and community involvement. Presented by Dr. Angela Johnston to Rylie Desroches.

DR. R.B. MCQUAY & DR. J.B. MCQUAY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

\$400.00

Donated by Ms. Jan McQuay to the Ontario Scholar who obtained the highest average, in their graduating year and who is continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Jan McQuay to Alexander Keatley.

MEEKER'S MANAGEMENT SERVICES BURSARY

(2) \$250.00

Donated by Mike & Sharon Meeker to a male and female continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mr. Mike Meeker to Jorja Peltier and Jared Toope.

GWEN MIDDAGH- YOUNG MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$225.00

In fond memory of Gwen Middaugh-Young, presented to a graduate continuing post-secondary education in a trades related field. Presented by Vice-Principal Steve Doane to Gabe Hare.

BRADLEY MIDDLE- TON MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$500.00

In fond memory of Brad Middleton, presented to a graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Dr. Angela Johnston to Kaylee Assinewai.



Bradley Middleton by Dr. Angela Johnston to Kaylee Assinewai.

MILLENNIUM BURSARY

\$750.00 (\$3,000.00)

Awarded by two anonymous benefactors to pro-

vide financial support to a M.S.S. graduate who is continuing post-secondary education. The award will support the recipient with \$750 per year providing that the student remains in school, to a maximum of four years (\$3000.00). Presented by Mrs. Dawn Roque to Zachary Gibbons.

MILLS TOWNSHIP CITIZENS ASSOCIATION BURSARY

\$150.00

To a deserving student from Mills township continuing post-secondary education. This award will be held in trust.

MINDEMOYA GUARDIAN PHARMACY BURSARY

\$200.00

To assist a graduate pursuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Gillian Becks to Landon Hare.

MINDEMOYA HOSPITAL AUXILIARY BURSARY

(6) \$500.00

To six graduates continuing their education in a health-related field. Presented by Mrs. Margaret Cadieux to Katie Chapman, Nicole Cress, Kali Francis, Katelyn Lentir, Caleigh Quinlan and Turner Smith.

MINDEMOYA MEDICAL CLINIC BURSARY

\$500.00

Donated by the Physicians of the Mindemoya Medical Clinic, in memory of Dr. John B. McQuay to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education in a health-related field. Presented by Dr. Angela Johnston to Katie Chapman.

MINDEMOYA MINOR HOCKEY BURSARY

\$250.00

To assist a former Mindemoya Minor Hockey player continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Shanna Hare to Landon Hare.

PETER NELSON MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$250.00

Donated by former Principal Laurie Zahnow, given in fond memory of former MSS Teacher Peter Nelson. Awarded to a graduated continuing post-secondary education who exemplifies the traits that Peter Nelson displayed such as kindness, patience and positivity. Presented by Ms. Laurie Zahnow to Jorja Peltier.

NORTHEASTERN MANITOULIN AND THE ISLANDS BURSARY

(2) \$300.00

Awarded to two Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands students continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Lisa Hallaert to Jayden Hembruff-Rohn and Alexander Keatley.

ONTARIO SCHOLARS

(13) CERTIFICATES

Presented to the Ontario

Scholars of Manitoulin Secondary School who received an average of 80 percent or more in their top six, 4U/4M/4C/4O courses. Presented by Mrs. Lisa Corbiere Addison to

Rhys Allison, Kaylee Assinewai, Mckenna Barnes, Katie Chapman, Nicole Cress, Keaton Gauthier, Isabella Jefkins, Alexander Keatley, Jocelyn Kuntsi, Caleigh Quinlan, Sabrina Shames, Turner Smith and Jared Toope.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR, SPANISH RIVER CHAPTER, #237 BURSARY

\$200.00

To a graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Marilee Hore to Alex Hore.

ORR'S VALUEMART BURSARY

\$500.00

Awarded to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Yana Bauer to Mckenna Barnes.

WES PARKINSON MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$100.00

Donated by Stan and Beth Ferguson in fond memory of Wes Parkinson to a graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Erin Ferguson to Sabrina Shames.

BRUCE POPE MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$300.00

In fond memory of Bruce Pope, presented to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mr. Glenn Hallett to Macie Settington.

TOM PORTER MEMORIAL BURSARY

\$200.00

Awarded in memory of former MSS English teacher Tom Porter to a graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Yana Bauer to Jared Toope.

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP

\$100.00

Donated by Principal David Wiwchar to a deserving graduate who has exhibited outstanding leadership throughout their secondary school career. Presented by Principal Wiwchar to Jorja Peltier.



Providence Bay Horticultural Society by Past Fair Ambassador Mary Hore to Katelyn Lentir.

PROVIDENCE BAY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY BURSARY

\$250.00

To a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary

education. Presented by Past Fair Ambassador Mary Hore to Katelyn Lentir.

ALBERT & JOAN RAPSKI BURSARY

\$200.00

Presented to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Dawn Roque to Jorja Peltier.

GIUSEPPE & MADDALENA RIZZUTO

\$500.00

Donated by the Rizzuto family to a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education in science related field. Presented by Mrs. Leslie Marshall Alexander Keatley.

RONA, BUILDERS OF A BETTER TOMORROW BURSARY

\$250.00

To a deserving graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Leslie Marshall to Mckenna Barnes.

ROTARY CLUB OF GORE BAY BURSARY

\$500.00

To a deserving Western Manitoulin graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Laurie Zahnow to Nathaniel Kimewon.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH #177 BURSARY

(2) \$250.00

To two deserving graduates continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Lieutenant Navy Sylvain Boucher to Rhys Allison and Brett Mastelko.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH #514 WESTERN MANITOULIN BURSARY

\$300.00

To a Western Manitoulin graduate, continuing post-secondary education, who is the child or grandchild of Branch #514 members. Presented by Ms. Jill Ferguson to Mason Leighton.

ROYAL CANADIAN SEA CADETS OF MANITOULIN BURSARY IN MEMORY OF ED KIFT

\$200.00

Donated by the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets of Manitoulin, in memory of Ed Kift to a former Sea Cadet. Presented by Lieutenant Navy Sylvain Boucher to Rhys Allison.

SEMENIUK LAW BURSARY

(2) \$250.00

Donated by Mike Semeniuk to two deserving graduates continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mr. Mike Semeniuk to Aysia Francis-Debassige and Marcus Otosquaioab.

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR BURSARY, AGRICULTURE

\$250.00

Presented to a SHSM graduate who demonstrated a keen interest in Agriculture. Presented by Mr.

Chris Theijmsmeijer to Mckenna Barnes.

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR BURSARY, ARTS & CULTURE

\$250.00

Presented to a SHSM graduate who demonstrated a keen interest in Arts & Culture. Presented by Mr. Chris Theijmsmeijer to Noelle Naokwegijig.

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR BURSARY, TECHNICAL TRADES

\$250.00

Presented to a SHSM graduate who demonstrated a keen interest in Technical trades. Presented by Mr. Chris Theijmsmeijer to Brett Mastelko.

SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

(15) Plaques

Awarded to ten students who have completed the Ministry requirements for a Specialist High Skills Major in Agriculture, Arts & Culture and Technical Trades red seal on their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Presented by Mr. Chris Theijmsmeijer to Mckenna Barnes, Katie Chapman, Jazmin Colwell, Ethan Cooper, Nicole Cress, Rylie Desroches, Cameron Ferguson, Jordan Graham, Jocelyn Kuntsi, Brett Mastelko, Noelle Naokwegijig, Lydia Pennings, Caleigh Quinlan, Catarina Rose and Lucas Wright.

SPLIT RAIL BREWERY BURSARY

(2) \$250.00

Presented to two deserving graduates continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms. Andrea Smith to Landon Hare and Caleigh Quinlan.

SPRING BAY PEN- TECOSTAL CHURCH BURSARY

\$250.00

To a deserving student continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Pastor Jamie Greenwood to Katelyn Lentir.

STEELE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

(2) \$500.00

Donated by the family in memory of Douglas, Eleanor and Michael Steele. To two deserving students continuing post-secondary education, in a trades related field and an educational related field.

Presented by Ms. Stephanie Steele to Nathaniel Kimewon and Sabrina Shames.

CHRISTOPHER & LORAIN STEWART AWARD

\$500.00

Awarded to an MSS student continuing post-secondary education, who has exhibited courage in the face of adversity, overcoming personal hardship and for academic improvement.

Presented by Ms. Gillian Becks to Noelle Naokwegijig.

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**Manitoulin Centennial Manor's
2023 TREE OF LIGHTS**

Manitoulin Centennial Manor offers a big thank you to everyone who donated to the campaign. Enough money was raised for the 20 beds we hoped to purchase this year. We couldn't have done it without all the wonderful support from the community.

Up to \$99:

Tish Millette and Randy Burnett
 April and Alan Bois
 Valerie Lambert
 Carol Sheppard
 Ruth McGregor
 Angela Argmann
 D & A Williamson and Sons
 Bill and Mary Smith
 Brenda Burnett
 Bill and Diane Baker
 Victoria Watson
 Anne Slaght
 Kenneth Lippold
 Robert and Ursula Paxton
 Deborah Wilson
 Shirley Viney
 Lucie Medwig
 Jack Omnet
 Walter and Allison Duncan
 Cathy Hallett
 Sheila Rowland
 Marie C Provost-Palano
 Leila Thureson
 Margery Frisch
 Becky Chisholm
 Ila Lloyd
 Sharon Stephens
 Blair and Ann Morphet
 Jack and Sharon Ferguson
 Marie Nagler
 The McAllister Family (Ruth, Judy, Barb & Keith)
 Linda Bowerman
 Cal and Diana Parrill
 Joanne and Graham Lewis
 Lynda Lee
 Sally White
 Liz Schneider and Don Spraggett
 Frances McCulligh
 Gary Newton
 Michael and Lenora Tann
 Steve and Anne Mills
 Liz Gilchrist
 Melanie Carr
 Manitoulin Virtual Orchestra

Bronze \$100-\$199:

Monique Booth
 Mignonne A. Trapanier
 Katherine Grant
 Therese B. Charette
 A. J. Bus Lines Ltd.
 Boyle Marine Ltd.
 Taylor and Son Construction
 Gertrude Aelick
 Norm Morrell
 Holy Trinity Church, Little Current
 Carol and David Hill
 David Noe
 Linda Bowerman
 Saverio Nardi
 Don Rosborough

Wayne Smith
 Manitowaning Mill
 The Wigwam Gift Shoppe and Motel
 Sharon Bentley
 Helen Eade
 Winnifred McAllister
 Irene and Tom Callaghan
 Greg and Janyyn Towns
 Don and Donna Kay
 Sheila Rowland
 Trinity UCW Mindemoya
 D. Marych
 Helen Harris
 Bill and Sandy Koehler
 Cheryl Batman
 Prepped Manitoulin
 Everett Eadie
 Delroy and Janice Prescott
 Debra Bowerman
 Bruce and Helen Gordon
 John and Julie Horsfall
 Brian and Sharyn Bird
 Peter and Irene Tilston
 Edward and Vivienne Eaton
 Larry Burns
 Fern Patterson
 Ron O'Shell
 Marilyn Smith
 Diane Vlaad
 Michael and Linda Erskine
 Claude and Pat Kerr
 Beth Dykalski
 The Island Singers
 Providence Bay and Spring Bay Lions Club
 Eleanor and Alex Leeson

Silver \$200-\$499:

Eugene Johnston
 Mike Varey and Son Excavating
 Betty and Ivan Edwards
 Manitoulin Denture Clinic
 J.A. Rolston
 Laidley's Stationery and Office Furniture
 John and Deb Kada
 Barbara Cranston
 H & R Noble Construction
 Dave and Cheryl Harper, HarCor Greenhouse
 Manitoulin Trout Farms Inc.
 Tehkummah Triangle Senior Citizens Club
 Raymond and Patti Beaudry
 Bousquet Realty
 Jim McDonald
 Royal Canadian Legion, Little Current
 Mary Beth Boyer
 Jill Ferguson
 Bill and Linda Strain
 Haroldine Turgeon
 Streetwise Holdings
 Laing Bennett and Family
 Sue and Rich Whyntott
 Hugh Moggy
 Town of N.E.M.I.

Dr. Brenda Caloyannis
 Bud and Pat Wilkin
 The Becks Family
 Rick and Julia McCutcheon
 Robert D. Duranleau
 Gene and Susan C. Bebamash
 Mary and Larry Smith
 Lila Lockyer and Family

Gold \$500-\$999:

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...Manitoulin Secondary School Awards Night sets new record over \$60,000 in bursaries

...continued from page 20

TEHKUMMAH TRIANGLE CLUB BURSARY, IN MEMORY OF MEL BOWERMAN \$300.00

Presented to a deserving graduate from the South Baymouth or Tehkumma area who is continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Ms Jill Ferguson to Nicole Cress.

TEHKUMMAH FIRST RESPONSE BURSARY \$100.00

Donated by the Tehkumma First Response Team to a graduate pursuing their education in a medical related field. Presented by Mr. Jeff Wilson to Nicole Cress.

TEHKUMMAH TOWNSHIP BURSARY \$200.00

Presented to a deserving graduate who are continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Reeve John Deforge to Nicole Cress.

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH MANITOULIN SCHOLARSHIP \$250.00

To assist two deserving First Nation students continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Mrs. Gillian Becks to Cord Hughson.

UNITED CHIEFS AND COUNCILS OF MNIDOO MNISING BURSARY (2) \$200.00

Presented to a deserving graduate who is pursuing their career in the workplace, a trade or trade apprenticeship. Presented by Ms. Laurie Zahnow to Jayden Hembruff-Rohn.

Rachel Goodfellow to Kaylee Assinewai and Damion Debassige.

MARJORIE YOUNG MEMORIAL BURSARY \$150.00

Donated by Mark & Bonnie Young in memory Marjorie Young to a deserving



Marjorie Young Memorial Bursary by Shan Keenan to Kali Francis.

graduate continuing their post-secondary education in a medical related field. Presented by Ms. Shan Keenan to Kali Francis.

IRENE WOOD-

CADIEUX MEMORIAL BURSARY \$200.00

Donated by the Little Current United Church, Outreach Program, to a graduate continuing post-secondary education. Presented by Dr. Angela Johnston to Cord Hughson.

WHO'S WHERE IN FUTURE EDUCATION

Rhys Allison, Royal Military College; Kaylee Assinewai, Canadore College; Mckenna Barnes, Cambrian College; Odemin Beaudin, Humber College; Katie Chapman, Laurentian University; Ethan Cooper, Plumbing Apprenticeship; Nicole Cress, Cambrian College; Damion Debassige, KTEL/Canadore College; Rylie Desroches, Carpentry Apprenticeship; Cameron Ferguson, Cambrian College; Aysia Francis-Debassige, Georgian College; Zachary Gibbons, Windsor University; Gabe Hare, Cambrian Col-

lege; Hudson Hare, Cambrian College; Landon Hare, Sault College; Jayden Hembruff-Rohn, Cambrian College; Alex Hore, Canadore College; Cord Hughson, Cambrian College; Isabella Jefkins, Canadore College; Alexander Keatley, McMaster University; Nathaniel Kimewon, Cambrian College; Jocelyn Kuntsi, McMaster University; Sydney Latva-Aro, Cambrian College; Mason Leighton, Sault College; Katelyn Lentir, KTEL; Riley Lockyer, Cambrian College; Brett Mastelko, Sault College; Noelle Naokwegijig, Cambrian College; Laura Orford, BMO Apprenticeship training; Markus Otsquaib, Canadore College; Jorja Peltier, Fleming College; Caleigh Quinlan, Sault College; Macie Settington, Fleming College; Sabrina Shames, Nipissing University; Turner Smith, Waterloo University; Jared Toope, Nipissing University; Steven White, Fanshawe College; Darwin Wood, Georgian College.

Following the awards the gathered family members, teachers and other well-wishers in attendance joined in singing 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' as the award recipients recessed from the hall to the school common area for refreshments.

The Manitoulin Student Aid Fund Committee expressed gratitude to "all of the individuals, groups and organizations who generously contribute to finance the scholarships, bursaries, and awards which are being presented here this evening. The students and graduates of Manitoulin Secondary School greatly appreciate your recognition and assistance." Manitoulin Student Aid Fund Committee members included Allan Davy, Erin Ferguson, Penny George, Rachel Goodfellow, Leslie Marshall, Dawn Roque, Karlene Scott, Mr. Theijsmeijer and Mr. Wiwchar.

Feds consider incentivizing purchase of used Zero Emissions Vehicles

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre, LJI Reporter

OTTAWA—Canada's most recent emissions reduction progress report indicates that the country is on target to meet its interim climate goal and that the 2030 climate goal could be within reach. The report also contained three lines that stated "explore the potential to expand the Incentives for Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) program to include used vehicles," however details remain scant. Neither Transport Minister Pablo Rodriguez nor Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault's office were willing or able to comment on whether discussion regarding the expansion of the initiative were in progress.

Minister Rodriguez's office cited his latest ministerial mandate letter, reiterating his commitment to enhancing the accessibility and expediting the adoption of ZEVs, including used vehicles, among Canadian households and businesses.

However, the mandate saliently fails to include any reference to incentives for used ZEVs, while the government report contains the first mention from Ottawa to potentially move in that direction. Provinces including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec are already offering consumers incentives to purchase used electric vehicles.

During a news conference held on December 22, 2023, Minister Guilbeault did not give the impression of being aware of the feds considering of this shift, despite his name being on the cover of the report. "Presently, federally, the purchase incentive stands at \$5,000, and that's the outlined plan for

our progression," he told reporters. "What lies ahead in the future? Will there be alterations? Will we adjust it? I'm uncertain."

In mid-December, the federal government revealed finalized regulations mandating that all new vehicle sales, encompassing cars, SUVs and select pick-up trucks, must be entirely electric, plug-in hybrid, or fuel cell electric by 2035.

"There's no mistaking it. We are at a tipping point," Minister Guilbeault said, noting sizable growth in EV sales in Canada and demand that has previously outstripped the available supply.

Car manufacturers will undergo a 12-year transition period to phase out traditional combustion engine cars, trucks and SUVs. They will be required to gradually expand the proportion of electric models they offer for sale annually. The forthcoming electric vehicle sales mandate regulations will establish a framework where each automaker must demonstrate that a certain minimum percentage of their vehicle lineup comprises fully electric or extended-range plug-in hybrids.

This initiative gets underway with a target of 20 percent in 2026, progressing incrementally to 23 percent in 2027. Subsequently, the adoption of electric vehicles accelerates significantly, with an aim for 34 percent of all vehicle sales in 2028, escalating to 43 percent by 2029 and reaching 60 percent by 2030. This upward trajectory continues until it culminates in a complete shift to 100 percent electric vehicle sales by 2035.

Since 2016, the Government of Canada has selected over 42,000 elec-

tric vehicle chargers for funding and is expected to deploy 84,500 by 2029. Over 50 models qualify for the federal ZEV purchase incentive in 2023, an 80 percent increase from 2019.

Joanna Kyriazis, director of public affairs for Clean Energy Canada, emphasized, "The used vehicle market is expanding, and only some Canadians can afford a new vehicle, regardless of it being gas-powered or electric. Smoothing the path for the purchase of used electric cars for lower and middle-income individuals and tapping into the substantial cost savings they offer would be a meaningful stride forward."

The Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association, speaking on behalf of Ford, Stellantis and General Motors, underscored that augmenting the federal incentive program to include used ZEVs might motivate skeptical drivers to transition if the incentives were made sizeable enough. Brian Kingston, the association's president and CEO, noted, "While a slightly reduced incentive for used vehicles could work, it's crucial to ensure it remains robust enough to assist Canadians in embracing a new technology that still raises concerns and queries among people."

While certified training programs have been designed to train a new generation of electric vehicle specialists to work in electric vehicle production, repair and maintenance, the federal government has yet to announce any incentives for operating automotive repair shops to retool or retrain their current employees.

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17tfn

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

thank you

We would like to thank the Angels who passed out the Christmas gifts at 5 Market Street in Mindemoya. We really appreciate the kindness. Roy, Cathy and Ray

34c

A special thank you to 3 Cows and a Cone for the hot turkey super that Carrie delivered to the house. Again, thank you to Carrie, Phil, Judith and staff at 3 Cows. Many thank you's From Sheila Rowland

34p

Annual General Meeting

The Manitowaning Agricultural Society will hold their Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday, January 17, 2024** at the Assiginack Library at 7:00 pm.

Everyone welcome.

Annual General Meeting

Manitoulin Cattleman's Association and Manitoulin Soil and Crop Improvement Association Joint Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, January 17, 2024
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Welcoming all cattle and crop farmers for association updates, speakers and information, lunch, elections and input into local farm events.



NOTICE OF VACANCY - COUNCILLOR

TAKE NOTICE that a vacancy exists on the Township of Billings Council for the position of Councillor. Council has determined that it wishes to fill this vacancy by appointment in accordance with the "Appoint and Eligible Elector to Fill a Vacancy Procedure."

The term of this position is from the date of Oath of Office for the balance of the term of Council, being November 14, 2026.

A candidate for municipal office must be a qualified municipal elector as set out in the Municipal Elections Act, 1996. Qualified electors must be:

1. 18 years of age or older;
2. A Canadian citizen;
3. A resident of the Township of Billings, or an owner or tenant of land in the municipality or the spouse of such an owner or tenant; and
4. Not prohibited from voting under any other Act or disqualified from holding municipal office.

Qualified Persons interested in being appointed must complete a Council Vacancy Application Package (Application Form, Declaration of Qualification, Personal Consent to Release Personal Information and Personal Statement) and submit in person with the clerk's Office.

Applications will be accepted in person by the clerk's Office during regular business hours from Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. until Wednesday January 31 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at 15 Old Mill Road KAGAWONG, ON POP 1J0.

Candidate(s) shall also submit, to the clerk, by closing time for nominations, a personal statement including the person's background information, relevant qualifications and why the person is interested in the position for consideration of council. Personal statements will be typewritten in a 12-point font on letter size (8 1/2" x 11") paper, shall not exceed two (2) pages in length and will include the candidate's name and address. Statements that do not meet these requirements shall not be included in any council meeting agenda or provided to council by the clerk.

Certified registered candidates will be afforded the opportunity to address council for a period of not more than ten (10) minutes and will be asked a maximum of two questions by council in an open public meeting to be held electronically on Tuesday, February 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Important dates:

Application Period Opens	Wednesday January 10, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.
Application Deadline	Wednesday January 31 2024, at 2:00 p.m.
Withdrawal of Application	Wednesday January 31 2024, at 2:00 p.m.
Council Meeting	Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit the Township of Billings website <https://billingstwp.ca/2022-municipal-election/> or contact the CAO/Clerk.

Dated this 2nd day of January 2024

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services

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

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

services

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

Tfn

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Incoming medical officer of health for Sudbury and Districts cites opioid crisis and the pandemic-caused gap in childhood vaccination as public health priorities

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

SUDBURY—On December 13, 2023, Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD) announced that Dr. Mustafa Hirji would assume responsibility as Medical Officer of Health (MOH) in March 2024 following his predecessor, Dr. Penny Sutcliffe's retirement after more than two decades in the role of a top doctor.

Dr. Hirji's credentials include being an Associate Medical Officer of Health for Niagara Region Public Health and an assistant professor at McMaster University's health program. He is also a self-described "health equity champion" which could be good news for those who face marginalization in the medical field.

Dr. Hirji has noted that he plans to prioritize the opioid crisis and the gap in childhood vaccinations that was amplified by the pandemic. About the opioid crisis, he stated there are no easy solutions to quell the endemic issue of opioid addiction, overdose and fatalities but that a positive step forward could include providing a safe drug supply and decriminalizing specific drugs could allow for patients dependent on

the substance to access better medical treatments in the future.

Dr. Hirji also signaled that among several pressing public health issues, treating mental health and respiratory viruses and keeping childhood vaccines up to date is of prime concern.

"I think one of the big things that we're all focused on right now is the opioid crisis and the large number of deaths that we're seeing from that," Dr. Hirji said, while also indicating that there are no simple blanket solutions.

"Unfortunately, I think nobody's actually figured out the solution. This is worldwide. This is an issue we're struggling with worldwide. And I think if the solutions were known, we would probably be implementing those solutions," Dr. Hirji said.

"Where people who are suffering from opioid addictions, we engage them, we give them a safe supply of substances to use while engaging them and transitioning them into treatment," he said. He noted that within the illicit drug market, substances are cut with toxins that are driving incidents of fatal drug over-

dose upward.

"And there's been pretty good scientific evidence showing that when you have these safe supply programs, you do reduce the number of people passing away from opioid overdoses, which I think is our first goal," Dr. Hirji continued. He also stated that persons with substance abuse problems are often wary of reaching out for treatment for fear of reprisals, including being criminally involved in the justice system. He said decriminalizing could be a prelude to engaging with addicted persons to help them get life-saving medical treatment for their addictions. Above all, Dr. Hirji is invested in saving people's lives so they can get well.

The incoming Medical Officer of Health also said he would advocate scaling up childhood vaccinations, which declined during the pandemic while COVID-19 vaccines were being prioritized.

"You know, when schools were closed during the emergency phase of the pandemic, we weren't able to vaccinate students," Dr. Hirji said.

Over 61 million doses of measles-containing vaccine

were postponed or missed from 2020 to 2022 due to COVID-19-related delays in supplementary immunization activities. In Canada, there are only a handful of current active measles cases, and the latest federal data shows that 10 cases have been reported in 2023. However, cases are up by 18 percent to about 9 million, and deaths to 136,000—mostly among children—globally.

"And many students have fallen behind in their vaccines, and we're seeing measles popping up recently in Toronto, I believe. We see meningococcal infections pop up. We've seen polio pop up, not so much in Canada, but in New York, Israel and London, UK," Dr. Hirji said.

"And I want to ensure we get those childhood vaccines back up to spec because I think that when you get kids vaccinated, they are pretty much protected from those illnesses. It's a small effort with a huge payout."

Dr. Hirji is scheduled to resume the new role at PHSD on March 18, 2024.

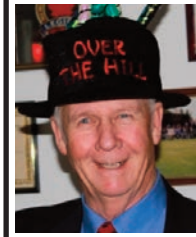
"I'm incredibly humbled that I've been given this opportunity," he concluded. "I'm following Penny Sut-

cliffe, who's been here for 23 years and is really seen as one of the best medical officers of health in the province," he said.

Death Notices

GARY GLEN TRIMMER

February 7, 1940 - December 31, 2023



Gary Trimmer, 83, of Little Current, died surrounded by family on December 31, 2023. Gary was a proud Haweater since his birth here February 7, 1940. Not one to stray far from Manitoulin Island, Gary toured around the world for a few years as a young man in the Navy. He returned to be-

come a local entrepreneur, fire chief and volunteer in many organizations over the course of his life. Gary always lent a helping hand, as well as random items from his shop to more people than we can count! As an avid hunter, ice-fisher, pilot and collector of fun cars, this Manitoulin Man of Mystery was a strong contributor to the community and has impacted many lives on the Island and beyond. Gary will be sadly missed by all of his friends and family. Gary is survived by his wife Julie Trimmer; sons Scott and Dana Jack (Tina); stepchildren Mike and Kim (Kevin); grandchildren Elizabeth and Ryan; step-grandchildren Trisha and Alicia; sister Mary; brother Dale (Maureen) and sister-in-law Helen. He is predeceased by parents Jack and Mary Trimmer; brothers Bill, George and Roger Corbiere. Special thanks to the physicians and staff at Manitoulin Health Centre. The family would be grateful for memorial donations to be made to MHC (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/9790?v2=true>) or Anavets, Unit 176 C/O e-transfer to Wayne Golden, Membership and Charity Rwgnamvet@gmail.com or directly to Brian Bird or Dennis Blake or to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #177. Celebration of Life will be held at the Legion on Saturday, February 3, 2024 from 11 am to 1 pm with a reception to follow. Interment will be held at a date to be announced. Please share your thoughts, memories and photos at www.islandfuneralhome.ca.

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ELIZABETH SHAW

(nee Pitawanakwat)

August 22, 1942 - December 29, 2023



Elizabeth Shaw of Wikwemikong Unceded Territory passed away peacefully at the tender age of 81. Her traditional language was Anishinaabemowin with which she shared many teachings. She had much love for all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, she enjoyed all their visits and blessings.

Predeceased by her ex-husband, Edward Schuchert and her husband Hank Shaw. Predeceased by her parents Dominic and Sarah (nee Shawande) Pitawanakwat. Mother of six children Ronald (Jennifer), Joseph (Pamela), Robert (Carmen), Daniel (predeceased), Marshall (Analyn) and Gail (predeceased). Survived by grandchildren Andrew (Kate), Andrea (Chris), Matthew (predeceased), Amber, Siera, Joseph, Darin, Elizabeth, Daniel, Atticus and many more great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Sister of Lloyd (predeceased), Alphonse, Marina (predeceased) (Robert), Victor (predeceased), Issac (Dorothy (both predeceased), Gilbert (Gloria), Elaine (Ron), Theodore (predeceased) (Christine), Mildred, Evelyn (Wilfred), Beverly and Henry. Family and friends gathered at St. Anthony Daniel Church, Kaboni for visitation on Saturday, January 6, 2024 from 1 pm. Funeral Mass was on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 11 am. Burial followed in the Kaboni Cemetery.

Simple precautions needed to stop rising reports of respiratory and enteric illness, public health urges

SUDBURY DISTRICT—Recent increases in respiratory and enteric illnesses have led to several outbreaks being declared in hospitals, long-term care and retirement homes in the Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD) area that put patients at increased risk of illness. Based on its weekly respiratory illness surveillance, PHSD is also reporting high case activity and very high local hospital activity for respiratory illness, and enteric illnesses have been increasing over the winter months.

"Respiratory illnesses, like COVID-19 and influenza, can affect all of us, but these can lead to much more severe health complications for people in hospi-

tals, long-term care homes, retirement homes and other congregate care settings," said Jonathan Groulx, a manager in Public Health's health protection division. "The very young, elderly and people with certain medical conditions are at higher risk of worse health outcomes, and each of us can take simple precautions to stop the spread of respiratory and enteric illness and keep our community safe."

To protect yourself and others and prevent the spread of illness PHSD recommends you: wash your hands frequently and thoroughly for at least 15 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand rub if your hands are clean and a handwashing basin is not

available, cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and discard used tissues immediately in the garbage and wash your hands. If you are at higher risk of severe outcomes from infection, consider wearing a mask in crowded indoor public settings; stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations. The vaccine protects you from severe illness and hospitalization and builds longer term protection against the virus. It is recommended to get vaccinated for influenza, pneumococcal disease and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) if eligible and stay up to date with vaccinations. Stay home when you are sick. If you must leave your home, for exam-

ple, for testing or medical care, wear a well-fitted mask. Follow the guidelines of any hospital, long-term care or retirement homes you are visiting regarding masking, handwashing and avoid visiting residents or patients if not feeling well.

Public Health works closely with hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes and other congregate care settings to ensure infection prevention and control measures are in place and to help control outbreaks of illness and minimize spread to people who are most vulnerable.

PHSD publishes weekly information online about local activity levels of respiratory illness, including COVID-19, influenza, and RSV and posts information about all active outbreaks in the Sudbury and Manitoulin districts related to respiratory and enteric illness.

For more information on respiratory and enteric illness and precautions to take, please visit phsd.ca or call PHSD at 705-522-9200 (toll-free 1-866-522-9200).

Memorial Service Notice

Friends are invited to gather at the Kagawong Park Centre for a service to mark Barb's passing.

Saturday, January 13, 2024
11:00 am
followed by a luncheon

For those unable to join us in person, a live stream option will be available. Please email BarbErskineService@gmail.com for a link to the live stream or to send condolences.



Barbara Erskine
September 25, 1955 - December 21, 2023



Celebration of Life

LEW LANKTREE



The family of Lew Lanktree invite you to join in a Celebration of Life on Saturday, January 20, 2024 from 1 to 4 pm at the Mindemoya Curling Club (103 Thorne Street). A light luncheon will be served and during this time of fellowship, Lew's family will be sharing some of their favourite memories of Grandpa Lew.

Death Notices

JOHN CLARKE CANNARD

July 30, 1956 - December 21, 2023



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of John Clarke Cannard after a courageous battle with cancer. He passed away peacefully at the Maison McCulloch Hospice on December 21, 2023 with his wife at his side. He is predeceased by his parents Glen and Margaret "Jean" Cannard of Manitoulin Island.

He is survived by the love of his life, wife Melanie Hinton, and his beautiful daughters Jennavieve Hinton-Cannard and Abbie Hinton-Cannard whom he often referred to as his greatest gifts. Even in his last days he expressed his love to them and that they were to study hard, attain the goals they set for themselves and most importantly, be happy. He is also survived by his sister Glenna Roy (Mike Easton) and his brothers Tom (Angie) and Blaine (Donelda) as well as many adored nieces and nephews. The Manitoulin Sugar Bush gatherings hold special meaning and his presence and contagious laughter will be missed. He will also be missed dearly by Melanie's family; father-in-law Richard, brother and sister in-law Shawn and Lise and extended family members. John was always the life of the party, his custom-made trivia games, pool tournaments and special dance moves will be missed. John lived life to the fullest, he travelled the world extensively and even tried his hand at living in a Buddhist monastery for a month where he was not permitted to speak. He and Melanie owned several sailboats over the years and could be found exploring the North Channel most weekends. Many family memories were created on those boats that will be cherished forever. Throughout his life he enjoyed many outdoor sports: whitewater kayaking, rock climbing, canoeing, mountain biking. In recent years he and Melanie hiked and cycled countless routes in Ontario and Quebec. John was a dedicated and principled civil/environmental engineer who worked for JLRichards & Associates for many years. He loved to mentor new engineers and took pride in his place of work. His JLR family showed him compassion, friendship and love during his illness. Regular visits, encouraging cards, homemade soup, meals, flowers, gift baskets and daily text messages meant the world to him and to us. We would like to say a special thank you to all the health care professionals whom helped navigate through his difficult medical journey. The Cancer Center, HSN 4-North, Home and Community Care, Bayshore, Dr. Nathalie Roy, Dr. Emack, Dr. Pearce, Dr. Singh, Dr. Falk and nurse Jackie, to name a few. As per John's wishes his ashes will be buried in the family plot at the Elm View Cemetery in Sheguiandah with some sprinkled at the Sugar Bush which will be followed by a gathering at the Sheguiandah Seniors' Hall in the spring. In lieu of flowers, donations to either the Maison McCulloch Hospice or the Cancer Foundation would be appreciated.

FREDERICK "FRED" CONRAD SCOTT

May 23, 1938 - December 30, 2023



In loving memory of Frederick "Fred" Conrad Scott, who passed away peacefully at the Mindemoya Hospital on Saturday, December 30, 2023 at the age of 85. He leaves behind his wife of 61 years Margaret Scott (nee McCulligh). He was the beloved father of Marilyn (Stephen) Man, Patricia "Trish" Scott, Barbara "Barb" Scott, Deborah (Anthony) Rocca and William (Arora) Scott. Grandfather of Kinsley Magi Edwards (Philip), Cohen Magi (Lindsay), Angus Dell, Conrad Scott, Edward Scott, Isabella Rocca and Jaxon Rocca. Proud great-grandfather of Silas James Edwards. Born in Mills Twp. to William and Sarah (nee Strain) Scott. Brother of Beatrice Scott Biange (Charlie), Edward "Ted" Scott (Marie), Margaret "Margi" Scott Blackburn (Bill), Lottie Mai Scott McDonald (Jack), Maria Scott McDermid (Ken) and John Scott (Laura) (all predeceased). Fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews and friends. Family and friends gathered at the Spring Bay Pentecostal Church on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Visitation was from 10 am until the service at 11 am with Pastor Jamie Greenwood officiating. Burial to follow in the Burpee and Mills Cemetery. Donations may be made in Fred's honour to the Spring Bay Pentecostal Church or the Mindemoya Hospital Auxiliary. Please share your thoughts, memories and photos at www.simpsonfuneralhome.ca.

KYLE WILLIAM LAWRENCE SMITH

October 23, 2003 - December 25, 2023



In loving memory of Kyle William Lawrence Smith, Kyle left us far too soon after a five year battle with Cancer which he fought every step of the way with humor and positivity. He passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family. 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, family and friends who Kyle loved dearly. Kyle will be remembered for his sense of humor, his beautiful smile, his love of music, video games and how his presence lit up a room. He was kind. He was goofy. He was loved. He will be missed. There will be a Celebration of Life for Kyle at a later date. Donations in Kyle's memory can be made to Northern Ontario Families of Children with Cancer (NOFCC). Arrangements by Bourcier Funeral Home Ltd, Espanola.

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, family and friends who Kyle loved dearly. Kyle will be remembered for his sense of humor, his beautiful smile, his love of music, video games and how his presence lit up a room. He was kind. He was goofy. He was loved. He will be missed. There will be a Celebration of Life for Kyle at a later date. Donations in Kyle's memory can be made to Northern Ontario Families of Children with Cancer (NOFCC). Arrangements by Bourcier Funeral Home Ltd, Espanola.

GARRY IVAN LEWIS

April 3, 1947 - December 19, 2023



The family of Garry Lewis is sad to announce his passing after a long illness. Garry is lovingly remembered by Shirley (McLean) Lewis, his spouse of 35 years. He will be missed by a large extended family. Garry was born in Mindemoya, Manitoulin Island to Elsie Leah (Middleton) Lewis and Leonard Lewis, he was the ninth of 11 children who all grew up on the family farm at Spring Bay. As a young man, Garry moved to Sudbury. He worked for a time at Pioneer Construction before beginning a 30-year career at Falconbridge Nickel Mining Co. After retiring from Falconbridge, Garry returned to Manitoulin Island where he and Shirley built a home on Lake Kagawong. At home on the Island, he enjoyed being close to family and was happy to spend more time hunting and fishing. Among Garry's family connections are his siblings and their spouses: Mildred (Len Jewel) (both predeceased), Audrey (predeceased) (survived by Delbert Merrilees), Leah (Jim Rayner) (both predeceased), Patricia (predeceased) (survived by Joe Baker), Shirley de Chevigny, Douglas (predeceased) (survived by Mary Alice), Kenneth (Marlene), Gordon (Darlene, predeceased); Irwin (Mary), and Merlin (Christine). Garry is remembered by his children from his first marriage: Ivan (Cynthia), Lisa (Jason Craig) and John (Michelle) and also by his step-children: Susan (George Young), Brian Hill, Bruce Hill (Sherry), Joel Hill (survived by Trudy) predeceased Garry by a few months. He is also remembered by his good friend Greg Thompson, numerous grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins. He will be missed by Molly and Wicki, his feline friends. Shirley and the family would like to thank all of Garry's doctors, the staff at Mindemoya Hospital, the paramedics, home care workers, neighbours and friends who cared for and supported Garry during his illness. Cremation services provided by Simple Wishes of the North, Sudbury.

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DAVID THOMAS ORGAN

October 1, 1935 - December 23, 2023



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the death of our one and only David Organ. He is survived by his wife Denise (née Boutet), his son Jon, sister-in-law Nicky Wasberg (husband Wayne, deceased), and brother-in-law Peter Boutet (wife Jeanette). Dave and I married young, raised each other and survived, still living and loving after 69 years. Best of all, we were blessed with our wonderful son.

My father was a talented craftsman and great problem solver, unusually gifted in every area. He was devoted and true, and I am happy to be his son and student.

Full sail, Davey, bon voyage!

KATHLEEN ROBBIE

(nee O'Shell, Hurley)

February 16, 1939 - December 25, 2023



A beautiful person got her angel wings Christmas Day. Kathleen Robbie (nee O'Shell, Hurley) February 16, 1939 to December 25, 2023. She is currently trying to decide if she should be dancing, fishing, or playing cards. She loved Manitoulin Island and had an amazing assortment of loving friends.

In 2012 Mom had a major accident on Harper Hill cliff and survived, proof of just how tough she was. Many have said "the toughest old broad they know". That accident proved to have killed her slowly. After years of suffering, Mom left the world peacefully on Christmas day, surrounded by family. Mom is survived by 3 children Bunny Kriegizas (late John), Mike Hurley (Mimi), Dale Kingsley (Jack) and 2 stepchildren Danna Robbie and Daryl Robbie. Mom was blessed with 10 Grandchildren Terry (Ashley), Joey (Felicia), Arron (Fiona), Dennis (Alison), Danny, Jeffrey (Lenka), Dawn, Stevie (Derek), Kai & Leighton and 9 Great Grandchildren Lincoln, Xavier, Jayde, Brogan, Malcolm, Timotej, Myles, Sarah, and Ben, all of whom loved her. Mom is survived by siblings Ron O'Shell (Ann), Elaine Spicer (Jim) and brother-in-law Henry Allan, predeceased by siblings, Geraldine Allan, Sonny O'Shell and Sheila La-Celle (Gary). RIP We will miss you forever.

D'ARCY JOHN PAQUET

'Adik' - Caribou

November 25, 1936 - December 24, 2023



With great sadness we mourn the passing and celebrate the life of D'Arcy John Paquet 'Adik' - Caribou, on December 24, 2023, at the age of 87 at the Manitoulin Health Centre, Little Current. Surrounded by his wife Jeannette Assiniwe, children, grandchildren and other family members, D'Arcy began his journey to the Spirit World guided by traveling songs with the beat of our hand drum. D'Arcy was born on November 25, 1936 to parents Joseph and Yvonne Paquet. His siblings are Joe Paquet (wife Betty), Lyse Paquet, Jeanine Paquet and Carol Trembley (predeceased). He is father to 11 children: Stuart (Winona), Kerry (Jamie), Debbie (Frank), Darren (Robin), Roger (Jessica), Amanda (Jamie), D'Arcy Jr. (Heidi), Sue, Paul (Maria), Louise (Neil) and Rene (Brieghan). He was a proud and loving Papa/Grandpa to many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Since he was a teenage boy, D'Arcy worked for Canadian Pacific Railway in many capacities like a mechanic, breakman, Via Rail conductor and locomotive engineer; up until his retirement in 1994. Upon retirement, he and wife Jeannette built a home in Rabbit Island, Wiikwemkoong and is where he lived the rest of his life. Here he lived his life within the Anishinaabe culture. And as such, his wishes were also leave his life guided by the Anishinaabe culture. After D'Arcy's wake and funeral gathering, he was cremated as per his wishes. D'Arcy always liked to share his advice whether asked for it or not (lol). His most common advice was to make sure to always be prepared in life to live well. And with that, help each other when needed. He did what he could in life to achieve this for himself, family and friends. Miigwech, thank you D'Arcy - Adik, for your life, the lives you helped create and guide and for all your contributions and legacy. We will remember and cherish forever. Until we meet again... baa maa pii -see you later. Family and friends gathered at Rabbit Island Centre. Visitation on Friday, December 29, 2023 at 6 pm sunrise Ceremony to be held Saturday morning. Funeral Service was on Sunday, December 31, 2023 at 1 pm with cremation followed. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Wikwemikong Nursing Home.

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

Canadian Wrestling Elite comes to Manitoulin Island January 2

by Margery Frisch
M'CHIGEENG—Have you ever had the desire to become a professional wrestler? Over 50% of those in attendance at the She'ndwin Tegu Bingo Hall, if asked, would no doubt have said, "Yes, absolutely!"

The Canadian Wrestling Elite (CWE), based out of Winnipeg, kicked off its 15th anniversary tour on January 2 with its first stop in M'Chigeeng. The opportunity to meet and greet the wrestlers brought many to the hall an hour before the event began. The wrestlers were lined up nicely, smiling and chatting with the fans, and giving no indication as to their true personas. The athletes who entered the ring an hour later were different characters entirely.

Paul Wright stood at the

end of the meet and greet line, beside his arch nemesis, Odjig Thundercloud. The two were the reason many came out to the event, both are Manitoulin's own champion wrestlers, joining with other Ontario wrestlers to complete the roster set out by the CWE.

"They (CWE) tour all over Canada," said wrestler Jimmie Spite, from Sudbury. "They're in Ontario for one week, they do one-week tours in every province. This is their first stop, from here we go to Sudbury, Elliot Lake, Sault Ste-Marie, Thunder Bay and then six days from now we'll be in Dryden. They're off to Winnipeg next. The way it works is all the wrestlers are on contract, so they'll book in wrestlers from each province they're touring in."

Precise Paul Wright, who has only recently returned to the Island after leaving to attend university and to marry, talked about the event and the fact that there are wrestlers from all over—Winnipeg, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Michigan—"A lot of talent here tonight," he said. He was especially in awe of American wrestler, Charlie Scaggs, known best as 2 Cold Scorpio, who has competed in WWF, WCW, ECW among a list of many championships in his long, illustrious career. "The stuff people are doing today, he was doing 30 years ago. He's right up there with The

Rock and Hulk Hogan."

Odjig Thundercloud, from Wiikwemkoong, though lamenting that Paul Wright took away his championship belt, "he broke me, slamming me through a couple of tables..." explained that on this night they would be part of a tag team. "Tonight, we're going to team up and take on these Canadian Wrestling Elites and we're going to represent Manitoulin," which they did with pride and great success.

With the niceties of the meet and greet out of the way, the athletes left the hall to prepare for their matches. The hall filled

with a loud, excited crowd, many children, accompanied by adults, sporting wrestling t-shirts and waving banners with words both encouraging and disparaging. It was difficult to glean who was more excited—the kids or their parents. Though, when asked, parents assuredly said their kids love the sport.

In each match, there was clearly a bad guy and a good guy, made apparent by the boos and the cheers of the crowd, also by their introductions: "Sin City Saint, Vinnie DaVinci" versus "Punk Rock Wrestling Star, Jimmie Spite." Vinnie DaVinci was the favoured one in that match, and with the crowds' encouragement, he won, though it was not an easy victory.

"Hot Shot" Danny Dugan (aka Danny Warren, owner of the CWE) entered the ring waving an American flag while making

derogatory comments about Canadians. His opponent, scrawny little Tommy McCloud, instantly and unanimously, garnered the support of the people. Tommy won the match.

A women's match brought a change of pace to the event and, in predictable fashion, when it was a choice between sweet, little Zondra Lee and Khaos, the audience, once again, supported the underdog—Zondra Lee. She too won her match.

Then Rusty Blackwell, "The Backwoods Butcher," fought "Headline," Shaun Martens. It became clear, early on, that the Backwoods Butcher was the underdog of this match. The Butcher won the match and Headline was such a sore loser, the cheers grew all the louder for the Butcher.

...continued on page 29



The Backwoods Butcher Rusty Blackwell and Tommy McCloud.
 photos by Margery Frisch



Noel and Cormac Poulin before.



Noel and Cormac Poulin after.



After winning the tag team match, Paul Wright and Odjig Thundercloud get into it again.



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...Canadian Wrestling Elite comes to Manitoulin Island January 2

...continued from page 28

The special attraction match had WWF/WCW/ECW legend 2 Cold Scorpio pitted against Dann Jarris who, on a Facebook page declared 2 Cold Scorpio 'a fossil' from the past and vowed to 'put the past to rest.' But, in the end, he did not. 2 Cold Scorpio took that match, to the crowd's delight.

Chaos reigned when six wrestlers entered the ring for a tag team match: Manitoulin Island's Odjig Thundercloud, Precise Paul Wright and a character known only as Superfan were pitted against The Double D's - Danny and Derek Diggler, from North Bay, along with their partner, "The Main Man," Josh Bain. Thankfully, Manitoulin Island's own won the match, but those two, Odjig Thundercloud and Paul Wright, could not put their differences aside for an entire evening, skirmishing, in the end, out of the ring and onto the floor amidst chairs and fans. No doubt a rematch for these two is in the offing.

The final match of the night was between A J Sanchez, "The Canadian Crusher," from Winnipeg and the current WWE Heavyweight Champion, Mentallo, "The Zombie Killer," from parts unknown. Theirs was an intense match, inside and outside the ring, spilling out from time to time, putting those close to the ring on edge, never knowing if a wrestler was about to land in their lap. The Canadian Crusher brought on the ire of the fans, when he demanded silence - no shouting - which would not be respected, in fact the shouts and jeers only grew louder. He lost the match to Mentallo, which greatly satisfied the crowd.

For one new to wrestling, the entire event was impressive. There's no denying the skill of these athletes; their energy, strength and precision are masterful. In addition, they are interacting with the audience, in either positive or negative ways, but the persona they develop must be kept up through it all. And the pain - there's got to be a lot of pain, yet they carry on, never ceasing to entertain.

"Yeah, it was good," admitted one teen, wishing to remain anonymous. Before the show began, he sat, embarrassed to be in the audience. His cousin, a die-hard fan, said he had dragged him there. On his way out, the teen had to admit, he enjoyed it. Everyone did.



It does not look good for Odjig Thundercloud.



Khaos gets the upper with Zondra Lee.



Maximus Panamick, centre, with his dad and grandpa.

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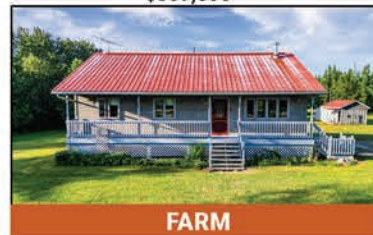
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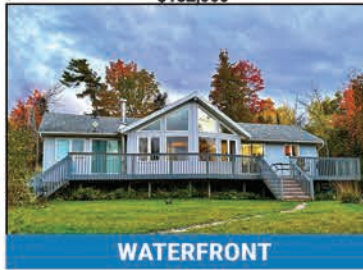
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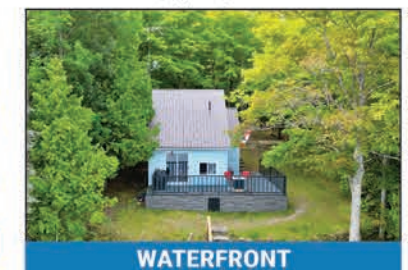
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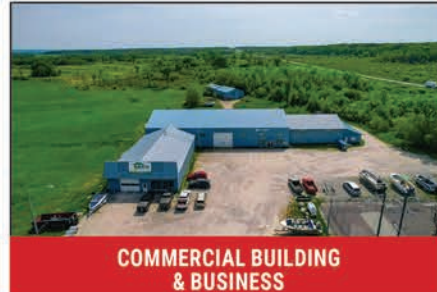
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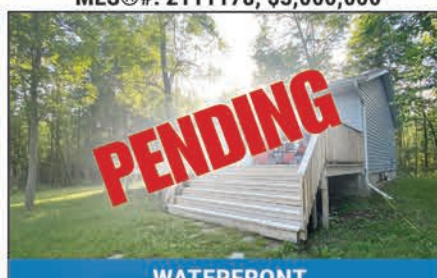
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Little Current, Manitoulin Island

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Sudbury Wolves jerseys sported new Indigenous theme at Saturday's game

by Michael Erskine

SUDBURY—Indigenous artist Raven Debassige admitted feeling “daunted” when she was first tasked with creating the design for Indigenous-themed hockey jerseys for the Ontario Hockey League Sudbury Wolves, but also very honoured and proud. This year, Ms. Debassige’s work returns on the new jerseys the Wolves wore for the second annual Indigenous Night game held Saturday, January 6.

“It is with great pride and profound sense of responsibility that we come together to unveil this jersey today,” said team owner Dario Zulich during the Tuesday unveiling. “I am hoping this will be the first of 30 or 40 times we do this. This partnership that we have with Indigenous communities is one based on mutual respect and shared values and a commitment to celebrating the rich and diverse cultures of our Indigenous communities and partners in the North.”

The jerseys were created in partnership with Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre, and the organization was on hand for the unveiling of the second annual Indigenous jersey on Tuesday, January 4.

Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre manager of community relations and health promotion Jordan Assinewe stressed the importance of Indigenous Night and the impact efforts toward reconcilia-



For the second year in a row the Ontario Hockey League Sudbury Wolves wore jerseys with an Indigenous theme designed by Raven Debassige during the league’s Indigenous Day game on Saturday. The Wolves wore the jerseys in their successful tilt against the visiting Kitchener Rangers.

tion such as symbolic jerseys have on demonstrating the resilience of Indigenous communities.

“With our collective efforts towards reconciliation, we celebrate the resiliency of Indigenous people in our community, our nation and on Turtle Island,” said Mr. Assinewe. “We celebrate the positive steps we made towards reconciliation—we celebrate the partnerships that we made along the way—and it’s our duty to celebrate the similarities and differences amongst all people for future generations.”

The jersey design grew out of last year’s design and centres on the colour red, which represents the southern door of the medicine wheel and its teach-

ings of growth and empathy, noted Mr. Assinewe during the unveiling. The wolf represents the Seven Grandfathers’ teaching of “carrying yourself with a sense of pride, free from arrogance—with modesty and humbleness with oneself.”

The jerseys were auctioned off following the Saturday night game between the Sudbury Wolves and the Kitchener Rangers, under the auspices of the game’s sponsor Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services. Funds raised from the online auction will be donated to support the Indigenous Youth in Sport and Mental Wellness program.



Getting your drills on!

A free hockey clinic was held for youngsters of all ages in Gore Bay December 27-28. Roger Chenard was the instructor along with a couple of helpers for the two day clinic. Youngsters learned many different skating, shooting and passing skills and took part in a scrimmage session. The ice time at the Gore Bay arena was provided for free by the town of Gore Bay. Mr. Chenard has been hosting the free hockey clinic for about five-six years.

Ice Chips and Canoe Quips

Manitoulin Sporting Life

Ice Chips to Canoe Quips by Larry and André Leblanc



Panther points!

The U18 Panther girls, after enjoying a well-deserved break for the holidays, travelled to North Bay on Saturday January 6th for a pair of exhibition games against the North Bay Junior Lakers B squad. Coach Scot Hughson had mentioned earlier this will be the team they will be facing off against in February to see who will represent our region at the OWHA Provincial championships this April.

Inspired by Coach **Sonya Gibbs-Stencill**’s Gold medal that she brought for them to see from her provincial championship as a member of the North Bay Ice Boltz, (now the Junior Lakers), the girls came out firing in the first game. The Jr. Lakers opened the scoring, capitalizing on a great 2-on-1 in the first. It was a very well-played game by both teams and this newly developing rivalry is living up to the hype! They continued to battle hard and managed to tie the game at 1 on a goal by **Gracie Gibson**. The action was back and forth but neither team was able to break the tie and the game ended at 1-1. It was their second game against the North Bay team and the second tie, the first being a score of 2-2.

After a short rest to get the tanks refueled with fruit and veggies, the stage was set for game number two. The action picked up right where it left off as both teams continued with a very physical and fast-paced game. This time though it was **Shaye Ominika** who opened the scoring for the Lady Panthers, picking up the rebound and burying it in the Lakers goal.

The score remained 1-0 until late in the third when the Lakers finally were able to capitalize tying the game at one. Coach Scot relayed that with them being limited to only two lines from their regular roster of three plus the speed and physicality of the games played, the Lakers were able to take advantage of the situation, scoring late in the third to go ahead 2-1. They continued to battle right until the last faceoff that saw them with a great scoring chance but the final remained 2-1 for the Lakers.

“It was a great day of hockey,” Scot said, “and I heard many comments from family and fans at how well our girls played. Myself, Coach **Al Laginski**, Coach **Sonya** and our trainer **Marcie Hughson** were very proud of the way the team played. Great job, girls!”

Their next action will be in Collingwood when they travel to take part in the Thundersnow Classic from January 19-21. With the way they played this weekend and their bench finally returning to full strength, coach is looking forward to the competition.

Assignack Public School is hosting a hockey tournament on Monday, January 29th from 8 am - 6 pm. They are looking for teams as well as the necessary volunteers to officiate games and to be time-keepers.

Assignack first started elementary school hockey last year. It took a bit of work to start but with the help of many parent volunteers and community partners, they were able to get their team going. The school thanks the Southeast Lion’s Club for buying their jerseys and to the township for the ice-time rates and other help!

Becky Stewart stepped up as head coach. **Janet McCarville**, **Laura Haggman**, **Dawn Roque** and **Janet McComb** also helped on the bench. Last year, they participated in three tournaments in Espanola and Sudbury. Coach Stewart says that although they didn’t place well, the kids loved it. With that kind of enthusiasm, they thought they would do it again this year and host their own tournament.

It will take place on Monday, January 9th (they have also booked a snow-day date as Thursday, February 1) at the Manitowaning Arena. It is a one-day tournament from 8 am until 6 pm. We have 6 teams entered. Most Island schools are bringing a team as well as Espanola. They are excited to see how it goes and look forward to hopefully making it an annual event! Please contact **Becky Stewart** at Stewarb@rainbowschools.ca if you are interested.

3 on 3 Registrations to open!

The Manitoulin 3 on 3 Tournament is set for March 28 to the 31. The annual event is held by the Mindemoya Thunder Minor Hockey Association as their annual tournament is played at the Little Current Arena. Registrations open on January 15. They are accepting teams in the U9, U11, U13, U15 and the U18 classes. Check out their Facebook post under Manitoulin 3 on 3 Tournament.

MMA classes in Wiky!

The Waasa Naabin Youth Centre in Wiikwemkoong is once again offering a unique opportunity for youth and adults. The Centre is offering kickboxing and Jiu Jitsu classes for eight weeks starting January 13th. Now, the Centre is doing such a good job with the youth, there are no spaces left for them but there are openings for 18-plus hopefuls! If you are interested, contact **Sheena** at sheenawassegijig@wikyhealth.ca.

Central activities

Central Manitoulin Township is currently offering yoga weekly on Tuesdays at 2 pm and Wednesdays at 6:15 pm at the Spring Bay Hall for \$10 a session.

There will also be Monday night line-dancing starting January 22nd from 6 to 9 pm at the Mindemoya Hall. All experience levels are welcome. The cost is \$10 per class. For more information regarding line dancing, contact **Joe** and **Beth Arnold** at joebeth.arnold@gmail.com.

A good sport is good for sports!
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Mindemoya Curling Club Men's Bonspiel held in memory of Lew Lanktree

by Tom Sasvari

MINDEMOYA—The Eric Ruediger rink of Gore Bay won the first event final in the annual Mindemoya Curling Club men's bonspiel held this past weekend. The first event was played in memory of the late Lew Lanktree who recently passed away and was a true icon of curling on Manitoulin Island.

Mr. Ruediger's rink defeated the Gord Henderson rink in the final. The Ruediger rink was skipped by Gord Loutitt, with Mr. Ruediger as lead, Barry Wall vice and Chris Meloche second. The Gord Henderson rink of Mindemoya also included Dave Henderson, Fred Henderson and Ken Leach.

"It is always a great time curling in the Mindemoya bonspiel—the people are great," said Mr. Ruediger. "And it is a real honour to win the first event in memory of Lew Lanktree."

Members of the Ruediger rink each received a \$100 gift certificate from Williamsons Home Hardware, and each member of the team was presented with a coffee mug with two pictures of Lew Lanktree on it, one indicating the winners of the first event and the second noting the first event was in memory of him.

Winning the second event was the Dave McDermid rink of Providence Bay who defeated the Peter Bond rink of Assiginack in the final. The McDermid rink included vice Robert McDermid, second Mike Johnston and lead Spencer Johnston. The Bond rink included Harold Fox, Brad Ham and J.J. McCabe.

The third event saw the Bob Smith rink of Mindemoya win the final over the Jack White team of Providence Bay in the final. The Smith rink also included Doug King, Ian Williamson and Jamie Farquhar. The Jack White rink included Mike White, Alex Dawson and Ben Dewar.



The Eric Ruediger rink took the first event championship at the Mindemoya Men's curling bonspiel held this past weekend. The first event was held in memory of the late Lew Lanktree whose two daughters Sherry Forest and Sue Whynott presented the prizes to the winning rink. In photo from left is Sherry Forest, Barry Wall, Chris Meloche, Eric Ruediger, Gord Loutitt and Sue Whynott.



The second event winning rink included, from left, Spencer Johnston, Mike Johnston, Robert McDermid and Dave McDermid.



The third event winning team included from left, Jamie Farquhar, Ian Williamson, Doug King and Bob Smith.


Greg Towns, president of the Mindemoya Curling Club welcomed and thanked all participants for taking part in the bonspiel. "It is a great kickoff to the curling bonspiel schedule on Manitoulin Island. We saw some great curling this weekend," he said, noting the many sponsors who contributed to the weekend event including Castle Building Centre which sponsored the third event, Rylan's Clothing in the second event and D.A. Williamson and Sons Hardware the first event.

Mr. Towns also praised Laurie Beaudin who ran the kitchen, Sue Whynott who contacted all 16 teams for the event, and all the volunteers who helped out in the kitchen and maintained the ice.

Sue Whynott and Sherry Forest (daughters of Lew Lanktree) made a special presentation of the mugs in memory of their father to the first event team winners, along with \$25 gift certificates from Mum's Restaurant. "We would like to thank everyone for coming out here this weekend," said Ms. Whynott. "And to the Mindemoya Curling Club for allowing the first event to be dedicated in memory of our dad. Everyone shared so many great stories and memories of our dad this weekend."

Ms. Whynott said her father, "loved curling sport, the Mindemoya club and all the curlers."

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M'Chigeeng First Nation - Board of Education EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

REGISTERED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR – Binoojiinh Gamgoonhs (Childcare Centre)
Term: Full-time REGULAR
Classification Level: RECE Salary Grid + Group Benefits and Pension
Position Summary:
 The Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE) is under the supervision of the Childcare Supervisors and is responsible for children in all aspects related to the development of their academic learning skills, hygiene, health, well-being, fostering development and safety. The RECE will oversee the planning and the implementing of age-appropriate programming for children ages newborn to 12 years of age.
Qualifications:

- Early Childhood Education (ECE) Diploma and registered with the College of ECE.
- Additional specialized training to support young children of diverse needs, varying abilities, and their families would be an asset.
- Ability to work effectively individually and within a team environment.
- Knowledge the Anishinaabe culture, history, and language or the willingness to learn.
- Valid First Aid and CPR or willing to obtain.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

TUTOR ESCORT (Jordan's Principle) – Binoojiinh Gamgoonhs & Lakeview School
Term: Full-time TERM (ending June 30, 2024)
Classification Level: Teacher Assistant Salary Grid
Position Summary:
 Under the supervision of the childcare supervisors, the one-on-one tutor escort is responsible for the provision of classroom support and one-on-one instruction with identified student.
Responsibilities:

- Assist student with lessons under direct supervision of classroom teacher in carrying out programming that promote, physical, cognitive, emotional and social development of children and report on student progress.
- Assist and support educator in providing an environment with experiences that will foster the development of the children, (i.e., social, emotional, physical and intellectual).
- Carry out behaviour modification, personal development and other therapeutic measures with student.
- Interact effectively with students.

Qualifications:

- Completion of early childhood assistant certificate program or post-secondary courses in early childhood education.
- At least 2 years' work experience in a childcare centre.
- Additional specialized training to support young children of diverse needs, varying abilities, and their families would be an asset.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, dependable and reliable.
- Understanding and fluency in Anishinaabemowin is a strong asset; or must be willing to learn.

TEACHER ASSISTANT – Lakeview School
Term: Full-Time TERM (ending June 30, 2024)
Classification Level: Teacher Assistant Salary Grid
Position Summary:
 Teacher assistants work under direction of the classroom teacher and school principal and are responsible for the provision of classroom support and instruction where applicable. The teacher assistant assists students with lessons and directions; monitors and reports on student progress; and assists in the preparation of learning materials. Accompanies and supervises students during activities in the school and on field trips, etc. Assists special needs students with mobility, communication and personal hygiene.
Qualifications & Requirements:
Preferred: College diploma and related field of education or equivalent or social services with 2-years' work/volunteer related experience with OSSD or equivalent. First Aid Certificate and CPR would be an asset. Knowledge and experience with the culture, traditions, history, and customs of the Anishinabek. Understanding and fluency in Anishinaabemowin is a strong asset; or must be willing to learn the language.
Minimum: College diploma in a related field of study or five years' work experience in related field.

Application Closing Date: OPEN UNTIL FILLED

Interested Applicants must submit **cover letter, resume, three current references** (2 professional and 1 character) and applicable certifications and diplomas addressed to:

CONFIDENTIAL: "INDICATE POSITION"

c/o Human Resources, M'Chigeeng First Nation, P.O. Box 333, M'Chigeeng, ON P0P 1G0
employment@mchigeeng.ca

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

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Full-time Cook with signing bonus

Looking for an enthusiastic, energetic person to join our team of dietary professionals at Manitoulin Centennial Manor, a 60-bed long-term care facility located in Little Current, ON.

Reporting to the Dietary Manager, the cook prepares and serves food for the residents (dinner, sauces, desserts etc.), cleans production area and equipment.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Safe Food Handlers Certificate
- Culinary Certificate
- Experience in institutional large quantity cooking preferred
- Ability to work safely, following established safety practices and procedures
- Ability to read and write English and understand moderately complex verbal and written instructions in English
- Proven ability to provide direction and lead others within a busy environment

Interested applicants may forward their resume to the attention of:

Brad Dubreuil
Brad.dubreuil@extendicare.com

by Dorah L. Williams

In the realm of mysterious phenomena, few artifacts hold as much intrigue as the Ouija board. It is a seemingly innocent-looking board game that has long been a gateway to the unknown.

I would never use one or recommend this method of communication. Too many negative accounts have been shared with me, and most paranormal experts I have interviewed have been adamant that it could create very unwelcome situations with unknown entities.

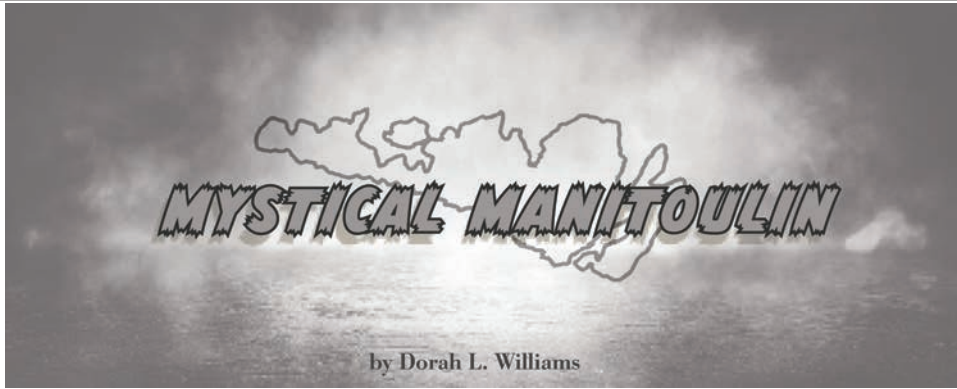
But amongst the many ominous accounts I have read on this topic, I found the following shared experiences, occurring decades apart, to be the most thought-provoking regarding the possible source of energy that is capable of creating messages through a wooden board and planchette.

ME

"When I was a youngster, I spent much of my time with my cousins, who lived next door. While playing in their basement one day, we discovered an old Ouija board mixed in with some other board games on a shelf in the coat closet.

I was only about 10, and the youngest of the bunch, but I can still vividly remember all this. I had no idea what a Ouija board was, but my eldest cousin filled my head with scary thoughts as she described how ghosts communicate with the living by spelling words on the board. I thought she was just pulling my leg. But no one else was laughing, and we all stared at the old board nervously, unsure of what to do with it.

We decided we better wait for my aunt to leave the house to run an errand or two because we all suspected she wouldn't let us kids get involved with anything like that. It took a few days before that opportunity finally presented itself, and as soon as we heard her call out that she'd be back soon, we all dashed down to



the basement to get that Ouija board and give it a try.

It was decided that the two eldest kids should try it out first. My two cousins each placed their fingers on the heart-shaped thing used to spell out words, while another had a pad of paper and pencil to record any messages received from the beyond.

"Would anyone like to talk to us?" both cousins repeatedly asked. Nothing.

Just as they were about to give up, the heart-shaped piece suddenly skidded across the board. I skeptically looked at both cousins and their fingers to see if they had caused it, but they looked more shocked than anyone.

"Who's there?" they both called out.

It spelled out "ME" over and over again.

When asked if "ME" had a message for us, the heart-shaped piece spelled the word: "DEER."

That single-worded message made no sense to us.

"Is this Bambi's mother?" someone asked, with nervous laughter, and I remember I found that to be pretty funny, too, and much-needed comic relief.

But it then spelled out DEER once more, even faster than before, and made a few circular motions before indicating "Good Bye" and skidding off the board onto the tabletop. No one knew what to make of that.

My aunt still wasn't home yet, which was odd to us, but we lost our nerve to continue using it until she returned, so we put the board back downstairs where it had been stored with the other games. An

unease hung in the air.

After getting that strange Ouija board message, my eldest cousin grew increasingly nervous about her mother's well-being. She finally telephoned her mother's friend to see if she was still there. Her mom planned to stop there on her way home, but she still should have been back quite a while ago.

My cousin was told that her mom hadn't been there yet, and the friend was also concerned. Before cell phones, it was impossible to contact my aunt directly, so her friend decided to drive along the route my aunt would have taken to find her and ensure everything was okay.

What felt like a long time passed before the friend arrived back at my cousins' place, with their mother sitting in the passenger seat of their car. We were all very relieved to see her, but she seemed shaken, and we didn't understand why she wasn't in her own car.

The first word out of her mouth explained it — and made us all gasp at the same time.

"Deer!" she said and tearfully explained her collision with two of them. Extreme damage had been caused to her vehicle, now needing to be towed from a deep ditch at the side of the road where her friend had finally found her in a daze from the concussion she'd suffered in the accident.

Deer. We all looked at each other with wide eyes — that was the same word spelled out to us on the Ouija board that day. It might have taken much longer to find and help my aunt if my cousin hadn't felt so

uneasy about her well-being after getting that message.

Was it really a spirit who spelled out that message to us? Who knows. Something sure did, and my cousins always swore they hadn't manipulated the board in any way. Could my frightened aunt (referring to herself as "Me" as she always did) have somehow telepathically communicated to us when her collision occurred just as we received that Ouija board message about DEER? It remains an intriguing mystery."

YOU

"For as long as I can recall, arachnophobia had a terrifying grip on my life. Just a glimpse of a spider in a picture or movie paralyzed me with fear. So you can imagine how I felt in my parents' Island farmhouse, where it wasn't uncommon to encounter giant wolf spiders. That was my biggest fear, and it would trigger full-blown panic attacks and even made me dread going home for family gatherings after I'd moved away.

Despite seeking various forms of professional therapy over the years, the arachnophobia persisted, and it really did create a dark cloud over my life.

One evening, well into my thirties, a few of my closest friends joined me for dinner. They were well-acquainted with my spider phobia and its detrimental

impact.

After dessert, one of my friends produced a Ouija board and planchette for an impromptu séance. We dismissed it as a silly game but decided to indulge our eccentric friend, who believed that night's full moon was an ideal time for a paranormal encounter.

As we sipped our wine and stared at the board, the planchette remained still.

But the carefree atmosphere took an unexpected turn when a message finally began to be slowly spelled out: "SPIDERS—ARE — JUST — ANOTHER — BUG."

I angrily asked my friends if they were trying to scare me by mentioning spiders, but they insisted they would never do that. They encouraged me to take control of the planchette alone to ensure it wasn't a joke, and I hesitantly placed my fingers upon it while my friends observed.

To my amazement, the planchette immediately began moving again, much stronger now and seemingly of its own accord. It quickly spelled out again: "SPIDERS ARE JUST ANOTHER BUG."

My heart was racing, but I gathered the courage to ask: "Who is giving me this message?"

The planchette immediately spelled a simple yet profound response: "YOU."

Laughter erupted around me, but tears welled up in my eyes because I knew it was not a joke. I realized that the message I needed to understand was coming from myself. The notion that "spiders are just another bug" was so simple but served as a revelation, challenging the irrational fear that had held such an overwhelming power over my life.

I wasn't afraid of any other bug. So, just thinking of spiders as being like any

other bug somehow reduced and eventually eliminated the power of that irrational fear.

That experience of my subconscious manifesting this message through a Ouija board defies explanation, but it did mark a turning point in my life. The simplicity of the message resonated so deeply, offering the exact perspective I needed that had eluded all past professional interventions.

I acknowledge that the events surrounding my Ouija revelation may seem implausible, but the impact on my arachnophobia was undeniably real. That simple but specific message said to be from myself to myself, somehow proved to be the key I needed to confront and eventually conquer that lifelong phobia.

For over a century, Ouija boards have captivated the imaginations of those drawn to the supernatural. But whether attributed to mystical forces or one's inner power, it's not a direct hotline to the spirit of your choosing, and the results can be unpredictable.

It's essential to always consider the potential emotional and psychological effects when interacting with the unknown. Despite some viewing it as a mere game, tampering with the supernatural through a Ouija board should always be approached with care as the boundaries separating the seen from the unseen demand thoughtful reflection before being crossed.

Do you also have an exciting and mystical tale to tell? Whether you've experienced a haunting, a mysterious cryptid sighting, or a brush with the inexplicable, please share it with Canadian author Dorah L. Williams at dorahwilliams@gmail.com. Your story, too, could be featured in an upcoming column of Mystical Manitoulin!

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NURSE (FULL-TIME RN & RPN)
Signing bonus, competitive wages, benefits, pension
Manitoulin Centennial Manor

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

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

Responsibilities

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

Interested candidates, please contact:

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



Noojmowin Teg Health Centre
 A place of healing

REQUEST FOR TENDER SUBMISSIONS

For catering services to be provided for
Noojmowin Teg Health Centre
"Our Culture & Tradition"
 to be held on March 23, 2024 at
Lakeview Public School, M'Chigeeng First Nation

To accommodate 125 guests.

Please contact Dianne for menu details.

Caterer to provide Safe Food Handling certificate with tender submission.
 The selected caterer will be responsible for providing all cutlery, set up/clean-up of the service area.

For further information, please contact:
 Dianne at **(705) 968-0576**
 Or email: dianne.nicholson@noojmowin-teg.ca

Tender submissions can be mailed/faxed and/or hand delivered to:
Noojmowin Teg Health Centre
48 Hillside Rd., Hwy 540, Postal Bag 2002
Little Current, ON P0P 1K0
Fax #: (705) 368-1314

Tender submissions will be accepted until January 24, 2024 at 12 noon.

Candlelight Service at the Island Funeral Home offers peace and hope to the grieving

by Margery Frisch

LITTLE CURRENT – The loss of a loved one brings grief to family members and friends. In the first year's grieving period, anniversaries, birthdays and especially holidays can be the most difficult. The Candlelight Service, presented by the Island Funeral Home in Little Current, has offered solace to those in the community who have lost family members in 2023.

The service began with a welcome and a prayer, followed by the lighting of 170 candles for those whose funerals were held on the Island this year. Alma-Jean Migwans then sang an Honour Song accompanied by her drum followed by four speakers addressing thoughts on peace, joy, love and hope.

Rev. Catherine Hazlitt, the Island Anglican clergy person, spoke on peace: A path of peace in grieving - Rev. Hazlitt recounted Jesus' weeping when his friend Lazarus died. She spoke of the peace Jesus held within his heart as something for us to emulate in our grief, but also in the peaceful acceptance of the grief of loss others experience.

Rev. Janice Frame of the Western Manitoulin United Churches spoke of joy and how difficult this can be for those experiencing grief. Christmas is supposed to be a time for togetherness, optimism and joy - But what if it isn't? When everything has changed and everything is different, how can one put on a happy face and pretend nothing has changed? Rev. Frame suggests that they can't and



Fr. Paul Robson, Rachael Deforge, Dawn Dawson, Rev. Catherine Hazlitt, Rev. Janice Frame and Jordan Moore.

photo by Margery Frisch

they shouldn't have to.

"By the number of candles on the table - this has been a tough year for many," she said. "This year there are two Christmas gifts we can give to each other, or to ourselves: one is the gift of patience... the other is reminiscing about cherished memories. A wise poet once said, 'Crying may last for a night, but joy comes with the new day.' With time and with the creator's blessing, that new day will come to you too, and with it the light of joy, to warm you, fill you

and hold you."

Dawn Dawson, from the community of Christ's Church in Providence Bay spoke on love. "Sometimes, during the Advent season, a wave of sadness creeps into our hearts. People who were once an integral part of our celebrations are now gone. Grief or sadness can sweep over us in an instant. But, if we had not loved that person, we could not feel that loss," she said. The power of love is a blessing. Love makes us humble and vulnerable "If you experience a moment of sadness in the preparation of this season, embrace it by acknowledging the tears and feel the love that will warm your heart and carry you forward."

Fr. Paul Robson, a priest from Holy Cross Catholic Church in Wiikwemkoong, spoke of hope. He used an example of an Israeli man, whose mother had just been killed in the war going on there, and the man said, "It could go either way, catastrophes like this create changes in societies and I believe it could lead to a better future." At the same time, a Palestinian man said, "Either we choose to make it deeper and worse or we make it an opportunity to solve the conflict and to make living together possible." Both men had hope in their hearts. Where there is goodness, there is hope. And there is plenty of goodness around us, if we look for it, he said.

The ceremony ended with refreshments and the words of the speakers filling their thoughts and making these days of the holiday season just a bit easier to manage.

Battle of the Badges attracts huge crowd and plenty of non-perishable food donations

LITTLE CURRENT—In this game, the score really didn't matter at all.

The Battle of the Bridges hockey game took place at the NEMI recreation centre on December 22, pitting the UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service (UCCM APS) against the Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service (WTPS). The UCCM APS won the game handily, but the score wasn't the key thing—it was the huge crowd that attended the game and who donated a large amount of non-perishable food items to be given



Plenty of donations were gathered at the game.

to those in need that really mattered.

In a post on the UCCM APS Facebook page after the game it reported, "A heartfelt recap of the Battle of the Badges with the Wikwemikong Tribal Police Service. What a night to remember! The stands were bursting with the vibrant energy of our incredible community members, turning the rink into a sea of support for the Battle of the Badges hockey game."

"A massive chi-miigwetch to each and every one of you who filled the stands with cheers and positivity! Your unwavering support

made the atmosphere electric, and we felt the warmth of community spirit throughout the game."

"And let's talk about the generosity that overflowed! The tables were stacked high with food donations, showcasing the immense kindness within our community. Your commitment to supporting one another is truly heartening."

"As for the final score, it was a remarkable 11 for UCCM APS and 2 for WTPS. While the scoreboard reflects the game, the real victory lies in the unity, camaraderie, and shared moments that made this

evening unforgettable."

"The UCCM APS release added, "Thank you, thank you, thank you! Your support fuels our dedication to serving this incredible community. Here's to more moments of togetherness in the future!"



The stands were packed for the Battle of the badges.

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JOB POSTING

Teacher for 2023-2024 school year
Full-Time: Monday-Friday (40 hours/week)

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

RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

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

Attention: AOKFN Teacher
13 Hill Street
LITTLE CURRENT, ON
POP IKO

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

DEADLINE DATE: January 12, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.

Frosty Cup distributes \$20,000 to local groups

GORE BAY—As an example of just how successful the annual Frosty Cup Benefit Hockey Tournament was, organizers were able to distribute \$20,000 in funds raised through the tournament.


"It was a good year," stated Scott McDougall, one of the organizers of the tournament and a member of the organizing committee which also includes representatives of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 514 in Gore Bay and the Gore Bay-Western Manitoulin Lions Club. "We distributed \$20,000 to four recipients."

Mr. McDougall pointed out, "we were up

quite a bit in terms of sponsorship for the tournament," he said, pointing out the bar was staffed by the Rotary Club at the Gore Bay arena throughout the tournament and the Legion held a dance on December 16.

"This was the first year none of the (donation) recipients knew they were candidates for donations from monies raised during the tournament," said Mr. McDougall. A special letter was written by the organizers to each of the recipients explaining that they would be one of the beneficiaries of the funds raised in the tournament.

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KINA Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services (KGCFs) is a designated Child Welfare Service delivering Child Protection Services within seven member First Nations in the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin. KGCFs honours and supports our families' and community's inherent authority to care for their children based on unity, traditions, values, beliefs and customs. **Preference will be given to Anishnaabe Candidates, please self-identify in your application.**

We are now seeking candidates for the following positions:

FULL-TIME positions:

Sudbury:
 Child Well-Being Worker

Manitoulin:
 Child Well-Being Worker

CONTRACT positions:

Sudbury:
 Cultural Support Worker
 Legal Assistant
 Service Supervisor

All postings close on January 19th, 2024 at 4pm EST

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

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