

The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



FISHING • YACHTING • CAMPING • HUNTING

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

Vol. 144, No. 44 \$1.90 + GST

Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, March 20, 2024



Kaelan Shawana, centre, is embraced by step-mom Denise Shawana-McKenzie, left, and his mother Janice Peltier, right, after being found safe and sound on Tuesday of last week following an overnight scare that saw police and conservation officers scoring the Lake Manitou area for the 24-year-old.

photo courtesy of the Shawana family

Kaelan Shawana home safe and sound after spending night in freezing conditions wearing just a t-shirt and walking 22 kms

by Michael Erskine

MANITOWANING—It started out as the most normal of days, but soon the parents of an autistic man would find themselves spending the night of Monday, March 11 facing down one of the worst nightmares of those who provide care to an autistic child. Kaelan Peltier, the 24-year-old son of Robbie Shawana, Denise Shawana-McKenzie of Manitowaning and mom Janice Peltier of Wiikwemkoong, went out to play with his faithful green stuffy dinosaur and wandered off into the bush and became lost. It is a story that too often doesn't end well—this time was thankfully different.

"He often goes for walks," said Ms. Shawana-McKenzie of her stepson Kaelan as The Expositor and Kaelan's parents sat down in their Holiday Haven Road home to chat about the past few days' events. For Ms. Shawana-McKenzie, the ordeal was made even worse, if possible, by being away from home taking another of their charges to medical appointments in Sudbury.

"It was daylight when he left," recalled Mr. Shawana, estimating around 6 or 7 o'clock in the evening. Kaelan was wearing an orange golf shirt and track pants when he stepped out into the family's yard with a bag of toys. It was an ordinary afternoon and nothing unusual. "He likes to play outside by the playground

equipment."

"We never had a problem," said Ms. Shawana-McKenzie. "He must have become disoriented."

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Kaelan Shawana is embraced by dad Robbie Shawana after being returned to his family by an OPP helicopter.

photo by Couture

Michael's Bay Rd. needs big upgrade, township reeve says

by Tom Sasvari

TEHKUMMAH—Amid many concerns from residents who live on Michael's Bay Road, the reeve of Tehkummah township says council will look at actions that can be taken to improve the road conditions.

"Tehkummah township, in the past, has allowed people to build on the road to live here permanently. So, we should do something to help (improve the road)," said Tehkummah Reeve John Deforge.

"The road was built many years ago, of sand and tree stumps/logs and whatever they had to use to fill in the road," said Reeve Deforge. "We will hopefully start work this year to get something done. My hope is that for this year we can get new ditches in and next year look seriously on what needs to be done to improve the road, but this will all be up to our roads superintendent (Kevin Dunlop) and our budget as well."

"No emergency vehicles could get down that road the way it is now," said Blair Walker, from Mississauga who is building a house on Michael's Bay Road

and retiring full-time locally. "I don't know how a fire truck carrying water would be able to get down this road."

Mr. Walker said he has contacted the township about his concerns with the road. "They have not been able to provide a solution. They grade the road in the summer, but it is not going to help at this time of the year. They are going to have to find a solution before something bad takes place."

"I'm new to the area, and we are building our home to live here full-time," said Mr. Walker. While the house structure is up, he is concerned in trying to get contractors for mechanical, electrical and plumbing to do work now when the road is in such bad shape, making it difficult for them to get down the road to his home.

"And I'm worried about emergency vehicles trying to get down there. It's a bad road," said Mr. Walker.

Claire Cline, who has lived on the road since 2017, said in a recent letter she received from

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Island real estate developer frustrated by Assiginack's response to expand subdivision

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOWANING—At its February meeting, the Manitoulin Planning Board (MPB) gave approval to the developer of the Sandy Point subdivision in Assiginack Township (Sunset Estates) on a request for a three-year extension to the previous planning approval provided in 2021. However, the developer says the corporation doesn't really need the extension but due to delays from Assiginack township, the approval was required.

"We don't—we really don't need more time," stated Jordan Chandler, authorized agent

for the corporation. "The development was completed last year. We have been waiting for months for Assiginack to notify the board that they are satisfied. They have refused to approve the second portion (phase) of the development on the same terms as the first portion, so we were forced to ask for an extension to keep our planning board approval from expiring. A three-year extension will get us through the next municipal election and should provide adequate time for legal options to play out."

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Dawson citizens group seeks lease on Mississagi lighthouse

by Tom Sasvari

MELDRUM BAY—The Dawson Citizens' Improvement Association (DCIA) has made an application to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to acquire a long-term lease for the operation of the Mississagi Lighthouse and associated campground located west of Meldrum Bay. The facility has been closed to visitors for several years. This is Manitoulin Island's most westerly location.

"We know that lots of people like to go there, and it has beautiful camping," said Wendy Van Every, DCIA treasurer, last week. "And by opening it up, it would create tourism and be a bonus to Western Manitoulin."

"If nothing is done with the lighthouse it will eventually fall apart,"

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MANITOULIN CHRYSLER



PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

2015 RAM 5500 TRADESMAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.7L Cummins, Reg Cab • Heavy Duty Dump Box • Napa Mud Flaps • Bluetooth • 239,000 KMs  <p>STK# P1453 \$44,999*</p>	2016 KIA FORTE LX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-Speed Manual • CD Player • Heated F/Seats • Bluetooth • 160,000 KMs  <p>STK# 23-1376A \$8,999*</p>	2016 JEEP CHEROKEE NORTH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keyless Entry • Smart Device Integration • Heated Steering Wheel • Power Liftgate • 156,000 KMs  <p>STK# 22-549A \$19,999*</p>	2017 RAM 1500 TRADESMAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.7L HEMI V8, Quad Cab • Aftermarket Grille • 5.0" LCD Touchscreen • Bluetooth • 118,000 KMs  <p>STK# 22-224A \$21,999*</p>
2018 RAM 1500 ST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.7L V8, Crew Cab • Bluetooth • 3x USB Ports • Aftermarket Rims • 170,000 KMs  <p>STK# 23-1215A \$25,999*</p>	2019 JEEP CHEROKEE LIMITED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4X4, Tow Package • Adaptive Cruise Control • Heated/Vented F/Seats • Dual-Pane Sunroof • 135,000 KMs  <p>STK# 23-1329A \$25,999*</p>	2019 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heated Steering Wheel • Rear A/C Controls • Built-In Navigation • Power Side Doors • ONLY 89,000 KMs  <p>STK# 23-1135AA \$31,999*</p>	2019 RAM 1500 BIG HORN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.7L HEMI V8, Crew Cab • CD Player • Built-In Navigation • Tonneau Cover • 145,000 KMs  <p>STK# 23-1296A \$35,999*</p>
2019 RAM 1500 REBEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.7L HEMI V8, Crew Cab • RC Nerf Bars • CD Player • Spray-In Bedliner • ONLY 88,000 KMs  <p>STK# 23-1328A CALL FOR \$\$\$</p>	2020 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leather Upholstery • Heated Steering Wheel • DVD Player • Power Side Doors • ONLY 79,000 KMs  <p>STK# P1459 \$33,900*</p>	2020 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluetooth • Dual-Zone AC • Leather/Suede Seats • Stow & Go Seats • ONLY 25,000 KMs  <p>STK# 23-1345A \$33,999*</p>	2020 JEEP CHEROKEE LIMITED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selec-Terrain System • Blind Spot Monitors • Heated/Vented F/Seats • Tan Leather Interior • ONLY 20,000 KMs  <p>STK# 23-1377A \$31,999*</p>
2020 MAZDA CX-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.0L Turbo, AWD • Center Console Media Control • 7.0" LCD Display • Blind Spot Monitors • ONLY 81,000 KMs  <p>STK# P1439 \$25,999*</p>	2020 NISSAN ROGUE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5L, AWD • Blind Spot Monitors • CD Player • Dual-Pane Sunroof • ONLY 54,000 KMs  <p>STK# P1441 \$30,999*</p>	2020 RAM 1500 REBEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.7L HEMI V8, Crew Cab • Red/Black Interior • Heated F/Seats • 8.4" LCD Display • ONLY 81,000 KMs  <p>STK# 23-1271A \$47,999*</p>	2020 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quadra-Lift Air Suspension • Leather Upholstery • Heated F&B Seats • Dual-Pane Sunroof • ONLY 90,000 KMs  <p>STK# RU1803 \$48,999*</p>
2021 JEEP COMPASS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leather Upholstery • Heated Steering Wheel • Alpine Audio System • Dual-Pane Sunroof • ONLY 40,000 KMs  <p>STK# 24-1031A \$32,900*</p>	2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC SLT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.7L HEMI V8, Crew Cab • Dual-Zone A/C • An 8.4" LCD Display • Tonneau Cover • ONLY 68,000 KMs  <p>STK# 23-1306A \$46,999</p>	2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC SLT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.7L HEMI V8, Crew Cab • 8.4" LCD Display • Remote Start • Park Assist • 110,000 KMs  <p>STK# A22-285A \$37,999*</p>	2022 WAGONEER SERIES III <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.7 V8, 7-Passenger • Adaptive Cruise Control • Nappa Leather Interior • Air Suspension • ONLY 60,000 KMs  <p>STK# P0879 \$69,999*</p>

NEW VEHICLE FEATURES

2024 RAM 1500 BIG HORN CALL FOR \$\$\$  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.7L HEMI V8, Crew Cab • Heated Steering Wheel • 12.0" LCD Display • Leather Upholstery • Locking Glove Box <p>STK# 24-1073</p>	2024 RAM 2500 POWER WAGON CALL FOR \$\$\$  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.4L HEMI V8, Crew Cab • 360° Parking Camera • Heated/Vented F/Seats • Power Sunroof • Leather Upholstery <p>STK# 24-1051</p>	2023 JEEP WRANGLER RUBICON CALL FOR \$\$\$  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built-In Navigation • 8.4" LCD Display • Red/Black Interior • Alpine Audio System • Removable Roof & Doors <p>STK# 23-1137</p>	2023 WAGONEER L SERIES III CALL FOR \$\$\$  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.0L Hurricane Twin Turbo • Premium Leather Upholstery • Wireless Charging Pad • Heated Back Seats • Air Suspension System <p>STK# 23-1226</p>
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RYAN PRIOR
NEW VEHICLE SALES
ryan@manitoulinchrysler.ca



JAIMIE FARQUHAR-KAY
NEW VEHICLE SALES
jaimie@manitoulinchrysler.ca



CONNOR WOESTENENK
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The Manitoulin *West* Recorder



MARCH BREAK HOCKEY—Along with free skating at the Gore Bay arena during the March break, youngsters had the opportunity to take part in a hockey clinic put on by Roger Chenard.

photo by Kelly Chaytor

Burns Wharf Players hopeful Assiginack Arts, Entertainment Centre will move ahead

by Tom Sasvari
MANITOWANING—An executive member of the Burns Wharf Theatre Players (BWTP) is encouraged and hopeful that the proposed Assiginack Arts and Entertainment Centre will go forward and that they will be a part of the initiative.

"I'm somewhat hopeful that this all goes somewhere," stated Peter Baumgarten in an

interview with The Expositor last week. "We look forward to collaborating with council and providing input on the proposed plans on how we could help and how it would benefit us so we can remain in the community and help the community grow."

As was reported in last week's edition of The Expositor, Assiginack Mayor Brenda Reid said they are interested in determin-

ing if it is feasible for the community to own and operate an arts and entertainment centre. They are exploring the use of the Roller Mills building on the waterfront as a location. She noted the facility would house community theatre, other arts performances, provide a vendors' market and be a facility for event rentals and more. Public input will be sought.

"This would be good news," Mr. Baumgarten said. "It has gone through a long process." He noted, "The impetus had come from the previous council after then-mayor Dave Ham had contacted me and other members of the community to be members of an arts and entertainment committee. We met many times even during the pandemic (via Zoom)."

"The committee came up with a tentative plan and the township EDO (economic development officer) participated and drew up a funding application," said Mr. Baumgarten. "Then, basically, the committee stopped meeting. It essentially

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Changing climate could increase deer populations, expert says

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

MANITOULIN ISLAND—A typical Northern Ontario winter with heavy snowfall and deep freeze temperatures can have massive impacts on white-tailed deer populations. Generally speaking, deer are equipped with enough body fat to tolerate temperatures as low as -30°C. But a typical winter it's not been with temperatures on Manitoulin Island averaging between -1° and -13° C.

Last year, the provincial government elicited a report, Ontario Provincial Climate Change Impact Assessment, in an attempt to project the impacts of our changing climate and extreme weather events on everything from infrastructure to agriculture and forestry industries.

Among the predictions are the opportunity for the introduction of new crops to the area as well as the rise and fall in dif-

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Proposed new Gore Bay nursing home will now include a courtyard

by Tom Sasvari

GORE BAY—While St. Joseph's Health Centre and Gore Bay town officials continue to wait on a decision from the Ministry of Long-Term Care regarding approval for St. Joseph's application to construct a new nursing home in Gore Bay comes news that the original design for the building is being slightly reworked. The new design, which is still in progress, will include a resident courtyard in the proposed new facility.

"The design has changed somewhat to accommodate recommendations that had been made by residents and family members since the original designs were outlined on November 13," said Gore Bay Mayor Ron Lane. "One of the big ones is that the original design did not include an outside courtyard with seating and plants as you see at the current nursing home. This was one of the recommendations made by residents and staff."

"The design work is not complete yet," said Mayor Lane, noting the new design will include the same number of proposed resident beds in the new nursing home. "Another change being made in the new design plan is to change the angle on the actual building itself so the view from the dining room will totally overlook the town harbour and the rooms on the west side will have a nicer view of the field that the property is located on. It will be a more resident friendly design than the original proposed design."

Kari Gervais, president and chief executive officer of St. Joseph's Health Centre, told The Expositor in an email March 4, "Unfortunately, I don't have an update on the status of our application with the Ministry of Long-Term Care."

"The team at St. Joseph's Health Centre received a lot of great feedback on the original design that was presented to residents, families and staff of Manitoulin Lodge on November 13. Although all of the suggestions were well thought out and resident-centred,

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Tiffany Recollet named as new UCCMM CEO

by Michael Erskine

M'CHIGEENG—United Chiefs and Councils of Mniidoo Mnising (UCCMM) Tribal Council Chief Patsy Corbiere has announced that Tiffany Recollet has been hired as the new chief executive officer of the UCCMM Tribal Council.

"Tiffany is a member of the M'Chigeeng First Nation with a passion for sustaining our culture, beliefs and following our seven Grandfather Teachings," said Chief Corbiere in making the announcement. "She has great knowledge on federal and provincial First Nation programming, has been the UCCMM finance manager for over five years, where she has provided financial operational and administrative support. She has a well-established working relationship with all the program managers and staff. Tiffany is very familiar with our UCCMM First Nations, affiliates, government partners and has worked well with community stakeholders creating long-term relationships in her role while at UCCMM."

Ms. Recollet graduated with honours from Cambrian College in the three-year accounting program and is currently wrapping up her last course with Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada (AFOA) in the Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager program. "The Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager (CAFM) designation is designed to help Indigenous communities meet the growing need for financial leadership tailored to Indigenous culture," she said.

Ms. Recollet has four sons and she and her family are from M'Chigeeng First Nation. "Both my parents are from the UCCMM's First Nations," she said. "I have been working in First

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Tiffany Recollet has taken over as CEO of United Chiefs and Councils of Mniidoo Mnising.

Condition of Ice Lake dam cause for concern

by Tom Sasvari

ICE LAKE—If the Ice Lake dam, which is in a deteriorating condition, were to ever totally fail it would have significant effects on local home/cottagers, make existing water intake pipes inoperable, cause flooding and environmental impacts. Gordon/Barrie Island council representatives agree something needs to be done to alleviate these concerns. However, before any work is considered determination on who is responsible for the dam needs to be clarified first.

"Ultimately, our objective is the need for a long-term plan to deal with the water levels and make sure the watershed is managed properly," said Greg Hudson of the Ice Lake Landowners Association, after meeting with Gordon/Barrie Island

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Out with the old, in with the new!

Earlier this month, Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN) Fire Department welcomed a new 2024 rapid attack pumper truck to its fleet. The \$318,214 purchase was made possible by the ISC Ontario Region. The department also purchased a 3/4 ton pickup to transport firefighters and rescue gear to emergency callouts, which will replace a 1981 cube van.

Richard Shawanda, WRFN infrastructure and emergency services manager, said, "I would also like to thank the Whitefish River chief and council for their continued support during the previous year for the purchase of new bunker gear. Truly, the support for the WRFN Fire Department is recognized by our chief and council and the community as a whole."

Pictured with the department's fleet are, from left, firefighter Dominic Esuk; Murray McGregor, band manager; Councillor Jeff McGregor; Richard Shawanda; and firefighter Hunter Shawanda.

photo by Alicia McCutcheon

Island hockey players shine at Little NHL's 50th tournament in Markham

MARKHAM—The Little Native Hockey League (LNHL) tournament is eagerly anticipated by players and parents alike each year since its inception on Manitoulin Island in the Little Current arena 53 years ago by three area First Nations. This year was no different and Manitoulin hockey players made their mark on this seminal anniversary edition of the tournament.

Not all of the teams have checked in yet, but a cursory check indicates that many Island teams not only held their own, but excelled.

The Wiikwemkoong Storm U15 boys' recreational bantam team won all four of their pool A games to come out on top 6-3 but fell in the final to Curve Lake Screaming Eagles 6-5. The Wiikwemkoong White Hawks U15 took their final with a score of 2-0 over the Wasauksing Islanders.

The Six Nations Blackhawks U13 A Division championship team included three AOK players. See story below about how one player's parent watched the games livestreamed from his hospital bed, cheering her on while undergoing chemotherapy.

The M'chigeeng Thunder-



Noah Enosse shows off his medal.

birds U15 boys took their championship with a 5-2 win over Atikmeksheng Stingers 5-2.

"M'Chigeeng U18 Competitive Division Champions at the 50th Anniversary Little Native Hockey League Tournament



M'Chigeeng U18 champs! Far back is team mascot, Chi Buck. Back row are Andrew Corbiere, Dallas Sinopole, Amisk Migwans, Zander Kehego, Avereé Sault, Connor Sooley, Emerson Taylor, Brady Richards, Darius Sinopole, Jeffrey Panamick, Kevin Eshkawkogan, Anthony Stewart. Front row are Gordie Taylor, Jackson Cunningham-Louks, Julius Sinopole, Kohyn Eshkawkogan and Raiden Doxtator.

that was held in Markham," announced Andrew 'Snooze' Corbiere. "There were over a 1000-plus fans in attendance, who stayed to watch the best of the best from all over Ontario at the Angus Glen Arena. The M'Chigeeng U18 Competitive team lost their first game against Akwesasne but they regrouped

and learned from their mistakes and beat them in the A Championship finals with a score of 6-3, we also had a deciding game to move us forward, and won that game with only five players and a goalie as the others had AAA playoff games down in Southern Ontario, it was a full week of hockey for sure. These

fine young gentlemen represented M'Chigeeng proudly as we're all from Turtle Island and one big family! Congratulations to the other Champions as well, was a great time with great friends and families from all across Ontario, until next year Baamaapii Little NHL!"

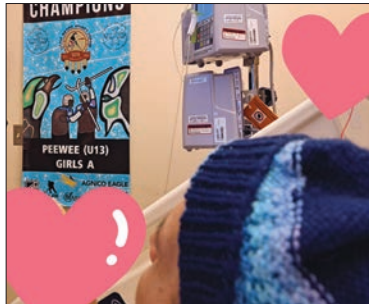
Winning goal in LNHL game heartens AOK chemotherapy patient father

by Michael Erskine

AUNDECK OMNI KANING—The annual Little Native Hockey League (LNHL) tournament, held this year in Markham, is a wonderful time for meeting up with old friends and making new connections, but cancer survivor Lyndon Peltier, who is currently undergoing chemotherapy, was unable to attend his daughter Lynndra Madahbee-Peltier's games in the Aundeck Omni Kaning under-13 Girls' A Division championship—which she ultimately won with her Northern Star teammates.

Thanks to modern technology, however, Mr. Peltier was able to see his daughter's games unfold over livestream.

"He did Facetime with her before the game for a pep talk," said mom Kendra Madahbee. "He is so proud of her. He told her 'great work!'" His daughter's championship team banner



Lynndra's dad Coach Lyndon Peltier can gaze upon his daughter's champion banner hanging in his hospital room at Health Sciences North. Her now hangs in his hospital room.

The team that Lynndra plays on included members from a number of First Nations, explained Ms. Madahbee. Many bands do not have enough players in a given age division in order to ice a team. In the spirit of hockey solidarity, individu-

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AOK takes it! Back row, left, Trainer Justin Neveau, Assistant Coach Louis Bruyere, Coach Reggie Leach. Middle row, Ellie Gour, Mya Sewell, Nyliha Neveau, Cedar Bruyere, Jersey McGinnis, front row, Kailyn Inglis Dantouze, Lynndra Madahbee Peltier, Dallis McGinnis, Morgan Bruyere. Missing from picture is Manager Kendra Madahbee Peltier.

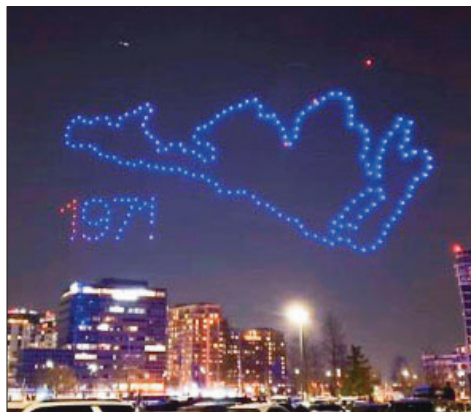
'Mnidoo Mnising' Island of the Great Spirits Lights up the Markham sky

by Gina Gasongi Simon

MARKHAM—How fitting the world's largest freshwater island, Manitoulin Island, pronounced "Mnidoo Mnising" meaning 'Island of the Great Spirit' and home to the birth of the Little Native Hockey League (LNHL) is featured on LNHL All-Star medals.

For executive members of the LNHL, the logo is more than a mere marketing symbol, it has its own rich story to tell as well. This year's medals have to be one of the most iconic and recognizable throughout the years.

Back in 1972, the original and first crest



The Markham skyline was alive with drones during the opening ceremonies as Manitoulin was feted for being where the tournament was founded.

is an island" at the LNHL. To those present they could attest to that fact, it was "standing room only." As Jim McGregor said, "We would have never believed it would become this big. I am proud of everyone who came to play and everyone who helped make it a dream come true."

Behind the scenes are so many that it is impossible to acknowledge and thank them for all their hard work and dedication.

An original founding member from Aundeck Omni Kaning, Earl "Shrug" Abotossway (baa) was with the tournament since the beginning. Earl and his family were one of many who billeted teams from other First Nations. "I remember he billeted players from Moose



The front of the medals bear the image of Manitoulin Island, while the back bears engravings of the names of the tournament founders' Island First Nations home communities.

Factory and Earl figured a television would really impress these boys but we soon discovered they were more fascinated seeing a horse for the first time," Pat Madahbee recalls.

For Earl it was more than just a gathering. His intent was for it to be educational and to highlight and show the many different cultural aspects in addition to the recreational side. His vision has come to light as various languages, lifestyles and backgrounds are gathered today in the spirit of friendship.

The late James "Jim" Debassige, a long time M'Chigeeng chief, was motivated to make a positive change in his community. Jim's vision to bring respect to the forefront was spurred on by some youth vandalism. He understood the merits of keeping youth busy and active. Back in the early 1970s he was a moving force behind the first summer hockey school and



invited NHL star Randy Carlyle to run the program at their new M'Chigeeng arena.

Together these men, along with fellow founding members Norman Debassige (baa), Rev. Len Self (baa) and former Chief Jim McGregor rooted themselves in a belief that sports is a simple way to teach many lessons about life and living.

Executive member Marian Jacko was looking for a way to honour these founding members. While she and acting president Chico Ralf were checking on other paraphernalia in production by Nothers for the 50th anniversary, she had an epiphany moment. It was then she asked, "Any chance you guys can replicate Manitoulin Island and incorporate it into a medal design?" To that they responded positively. She showed them an image and the result was a medal that truly reflected the ori-

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A complete set of this year's medals.

design depicted a warrior with a head-dress and a couple of hockey sticks in the background. Today, it has gone through major change.

Although the current design depicts one lone hockey player with the Island in the background, we all know "no one

...Condition of Ice Lake dam cause for concern

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council earlier this month on behalf of the association.

However, “at this time no one seems to know who is responsible for the dam on the property where it is located,” said Mr. Hudson.

“We’re very aware of the condition of the dam,” said Lee Hayden, reeve of Gordon/Barrie Island. “Certainly, a concern of the ratepayers and the municipality and to make sure it (dam) is maintained and the lake level is maintained. We are dealing with and considering the information Mr. Hudson provided us with and looking at the issue of who is responsible for the dam where it is located. It looks from a survey done in 1991 that the dam is on private property. We need to determine this first, before going ahead.”

“I am a landowner on Ice Lake here on the Island that represents a new association, Ice Lake Landowners Association, and here this evening to discuss a concern of ours, the condition of the dam on the southeast,” Mr. Hudson told council March 5. “We are deeply concerned about the deteriorating condition of the dam located on the southeast corner of Ice Lake. We have begun a petition that aims to raise awareness and gather support to urge the relevant authorities to take immediate action and repair this crucial infrastructure. This petition has (over 300) signatures of landowners, permanent and seasonal residents that have concerns over the future of Ice Lake and are supporters of this initiative.”

“Ice Lake holds immense value for both its residents and visitors, serving as a vital water source, recreational hub, and an essential ecosystem for various wildlife species. However, due to years of neglect and lack of maintenance, our beloved dam is now in dire need of repair.”

“The current state of disrepair poses significant risks not only to our community but also to surrounding areas,” said Mr. Hudson. “If left un-



Members of the Ice Lake Landowners Association are concerned about the deteriorating condition of the Ice Lake dam, water levels and for steps to be taken to make sure the watershed is managed properly.



The Ice Lake dam spillway from years past.

addressed, potential consequences include: shore wells for home/cottage water rendered unusable; existing water intake lines in the lake for our homes and cottages rendered unusable.” He pointed out lines could be extended, however this would mean additional costs including replacing any existing heat tracer lines; flooding that could damage nearby properties, disruption in water supply affecting local businesses and households alike, as well as severe environmental impact on aquatic life.”

Mr. Hudson explained the dam was constructed over 50 years ago (1974) with an estimated lifespan of 50 years, and the dam’s weakened condition increases vulnerability during extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall or rapid snowmelt. “Repairing the dam will not only safeguard our community but also create job opportunities for local contractors.”

“Our research has ver-

ified that since the dam’s construction in 1974, a number of agencies (local and provincial) have been engaged but there has never been a consensus of responsibility for the dam and water levels of Ice Lake until a council meeting February 14, 1986 (with the Ministry of Natural Resources) where an agreement was put in place for the township to assume the responsibility for the dam in 1987,” continued Mr. Hudson.

“Interestingly enough, a survey that was completed in October 1991 does not reflect the standard 66 foot easement road allowance of the northeast side of the bay leading up to the dam, which essentially provides ownership of the waterway to the landowner of said survey,” continued Mr. Hudson. “In contrast, via a property index map of the area that was captured in October 2018, this reflects what appears to be the missing road allowance easement. This easement appears in

separate maps of the area. This raises a rather large question, what happened to the easement?”

“The land area around Ice Lake is much more populated, providing a considerable increase in tax revenues from the landowners to this township’s prosperity. Ultimately, very few of us would have opted to invest in property around this lake with the risk of this dam failing and Ice Lake water levels dropping to the point where the lake is not navigable by boat,” said Mr. Hudson.

“We are asking you today to review this request and help us determine a proper course of action to come up with a plan with a long-term solution of repairing and creating access to the dam for the township to maintain the watershed on Ice Lake,” said Mr. Hudson.

He said the dam needs to be replaced, and the property needs to be resurveyed with an ecological assessment and structural assessment done of the current dam.

“Everyone around the lake purchased their property to have access to a lake, not a glorified pond,” said Mr. Hudson.

“The first thing that needs to be determined is who has responsibility for the property the dam is located on,” said Reeve Hayden. “Then we can look at the different possibilities, such as replacement or repairs of the current dam,” he said noting an environmental study would need to be carried out as well as answering the question on the lakeshore road allowance easement, “and all proper permits need to be obtained before we can even look at doing something.”

“It is very important,” stated Reeve Hayden. “If the dam were to fail there would be a lot of consequences, including a decrease in the water levels by 16 inches in the spring on a lake that is very shallow.”

“From a municipal standpoint we share the concerns and will undertake the process of how to properly proceed on this issue,” added Reeve Hayden.

...Tiffany Recollet named as new UCCMM CEO

...continued from page 3

Nations organizations on Mnídoo Mnising for almost 15 years.”

That work experience includes working with Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services as

well as with the Gwekwaadziwin Miikan Youth Mental Health and Addiction Program

“I want to continue the excellent work led by the former CEO Hazel Recollet,” said Ms. Recollet, who noted that her moth-

er is acting as a resource person and mentor.

In her announcement, Chief Corbiere went on to highlight Ms. Recollet’s experience and knowledge as tremendous assets that will help advance the UCCMM Tribal Council

into the future.

“We appreciate Tiffany’s hard work and dedication to the tribal council over the past five years in her role as finance manager,” said Chief Corbiere, “and we are looking forward to what the future will bring under her leadership as the CEO.”

...nursing home will include courtyard

...continued from page 3

many ideas cannot be incorporated into the design of the new home because they do not comply with the design standards set out by the Ministry of Long-Term Care,” wrote Ms. Gervais.

“Louis Belanger, lead architect on the project, has been continuing to rework the design so it incorporates some of the concepts that were raised,” continued Ms. Gervais. “We hope to have another round of focus group sessions later in the spring to get feedback on the new layout and provide updates on the new build.”

“In the meantime, planning work has continued: the proposed site for the new home has been rezoned, plans for servicing of the property are underway and communication with the Ministry of Long-Term Care is occurring regularly to ensure the approval process on the development application is underway.”

“There is still no news on approval to St. Joseph’s on their application,” said Mayor Lane. “However, there will have to be some news this month once the provincial budget comes down. Hopefully, the approvals will be given.”

LITTLE CURRENT

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Bahá'í Writings

A scientific man is a true index and representative of humanity, for through processes of inductive reasoning and research he is informed of all that appertains to humanity, its status, conditions and happenings.

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

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

...Players hopeful Assiginack Arts, Entertainment Centre will move ahead

...continued from page 3

disbanded and our requests and input to council were ignored."

"I'm on the executive (of BWTP) and we have not been informed on anything, even though we had sent lots of letters and made lots of requests to council," said Mr. Baumgarten. "So, when I saw on a recent council meeting agenda (that the future of the buildings was being looked at) we attended the meeting." Previously Assiginack had received funding to hire an architect (Perry and Perry Architects) "and we understood the theatre would be attached to the arena. However, council decided this was not the place to have the theatre located."

Council has now, "decided to investigate having the theatre at the waterfront, incorporating it into the Roller Mills," said Mr. Baumgarten. "It will be good news if this goes forward."

Mayor Reid had told The Expositor the township is in the preliminary stage of exploration which involves council working with an architect and beginning with public consultation which they hope to undertake after Easter. She also said council is looking forward to hearing feedback from the community.



The historic Roller Mills is being touted as a possibility to house an Assiginack arts and entertainment centre.

Expositor file photo

Stagnation in global mental health post-pandemic, states 2023 report

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

CANADA—The world's mental wellbeing is at a standstill, with the 2023 Mental State of the World Report from the Global Mind Project indicating no recovery to pre-pandemic levels. Despite technological and health-care advances, global mental health remains at a concerning low, as revealed by the extensive survey involving over half a million participants across 71 countries. In terms of mental wellbeing across six dimensions of study, Canada places 40th of the 71 countries polled and 51st in terms of populations listed as "distressed/struggling." Both figures are middling on the spectrum, however Canada is placing just below the United States as well as drastically below many countries in the global south.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there's been a focus on tracking positive mental health indicators. Despite some positive trends, the rates of depression, anxiety, and

PTSD have remained worryingly high. According to statistics Canada, as of late 2020, 20 percent of adults experienced moderate to severe symptoms of these mental health conditions, a number that rose to 25 percent by early 2021 and has remained steady since.

Notably, certain demographics report higher instances of these severe symptoms. Young adults between 18 and 24 years old have shown particularly high rates of depression (33 percent), anxiety (25 percent), and PTSD (15 percent). These findings are consistent with prior cycles of the Survey on Community Health Measures (SCMH) and are echoed by other recent surveys, indicating a greater prevalence of mood and anxiety disorders among Canada's youth.

2SLGBTQ+ individuals also report higher rates of moderate to severe symptoms, with 45 percent experiencing depression, 35 percent anxiety, and 19 percent PTSD—significantly higher than the rates among heterosexual and cisgender individ-

uals. Indigenous peoples report similarly elevated levels of these symptoms: 29 percent for depression, 24 percent for anxiety, and 16 percent for PTSD, compared to their non-Indigenous counterparts.

In Canada, the trend towards longer and healthier lives has been disrupted, with a notable decline in life expectancy by over half a year in 2020, marking the largest single-year decrease since 1921. Despite consistent improvements over the past four decades, the impact of COVID-19 and rising deaths related to substance use have led to this setback. As of 2021, the overall life expectancy at birth stood at 81.6 years, with men averaging 79.3 years and women 84.0 years. While both genders saw a decrease in 2020, the decline in 2021 was solely attributed to males, with a slight increase observed for females.

Additionally, while most Canadians rate their general health positively, there has been a concerning decline in mental health, particularly evident in increased anxiety and mood dis-

orders among vulnerable groups. In 2021, 59.7 percent of Canadians aged 12 and above rated their general health as very good or excellent. However, the proportion reporting very good or excellent mental health dropped from 72.4 percent in 2015 to 59.0 percent in 2021, with significant declines seen across all age groups, especially among young adults aged

18 to 34.

Furthermore, in 2021, over 3.4 million Canadians aged 12 and above (10.4 percent) reported being diagnosed with an anxiety disorder, while over 3.1 million (9.6 percent) reported a mood disorder diagnosis. Both anxiety and mood disorders have seen an increase since 2015, with higher prevalence rates among certain demo-

graphics. For instance, First Nations people living off reserve and Métis individuals reported higher rates of anxiety and mood disorders compared to non-Indigenous populations. Similarly, those in the lowest income quintile were more likely to report these disorders compared to those in the highest income quintile.

...Changing climate could increase deer pop.

...continued from page 3

ferent wildlife species including moose and whitetail deer. Warmer winters could see a rise in white-tailed deer populations.

The Expositor spoke with retired Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Conservation Officer Ian Anderson of Manitoulin Island. He said that in his 50 years of living on the Island this is the second easiest winter he has seen and that "the warm weather isn't a detriment to deer populations. I expect a good fawn crop as the does have had a low stress winter. They should have a fair amount of body fat in the spring and the herd should be as healthy as we have ever seen."

However, as deer populations rise, there may be an impingement on native plant species as deer excoriate the land of their favourite plants and could cause further changes in local ecosystems. Deer have a preference for consuming trillium, particularly the scarce white trillium, a flowering plant species safeguarded in Ontario where plucking them on conservation lands is prohibited by law. To maintain



Ryan Corbiere of M'Chigeeng First Nation harvested this 10-point buck on his family farm near Billings township in November. Some say 2024 could prove a banner year for the annual rifle hunt.

a forest boasting a diverse understory teeming with wildflowers and shrubs, it could be necessary to decrease a possibly over abundant deer population.

Some experts say that even a cull might not work in the short term, as deer are capable of reproducing nearly as quickly as they can be harvested. While this might be a nuisance to some, it could make for a very prolific hunting season this year.

Islanders can help Elliot Lake win Kraft Hockeyville honours

ELLIOT LAKE—Manitoulin Island residents can help a neighbour community win the Kraft Hockeyville contest.

The city of Elliot Lake has been chosen as one of the four finalists in this years Hockeyville contest from hundreds of Canadian communities that were nominated. The winner of the contest wins \$250,000 in arena upgrades and hosts a National Hockey League game. Currently the Centennial Arena in Elliot Lake has been closed for several months due to structural problems.

It is now up to fans to vote for the winner with voting to take place online on March 29 and 30 for a 48-hour period. You can vote online as often as you want during this period.

The three other communities in the running for the contest include Cochrane, Alberta; Wolsley, Saskatchewan; and Enderby, British Columbia.

For each of the finalists stories, more information and voting access, you can visit kraftcanada.ca.

A message from the
Little Current and District Fish and Game Club,
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Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation and
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...Michael's Bay Rd. needs big upgrade, township reeve says

...continued from page 1 was 12.”

the township to concerns with the road, “I was told ‘if you maintain a speed limit of 40 kilometres per hour you will be alright.’ I came in today on the road and the most I was going

“Michael’s Bay Road, which is off the Government Road in Tehkummah, is a problem every spring,” said Ms. Cline. “But this is not just a few potholes and mud. It is

so bad starting the beginning of this week that on Tuesday (March 5) myself and others couldn’t even venture out on our road. I couldn’t go to work and heaven forbid if an ambulance or other emergen-

cy vehicle was needed. Several of us have complained in person, emails, letters and nothing is being done.”

“Each member of council is aware of this problem,” said Ms. Cline. “One person on council acknowledged my emails and told me he drove down our road and it is a real mess. He told me to keep him informed.”

“We have written to our ombudsman and our MPP (Michael Mantha) who at least acknowledged our problems but cannot help because it is a township issue,” said Ms. Cline. “During the past council, myself and my neighbour Elaine Leeson went to council meetings and while council did acknowledge that our road is a mess, they said it was built in the horse and wagon ages when the old town of Michael’s Bay existed. The road is sand and logs, not for vehicles. However, they let many houses be built and there are many people that live here all year-round. We also pay the highest taxes in Tehkummah township. But our council today continues to say our road is just not built for traffic. This is the problem, we need a solution.”

“The township had the grader down the road this morning,” said Ms. Cline last Tuesday. “I was literally sliding on the road, it’s so muddy and it’s filled with potholes. And you certainly can’t drive too close to the shoulder



Residents who live on Michael’s Bay Road are upset with the muddy, slippery conditions of the road again this year. Tehkummah Township officials have indicated that they are considering options to improve the road long term.

of the road.”

Ms. Cline said, “We have no other way in or out of our properties beside this road. I think the only way they can fix the road, which is about 6.5 kilometres in length, is to go two kilometres at a time and dig down, put big rocks on the road and put the gravel over that. The township put gravel on the road one year but it was the small sand rock stuff and we watched the gravel sink into the road.”

“It’s too wet and muddy,” stated Ms. Cline. “The road was never built for vehicles, it was built when travel was by horse and buggy, so why did the

township sell lots on the road? There are all kinds of people living here now.”

Elaine Leeson told The Expositor, “I sent a letter to the township and council a week and a half ago and was told I need to maintain speeds down to 40 kilometres per hour. But we can’t even go much faster than 10 kilometres.”

“Last summer the township put sand gravel down, but it was small stuff and it just caused more mud,” said Ms. Leeson. “I have also been told by the township that

...continued on page 10



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...Dawson citizens group seeks lease on Mississagi lighthouse

...continued from page 1
 said Ms. Van Every. "By operating the lighthouse, it would be good for not just Western Manitoulin but all of Manitoulin."

The lighthouse has been closed since the COVID-19 pandemic and had been previously operated by Destination Manitoulin Island (DMI).

"DFO has told us they

were doing an assessment of all lighthouses; this has been done and they are reviewing the report," said Ms. Van Every. "We have expressed interest in operating this (Mississagi) lighthouse." She noted DFO has said some work has been carried out on the lighthouse.

Ms. Van Every indicated DCIA is looking for a long-term lease. "There is no

point doing all this work if we don't have a long-term lease."

"The DCIA made an application to DFO to acquire a long term lease for the operation of the Mississagi Lighthouse. This has been a long process, but it is one which we feel will soon be complete," a DCIA release explains. "Now comes the hard work. We hope we can count on you (members of the public) to make this dream a reality."

"We are seeking individuals that would be interested in volunteering their time to sit on a working committee that would work closely with the members of the DCIA to carry out the business plan which includes rejuvenation of the grounds and buildings," said DCIA. "We are also seeking individuals and/or business-



The Mississagi Lighthouse in Meldrum Bay.

es that would be interested in volunteering their time and resources for labour to bring the site back into operating condition," said Ms. Van Every. She said some of these volunteer opportunities include, but are not limited to, fundraising, marketing, customer service, physical labour such as grass cutting, painting/staining, landscaping, carpentry, handy person

jobs."

"That's the point of the public meeting we will be holding in April," said Ms. Van Every. "We need to form a working committee of DCIA. We have the ability to sign a lease. We need to find people who are legitimately interested in getting the lighthouse up and running again. This is just a beginning."

"The Mississagi Light-

house, campground and surrounding properties are a Manitoulin Island treasure that we want to share with locals and visitors. The assistance of our local community members, businesses, municipalities, and first nations are needed now more than ever."

Ms. Van Every said she does not know if any First Nations have interest in the lighthouse property.

The public meeting will take place at 11 am on Saturday, April 6 at the Meldrum Bay Community Hall.

Derek Stephens said DMI had the previous lease for the lighthouse. He pointed out his name had been on the lease with DFO but he had turned it back. "I signed it back over to DFO."

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...Michael's Bay Rd. needs big upgrade

...continued from page 9

I don't pay enough taxes. When I said I pay \$7,200 in taxes I was told the next time I complained I would be paying even more."

"And the boat launch is down here," said Ms. Leeson, who has retired as a registered nurse at the Wikwemikong Nursing Home. "One morning at 6 am, I met 13 huge trucks with big fishing boats attached to them. The township said they would close the boat launch until the spring; we've asked and it is still not closed off," she continued. "I don't know what we are going to do, maybe we should get together and file a civil suit against the township."

"We have heard complaints about the road from a lot of people," said Reeve Deforge. "We are planning to do some work," he said. He explained the actual length of the entire road that needs work

is eight kilometres. To dig the road up and repair it will cost about \$8 million, "which is a lot of money," he said. "But we are going to start work this year to get something done. My hope this year is to put ditches in, but to look at getting the ditches in we need permission from all the landowners."

Michael's Bay Road is a road that, due to classification standards, is not required to be maintained. However, Reeve Deforge acknowledged something needs to be done with so many residents living on the road, and how bad the road is. "Quite frankly, our roads superintendent can grade it one day and four days later all the potholes are back. I know as a kid there was no one driving their vehicles down the road. But over the years, Tehkummah has let building take place. So, we need to take care of the road."



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Kelly is a Registered Pelvic Health Physiotherapist providing services to Manitoulin Island by virtual and mobile means. Kelly helps women of all ages, including Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peripartum individuals. She helps women prepare for labour and delivery during pregnancy and helps women postpartum with incontinence, pain, prolapse, diastasis, returning to physical activity and more. She is passionate about improving the accessibility of Pelvic Health Physiotherapy across Northern Ontario and looks forward to helping her island community.



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

...Kaelan home safe and sound after spending night in freezing conditions

...continued from page 1

This wasn't the first time that Kaelan had been the centre of a frantic search, however, when he was just past being a toddler he went missing, only to be later found hiding in the trunk of his mother's car. It wasn't until he popped the seat from inside that they discovered his hiding place.

There was good reason Mr. Shawana was unconcerned about Kaelan's heading outside to play this time, even should he leave the yard to visit the play structures at a nearby park. Kaelan's track pants were fitted with an Angelsave tracking device that allows his parents to see where he is going on their smartphones. The tracker sends Kaelan's parents a notification when he leaves the property—no such alert had occurred.

"It was getting later and it was dark outside, so I decided it was time for Kaelan to come in," recalled Mr. Shawana. He called for his son, but there was no response. Going upstairs to check Kaelan's room, Mr. Shawana discovered to his distress that his son had changed clothes before going outside to play. His tracker was there on the floor, still attached to his track pants.

Kaelan's parents explained that the tracker cannot be easily removed from his clothing, needing a special key to unlock the device. "It's kind of like the things they attached to clothes in a store," said Mr. Shawana. Kaelan had learned how to remove the device, so his parents began hiding the key.

After searching the immediate area looking for his son, checking out the playground equipment where he was wont to play, and as by this time it was getting very late, Mr. Shawana became concerned and called the police. The response was swift and thorough.

"They began by searching the house," said Mr. Shawana, then the police began to fan out. As the search expanded through the night, over 30 police officers, Conservation Officers and both the OPP and MNR canine units, a host of infrared equipped drones from nearby Wiikwemkoong and the OPP helicopter

would become engaged in the search.

Kaelan's mother, Janice Peltier arrived from her home in Wiikwemkoong to hold vigil as well.

"She was beside herself," said Mr. Shawana, who was adamant that Kaelan's mother be acknowledged as well.

As word of Kaelan's disappearance spread online, a host of friends, neighbours and even concerned strangers began arriving to help with the search—although at first they were unable to take part. "The police don't want untrained people involved at the start as they could mess up his tracks," noted Mr. Shawana.

The police then instituted a grid-like search of the area on foot and with the aid of drones and helicopter whirring overhead.

Kaelan's Manitoulin Special Olympics (MSO) family were there as well, making coffee and providing support to the family as they waited.

Thanks to the wet early spring weather, Mr. Shawana was able to supply the police with a clear imprint of Kaelan's footprint that proved invaluable in identifying his tracks. Kaelan is very distinctive, being 230 pounds and standing at six-foot-six and his shoes are a comparable size 13.

As the hours went by and the night grew colder, Kaelan's parent's anxiety grew. They knew their child was ill-equipped to deal with the ordeal and lightly dressed in the sub-zero temperatures.

Adding to their concern are the nearby shores of Manitowaning Bay, with its chancy ice cover.

"We deliberately avoid taking Kaelan out on the ice," said Ms. Shawana-McKenzie. "Although we would like to be able to go ice fishing, we don't want Kaelan thinking going out on the ice is a normal thing to do."

As the frantic night passed, there were sightings reported. One nearby neighbour reported seeing Kaelan shortly after news broke of his disappearance. "We knew it was him because he is very distinctive," said Mr. Shawana, "wear-

ing an orange shirt." Not to mention standing at over six-and-a-half feet. That was on Monkhouse Road, a considerable distance from the Shawana home.

Not long after news of Kaelan's disappearance, Mr. Shawana received a call from Wiikwemkoong's Information Technology manager Mike McCormick offering the community's search drones to assist.

When police are searching for a lost person, the approach of an officer to the door can up anxiety. MSO coach Janice Anning said that her stomach dropped as she opened the door for the officer. "We found him," were the officer's first words, followed by confirmation that Kaelan was alive.

He had been found by the helicopter, although the K-9 units were closing in by that point as well. Cold, shivering with hypothermia, wet and disoriented, but in thankful answer to the host of prayers being offered across Manitoulin and beyond, he is alive.

Kaelan's body speaks testimony to his ordeal through the night, cut, battered and covered in bruises that are still appearing on his torso, but not so worse for wear.

The ambulance came, but the family had already loaded Kaelan into the car for the trip to the hospital. "Loud noises and lights are triggers for him," explained Ms. Shawana-McKenzie. "We didn't know how he would react to being put in the ambulance."

"He was obviously hypothermic," said Ms. Shawana-McKenzie, a former EMS worker. She tried to convince Kaelan to get into the shower, but all he wanted was his bed. "Have you ever tried to get a six-foot-six, 230-pound man to do something he doesn't want to?"

Kaelan's fur-lined boots were filled with water, squishing with every step and the rest of his clothes were equally soaked. In his hands he still clutched his favourite green dinosaur stuffy, battered and dirty but his faithful companion through the night.

Mr. Shawana climbed into bed beside his son to use body heat to help warm

him up. "I was spooning him," he chuckled. "He was looking at me strange and I explained that I was trying to warm him up." That did the trick, as Kaelan relented and got up and stepped into the shower.

"He collapsed on the floor of the shower," said Ms. Shawana-McKenzie. "I just let the water run over him."

Eventually, the shivering subsided and Kaelan's body temperature returned to normal.

"The police were awesome," shared Mr. Shawana, who was able to see the search pattern underway on the police computer screen. Kaelan had walked over 22 kilometres during the night.

As Mr. Shawana shook police officers' hands, thanking them for helping to save his son, they in turn thanked him. "They were so thankful things turned out alright," he said. "Things rarely turn out well in these kinds of searches."

"We are so grateful to the police, MNR, MSO and all the people who came out to help, who offered their prayers and support," said Mr. Shawana, a sentiment shared by his spouse.

The Shawana's home is equipped with doorbell cameras, special locks that make it challenging to open the doors to the outside, as well as the aforementioned tracking device. (Another tracker has also been ordered and plans are in place to prevent another untracked adventure.) "We will be putting his clothes away that don't have a tracker," noted Mr. Shawana.

The couple have tried bracelets and other types of tracking devices, but Kaelan takes them off. Even putting them on his T-shirts has proven problematic, as he tears the cloth off leaving an 80s-style workout shirt remains.

Kaelan was too shy to pose for a photo with his relieved parents and spent most of the interview in his room, only coming down to collect a quick snack. But that is okay, he is home safe.



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A section of lakefront from the Sandy Point subdivision in Assiginack.

...real estate developer frustrated

...continued from page 1

The Sandy Point subdivision would have a total of 48 waterfront lots, with a marina. Ten lots have been developed and home construction has taken place. There are 38 remaining lots requiring approval.

Mr. Chandler said no changes had been made from the first and second portion of the development so he is mystified why a positive response has not been provided by the township. "It feels like a personal grudge. We signed a subdivision agreement in April 2022. The township sent a letter to the planning board in July 2022 stating that they were satisfied with the first phase of the development. Now that the first part of the project is complete, they (township) refuse to move forward on the same terms as the first phase." He pointed out, "we have had zero complaints brought to us about the first phase that they took ownership of, so it is baffling, to say the least."

Mr. Chandler said as for the next steps in the process, "We have millions of dollars invested and can't sit on the development forever, so we will weigh our options for the property going forward. If there is no light at the end of the tunnel,

then a sale or donation of the lands may prove to be the only alternative. There is always demand for a 700-acre site with waterfront."

"My biggest concern is for the taxpayers in Assiginack," said Mr. Chandler. "The creation of these vacant waterfront lots should immediately increase the municipal tax revenue by approximately two percent, and upwards of 10 percent once the lots are fully developed. Taxpayers in the township could be missing out on significant tax benefits if this site contributes zero tax revenue in the future."

"The entire situation is frustrating for us since we have followed every instruction the township has given to us, to our detriment, despite several obstacles that they have put in our way," said Mr. Chandler. "The lot creation is just the start of a bigger picture. There are homes to be built and we have 600 plus acres left over with a marina that we had planned to invest in."

Brenda Reid, mayor of Assiginack when asked about the concerns raised said, "I can't talk about it. I can't discuss it," she said, noting the issue is in the township's lawyer's hands.



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Youngsters were all smiles and one even gave the thumbs up sign to the maple tapping event hosted by Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association last week. **RIGHT:** Right from the tree! E.J. Gilmore gets a taste of maple sap at the maple tapping event hosted by Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association last week.

Manitoulin Streams hosts maple tapping event

by Tom Sasvari

KAGAWONG—Youngsters from around Manitoulin Island took part in a maple tapping event hosted by Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association (MSIA) on Wednesday of last week.

“This was the (MSIA) Youth Rangers second year hosting the maple tapping event and we had 38 kids registered from Gore Bay all the way to Little Current,” stated Liam Campbell, environmental technologist with MSIA. “We started by learning about the process of tapping maple trees, how to identify them, as well as telling the youth the history of

maple syrup.”

After a pizza lunch provided by Bridal Veil Variety and The Kag, “the kids got into groups or pairs and were each given their own bucket and spile, which were generously lent to us by Lee Hayden (of Gordon/Barrie Island) who makes and sells maple syrup out of Ice Lake.”

The youngsters had to identify their own maple tree with Mr. Campbell then put the spile in the tree.

“All of the trees were running, and the kids were able to collect full water bottles full of sap to take home,” added Mr. Campbell.

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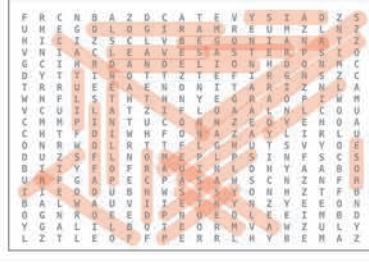
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Naandwechige-Gamig hosts Inspire: Strong Indigenous Kweok seminar

by **Jacqueline M. St. Pierre, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter**
WIKWEMKOONG—Indigenous women of all ages gathered in Wiikwemkoong to celebrate themselves at “Inspire: Strong Indigenous Kweok Seminar.” The event was hosted by Naandwechige-Gamig Health Centre’s Health Promotion and Prevention and organized by Courtney Wassegijig. Indigenous women from across various communities gathered at the Wiky Arena in Wiikwemkoong to celebrate empowerment and resilience. The event aimed to inspire Indigenous women to see beyond the challenges imposed by colonialism.

Presentations in the categories of ‘Women in Business,’ “Women in Health” and “Women in Sport” were the focus of the seminar featur-

ing speakers Skyeanne Trudeau, owner and operator of Sweets and Treats and single mother of two of Manitoulin Island, Dr. Erin Peltier, Sudbury based physician of Wiikwemkoong, Marian Jocko Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General Indigenous Justice Division and Director Board of Hockey Canada hailing from Wiikwemkoong, Chef Hiawatha Osawamick of Hiawatha’s Restaurant, Sharlene Webkamigad, registered nurse in Indigenous Health in Sudbury, as well as Kelly Babstock, Women’s University Hockey also of Wiikwemkoong.

The intent of the very well attended seminar was to fire the imagination and to energize Indigenous women of the territory to see themselves outside of statistics and tragedy caused by colonialism, and the prominent speakers did



Hiawatha Osawamick

just that, speaking from a wealth of lived experience marked not only by hardships but by community love and personal triumphs.

Ms. Jacko raised her eldest child as a single parent while earning three University degrees, including a Master’s degree in Social Work and a law degree from the University of Toronto. While working full-time as a lawyer and rais-



Sharlene Webkamigad

ing three children, Ms. Jacko obtained her Master of Law degree from York University in 2005. She spoke of “quitting law school every day” but persevering through many hardships, perhaps most relatable to Indigenous women. Marian has spent her entire 24-year legal career tirelessly working on behalf of children and Indigenous peoples.

Ms. Jacko strongly believes in community service, serving on many non-profit organizations’ boards and advisory committees over the years. Currently, she is the President of the Little Native Hockey League, “Little NHL,” and President of Anishnawbe Health of Toronto. She also joins a volunteer Board of Mentors with the Future of Hockey Lab whose work is committed to values-based social innovation and culture change while growing the game of ice hockey.

She also spoke of sexism within the sport of hockey, and the yearning she felt as a young woman to play. While she did not personally play hockey, her daughters did and she became a coach and then went

on to become President of the Little NHL, who hosted their 50th anniversary tournament in Markham Ontario last week.

She believes in the power of hockey as a sport to lift up Indigenous Youth and communities and to change them from viewing themselves as a statistic.

“When our people are involved in some way, shape or form with the justice system...accused or in custody and I read about statistics like Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIW2SG) I think about that we are 12 times more likely to go missing just because we are Indigenous. And I feel that we need to start changing that narrative, we have to do this to change that narrative. Instead of saying we are twelve times more likely to go missing or murdered, how about we do things that make the narrative ‘we are 12 times more likely to play the provincial women’s hockey league, to be successful at your chosen career, at your skills, your trades or whatever the case is. You gotta start doing things to change that narrative and for me, I firmly believe its through Indigenous hockey that we can have our young people change that narrative,” Ms. Jacko stated emphatically and to great applause.

Chef Hiawatha Osawamick, owner and operator of Hiawatha’s Restaurant and Marina located in Capreol, Ontario and “Turtle Island’s Caterer” also spoke with great conviction, opening her presentation by stating “don’t be afraid to try something big and new,” encouraging the women of her community to step out of their comfort zones and when presented with opportunities to “just say yes, and figure the rest out later,” while also cautioning that immediate success is not typical and that consistency and perseverance is necessary for long term success.

She regaled attendees with her story about her bid for World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education in 2017 for 2800 guests being held in Toronto for the very first time. She went for the interview in Six Nations of the Grand River and was told there were three slots for the event, boxed lunches for 2800 people, the main course for 2800 hundred people and then the closing ceremony for the same number of attendees.

“So I gave my interview and was told ‘well we can pick you for one or we can not pick you for any’ so I said, well give the 2800 boxed lunches, thinking I’d ask for the easier one. That was what I was hoping for, just give me the easy one,” Ms. Osawamick laughed.

“But then (the organizer) came back to me a week later and she told me she picked me for all three. So I just told her, yes! So going back to that quote from the beginning, ‘don’t be afraid to try something big and new and just say yes’, so at that time, I just said yes and then hung up the phone and thought ‘oh gosh what did I just do?’”

Ms. Osawamick went on to rent all of the kitchen and staff necessary to make the event a success, which led to more opportunities to make her mark in the culinary world. As her business has expanded, she travels Turtle Island catering events and hiring Indigenous youth from within the communities where she travels, inspiring and giving opportunities to young people to try their hand in the culinary business. Some have gone on to pursue careers in the field, while others have had the learned experience to know it is not for them.

When the opportunity to take over the marina and restaurant came up, Ms. Osawamick jumped at the chance to make a presentation to Chief and Council. “I just spoke from the heart about my experience and my mom’s experience (in traditional cooking), we’re well known and what we have to offer and just being ourselves and who we are and letting that speak for itself. Out of the five (hopefuls) we were picked and so we purchased the restaurant and the marina last year. We were open for one full year as of October and in that first year we had to relocate the gas station so we decided to open a new gas station instead. And I was saying to myself, ‘how am I getting into the gas station business’ I don’t know anything about fuel. But I’m very grateful to have had mentors like my cousin Mark, my aunt Bev, my aunt Gerrie all growing up with these supports.” Ms. Osawamick emphasized the importance of asking for help and support along the way.

The event, which saw a remarkable turnout created an ambiance of celebration of Indigenous culture and achievements. Throughout the seminar, attendees were inspired by the stories of resilience, determination, and community support shared by the speakers, reaffirming the strength and potential of Indigenous women across the territory.

As Indigenous communities continue to strive for empowerment and resilience, events like the “Inspire: Strong Indigenous Kweok Seminar” serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration, encouraging individuals to pursue their dreams and create positive change within their communities.



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Central CAO responds to Tracy Road development concerns

by Michael Erskine

CENTRAL MANITOULIN—An email chain between residents concerned about a planned 39-lot subdivision development on the shores of Lake Mindemoya has posed many concerns and questions about the plan.

The owner of the Tracey Road property where the development is currently taking shape, although permission for the subdivision has not yet been forthcoming, is listed as Split Crow Partners Ltd, care of Lee Kieswetter. A group of residents who live near the planned development have been voicing concerns and seeking to make presentations outlining their concerns, many of which have been previously reported in The Expositor ('Proposed 39-lot Mindemoya Lake subdivision prompts water concerns and opposition to the development' Page 1, February 7).

Central Manitoulin CAO Denise Deforge reached out to the members of the chain in order to clear up misconceptions and address some of the concerns being expressed.

Ms. Deforge noted that "The lands in question are part of a proposed subdivision application. The applicant has applied to the planning board, the application is still in process." She went on to note that it is the planning board that "can answer any questions regarding this applica-

tion and the planning process."

Ms. Deforge pointed out that the land is "currently privately owned, and land clearing and road building on private lands is allowed, regardless of the stage of the application or the outcome of the application." But cautioned that "work on the lands is not an indication of a foregone conclusion of a positive outcome to the application."

In response to concerns about brush burning at the proposed site, the CAO pointed out that "the applicant has obtained proper permits to burn brush for the purpose of land clearing. The applicant has personnel at the fire and fire suppression equipment is on site. Our fire chief has visited the site and approved the burning site."

When it comes to the archaeological assessment of the site: "the applicant has submitted an archaeological assessment with the planning board and with the Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI). The whole property does not require a stage 3 assessment. Section 8 of the archaeological report identifies the areas for Stage 3 assessment and the buffer area required. The MHSTCI regulates the requirements for work near archaeological sites, not the municipality."

To the undoubted dismay of the concerned residents, Ms. Deforge notes that "the applicant has not done any-

thing to which the municipality can issue a stop work order."

While the upset residents have expressed concern that the development appears to be "a done deal" given the work being done and positive opinions being initially expressed by some Central Manitoulin councillors, Mayor Richard Stephens (who also sits on the Manitoulin Planning Board but does not speak for that organization) is adamant that is far from being the case.

"We will look at all concerns being expressed and the information being presented to us before we make any decision on whether the development will go forward," he said during an earlier interview.

"It is important to remember this presentation of the application is just a first step (and the first time the planning board has been presented with plans)," noted MPB chair Ken Noland when the project was first presented to the planning board in February. "There will be several more meetings to take place, including Central Manitoulin considering a subdivision agreement and the board holding more meetings."

MHC to close COVID-19 assessment centre March 22

LITTLE CURRENT—The Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC) COVID-19 assessment centre is slated to close on Friday, March 22. The decision to close the assessment centre comes as funding for the program has not been renewed by the province.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the MHC assessment centre has provided safe and timely access to COVID-19 testing.

"At the beginning of the pandemic we had the assessment centres at both our hospitals in Mindemoya and Little Current," said Paula Fields, MHC president and chief executive officer (CEO). "As the pandemic prolonged we were not able to staff both hospital site assessment centres due to human resource limitations so we located the (one) assessment centre in Little Current." She also noted the province has discontinued funding all assessment centres in Ontario.

Ms. Fields also explained, "we have seen the volumes of patients (receiving the COVID-19 testing) drastically reduce over the past six months."

"It is important to note that COVID is still in our communities, and we urge anyone who feels unwell to continue taking precautions to help limit the spread of respiratory ailments," said Ms. Fields, thanking the staff for their work.

Downed streetlamp causes mass Eastlink outages

MANITOULIN—A problem with a streetlight in Little Current has caused a cascade effect of problems for Eastlink customers across Manitoulin Island and the North Shore.

According to Hydro One media spokesperson Tiziana Baccaga Rosa, on Wednesday, March 13, the arm of a municipal streetlight came down on Meredith Street in Little Current which caused damage to Hydro One's distribution line below. Crews made repairs to the section of line that was damaged.

At 3 am Friday morning, Hydro One again received a call that the same distribution line had once again broken. Crews replaced the whole section of line at 6 am Friday morning. It was this power line that also caused damage to the Eastlink line for the second time.

"Inspection crews are on-site now and once done, Eastlink can come in and fix their equipment," Ms. Baccaga Rosa said last Friday.

"Today's service disruption is the second this week, both caused by third party fires impacting our network," Eastlink media spokesperson Jill Liang told this newspaper on Friday of last week. "Although out of our control, we are doing everything we can to complete this latest repair as quickly as we can and expect to have services back

up this evening."

The Mindemoya Site of Manitoulin Health Centre was significantly impacted by the landline telephone and internet outage affecting the Island. A press release sent out Friday afternoon told patients that while they may not be able to get through to the hospital by phone, the emergency department remains open 24 hours a day.

Service was returned to Eastlink customers at approximately 9:30 pm Friday evening.



Eastlink crews work to restore service to customers on Friday, March 15. The issue was rooted in power and Eastlink lines on Meredith Street in Little Current.

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Historic Chrism Mass held at Wiikwemkoong's Holy Cross Church

by Michael Erskine

WIKWEMKOONG—Holy Cross Church is celebrating 150 years of service to the Wiikwemkoong community this year and Bishop Thomas Dowd, head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie and a self-confessed history buff, decided that called for something special to celebrate.

Each year, the diocese holds a special mass to bless the three holy oils used for anointing during the sacraments of the church. Of those three oils, the oil of the sick, the oil of the catechumens and the holy chrism oil, the first two are simply blessed, but the latter and most “important,” the chrism oil, must be consecrated by a bishop. It was his hope that this year, following consultation with the pastor and the Holy Cross parish council, that mass would be held in Wiikwemkoong.

Bishop Dowd explained that Holy Cross (long known as the Mother of Missions) is the oldest church in the North and that, as each new parish descends



A procession of priests enters Holy Cross Church in Wiikwemkoong to take part in a Chrism Mass where the holy oils used in Catholic ceremonies is consecrated. The three oils are plant-based and so need to be replaced every year.

photo by Michael Erskine

girls' residential school in the community, it was located elsewhere and moved to Spanish when it later burnt down.

Following the dance demonstrations and presentations, a light lunch from Prepped Manitoulin was served before those attending reboarded buses for the trip down the hill to Holy Cross.

The Chrism Mass itself began with a procession of priests and other clergy into the church in full vestments—including the Jesuit Father Superior, recognizable by his traditional black robes. The procession was led by the youth altar server bearing a cross-mounted staff.

The rites were conducted in Anishinaabemowin, English and French, the latter of which would have been more commonly heard than English in the earliest days of the community. The Anishinaabe were closely allied for centuries with the French during their struggles with the English before allying with the British rather than the Americans in the later War of 1812.

Ms. Kinoshemeg conducted a purification rite (commonly called “smudging”) using the four sacred medicines (cedar, sage, sweetgrass and tobacco) of the Anishinabek at the beginning of the mass.

Bishop Dowd explained that the three oils that are at the centre of the mass are always plant-based (“no 10-W-30,” he quipped) and therefore must be replaced each year lest they go rancid. One of the aspects of this Chrism Mass that makes it “historic” is that the chrism oil, the most important of the three oils consecrated in the mass, is usually scented with balsam—a Middle Eastern plant. Instead, the new chrism oil was being scented with cedar, one of the four medicines sacred to the Anishinaabe.

The mass was filled with song rising to the heavens—thanks in part to the bishop's request that parishes send delegates with strong voices. In the end, that request was proven to be inspired. Bishop Dowd took a few moments at the beginning of the mass to practice some of the sung responses with those attending.

The oils and bowls containing the sacred medicines were processed to the altar by designated bearers and prepared before the gathering by the bishop and his acolytes. Following the mass, delegates gathered at the Daystar building to collect their three bottles to take back to their respective parishes.

Participants then reboarded buses for the trip to the Wiikwemkoong Arena, where a feast, sponsored by the chief and council, was held. A giveaway at the end of the evening consisted of a handmade wooden rosary and accompanying “chat” verse consisting of the nine final words of Jesus Christ on the cross.



An overhead view of the assembled clergy.

photo by Chris Narazanski.



Danielle Roy-McDonald sings a song honouring the four sacred medicines of the Anishinaabe.

from a parent church, it could be described as the mother or ancestor of every parish in the North.

“This was the largest faith community in the North when the first bishop, Jean Francois Jamot, came North and made it his base,” shared the bishop. He noted that once the locks were being built at Sault Ste. Marie, Bishop Jamot decamped to that community as it was more centrally located to the western communities he also served.

The Chrism Mass, as it is known, attracts nearly all the priests in the diocese as well as a representative from each parish. So, it came to be that nearly 60 priests decked in the full regalia of their offices, filled many of the Holy Cross pews last Wednesday where they were joined by parish representatives and members of the Wiikwemkoong community.

Prior to the Chrism Mass, the priest attended St. Bernard's Church in Little Current for a memorial mass for Father George Gardner, who was the pastor there for the past 17 years. Throughout their stay on Manitoulin, the priests took part in meetings at the Manitoulin Hotel and Conference Centre in Little Current.

The parish delegates and priests boarded waiting buses in Little Current at the NEMI Rec Centre and the hotel for the trip to Wiikwemkoong, which for many was the highlight of their first visit to the Island, while for others rep-



Bishop Thomas Dowd consecrates the holy oils.

resented a welcome trip back. Those familiar with Manitoulin could be heard relating its history and significance to their companions.

The buses stopped at Wiikwemkoong's Wasse Abin High School where their passengers assembled in the school gymnasium to hear presentations from Wiikwemkoong elders and knowledge keepers about the history of their community, drumming and dance demonstrations (including intertribal dances in which most of those assembled took part in with enthusiasm—egged on by the bishop himself).

“If the bishop can dance, you can dance,” he exhorted. It didn't really take all that much inducement, however, and soon nearly everyone was taking part.



Oil bearer Dianne Musgrove takes her container to the altar.

The presentations began with welcoming remarks by local parishioner Rosella Kinoshemeg and Bishop Dowd, before local knowledge keeper Stephen George took those in attendance through an “elevator pitch” version of the history of the community. “I have about half-an-hour or so to talk to you, but I could go on talking about this for days,” admitted Mr. George.

His presentation included photographs of the original church (destroyed by fire in the early part of the 20th century) and many of the original buildings. Mr. George dispelled a common misconception about the ruins that stand beside Holy Cross Church. “People think it was a residential school,” he said. “It wasn't.” He explained that although there was a



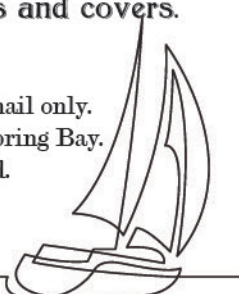
Bishop Thomas Dowd joins Wiikwemkoong elder Rosella Kinoshemeg for the opening remarks at Wiikwemkoong High School.

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coming events

Knox United Church rummage sale in Manitowaning is now having "Bag Days." Fill a large bag for \$5 or a small bag for \$3. The silent auction is also running again. Open Wednesdays to Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm. The rummage sale will be closing on Saturday, March 23.

43-44p

Come one, come all to the Little Current United Church Hall on March 29 from 7 to 9 pm (and every two weeks after that) to enjoy George Williamson and colleagues for a night of entertainment. Donation towards Manitoulin Family Resources Food Bank appreciated.

44-45p


Legion events

Come join the Little Current Royal Canadian Legion for a breakfast brunch on Sunday, April 7 from 10 am to 1 pm. \$10 per person

42-45c

The Wings are back at the Royal Canadian Legion, Little Current from 5 to 10 pm, downstairs, on Thursday, March 14 and Thursday, March 28.

42-44p

Kids' Easter Dance, Friday, March 29 from 6 to 8 pm. \$5 per child.

42-45p


services

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

Tfn

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

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Tfn

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

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coming events

Spaghetti dinner, Saturday, March 23, 5 to 7 pm, at the Kagawong Park Centre. \$20 at the door, kids under 11, \$12. Take-out available. To place a take-out order, contact Diane 705-919-1751.

43-44p

An evening of Contemporary Inspirational Music, Saturday, April 13 at 7 pm at St. John's Anglican Church, Kagawong. Refreshments provided, donations appreciated. Proceeds of fundraiser to repair stained glass window.

44-47p

Little Current Fish and Game Club Annual Spring Roast Beef Dinner and Fundraiser at the Little Current Legion on Wednesday, April 3. Door Prize and raffle; cocktails at 5 pm, dinner served at 6 pm. Only 125 tickets available, \$40 each, dine in only. Serving roast beef supplied, prepared and served by the Burt Farm. Included is a salad, main course and tea or coffee. For more information or tickets call President Lou Shortt, 705-368-2446; Garry Elliott, 705-368-3055 or Tony Ferro, 705-936-6565. Or you can pick up your tickets at The Manitoulin Expositor, Little Current.

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43-44c


services

Are you a cancer survivor and need someone to talk to on Manitoulin? Meetings are held monthly on a rotating basis around the Island. Sunday, March 24 at the Manitowaning Family Health Team from 2 to 4 pm and Wednesday, April 24 at the Mindemoya Council Chambers from 2 to 4 pm, but support can be given over the phone. Please feel free to reach out to anyone listed for support. Cancer support group contacts: Bonnie Young, 705-377-4998; Terry MacKenzie, RN (oncology nurse), 705-507-0433 or tandjmackenzie@hotmail.com or Ann Cranstons, 705-272-7531, bnannco@gmail.com. Ask us your questions, tell us your concerns.

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notice

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

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GEORGE RONALD BILLINGS

May 20, 1936 - March 8, 2024



Our family is saddened to announce Ron's death at age 87 in the early morning of Friday, March 8, 2024 at University Hospital, London, ON following a long and valiant battle with Parkinson disease. He leaves behind his loving wife of 61 years Alice Elaine (Barrett); his devoted children Ralph (Shelly Polishuk), Johanna and Brian (Annie Cateysson); cherished grandchildren Liam, Scott, Sarah, Gordon and Laura. Ron was born in Toronto, the only child of Marble and Violet (Somers) Billings. They lived in Timmins and Galt before settling in Ingersoll. Ron attended public school and Ingersoll DCI where he began to develop his academic, musical and athletic interests. Graduating from Western in 1959 in Honours Chemistry he also swam for the university swim team, setting a record in breaststroke. Following a year at the Ontario College of Education in Toronto, Ron began his teaching career in London, ON at Oakridge S.S., spending 16 years as head of the Science Department. After spending one year at Banting S.S., Ron finished his working years teaching at Montcalm S.S. In the midst of all those busy years Ron managed to co-author a chemistry text, play the piano for Oakridge and Montcalm musical productions, tour the cathedrals of England and Scotland with the St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral choir as a tenor and in his spare time play as much tennis as possible! From 1963 to 1965 Ron was given the opportunity to teach for DND in Metz, France. This gave Ron and Elaine the rare chance to travel extensively throughout Europe whenever there were school holidays. With their VW and a large French tent, they drove and camped from southern Italy to the Arctic Circle and every country in between. In 1973, this time with three young children in tow, Ron took a year's sabbatical in England, earning his Master of Science degree at the University of East Anglia. Ron enjoyed his retirement exploring Canada by boat, plane, car and bicycle and passing happy summers with friends and family on Manitoulin Island. The Billings family extends its thanks to the many caregivers who have helped Ron over the past four years, especially Rodrigo, Erica, Amy and Henry and we are grateful for the support of Jessica and Dr Hamilton's palliative team. Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date. Condolences and shared recollections may be forwarded to Logan Funeral Home, 519-433-6181, www.loganfh.ca. In lieu of flowers, donations to Parkinson Society Southwestern Ontario would be appreciated. A tree will be planted, by the Logan Funeral Home, as a living memorial to Ron Billings.

MARY MIDDLETON

(nee Rowe)



It is with overwhelming sadness, but blessed hope that we announce the passing of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Mary Elizabeth Middleton (nee Rowe) who passed away at home into her Saviour's loving arms Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at the age of 81. Reunited forever with the love of her life and husband Joe Middleton (predeceased). Lovingly remembered by her children Bruce Middleton (Nikki), Tim Middleton (Margaret), Christie Middleton (James), Mary-Jo Harper (Dan) and Jamie Middleton (Carmen). Loved and missed by grandchildren Sarah, Dan, Christopher, Eric, Hannah, Damaris, Nick, Sam, Tom, Abbie, Grace and Cindy. Lovingly cherished by great-grandchildren Cameron and Emma. Loving daughter of Archie and Alice Rowe (predeceased). Loving sister of Nancy McPhee Lewis (Ronnie), Tim Rowe (Sylvia), Wilmer Rowe (predeceased) (Theresa) and Harold Rowe (predeceased) (Sheila). Dearly loved by special friends Jane Fletcher and Hank Meyer. Mary's life centered around her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. There was nothing she would not do for any of them and spoke proudly of their accomplishments and victories. She treasured every moment with them and they gave her much joy. She looked forward with anticipated excitement to meeting her expected grandchild and great-grandchild. The thought put a beautiful smile on her face. Mary was an accomplished cook and baker and was known far and wide for her butter tarts. She enjoyed entertaining and her table was always filled with an abundance of delicious food, lovingly prepared for her family and friends. She treasured times and special moments playing games and cards. For many years, she worked as a housekeeper/cook for Dr. Shelagh McRae and Dr. Bob Hamilton, as well as Terry and Judy Land, always happy to make their favourite treats. Mary loved being able to contribute to her family she built with Joe. Music was a central part of Mary's life. She loved listening to hymns and boasting of her families' musical talents. She was gifted musically as well, singing, playing the autoharp and in her younger years, playing the accordion. Mary's relationship with God was beyond valuable to her. Her convictions and beliefs were steadfast and strong and she was not afraid of sharing it with others. Although, our hearts are broken, we rejoice she is with Joe now and resting safely and free of pain with her Lord and Saviour. There will be no funeral at this time, but a memorial service will be announced at a later date. Arrangements by Bourcier Funeral Home Ltd, Espanola.

EVEALINA STELLA EDNA EMERY



In loving memory of Ev, who died peacefully on Friday, March 15, 2024 at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre Palliative Unit at the age of 78. Beloved wife of Fred for 57 years. Loving mother of Brenda. She will be missed by her brother Melvin (Linda, June both predeceased), brother-in-laws Morris (Mary Lou predeceased) and Jim (Gail predeceased), sister-in-law Catherine Lucibello (Ron) and numerous nieces and nephews. Predeceased by brothers Herman, Robert and Leland; sisters Mary, Alice and Pearl. A heartfelt thank you to all of the doctors, nurses and staff at Peterborough Regional Health Centre for all of their help during Ev's stay with them. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Comstock-Kaye Life Celebration Centre, 356 Rubidge Street, Peterborough at 1 pm, followed by a reception. Donations may be made to the Arthritis Society of Canada. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.comstockkaye.com for the family.

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

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**In Memoriam or Obituaries
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services@manitoulin.com
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Winning goal in LNHL game heartens AOK chemotherapy patient father

...continued from Page 5
 al players are welcomed onto other teams so they can take part.

Those watching online were not disappointed. In the semi-final game, Lynndra's team fired a tying goal to bring the score to 2-2 and sent the game into overtime. A four-by-four period failed to define a winner, leading to a shootout.

"In this game, both shooters went at the same time, adding to the tension," said Ms. Madahbee. It went down to a fifth shooter. "Lynndra got the winning goal to advance," she said. "She said 'I'm going to do it for

Dad!' and she did."

"I took my time, focused and shot near her (the goalie) blocker," recalled Lynndra.

The team battled hard in the final game, winning 4-3 over the Curve Lake Nimkiins Kwe on the Crosby Memorial Community Centre's Rink 1 in Markham.

It was a hard-fought victory that brought a proud grin to Mr. Peltier's face.

Sitting in the player's bench with the team was none other than hockey legend Reggie Leach, who was providing his own bit of support to the girls.

Among Lynndra's



Champions with their moms, AOK's hometown representatives Ashley Gour, Ellie Gour, Kailyn Inglis Dantouze, Rebecca Dantouze, Lynndra Madahbee Peltier and Kendra Madahbee Peltier.

teammates were two other girls from AOK: Inglis Dantouze and Rebecca Dantouze. The team she

played on was only created in about October, noted Ms. Madahbee. "They only had nine starters,

eight and a goalie—it was really a short-bench team."

...Manitoulin lights up the Markham Sky

...continued from Page 5
 gins of the LNHL.

"It's moments like this," says Chico "where you see the wealth and value of younger minds and ideas to keep the momentum and memories growing."

Each winning team participant was presented with the unique Mni-doo Mnising LNHL medal. "It was fantastic," exclaimed Mr. Madahbee. "The quality and appearance were remarkable. We have been

doing business with this company for years, all our novelties, rings, plaques, they all are meant to create a memory."

The reverse of the medals was engraved with the three founding First Nation communities: Aundeck Omni Kaning, M'Chigeeng First Nation and Whitefish River First Nation.

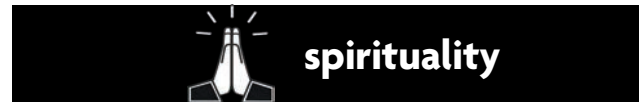
On behalf of all the medal recipients, the LNHL committee is grateful for the generosity of the NHL-

PA (Player's Association). "Their purpose is to support diversity in the sport, and that is synonymous with the LNHL," Mr. Ralf explains. He also gave kudos to the Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation which provides funds that align with sports and recreation, health, arts and culture.

Another gift from Mni-doo Mnising was this year's water theme. It was back in the spring of 2011 when Elder Josephine Mandamin (baa) and other Mother Earth Water Walkers from all directions across North America combined water from the Great Lakes and copper pails containing salt water from the three oceans and the Gulf of Mexico to raise awareness that water is a sacred gift of the Creator and the source of all life on Mother Earth.

Fifty years later Water and the spirit of water (nii-bi) made a strong presence as folks were asked to reflect on its gift of life and to preserve its sacredness. Towering over the tallest buildings in Markham was Manitoulin Island, lit up in all its glory for those far and wide to wonder about its beauty and its sacred teachings distilled over thousands of years.

The Island's distinctive outline and the LNHL's founding year, 1971, were presented in the heavens as a major part of the famous drone show.



God's Calendar

When God created the sun, moon and stars, he created the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the night and He said in GEN. 1:14 "let them be for signs and seasons sacred times (the feasts of LEV.23) and years." It is clear that the feasts of LEV.23 are set by the moon. God's months always start with the new moon and the Passover and first day of the feast of unleavened bread and the first day of Succoth are on the full moon. Passover this year is on April 23. In EX. 12:2 God says "this month (in spring) shall be the beginning of the months of the year unto you." This year, 2024, God's year starts on April 8. It so happens that on this day, there will be a full solar eclipse. In recent years there have also been several lunar eclipses on the days of Passover and the first day of Succoth (Feast of Tabernacles).

NASA has pointed out also a number of blood-moons and planetary alignments. Major events in history have been accompanied by signs in the sun, moon and the stars. Like the birth of Jesus with the star of Bethlehem and Jesus' crucifixion with a lunar eclipse on that Passover, there was also a solar eclipse (three hours darkness). As you cannot have the moon passing between the earth and the sun in the midst of the biblical month, this three-hour darkness was caused by another planetary body, than the moon, coming between the earth and sun.

Jesus says that there will be signs in sun, moon and stars before His return, MAT 24:29, MARK 13:24, LUKE 21:25. Because of biblical symbolism, I have for a long time believed that the rapture will take place on a future day of atonement (Yom Kippur). This year, in 2024, Yom Kippur falls on October 12. With the solar eclipse on April 8, I believe that God may start a new time period in history (His-story.)

Before God destroyed the world with the flood, God observed that the imagination of the heart of people was completely evil, GEN.6:5. The wickedness of men today, with all the sexual perversions, is similar as just before the flood. The bible has foretold that God will pour out His wrath on all this wickedness, the substitution of the Julian and Gregorian calendars for God's calendar; the substitutions of Sunday for God's Sabbaths and the substitution of the pagan feast of Easter (Ishtar-Astarte) and Christmas for God's holy days (of LEV.23) has created great confusion. I believe God is seeking to get your attention with these signs in sun, moon and stars. As long as the rapture has not yet taken place there is still time to repent. That means that you make up your mind that you are going to obey the commandments and instruction God gives in the Bible. The future assassination of Benjamin Netanyahu may be the catalyst to Armageddon, just like the wars between Russia and the Ukraine and between Israel and Hamas (Hamas is backed by Iran and other Muslim terrorists). West Nile, COVID-19 and other diseases, floods, famines, earthquakes etc. are all indicators that we are in the last days before Jesus' return.

Please take these warnings seriously.
 Hank Reckman,
 Prophet of Manitoulin,
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NEMI Public Library Board Vacancy

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MUNICIPALITY



OF ASSIGINACK

Notice of a Public Open House Concerning a Township-Initiated Zoning By-law Update

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Assiginack will be holding an in-person public Open House to consider a Township-initiated Zoning By-law Amendment and is notifying the public in accordance with Section 34 of the Planning Act.

Purpose and Effect of the Zoning By-law Amendment:

The purpose of the Zoning By-law Amendment is to update the Township's Zoning By-law. The Township Zoning By-law currently in effect is By-law No. 80-20 and By-law No. 80-21, first approved by Council in 1980. Since 1980, the Township Zoning By-law has been amended from time to time through approval of privately initiated zoning by-law amendment applications and through general amendments/reviews initiated by the Township. In October 2018, a new District of Manitoulin Official Plan was approved to be consistent with Provincial policies. The Planning Act requires municipalities to update their Zoning By-law after an update to their Official Plan. Pursuant to the Planning Act, this update will bring the Township Zoning By-law into conformity with the District of Manitoulin Official Plan, and by extension into conformity with the other Provincial planning policies in effect.

Public Open House:

A public Open House is scheduled for **March 27, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm** to provide information regarding the Township-initiated Zoning By-law Amendment. The public Open House will be held at the **Municipal Office located at 156 Arthur Street in Manitowaning**. The format of the public Open House will be a drop-in where you will have the opportunity to review the **draft** proposed new Zoning By-law, ask questions related to the proposed draft, and provide input in advance of the Township hosting a Statutory Public Meeting.

Location of the Subject Lands:

The proposed Zoning By-law Amendment applies to the entire Township and therefore a key map has not been provided.

Additional Information:

Additional information relating to the Zoning By-law update, including information about appeal rights, will be available on the Township's website (<https://www.assiginack.ca/by-laws/>) on **March 8th, 2024**, or for inspection by appointment between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday at the Municipal Office located at 156 Arthur Street, Manitowaning, ON. Please contact the Clerk at hferguson@assiginack.ca or call (705) 859-3196 to arrange for an appointment.

Dated at the Township of Assiginack this 6th day of March 2024.
 Heidi Ferguson, Clerk Township of Assiginack



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



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

Island robotics teams gear up for competitions, seek public's help

by Tom Sasvari
MANITOULIN—As both the Manitoulin Secondary School and the Wiikwemkoong High School First Robotics teams get set for their first competition of the season this weekend, they are both still requesting the public's help as they embark on the season.

The MSS and WHS teams will both be taking part in the regional competition in North Bay this weekend, and then the following weekend at a competition taking place at McMaster University in Hamilton. If they are successful, the teams will qualify for the provincials. The MSS team has already qualified for the 2024 World Championships taking place later this spring, while WHS is hoping to qualify as well.

"A week Friday and we will be competing in the regional competition in North Bay," said Yana Bauer, an MSS team mentor/coach last week. "We are hoping to get to the competitions and get some wins under our belt."

"And we are continuing to fundraise," said Ms. Bauer. "We have had sponsors come forward and on my last check we have \$18,000 raised of a total of \$54,000 we need to get to Houston for the world championships. We have had great support with 28 sponsors generously coming forward with support thus far but yes, definitely,

we need additional financial support to get to the worlds." She said the team, through its fundraising and generous donations made to the team, is in good shape for the robotics season competitions but is still fundraising for the worlds.

"Our concern right now is that if we don't raise enough, some students may not be able to afford to go to Houston," said Ms. Bauer. Ms. Bauer pointed out among the many supporters the MSS team has included the Providence Bay/Spring Bay Lions Club which has had 50/50 draws (with half the funds from ticket sales going to the MSS robotics team). "The students and parents have worked hard on that by selling tickets at (Mindemoya) Foodland every weekend for the past three months. Also, Natasha McVey organized a fundraising dinner in Evansville (March 9), with our team members volunteering to help serve, wash dishes and clean up afterwards. It was a wonderful dinner, with 125 people being on hand for the dinner. Every bit helps the cause."

The MSS team has a fundraiser on the Canada Helps site, which indicates a total of \$54,000 is needed by the team to compete. "Manitoulin Metal is returning to the FIRST Robotics World Championships in Hous-



Approximately 125 hungry patrons enjoyed a roast beef dinner held at the Burpee Mills complex on March 9. Along with many local ladies who put on the meal, members of the Manitoulin Secondary School Metal Robotics FRC 6865 team helped served the meal and do dishes after the meal. The dinner was held as a fundraiser for the MSS Robotics team.

ton. It's not just private and big southern schools that can win at Robotics! Your Manitoulin team won the Impact Finalist Award at the World Championships in April 2023. This qualified the team for the 2024 World Championships!"

"We are so grateful to all the generous sponsors who support Manitoulin Metal," the MSS Canada Helps page reads. The team has grown and has ambitious plans for the season. Manitoulin kids are so excited to compete internationally. Competing internationally is not an expense many Manitoulin kids can afford. Your champions need help with air travel, accommodations and registration fees. All donated funds will help to cover trip costs. We are grateful

for any size donation and thank everyone for your support and encouragement."

The MSS team was busy working on its robot and their robot reveal video, in the upstairs area of the Mindemoya arena last week. "Thanks to the generosity of Central Manitoulin council, our students have been able to use the space to have a (robot) drive practice each day after school and allow our drivers and controllers to improve their skills. In our seven years of robotics, we have never had the space to hone our skills on our robot prior to competitions."

The WHS robotics team has also been building their robot and improving their teams' driving/controller skills on their robot. "It is a big endeavour

to take a full team down south to competition, with the costs of hotels, travel days, accommodation, team registration and food," said Chris Mara coach/mentor of the WHS team. "If we qualify for the provincials, we will have to raise \$70,000 in total for all the competitions."

"Definitely, if anyone would like to donate to our team it would be gratefully accepted," said Mr. Mara. "Any donation of any size would be very welcome. Our sponsors have been very generous and they work very hard and provide support to have First Nations young people involved in these type of events and have these opportunities."

"We will be taking part in the regionals in North Bay, then at the competi-

tion in Hamilton at McMaster University and then, the following week, if we qualify, the provincials," said Mr. Mara. He pointed out "we will be taking 27 students to the competitions. This is the biggest team we have ever taken, although it is not a big team compared to others. Most robotics teams have between 50-100 team members." "Our design team has done a phenomenal job this year, I didn't think they could do better than last year, but they have integrated the design with art, engineering, math, and connected them with the culture and language this year," stated Mr. Mara. "Our robot, team t-shirts, logo, our three panels that will be displayed in the competition pit area will display all the teaching and artistic celebration of all these aspects."

Mr. Mara pointed out the WHS team has alumni mentors helping out the team this year including Ben Lewis, Tim Pitawanakawat, Jason Mishibinjima and D. J. Maingowi. As well, "Kathy Harly has taken on fundraising and logistics and is the team administrator. She has been amazing. With Kathy taking on these duties, I can focus on helping with the team with the robot design and programming."



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First Nations leaders convene in Gatineau to address disproportionate impact of disasters and pandemics

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

GATINEAU, QUE. — A crucial summit with First Nations leaders from across the country was held on March 6, 2024 to confront the urgent challenges and impacts of climate change that disproportionately impact their communities. Escalating wildfire, floods and extreme weather events saw the Assembly of First Nations convene the first summit of its type in seven years, to formulate actionable strategies aimed at enhancing the resilience of First Nations communities in the face of mounting environmental and public

health challenges.

Furthermore, the summit was mustered four years into the COVID-19 pandemic, which has starkly revealed the heightened vulnerability of First Nations peoples and communities to infectious diseases.

Woodhouse Nepinak stressed the necessity of equitable partnerships with all levels of government to mitigate risks, ensure swift crisis responses and safeguard the land for future generations. The summit follows last year's catastrophic wildfire season that engulfed more than 100,000 square kilometres of land, leading to the evacuation of numerous First Nations communi-

ties and highlighted the disparities in emergency response services faced by many First Nations communities, leaving them at a disadvantage compared to their non-Indigenous counterparts.

Addressing the assembly, National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak underscored the urgent need for prioritizing community safety amid mounting disasters. "The unpredictability of these crises has resulted in recurrent emergency evacuations, uprooting our people and necessitating support from facilities far from their homes," remarked Woodhouse Nepinak. She emphasized the profound and far-reaching impacts of cultural dislocation on

the health and education of First Nations people.

These concerns align with the findings of the federal auditor general in 2023, which revealed Canada's failure to provide adequate resources for emergency management services to First Nations despite the escalating intensity of crises. The report also criticized Indigenous Services Canada for its reactive approach rather than adopting preventive measures, and highlighted a lack of clarity regarding the comparability of emergency services received by First Nations with those in neighboring jurisdictions.

Great Lakes commissions sign historic agreement to enhance cooperation on Great Lakes restoration and protection

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC), the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) and International Joint Commission (IJC) has formally signed the first ever memorandum of understanding between them. The agreement sets a clear path for advancing the commission's existing shared goals and objectives, such as developing a Great Lakes science plan, coordinating science vessel activities, and promoting annual Great Lakes Day events.

"Each commission plays a different but complementary role in

Great Lakes management and represent important stakeholders in advancing sound policies and projects. The IJC helps Canada and the US prevent and resolve issues over the use of the waters they share, including through the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement; the GLC represents the interests of the Great Lakes provinces and states on priority issues; and the GLFC ensures fishery management is based on science and is highly coordinated among the state, provincial and US tribal jurisdictions in the basin," a release explains.

"The GLS is excited to formalize our existing relationship with the other Great Lakes commissions," said Erika Jensen, executive director of the GLC. "Together we can build upon our decades of coordination to further a strong regional economy and healthy environment, and to achieve the balanced and sustainable use of Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River basin water resources."

"Our three commissions, although having different mandates and missions, very much benefit from joining forces to achieve our shared

objectives; Great Lakes restoration and management based on rigorous science," said Marc Gardén, executive secretary of the GLFC. "While we have worked well together for decades, this (memorandum of understanding) steps up our level of collaboration and renews our commitment to each other to seek synergies, share information and support each other's work."

"This MOU strengthens existing partnerships to create an even greater position of strength for all three commissions," said Heather Stirratt, director of the Great Lakes

Regional Office of the IJC. "Having the additional insights and perspectives from experts at the three commissions will set us all on a clearer path for advancing the goals and objectives of

the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and other work to the benefit of all in the region."

The agreement was signed March 6, following the semi-annual meeting of the GLC.

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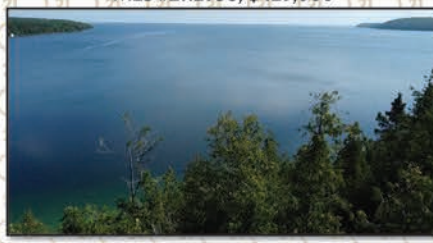
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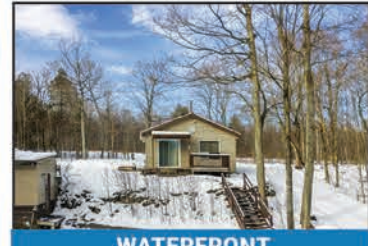
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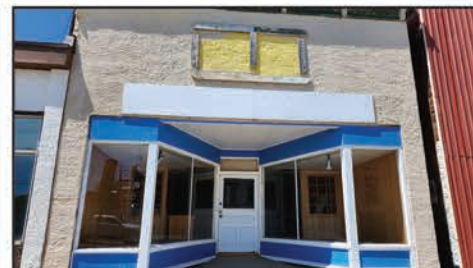
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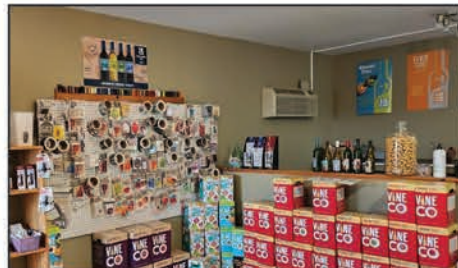
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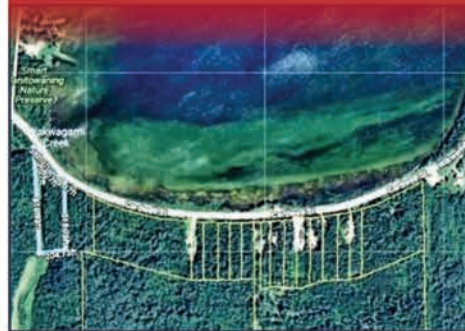


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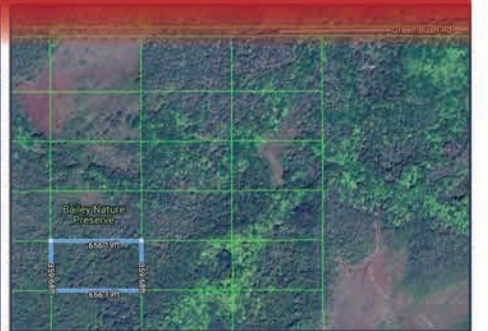
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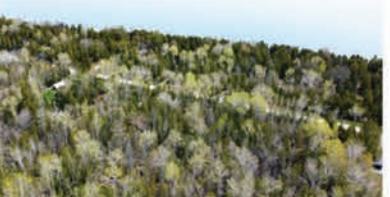
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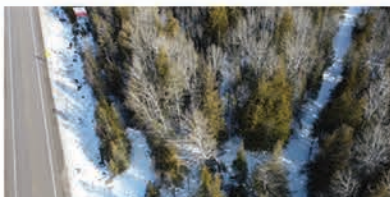
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Sea cadets haul in marksmanship silver

by Tom Sasvari
 MANITOULIN—The Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps #348 Manitoulin Sea Cadets finished second overall in the season-ending marksmanship competition held recently in Naughton. As part of the team's excellent showing, one of its members, leading cadet Laszlo Vernarsky has qualified for the next level

was about 200 points. "The cadets have been practicing since October," said Ms. MacKay. She explained that the cadets compete using Daisy air rifles. The zone competition included a total of seven teams, made up of cadet corps, squadrons and sea cadets, with six teams from Sudbury taking part. The Manitoulin Sea

May 15 of this year, and the open category is open to all participants. Leading Cadet Vernarsky, "posted the top shot of the day, scored 85 percent while his top target of the day was 95 percent, which is absolutely incredible." She noted as well that Leading Cadet Vernarsky is only in this first year as a cadet and has several years to look



The RCSCC #348 Manitoulin Sea Cadets team finished second in the season ending marksmanship competition, held last Saturday in Naughton. The team included from left, team captain Petty Officer 2nd Class Elizabeth Hazlitt, Leading Cadet Elainah Peltier, Master Cadet Liam McLean, Leading Cadet Laszlo Vernarsky and assistant team captain Leading Cadet Austin Flikweert.



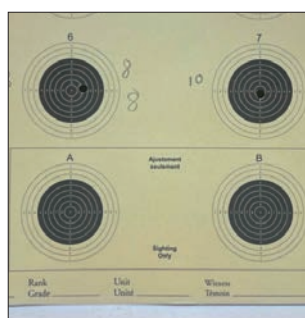
Cadets take part in the prone shooting event at the marksmanship competition.

of competition. "This was our team's final competition of the season, and they finished in second place," said Miranda MacKay, coach of the team and sub-lieutenant of the cadet corps. "There were only 18 points between the first and second place teams. It was super close," she said, pointing out the difference between the Manitoulin second-place team and the third-place team

Cadets team captain was Petty Officer 2nd class Elizabeth Hazlitt, assistant captain Leading Captain Austin Flikweert, Leading Cadet Laszlo Vernarsky, Leading Cadet Elainah Peltier and Master Cadet Liam McLean. "Leading Cadet Vernarsky finished first in both the junior and open category," said coach MacKay. The junior division is for those who are under the age of 15 as of

forward to. He has now qualified to compete as an individual at the upcoming 2024 Regional Marksmanship championship to be conducted at CFB Trenton on April 12-14. "Our corps competitors' next best mark in the open category was Leading Cadet Peltier who finished sixth, Petty Officer 2nd class seventh, Leading Cadet Flikweert 13th and Master Cadet McLean 17th. There were a total of 32 competitors taking part.

"I'm so proud of our team, they did so well," added coach MacKay.



The targets are festooned with centre shots.

Manitoulin Sporting Life

Ice Chips to Canoe Quips

by Larry and André Leblanc



U-15 Panthers prep for NOHA showdown!

The Manitoulin Panthers U15 hockey team has been awarded the opportunity to host this year's Northern Ontario Hockey Association's Tournament of Champions. This event will take place on March 22-24th at the NEMI Rec Centre. This is an exciting opportunity for our young players to showcase how hard they have worked all season and proudly play on their home ice in front of their family and friends, as this team plays a lot of their games off-Island in Sudbury.

The Manitoulin Panthers last hosted this tournament in 2017. This U15 group of players, in particular, has always had to travel to Iroquois Falls, Sturgeon Falls or Temiskaming Shores to participate in this tournament so the Panther Association is very thankful for the opportunity to host this event again for these kids. On the squad this season is **Alex Bourcier, Anders Watson, Brayden Armstrong, Bryden Romaniuk, Charmaine Webkamigad, Chase Taylor, Cohen Rajotte, Colten Holmes, Colten Martin, Cooper Farquhar, Declan McGonegal, Liam Stephens, Lincoln Rancourt, Max McLeod, Memphis Shavanda, Roen Deschenes, Ryan Carter and Spencer Cortes.**

This year we are lucky to have five teams in total participating from across the North, bringing over a hundred hockey players with their staff, parents and additional family members to the township. Teams will be travelling from North Bay, Powassan, Temiskaming Shores and Iroquois Falls. The tournament schedule will be posted on the Manitoulin Panthers website. Please get on out and cheer on the hometown Panthers in what is promising to be a very exciting weekend of hockey.

Off his Rock, hockey!

Congratulations to **Greyson Case** who plays defense for U16 AA Wolves on their recent win as the 2024 Canadian Cup! The Wolves faced the U-16 Sarnia Sting in the finals by a score of 4 - 1. Greyson previously played for the Nickel City Sons organization for seven years until this season and has obviously settled in nicely!

In the NOJHL, the Sudbury Cubs', Aundek Omni Kaning product, Samuel Assinewai has had another impactful season despite not playing as many of the other players. In his 36 games played Samuel had 21 goals and 43 assists! His points-per-game production of 1.78 is fifth overall in the whole league!

Carter George by the Numbers

Carter George, with the OHL's Owen Sound Attack who lumber around 0.500 hockey is putting up stats that exceed his team's! In comparing all of the 20-teams, OHL goaltenders, Carter is currently the

leader of: Shots - 1857, Saves - 1690, Shut-outs (tied) - 4 and Goals against average with 0.910! Another first can be seen on the NHL site's draft prospects where he is listed as the number 1, North American goaltender! Good luck in the playoffs, Carter!

Elliot Lake needs our help!

Every community on Manitoulin has had difficulties with their arenas over the years, yet thankfully we all have a nearby community that will graciously allow sharing of their ice time. Elliot Lake is not so lucky. The city has certainly experienced tragedy with public buildings in the recent past so when the Centennial Arena didn't pass a structural evaluation this past fall, the City took no chances and shuttered the building. Suddenly, every skate-related activity and community organization was left scrambling.

One team was no more adversely affected than the NOJHL's Vikings Jr. "A" team. Teams in the largely pay-to-play league depend on imports to ice a team. When your 'home ice' is in Massey, which adds a good hour and a half commute time just for practices and home games! The Vikes lost a couple of players who asked to be traded. Also essential to a NOJHL team are billet families and in Elliot Lake's case, two billet Moms decided to do something. They started the long process of nominating the City of Elliot Lake into this season's Kraft Hockeyville. Each submission must compete with hundreds of communities across Canada to try and win the grand prize of a \$250,000 pot for arena upgrades in addition to an NHL exhibition game in your home rink.

The pair would not have been sure the Centennial could even be ready for that game but it could definitely use at least the 250K! The competition is at the short-list stage with four communities vying in the final voting on March 29-30th! Elliot Lake is up against Cochrane Alberta, Wolsely Saskatchewan and Enderby British Columbia. On the 29th at 9 am the unlimited-entry, voting begins until the 30th at 5PM just before the winner is announced. After a quick sign-up at the Hockeyville site you are all set for the 29th when Elliot Lake plans on a voting party. We should join in and help out our friendly North-Shore, neighbour!

Interestingly, one player's free-time fortunes improved. Mindemoya's **Liam Bridgeman** whose commute was reduced by the same amount everyone else gained! The trustworthy veteran forward only played 33 of the 58 league games but picked up 11 points in the frustrating campaign that earned the team only 15 points! Congratulations on all your efforts, Liam!

Visit the Kraft Hockeyville site players vote, vote for Elliot Lake as often as you want.

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MSS Mustang girls volleyball team wins NSSSA championship

by Tom Sasvari

M'CHIGEENG—The Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) Mustangs senior girls' volleyball team capped off a first-place finish in league standings with a championship win at the North Shore Secondary School Association (NSSSA) playdowns.

"Last week, MSS hosted the NSSSA playoff finals and won," said Neil Debassige, who is co-coach of the team along with Tina Pennie-Balfe. "These student/athletes have dominated their North Shore play this year in undefeated fashion and won the NSSSA championship banner when they hosted the finals and defeated Jeunesse Nord in three straight sets."

"The team went undefeated through league play during the regular season and playoffs, winning 14 straight games and the playoffs," said Mr. Debassige.

Mr. Debassige noted, "earlier in the new year the team successfully defended their title at the Elliot Lake invitational

tournament as well."

The MSS team includes coaches Neil Debassige and Tina Pennie-Balfe and players Mya Balfe, Harmony Panamick, Emery Watson, Aspen Debassige, Morgan Green, Saraya Eshkawkogan, Mackenzie Green and Maren Kasunich.

"These girls are on top of their game," said Mr. Debassige. "They set their sights last year that they wanted to qualify for the provincials this season. These girls are amazing ambassadors for MSS and are the next leaders."

The MSS team was to take part in the Northern Ontario Secondary School (NOSSA) championships last Friday in Sault Ste. Marie.

RIGHT: The Manitoulin Secondary School (MSS) Mustangs senior girls' volleyball team won the Northern Ontario Secondary School Association playdowns earlier this month. The MSS team includes back row, left, coach Neil Debassige, Mya Balfe, Harmony Panamick, Emery Watson, Aspen Debassige, coach Tina Pennie-Balfe. Front row left Morgan Green, Saraya Eshkawkogan, Mackenzie Green and Maren Kasunich.



Mindemoya ladies curling celebrates winners

MINDEMOYA—The Marilyn Proulx rink won the first event championship in the Mindemoya Curling Club annual ladies bonspiel, held the last weekend in February.

The first event winning team, which included Marilyn Proulx, Deborah Karn, Terry McKenzie and Nancy Cranston, was presented with the Joanne Lanktree Memorial Plaque by her two daughters, Sherry Forest and Susan Whyntott.

The second event was won by the rink which included Shannon Drouin, Lenora Tann, Andrea Tann and Anna Love. This team was presented with the Ann Smith Memorial Plaque by Ann's daughter Kerri Smith.

The third event winning rink included Kennedy Lanktree, Sherri Marois, Lianne Lewis and Kerri Smith.

A total of 16 rinks took part in the bonspiel.



The Allen team took first place in the Assiginack Curling Club annual ladies bonspiel held March 1-2. The team included skip Brittany Allen, Sharon Allen, Lynn Ham and Lianne Hovingh.

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Wikwemikong Warriors head to Northern Ontario secondary school championship

by Tom Sasvari

WIKWEMKOONG—The basketball program at Wikwemikong High School (WHS) has returned this year, for the first time in several years, and it has been a successful one.

“We started the basketball program again this year from scratch, ground zero,” stated John Capin, co-coach along with TJ Wabegijig of the boys’ varsity basketball team.

He pointed out, “This is the first year that the basketball program (at WHS) has had a full season since before the pandemic. Last year, the team folded due to unforeseen circumstances. 2023-2024 is the start of a basketball program that will focus on the development of individual skills, team building and a general respect and love of the game.”

“The coaches want to thank the players for their continued commitment to the game,” said Mr. Capin. “The team played with honour and humility as they faced senior level teams. Their spirit and hard work made a great season for everyone involved.” He noted the WHS team is a varsity team made up of players of all grades at the school. They played in the senior division this year. “Because we were the only B division team on hand in the league, we won the North Shore Secondary School Association championship,” said Mr. Capin. “It is pretty exciting to be going to (the Northern Ontario) championship as the B division champion.”

Mr. Capin explained the WHS team had prepared for the NOSSA B championship. “The team prepared for the tour-



The Wikwemikong High School Warriors basketball team won the North Shore Secondary School Association B division championship recently.

namment by participating in six pre-tournament games versus senior boys’ teams from Manitoulin and the North Shore.” The Warriors managed to secure a 51-41 victory against Manitoulin Secondary School on February 8 to close out the tournament preparation.

“We ended up winning one game and dropping five in the pre-tournament games. We had some close games, three were close, and we lost the other two games. But the players never quit trying,” said Mr. Capin. They played MSS, WC Ecket and Espanola High School twice each during the season.

“I was teaching at WHS in 1998 and left in 2002. I coached the first basketball team here; we won our first game and lost the next 24 games,” said Mr. Capin. “But not one player quit. I retired from teaching but came back three years ago and came back to WHS this year. I have to admit I didn’t really want to coach basketball this year. But I agreed to help out for the first month and I was surprised by the energy, camaraderie and friendship the players had as a team. After the first month I said, ‘I can coach these guys.’”

The NOSSA B championship that took

place last weekend was contested by four schools from Northeastern Ontario, Manitoulin and the North Shore. Along with WHS, WC Ecket (Blind River), Hammer High School (Greater Sudbury) and the host school (Mattawa).

Members of the WHS team include Jordan Ominika-Cooper, Jaden Manitowabi, Nicho Simmons, Drake Oskabewisens-Recollet, Carmine Wemigwans, Isaiah Oskabewisens-Recollet, Javier Salas-Cooper, Conner Hill, Seth Bennett, James Noakwegijig, Joe Shigwadja, Liam Peltier, Tyrell Shawana and Mgziz Mishibinijima.

Wiikwemkoong Robotics rock the FTC

by Tom Sasvari

WIKWEMKOONG—Two Wikwemkoong High School (WHS) First Technology Challenge (FTC) teams had another very good representation with its two teams winning awards at a FTC virtual competition held the last weekend in January.

“It was another really good representation of the WHT teams in an Ontario robotics competition,” said mentor/coach Chris Mara. “One of our teams won the design award application, showing how the principles of industrial design were used in their robot. Team 22845 ‘Top Shop’ included Adrian Katt, Tristan Wemigwans and Zander Shawongonabe.”

“Team 19552 ‘Heavy Dog’ made up of Blaine Naokwegijig, Brianna Mishibinijima and Tamara Naokwegijig won the Motivation Award for best representing the first technology competitions values,” said Mr. Mara.

“The two teams competed on the weekend in a virtual competition,” said Mr. Mara. “The teams had to submit a portfolio, complete an autonomously moving robot and tele-operated by one or drivers. They also had to design a robot for the game, code it and focus on the engineering and technical part of the competition.” The teams were then interviewed by judges and professionals.

Mr. Mara noted there are about 90 FTC high school teams in Ontario, and about

12 took part in this recent virtual competition. “We had competed at the Ontario FTC before Christmas at Lo-Ellen High School in Sudbury where the Wiikwemkoong Alliance team went to the championship finals.”

Mr. Mara said that the Wiikwemkoong team is now done its FTC competitions for this season. “We are really warmed up for the First Robotic Challenge team competitions, starting in March. We will take part in events in North Bay and McMaster University in Hamilton.”



A few members of the Wikwemikong High School First Technology Challenge team are shown with their robot at a recent virtual competition.

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Admissions Assistant (12-Month Contract)

Position Description:

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

Responsibilities and Duties:

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

Qualifications:

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

Requirements:

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

Salary: Commensurate with qualifications.

Closing Date: March 26, 2024 at 4:30pm

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

Contact mmaracle@gwek.ca with any questions.

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

Welcome back from the March Break. School was out while students were traveling, hanging out with friends, participating in hobbies or even just relaxing. This week was the last big break until summer vacation. Students have a little more than three months (along with a smattering of PA days and long weekends) to get through before the end of the year. That being said, there will be many things to keep students busy before then. For example, the robotics team is embarking on their five-week competition journey, a Spring Formal is scheduled for May, along with Spymaster, and there are several different sports teams popping up in the Spring.

To celebrate the last of winter, MSS hosted a Winter Carnival for students on the day before



Alexandra Wilson Zegil

the break began. Several volunteers made the plethora of activities possible. Ms. Aube set up a hot chocolate stand, Mr. Theijsmeijer and Mr. Fowler welcomed everyone into the music room to try out different instruments or sing karaoke, the Student Council showed the latest Hunger Games movie (The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes, a prequel to the original series) in the cafeteria, Ms. Wesno hosted a Pictionary in the art room, Reach For The Top held trivia competitions, the gym was open for those interested in basket-

ball, and Headstrong had a canteen in the lobby for hungry students. The highlight of the day was the annual hockey tournament, put together by Mr. Davy and the Athletics Association. Community members, students and teachers came together for a day of friendly competition, sport and the M'Chigeeng Arena's delicious fries.

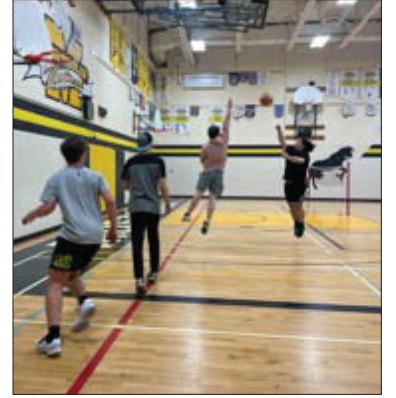
On Friday, March 22nd, the robotics team's season officially kicks off in North Bay. At Nipissing University, Manitoulin Metal will join several other robotics teams from across the

province to compete for a spot at the Provincial Championships. This will be the first of potentially four competitions for 6865. The team, along with their robot, is also submitting a presentation and other materials for the prestigious Impact Award. The team's success with this award qualified the team for the World Championship last year and prequalified them this year. The next five weeks will be jam-packed with robotics competitions almost every weekend in North Bay, Hamilton, Mississauga and Houston Texas. Good luck, Manitoulin Metal!

In the next couple of weeks, things will pick back up at MSS, leaving more exciting school events, activities and fundraisers for this author to report on. Until then, I will leave you with

this action shot from the Winter Carnival, captured by Alexis McVey.

Until next time, go, Mustangs, go!



Students enjoy pickup basketball games during their winter carnival.

Mindemoya Book Mice

by Claire Cline

March 2024

- Claire's Top 5 Picks**
Betrayal by Phillip Margolin
Crosshairs by James Patterson's
The Cage by Bonnie Kistler
Midnight by Amy McCulloch
Our Crumbling Foundation by Gregor Craigie

Betrayal:
 Robin Lockwood is now a prominent defence attorney in Oregon but back in her college days, she was a ranked and rising MMA fighter. Her career came to a quick end when she was knocked out and concussed in the first round by Mandy Kerrigan, a much more talented fighter. Now their situations couldn't be more different. Mandy is on her last legs professionally, her career nearly over,

and she is under arrest for the quadruple murder of all four members of the Finch family. Kerrigan's only possible friend in this hopeless situation is Robin, the attorney she beat in the octagon so many years ago. A really good read!

Crosshairs: Detective Michael Bennet is back and faces a professional sniper who could be anyone, any where in New York City. Detective Michael teams up with Officer Rob Trilling, a shooting expert, former Army Ranger and sniper with the NYPD's Emergency Service Unit. But Officer Rob seems more comfortable with rifles than he is with people. When his new partner begins to log unexplained absences from duty, only Bennet can prove whether the decorated officer is a lone-

ly hunter or a hardened assassin. Another really good read!

The Cage: On a cold, misty Sunday night, two women are alone in the offices of fashion conglomerate Claudine de Martineau International. One is the company's human resources director who is sitting at her desk staring sombrely out the window. The other woman is one of the company's lawyers, buried under a pile of paperwork, frantically rushing to finish. Leaving at the same time, the two women, each preoccupied by her own thoughts, enter the elevator that will take them down from the thirtieth floor. When they arrive at the lobby, one of the women is dead. Was it murder or suicide? A good read!

Midnight: A once-in-a-

lifetime trip to Antarctica – to camp beneath the legendary midnight sun – becomes a desperate battle for survival against a killer determined to follow their prey to the ends of the earth. Olivia Campbell has long dreamed of spending a holiday at Antarctica. So when her boyfriend, a high-powered art dealer with a taste for the finer things in life, decides to have a larger prestige auction on a luxury cruise liner to Antarctica, Olivia could hardly believe she was going with him and her dream was coming true. But then the first bodies are discovered. Good

read.
Our Crumbling Foundation: This is non fiction and concerns Canada's Housing Crisis. This CBC journalist offers an illuminating examination of the unrelenting housing crisis Canadians find themselves facing, and reveals urgently needed solutions from around the world. He has talked with local experts, tenants, owners and homeless people across Canada all straining under tightening financial pressures. An interesting read.

Last week during March break, the library had forgiveness week for

finances on overdue books. Thank you to the people that returned the books this week.

Mahjong is still going strong Wednesday mornings and Crocheting/Knitting Tuesday afternoons.

It is still too cold to sit down at the beach but nothing better than enjoying a good book with a cup of Baileys in front of the fireplace. Lots of new books and DVDs to enjoy.

Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 10am to 4pm and Thursdays 12 to 6pm.

See you at your library!

Help Wanted!

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 Anishinaabe Candidates, please self-identify in your application.**

We are currently inviting applications for the following employment opportunities:

FULL-TIME position:
Sudbury:
 Child Well-Being Worker: Closes March 22, 2024

CONTRACT positions:
Sudbury:
 Education Support Worker: Closes March 22, 2024
 Cultural Support Worker: Closes March 22, 2024
 Youth Cultural Outreach Worker: Closes March 29, 2024
 Youth Outreach Worker: Closes March 29, 2024
 After Hours: Youth Outreach Worker: Closes March 29, 2024

CASUAL positions:
 Receptionist (Wiikwemkoong): Closes March 22, 2024

All postings close at 4pm EST
 To apply, kindly send your application to our Human Resources department at hr@kgcfs.org, ensuring to specify the position title in the subject line. For comprehensive job descriptions and to access the postings, please visit our website at: www.kgcfs.org/employment-opportunities

At KGCFs, we are steadfast in our dedication to fostering a work environment that is accessible to all, in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the Ontario Human Rights Code. Should you require any accommodations during the recruitment process, please do not hesitate to request them. We sincerely appreciate your interest in joining the team; however, only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

As a condition of employment, the successful candidate will be required to provide the following documents: a Satisfactory Criminal Reference Check and/or Vulnerable Sector Check (dated within 3 months of the application date), Driver's Abstract and Proof of Liability Insurance.

Thank you for considering a career opportunity with us.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:
NORTHEASTERN MANITOULIN FAMILY HEALTH TEAM

The Northeastern Manitoulin Family Health Team, located on beautiful Manitoulin Island, just off the swing bridge, is seeking motivated and experienced individuals to join our healthcare team:

Two full-time Nurse Practitioners

You will complement an interdisciplinary team of health professionals and physicians that provide primary care for patients living in Little Current and the surrounding area.

Qualifications:

- BSCN NP certificate or Masters of Science Degree
- A current certificate of competence and good standing, registered with the College of Nurses in the extended class
- A member of NPAO

Requirements:

- Evidence of liability insurance
- Current Ontario Driver's Licence
- Knowledge and proficiency in current, evidenced-based methods and practices of primary care delivery with an emphasis on health promotion and risk reduction
- Prior experience and knowledge of computers and TELUS PSS Suite electronic medical records would be an asset
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Exhibit an ability to be open and work with other team members
- Must show proof of COVID-19 vaccination

Experience:

- Working with a multidisciplinary team of primary care physicians and other health professionals
- Working with residents in long term care and/or mental health and/or acute care would be an asset
- Working with Indigenous people
- Working in a community and/or a primary care setting

Compensation:

- Available to work 37.5 hours a week
- Top Ministry of Health salary with full benefits and ongoing educational days
- \$2,000 signing bonus
- 6 months' accommodation allowance

Applications for the above position, including resumes and references, will be accepted until **Friday, March 29, 2024.**

Send To: **Judy Miller, Executive Director**
 By email to jmiller@nemfht.ca or fax (705) 368-1259