

The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



Vol. 144 No. 42 \$1.90 + GST

Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, March 6, 2024



THEY'RE GOLDEN!—Family and friends of the Manitoulin Special Olympics (MSO) welcomed home the triumphant curling and snowshoeing athletes this Sunday evening in Mindemoya. The MSO curling team won a gold medal, while snowshoer Matthew Bedard won three bronze medals at the competition held in Calgary. In photo from left is Ellen Holroyd, William Leclair, Tyler Madahbee, Dylan Danville, Matthew Bedard, Austin Recollet, Dayne Tipper, Janet Anning. **SEE STORY ON PAGE 12.**

Manitoulin nurse first in Ontario granted consent to prescribe meds

New program directed at streamlining patient service

by Tom Sasvari

LITTLE CURRENT—Registered Nurse (RN) Cyril Lee Turley of the Northeast Manitoulin Family Health Team (NMFHT) has broken new ground by becoming the first RN in Ontario credentialed to prescribe certain medications to patients.

"It's exciting and a pioneering adventure," stated Mr. Turley when contacted by The Expositor last week. He is the first RN in the province to receive the credentials after regulations were approved by the Ontario government late last year. Mr. Turley completed the brand-new online course at Georgian College.

Mr. Turley was quick to point out, "one of my colleagues here (at NMFHT), Terri Mousseau, is very close to doing the same, completing the same program through Georgian College."

"Basically, we're just expanding the scope we already had," said Mr. Turley. "There are a few colleges/universities that are offering this program. After I completed the two-month online part of the program, focusing on the modules in the areas we can provide prescriptions, one of the doctors here (lead physician) Dr. Anne McDonald had to review 20 (prescription) scripts I had written."

The list of medications RNs can prescribe include immunizations (any vaccines for prevention of bacterial and viral disease), contraception, travel health, topical



Lee Turley, RN

wound care, smoking cessation, anesthetics, allergic reaction, over-the-counter medication (any

...continued on page 8

Ontario faces fifth consecutive year of soaring drug poisoning deaths, calls for expanded harm reduction tools

by Jacqueline M. St. Pierre, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
TORONTO—The alarming trend of escalating drug poisoning deaths continues in Ontario for the fifth consecutive year, with projections exceeding 3,000 fatalities annually, averaging over eight deaths per day.

In response to this crisis, experts emphasize that expanding Ontario's network of harm reduction and addiction services is crucial to safeguarding Ontarians from the increasingly toxic drug supply. Addictions and Men-

...continued on page 14

Five Island First Nations vote 'yes' to Manitoulin Project terms

by Michael Erskine

MANITOULIN—The ratification vote seeking community buy-in to the Manitoulin Project Settlement has passed, with all communities involved in the \$447,900,000 negotiation agreeing to the settlement.

The vote paves the way for the funds to be transferred to the First Nation parties who filed the

claims as "full and final settlement" of the claims related to roads, mismanagement of Indigenous land claim funds and water lot claims (IMLF)."

Parties to the Manitoulin Project include Aundeck Omni Kaning, Sheguiandah, Sheshegwaning and Zhiibaahaasing.

Aundeck Omni Kaning passed

its 188-member threshold with 374 members voting, 368 voting yes, five voting no and one spoiled ballot.

M'Chigeeng passed its 579-member threshold with 1,030 voting, 1,004 voting yes, 23 voting no and three spoiled ballots.

Sheguiandah passed its 101-member threshold with 226 voting, 221 voting yes and five voting no and zero spoiled ballots.

Sheshegwaning passed its 100-member threshold with 192 voting, 186 voting yes and six voting no, with zero spoiled ballots.

Zhiibaahaasing passed its 40-member threshold with 69 voting, all yes and zero spoiled ballots.

In order to complete the settlement, the First Nations have agreed not to seek and pursue any future legal action against Canada, and further, the First Nations agree that Canada can ask to be indemnified should a third party

...continued on page 8

Kenjgewin Teg, other Indigenous Institutes, seek funding similar to offers made to Ont. universities

by Tom Sasvari

ONTARIO—Indigenous Institutes Consortium (IIC) post-secondary education, which includes Kenjgewin Teg on M'Chigeeng First Nation is on the brink of collapse unless stable and equitable funding is provided by the government.

The IIC, made up of seven Indigenous post-secondary schools said in a release February 27, "Yesterday's announcement of \$1.3 billion over three years for colleges and universities by the Ontario government once again prioritizes the funding of mainstream post-secondary institutions while the urgent needs of Indigenous institutes are ignored."

"We are deeply disappointed in the announcement made by the provincial government," Marsha Josephs, executive director of IIC told The Expositor. "It reinforces the fact that Indigenous learners

are not a priority of the government, and not treated equally as mainstream post-secondary institutions."

Ms. Josephs said Indigenous education institutes "will be forced to close programs or completely close which will be detrimental."

...continued on page 8

Junior A hockey making Island comeback?

Entrepreneur approaches Northeast council on the topic

by Alicia McCutcheon

LITTLE CURRENT—Interest has once again been shown in the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands Recreation Centre playing host to a Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League Association (NOJHL) Junior A hockey team.

At its February 20 meeting, Northeast Town council reviewed a letter from



Julien Bergeron of Winter Eagle Sports and Entertainment who "formally requested" use of the rec centre arena for a Junior A team.

Mr. Bergeron said he would anticipate a 28-home game season and training camp that would require use of the facilities from August to March. Should the proposed team be successful...

...continued on page 11

MANITOULIN CHRYSLER



PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA COUPE

- 2-Door, 5-Seats
- CD Player
- Heated F/Seats
- Power Sunroof
- 127,000 KMs



\$8,999*

STK# 22-316A

2015 GMC SIERRA 1500

- 4.3L V6, Single Cab
- Bench Seat
- Bluetooth
- Tonneau Cover
- 153,000 KMs



\$20,999*

STK# 29285

2016 KIA FORTE LX

- 6-Speed Manual
- CD Player
- Heated F/Seats
- Bluetooth
- 160,000 KMs



\$8,999*

STK# 23-1376A

2016 JEEP CHEROKEE NORTH

- Keyless Entry
- Smart Device Integration
- Heated Steering Wheel
- Power Liftgate
- 156,000 KMs



\$19,999*

STK# 22-549A

2017 RAM 1500 LARAMIE

- 5.7L HEMI V8, Crew Cab
- Heated & Vented F/Seats
- RAMBOX Cargo System
- Tonneau Cover
- ONLY 99,000 KMs



\$33,999*

STK# 23-1364A

2017 RAM 1500 TRADESMAN

- 5.7L HEMI V8, Quad Cab
- Aftermarket Grille
- 5.0" LCD Touchscreen
- Bluetooth
- 118,000 KMs



\$20,999*

STK# 22-224A

2018 RAM 1500 ST

- 5.7L V8, Crew Cab
- Bluetooth
- 3x USB Ports
- Aftermarket Rims
- 170,000 KMs



\$25,999*

STK# 23-1215A

2019 RAM 1500 BIG HORN

- 5.7L HEMI V8, Crew Cab
- CD Player
- Built-In Navigation
- Tonneau Cover
- 145,000 KMs



\$35,999*

STK# 23-1296A

2019 RAM 1500 BIG HORN

- 3.6L V6, Quad Cab
- Remote Start
- 8.4" Media Display
- Tonneau Cover
- ONLY 40,000 KMs



\$38,999*

STK# 22-640A

2019 JEEP CHEROKEE LIMITED

- 4X4, Tow Package
- Adaptive Cruise Control
- Heated/Vented F/Seats
- Dual-Pane Sunroof
- 135,000 KMs



CALL FOR \$\$\$

STK# 23-1329A

2019 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING

- Heated Steering Wheel
- Rear A/C Controls
- Built-In Navigation
- Power Side Doors
- ONLY 89,000 KMs



\$31,999*

STK# 23-1135AA

2020 JEEP CHEROKEE LIMITED

- Selec-Terrain System
- Blind Spot Monitors
- Heated/Vented F/Seats
- Tan Leather Interior
- ONLY 20,000 KMs



\$31,999*

STK# 23-1377A

2020 MAZDA CX-3

- 2.0L Turbo, AWD
- Center Console Media Control
- 7.0" LCD Display
- Blind Spot Monitors
- ONLY 81,000 KMs



\$25,999*

STK# P1439

2020 NISSAN ROGUE

- 2.5L, AWD
- Blind Spot Monitors
- CD Player
- Dual-Pane Sunroof
- ONLY 54,000 KMs



\$30,999*

STK# P1441

2020 RAM 2500 BIG HORN

- 6.7L Cummins Turbo Diesel
- F&R Parking Sensors
- Gooseneck Tow Package
- Smart Device Integration
- 92,000 KMs



\$58,999*

STK# 24-1065A

2020 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK

- Quadra-Lift Air Suspension
- Leather Upholstery
- Heated F&B Seats
- Dual-Pane Sunroof
- ONLY 90,000 KMs



\$48,999*

STK# RU1803

2021 JEEP COMPASS

- Leather Upholstery
- Heated Steering Wheel
- Alpine Audio System
- Dual-Pane Sunroof
- ONLY 40,000 KMs



\$32,900*

STK# 24-1031A

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC SLT

- 5.7L HEMI V8, Crew Cab
- Dual-Zone A/C
- An 8.4" LCD Display
- Tonneau Cover
- ONLY 68,000 KMs



\$46,999

STK# 23-1306A

2021 RAM 1500 CLASSIC SLT

- 5.7L HEMI V8, Crew Cab
- 8.4" LCD Display
- Remote Start
- Park Assist
- 110,000 KMs



\$37,999*

STK# A22-285A

2022 WAGONEER SERIES III

- 5.7 V8, 7-Passenger
- Adaptive Cruise Control
- Nappa Leather Interior
- Air Suspension
- ONLY 60,000 KMs



\$69,999*

STK# P0879

NEW VEHICLE FEATURES

2023 DODGE CHALLENGER GT

CALL FOR \$\$\$



- Remote Start
- Leather Upholstery
- Alpine Audio System
- Heated/Vented F/Seats
- 8.4" LCD Display

STK# 23-1368

2023 RAM 1500 REBEL

EMPLOYEE PRICING



- 5.7L HEMI V8, Crew Cab
- Red/Black Interior
- Remote Start
- 12.0" LCD Display
- Built-In Navigation

STK# 23-1266

2023 RAM 1500 CLASSIC WARLOCK

EMPLOYEE PRICING



- 5.7L HEMI V8, Crew Cab
- Heated Steering Wheel
- Built-In Navigation
- MOPAR Side Steps
- Tonneau Cover

STK# 23-1348

2023 RAM 1500 SPORT

EMPLOYEE PRICING



- 5.7L HEMI V8, Crew Cab
- Heated/Vented F/Seats
- 12.0" LCD Display
- Navigation
- Spray-In Bedliner

STK# 23-1282

MANITOULIN CHRYSLER

STAY CONNECTED



RYAN PRIOR
NEW VEHICLE SALES
ryan@manitoulinchrysler.ca



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



CONNOR WOESTENENK
PRE-OWNED VEHICLE SALES
connor@manitoulinchrysler.ca

The Manitoulin *West* Recorder



Steve Redmond of Mindemoya, a constable with the Manitoulin Ontario Provincial Police took part in the 2024 Ice Road Challenge from Red Lake to Pikangikum First Nation. He's shown here hoisting his fat tire bike in the far north.

Constable Steve Redmond again cycles in Ice Road Challenge from Red Lake to Pikangikum

by Tom Sasvari

MINDEMOYA—Steve Redmond, a constable with the Manitoulin detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) took part in the 2024 Ice Road challenge from Red Lake to Pikangikum First Nation.

"It is a unique event," said Constable Redmond. "I see it as a true adventure, raising funds for, and to get youth involved in bicycling."

"On January 25 participants flew from Toronto to Winnipeg and took a bus to Red Lake," said Constable Redmond. On January 26, riders embarked on a 128-kilometre fat bike ice road ride with the goal of raising money for youth cycling initiatives in Pikangikum.

"Because of you (participants), we were able to raise over \$55,000 (in fact \$55,690.68)," a press release states. "Funds raised will be used to winterize Pikangikum's community bike shop, track repair and teach mechanical skills to the youth, and contribute to youth employment to manage the shop in the colder months of the year. Additional funds will be designated to help initiate similar cycling initia-

tives in other remote Indigenous communities."

"The school in the community has a bicycle club," said Constable Redmond, who was participating in his second Ice Road Challenge, having taken part in 2023 as well. "There are 1,178 kids in the school and for instance in the primary division there are four grade one classes, four senior kindergarten classes etc. All the students up to Grade 12 attend the one school."

The youth of Pikangikum First Nation in partnership with New Hope Community Bikes of Hamilton, and the OPP all work together to put on the event. Moose Bicycles donated 10 fat bikes towards the youth cycling initiatives in Pikangikum, the OPP facilitates the transportation and movement of equipment and riders, and Eenchokay Birchstick School supports the youth organizers in coordinating a winter festival in the community.

From January 26-28 we biked 128.74 kilometres, said Constable Redmond. "About six of us on the ride

...continued on page 7

Owen Sound author seeking 50th anniversary Chi-Cheemaun tales for commemorative book

by Michael Erskine

OWEN SOUND—The MS Chi-Cheemaun ferry has played an important role in the life of author Richard J. Thomas, who regularly travels to Manitoulin and beyond on the vessel that provides a southern link to the Bruce Peninsula. This coming summer Mr. Thomas, a former broadcaster, prolific writer and videographer, is launching a book commemorating the 50th anniversary of the ship.

If you travel the Chi-Cheemaun at all, you likely have heard Mr. Thomas' dulcet tones. "I am the voice of the safety video," he laughed. "My friends tease me that they just can't get away from me."

The operators of the ferry, the Owen Sound Transportation Company (OSTC), were Mr. Thomas' first customer when he started his videography business in 1999. It seemed natural that the president of the company would reach out to Mr. Thomas to see what could be created to commemorate the advent of the ferry's 50th anniversary. It was decided that a book would be the way to go.

Mr. Thomas noted that the concept of the ferry as a destination in its own right far predates the

recent OSTC campaign to brand the ship. "You know, the entertainment and everything is alright," he said. "But for many people the Chi-Cheemaun plays an important role in their lives, whether they are travelling to Manitoulin or just continuing on to somewhere else."

The author has been reaching out to people seeking stories connected to the vessel, and the response has been strong. "I am planning a chapter on passenger stories," he said. "I must have 40

emails from people already." Included in the fold are three different couples who chose to get married onboard.

"They chose to have one of the most important days of their lives take place on board," said Mr. Thomas. "The Chi-Cheemaun is really a part of the family for many people."

Mr. Thomas noted that he isn't just sugar coating the deal. "I have a couple of really great 'worst ride' stories," he laughed.

...continued on page 9

Island Singers celebrates 60 years of Manitoulin music, seeks new choristers

MANITOULIN—Singing together has been an Island tradition for many years. Interestingly, a recent study by Choral Canada of 2,000 random people found that more Canadians are singing in some sort of organized group than are playing hockey. On Manitoulin this has taken several forms, such as the adult choirs that have been a part of our local history. Once such choir, The Island Singers, is celebrating a big milestone this year, with 60 years of singing together.

"The Island Singers was founded in 1964 as the Little Current Glee Club by Ruth Ashley who directed and accompanied the singers," said Chris Theijsmeijer. "The Glee Club performed skits and musical selections to Manitoulin audiences."

"Mother would be thrilled that the group is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year," said Mary Nelder, daughter of Ruth Ashley.

"Shortly after Manitoulin Secondary School opened in 1969, practices moved there to become more central, and the club rebranded to the Manitoulin Glee Club to reflect their more central location," said Mr. Theijsmeijer.

Ruth Ashley led the choir until her retirement in 1980, when Marilyn Burns, Jan Luff, Marion Seabrook, Marilyn Closs and Joanne Smith took over, said Mr. Theijsmeijer. "In the next three years, three musicals were performed by the club:

...continued on page 15

Integrity commissioner clears Central Manitoulin councillors

by Michael Erskine

CENTRAL MANITOULIN—Zach Courtemanche, the integrity commissioner for the Municipality of Central Manitoulin, delivered verbal summaries of two reports to the February 27 meeting of the Office and Administration Committee held virtually. The reports dealt with complaints against Councillors John Bissaillon and Brian Mitchell and involved a vote on a donation to a Lions Club alleging a conflict of interest.

The integrity commissioner found no basis for the complaints and recommended no further action be taken. The complaints sent to the integrity commissioner also named members of staff, but the integrity commissioner pointed out that he has no jurisdiction over municipal employees and therefore did not investigate those complaints.

A motion to accept the verbal summaries presented by the integrity commissioner was moved by Mayor Richard Stephens and seconded by Councillor Derek Stephens.

The commissioner reports will be published on the municipal website as per the integrity commissioner's order.

Northern Ontario Women Program gets renewed funding, new website

by Alicia McCutcheon

NORTHERN ONTARIO—Just in time for International Women's Day, the successful Northern Ontario Women (NOW) Program, which provides funding aimed at helping women-owned and women-led businesses, is launching a website to better service women entrepreneurs in Northern Ontario. NOW is also happy to announce a new round of funding, too.

NOW Program coordinator Susan Whynott told The Expositor the new site, www.nowprogram.ca, launches this Friday, March 8. "What better day than International Women's Day?" she added.

NOW was launched in the fall of 2019, the brainchild of Carolyn Campbell, who is now executive director of the LaCloche-Manitoulin Business Assistance Corporation (LAMBAC).

Ms. Whynott cannot extol Ms. Campbell's dogged determination enough in seeing NOW launched. She said Ms. Campbell, who worked for LAMBAC as an employee at the time, knew the statistics that proved that women entrepreneurs have a harder time accessing funds to make their dreams a reality. She applied to the federal government, presenting her case, and was successful. Ms. Whynott was then hired on to oversee the 800,000 square-kilometre catchment area.

"LAMBAC is the host, but we work with all Canada Development Futures Corporations (CDFCs) in the North, from Nipigon through to Parry Sound," Ms. Whynott shared.

Soon after NOW launched, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and so the program was forced to pivot, focussing on funding assistance for education.

"For many, the closing of their



NOW Program Coordinator Susan Whynott

brick and mortar business necessitated moving to an online platform so there was a whole lot of learning that needed to happen for a whole lot of business owners," the NOW website notes. The education component of the NOW Program was able to reimburse 117 clients to the tune of \$189,000.

...continued on page 7

Assiginack mayor says they would hate to lose the post office, bank, but can't afford to subsidize rent

Building that houses both is up for sale

by Tom Sasvari

MANITOWANING—It has only been after long deliberations and discussions on several options that Assiginack municipal council has decided to tender for sale a downtown building (115 Arthur Street) that houses both the Canada Post Corporation office and the Bank of Montreal.

"None of us want to lose the building or either of the tenants, Canada Post or the Bank of Montreal," stated Assiginack Mayor Brenda Reid in an interview with The Expositor last week. "But we are a small municipality with a small number of taxpayers, and we don't need to be subsidizing these two large multi-million-dollar corporations."

"The lease amounts we receive from both of them don't cover the maintenance costs of the building," said Mayor Reid.

...continued on page 7

*Manitoulin Island's
Newspaper-of-Record,
The Manitoulin Expositor*
is published
by the Manitoulin Publishing Co. Ltd.
Wednesday mornings from our offices at
One Manitowaning Road,
Little Current, Ont. P0P 1K0

37 Meredith Street,
Gore Bay, Ont. P0P 1H0

And on the traditional territories
of the Anishinaabek of
Mnidoo Mnising.

Northern Ontario's oldest newspaper:
printers and publishers since 1879

A winner of the Michener Award
for Public Service Journalism

Mailing address:
The Manitoulin Expositor, P.O. Box 369,
Little Current, Ont. P0P 1K0

Alicia McCutcheon
publisher

Tom Sasvari
editor-in-chief

Michael Erskine
associate editor

Jacqueline St. Pierre
local journalism initiative reporter

Xoë Roy
production manager

Michelle Cuning
production assistant

Debbie Bailey
circulation

Robyn McGauley
advertising sales

Marilyn Harasym, Kerrene Tilson
accounts

www.manitoulin.com

Phone: (705) 368-2744

Phone: (705) 282-1912

Fax: (705) 368-3822

general email:

expositor@manitoulin.com

letters to the editor email:

editor@manitoulin.com

Publications Mail

Registration No. 40012298

ISSN 0834-6682

Freelance Staff:

Mike Brock, Betty Bardswich

Alexandra Wilson-Zegil, Warren Schlote

Specialists:

Andre LeBlanc, *sports*

Petra Wall, *biography*

Claire Cline, *literary*

Rose Diebolt, *culinary*



Shelley Pearen, *history*

Joe Shorthouse, *Professor of Entomology*

Dr. Janice Mitchell, *veterinary*

Heather Marshall, *welcomer*

Correspondents:

Karen Noble, *Silver Water*

Heather Theijsmeijer, *Kagawong*

Jill Ferguson, *Kagawong*

Lillian Greenman, *Barrie Island*

Elaine Bradley, *Meldrum Bay*

Willie Munro, *Millisite*

Annual Subscription Rates

DIGITAL EDITION\$54.00

Anywhere in the world (No discounts)

ZONE 1 Manitoulin Island.....\$54.60

Seniors' discount less 10% \$49.14

Manitoulin Island First Nations. **\$52.00**

Seniors' discount less 10% \$46.80

ZONE 2 *Off-Island.....**\$59.85**

Seniors' discount less 10% \$53.87

*Postal codes with second digit "0"

PLUS Birch Island to Espanola

ZONE 3 **Off-Island.....**\$65.10**

Seniors' discount less 10% \$58.59

All other postal codes **NOT Espanola

ZONE 5 USA.....**\$260.00**

OTHER INTERNATIONAL**\$355.00**

Seniors' Discount (60+) 10% DOES

NOT APPLY to Zone 5 or International

Addresses **All prices include GST**

"With the participation of the Government of Canada."



"who dares not offend, cannot be honest"

One Manitowaning Road

opinion

editorial

Integrity commissioners should not be political tools

In these times of hyper-partisanship and an "all's fair in love, war" and now apparently, politics, as the environment we find ourselves in today we often seem to go one step forward and two steps backward in the practice of democracy.

In 2019, integrity commissioners were given the authority to review allegations of conflict of interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act (MCIA). Before that, matters concerning conflicts could only be dealt with through court applications. While individuals who believe the MCIA has been contravened can still apply to a judge for a determination on the matter directly, the legislation now provides for integrity commissioners to conduct an inquiry into an alleged contravention and provides them with the discretion to bring the matter to a judge themselves.

The important change here is that complaints can be made without cost to the complainant. Previously, for most people, lodging a formal complaint against a municipal elected official involved hiring a lawyer and investing considerable treasure in time and money to take a complaint forward.

Over the past half-decade, the integrity commissioners of municipalities have plied their trade and delivered verdicts—but at what cost? While the bar of coughing up personal lucre to call elected officials to account was setting things too high, we may well have come to a point where the bar has dropped too far.

Both Elliot Lake and Espanola have seen warring councillors take to the lists courtesy of their respective integrity commissioners at extreme cost to the ratepayers. As anyone who has litigated is only

too well aware, lawyers are expensive. That's no slight on lawyers, who must acquire significant credentials in order to bill their hours, but it is a plain fact. The cost can quickly escalate into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Unfortunately, it is becoming more and more common for citizens (and electoral opponents) to take their grievances to the integrity commissioner without merit. The recent case of two Central Manitoulin councillors is a case in point. It should have been clear from the start that any reasonable person would have concluded the councillors held no pecuniary interest when they voted on a service club donation.

When a person files a complaint with the integrity commissioner it should be for the purposes originally intended by the legislation—not as a whip or retribution unrelated to the matter being referenced.

Running a municipality is expensive business. In the case of most Island municipalities, a major investigation can cost as much as one percentage point on the tax levy. That is a scary proposition.

The burden of ensuring the MCIA is being upheld has been effectively downloaded onto property taxpayers. Those taxpayers are already overburdened with provincial responsibilities at a time when many are struggling just to make ends meet.

It may well be time for the province to take a close look at how integrity commissioners are playing out in the wild. A formal review of the process would inform the legislature as to whether the law is worth the powder and enable tweaking to ensure the process is not being misused to great cost.

MPP says he will keep fighting for access to healthcare in the North

QUEEN'S PARK—Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Michael Mantha says he will continue to fight for access to healthcare in Northern Ontario. This comes after MPP Mantha's Bill 13, the Northern Health Travel Grant Advisory Committee Act, was defeated by a vote of 73-32 at second reading on February 26.

"I want to thank my colleagues who supported this bill to help Northerners seeking access to medical treatment. Sadly, the Progressive Conservatives caucus used their majority in the legislature to see it fail," MPP Mantha said after the vote.

The bill would have struck a committee of healthcare providers and patients from Northern Ontario to make recommendations to improve the Northern Health Travel Grant (NHTG).

"I am disappointed in the Progressive Conservative caucus for voting against this measure to improve the lives of Northern Ontarians," said MPP Mantha. "It is especially disheartening to see that some Northern MPPs voted against this bill, when their constituents rely on this grant."

MPP Mantha pointed out the Auditor Gen-

eral's annual report for 2023 identified the NHTG as an area where the government needs to improve to ensure residents of Northern Ontario are getting timely and adequate access to healthcare.

"We know that the NHTG is necessary, but that it's not working as well as it could," MPP Mantha said. "I will keep fighting for access to healthcare in the North. Whether it is the NHTG, our public hospitals or homecare, Northerners deserve the same service and care as everyone else in our province."

NDP claims pharmacare victory in first step toward universal coverage

NORTHERN ONTARIO—On February 29 New Democrats delivered a framework for the next steps of universal pharmacare for Canadians. As a first step, the NDP has forced the government to cover contraception and diabetes medications and devices free-of-charge for everyone who needs it.

These measures can save women around \$200 a year for contraception and around \$1,500 per year for those people impacted by diabetes.

"For too long people in Northern Ontario have had to make tough choices: fill their prescriptions or put food on the table," said NDP MP Charlie Angus (Tim-

mins-James Bay).

"The NDP is committed to delivering universal pharmacare and we have secured the first steps on full coverage for contraceptives and diabetes medication. People need help now to cover these costs, and New Democrats forced the Liberals to act after decades of broken promises. Conservatives only want to make your life more expensive as they cater to the Bay Street elite. Their deputy leader, MP Melissa Lantsman, was a former Big Pharma lobbyist. Polievre's Conservatives will always protect profits over helping Canadians."

The Liberals have been promis-

ing to act on pharmacare since 1997, but until now, no progress has been made to deliver the medication people need free of charge, said MP Angus. Canada is the only G7 country in the world with a universal health care system that doesn't include a pharmacare program. Jagmeet Singh and the NDP have been pushing the government through the Supply and Confidence Agreement to deliver a framework for pharmacare to save Canadians and the health care system money.

"The Liberals and Conservatives have let Big Pharma off the hook and let them charge Canadians absurd prices for their med-

ication," said NDP Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing MP Carol Hughes. "Giving Northerners better access to the medication they need will mean fewer people going to the emergency room for preventable health issues."

"New Democrats stood up and fought for Canadians by securing the framework for pharmacare," said MP Hughes. "But we also went a step further and forced the Liberals to provide free birth control and diabetes drugs to put more money back in people's pockets. We will keep fighting to ensure everyone has the coverage they need."

Manitoulin District schools celebrate Pink Shirt Day on a snow day

MANITOULIN—Pink Shirt Day is an annual event against bullying, held in Canada and New Zealand. Participants wear pink shirts and attend or host informative events to raise awareness about bullying, particularly in schools. Pink Shirt Day was started in 2007 in Canada, where it is held on the last Wednesday of February each year. This year, as usual, students in several Island schools took part.



Students and teachers at Shawanoswe School in Whitefish River were well decked out in pink.



Lakeview School in M'Chigeeng First Nation were making the statement that bullying is not cool for school, or anywhere for that matter.



Students at CC McLean were in the pink for the national day against bullying.

Part IV of a series

50 years of the Little NHL

Women and girls challenge the notion of hockey as a male fiefdom in Little NHL

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

by **Gina Gasongi Simon**

As we know, hockey in Canada developed historically as a male preserve. The struggle for access to minor hockey for girls has been kind of masked in masculinity, whereby it was a field of dreams for boys to try and emulate their favourite stars. Girls had to find another place to shine.

Many girls like Ruby Trudeau Simon and Jeannette Bondy, both from Wiikwemkoong, have challenged the notion that girls can't play boys' hockey. In the beginning they played more recreational hockey starting with Tykes right up to Midgets alongside their male linemates.

Ruby, like a few other girls before her, has been inspired and encouraged by girls like the new inductee to the LNHL Hall of Fame, former teammate Jeannette Bondy. Both girls played hockey with the boys from the moment they could skate.

I caught up to Ruby Trudeau Simon driving back from her daughter Delaney's recent playoff game against Gore Bay. Ruby a former player in the LNHL reported, "It was an exciting game, our team was down 2-0 after the second period. But our girls managed to grind out 2 goals and keep the momentum going and we won 5-3," says the proud mother and coach.

When asked about her opinion of girls playing hockey, she shared her passion for the game. "I definitely welcomed the opportunity to play with the boys. It pushed me to another level of competitiveness and grit to establish my spot on the team. I didn't have any other option, I wanted to



Marian Jocko and eldest daughter Waskoness 'Washy' Jocko enjoy the celebration at home.

play and there was only boys' leagues."

Before the girls reached puberty between nine and 13 it's pretty well even playing ground. It's after this development in age that girls like Ruby and Jeannette had to turn up their game and prove female athletes, when given a real opportunity to develop their potential, proved they could perform at a level even surpassing most males.

Ruby faced a point of reality and although her performance, range of speed and coordination were challenged by the face of physicality and strength, "I did



Katryna Debassige shares a group hug with new-found LNHL buddies and teammates.



Marian Jocko and youngest daughter, Thuraya Jocko are all smiles after a winning performance.

after Midgets have to step back from the game and luckily Jeannette had made a name for herself in Sudbury, playing at a triple A level with the Sudbury Flyers." Ruby too tried out and made the team. She admits at times facing racism from some coaches and fans, but for the most part enjoyed her short-term career at the competitive level and had to turn down a hockey scholarship from the University of Pennsylvania because motherhood was calling.

The issue to give the gift of life then becomes, from some perspectives, whether girls should be able to have the same opportunities to develop their potential that boys do, including physically demanding training, expert coaching and challenging competition.

According to Ruby who now coaches her daughter's team and a mixed team of boys and girls, "The choice should be left to the individual and her parents," she continues to explain, "I had the support of my mother, and played later in life when they finally did offer organized women's hockey in our community."

Marian Jocko who also doubles as a coach and mother says, "I am grateful to men like Chico Ralph, the current LNHL President. "He has been instrumental in promoting the opportunity for Indigenous girls to show their passion and love for the sport by starting the girls' divisions.

Ms. Jocko, a Wiikwemkoong band member, is a past president of the Little NHL and is currently a board member of Hockey Canada.

Long time LNHL organizer and promoter Debbie Debassige from M'Chigeeng acknowledges current President Ralph, "Our numbers have definitely grown because of the efforts of Chico and girl's hockey will continue to rise with that kind of support and attitude. We witness level and skill within the ranks of the Professional Women's Hockey League and it is now something for our young girls to aspire too," she explains.

This year's theme is the sacredness of water.

To the Anishnaabe, water (nibi) is a sacred spirit, considered to be a living and moving being. It is part of the Anishnaabe kwe (women) tradition that women speak for the water. As the life-givers of the entire nation, they hold within their being—the sacred waters. The women led by Nokomis Josephine Mandamin (baa) have been committed to action and responsibility for the revitalization and healing properties of the water.

Marian Jocko credits her daughters', Waskoness (Washy) Williams and Thuraya Jocko success in school and attitudes towards life to the game of hockey

and their experience playing in the LNHL. "I've watched my daughters mature while playing the game, and sometimes think to myself that the current state of opportunity and treatment of Indigenous women and girls in this country, Canada, desperately needs a real paradigm shift."

Marian Jocko's day job as the Assistant Deputy for the Minister of Justice provides her with a



Proud great grandma Annie Peltier (baa) poses with her grandsons Lance and Owen. Beaming in the back is Auntie Sandra Pelter.

unique inside perspective on some hard issues facing our justice system when it comes to MMIW murdered and missing women and girls.

"When I look at the current criminal system and its intersection within society, we really have to take a second look at the need for change and treatment of

Indigenous women and girls. National reports show statistically Indigenous women and girls are twelve times more likely to be missing or murdered. What does that say for opportunities afforded to our young Indigenous women?" she exclaimed.

For many mothers like Ruby and Marian who double as coaches and mentors, "the time is pivotal and we must respect and honour our young girls trying to do something meaningful and productive in their lives, whether that is aspiring to the big leagues or just staying in school," says Marian. "I view hockey as having that power to change the paradigm shift for our girls. It provides them opportunity, unity and a voice while playing the game."

When these girls reach a certain age, they have to hang up their LNHL skates because the Midget division, U17 is the last tier they can play in the league. "It's very emotional," explains Ruby. "I remember when our girls' team played their last game, we all stood on each side and formed a bridge of sticks for them to skate under as they left the ice after their final game. I cried and so did the other mothers and girls. It means so much to them, identity, pride and that sense of belonging. You can't match that feeling of being a part of something," she concluded.

M'Chigeeng First Nation Honouring our Little Native Hockey League (LNHL) Founding Fathers

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Little Native Hockey League (LNHL) Hockey Tournament that started back in 1971 in Little Current, Ontario on Manitoulin Island.

M'Chigeeng First Nation wishes to pay a special tribute to James D. Debassige baa and Norman Debassige baa to recognize their own special vision and in collaboration founded the LNHL tournament for Anishinaabe youth across Ontario.

Remembered by all.



James D. Debassige baa, M'Chigeeng First Nation



Norman Debassige baa, M'Chigeeng First Nation



OPP arrest driver for impaired driving

One person from Birch Island has been arrested and charged following a call for service in Sagamok First Nation.

Shortly after 5 am on February 24, the Manitoulin Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to a traffic complaint on Ironwood Street in Sagamok First Nation.

Police located the vehicle of the traffic complaint on Sagamok Road and conducted a traffic stop. Upon speaking with the driver, police determined the driver had consumed alcohol. The driver was subsequently arrested and transported back to the OPP detachment for further testing.

As a result of the investigation, 19-year-old Cole Recollet from Birch Island has been charged with operation while impaired-alcohol and drugs, operation while impaired, blood alcohol concentration (80 plus),

driving motor vehicle with open container of liquor and novice driver-blood alcohol count above zero.

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Espanola on April 15.

The driver was issued a 90-day administrative driver's licence suspension and the vehicle was impounded for seven days.

OPP arrest person for impaired driving and domestic related charges

One person has been arrested and charged for multiple offences in Espanola.

On February 23, shortly after 3 pm the Manitoulin

detachment of the OPP received a report of a possible impaired driver on Station Road in Espanola.

Police located the vehicle on Lee Valley Road and determined the driver had consumed alcoholic beverages. After further investigation, a domestic violence investigation also ensued, and the driver was arrested.

A 28-year-old person from Espanola was charged with failure to comply with release order-other than to attend court, mischief under \$5,000, operation while impaired alcohol and drugs and operation while impaired blood alcohol concentration (80 plus).

The accused is scheduled to appear before the

Ontario Court of Justice in Espanola at a later date.

The driver was issued a 90-day administrative driver's licence suspension and the vehicle was impounded for seven days.

The identity of the accused will not be released to protect the identity of the victim.

Ice anglers are reminded that ice fishing season is quickly coming to an end

The Ontario Conservation Officers Association (OCA) would like to remind anglers to think ahead and prepare to remove their fish huts from Ontario's frozen waterbod-

ies.

"While some lakes in the province are just starting to form safe ice, anglers need to remember that ice huts must be removed from the ice by the prescribed deadlines," said OCOA president Derek Hebner. "After the ice hut removal dates, anglers may fish without an ice hut or use a portable fish hut that is made of cloth or synthetic fabric that is seven square metres in size or less."

Ice huts removal dates include March 1 in fisheries management zones (FMZ) 17 and 20, March 15 in FMZ 14 (Lake Wolsey on Manitoulin), 16, 18, 19 and below the Lake Temiskaming dam in FMZ 12, and March 31 in

FMZ 9, 10 (South Bay on Manitoulin), 11, 15 and above the Lake Temiskaming dam in FMZ 12.

"Anyone who has an ice hut out on the lake should monitor the weather conditions closely," said Mr. Hebner. "The ice hut removal deadlines are set in legislation, but they do not take into account the different ice conditions each year. Many lakes in the province will be ice free before the hut removal deadlines and any huts that fall through the ice are a danger to anyone who has to remove them or to boaters in the summer if the huts are not removed prior to ice out."

Anyone with information about a natural resources or public safety related offence is encouraged to call the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry violation reporting line at 1-877-847-7667, contact their local conservation officer directly, or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



Law & Order

Friends and Neighbours

Kagawong Team Fergmeijer

The days are getting longer, and March Break is almost here! Team Fergmeijer wishes all students and teachers a well-deserved break next week.

National Pancake Day was on Wednesday, February 28 this year and we nearly flipping forgot about it! We weren't sure we were going to admit to forgetting and kept waffling back and forth over putting it in the column this week. It was a bit of a sticky situation, but in true Fergmeijer fashion, we have for you a hearty serving of pancake puns. You better believe there are some really good ones to sink your teeth into this year. Here's hoping none of the jokes fall flat.

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

Happy 29th birthday to a trio of Kagawongians: Arthur H, Shirley F and Paula V-F! Congratulations on reaching that special age where you are now waking up at the time you used to go to sleep on a Saturday.

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

The community rink is open as long as the current cold weather holds (as of this writing), but the volunteers have decided once the ice goes, they will call it for the skating season this year. We are so thankful to everyone who has been working so hard to keep the rink up and running during this crazy winter season!

What do you call a vampire who eats pancakes? Count Spatula.

Given the unseasonably warm winter, it is possible we might see the iconic Sandhill Cranes arriving early this year. Will you be the first to hear the majestic coo of the cranes? Email any sightings to fergmeijer@gmail.com to participate in our annual Sandhill Crane challenge!

We wanted to surprise our Manitoulin Mom with some homemade pancakes (in part to butter her up so she'd let us borrow her car), but we must have gotten the recipe wrong, because they were absolute crepe. Have a great week!

Meldrum Bay Elaine Bradley

We have experienced some amazing weather. The temperature went up to 10 degrees C. It was hot and sunny. Then the temperature dropped precipitously to well below zero. We had thunder, lightning, high winds and ice, rain and snow. Rose had a tree come down in her yard but was thankful it did not hit her house. Who knows what is going to happen next.

How are your seed orders doing? I ordered some fruit trees. My husband is wondering where they are going to go and of course he knows it will be his job to plant them.

We learned a new game called Wizard. Our friend had us over one day last week to go over the rules. A couple of days later she, Rick, myself and another couple played this new game. The others had played it many times. We had a great

afternoon and lunch together. When the rules were explained to us it sounded complicated, but once we started playing, it was not hard at all. So, if you get a chance to play it, try it out, it's fun.

Earlier in the week we were visiting friends at another house for a euchre game, coffee and brownies. The brownie were excellent and very little was left at the end of the evening.

The Fun Day was a great success. Now the hall is quiet except for Friday night euchre games, but the next big event will be the Quad Run in May. Always a great deal of fun, I am looking forward to it.

This Sunday the church will be open for its monthly winter meeting and we'll all get together at the hall afterwards for a lunch. We had a great time last month and are looking forward to Sunday.

At cards on Friday, February 23, there were three full tables, and one three-handed table. High lady was Myra Duncanson with 74 points; high man was Doug Carter with 67 points; ladies' lone hands went to Brenda Carter with four; men's lone hands went to Harold Rogers with 7; most euchres went to Murray Duncanson with nine. The money jar is intact; the 50/50 draw was won by Diane Jones who took home \$6; the special prize went to Lisa Townsend. Thanks to everyone who came out.

Barrie Island Lillian Greenman

Sandy and Jim Miller from Ottawa were here last week, they visited with Oliver as well as Barb Runnalls, Scott and Enid Runnalls.

Joining Carolyn and George Calback for supper for his 90th birthday were Ashton Calback, Lynn Calback, Darlene Orford, Marie Sloss, Bill and Gail Lewis, Helen Strain and Max and Linda Trick. Larry Orford and son Brandon dropped in, in the afternoon.

Silver Water Karen Noble

On Wednesday, February 14 there was line dancing at the Silver Water Hall in the evening.

Albert Meijer and I had the Valentine's Day supper from Stop 540 which was delicious.

There were Ash Wednesday church services attended on February 14.

Doug and Brenda Carter had a bobcat or lynx walk through their yard on Valentine's Day.

Thursday evening euchre was cancelled in Silver Water because of the snowstorm that went on most of the day.

On Friday, we travelled to Meldrum Bay to play euchre.

On Sunday, Shawn Noble, Natasha McVey and I went to Meldrum Bay for the stew and chili luncheon. We played in the euchre tournament in the afternoon. There were six tables of players. The winners were Diane Jones and Rose Van Every, Erwin Thompson and Marie Leeney and Doug and Brenda Carter. \$149.50 was raised from the 50/50 draws for the Dawson Citizens Improvement Association. Those winners included Marie Leeney, Elaine McDonald, Lois Wismer and DonnaKay McDonald. Sara-Lyn Arnot donated two loaves of homemade bread which were won by Natasha McVey and Myra Duncanson. Thank you goes to all the Meldrum Bay people who did all the work for the day and for asking Myra to run a tournament. We had a lot of fun.

Larissa Chevrette and her boyfriend are in Gore Bay for the reading week break from university.

On Monday, February 19, Brenda Carter, DonnaKay McDonald and Myra Duncanson went with me to the Burpee/Mills Complex for a potluck lunch and to play euchre in the afternoon. There were lots of people that had lunch and seven tables of euchre players. Thank you to Nikki Middleton for arranging the day as part of the Family Day weekend activities.

Thirteen members of the fire department spent Tuesday at the Silver Water Community Hall. They had a CPR first aid course. Thanks to the ladies who provided lunch and snacks.

On Tuesday afternoon, chair yoga was held at the Silver Water Hall.

On Wednesday evening there was line dancing at the hall.

On Thursday, February 22, there were 27 euchre players at the Silver Water Hall.

Gladys Duncanson and I walked a few times during the last week. The weather has been perfect for it and the roads are clear.

Albert Meijer and I went to Gore Bay on Friday, February 23. We took my nephew Colton Chevrette, niece Larissa and her boyfriend Chikha to My Ol' Blues to shop at their spring sale. Then we went to the Watersedge to have lunch with the Elizabeth Bay United Church group. We did our errands and headed home.

We went to Meldrum Bay in the evening to play euchre. There were 11 players.

On Saturday morning we got ready to have the Chevrettes and my brother in for lunch. They had visited the maple sugar bush where Shawn plans to tap trees once the weather is just right.

On Sunday morning Albert and I left at 7 am to head for Peterborough. We picked up Larissa and Chikha in Gore Bay. We missed all the snowstorms that happened behind us. We spent the night and left early Monday morning to come home. The day was sunny and the traffic was light. We got home at 3:30 pm to find our catsitter, Anne Boyd, clearing our sidewalk for us.

There was a 90th birthday party for Joyce Benoit at Stop 540 on Monday. There were a lot of family and friends for supper. There was cards afterwards.

DonnaKay McDonald and I went to euchre at the Burpee and Mills Complex on Monday night. With the help of Nikki Middleton on the last round, we both had the high scores and split the money jar.

Tuesday, I spent the day submitting the LSB portion of the property tax invoices.

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

Wednesday, we got a bit of a snowstorm.

Wednesday evening, there was line dancing at the hall.

Thursday, I went to work in Mindemoya for the day.

Thursday evening, there were six tables of euchre players at the Silver Water Community Hall.

There will be a World Day of Prayer service at St. Andrew's United Church in Silver Water on March 7 at 11 am. Everyone is invited to go to Stop 540 for lunch afterwards. The ladies will return to the church for the UCW meeting at 1:30 pm.

There will be a roast beef dinner at the Burpee and Mills Complex on March 9 at 5 pm. The proceeds are for the robotics team from the high school.

The Tehkummah euchre tournament has been moved to March 10 at 1:30 pm.

There will be a potluck supper for St. Patrick's Day at the Silver Water Community Hall. The collected donations will go to the Angel Bus.

Happy 19th birthday to Colton Chevrette on March 12.

Wiikwemkoong gets funding toward pellet plant facility

WIKWEMKOONG—Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory has received funding to pursue a local community energy production project.

Wiikwemkoong is receiving \$250,000 to pursue local community energy production by examining the feasibility of an advanced biochar/bio coal product that would be developed at a proposed pellet plant facility.

The funding announcement was made on March 1 by Graydon Smith, minister of natural resources and forestry (MNRF) while at a stop in Timmins. He announced that the government of Ontario is delivering on its commitment to build a stronger forest sector by making an historic investment of \$60 million in the Forest Biomass Program. Over the next three years, the program

will make targeted investments in forest sector initiatives to develop the economic potential and environmental benefits of underutilized wood and mill by-products, known as forest biomass.

“This new biomass program funding will grow businesses, strengthen communities and put workers to work,” said Mr. Smith. “We are investing in the technology, the people and the expertise that drive our forest sector into the future, and together, we are achieving our government’s plan for forest sector prosperity.”

The announcement of additional funding allows the Forest Biomass Programs third phase of investment, which committed more than \$6.1 million to 12 research, innovation and modernization initiatives.



...mayor says they would hate to lose the post office, bank

...continued from page 3

Mayor Reid said the township council, “has had two engineers look at the building’s condition and what it would take to bring the building up to code. We found that the cost to upgrade the building would be approximately \$1.3 million and it would cost \$1.7 million for a new building. And there is no grant money provided for this type of thing.”

“We looked at replacing the building with a couple of mobile buildings for each of the two tenants, but that would have cost approximately \$1.7 million,” said Mayor Reid.

“It was a very difficult decision for council to make (to put the building up for tender sale),” stated Mayor Reid. “The building can’t go on as it is currently, and the state of the building has been brought to council and considered for a number of years.”

Mayor Reid said she remembers a major campaign put on by residents in the municipality about 35 years ago when the bank post office was threatening to pull out of the community. She said the recent decision by council has nothing to do with depleting financial resources in the municipality due to the lawsuit the municipality faced several years ago from the S.S. Norisle Steamship Society and the ship’s subsequent scrapping. “The cost of that lawsuit was paid off a long time ago, and the money for removal of the ship (Norisle) is being paid off with a long-term loan.”

“We have had extensive discussions on what we could do,” said Mayor Reid. She pointed out in the case of Canada Post, “the post office has to give us our mail. They have a mandate to deliver the mail in some form, from that building or another way.”

...Constable Steve Redmond cycles in Ice Road Challenge

...continued from page 3

work for the OPP, and there were other riders from Toronto and Hamilton as well as one gentleman from Red Lake who took part. “There was also a bunch of students who met us on the way to the community and biked with us for the last 35 kilometres.”

Cyclists navigated snow, ice, and cold temperatures in support of the youth cycling initiative. On Saturday, January 27, cyclists took part in Pikangikum’s winter festival.

To participate, cyclists must be in condition to ride in the cold temperatures over the mixed frozen gravel road and frozen bush and lake.

Riders stopped every 20-30 kilometres along the long ride, with rest stops along the way. The bicycle route road, “looks like Highway 542 in the winter,” quipped Constable Redmond. “The weather conditions were about minus eight with the wind chill making it minus 20. The folks there were saying that it has been a milder winter this year and they have about two feet less snow on the ground this year.”

To take part in the challenge participants have to raise a minimum of \$500. Constable Redmond raised \$1,500.



Steven Redmond, a constable with the Manitoulin detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police along with many other riders took part in the 2024 Ice Road Challenge from Red Lake to Pikangikum First Nation.

...Northern Ontario Women Program gets renewed funding

...continued from page 3

This new round of funding is aimed at assisting with the cost of one-time professional services (Ms. Whynott gives the example of hiring a lawyer to incorporate a business), the cost of setting up mentoring/coaching relationships and the cost of education courses. NOW also offers an HRdownloads subscription initiative that women entrepreneurs can apply for. Women from every corner of Northern Ontario are welcome to apply.

“We are making a move away from website and digital projects,” Ms. Whynott shared, noting that there

are numerous other grant applications for those aspects of business. If a businesswoman can prove that she has first exhausted those options, she can apply for digital project purposes.

Ms. Whynott explained that the terms of funding have changed, too. Intake dates are gone. Now women can apply at any time of the year until the pot of money runs out.

Successful clients will be asked to pay for the services up-front and the NOW Program will reimburse them at 95 percent.

“I received education course reimbursement from NOW Program to take an advanced and diabetic foot course,” Marilyn

Proulx of Proulx Foot Care shares in a testimonial. “I took this course so that I could start my own foot care business in the community after I had retired. As I was just starting out and needed to purchase sterilizing equipment and many other supplies ... this assistance was very beneficial in offsetting the start-up costs. The reimbursement completely covered the cost of the education piece and therefore I was able to get the business rolling faster by acquiring the other necessary supplies and equipment quicker rather than budgeting it out over a few months.”

Since NOW launched in 2019, over \$1,700,000 has

been awarded to over 400 women in Northern Ontario.

For more information, visit the NOW website at nowprogram.ca or email Ms. Whynott at now@lambac.org.

LITTLE CURRENT

CATCH the ACE

WEEKLY WINNER!
Congratulations to Reg Lewis!
The “draw” prize winner of \$474.00
Thank you to Hillside Variety in Wiikwemkoong for sponsoring the 25th Progressive Raffle Lottery!

DRAW DATE THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024 AT 8:00 PM
PROGRESSIVE PRIZE STARTING AT \$6,589.00!
(before 30% of weekly sales added)

TICKETS GO ON SALE: FRIDAY - THURSDAY
TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT LITTLE CURRENT
LIONS CLUB ON FACEBOOK

Fixing Our Felines Manitowaning

Domino and Tootsie

“Looking over our new domicile, if we like it, we’ll stay a while (or forever!).”

These two are The Cat’s Meow. Lovable, playful, tidy and agreeable, looking for their home to roam.

Please call or text us at (705) 918 2879 or send us a PM on our FB page

valu-mart Orr’s Freshmart

Bahá’í Writings

Science is an effulgence of the Sun of Reality, the power of investigating and discovering the verities of the universe, the means by which man finds a pathway to God.

—‘Abdu’l-Bahá

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

MANITOULIN OFF-GRID SYSTEMS

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

SALES - SERVICE - INSTALLATION

705-859-2933

Anchor INN HOTEL
Dining • Bar • Catering • Rooms
Downtown Little Current • 705-368-2023

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

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

...nurse first in Ontario granted consent to prescribe

...continued from page 1

drug or substance that may lawfully be purchased or acquired without a prescription and is available for self-selection in a pharmacy.

Mr. Turley said it is rewarding to be able to prescribe and help patients save time, have easier access to vaccines and certain medications they need in a timely way.

Georgian College launched the self-directed course Registered Nurse Prescribing Education: Safe and Ethical Practice in January. Georgian is one of four Ontario post-secondary institutions authorized by the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) to provide this education.

Judy Miller, executive director at NMFHT said, "we've got on the map with Georgian College. Lee has been with us since September and the CNO extended the scope of the course, which is 65 hours on a variety of modules. RNs need to have a physician preceptor; in our case lead physician for our FHT is Dr. Anne McDonald who had to review the RN's 20 prescription scripts."

Ms. Miller pointed out documentation for the program came out in December and January and Georgian was the first college to offer the program. "I talked to the registered nurses and both Lee and Terri said they wanted to take this course. It will make it easier and more efficient for patients with improved access having the RNs deliver any of the treatments in the modules and to be able to prescribe medications."

The new course was designed and developed by nurse

practitioners with extensive knowledge and experience in prescribing to patients, registered nursing scope of practice and the CNO standards and guidelines.

"We are thrilled to offer this ground breaking new program aimed at enhancing local patient care by expanding the capabilities of registered nurses. This innovative course is a testament to Georgian's enduring commitment to fostering excellence in nursing education and cultivating a strong nursing work force within a community," said Kevin Weaver, president and CEO of Georgian College.

"I hope so," Mr. Turley said as to whether other RNs will take the program being offered. "It's great for patients."

"Our government has been taking bold action to ensure more Ontarians can conveniently connect to the care they need, closer to home," said Sylvia Jones, deputy premier and minister of health. "I'm delighted to see our innovative changes coming to life by congratulating Lee Turley as the first RN in Ontario authorized to prescribe medication, which will mean faster and easier access to care for Manitoulin Island families."

"RN prescribing represents a forward leap in nursing practice, empowering RNs with the knowledge, skill and judgement to assess, diagnose and treat defined non-complex conditions," said Silvie Crawford, executive director and CEO CNO. "CNO approved prescribing education programs like the one offered by Georgian College ensures that RNs obtain the competencies necessary to prescribe safely and competently."

...First Nations vote 'yes' to Manitoulin Project terms

...continued from page 1
bring a future claim for the same roads and other items in the agreement—an important consideration as both Wiikwemkoong and other First Nations have competing claims over the same territory.

Under the terms agreed to earlier this year by the negotiators, settlement funds would be transferred to a trust or account designated by the First Nations involved. From there, funds will be distributed according to direction of the UCCMM chiefs.

Under the agreement, a

ratification vote must take place that will require at least 25 percent-plus-one of the members of each First Nation to vote, with the majority of those voting choosing to accept the settlement terms.

The Manitoulin Project is an alternative to litigation, which can literally take generations to resolve and cost prohibitive amounts of money. Through this more collaborative approach to the negotiations, the project has followed a more traditional Anishinaabe path to resolution.

The Manitoulin Project claim alleged that the Crown sold lots of land at below market value (thus reducing the trust deposits for First Nations), an allegation easily supported by the Crown's own advertisements aimed at attracting settlers to the region. Further, the claim alleges that First Nations Trust money went into building roads for the benefit of other parties and that the First Nations Trust Funds obtained through land sales were diverted to purposes unrelated to the First Nations (the aforementioned ILMF).

The negotiations began in 2016 and continued on into last year, with the federal government footing the bill for the process, a process that included numerous independent expert reports to determine the historical financial loss to the First Nations.

Under the agreement, Canada also agreed to provide equitable compensation in line with trending case law for the historical mismanagement and to offer up an apology, as well as funding the ratification process.

...seeks funding similar to offers made to universities

...continued from page 1

mental to learners in the community. Our educational institutions are not a priority and is not a priority for the government, as they are not insuring equal access."

"Yes, some will have to contemplate closure," said Ms. Josephs.

"We currently manage 35-40 funding agreements in order to do the work we do," said Beverley Roy, president of Kenjgewin Teg (KT). "This is what happens behind the scenes, by our administration and management team. It's about constantly writing proposals for students to get good jobs. Kenjgewin Teg has been doing this work for over 30 years and we are extremely disappointed to have been excluded as Ontario's third pillar, meaning there are colleges/universities and Indigenous institutes in Ontario, and to have been excluded from this Ontario announcement is very disappointing. It is our learners who lose out on decisions like this by government."

Ms. Roy said Kenjgewin Teg, "supports learners and graduates from all communities on Mnidoo Mnis from teaching and learning, trades, and health and wellness programs. Our grad rates are as good and often higher than mainstream PSE institutions, colleges and universities. It is because we are Indigenous led and governed, and understand the experience and needs of learners."

"One example of the absence of stable and equitable funding is that Kenjgewin Teg's Indigenous Studies program has been accredited in Ontario, but is still

without funding for actual delivery of programs to students, because we are unable to hire faculty or professors," said Ms. Roy. "Our experience has been project-based funding from Ontario, with no stability or continuity from year to year. Another example is continuation of funds for the practical nursing and the personal support work program. Still no decision with the fiscal year (April 1) around the corner."

"We can develop programs but unfortunately if there is no funding to go along with it for faculty and to hire professors, it doesn't go forward," said Ms. Roy.

"We have an Indigenous Studies Degree but we have received no support for this program. This is the third year we have been waiting for funding," said Ms. Roy.

Ms. Roy said the management administration team does a great job and stable and equitable funding, "would reduce the administrative burden we see now. It takes away from important time developing and operating these programs for our students, who are always our main focus. It's the students who lose out," she said noting KT, "We are accountable and have demonstrated efficient management of money over the past 30 years."

"Indigenous Institutes recognize the important role all pillars of post-secondary education provide and are deeply concerned that the third pillar of education, the Indigenous Institutes pillars, is severely underfunded hindering educational access, impeding the economic prosperity

...continued on page 10

Let's Talk

Gerlinde Goodwin B.A. R.S.W.

Counselling & Consulting

Private, confidential counselling services for individuals, couples and families.

15 Water Street, Unit 3, Little Current ON
Confidential voicemail: 705-368-0410
Please call for an appointment.



Calling all artists!

Manitoulin Centennial Manor is looking for artists interested in working with us to produce some artwork that can be displayed outdoors on the side of the Manor in our new courtyard area.

We are looking for ideas that will fit the project theme.

It may be one large depiction or a series of smaller pictures.

For those who are interested and would like more information, please contact:

Don Cook,
Administrator
don.cook@exeassist.ca



70 Robinson St., Little Current, ON POP 1K0

NOOJMOWIN TEG HEALTH CENTRE

ADDICTIONS SUPPORT SERVICES

ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS

Self-Refer by calling (705) 348-0344 or speak with your healthcare provider about a referral.

Addictions Support Workers provide services in a safe community setting to all individuals in the District of Manitoulin 16 years of age and over.

How we can help:

- **Case Management** - Ongoing monitoring and support along with planning and advocating for services
- **Assessments** - Can administer government standardized drug/alcohol assessments required for admission to specific treatment programs
- **Treatment Planning** - An individual's assessment results as well as their individual readiness for change are used to determine the best possible treatment options
- **Continuing Care** - Can identify, assist and facilitate appropriate ongoing care


Virtual, phone or in-person appointments,
On-going telephone support and referrals to other appropriate services.

Contact:
Rob Wabegijig
Community Addiction Support Worker
Mobile: (705) 348-0344
Appointments available
Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:00pm



Noojmowin Teg Health Centre
A place of healing

Noojmowin Teg Health Centre
48 Hillside Road
Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation
Tel: (705) 368-0083
info@noojmowin-teg.ca



Personal Income Tax Preparation
705-348-1982

MINDEMOYA - 6155 Hwy 542 (until May 15th)
Mon. 9-8, Wed./Thurs. 9-5, Fri. 9-8, Sat. by appointment
also:
LITTLE CURRENT - Tuesdays (March & April)
(10am - 1pm) Little Current Recreation Centre Hwy 6
abaran@thetaxguy.tax www.thetaxguy.tax

Wiikwemkoong hockey player named to Team NOHA roster for March OHL Cup

by Tom Sasvari
 WIIKWEMKOONG—Ashton Pitawanakwat of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory has made the Team Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA) roster and will be participating at the OHL Cup to be held in March.



Ashton Pitawanakwat

League, “is pleased to announce the Team NOHA roster, comprised of 2008

born players who have been selected to participate at the OHL Cup to be held March 25-30 at the Scotiabank Pond in Mississauga.”

“Ashton is a very good player,” said Jacob Brown, technical director of operations with NOHA. He pointed out the OHL Cup, “is like a draft showcase for the players.”

Ashton is a forward on the Sudbury Wolves U16 AAA team.

...author seeking Chi-Cheemaun tales

...continued from page 3

The author noted that The Manitoulin Expositor and the ferry are well-linked in his circle. “Each weekend when we came to the Island, we would sit in a circle and read Pat Hall’s Tehkummah Talk and Times,” he recalled. The final reading ended in tears. “When the person reading the column came to the end, they burst into tears when it said she had passed away. We were all crying.”



Richard J. Thomas is penning a commemorative book on the MS Chi-Cheemaun.

Mr. Thomas attended school in Delta, B.C. before moving to Ontario where he studied broadcasting at Conestoga College in Kitchener. In 1983 he moved from radio station CKPR in Thunder Bay to CFOS in Owen Sound. In 1986 he accepted a position as the regional news correspondent for CKCO Television, a

job he held until 1999. Since that time, he has owned and operated Richard Thomas Communications in Owen Sound, where he lives with his wife and children.

His bio notes he is “a life-long reader” who “began writing seriously in 1991. His first novel, ‘Gas Head

Willy,’ was shortlisted for the Crime Writers of Canada Arthur Ellis Award for the best first novel of 1996. He has been awarded the Heritage Certificate of Recognition by the Grey County Historical Society and in 2018 the Ontario Historical Society presented him with the Carnochan Award for outstanding service to Ontario’s heritage community.

The book launch is slated for the Father’s Day Weekend in Tobermory, but Mr. Thomas said he is hoping to also have a book signing and reading on the ferry this summer as well.

Those wishing to send their stories into Mr. Thomas can email him at chicheemaun50@gmail.com. But don’t delay, he plans to finish up work on the project by the end of March-April.

3RD MOTHERHOOD CIRCLE PROGRAM

with Registered Physiotherapist Kelly Fleming

Date/Time: Thursday, March 28, 2024
11:30am – 1:00pm

Location: The Collective
19 Water St E, Little Current, ON P0P 1K0

1-hour educational session followed by social time and lunch

LIGHT LUNCH SERVED


Encouraged to bring your children/baby



Facilitator: Kelly Fleming
Registered Physiotherapist specializing in Pelvic Health Northern Pelvic Connection
IG: @northern_pelvic_connection
FB: Northern Pelvic Connection

***SPACE IS LIMITED**

To register, please contact:
Kristen Hanson
Mobile Wellness Promotion Facilitator
Kristen.hanson@noojmowin-teg.ca
705-968-0182

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



International Women’s Day



March 8

Inspire Inclusion



Manitoulin
Family Resources

www.internationalwomensday.com



NOTICE BOARD

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

The NEMI Library needs you!

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

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

Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands is looking to hire an Economic Development Officer.

The Town is now accepting resumes for the position of Economic Development Officer.

This position will be responsible for finding and applying for funding opportunities to advance the town.

This position is a full-time, 35-hour a week, unionized position. The successful applicant must be self-motivated, have advanced writing skills, the ability to research application requirements and to meet strict deadlines.

A full job description is available at the Municipal Office.

Application Deadline: Monday, March 18 at 12:00 noon

Forward application to:

Pam Myers, Clerk

Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands

Box 608

Little Current, ON POP 1K0

Or email: pmyers@townofnemi.on.ca

Looking for some extra ice time?

Call the NEMI Recreation Centre!

We are looking forward to extending your hockey seasons with available ice time.

Call **705-368-2825** and book yours now!

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

Contact : lhallaert@townofnemi.on.ca for more information.

Scone Dogs and Tacos with Pam Roy

A couple spots left!

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

Decoupage Planter

March 12th at 1:00pm. Cost \$10.

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

Wonton Soup and Egg rolls

March 20 at 6:30pm in the kitchen (postponed from February 28th).

Still spaces available. Cost \$15.

MARCH BREAK Activities for Kids at the NEMI Rec Centre:

All activities are **FREE** for kids.

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

Pizza from scratch at 11:00am

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

Cake Decorating at 11:00am

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

Public Skating 1:00-2:00pm

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

Public Skating 1:00-2:00pm

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

Public Skating 1:00-2:00pm

Annual NEMI Easter Egg Hunt

Fun for all kids 12 and under

Centennial Museum of Sheguiandah grounds

March 30 at 11:00am sharp.

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

Please remember, PRE-REGISTRATION is a must.

...seeks funding similar to offers made to universities

...continued from page 8

of Indigenous communities and restricting Indigenous peoples' participation in and contributions to the Ontario economy," an IIC release says.

"Indigenous institutes are efficient and effective and maintain a successful graduation rate of 75-85 percent, up to 10 percent higher than Ontario colleges, and over 90 percent of graduates transition to good quality employment. Indigenous institutes are efficient and effective and have delivered excellent results. We should not be penalized for achieving excellent results and those who run deficits are rewarded," the release continues.

"Indigenous institutes play a vital role in offering an inclusive and culturally grounded learning environment, providing a space where Indigenous students can thrive and contribute to their communities and broader economy. However, the stark funding disparity between Indigenous institutes and publicly funded institutions highlights system disparities, in contradiction to international declarations such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)," the IIC release continues.

Ms. Josephs said, "We have seen huge growth in student numbers, up 30 percent from 2018-2019 but the funding has not kept up. Our students want to be close to family and support and our educational programs are grounded in the culture and language."

With the IIC being underfunded, "we are not able to compete in terms of salaries and benefits to our employees," said Ms. Josephs. "So, our well-qualified employees get poached by mainstream educational institutes."

"Indigenous institutes are going to continue to meet the needs of learners and the communities," said Ms. Josephs. "And we will continue to work with the government outlining the need for more funding. It is amazing what our educational institutes are accomplishing on shoestring budgets. Our successful graduate rates are 75-80 percent, and over 90 percent of our graduates move on to good jobs. The successful outcomes are there."

"In a report we did for the government it shows that the government receives a three to one return on investment. If they would just provide equal, fair funding for Indigenous education institutes they would receive a 10-1 return on the invest-



**Kenjgewin Teg President
Beverley Roy**

ment. It's a no-brainer," stated Ms. Josephs.

Ms. Josephs said all IICs are struggling. "We are trying to explain to the government that we have been around for many years, 30 years IIC has been in business working together. They are effective and efficient. But we need to help the government understand the needs, and continued capacity challenges make it almost impossible. Operational and capital funding is needed, and the need is urgent we cannot wait."

"Our educational institutes are operating on shoestring budgets, and staff are having to work three or four roles and they are getting tired," said Ms. Josephs. "Our IICs do critical work, and are successful but do not receive the fair, equitable funding that is needed. We are on the brink of collapse, and we need the government to understand this. It is urgent."

The IIC release adds, "Indigenous institutes call on the government to fulfill its legal obligation to provide stable, equitable, long-term funding for Indigenous institutes, and urgently move forward with bilateral discussion recommended by the governments blue-ribbon panel."

Ms. Roy added, "We know the provincial budget season is around the corner and we are anxious to hear any news relating to Indigenous institutes."

...*The Tradition Continues*
Again this year, your community newspaper
is a finalist in open competition with all
of Ontario's community press!

OCNA Awards
All-Ontario Finalists
Congratulations to
The Manitoulin Expositor
a finalist for

➤ **Best Editorial**

➤ **Feature Writing**

➤ **Best Local Retail Layout**

*Final placings will be announced at the
Better Newspaper Awards event in April*



Your Community Newspaper.

...Junior A hockey making a comeback? Entrepreneur approaches Northeast council

...continued from page 1
ful in making it to the play-offs, additional ice time would be required, he added.

"The Island boasts a rich tapestry of Indigenous communities," Mr. Bergeron writes. "We are committed to collaborating closely with each community, ensuring the integration of hockey within cultural events. Moreover, we aspire to involve the township in all forthcoming initiatives and endeavours."

"Furthermore, it is imperative to acknowledge the economic benefits that this venture will bring to the township and its environs," Mr. Bergeron continues. "Sponsorship opportunities within the arena premises will generate revenue, while local businesses stand to benefit from increased foot traffic. We propose an initial 80/20 split in advertising arrangements, thereby ensuring the sustained success of the team while simultaneously assisting the arena in meeting its financial obligations."

Mr. Bergeron goes on to note that, in speaking with former NOJHL players who played at the rec centre, the arena needs some upgrades, most importantly the change rooms. He said he would like to submit an application to the Kraft

Hockeyville contest which, if successful, would mean significant upgrades, not to mention the hosting of an NHL game.

The Little Current arena has hosted two NOJHL teams in its past: the Manitoulin Wild (2003-2005) and the Manitoulin Islanders' (2005-2011). Following the



Islanders 2011 season, then-owner Reggie Leach sold the franchise and it was moved to Kirkland Lake where it became the Gold Miners.

Northeast Town CAO Dave Williamson told council that it was staff's recommendation that they not

look at the proposal until an in-depth business case was presented.

Mayor Al MacNevin recalled the efforts of the owners and volunteers of the past and noted how it was hard to make a go of an NOJHL franchise here.

"While the erstwhile Manitoulin Wild and Manitoulin Islanders did experience issues as former teams in the NOJHL, I think that, in the end, way too many more losses than victories spelled the end," said Randy Russon of Hockey News North when asked for comment by The Expositor.

"I was at more than a few games in Little Current where there were good size crowds of 350-400 fans in attendance," Mr. Russon added. "Attendance, of course, is not everything when it comes to paying the bills. There has to be support from local and area business to help to sustain a franchise. Let us also remember that the NOJHL is now 'pay to play' and that was not the case in the days of the Wild and Islanders."

"Look around the NOJHL and see the number of small market towns that are supporting teams: Blind River, Espanola, French River, Iroquois Falls," he added. "I truly

believe that, for example, if French River can house an NOJHL team—as it has for a number of years now—that Manitoulin can as well with the right set of ownership, management and community support. I would

love to see the NOJHL back on the Manitoulin. More importantly, citing examples of other such small market teams, I think it can be done in Little Current with the right people involved and unconditional

community support."

The proponent, Mr. Bergeron of Espanola, told The Expositor he was not ready at this stage of his proposal to make any further comments, other than his letter to municipal council.



Weekly specials coming soon!

- Custom meat boxes - beef, pork and poultry (delivery available!)
- Homemade sausage (gluten and sodium free)
- Fresh fish (trout) and seasonal fish

21 Giiwedinoong Nakii Miikan (The Industrial Building)
Wiikwemkoong, (705) 618-5863

Monday to Friday: 9 am to 5 pm

Saturday: 9am to 2pm

Sunday: Closed

Owned and operated by: Ben Kanasawe of Buzwah Fisheries



Campbell Heating

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DEALER TODAY!

CAMPBELL HEATING

13516 HWY 542, Gore Bay
705-282-0343
campbell_andy@hotmail.com
www.campbell-heating.com



Hiring HVAC technicians



WORKS WITH ANY FURNACE OR FAN COIL!



Available in 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, and 5 Ton

GET YOUR HOME WINTER READY

MITS AIR™ SIDE DISCHARGE INVERTER HEAT PUMP AND COOLING ONLY

Provides heating and cooling for any home! The energy efficient design makes it an ideal choice for your home's heating and cooling requirements.

- R410A inverter system
- Self diagnosis error codes
- Save on installation space
- Compatible with any 24V thermostat
- Auxiliary heater: 10 kW, 15 kW, 20 kW
- Ultra-quiet operation: Up to 20.8 SEER
- AUX electric HP heater modules optional
- Low ambient temperature (-13°F / -25°C)
- AHU can be installed in vertical up flow, vertical down flow, horizontal right, or horizontal left



Seeds are in stock!

Start planning your garden.

WOOD PELLETS STILL AVAILABLE.

CUBEX HARDWOOD PELLETS AND SOME SOFTWOOD PELLETS ALSO AVAILABLE.

Manitowaning Mill



Home

building centre

Highway 6, Manitowaning
Phone: 705-859-3105 Fax: 705-859-2006
Email: sales.manmil@eastlink.ca

Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm • Saturday 8:30 am to 2 pm • Closed Sunday

Manitoulin Special Olympics curling team hauls in the gold at the Nationals

by Tom Sasvari
 CALGARY—The Manitoulin Special Olympics (MSO) curling team won a gold medal while snowshoer Matthew Bedard brought home three bronze medals from the Special Olympics Canada National Games held in Calgary!

Six MSO athletes and three coaches were part of the Special Olympics Ontario team. The MSO curling team defeated British Columbia in the semi-finals 7-3, then defeated Newfoundland 9-6 in the final. Both games took place Saturday.

The MSO curling rink included skip Tyler Madahbee, vice Dylan Danville and second Dayne Tipper and leads Austin Recollet and William Leclair. The team was coached by Ellen Holroyd and Janet Anning.

“It was a lot of fun,” stated Dayne Tipper at a welcome home celebration held at Community Living Manitoulin in Mindemoya Sunday night. With over 50 family and friends on hand, along with Phil Gosse and the Central Manitoulin volunteer fire department with the fire truck siren going and lights flashing, it was quite a welcome home greeting.

“No, we didn’t expect to win, but our team played really well,” said Mr. Tipper.

Ms. Holroyd said, “there are no words to describe our curling team and winning gold. It is overwhelming. And to have this welcome home greeting? We have great community support. It is fabulous.”

“Our team played above and beyond what could be



The Manitoulin Special Olympics (MSO) curling team won a gold medal at the Special Olympics Canada National Games in Calgary. From left in photo is coach Ellen Holroyd, Tyler Madahbee, Austin Recollet, Dylan Danville, Dayne Tipper, William Leclair and coach Janet Anning.

coached by Joanne Mellan, who also attended the games.

Adrienne Farquhar, executive director of Community Living Manitoulin was on hand for the welcome home celebration. “I feel honoured that we are able to provide an area for this to happen tonight, and to be here. All these athletes and coaches worked very hard and they deserve this recognition.”

A celebration for the MSO athletes will take place on Thursday, March 7 at Freshwater Community Church in Mindemoya. Ceremonies will begin at 7 pm and everyone is welcome to attend.

EDITOR’S NOTE: See additional story and photos in next week’s edition of *The Expositor*.

Happy International Women’s Day!
 Joyeuse Journée internationale des femmes!

Carol Hughes, MP/députée
 Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing
 carol.hughes@parl.gc.ca

289 Hillside Dr. S
 Elliot Lake, ON P5A 1N7
 1-855-297-4200

expected,” said Ms. Holroyd.

The MSO rink won five of six games in total. Ms. Anning noted, “We had lost our first game in the round-robin to Newfoundland and Labrador, which is a great team. And when we beat them in the finals it was the first game they had lost.”

“Our team played superbly,” said Ms. Anning.

MSO snowshoer Matthew Bedard won three bronze medals at the games, in the five-kilometre, 800 metre and 1,600 metre races. He was



Family and friends of Manitoulin Special Olympics (MSO) athletes welcomed the team home this past Sunday evening in Mindemoya from the Special Olympics Canada National Games.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
 MNAAMODZAWIN HEALTH SERVICES
 SEX & GENDER DIVERSITY PROGRAM

2SLGBTQ+ CONFERENCE

CREATING COMMUNITY AND BUILDING ALLYSHIP

March 23, 2024

MANITOULIN HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER
 LITTLE CURRENT

12:00pm-10:30pm

DOORS OPEN AT 11:30AM

All ages welcome!

Free admission!

SPECIAL GUEST
BOBBY HUDON

Lunch & dinner
 Education & Info
 Social Activities
 Queer Music Bingo
 All Ages Dance

SPECIAL GUESTS
 AMAZING RACE COUPLE
 JAMES MAKOKIS &
 ANTHONY JOHNSON

SPECIAL GUEST
DJ TOM A HAW

You could win!
 Your choice of Playstation 5
 or 2 night stay at
 Among the Trees glamping

To register, contact
 leslie.tipper@mnaamodzawin.com

Canada's 18th Prime Minister Brian Mulroney recalled as a transformative leader

by Michael Erskine

OTTAWA—Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney passed away peacefully on February 29, 2024 at the age of 84 in Palm Beach, Florida surrounded by his family. He is remembered for his many accomplishments, including on the economic front with the North American Free Trade Act (although signed into law by his successor Jean Chretien) and the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), both of which have had enormous impacts on the economy, and environment, with the Environmental Protection Act. In leading the battle against acid rain and other environmental disasters, he proved that no matter how insurmountable the odds seem, a determined leader can make a difference.

He will also be remembered for his greatest failures, getting Quebec's signature on the Canadian Constitution, with the demise of both the Meech Lake Accord in 1987 and later in Charlottetown in 1992. He was arguably the best positioned of the Canadian prime ministers to attempt that feat, having been at the head of one of only two Conservative governments to win a majority of seats in Quebec during the 20th Century—and he did it not once, but twice.

"He was committed to this country, loved it with all his heart and served it for many, many years in many different ways," Prime Minister Justin



Flags were flown at half-mast at the Manitoulin Health Centre and the Royal Canadian Legion.

Trudeau told reporters following the announcement of Mr. Mulroney's death. "He shaped our past, but he shapes our present and he will impact our future as well. He was an extraordinary statesman and he will be deeply, deeply missed."

"Just like so many others, I was saddened to learn of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's passing," said Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing MP Carol Hughes. "Although we may not have agreed with all of his policies when he led this country, he did make significant headway on the environmental front in dealing with acid rain and the depletion of the ozone layer. He was also a trailblazer on human rights issues, such as calling for an end to apartheid in South Africa, as well as issuing an apology in 1988 and providing redress to thousands of Japanese Canadians who were displaced, detained and whose homes and livelihood were taken away from them by the Canadian government in 1942. Even after his term as prime minister



Brian Mulroney

ended, he remained engaged in the political sphere and was always just a phone call away. Even the former and later NDP Leader Jack Layton sought out the advice of the Honourable Brian Mulroney when the NDP formed the official opposition. As so many tributes continue to pour in, I join in thanking him for his service to our country and extend my deepest condolences to his family and his friends."

"He was loyal to the Conservative Party his whole life," said local Conservative Party stalwart Jib Turner. "To me, his enthusiasm in mentoring new politicians and government

as a whole should be his biggest legacy."

Mr. Mulroney was born in Baie Comeau, Quebec and grew up in that small, working-class town. An Anglophone Roman Catholic of Irish descent, he studied law and went on to become one of the nation's leading labour lawyers before entering politics.

With his flawless bilingualism and small-town background, Mulroney was a godsend to the Progressive Conservative party when he became its leader in 1983. At the time, the PCs had won a majority of seats in Quebec just once in the 20th century.

Although now lauded as a visionary leader and receiving plaudits from both sides of the aisle, when he left the centre stage of politics he was among the most reviled of political leaders and his successor, Kim Campbell took the fall in one of the most disastrous election results in Canadian history.

For several years, Mr. Mulroney stayed tainted, with revelations that he had accepted large sums of money from a German arms dealer, money that he did not pay taxes on until it became clear he was going to be found out. In recent years he has emerged in the role of elder statesman and is credited with helping to reunite the right under the Conservative banner.

As Canada's 18th prime minister, Mr. Mulroney

leaves this world with a mixed legacy, but that is nothing new in the world of politics. There is no question that he will be remembered as one of this nation's most consequential leaders.

Mr. Mulroney is survived by his wife Mila, children Ben, Caroline, Mark, Nicolas and four grandchildren.

HAWEATER COINS WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE

I am still on the lookout for certain coin types and would be happy to purchase them either as part of a coin collection or individually.

Sellers are welcomed to email John at:

romanovichjohn@gmail.com

with details of your coin inventory.

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

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

www.blurb.ca/bookstore

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

Sustainable Agriculture Course



March 11-15, 2024 10am-5pm

You'll learn about

- Greenhouse preparations, soil health, mound building
- Traditional seed stories and songs, the 7 sisters, seed keeping and planting
- Indigenous biodynamic methods and how to start your own garden

Course is led by Celeste Smith
Location is at Ga Gitigemi Gamik in Gore Bay, 88 Meadow Lark Lane

This course is offered as part of **Relay Education Green Skills Academy**



Free to Attend! Register:

relayeducation.com/sustainable-agriculture

Email: jwilson@relayeducation.com

Lunch provided each day. Families are welcome to attend.

This program is funded in part by the Government of Canada's Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program



RONA

Little Current Building Centre

WE PAY THE TAX

*See legal text for details

WHEN YOU BUY 2 OR MORE MAJOR® KITCHEN APPLIANCES OF THE SAME PARTICIPATING BRAND

SAMSUNG Profile Haier LG
MAYTAG FRIGIDAIRE FRIGIDAIRE Whirlpool
GALLERY

*Refrigerators, dishwashers, ranges, wall ovens, cooktops, over-the-range microwave hoods.

LG

\$1895

25 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR
LRFC52503S / 30895218
<471151> [5122-1649]

\$695

DISHWASHER
LDFN4542S / 30895290
<481301> [5123-1244]

LG

\$1195

6.3 CU. FT. RANGE
LREL6323S / 30895264
<478045> [5122-6199]

LG

\$2195

28 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR
LRFS28XBS / 30895388
<500016> [5124-9229]

\$895

DISHWASHER
LDFM6762S / 30895393
<500171> [5124-9353]

LG

\$1795

6.3 CU. FT. RANGE
LSEL6335F / 30895288
<481299> [5123-1242]

SAVE \$3

\$749

was \$10.49

SEED STARTING
POTTING MIX
Ideal for germinating
seeds, stems and root
cuttings.
8.8-L. 12675088
<335126>
[5108-3921]



SAVE \$80

\$119

was \$199

COMPOUND
MITRE SAW
37815225 <472524>
[5122-2979]



15
AMPS

10
in.

HOURS OF OPERATION:
Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday CLOSED

9130 HWY 6, LITTLE CURRENT
705-368-2090
VISIT ONLINE AT RONA.CA

...fifth consecutive year of overdose deaths

...continued from page 1

tal Health Ontario (AMHO) urges the province to prioritize access to evidence-based programs and services, such as Rapid Access to Addiction Medicine (RAAM) clinics, safer supply programs, supervised consumption services, drug checking programs, needle exchanges and broader addiction services.

The absence of such services leaves Ontarians vulnerable to using drugs alone, heightening their susceptibility to the harmful and often fatal effects of the toxic drug supply. Embedding these services within existing settings, such as public health units, community health centres and addiction agencies, is proposed as a critical measure to serve communities effectively and save lives.

Recent events underscore the urgency of this matter. In Belleville, 23 residents overdosed within a span of 48 hours earlier this month, directly linked to the toxic drug supply crisis. The contamination of opioids and other substances with sedatives like benzodiazepines and tranquilizers such as Xylazine reduces the efficacy of traditional overdose reversal methods like Naloxone.

Alisha Tharani, CEO of AMHO, warns, "Without the right supports in place, Ontario will remain unable to handle the toxic drug supply crisis." Ms. Tharani stresses the necessity of investing in a comprehensive continuum of mental health and addiction services to ensure the safety and well-being of Ontarians.

Currently, Ontario has only 24 supervised consumption sites province-wide, rendering these vital services inaccessible to many residents. In Belleville, for instance, the nearest supervised consumption sites are over an hour's drive away in Kingston or Peterborough.

Research conducted by the Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation in February 2024 reveals a 67 percent decrease in overdose mortality rates in neighbourhoods implementing supervised consumption services.

Closer to home, "The Spot" safe consumption site in Sudbury has largely run on community donations since municipal support has an out in December of 2023. The grassroots health organization specializing in harm reduction has just one full-time employee remaining as specialized care is needed throughout the province and workers depend on sustainable funding. An anonymous donor is keeping the doors open until the end of March, but the longevity of the space is tenuous.

In a press release The Spot revealed that the space was visited more than 300 times in January alone and that since 2022 visits have risen. The service has been bending under the weight of the toxic drug emergency as visits continue to increase while the mortality rate in the region shows no signs of diminishing. Sudbury-Manitoulin continues to be over represented statistically by nearly 250 percent in mortality rates annually compared with the provincial statistics.

Despite federal approval to expand supervised consumption services in Barrie, Windsor, Timmins and Hamilton, Ontario has capped the number of supervised consumption sites at 24. Advocates stress that without a reversal of this decision and further expansion of harm reduction and addiction services, the province will continue to fail in protecting its residents' health and safety.

AMHO stands prepared to collaborate with the province to facilitate a meaningful and sustainable expansion of harm reduction and addiction services across Ontario.

AMHO represents over 150 organizations providing frontline substance use, addiction, and mental health support services. These organizations offer a spectrum of community-based treatments, including counseling, psychotherapy, case management, withdrawal management, live-in addiction treatment, peer support, harm reduction initiatives and supportive housing.

THE WEEKLY WORD SEARCH

Brought to you by:





2024 BUICK ENCLAVE PREMIUM
4DR, AWD, 3.6L 6CYL, WHITE
\$68,323*



2023 GMC SIERRA 1500 DENALI
4X4 5.3L 8CYL, RED
\$88,838*



2023 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 4X4
DOUBLE CAB 6.6 FT. BOX, 2.7L 4CYL, WHITE
\$53,880*

Prices may be subject to other fees not included in this advertisement

SOME 2024 MODELS STARTING AS LOW AS 0.99% FOR 60 MONTHS!

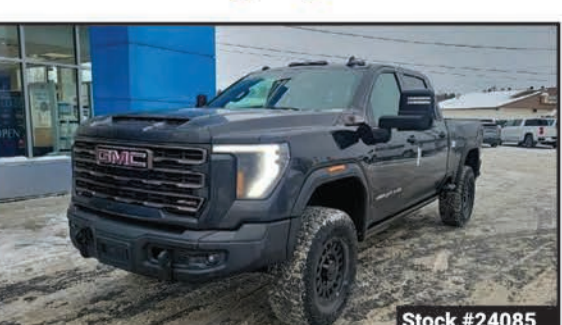
MARCH MADNESS WORD SEARCH

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

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

WORDS

- BANK
- BASKETBALL
- CENTER
- COURT
- DEFENSE
- DRIBBLE
- FORWARD
- FOUL
- FREE THROW
- GUARD
- HOOPS
- LAYUP
- LINEUP
- NET
- OFFENSE
- OPEN
- OVERHEAD
- PALMING
- PASS
- REBOUND
- SHOOTER
- SIDELINES
- TRAVELING
- WALKING



2024 GMC SIERRA 2500HD AT4X CREW CAB
4X4, 6.6L 8CYL, BLACK
\$136,029*

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FEATURED VEHICLES VISIT
WWW.MCQUARRIEMOTORPRODUCTS.CA
ESPANOLA • LITTLE CURRENT • GORE BAY
800-899-2994 • 705-368-2500 • 705-282-2400

GMC Certified Service

...Island Singers celebrates 60 years of Manitoulin music, seeks new choristers

...continued from page 3
‘Fiddler on the Roof,’ ‘Brigadoon’ and ‘The Music Man.’ After this, the club returned to choral music, with the four leaders taking turns conducting.”

“I was with the Little Current Glee Club,” said Barb Cranston, of Little Current. “It morphed into The Island Singers.”

Ms. Cranston explained she had taught school in Sudbury, returning to Little Current in 1965. She attended one of the Little Current Glee Club concerts that year and thought, ‘I would love to be involved in it.’ “I was involved for a long time as a singer.”

“Another person who joined included Gertrude Aelick, of Little Current,” said Ms. Cranston. “There are not many of us left.”

“Ruth (Ashley) was the founder, director, conductor, you name it,” said Ms. Cranston. “And she led three choirs that played at the United Church in Little Current. She was a very talented lady, and she directed skits as well.”

“Dorothy Anstice took on conducting in 1987 and formalized the club as a choir with Holly Scott joining as accompanist in 1990. In the spring of 1991, a guest conductor from Queen’s University visited the group and suggested a name change. Dorothy instituted the current name, ‘The Island Singers’



The Little Current Glee Club in May 1965. Back row, from left, Betty Ward, Mrs. Charlton, Wayne Buck, Don Ridley, Mike Roman, Leland Lowrie, Pat Van Zant, Boyne Heis, Joyce Lowrie, middle row, Clara Orr, Ann Stevens, Evelyn Tracy, Jean Seitz, Gertrude Aelick, Barbara Cranston, Jean Eade, front row, Ruth Ashley and Diane Charette. The Little Current Glee Club eventually became The Island Singers.

that year,” continued Mr. Theijsmeijer. “Under the direction of Ms. Anstice, the choir performed several major works, including Vivaldi’s ‘Gloria,’ Mozart’s ‘Missa Brevis’ and Brahms’s ‘Zigeunerlieder.’ They hosted several guest conductors and choirs who joined their voices in combined choral concerts.”

Chris and Heather Theijsmeijer joined The Island

Singers as choristers in the spring of 2009, and when Dorothy Anstice and Holly Scott retired in 2015, there was one season of singing with three conductors (Chris, Ann-Marie and Ray Scott) each taking on one-third of the directing for the Christmas concert, with Ray Scott and Sam Cooper accompanying. From spring 2015 to the current season Chris Theijsmeijer has been the musical director, with Heather Theijsmeijer administrating. Accompanists have been Ray Scott, Arik Theijsmeijer, Sam Cooper, Linda Wilton and Mike McCormick.

“Heather and I moved here in 2006 and heard about The Island Singers,” said Mr. Theijsmeijer, who is The Island Singers conductor. “We saw a poster advertising a concert at Mindemoya church with Dorothy as the conductor. We attended, enjoyed it and wanted to join as well.”

“Heather and I had sung in choirs before and we were both looking for a place to sing,” said Mr. Theijsmeijer.

“Mom had a junior glee club,” Ms. Nelder recalled. “I had to be at all her glee club get-togethers and attendance was mandatory,” she quipped. “Mom was a composer, conductor—she did everything involving music. She loved it. Saturday nights were always music nights when she was growing up.”

All of Ms. Ashley’s children, “had to take piano lessons. My brother talked my mom into letting him play the trumpet. She ended up teaching him how to play. She taught music for public school choirs; she must have had five or six glee clubs over the years. I

know she had a senior and junior choir at the Little Current United Church, an Island-wide club and a junior Island-wide choir. And she taught music in public school for a number of years. There was also an Island church choir.”

“My mom’s grandfather, John Waterhouse, was a professor of music in England and (he and his wife Catherine) settled in Kagawong. He had hired some guys to bring his grand piano over the ice from Thessalon,” explained Ms. Nelder.

“My great grandparents moved to Kagawong and built a log cabin,” continued Ms. Nelder. “They had their grand piano brought over (from England) and from Thessalon across the ice to the homestead in Kagawong. However, when they got the piano here, they were not able to get it into the cabin. He had to cut a hole at the end of the cabin to get it in, and they built the room around the piano. Their daughter, Mary Ellen, slept on the piano.”

“When Mary Ellen grew up, she married Walter John Wiber and they lived in another location in Kagawong,” said Ms. Nelder. “She taught all the kids in Kagawong the piano. And on Saturdays she allowed the local teens to dance while she played

piano.”
“My mother (whose family name was Farquhar and she was the only daughter of the late Senator Tom Farquhar) came from a long line of musical people, so she came by it naturally,” said Ms. Nelder. “When she was younger, she had a soprano voice. But she developed a goiter from her throat to her neck and had to have surgery done to remove it. The surgery was performed by old Dr. McQuay. She was very upset afterward because for quite a while she couldn’t raise her head. By then she had an alto voice. She could sure carry a tune. No, dad had a terrible voice, but it never stopped him from singing.”

“This year marks 60 years that The Island Singers have shared their musical talent with Manitoulin audiences. We are excited to celebrate this milestone with special nods to past members and conductors! In preparation for a special upcoming concert, The Island Singers have been reaching out to as many former choristers as we can find. If you were involved with the choir at any point over the last 60 years but haven’t heard from us, we’re looking for you!” stated Mr. Theijsmeijer. “Please call Kirsten (Nelson) at 705-377-4841 or email islandsingers1@gmail.com so we can be back in touch and let you know the fun things we’re planning in this big year. The choir is also looking for pictures or scans of old programs, posters, ticket stubs and any other memorabilia relating to the choir.”

“We are planning for a 60th anniversary concert on April 20 at MSS and we are trying to reach out to all alumni,” said Mr. Theijsmeijer. He said it is hoped that alumni will come back to take part in the celebration and take part in a couple of songs being performed. “We are trying to have 60 singers for the concert. We have at least 10 former singers who are taking part in at least three songs and we are hoping to have at least 60 singers. The plan is to bring everyone together to celebrate with a combined choir concert at Manitoulin Secondary School on April 20. More details will follow,” added Mr. Theijsmeijer.

Billings Township council passes 2024 budget with four percent tax increase

by Tom Sasvari

KAGAWONG—At a committee of the whole meeting February 27, Billings council approved a budget tax increase of four percent this year.

“Council voted in favour of a four percent increase,” said Mayor Bryan Barker. “Staff had recommended a five percent increase, but council managed to get it down to four percent (with further cuts) and this motion was passed.”

“Staff had been directed by council to present a proposed budget as lean as possible without negatively impacting township services and they did,” said Mayor Barker. “Capital and operational expenses were lean and couldn’t be cut.”

The draft budget concentrates on asset management, maintaining current service levels, finding areas for efficiencies, leveraging grant and funding opportunities while acknowledging staff capacity and resources available.

With a proposed four percent budget increase, “For the average household

assessed in the township of Billings (based in the weighted assessment per household) at \$234,380, the four percent tax rate increase will result in an increase in the municipal property tax over 2023 of \$107.42 per household. Realistically this is not a whole lot more, it is less than \$10 per month.”

To decrease the overall budget by one percent, Mayor Barker said two things in the 2024 budget have been reduced. “We had to basically come up with approximately \$20,000 in savings to get to four percent, so council agreed to reduce the amount in the budget for the cedar maze to \$10,000 and the amount for investigation into options to consider for 91 Main Street was reduced to \$18,000.”

The 2024 proposed budget will be brought forward to council on March 19. Members of the public who wish to comment on the proposed budget are welcome to do so in writing to tmills@billings-twp.ca until March 14 at noon to be included in the agenda package.

Manitoulin’s Business Directory

Emmanuel Albrecht
Sewing boat seats, tops and covers.

For more information, call:
519-804-0441 ext. 113. Voicemail only.
Or visit: 10478 Highway 542, Spring Bay.
Open Saturday until established.

Book Now!

m.l.a.
— LAW —

REAL ESTATE • BUSINESS LAW • WILLS • ESTATES

47 Meredith Street, Box 388,
Gore Bay, ON P0P 1H0
(249) 497-1010
mlalaw.ca

Legal Process Server for Small Claims, Civil,
Family Law and Landlord Tenant Board cases.

Professional and confidential service within
Manitoulin Island and Espanola area.
Affordable fees for self-represented litigants and law firms.

GERRARD PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS
Manitowaning, Manitoulin Island
gerrardprivateeye@gmail.com
call/text: 705-544-0044

To Advertise in the Business Directory email: sales@manitoulin.com phone: 705-368-2744 fax: 705-368-3822

Manitoulin's Business Directory

Manitoulin Eavestrough Inc.



WSIB Certified | Full Liability Coverage
NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED
 Please call 705-368-2562

Registered Massage Therapy
Nicole Murphy, RMT

705 - 968 - 1768
 Please call to make an appointment
 6 Meredith Street East, Little Current

JD CONSTRUCTION

226-750-3407
 @jdconstruction_@
 JD Construction

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

framing	decks	hang drywall
houses	siding	flooring
shops	soffit/ fascia	doors
new builds	windows/doors	trim
decks	roofing	renos

other: 16' dump trailer service/rental | telehandler service

MANITOULIN CHRYSLER Your Local Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram Dealer

6081 HWY 542 IN MINDEMOYA

- Pre-Owned Vehicles
- Service for All Makes & Models
- Body Shop

705-377-6603 ➔ ManitoulinChrysler.com

BrokerLink
 Formerly Cambrian Insurance
 Serving Manitoulin Island

Island Business Centre
 9050 Unit C, Hwy 6
 Little Current, ON P0P 1K0
 705-368-3600

43 Meredith St.
 Gore Bay, ON P0P 1H0
 705-282-2351
 www.brokerlink.ca

MANITOULIN TIMBER FRAMES

Traditional Timber Framing
 Design & Build

(705) 282-7751
 ManitoulinTimberFrames.ca

STEEL ROOFING & SIDING

TERRASTAR Building Products Inc. **FACTORY OUTLET**

OVER 20 'COOL COLOUR' PAINT OPTIONS
 Proudly Made in the North We Deliver PRODUCT WARRANTY

MANITOWANING - MANITOULIN ISLAND
 CALL TOLL FREE: 1-855-859-3637
 WWW.TERRASTAR.CA

FCR FREELANDT CALDWELL REILLY LLP
 CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

ACCOUNTING | ASSURANCE | ADVISORY | TAX

Our experts help business owners recognize opportunities, mitigate risks, and manage growth.

fcrc.com 30 McCulloch Dr., Espanola
 1 (855) 363-3526 301 - 62 Froot Rd., Sudbury

North Shore Eavestrough

James Mayhew
 northshoreeavestrough@gmail.com
 705-282-3820

Focused on the Supply, Installation, and Service of 5" and 6" Eavestrough Systems
Workmanship Guarantee

Michael T. Semeniuk J.D.

SEMENIUK LAW OFFICE

Serving Manitoulin and the North Shore

Tel: (705) 377-4663
 semeniuklaw@gmail.com
 www.semeniuklaw.com

Cranston's Tree Services

- Tree removal/trimming
- Stump removal/brush chipping
- Lift services and barn repair
- Chainsaw safety training
- Lot and line clearing

cranstons@amtelecom.net
 cranstontreeservices.tripod.com

Tom Cranston, Spring Bay **Call for a FREE estimate!** ph/fax (705) 377-5079

North Channel Financial Services Inc.

Providing Creative Insurance Solutions & Wealth Accumulation Strategies

- W.E. (Bill) Wall CFP, CLU, CH.F.C - Principal

Affiliated with Canada Life & a range of Financial Companies
 Your Chamber of Commerce group insurance representatives

bill@northchannelfinancial.com
 Office: 705-377-6055 Fax: 705-377-6056

Manitoulin Specialty Grading
 All Types of Grading

Gravel Driveway Repair
 Concrete Prep
 Topsoil
 Driveway Installation
 Gravel Yards



Dan Zehr - (705) 859-1301 - Leave a Message

AP AUTOMOBILE APPRAISAL SERVICE ...automotive appraising since 1975

Appraisals for: Classic Car & Truck Insurance
 Service Ontario Vehicle Transfers - Estates

Island-wide service to your location

André C. Probst, Appraiser **705-859-2933**
 email: andreprobst@creativdesign.on.ca

Helpline

YOUR LOVED ONE IS MOST VULNERABLE WHEN HOME ALONE
 Access to immediate help with one push of a button!

Sudbury Owned & Operated • No Minimum Rental Period • No Landline Required

(705) 523-7000 / 1-(800) 667-8019
 www.helplinemedicalalarm.ca

THE TAX GUY

Personal Income Tax Preparation

705-348-1982
 abaran@thetaxguy.tax
 www.thetaxguy.tax

COLE'S PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

CPD COLE CORBIERE
 OWNER/OPERATOR

CPDEVELOPMENT22@GMAIL.COM 705-348-2773

- Landscaping • Site Development • Road Repair • Road Construction
- Grading • Trucking • Floating • Excavation • Drainage • Lot Clearing
- Forestry • Selective Cutting • Trenching And Much More!

Classifieds



The Manitoulin Expositor P.O. Box 369, Little Current, ON P0P 1K0
 Telephone: (705) 368-2744 Fax: (705) 368-3822 email: expositor@manitoulin.com

Private Word Classifieds: \$8.00 for 25 Words + .10 per additional word
 Business Word Classifieds: \$30.00 for 25 Words + .40 per additional word
CLASSIFIED ADS MUST BE PREPAID - CHEQUE OR CREDITCARD
All Word classifieds are now online at www.manitoulin.com
 Births Announcements (Text Only) : FREE (Photo add \$15)
DEADLINE (TO RECEIVE PROOF) - Thursday at 4:00 pm
LATE DEADLINE (NO PROOF GUARANTEED) - Friday at 4:00 pm
 For additional information on Advertising please call
 Sales Manager Robyn McGauley at (705) 368-2744



services

services

services

services

services

services

North Star Concrete Forming

- Driveways
- Foundations
- Sidewalks
- Floating Pads
- Retaining Walls
- All Types of Excavating

Serving Manitoulin Island

Lloyd Albrecht | 519-801-5653

Serving Manitoulin Island since 2001

Manitoulin's Complete Indoor Comfort Centre

Propane & Natural Gas
Sales | Service | Installation

PRO-GAS
energy services
MANITOULIN
705-377-6380
progas@progasenergy.com

- Furnaces
- Geo-Thermal
- Air Exchangers
- Stoves & Fireplaces
- Cottage Service
- Radiant Floor Heating
- Propane Fridges

TRANE **Rinnai** **Valor**
It's Hard To Stop A Trane. Tankless Water Heaters Radiant Gas Fireplaces

www.progasenergy.com

MOORE'S CAA
24 HR TOWING & RECOVERY

RON VANRAES - OWNER/OPERATOR
705-282-4701
In service since 1979! Best Rates on the Island!
'Serving all of Manitoulin'

Mike Phillips Construction

- General contracting and building construction
- Excavation (lot clearing, landscaping, trenching, foundations, etc.)
- Cottage and home packages available
- Serving Manitoulin area for over 20 years

Call 705-863-2573
or email phillipsmj3@amtelecom.net
for your quote today!

MANITOULIN RECYCLING
705-618-2112 or 705-698-9599

\$ OLD METAL = NEW MONEY \$

- Aluminum
- Copper
- Brass
- Steel
- Cast Iron
- Tin/Shred
- Catalytic converters
- Batteries
- END OF LIFE VEHICLES

Entrance at Taylor Sawmill
TURN YOUR SCRAP INTO CASH CONTACT US TODAY

CLEAR NORTH CONSULTING

For all your small building design needs call Clear North Consulting at 705-991-2277 or email us at: cerskine@live.com.
BCIN#117405

THE PAPERMAN & PAPERDOLL EXPRESS

If you need it, let us get it because driving is what we do.

20 YEARS DELIVERY EXPERIENCE
INDEPENDENT COURIER FOR CANPAR

705-348-0265 • 16 Agnes Street, Gore Bay

O. BOND & SONS
Licensed Plumbers & Suppliers

Manitoulin Plumbing Specialists for over 80 years

WALTEC DELTA *All plumbing installations repairs and suppliers

Mindemoya 705-377-5335

STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE 12'x 21'

JK AUTOMOTIVE
YOUR CAR CARE SPECIALISTS
705-282-CARS(2277)
office@jkautomotive.ca

- Diagnostics • Tune Ups
- Tires • Suspensions
- Brakes • Exhaust • A/C
- Batteries • Safety Inspections
- Wheel Alignments
- Self Storage Units

On Top Of The Hill
Kagawong, ON
1428B Lakeshore Rd.

NAPA Auto Care Centre

SLM RECYCLING

705-368-0200 • 5783 Bidwell Road

WE BUY ALL TYPES OF SCRAP

Scrap Metal • Aluminum • Copper • Brass • Tin
Vehicles • Farm Machines • Mixed Shred

slmmanitoulin.ca

RESIDENTIAL PEST CONTROL EXPERTS.

ORKIN CANADA
PEST CONTROL DOWN TO A SCIENCE!

1-800-800-6754

STAY CONNECTED WITH
The
MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



BY SCANNING THE QR CODE
YOU CAN CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
AND SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS!

www.manitoulin.com

SCAN ME!



coming events

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

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

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 Farms. 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. **42c**

Come one, come all to the Little Current United Church Hall on March 15 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. **42-43p**

World Day of Prayer at Silver Water United Church on Thursday, March 7 at 11 am. Lunch at Stop 540 Diner; UCW meeting held at the Silver Water United Church at 1:30 pm. All ladies are welcome! Bring a friend! Come to all or any part of the day. **40-42c**

notice

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

Legion events

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

Join the Royal Canadian Legion for St. Patrick's Day on Saturday, March 16 at 6 pm. There will be Irish stew, games and green beer. **42-43p**

Kids' Easter Dance, Friday, March 29 from 6 to 8 pm. \$5 per child. **42-45p**

wanted

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

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, bnannc@gmail.com. Ask us your questions, tell us your concerns. **Tfn**

thank you

The family of Joanna Manitowabi (December 15 to February 2024) sends their sincere thanks and appreciation to the dedicated staff of the Wiikwemkoong and Manitoulin Health Centres for their very kind and professional care extended to Joanna over the years and most recently with her passing. Also to the MHC Auxiliary for the Hospice Suite and to Fr. Paul and Joanna's parish DOS and Deacon colleagues for their spiritual support. Special thanks as well to all who attended and gave us comfort and to those who helped with so many tasks and donations to the wake and funeral activities. Our hearts are immeasurably saddened by our loss but your contributions will help us in moving forward. Chi-Meegwetch to all, now and forever. Memorial donations in Joanna's name to the MHC Auxiliary and to Holy Cross Mission for their general operations are encouraged. **42c**

The family of **Reg Gilchrist** sincerely extend a heartfelt thank you for all the love and support shown to Reg and our entire family during this difficult time. We are grateful for the excellent care and compassion by the doctors, nurses and staff at the Mindemoya Hospital and at home. Thanks to everyone who attended and participated in the Celebration of Life. The food was excellent, beautiful flowers and cards, and many heartwarming hugs. Thanks for everything dropped off at our homes also, we are truly blessed. Thanks for all the donations to the Mindemoya Hospital Auxiliary, there will be a leaf added to the hospital wall in memory of Reg. God bless. Linda and family **42p**

thank you

I would like to thank family and friends who have remembered me and been so kind during my sickness, hospital stays and since my return home. Your phone calls, visits, flowers, cards and gifts of food have brightened my days and been appreciated. To Jim and Lou who are always there for me, I am so grateful to have you. Rhea **42c**

church services

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

services

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

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

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

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

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

MUNICIPALITY OF ASSIGINACK

TENDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Resolution #10-01-2024

Sealed tenders clearly marked with the Tender Name will be received under this resolution and by the undersigned until the closing date:

Friday, April 26, 2024 by 4:00pm

The tender form can be located at: <https://www.assignack.ca/rfp-tenders>

All tenders to be presented on forms contained in this document to:

**TOWNSHIP OF ASSIGINACK
C/O ALTON HOBBS, CAO
BOX 238, 156 ARTHUR STREET
MANITOWANING, ON, P0P 1N0
(705) 859-3196 – MUNICIPAL OFFICE**

Important to note that:

- *Highest, non-conforming or incomplete tenders not necessarily accepted
- *Also, FAXED or EMAILED tenders will not be accepted.

Request For Tender

Manitoulin Centennial Manor is accepting tenders on the construction of a 900 sq. ft. pavilion for our new courtyard.

Details of the project are available by contacting:

**Don Cook,
Administrator
don.cook@exeassist.ca**

70 Robinson St, Little Current, ON P0P 1K0

FOR RENT

OLIVADEL Developments
Your key to carefree living

**473 QUEENSWAY AVENUE, ESPANOLA
NEW 4-PLEX UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

- available March, April or May 1st
- each unit is approx. 1,300 SF of living space
- includes all window coverings and appliances: (fridge, stove, dishwasher, microfan, washer, dryer)
- includes air conditioning, water/sewer
- each tenant pays own hydro and gas (est. \$150/m)
- includes groundskeeping (snow/grass)
- each unit includes 1 full bath
- Parking spaces: 2 each main and 1 each lower
- Main Floor Units include large deck and rear yard

473B-1 Main floor (2 bed with garage): \$2,650 LEASED
473B-2 Lower level (2 bed): \$2,200
473C-1 Main floor (3 bed): \$2,450
473C-2 Lower level (2 bed): \$2,200

**CALL OR TEXT: 705-863-0487
EMAIL: rentals@olivadel.com
Visit our online AD www.kijiji.ca ID: 1682183980**

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE

A DEADLY BREW

BY MICHAEL ERSKINE

FEATURING:

- *ADAM LAURENTI *JAKE MCCOLMAN
- *KAREN MILLER *MARGERY FRISCH
- *MICHAEL ERSKINE *PAT POIKKIMAKI
- *REBECCA LAURENTI *THERESA LAURENTI

DIRECTOR & MC: DARIO LAURENTI
PRODUCER/HANDLER: LINDA ERSKINE

6PM-FRI MARCH 22
6PM-SAT MARCH 23

\$60/PERSON

AT THE LITTLE CURRENT LEGION

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE FROM:

- KARI 705-348-0850
- LESLIE 705-210-0135
- CHRISTY 705-282-3639

ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT LIVE THEATRE AND LOCAL CHARITIES



Obituary

Father George Gardner 1936-2024: A man of many parts

by Michael Erskine

Father George John Gardner, 87 years, passed peacefully on January 15, leaving behind communities and individuals whose lives have been deeply impacted by his legacies.

Father Gardner had a long and storied career at Canada Cement (later Lafarge Canada, Lafarge Holcim and most recently Holcim Group) and built the terminal in Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN). Both were associations he kept right up until his passing.

“George was a remarkable person,” said Esther Osche, who as WRFN lands manager was lead negotiator for the band with Holcim. Together, they forged a memorandum of understanding that cleared the way for a new terminal lease agreement. That agreement is now awaiting the go-ahead from the federal government.

With his strong ties to WRFN, Father Gardner was named an honorary chief by then Chief Leona Nahwegabow and given his spirit name, Wassai Giizha-gaad, by community members Archie and Violet McGregor baa.

“George would always listen carefully,” noted former WRFN chief Shining Turtle (Franklin Paibomsai) for whom Fr. George was both a mentor and spiritual advisor. “His first reaction would be ‘how best can I help?’ Many people would go quietly to George seeking help, and he never said no.”

His executor, Mary Scannell, noted that many people thought that Fr. Gardner was a wealthy man, but a life of giving to others left him with very modest means.

“Lots of times people thought it was Lafarge that was making the donation when it was George himself,” she said.

Ms. Scannell was Fr. Gardner’s close companion and he had promised his late wife that he would always look after her. For her part, Ms. Scannell looked after the priest as devotedly as a mother hen.

Fr. Gardner’s latest involvement on behalf of Holcim Group was negotiating a new lease for the Lafarge Canada Whitefish Terminal.

“George was a remarkable man,” said his successor at the Whitefish Terminal operations manager Howard Scruton.

Mr. Scruton noted another side of Fr. Gardner, his days as a no-nonsense business leader, and woe betide anyone who did not live up to his standards when it came to looking after the terminal.

“It was his baby,” said Mr. Scruton. “There wasn’t a week that went by where he did not call me, even long after he retired. Our last conversation was just before he died.”

One of his most important legacies with the company was the institution of the annual fish fry wherein the whole community of



George Gardner and Esther Osche negotiated the terms of a new lease for the Whitefish River cement terminal.

photo by Michael Erskine

WRFN and company officials gather on the shores of the North Channel for a feast. Fr. Gardner insisted that the event be held outdoors as much as possible and was instrumental in having an arbour built on the property leased by Lafarge for its terminal for that purpose.

As part of his duties with the terminal, Fr. Gardner undertook the required courses to provide harbour security. One of his proudest accomplishments in his late 80s was in passing the course with a 98 percent score.

He would go on to perform security duties for the cruise ships coming into the Port of Little Current for several years.

“For several years Father George helped provide security for Great Lakes cruise ships on the docks in the Port of Little Current,” said Northeast Town Mayor Al MacNevin. “He was responsible for ensuring that only registered passengers and authorized crew boarded the ships after exploring Manitoulin Island. His friendly personality and spirit ensured that the visitors felt welcome and safe during their visit. He will be missed.”

You read that right; for several years Fr. Gardner was port security. Should a ship be in port on Sunday, he would invariably enhance his parish flock with Catholic passengers he met while performing his duties.

A devout Catholic, Father Gardner took on holy orders following the passing of his wife Mary and at the gentle suggestion of his long-time friend Monsignor Jim Hutton he continued to serve as the parish priest at St. Bernard’s Roman Catholic Church right up until his passing.

It was no mean feat to become a priest at the tender age of 69 as it included many years of study and devotion to meet the educational requirements for the job.

Bishop Robert Harris ordained Father Gardner as a deacon on October 29, 2006 at St. Bernard’s Roman Catholic Church in Little Current and was ordained to the priesthood on June 22, 2007 by Bishop Most Reverend Jean-Louis Plouffe D.D., also at St. Bernard’s Church. Father Gardner took up appointments on June 23, 2007, at St. Bernard’s and at St. Gabriel Lalement Church in Birch Island.

“I had the pleasure to get

to spending a week with him for a parish pastoral visit later this year. I will miss him.” Bishop Dowd will be officiating at a mass honouring Fr. Gardner at St. Bernard’s Roman Catholic Church in Little Current at 2 pm on March 12.

The mass will be a fitting bookend to Fr. Gardner’s ministry, noted Bishop Dowd, as most of the priests in the diocese attended his ordination and will be present for the March 12 mass as they are gathering for an historic Chrism Mass to be held the next day at Holy Cross Church in Wiikwemkoong.

Fr. Gardner enjoyed fishing and was devoted to his pet dogs.

The most common statement heard from all of the people interviewed by The Expositor about Fr. Gardner was “we were very close.” His ability to con-

nect with those he met was a rare quality and one which served him well during his ministry.

As a parish priest, Fr. Gardner was devoted to his parishioners and he continued to serve them despite having a badly compromised immune system and having contracted both COVID and long COVID during the pandemic. On his last day of life, he was engaged in ensuring that the parish would have a replacement priest while he continued to recover—his optimism ensured he could not envision his recovery not happening.

A mentor to many of the powerful, Fr. Gardner remained a humble and devoted servant to both his church community and his adopted community of WRFN.

A private service was held on Friday, January 26, 2024, at 3 pm at Jackson and

Barnard Funeral Home in Sudbury.

Fr. Gardner was the beloved son of the late Ernestine Grossinger and George Gardner Senior. His father passed while Fr. Gardner was 12 and his experiences informed his tremendous capacity for empathy. Father Gardner was predeceased by brothers Henry (Julie Ferro) and George, and sisters Lily (Lucien Brunet), Gertrude (Ernie Kells) and Susan (Cliff Harfield).

Father Gardner was predeceased by his beloved wife, Mary (Lukie) and his stepchildren, Anthony (Tony) wife Anita Huska, Melvina ‘Molly’ Guyan (Mickey) and Helen Smith (Bill). He leaves behind eight grandchildren, 13 grandchildren and a great grandchild. From the Gardner family he also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

Death Notices

THOMAS ROLAND STRINGER

“TOM”

June 11, 1941 - February 12, 2024



In loving memory of Thomas Roland Stringer, “Tom,” aged 82, who passed away peacefully on February 12, 2024 at his beloved family farm in Green Bay. Tom was born on June 11, 1941 to Edith (nee McColeman) and Laurie Stringer. Tom loved nature and farming was one of his greatest passions. At 25, he married his life partner and soulmate, Margaret (Margie) Clark.

The two married in 1966 and joyously welcomed their children Sharon (Bob), Leanne (Ron), Dwayne (predeceased), Heather (Rob) and Janyyn (Brent). Tom was a tractor enthusiast and enjoyed buying and restoring vehicles throughout his life. He was a collector and restorer of many things and prided himself on using his resources and never wasting anything as a shepherd of his environment. Tom was a loving and doting grandfather to his grandchildren Caitlyn, Amanda, Randi-lyn, Riley, Liam, Caleb, Cole, Kayla and his great-grandchildren Aviah, Nixon and Adler. Tom had many dog companions throughout the years, including Bowser, Troy, Sam and Rudy. A private family visitation was held on February 16, 2024. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Island

FUNERAL HOME LIMITED

FRANCES JOY NEVILLS

July 5, 1929 - February 29, 2024

Joy was born in Milton to Frank and Charlene (Wilson) Johnson. She met her future husband, Neil Nevills, who grew up at Green Bay, Manitoulin Island, at Milton District High School. They married in 1949. His job took them to Ottawa and Kingston before they finally settled in Kitchener in 1960. Together the couple raised six children: Ann (Paul McInnis), Lynn (Martin Judge), Nancy (Joe MacDonald), Dave (Beth), Carole (Jamie Hooper) and Bill (Lesley). The family has also been blessed with ten grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. Joy worked for Sears in Kitchener for over 20 years. She was an avid bowler and puzzle enthusiast but her real passion was travel. Through his job, Neil and Joy were able to see the world. Joy was predeceased by husband Neil (2006) and sisters Mary (Stan) Price and Joan (Ray) Waters. Arrangements entrusted to Memory Gardens Funeral Home, 2723 Victoria St. N., Breslau, ON. Donations in Joy’s memory may be made to Manitoulin Pet Rescue.

PATRICIA ANN STRICKLAND

“CIANN”

1933 - 2024



Patricia Ann “Ciann” Strickland (nee Lawson) died a natural death in her home in Little Current on February 29, 2024 at the age of 90 years. Predeceased by husband John Strickland in 2011, she is survived by her three daughters Kathleen (Jerzy), Shauna and Maureen; daughter-in-law Becky; brother Robert

Lawson (Jan, deceased); sister-in-law Daphne Stapleton (Monty, deceased); three nieces and three nephews. Ciann was born in Ottawa on July 17, 1933, and spent her childhood years in various locations in Quebec, eventually ending up in Toronto for her teenage years. As a young woman, she trained as a lab technician and worked at a few hospitals before marrying John Strickland in 1957. During their married life they had three daughters and lived in Fredericton, Pickle Crow, Lennoxville, Port-Cartier, Tanzania, Elliot Lake, finally settling on Manitoulin in 1967. On Manitoulin, she was active in her community as a Brownie and Guide Leader and later trained as a life skills coach finding her purpose in empowering and supporting women through her foundation “Seeds of Joy.” Over the years, into her mid-80s, she organized and ran retreats at the Anishnabe Spiritual Centre and enriched the lives of many women. Despite describing herself as “an indoor person,” she loved spending time on the deck of her beloved Lake Kagawong cottage watching birds, butterflies and nature and enjoyed swimming well into her late 80s. She continued to enjoy drum circles and circle dancing and, with a fair grasp of technology at age 90, even attended an online Zoom drumming camp a few weeks before she died. Climber of Mount Kilimanjaro, avid reader of mystery novels, fudgicle-lover, razor-sharp Scrabble player, Farmers’ Market aficionado, televised sports fan, our lives won’t be the same without you. Ciann’s super-power was organizing and bringing people together and she will do it once more during the celebration of her life which will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations to Manitoulin Family Resources or any organization that provides empowerment and support to women, would be greatly appreciated. A special thanks to Heather Eadie and Marion Knapp, whose steadfast support meant that Ciann could live independently in her own home until the last.

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.



Winter Warmup

Split Rail Brewing in Gore Bay held its annual 'winter warmup' celebrations this past Saturday, with a massive crowd on hand. The day featured live music, food, specialty drinks for the occasion and several vendors on hand.

photo by Tom Sasvari

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



NEMI Public Library Board Vacancy

Do you care about community, opportunity, creativity, and everyone's right to information?

Are you a NEMI resident interested in the governance and direction of the growing range of library services available to our community?

Could you volunteer about an hour per month to help keep our library on course toward excellence?

The Board currently currently meets monthly, September through June. Additional committee work is ideal, and adds to the value of your participation.

**For additional information or to apply:
<https://nemi.olsn.ca/nemi-library-board/>
or call 705-368-2444**



RE/MAX
THE ISLAND
Real Estate Brokerage
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME OR COTTAGE:

Bay Estates Lots (2)
Asking \$60,000. MLS# 2110826
Little Current Double Building Lot. Asking \$89,000. MLS#2099765
Exclusive Waterfront stings - Manitowaning Bay Waterfront Lots. Asking \$219,000



Mindemoya Building Lot. Asking \$119,000. MLS#2113218
Gore Bay Building Lot, Asking \$65,000. MLS#2114727
White's Point Rd. Development Acreage
Asking \$650,000 MLS#2114547

For a complete list of properties, please visit theislandbrokerage.ca



MINDEMOYA HOME/CAMP
2 Bedroom, 1 bath
Short walk to the beach!
MLS#2115331
ASKING \$264,900



HONORA WATERFRONT
Amazing Sunsets!!
MLS#2114257
ASKING \$835,000



POOLE LAKE HUNT CAMP
Ready for the hunt!
198 Acres of land
MLS#2115183
ASKING \$349,000



BIG LAKE HOME
New Build 5BR, 3Bth
MLS#2114787
ASKING \$799,000



MCGREGOR BAY
3 Bedroom, 1 bath
6 Acre Island
MLS#2112625
ASKING \$739,000



BAY ESTATES HOME
3 Bedroom, 1 bath
North Channel Waterfront
MLS#2114449
ASKING \$549,999



LITTLE CURRENT HOME
4 Bedroom, 2 bath Move-in ready!!
MLS#2115025
ASKING \$499,000



LAKE MINDEMOYA
2.5 Bedroom, 1 Bath
MLS#2114681
ASKING \$469,000

Local Service With a Global Reach



Barry Barnes, Broker
705 968 0688
barry@theislandbrokerage.ca



Mike Wilding, Sales Rep.
705 348 2223
mike@theislandbrokerage.ca



Lee-Ann Ferguson Sales Rep.
705 968 0602
lee-ann@theislandbrokerage.ca



James Ferguson Sales Rep.
705 207 5160
james@theislandbrokerage.ca



Jeff Graham, Sales Rep.
705 282 4647
jeff@theislandbrokerage.ca



Jordan Chandler, Broker of Record
705 968 0195
jordan@theislandbrokerage.ca

End-of-winter carnival fun in Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory



A few tough souls braved the frigid waters of Smith Bay March 1 as part of Wiikwemkoong's Winter Carnival polar bear dip.



Like any good winter carnival, Wiikwemkoong's included a log-sawing, nail-driving and tea boiling contest. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The Wiikwemkoong Fire Department helped run the polar dip.

photos by Alicia McCutcheon



Dylan Odjig managed to chuck his cast iron pan an impressive 51 feet, three inches in the frying pan toss.



Chef Joe Shawana readies a beaver for the fire, freshly caught that morning, while Wiikwemkoong Tourism's Jason Manitowabi looks on.



The Mortgage Centre

Relax and let us get you a better **MORTGAGE**

Joel Glaude *Serving Manitoulin Island for 15 Years* Richard Glaude M08003672

(705) 368-2186 ~ (705) 524-0844 ~ toll free 1-877-266-7126
10875 www.mortgagecentre.com

Access to most major banks including Scotia, TD & CIBC

CENTURY 21 Integrity

BROKERAGE

REACH OUT TO OUR TEAM AT THE MANITOULIN OFFICE 705-370-0018 AND DISCOVER THE UNMATCHED SERVICE WE BRING TO THE TABLE.



36 Hardbargain Road, Little Current
3+1 Bedroom Family Home
MLS #2114949, \$515,000



73 Campbell Street W, Little Current
3 Bed, 2 Bath Charmer, Great Location!
MLS #2115356, \$515,000



Follow the path to 6 acres and 2 cottages on Lake Huron's shores!
Call for details!



149 Yonge Street, Kagawong
Riverfront Century Home
MLS #2112936, \$429,000



322 Cosby Subdivision, Lake Manitou
Lakeside Luxury Living
MLS #2114294, \$1,795,000



Who doesn't love hearing the history of beautiful buildings? We know you are going to want to tell us your stories about this charming historical building that we are soon to call home! Look at the detailing on this door! Divine!!!



2128 Highway 542, Lake Manitou
MLS #2112825, \$999,666



N/A South Bay Drive, Manitowaning
MLS #2112756, \$99,000



191A Monkhouses Road, Manitowaning
2 Bedroom Ranch Style Home on 141 Acres.
MLS #2113976, \$510,000



Jennifer Hooper, REALTOR®
705-862-1002



150 Thorne Street, Mindemoya
MLS #2115096, \$442,000



Melissa Nicholson, REALTOR®
705-282-7738



Andrew Rocha
Realtor
705-207-8588

Windfred Pasveer
Realtor
289-213-4503

Mitch Paquette
Realtor
705-507-5910

Adam Rocha
Realtor
705-280-6343

Karen Bond
Realtor
705-497-4006

Corey McCutcheon
Realtor
705-562-3496

VACANT LAND

Lot 11 Pleasant View Terrace
MLS®#: 2111777,
\$69,900

PRICE REDUCTION

N/A Con 6 West, Tehkummah
MLS®#: 2112911,
\$229,000

LOT 23, 2nd Con., Tehkummah
MLS®#: 2112823,
\$199,900

13476 Hwy 542, Gore Bay
MLS®#: 2112862,
\$205,000

12 Cockburn St., Little Current
MLS®#: 2112049,
\$48,000

N/A Cranston Rd, Mindemoya
MLS®#: 2113256
\$85,000

PT1 Hwy 540, Gore Bay
MLS®#: 2113047
\$79,000

PT2 Hwy 540, Gore Bay
MLS®#: 2113046
\$79,000

LOT 28, Con 10, Hwy 540,
Little Current
MLS®#: 2114168,
\$59,000

N/A Hwy 540, Little Current
MLS®#: 2113491,
\$159,900



NEW LISTING

647 Highway 540, Little Current
MLS®#: 2115364, \$399,000



NEW LISTING

8532 Highway 540, Kagawong
MLS®#: 2115334, \$475,000



NEW LISTING

94 Watson Bay Road, Tehkummah
MLS®#: 2115367, \$2,500,000



1030 Ice Lake Road, Gore Bay
MLS®#: 2114895, \$575,000



13951 Highway 542, Gore Bay
MLS®#: 2115229, \$355,000



130 Thorne Street, Mindemoya
MLS®#: 2114944, \$697,500



129 Thorne Street, Mindemoya
MLS®#: 2114887, \$697,500



195 Limberlost Lane, Mindemoya
MLS®#: 2113337, \$649,500



317 Main Street, Kagawong
MLS®#: 2115228, \$369,000



HERE WE GROW AGAIN - THE LEWIS TEAM SERVICE EXPANSION

The Lewis Team is excited to share with you the addition of Connie McCue - Broker and Lifestyle Consultant to our team.

With Connie's extensive background in real estate, home decor and interior design, she will bring the services of decluttering, minor cleaning, staging, photography and videography EXCLUSIVELY to the Lewis Team!

Join the Lewis Team on this exhilarating adventure where every detail is meticulously curated, every moment is filled with excitement and every outcome surpasses expectations. Here at the Lewis Team, we make it easy to market and sell your home with an ALL-IN-ONE package that encompasses all your home-selling needs!

Contact us today and let us help you find your place!

COMMERCIAL VACANT LAND

N/A Highway 540B, Gore Bay
MLS®#: 2113351
\$130,000

WATERFRONT/VACANT

Lot 20 Steven St., Gore Bay
MLS®#: 2109184,
\$350,000

14970 Highway 540, Evansville
MLS®#: 2114076,
\$179,000



INCOME POTENTIAL
29 Phipps Street, Gore Bay
MLS®#: 2113496, \$595,900



COMMERCIAL BUILDING
33 Vankoughnet Street, Little Current
MLS®#: 2110672, \$489,000



COMMERCIAL BUILDING & BUSINESS
35 Meredith Street, Manitowaning
MLS®#: 2114689, \$3,000,000



33 Bay Street, Mindemoya
MLS®#: 2112654, \$700,000



222 Goose Cap Cr, Barrie Island
MLS®#: 2111281, \$189,900



327 Highway 540, Little Current
MLS®#: 2113645, \$648,500



WATERFRONT
141 Maple Lane, Mindemoya
MLS®#: 2114791, \$425,000



20489 Highway 540, Silver Water
MLS®#: 2114389, \$182,500



71 Corbiere Road, Spring Bay
MLS®#: 2113707, \$295,000



2242 Monument Road, Mindemoya
MLS®#: 2114800, \$467,500



FARM
8711 Highway 542, Spring Bay
MLS®#: 2114169 & 2114170, \$995,000



2983 White Church Road, Spring Bay
MLS®#: 2113525, \$345,000



454 Morden Noakes Road, Evansville
MLS®#: 2113498, \$259,500



WATERFRONT
507 Lakeshore Road, Mindemoya
MLS®#: 2115157, \$689,000



Leanne Lewis
Realtor & Team Leader
Direct 705-261-4663



Connie McCue
Broker & Lifestyle Consultant
Direct 705-207-8080





J.A. Rolston Ltd.
REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE

THIS COULD BE YOUR VIEW
Let's find your perfect home.



www.rolstons.com

Trademark owned or controlled by the Canadian Real Estate Association. Used under license.

26 Meredith St E., Little Current
1-800-461-0123 or (705)368-2381



The busy **SPRING MARKET** ☀️ is around the corner and inventory is very limited!
Great time to **LIST YOUR PROPERTY** with the Rolston Team!

**SPRAWLING 5 BED,
2 BATH RAISED
RANCH WITH
GARAGE & 566 FEET
OF NORTH CHANNEL
WATERFRONT**

Room for the extended family and friends in this raised ranch on almost 5 acres with North Channel frontage and 3 massive garage bays for all the toys!

MLS#2111420 -
Little Current, \$600,000



**CUSTOM BUILT HOME
ON 9.3 ACRES WITH
SEPARATE GARAGE IN
TEHKUMMAH**

Newly built, custom designed "chalet-style" year-round 2 bedroom, 1 bath home. A fabulous detached garage provides plenty of storage space for your toys.

MLS#2114258 -
Tehkummah, \$499,900



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



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



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



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



**THRIVING BREW-YOUR-OWN WINE AND BEVERAGE
BUSINESS**
MLS#2115363 - Little Current,
\$89,900



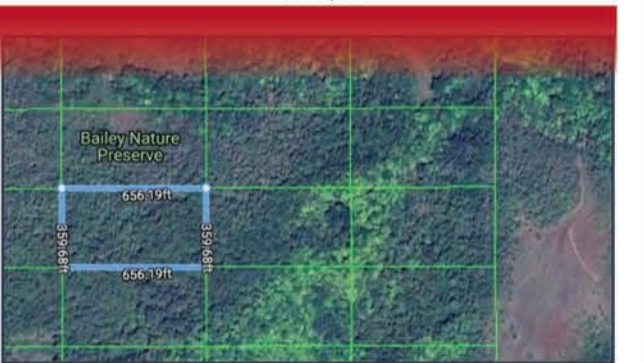
**415 FT. OF WATERFRONT ON LAKE MINDEMOYA, PRISTINE
COTTAGE WITH 3 LARGE BEDROOMS, SEPARATE GARAGE
WITH SPACE ABOVE**
MLS#2115390 - Mindemoya,
\$550,000



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



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



**RECREATIONAL VACANT LAND ON GREEN BUSH ROAD
5.4 ACRES WITH ATV ACCESS**
MLS #2115315 - Little Current,
\$29,900

FIND YOUR DREAM LOT!

50 PLUS YEARS

**SERVING MANITOULIN FOR OVER 50 YEARS
YOUR ISLAND CONNECTION!**

PLUS **50** YEARS



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



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



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



Al Frank
Agent
Evenings: 705-859-3297



Alan Mihelchic
Agent
Cell: 705-282-4602



Lori Edwards
Office Manager
705-368-2381



Meredith Morris
Marketing & Rentals Manager
705-368-2381

Manitoulin Market Watch

Starting off March with lots of activity



Brokerage Listings



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



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

CONDITIONAL PENDING



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



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



5 Sandy Point Rd, Manitowaning
MLS 2112426 | \$244,900

NEW LISTING



26 Hardbargain Rd, Little Current
MLS 2115350 | \$499,000



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



15786 HWY 6, Manitowaning
MLS 2114937 | \$399,000

CONDITIONAL PENDING



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



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



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

S O L D



0 Russel St, NEMI
Bass Lake Waterfront Lot

FEATURE LISTING

2989 HWY 540, Honora



MLS 2114967 | \$60,000



The driveway and culvert are already installed

SCAN HERE

to sign up for our Newsletter



Meet The Team: We service ALL of Manitoulin Island

Our Agents



Chris Bousquet
Broker of Record
705-368-2271



Scott McDougall
Salesperson
705-210-0044



Abbie Drolet
Broker
705-348-0067



Jack Bould
Salesperson
705-282-8441



Mathieu Page
Broker
705-207-1282

MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR

LIFE

Styles

• Careers • Sports • Manitoulin People

Little Current, Manitoulin Island

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Island players secure silver at Ont. games

by Tom Sasvari
THUNDER BAY—Two Manitoulin Island hockey players brought home silver medals from the recent Ontario Winter Games held in Thunder Bay. Both Jaxsin Chatwell of Naughton, a 13-year-old defenseman for the Sudbury Wolves U14AA (bantam) team, originally of Gore Bay, and Koda Peltier of Sudbury, originally of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, a 13-year-old centreman for the Sudbury Wolves A U15 team, were members of the Northern Ontario Hockey Association

was a fantastic hockey game. You had two teams that were very skilled and played a very high paced game. And there were no shenanigans, there were only two penalties called in the entire game. It was the two best teams in the tournament. It was an amazing game and an amazing event.”

“Jaxsin, Koda, everybody, all the players. As I said, I can't put into words how pleased we were with how each individual contributed,” said Mr. McWhirter. “Every player did everything we could

pretty well after I adjusted and got comfortable after the start.”

Jacob Brown, technical director of operations with NOHA said, “Jaxsin played extremely well and logged a lot of minutes in the tournament. And Koda, after a sort of slow start, really found his way and played really well. Keep in mind he is only 13. But he contributed a lot to the team.”

“Koda played well,” said proud father Jesse Peltier. “He settled into the role he was given and held his ground. We haven't had time to sit and talk and



Koda Peltier (in photo centre shown with his parents), won a silver medal as a member of the Northern Ontario Hockey Association team at the Ontario Winter Games.



Jaxsin Chatwell, originally from Manitoulin Island displays the silver medal he and his Northern Ontario Hockey Association teammates won at the Ontario Winter Games.

tion (NOHA) team.

“We won the silver medal,” stated Tim McWhirter, coach of the NOHA team. “It was a fantastic event and a whirlwind five days. I don't know the right words to use to describe how proud myself and the other team coaches are of the players. They represented the NOHA, their parents, their club team and their communities first class.”

“The kids played their hearts out and earned the silver medal,” said Mr. McWhirter. He explained the NOHA team finished with two wins and a loss in the round-robin part of the tournament (which included four teams) and were first seed heading into the playoffs.

“We won our semi-final game against a team from Ottawa. We lost the final 3-2 (to the Credit River Capitals of Brampton) but that game could have gone either way. The two teams played a classic game, one for the ages,” said Mr. McWhirter. “The level of intensity in the game and the commitment of the players came through. It

ask and more.”

Mr. McWhirter pointed out the NOHA team only had a total of 130 minutes of practice time together during the tournament, 50 minutes at a pre-tournament practice in Wawa and 80 minutes in Thunder Bay.

“Jaxsin played well,” said his father, Troy Chatwell. “I think he had some nerves at the start of the first game, but from there he came into his own. He had the opportunity to be on the power play and penalty kill. The NOHA team never had even one goal scored against them on their penalty kill. And even in the final game when they were down a goal, had to kill a penalty, and pulled the goalie, they still didn't get scored on.”

“It was an excellent venue and the NOHA coaches and staff were awesome,” said Troy Chatwell.

Jaxsin opened the scoring in the final gold medal game on a slap shot from the point. “I didn't think I was going to score in the game, but I was fortunate and did. It was a great tournament and experience and a lot of fun. I think I played

digest the entire event. But what we can gather by what he has said so far, he had a great time, he had a great roommate and made connections with members of the team that hopefully will continue in the years to come.”

“Of course, he was disappointed the team didn't win the gold medal, but was certainly happy to get a silver medal,” said Mr. Peltier.

Koda Peltier told the Expositor, “It was really fun. I had the chance to meet a lot of new people, make new friends and play a whole new level of hockey. I learned a lot.”

“I played pretty solid,” stated Koda. “I didn't score in the tournament, but I did get an assist on a pretty nice pass in the second game we played.”

Mr. McWhirter said that for the two Manitoulin Island skaters, “It says a lot about the minor hockey program on Manitoulin Island that these small communities are developing mature players that can play at the highest level. Hats off to them.”

Ice Chips and Canoe Quips

Manitoulin Sporting Life

Ice Chips to Canoe Quips by Larry and André Leblanc



Canadian S.O. medal haul!

Hats off to the coaches and players of the Manitoulin Special Olympics team who attended the Special Olympics Canada Games in Calgary over the weekend. **Matt Bedard** has trained very hard in snowshoeing under coach **Joanne Mellan**. Matt put his kilometres of practice into three bronze medals for his 5km, 1600m and 800m efforts!

The curling team, coached by **Janet Anning** and **Ellen Holroyd**, had an amazing spiel, coming out on top with the gold medal! Congratulations to **Dayne Tipper**, **Austin Recollet**, **Tyler Madahbee**, **Dylan Danville** and **William Leclair**!

The team will be feted at a celebration for these amazing MSO athletes and coaches this Thursday, March 7 at the Freshwater Community Church (formerly Mindemoya Missionary) at 7 pm!

WHS at NOSSA!

Congratulations to the Wiikwemkoong High School Senior boys' basketball team who played for the “B” division title in Mattawa. Coach **John Capin** was pleased with the effort of his charges despite losing out in the semi-finals. **Jordan Ominika-Cooper**, **Jaden Manitowabi**, **Nicho Simmons**, **Drake Oshkabewisens-Recollet**, **Carmine Wemigwans**, **Isaiah Oshkabewisens-Recollet**, **Javier Salas-Cooper**, **Conner Hill**, **Seth Bennett**, **James Noakwegijig**, **Joe Shigwadja**, **Liam Peltier**, **Tyrell Shawana** and **Mgizi Mishibinijima**.

Panther Points

Well, it was a crazy busy weekend for the Lady Panther squad! The weekend kicked off on Thursday in Verner as they continued their regional playdown series with the North Bay Jr. Lakers. After a thrilling 2-2 tie in the first game, they were sure that game two would be just as exciting and it absolutely was.

Both teams came out flying with the Lady Panthers having some great chances early in the game but it was North Bay who would open the scoring in the first period. Down 1-0 they went into a penalty kill and thanks to an amazing effort by the Panthers, saw them tie the game with a short-handed goal by No. 9 **Ali Laginski** who buried it past the NB goalie from the high slot. Assists on this goal midway through the second period went to No. 7 **Ava Corbiere** and No. 21 **Zaagaasge Toulouse**.

The Panthers kept up the pressure and the next goal was again a special team effort, this time on the power play as Zaagaasge “Zee” took the pass from her defensive partner **Kara Peltier** and went the length of the ice and beat the Laker goalie with a shot to the glove side, giving the Lady Panthers their first lead of the series. This goal came at 1:11 of the second and our players could feel that momentum building as they continued to show that they all have

the will to win.

The very strong effort by all continued into the 3rd and it was No. 57 **Abbie Heins** who gave the Panthers that extra insurance with a seeing eye shot that went in just inside the post. The assist on this goal went to **Zee Toulouse** at 7:42 of the frame. That was all the squad would need as they protected this 3-1 lead, perfectly shutting down the Lakers for the remainder of the game that ended 3-1. **Ciera Sokoloski** earned the win between pipes, making some great saves to keep the game tied and giving the offense the chance they needed to secure the win.

With the win, our Lady Panthers only need one more point to earn the right to represent our region at Provincials in April. The 3rd and final game of the series will go in Espanola on Tuesday (sorry, yesterday) March 5. The season series with the Lakers is now all evened up so game 3 should be fantastic!

On Friday they made the trip up Highway 11 to Hearst for their final ‘super-weekend’ of the season in the Northern Ontario women's loop. Coach **Scot Hughson** relayed, “We played some great teams from all over the North and our girls showed that they have come a long way in their inaugural season. We as a staff are very proud to see the way these fantastic hockey players have developed this year. They are a great bunch and no matter where life takes them, their futures are bright.”

“We would like to give a special shout out to the Hearst Ice Cats association for showing us a fantastic weekend. The venue was awesome, the officiating was fantastic and it was great to catch up with parents and coaches who we have had a great relationship with for years. Thank you, Hearst!”

Tying the Knot!

Thankfully, the weather cooperated perfectly for **Brian and Carly Stapleton's** wedding fundraiser where sunburn would be the worst hazard! The catch and video release derby was enjoyed by a huge number of hopefuls. In the Advanced division, the category winners were: pike, 38.5” **Robert James**; lake trout, 28.75” **Cole Anderson**; and a 15” perch by **Paul Dawson**!

In the so-called Novice division, it was **Rebecca Wright** with her pike of 35.75” that took the adult prize lot while **Grace Williams** took the youth prize lot with her pike of 38.5” that matched the Advanced group! **Sheryl Jantzi** dipped into the adult prize lot with her 22” lake trout as did **Halie Gauthier** with her 12.8” yellow perch. Finally, veteran fisher **Emma Becks** caught a 12” perch for the youth prize lot.

Brian and Carly extend thanks to “everyone who supported our wedding fundraiser, we are so appreciative! Congratulations to our derby winners. Your prizes can be picked up at our residence in Mindemoya!”

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

CAREERS



Contract Social Workers - 2 MSW and 1 BSW (contracts ending March and April 2025)

At Rainbow District School Board, we are leaders in learning, inspiring success for all students by reaching minds and touching hearts. Together, we prepare students to become lifelong learners, achieving their full potential as confident, caring members of society.

Rainbow District School Board is now accepting applications for:
2 Master of Social Work and 1 Bachelor of Social Work.

For more information about this employment opportunity, please visit:
www.rainbowschools.ca/join-our-team.

Interested candidates should apply by **noon Monday, March 18, 2024** and submit a cover letter, resume and names of three (3) references.

David Farrow
Board Chair

Bruce Bourget
Director of Education

rainbowschools.ca



FINANCE MANAGER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Salary: Negotiable (including group pension and health benefits)
Subject to education and experience or a combination of both

The ideal candidate should have senior management experience working in the First Nation field as well as outstanding organization, communication, and leadership skills. This is a rewarding opportunity if you have an appreciation for First Nation culture and a desire to participate in the enhancement and growth of WRFN.

The Finance Manager will be responsible for managing the overall financial activities of the Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN) including accounting operations and reporting, budgeting, and external audits; financial analysis and planning; cash flow and internal controls; and recommending the initiation, improvement, development, implementation, monitoring, and modification of the organization's financial policies and guidelines. Additionally, the Finance Manager will provide guidance to senior management, support to Chief and Council, and Committee relationships through clear communication of financial reporting and analysis, and is the primary interface with external parties on financial matters, including bank relations, customer/community invoices, project reporting, etc.

Key Responsibilities:

- Performs all duties and responsibilities in accordance with WRFN plans, policies, standards, procedures and as directed by the Band Manager.
- Manages the overall administration of the financial affairs of the WRFN consistent with the approved vision, mission and value statements of the WRFN.
- Manages the overall administration of the financial affairs of the WRFN.
- Provides leadership and support in consultation with the Band Manager and the Finance Committee, to the WRFN community and the Chiefs and Council in the planning, management and reporting of the WRFN financial affairs.
- Provides support to the WRFN Chief and Council in the orientation of new members of the Council.
- Provides information and support in the development and review of the Finance Committee Terms of Reference.
- Ensures monthly financial statements and report packages are prepared in accordance with WRFN policies and professional accounting standards, reviewed with Program Managers and amended as required.
- Implements and maintains an accounting system that meets the identified needs of the organization and provides timely and accurate information on actual cash receipts and disbursements.
- Acts as a resource person to senior management and the Chief and Council, including explaining and interpreting financial reports and assisting in the preparation of annual budgets and forecasts.
- Identifies potential issues, problems and risks related to WRFN operations pertaining to fiscal and operational matters.
- Excellent written and oral skills, including the ability to draft briefing notes, position papers, recommendations to leadership and deliver presentations to fellow employees and leadership.
- Provides expertise to the WRFN on accounting and auditing standards, best practices and ethical and moral financial issues in accordance with the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada Handbook.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in a related discipline (Accounting, General Business Administration/ Commerce)
- Professional Accounting Designation: Certified Professional Accountant CPA - CA, CGA or CMA
- Preferred Post-Secondary courses or formal training to include: Planning, Management, Leadership, Conflict Resolution, Teambuilding, Effective Communications, Human Resource Management and Report Writing.
- Minimum of eight to ten (8-10) years' post-designation accounting and financial experience including three to four (3-4) years at the senior financial management level, including the leadership and management of employees.
- Preferred First Nations experience as a Senior finance professional.
- Experience in financial planning, financial budget development and managing complex and diverse financial reporting requirements.
- Corporate and auditing experience is an asset.
- Experience in risk assessment and management.
- Experience in government revenue and taxation.
- Experience working with WRFN-related accounting software including Microsoft Office, Sage Intact, Sage 300 and other integrated accounting software.

Personal Qualifications and Other Skills and Knowledge:

- Knowledge of WRFN culture, language and traditions.
- Knowledge of WRFN organizations and entities.
- Knowledge of and a commitment to General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
- Excellent interpersonal and people management skills.
- Demonstrated leadership and management skills.
- Ability to organize, prioritize and manage workload.
- Exceptional integrity and professionalism.

*For a detailed job description, please email hrmanager@whitefishriver.ca

Applications must be submitted by: March 22, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Interested applicants must submit a current resume, cover letter, three (3) work-related references (with contact information) and applicable education diplomas/certifications to:

CONFIDENTIAL: FINANCE MANAGER
Whitefish River First Nation
c/o Human Resources
17-A Rainbow Ridge Road, P.O. Box 188; Birch Island, ON P0P1A0
Email: applications@whitefishriver.ca Fax: (705)285-4532

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



KINA Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services (KGCS) is a designated Child Welfare Service delivering Child Protection Services within seven member First Nations in the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin. KGCS honours and supports our families' and community's inherent authority to care for their children based on unity, traditions, values, beliefs and customs. **Preference will be given to Anishinaabe Candidates, please self-identify in your application.**

We are currently inviting applications for the following employment opportunities:

FULL-TIME position:

Sudbury:

Case Aide: Closes March 15, 2024

CONTRACT positions:

Manitoulin Island:

Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator: Closes March 15, 2024

Sudbury:

Case Aide: Closes March 8, 2024

Child Well-Being Worker: Closes March 15, 2024

Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator: Closes March 15, 2024

Administration Support Worker: Closes March 15, 2024

All postings close at 4pm EST

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

www.kgcfs.org/employment-opportunities

At KGCS, we are 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.



PROPOSAL WRITER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Term: One-year contract (flexible schedule)

*Expected start late March to early April

Salary: \$30-\$50/hour

The Proposal Writer will be responsible for preparing effective proposals on behalf of the Whitefish River First Nation. Working closely with Chief and Council and various departments, the Proposal Writer will research, assess and draft proposals, ensuring they align with the strategic objectives and funding priorities of the First Nation. The successful candidate will have exceptional writing skills, attention to detail and a strong understanding of government funding programs.

Key Responsibilities:

Research and Analysis:

- Conduct thorough research on available funding opportunities for the WRFN.
- Research and distribute general information on funding opportunities and new program announcements.
- Liaise with government agencies, First Nation communities, industry and other prospective partners.
- Analyze funding criteria, guidelines and priorities to determine the best fit for proposed projects.

Proposal Development:

- Write clear, concise and persuasive proposals that effectively articulate the First Nation's needs, goals and vision.
- Create well-organized outlines and develop proposal content, ensuring key messages are conveyed effectively.

Funding Requirements and Compliance:

- Stay up-to-date with reporting requirements and compliance guidelines for government grants and funding programs.
- Ensure proposals meet all necessary criteria, including supporting documentation and compliance with funding guidelines.

Relationship Building:

- Establish and maintain strong relationships with government agencies, funding organizations and partners/ collaborators (if relevant).

Proposal Tracking and Evaluation:

- Maintain an accurate and up-to-date record of all proposals, including submission dates, outcomes and lessons learned.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in a relevant field (e.g. Communications, Public Administration or Business Administration) or equivalent work experience.
- Proven experience in proposal writing, preferably within the public sector or for First Nation governments.
- Familiarity with government funding programs, grants and reporting requirements.
- Possesses exceptional interpersonal skills and a friendly and professional demeanor.
- Comfortable in a high-performing and fast-paced environment; demonstrate ability to achieve high-performance goals, meet deadlines and adapt to changing circumstances.
- Excellent research, analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills with exceptional attention to detail.
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse stakeholders and effectively manage multiple projects simultaneously.
- Proficient in using relevant software and tools for proposal development (e.g. Microsoft Office Suite, project management software).

KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to speak Anishinabemowin and participate in the culture and traditions of the Anishinabek people.
- Sound understanding of Indigenous Peoples' rights, history and governance structures.
- Knowledge of Jordan's Principle and understanding of Indigenous rights, issues and reconciliation efforts.
- Knowledge of First Nation communities and funding structures and the ability to integrate traditional and mainstream practices as a central and vital part of program and service delivery.

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 18, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Please submit your resume and a cover letter outlining your relevant experience and interest in the position to:

CONFIDENTIAL: Proposal Writer
c/o Human Resources
Whitefish River First Nation
17-A Rainbow Ridge Road, P.O. Box 188
Birch Island, ON P0P1A0
Email: jobapplications@whitefishriver.ca Fax: (705)285-4532

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

KGCFs Youth Conference focused on connecting youth to their land and culture

by Margery Frisch
M'CHIGEENG—Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services (KGCFs) held its annual Youth Conference the first weekend in March. This year's theme was 'E-zhi-zhitoong akiing wiinakiig' meaning 'Keep-

ing connected to the land and culture' and provided a host of activities intended to engage the interests of all those taking part. This is a closed event to protect the privacy of youth taking part, but Jessica Orr, communications and media

specialist at KGCFs, shared with The Expositor the weekend's scheduled events. "The three-day conference commences with an opening smudge and prayer followed by a feast. Youth will then have an opportunity to create their own rib-



Beads stand ready to be incorporated into regalia.

bon shirts and ribbon skirts, followed by movie night." There were different workshops throughout the weekend from which the youth could choose. The Youth Advisory Council put together a land-based scavenger hunt; there was beading and sewing, and Alex Bisson shared the Creation Story. Teachings on Fire Bundles and Medicine Bundles were provided by Nimkii Lavell, and there were many outdoor activities to keep the youth active and engaged.

KGCFs' mandate is to serve the First Nations communities of Sudbury and Manitoulin Island with programs and activities designed to preserve and protect, to nourish and maintain the dignity and integrity of the Anishinabek family system. The KGCFs Youth Conference was held for youth ages 14 to 24 and takes place each year, alternating between Mniidoo Mnising (Manitoulin Island) and Sudbury, allowing for all First Nations communities served by KGCFs to join in.



EDUCATION MANAGER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Full-time with a competitive salary, group benefits and pension!

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

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

Responsibilities:

Leadership and Administration:

- Develop and implement strategic plans and educational initiatives in consultation with the Education Committee.
- Establish policies that align with the cultural values of the Whitefish River First Nation community.
- Coordinate and manage all education programs and services, including early childhood education, elementary, secondary, post-secondary and adult education.

Curriculum Development and Delivery:

- Collaborate with the principal, teachers, curriculum specialists and community members to develop culturally relevant and inclusive curriculum materials as needed.

Budgeting and Resource Management:

- Develop and manage the education budget, ensuring efficient resource allocation.
- Identify funding opportunities, write proposals and coordinate financial reporting to secure and maintain funding.

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Build positive relationships and maintain effective communication with parents/caregivers, students, teachers, Elders, First Nation leadership and government agencies.
- Collaborate with external partners to enhance educational opportunities, access to resources and community involvement.

Student and Staff Support:

- Provide guidance and support to students, parents/caregivers and teachers on educational matters.
- Implement strategies to enhance student engagement, attendance and retention.

Data Management and Reporting:

- Collect and analyze data on student achievement, attendance and other educational indicators

Cultural Integration and Language Revitalization:

- Promote the integration of cultural values, Anishinabek knowledge, worldview and language throughout the education system.

System Navigation:

- Provide education navigation and resources to students and parents/caregivers, including application assistance for post-secondary education.

Supervision:

- Supervise Shawanosowe School principal, day care supervisor, librarian, education assistant and bus driver(s).
- Conduct annual performance evaluations for supervised employees.

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

Qualifications:

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

Knowledge Requirements:

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

Other Skills

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

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

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

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

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

SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITY INTERPRETIVE GUIDE NEEDED FOR THE NET SHED MUSEUM IN MELDRUM BAY

June 28-August 16, 2024
Youth aged 15-30 can apply for this job.
Duration: 7 weeks; open 6 days a week.
Hourly wage \$18.00, travel expenses negotiable.

The interpretive guide will manage the museum and deal with the public who wish to view the artifacts and learn about the history of Meldrum Bay and the Net Shed Museum.

For more details, please contact:
Linda Lapointe at **416-522-3885**
or send her an email at l.lapointe@on.aibn.com
Submit a resume with covering letter by email above or mail to:
Linda Lapointe, 22 Leader Lane, #337
Toronto, Ontario M5E 1B0
Deadline for submission: April 26, 2024



HOUSING NAVIGATOR (2ND POSTING) EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Term: Full-time - Term (One-Year Contract)
Salary: \$55,000 - \$65,000/year (+ group benefits and pension)
Hours: 35 hours/week**

Whitefish River First Nation is seeking a Housing Navigator to provide immediate, tailored assistance to address housing crises. The role works with individuals to connect them to community/local resources for ongoing housing stability and self-sufficiency.

The Housing Navigator will work under the direct supervision of the Housing Manager to provide social housing support services to Whitefish River First Nation members. This position is responsible for assisting members and families in their search for housing, whether on or off-reserve and offering guidance on home purchasing. The Housing Navigator will offer mobile services, ensuring services are provided for all members. Travel will be required for this role.

The Housing Navigator will be responsible to:

- Collaborate with the Housing Manager and Band Manager to develop and implement effective strategies that support the housing needs of Whitefish River First Nation members.
- Provide guidance and assistance to members and families in their search for appropriate housing options, both on and off-reserve.
- Offer support and resources to individuals interested in purchasing a home, providing valuable information on the process and available programs.
- Conduct assessments to accurately determine the unique housing needs and preferences of members, ensuring personalized assistance.
- Stay up-to-date with housing policies, programs and legislation, ensuring accurate and precise information is provided to members.
- Facilitate connections with relevant agencies, organizations and programs, enabling members to access crucial housing-related resources and support services.
- Collaborate with community partners and service providers to develop engaging housing workshops, information sessions and related initiatives.
- Other duties as requested.

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

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Preferably possess a background in social work, community services or another related field.
- Commitment to supporting the housing needs of Whitefish River First Nation members.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, enabling effective engagement with individuals and families.
- Knowledge of housing policies, programs and resources applicable to Indigenous communities is highly valued.
- Proficient in conducting thorough assessments and providing personalized recommendations based on member preferences and needs.
- Strong organizational skills to maintain accurate records and documentation.
- Proven ability to establish and nurture collaborative relationships with community partners and service providers.
- Flexible and adaptable, capable of delivering mobile services and traveling within the community and surrounding areas.
- Familiarity with Indigenous housing programs for both on and off-reserve members is advantageous.
- Must be highly self-motivated with an ability to work independently.
- Willingness to work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends as needed.

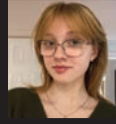
APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 18, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Interested applicants must submit a current cover letter, resume, two (2) work-related references and one (1) character reference (with contact information) to:

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

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

M.S.S. Kids in the Halls



Alexandra Wilson-Zegil

Welcome back! There is just one day left until the March Break kicks off for students after school on Thursday, March 7. Unfortunately for teachers, they have a PA day on Friday, March 8 before their break begins.

On Thursday, February 29 there was a scone dog sale. Scone dog days are always highly anticipated at MSS, with students lining up the length of the hallway to get one. Scone dogs and a drink are sold for five dollars and are always well worth the money.

On Friday, March 1 the Student Council hosted a Ryan Reynolds movie buyout. Students could purchase a ticket—with the celebrity's face plastered on it—the week leading up to the buyout. On the day of the buyout, students gathered in the cafeteria after lunch to watch 'Free Guy', starring Ryan Reynolds. The movie was a hit, with nearly 100 people coming to watch over the third and fourth period.

The Spring Equinox is on Tuesday, March 19, just two days after students return to school. While it is still winter, students from both the Athletics Association and Student Council are hosting a Winter Carnival on Thursday, March 7. For our winter sports enthusiasts, the Athletics Association is putting together a hockey tournament located at the M'Chigeeng arena. Players can enter a friendly competition with teams of other students and teachers. For those who prefer staying warm, the Student's Council has a few things in store. At lunch, students can grab a hot chocolate before going up to sing their favourite karaoke song in the cafeteria. After, there will be a movie playing for teachers to bring their students to

during the third and fourth period. The tech classes are lighting up a bonfire where students can roast marshmallows and enjoy each other's company.

The week after March Break, on the 22nd, the robotics team's competition season begins! In preparation, the Build Team visited Lo-Ellen Park Secondary School's robotics team. The teams worked together to solve problems regarding

robot programming. Additionally, Manitoulin Metal made some meaningful connections on Manitoulin last weekend. On Saturday, March 2, several team members volunteered at a monthly Staying In Touch session. This program is designed to help community members troubleshoot problems with their cell phones, tablets, cameras and computers—who better to help than teenagers! The

next day, Sunday, March 3, five team members visited the nursing home in Gore Bay, Manitoulin Lodge. The team read their book, 'Robofriends and the Mow Zone' to residents, handed out buttons, answered questions, talked about their robot and gave a presentation.

Stay safe and healthy over the March Break, Mustangs! Until next time, go, Mustangs, go!



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: DIETARY AIDE

(Part-time Permanent Opportunities: Days, Evenings) – Manitoulin Centennial Manor
Starting wage is \$20.23 plus vacation pay and 13% in lieu of benefits

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Serves food to residents according to individual diets and preferences. Observes time limit for meal serving. Maintains foods at proper serving temperature.
- Assists cooks to clean and prepare such uncooked food as salads, vegetables and fruits. Follows basic instructions in preparing such simple foods as breakfast items, basic desserts and garnishes.
- Clears plates and trays, loads and operates dishwasher. Cleans pots, pans and cooking utensils as per procedure.
- Participates in proper storage and labeling of dietary supplies and food, including leftovers.
- Adheres to established departmental policies, procedures regarding quality assurance, fire, safety, environment and infection control.
- Assembles nourishment carts. Stocks unit kitchenettes.
- Participates in facility meetings as assigned. Attends in-service education programs.
- Other duties as assigned by Supervisor.
- Prepares food in accordance with Dietary Dept. standards, reads recipes, works independently and thinks critically.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Successful completion and/or enrollment in a Food Service Worker Program meeting the requirements of the Ontario Long-Term Care Homes Act required. If enrolled, must complete program within three (3) years of hire date.
- Previous dietary experience preferred in LTC home, 0-1 year(s).
- Must be able to stand for long periods of time.
- Ability to read and write English as well as understand simple verbal and written instructions in English.
- Ability to work safely follow established safety practices and procedures.
- Must be able to do moderate to heavy lifting.
- Successful candidate must be available to work days, evenings, weekends and statutory holidays.

Interested applicants can forward their resume to the attention of:

Brad Dubreuil, Manager of Food Services
Manitoulin Centennial Manor
Address: 70 Robinson Street, Little Current, ON P0P 1K0
Phone: 705-368-2710 ext.314 Fax: 705-368-2694
Email: brad.dubreuil@exeassist.ca

Manitoulin Secondary School

PLAYER PROFILE

by Mackenzie Green



Proud Supporter of our MSS Mustangs

PRESTLYNN BIEDERMANN

As an enthusiastic and extremely involved athlete, Prestlynn consistently shows up to practices and competitions with a positive attitude and smile on her face! Whether it be swinging a golf club, spiking a volleyball or smashing a birdie, Prestlynn jumps on any opportunity to be active. As a second year Mustang, Prestlynn has already established herself as a dependable all around player and great teammate, indicating that she will have a promising athletic future at MSS!

Prior to becoming a Mustang, Prestlynn was a student at Little Current Public School, representing the Coyotes. Even at a young age, Prestlynn capitalized on every opportunity to play school sports. She could be spotted in the navy blue jersey on the trails as a member of the cross country team, on the field playing for the three-pitch and soccer team and on the track participating in the jumping events. As Prestlynn looks back on her elementary years, she enjoyed track and field the most as she loved competing in long jump and triple jump. She explains that track and field meets provided opportunities to meet new people and make friends, which is what she appreciated most.

Last year, Prestlynn wasted no time in transitioning to high school sports. She made her high school debut in the black and gold at NSSSA golf. As the short season wrapped up, she set her sights on the volleyball season. Throughout the winter months, Prestlynn played mainly in the right side and outside hitter position of the junior girls' volleyball team. She helped her team to achieve an undefeated season of league play, leading her to another NSSSA appearance. The girls took home the North Shore banner, securing a spot in the NOSSA championships. Ultimately, the girls came home with silver medals — a great accomplishment against a competitive team. Next came the badminton season. Prestlynn competed in novice mixed doubles in Pre-NSSSA and NSSSA, earning another gold medal. Again, her ticket was punched to compete at NOSSA in North Bay. To wrap up her first athletic season as a Mustang, Prestlynn joined the track and field team, competing in the jumping events. This year, Prestlynn captained the junior girls' volleyball team to an impressive season. The team fought their way to the NSSSA finals, eventually capturing the silver medals.

Prestlynn's passion for sports is evident in all of her athletic endeavours. She explains that her love for athletics stems from having the opportunity to compete while enjoying the activity. Prestlynn recognizes that sports are a fantastic way to grow new friendships, have fun and stay active. She also notes that there are many valuable lessons to be learned that are important in and out of the game. Prestlynn has learned that by reflecting on our personal game, we can improve our attitude and relationship with ourselves.

Although Prestlynn enjoys a variety of sports, she has developed a special interest in volleyball. In her first couple years of participating, she got the opportunity to play alongside some of her closest friends and had a lot of fun. She explains that she loves the fast pace that keeps you on your toes and the momentum that can change the game in a matter of seconds.

When Prestlynn takes the black and gold jersey off, she can be found staying active while caring for her two dogs, Louis and Frankie. In the summer months, Prestlynn also enjoys time with her family by golfing when she is not working at Borderline. Kayaking is also among one of her favourite activities, allowing her to enjoy the water.

In the classroom, Prestlynn is as dedicated to her academics as her athletics. She is especially fond of French. She explains that she likes learning about a different culture and the history of the language. She also notes that knowing another language can open up many opportunities in the future.

Although Prestlynn still has two more years rocking the black and gold, she is interested in a career in interior design or real estate following her graduation. With Prestlynn's positive attitude and dedication, she is sure to reach all of her goals, on and off the court!

E. Corbiere & Sons CONTRACTING

has an opening for an Administrative Assistant

We are looking for a reliable, positive and friendly full-time Administrative Assistant to join our growing team!

Duties:

- Answer and direct phone calls in a polite and professional manner
- Greet visitors and sign for packages
- Assist with clerical tasks such as filing, photocopying and scanning documents
- Assist with data entry and record keeping
- Perform basic bookkeeping tasks such as invoicing and tracking expenses

Qualifications:

- High school diploma or equivalent required
- Experience as an administrative assistant or in a similar role preferred
- Prior experience using office equipment and computer software (e.g., Microsoft Office, Quickbooks Online)
- Strong communication skills and attention to detail required
- Ability to multitask and prioritize tasks effectively
- Reliable and confidential

The role requires you to come into the office daily.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone who enjoys providing administrative support.

We offer competitive pay. We are willing to train the right candidate. If you meet the qualifications outlined above, we encourage you to apply for this position.

Please send resumes to:
admin@ecorbiereandsons.ca



The Northeastern Manitoulin Family Health Team is seeking two motivated and experienced individuals to join our healthcare team:

Two Medical Administrative Assistants

1. A 12-month contract position to cover a maternity leave with a possible extension
2. A full-time permanent position

Qualifications:

- Community college level courses or equivalent
- Previous experience with dicta-typing medical reports, answering the phone, booking appointments, billing and computer applications such as Microsoft and client databases.

Experience:

- Providing administrative support for a multidisciplinary team
- Working in a medical setting or in customer service

Applications for the above position, including resumes and references, will be accepted until Monday, March 11, 2024.

Send To:
Attention: Judy Miller, Director
PO Box 549
Little Current, ON P0P 1K0
Fax: 705-368-1259 OR Email: jmiller@nemfht.ca

Proud Supporter of our MSS Mustangs



AJ Bus Lines & MSS
A Winning Team!

Proud Supporter of our MSS Mustangs



BMO
Investing Today in Tomorrow's Future