

Fort Frances Times

Season's Greetings & Letters to Santa inside!

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INSIDE



Merry Christmas everyone!

Christmas magic is in the air! Check out more Santa sightings on A5 and A8, and see all of our Letters to Santa!

See Season's Greeting



Winter Wonderland

The fourth annual McTavish Winter Wonderland of Lights was a huge success, with 2,000 visitors.

See photos on B1



Honouring local heroes

Firefighters with the CEL Fire and Emergency Services were honoured at their annual appreciation banquet.

See photos on B8



Together for the holidays

The Kellar family (L-R) Karen Kellar, Jaymee Fiset, Lilyana Berg, Matt Berg, Ripley Hunt, Angela Fiset and Aylmer Hunt are long time supporters of the La-Vallee Christmas potluck. The popular community event was held on December

15, and featured plenty of delicious food, games and a visits with Santa Claus himself!
- Robin McCormick photo

Emo remains mum on results of marathon in-camera session

By Allan Bradbury
Staff Writer
abradbury@fortfrances.com
With files from Laura Balan-ko-Dickson

After an in-camera meeting which stretched over two days last week, the Township of Emo will not comment on the results.

The private portion of the regular council meeting session began around 10:30 a.m. December 11, and had several other in-camera items on the agenda including a Human Rights Tribunal Ontario ruling. The HRTO discussion was adjourned to 11:30 a.m. on December 13, with no resolution reported to the public.

While she couldn't discuss what the purpose of the item related to the HRTO file was, Emo CAO/Clerk-Treasurer Crystal Gray said she's never had to recess an in-camera session before.

The item is noted as "Advice subject to a solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose."

A November 20, 2024 HRTO decision ruled that the Township and Mayor Harold McQuaker were found to have violated the human rights of Borderland Pride when they declined to proclaim Pride Week and fly a pride flag in 2020 by a 3-2 vote.

McQuaker and Coun. Harold Boven and former councillor Warren Toles were named in the complaint to the Human

Rights Tribunal of Ontario. However, adjudicator Karen Dawson did not find Boven and Toles to have acted in a discriminatory manner as defined by the Human Rights Code and were dropped from the complaint.

McQuaker remained, due to a comment he made following the vote to strike down the requested flag and proclamation.

The HRTO adjudicator's decision reads as follows:

"It was not disputed that during the May 12 council meeting, shortly after the Borderland Pride vote, Mayor McQuaker remarked, 'There's no flag being flown for the other side of the coin...there's no flags being flown for the straight people.'"

In her decision, Dawson found that the Township of Emo should pay Borderland Pride \$10,000 and that McQuaker should pay \$5,000 relying on precedent setting cases of a similar sort in London, Ont. and Terrace, B.C. among others.

On December 2, Toronto Sun columnist Joe Warming-ton wrote that McQuaker had told him he would not be paying the fine.

"I utterly refuse to pay the \$5,000 because that's extortion," McQuaker told the Sun.

McQuaker has repeatedly declined to comment directly to Fort Frances Times reporters.

Fort Frances Times General Manager Lincoln Dunn was a

Please see "Some" on A3

Morrison appointed to council

By Ken Kellar
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
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After almost two months of uncertainty, the town of Fort Frances has a new sitting councillor.

Following a special meeting of town council last night, William Morrison Jr. was appointed to fill the council vacancy that was created in October 2024 when then-councillor Mandi Olson announced her resignation. Morrison was appointed following several rounds of voting, and sworn in immediately following the voting period. Morrison joins council for the remainder of this municipal term, which comes to an end in 2026 with the next Ontario municipal elections.

According to the personal statement prepared by Morrison for his application, and which was subsequently presented to council verbally during last night's meeting, the newest councillor brings with him a wealth of municipal experience. Morrison had previously served as a councillor and deputy-mayor for Alberton Township, which he said helped him come to understand how municipalities function and how to best serve constituents.

"During my term on Alberton council, I presented extensive research and pursued funding for new projects such as oil-sealing the roads and the Alberton Millennium Rink, which are both still serving the taxpayers well today," Morrison said.

"I fought hard to save the Alberton taxpayers money while



William Morrison Jr., left, prepares to recite his oath of office as administered by interim municipal clerk Chelsea Greig during last night's special meeting of council to fill the council seat that has been vacant since October.
- Ken Kellar photo

enhancing the infrastructure and recreational opportunities." In his address to council, Morrison noted that in addition to helping the town come up with solutions to address ongoing concerns around high taxes, healthcare, homelessness and addictions, he also wants to see the town work more closely

with First Nation neighbours to improve those relationships.

"I'd also consider it an honour if I was able to help the town reconcile with our neighboring First Nations, as I've been worried about the relationship for years," he said.

Please see "Council" on A7

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'If young people don't feel safe there, they leave:' expert

By Laura Balanko-Dickson
Staff writer
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Elizabeth Saewyc, the Director of the School of Nursing at the University of British Columbia and Distinguished University Scholar gave expert testimony on November 20 at the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal for the case between Borderland Pride, Mayor Harold McQuaker, and the Township of Emo. The tribunal accepted her testimony as evidence without cross-examination from the legal representation of McQuaker or any other party at the trial.

For Saewyc, Pride events and symbols are crucial to creating safe environments for 2SLGBTQAI+ youth. Moreover, this is not hyperbole, but a perspective backed by decades of internationally peer-reviewed research that has strong evidence to suggest inclusive symbols, like a Pride flag, show 2SLGBTQAI+ youth they are safe in their community and have influence over students' suicidal ideation, suicide attempts and self-harm. Furthermore, the inverse is also true, suggesting public figures, who publicly make discriminatory statements foster a hostile environment that drives 2SLGBTQAI+ youth away from rural communities in search of that sense of safety.

"When I was asked to testify in this case as an expert witness, they asked some very specific questions about what the research shows related to the particular risks, negative impacts or harms to the development, safety, or well-being of 2SLGBTQAI+ people," said Saewyc. "In particular, young people in small towns and isolated communities where there's an absence of inclusive symbols or representations of their community.

"They also wanted to know, are these harms or impacts from not having inclusive symbols or celebrations made worse or exacerbated when local institutions or prominent public figures, like a mayor, are actively or openly hostile.

"When someone is asked for expert testimony, either in a court case or in a Human Rights Tribunal, the role is to provide information to the judge or the tribunal of a technical nature about the research, not about the decision they should make, but strictly about in-

formation, about the wider context of research or evidence out there."

So, that is exactly what Saewyc has done. She wasn't waxing poetic, using allegory, being prophetic or anything of the sort. She was stating the facts based on decades of research.

"As a researcher who has done research in health and well-being related to 2SLGBTQ people, but especially youth, over the last 25 years, I have a lot of Canadian research. But also there's research from like the United States that sort of speaks to this. Particularly, in my testimony, I was first talking about just how widespread the Pride celebrations, Pride week, Pride Month, Pride proclamations, a parade, those kinds of events, how widespread they are in the world, as well as throughout Canada," said Saewyc. "Both in the larger urban centers like Vancouver and Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa, but also in mid-sized communities like Windsor and Thunder Bay and Sudbury and Guelph, and then in small rural communities too." Adding, "There was even a documentary ... called Small Town Pride that follows the experiences of three small-town Pride celebrations."

While there are pride celebrations in small towns across the country and beyond, the 2SLGBTQAI+ community is still "persistently stigmatized" according to Saewyc.

"This is something that is not new and unusual. It's quite widespread. The reason for this is that there's been, you know, decades of research in Canada and elsewhere in the world that has documented that 2SLGBTQ+ people have been persistently stigmatized for their sexual orientation and/or their gender identity and gender expression, and that these social attitudes and stereotypes and negative public messages about them as a group, these messages, homophobic and transphobic speech in some cases, can motivate overt acts of hostility and discrimination towards such people," said Saewyc. "Unfortunately, in addition to it being overt acts of verbal hostility and discrimination, it can lead to physical violence and discrimination in employment, education, housing, healthcare, and that sort of thing.

"All of that, which is what [academics] would call enacted stigma, the actions that let members of a

stigmatized group know that they are unacceptable and not welcome in social settings, they have harms," said Saewyc. "Experiencing stigma and discrimination and violence has impacts on people's mental well-being, on their stress levels, on even their survival in terms of the experience of trauma that leads to suicidality. So they have consequences that are problematic."

Moreover, Saewyc wasn't being hyperbolic in suggesting practices like these are problematic.

"This is backed up by decades of peer-reviewed research here in Canada, elsewhere in the United States, and other parts of the world as well," said Saewyc. "So, that's the thing. There's other research that social psychologists have done, and there was a review that looked at 40 years of research around how derogatory language and hate speech function socially, like, what does it do?"

Saewyc says derogatory language and hate speech is used to establish in-groups and out-groups.

"It's partly used to establish out-groups that are people who aren't part of our circle to maintain power and identity. The consequences of that sort of dehumanizing and derogatory language can definitely motivate things like bullying and violence."

Saewyc goes into further detail about other evidence to support this perspective, like Proposition Eight in California.

"There was a study in California where they had a referendum about whether or not to support same-sex marriage, and ... this was proposition eight. This was something that had been put forward, and there was lots of public, you know, political messaging around supporting proposition eight, which would insist that marriage is between a man and a woman, or rejecting proposition eight so that everyone can be inclusive during that time and after it.

"[The researchers] took the school surveys that asked about regular bullying and all kinds of other things and different types of bullying and they looked in the years before the proposition was put forward, and then the proposition, Prop Eight got voted down. It didn't happen. So, they also followed a couple of years after, because these surveys in the high school California schools

happen like every year or every other year, and they tracked the rate of bullying over 14 years of surveys before and after, and what they found was that rates of homophobic bullying in schools across California increased and accelerated," said Saewyc. "Then it dropped after the referendum was rejected. But, trends in bullying based on race and ethnicity, bullying by religion or bullying by gender didn't have the same increase and decrease."

According to Saewyc, this proves a strong link between public discourse and bullying among youth.

"That is strongly linked to the speech that was going on in public about the referendum. That is one of those things that identifies that young people hear the messaging in the wider public, by adults, and then they connect on it. They increased their bullying of their fellow students in schools."

But, this isn't a unique phenomenon in California. Saewyc gives further evidence to support her perspective from British Columbia, Minnesota, and Massachusetts.

"We've done research here in BC, in Minnesota and Massachusetts," said Saewyc. "It involved interviewing LGBTQ youth in rural areas, and these were like, go-along interviews within communities with young people, identifying where are the supportive resources, and where do they feel safe? [They] included which parts of their communities and spaces, and from this data, from these three very different places, we provide some really deep insight into how young people navigated sometimes hostile communities. How they recognized the services, events, and symbols that signalled that places would be safe or inclusive.

"Interestingly, we didn't ask spe-

cifically, but it came up over and over again that Pride celebrations and Pride parades and rainbow symbols and things like that were the things they spoke about the most. They talked about that as you know, even non-LGBTQ people are there and supportive. And so it feels like that day or month when everyone in a community can come together and be themselves and be accepted."

So, these symbols serve as valuable community reminders that it is okay to come as you are.

"Those kinds of symbols as visible indicators that a space is inclusive and supportive are really necessary, especially when they do face so much stigma and discrimination in the wider world," said Saewyc.

For Saewyc, this illustrates how giving young people a safe, supportive and caring environment further enables their success.

"If you're looking at, 'How do you ensure that young people grow and thrive?' One of the key ways is to make sure that their environment is safe, supportive and caring.

"Because they experienced stigma and discrimination in the wider discourse, the messaging out in the community, young people were able to talk about what did make them feel safe and included," said Saewyc. "Pride events were one or two of those."

Again, this isn't allegory.

"That's the evidence that I was bringing, including our large-scale research that found that the more supportive the community environment is, and this was across 274 different schools throughout BC, rural and urban, but that the more supportive the community environment is in terms of the number of events and youth services and things, yeah, significantly lower odds of suicidal thoughts

and suicide attempts and self-harm among sexual minority boys and girls.

"Given that there's so much negative messaging out there, especially on social media, especially from other places outside of Canada, having those very specific messages that say, 'Hey, it's safe to be who you are. We respect human rights here. Everybody's welcome.' Those are really important for young people to feel like they belong in a community," said Saewyc, "which is so critical for young people."

While it may be critical for young people, it's also critical to retain young, talented people in small and medium-sized communities.

"The other part of it that I think might be really relevant for smaller towns, is that if young people don't feel safe there, they leave," said Saewyc.

"[It] is really unfortunate, because one of the really great things about small communities, and I've lived in some in my life, is that everybody knows your name, and you can rely on, usually you can rely on your neighbours to help you out. If your car breaks down on the side of the road, chances are the person who's going to stop is somebody you know, as opposed to a total stranger. There's often a stronger sense of community and that's great for everybody, if, in fact, everybody is included."

**Riverside's
RING IN
THE RICHES!**

**PRIZE POT
\$12,455**

Ticket Sales Close
Mon Dec 30th, 11:59pm

**\$500 Early Bird Winner:
Nicki Sandelovich**

**Early Bird Draw
Fri December 20th, 11am -
Rainy Lake Adventures Pontoon Cruise
Package Draw**

Early bird draw courtesy of

**Westland Insurance
and
WEST END MOTORS**

**20 TICKETS - \$10
100 TICKETS - \$20
250 TICKETS - \$40
500 TICKETS - \$60
+100 BONUS**

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would like to thank you for your support
and friendship in 2024.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

**We're closing for the season on Saturday, December 21st, 7:00pm.
We will see you in February 2025!**



Merry Christmas

from all of us at the Fort Frances Times!

We are posting this week's Times edition
Wednesday, December 18th
FREE online for everyone to share.

Tell your friends & stop by to visit us online to receive the many
Holiday Greetings from our Amazing customers!

Enjoy reading the delightful Letters to Santa!

*We wish you a Safe &
Merry Holiday Season!*

We are closed Dec 23rd - 27th

**FORT FRANCES
Times**

Plea expected this Friday in Rousseau case

Staff

A court date has been set for Ann Rousseau to enter a plea.

Rousseau is expected to enter a guilty plea and face sentencing on December 20 at the Fort Frances courthouse.

Rousseau, a 59 year old woman from LaVallee, is facing charges related to the theft of mail from the Fort Frances Post Office, resulting from a joint investigation by Canada Post and the

OPP, launched on December 4, 2023. Rousseau was working as a contract cleaner in the Canada Post building at the time.

Police had issued a search warrant for a residence and vehicle located in LaVallee as a result of that investigation.

OPP press releases issued at the time of the arrest stated there were at least 60 known victims.

None of her charges have been proven in court.

Weechi-it-te-win Family Services appoints new executive director

From WFS Press release

The Board of Directors of Weechi-it-te-win Family Services (WFS) is pleased to announce that Dean Wilson has been appointed to the position of Executive Director, reporting to the Board of Directors effective January 1, 2025.

Dean has been serving as the Director of Administration of WFS since 2017 and will be succeeding Executive Director Laurie Rose who is retiring on December 31st. Dean brings with him over 30 years of experience working with our partner First Nation communities as well as all levels of government. Board President Chris Hen-

erson said, "We are proud to announce the appointment of Dean as our new Executive Director and want to congratulate Laurie on a well-deserved retirement after leading Weechi-it-te-win Family Services for over 12 years as our Executive Director."

More information to follow.

Flurries in store for this weekend

Tonight will be partly cloudy with a low of -21 C (-6 F).

Tomorrow will be cloudy with periods of snow during the day and a chance of flurries overnight with a high of -12 (10) and a low of -22 (-8).

Friday will be sunny and clear with a high of -14 (7) and a low of -23 (-9).

In the extended forecast, Saturday will be sunny during the day with cloudy periods and a chance of flurries overnight with a high of -11 (12) and a

low of -14 (7) and Sunday will bring a mix of sun and cloud with a chance of flurries during the day with partly cloudy skies and a chance of flurries overnight with a high of -9 (16) and a low of -10 (14).

The record high for today is 6 (43) set in 1923 and the record low is -38 (-36) set in 1983.

Sunset today is at 4:19 p.m. and sunrise tomorrow is at 8:03 a.m.

Community Christmas Dinner

CHRISTMAS EVE pick up & delivery!

Traditional Holiday meal available to anyone and everyone!
(Meals will be received with reheating instructions)

Pick up at Flint House between 12-1pm
Delivery starting at 1pm

All meals must be pre-ordered by December 22nd

Call 276-6425 to order or volunteer

We accept monetary donations, with cheques being made out to Community Living.
Donations can be dropped off at Flint House or Northwoods Gallery & Gifts.

FIREARMS WANTED FOR OUR 2025 AUCTION PROGRAM

Rifles, Shotguns, Handguns, Antiques, Militaria, Collections, Estates, Single Items For Auction or Possible Purchase

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Or email us: sales@switzersauktion.com
VISIT US @ www.switzersauktion.com for Auction Dates & Details

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY TO PETER VANHEYST FROM YOUR FAMILY!

The family would like to invite everyone to join us for a come and go tea on

Saturday December 28, 2024 from 1-3pm at the Emo Christian Reformed Church, 18 Meadow Street in Emo.

No gifts please, your presence is your gift!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Misty River Alternatives



Magnesium Bisglycinate
200mg, 150 veggie caps
•Highly absorbable
•200 mg pure elemental magnesium
•Supports muscle, bone, teeth

\$18.60



BioActive Multi for Women
150 veggie caps
•Full spectrum, multivitamin and mineral
•Supports immune system, bone, cognitive, mood, and cardiovascular health, healthy thyroid function, and energy support

\$33.75



BioActive Multi for Women
150 veggie caps
•Full spectrum, multivitamin and mineral
•Formulated for active men, contains no iron
•Supports immune system, bone, cognitive and cardiovascular health, healthy thyroid function, and energy support

\$31.50



BioActive Multi for Men
150 veggie caps
•Full spectrum, multivitamin and mineral
•Formulated for active men, contains no iron
•Supports immune system, bone, cognitive and cardiovascular health, healthy thyroid function, and energy support

\$31.50



Coral Calcium
90 capsules
•Highly absorbable
•Helps restore pH balance
•Marine-grade coral contains calcium and 73 other natural minerals

\$14.50



Pro Sleep Bonus Size
75 veggie caps
•Helps to temporarily promote relaxation
•L-Theanine, GABA, 5-HTP, Valerian, Passionflower, Hops, Melatonin, Magnesium

\$21.25



Nutri Cure
60 veggie caps
•MERIVA Turmeric, Boswellia, Olive-Leaf, Black Pepper
•Eases pain and inflammation
•Strengthens the immune system

\$28.90



Berberine 500g
90 veggie caps
•Supports blood sugar metabolism
•Supports cardiovascular health

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Game 2 - Letter X - \$500 • Game 3 - Full House - \$1500

Cards available at: The Great Bear, CC Complex, Rainy Lake Sports, Ski's Variety, Tagg's Source for Sports, The Place Fine Foods, Good Impressions, Cloverleaf Family Foods, Zig's Place in Morson, Rainy River Bakery and Restaurant, Bear's Place - Gerald Johnson's on Seine River FN Lottery License M857875

MONSTER BINGO games


are, Dec 23, Jan 27 & March 3!

Misty River Alternatives



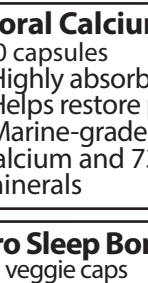
BioActive Multi for Women
150 veggie caps
•Full spectrum, multivitamin and mineral
•Supports immune system, bone, cognitive, mood, and cardiovascular health, healthy thyroid function, and energy support

\$31.50




BioActive Multi for Men
150 veggie caps
•Full spectrum, multivitamin and mineral
•Formulated for active men, contains no iron
•Supports immune system, bone, cognitive and cardiovascular health, healthy thyroid function, and energy support

\$31.50




Coral Calcium
90 capsules
•Highly absorbable
•Helps restore pH balance
•Marine-grade coral contains calcium and 73 other natural minerals

\$14.50




Pro Sleep Bonus Size
75 veggie caps
•Helps to temporarily promote relaxation
•L-Theanine, GABA, 5-HTP, Valerian, Passionflower, Hops, Melatonin, Magnesium

\$21.25



Nutri Cure
60 veggie caps
•MERIVA Turmeric, Boswellia, Olive-Leaf, Black Pepper
•Eases pain and inflammation
•Strengthens the immune system

\$28.90



Berberine 500g
90 veggie caps
•Supports blood sugar metabolism
•Supports cardiovascular health

\$32.25

133 Colonization Street, EMO (807) 482-3232

THANK YOU

from the
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29

Our 2024 Poppy Campaign received overwhelming support from residents of the Rainy River District. Over to \$13,000 was raised this year!

Through your generous contributions, we are able to assist many local initiatives that benefit the lives of our veterans and community.

Every dollar raised stays right here, so your kind and caring support does make a difference.
Lest we forget.

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In Memory of Richard (Dick) Collett -Lorna Angus
Crystal Smith
The Bayview Motel
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Lorelei Locker O.D.
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M.L. Caron
Rainy Lake Family Dental
Stan's Carpet & Drapery
FF Fire Rescue Local 1012
Henry Miller
Township of Alberton

Fort Frances Lions Club
Knights of Columbus
United Native Friendship Centre
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Northwest Painting & Sandblasting
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A special Thank You to Betty's for their extra donations from their fundraising campaign

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 29 Fort Frances would also like to thank all the businesses that participated in our Poppy box sales

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All newspapers encourage letters to the editor and intend to print the opinions of their readers with as few restrictions as possible. The Fort Frances Times is no exception.
Rules governing letters to the editor in the Fort Frances Times are:

1. All letters must be signed, and the name of the writer will be printed with all letters published.
2. The writer must submit his/her letter in person and satisfactorily identify themselves, or submit a telephone number to be used to verify that the letter was actually written by the person whose name is included on it, delaying publication if necessary to make the verification.
3. Letters will not be accepted from people outside the local coverage area unless the letters are written on a topic of primarily local interest.
4. If a letter attacks another individual or group, the Times will allow a response in the same edition.
5. Letters should not exceed 300 words and may be edited for length and content.

Lincoln Dunn,
General Manager
Megan Walchuk,
Editor

Canada
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporters are funded by the Government of Canada.



There's Joy in a Box

Breaking habits is never easy, especially the bad ones. This time of year, one of my habits gets a favourable review. If you need a box, I probably have one just the right size. I love boxes, especially small ones with snug fitting lids and smooth surfaces. Maybe I'm part feline. I saw a photo of a big cardboard box in the savannas of Africa and comfortably lying inside was a happy lion. I can't be sure of her emotional state, but she looked happy. I wouldn't want to misrepresent the facts. I have considerable struggle with turning over a box to the recycling bin. I have reduced my collection, but I am still a long way from tossing boxes in the bin with cavalier flair and not ready to retrace my steps to retrieve said box in reconsideration. I'm not on the hoarders' list, not yet. The boxes that can be broken down are stacked neatly in my cupboard so if someone turned up to do a random inspection as to my hoarding tendencies, I think they'd just put me on the suspicious list. The boxes ready to be recycled are broken down and stacked in the porch, poised should I need backing for granddaughter craft activities that involve paint, markers or glue. I'm all for reducing the packaging that comes with the various "I can't live without" products we purchase, but a posh box makes me swoon.

The first cardboard boxes were produced in 1817 in England by M Treverton & Son. In 1856, Edward Healey and Edward Allen patented corrugated paper,



WENDI WITH AN 'EYE'
WENDI STEWART



not for boxes but to line tall hats, of all things. Whoever thought the tall hat was a good idea, an idea that saw millions and millions of beaver pelts cross the ocean to England in the name of high fashion. At the height of the fur trade, 200,000 beavers were killed each year in what is now Canada for those ridiculous hats. But again, I digress. The pre-cut cardboard box was an accident of discovery when paper bags were cut while being creased, which goes to show what we are quick to deem as failure often leads to something good. Kellogg's was the first to print on the outside of their boxes, boxes that became more than just for convenience of shipping and storage. Cereal boxes make excellent backing to protect surfaces from those granddaughter things I mentioned earlier. Just saying.

I've tried over the years to curb my willingness to save boxes. Cardboard is easily recycled multiple times, but initially, is a "resource intensive" product which adds to deforestation concerns. So, recycling them, reusing them, sharing them are all good strategies rather than filling closets with them.

A box is the greatest example of a possibility, a bit like a blank page with a freshly sharpened pencil with an attached eraser sitting next

to it. My grandsons love to build forts and planes and magic spaces with boxes, convincing me they will all be architects or engineers, though at least one of them sees himself as a paleontologist, an ambition which will likely fade all on its own.

I've never willingly parted with a shoebox. I must confess, my first early passion for a box was not a cardboard one but rather the small wooden boxes that mandarin oranges came tucked into at Christmas time. I adored those boxes. They held all my finest treasures, and my Christmas surprises were stored safely in an orange box tucked under my bed until at least the end of January. Undoubtedly, some adult in my house pilfered my beloved box and disposed of it, but I'm not mentioning any names (Mom).

One of my most treasured boxes is a lovely pink glove box from Betty's. Inside that precious box, I tucked my track and field ribbons from a few centuries ago and that box has a place of honour in the bigger box labeled "Wendi's Treasures". I'm not sure which means more to me, the Betty's box or the ribbons. I'm going with the box.

If you doubt the value of a cardboard box, think back to the reaction of young children to gifts on Christmas morning. Do these wise children whose joy is innocently unencumbered prefer to play with the toy or the box it came in? I rest my case. Merry Christmas, everyone!
wendistewart@live.ca

Christmas magic is in the air

The snow is gently falling. It clings to branches like cotton balls. The white Christmas lights on the shrubbery have become muted as they light the snow surrounding them. The snow is clinging to the trees and the evergreen branches are bent.

Our neighbourhood is a Christmas postcard picture. The temperature will drop into the minus twenties. Winter is upon us and Christmas is but one week away. Homes and yards are lit with twinkling lights of all colours and decorated with blow up characters from Christmas movies past.

It is a wonderful time of year. Our grand daughters are filled with excitement of the magic of Christmas and as grandparents we are filled with awe and wonder as they celebrate the mystery of the season. They fill our hearts and minds with joy.

One of the major conversations at the Senior's Center is of families travelling to be with one another. If children and grandchildren are not coming home to the district, grandparents and newly arrived residents are travelling to be with family. It is a story as old as time. It is good that we call it the Christmas season and not just a single day.

As I reflect in my life, one of the most memorable Christmas Eve's was going out to my cousin's farm and walking from the house to the barn where the cattle were



FROM THE PUBLISHER EMERITUS' PEN
JIM CUMMING

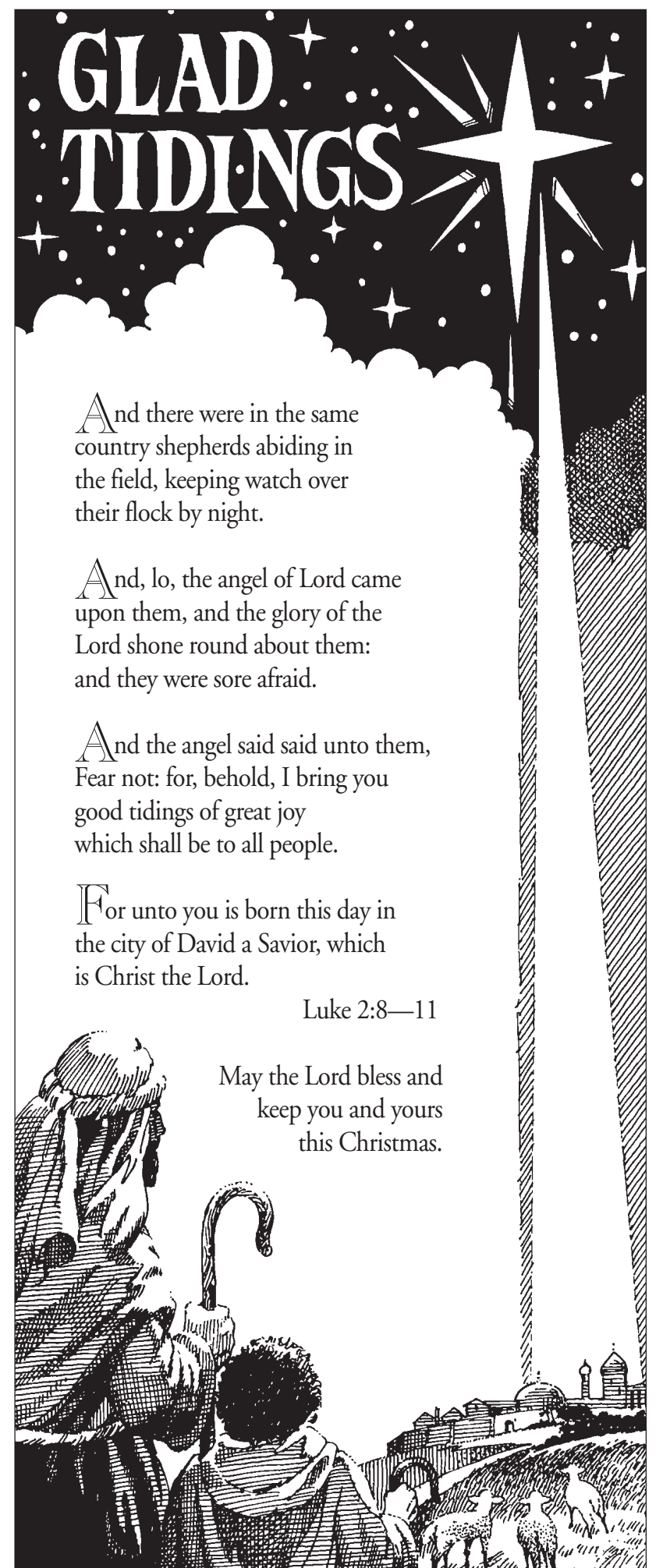
kept. It was a snowy evening, and the stillness of the night surrounded our families with peace. When we reached the barn, the cattle seemed to feel that there was something special on this night. It was an eerie feeling that may have harkened back to the birth of Jesus centuries ago in a stable.

Christmas is a time for sharing memories. I have been blessed with memories of all the people I have worked with across the district. They have enriched my life. I have been fortunate to have worked with publishers from across the country bringing the history of communities large and small to their readers. From them, I have a greater appreciation of how great Canada is.

Swimming has opened the opportunity to work with swimmers and their parents from across the northwest. They too have enriched my life.

I have been fortunate to have had the support of family in all my activities. I appreciate that I can continue to write my column for the paper.

Thank you to all and to all I wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy bountiful new year.



And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:8—11

May the Lord bless and keep you and yours this Christmas.

Letter to the editor

Critical minerals at a critical time

Dear editor,

Your recent article "Federal government looks to unlock critical mineral development in northern Ontario" could not be more timely, given little Donnie's threat to immediately slap a 25 per cent tariff on Canadian goods when he takes office in January 2025. Fights with a loyal friend and trading partner totally unlike China or even Mexico surreptitiously bringing cheap Chinese electric cars into the North American market is the last way to treat a loyal

friend that is the major trading partner of some 26 states in the union. Canada can just as easily offer her precious metals to friendly NATO partners in western Europe than to Uncle Sam. I never thought I would live to agree with Conservative premier Ford, but cutting off Ontario electricity to Michigan and New York will show we are serious about the narcissist psychotic little Donnie's allegations that Yankees are subsidizing the Canadian economy to the tune of 100 million dollars.

Ron Welker

The Christmas Spirit

By Liz Adam
Life Coach's Corner

"What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!" — *The Grinch*
"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind." — Calvin Coolidge

"The Christmas spirit is a spirit of giving and forgiving." — James Cash Penney

Oh boy. Christmas is upon us again. How did the year go so quickly? How will I get everything done that needs to be done before Christmas?

It's so easy to get wrapped up in stress while we're wrapping up presents, or more accurately, madly trying to find and buy presents while trying not to think about how much everything costs.

I was recently struck by the power of this thought by Harlan Miller: "Probably the reason we all go so haywire at Christmas time with the endless unrestrained and often silly buying of gifts is that we don't quite know how to put our love into words."

The true spirit of Christmas is most fundamentally a spirit of love, of a gift being given because of love. Over time people began to focus more on gifts than on love and now we find ourselves very distracted from the meaning of Christmas by the obligations, work, and expenses of the gift giving traditions that have taken the place of giving and

showing love.

How can we restore the true meaning of Christmas? In our time-starved schedules, spending quality time with those we love is a great gift. In our money-hungry culture, giving a gift that is more personal than costly is a way to show that you truly care about somebody. In our greedy generation, giving gifts to those who are truly in need instead of those who already have too much is very valuable.

How would you define the spirit of Christmas? What do you want more of this season? What do you want less of? What makes Christmas meaningful to you?

If you find yourself stuck in a seasonal rut or if you find yourself enduring the holidays instead of enjoying them, try to find a way to make Christmas even just a little more simple in some way.

If you find yourself lonely or sad at this time of year, reach out to someone who might be feeling the same way and be a light in their darkness. Mary Anne Radmacher has said, "As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way."

Even if you are experiencing grief, illness, loneliness, relationship challenges or financial difficulties, the love that created Christmas can comfort, help and sustain you through this dark but light time of year.

"Just remember, the true spirit of Christmas lies in your heart." — *The Polar Express*

Santa Claus shows up at LaVallee community Christmas potluck



ROBIN M'CORMICK
DEVILIN CORRESPONDENT

The annual LaVallee Christmas potluck held last Sunday (December 15) was topped off with a visit from jolly Santa Claus. Santa's visit was much enjoyed by the youth attending along with adults enjoying Santa's visit. Santa had Christmas bags of treats for all attending. Ron and Charlene McTavish once again cooked, setup, cleaned up and all the other tasks that come with putting on an enjoyable evening for all attending. Thanks to Ron and Charlene for their dedicated service to all attending.

Lois Shine is home from the hospital and doing well. It was great to see Lois and her son Dan at the Municipal Christmas potluck.

Sending Jim Allen wishes for a speedy recovery. Jim broke his hip while travelling on a bus trip to Winnipeg last week. Jim was flown to Thunder Bay for medical care. Our community sends Jim caring thoughts and concern during this difficult time.

Congratulations to Zach and Laureen Schram (nee Pierce) and big brother Colby on the birth of Lena Grace. Lena was born December 15th. at Thunder Bay Regional weighing 8lbs 6 ounces.

Grandparents are Dave and Norine Schram and John and Penny Pierce. Great grandparents are Ron and Mary Ann Poitier of Kenora. Mom and baby are doing very well.

Last weeks Emo Legion Beer and Burger's meat draws were won by Dayle Allen and Tami LeBlanc. The next Beer and Burger is January 10th.

Devlin Senior's next coffee gathering is January 7th. from 1-3p.m. at the Devlin Hall. All seniors 55 plus are welcome.

I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best in 2025. Thank's to all that read my column, it's truly appreciated!

Robin's 2 cents

A couple went to breakfast as a restaurant where the "senior's special" was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for \$2.99...

"Sounds good," the wife said..."But I don't want the eggs."

"Then I'll have to charge you \$3.49 because you're ordering a la carte," the waiter warned her.

"You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?" the wife asked

"I'll take the special then," the wife said.

"Great...how do you ant your eggs" the waiter asked.

"Raw and in the shell," the wife replied.

She took the two eggs home and baked a cake.

DON'T MESS WITH SENIORS!! We've been around the block more than once!

Cold weather well woes

I have two big fears when the winter season rolls around — one is fire and the second is water.

I always worry that my barn will burn down as calving season nears. Then I think about what I would do if my well went dry or the lines froze so bad that I wouldn't be able to provide water for my animals. Last week on the first cold day we had, I woke up in the night to no water. At the time I didn't allow myself to stress too much as I figured that perhaps we just hadn't turned the heat up enough to tackle the cold or that maybe we needed a new pressure switch.

Upon the first inspection it did seem as though it might have been a pressure switch and water returned to the house. I had water in the barn and the second water bowl but nothing at the bowl that provides water for my calves, bulls and horse. Strange, because we have two lines - one for the house and the second is for the farm water. Why was it working at some but not the other. Clayton decided it was frozen or had some ice somewhere. It is usually a quick fix with a pail of hot



MOO'S FROM THE HERD
KIM JO BLISS



water and things usually start to flow. This was not the case. I left him in charge as I was off to some appointments.

I fully expected to return to everything working. This was not the case.

Off we went to the well house, because I thought I might know where it was frozen. I was wrong because if it was frozen there, I wouldn't have had water in my other areas. Clayton assured me that we should just leave the bowl covered up with extra heat on and it would likely thaw out. I kept thinking the entire time it is going to be a long winter with issues already. The calves and bulls were fine, not even complaining about the lack of water as there was lots of fresh snow that would satisfy them temporarily. Truth is, they were likely more satisfied than me. I was stressing but tried to stay positive. It still wasn't working at bedtime, but Clay-

ton thought it would likely thaw out overnight, especially since it sounded like the weather was going to warm up. Of course, I was up in the night and discovered no water in the house again.

First thing Clayton walked down to the well house and discovered that he indeed had warmed things up. It warmed up enough that it melted a line. So, we had a skating rink out at the well house and we most likely gave the well and good pump out. It was a tricky repair because the line is so low that there was some hand digging required and honestly some of the work was completed by my dad and he tended to do things in a more redneck fashion. Things were repaired and water was back on by 4 p.m. but it was a long day thinking about watering cows, selling cows, hauling cows and how I can't wait for 2024 to be over. Meanwhile the cows were just as happy to drink from the dirty water under the snow because there is no frost, and I am still bringing up mud and water with my tractor! (I just have to add, I was thankful that it wasn't I that left extra heat on the line.)

Keep your holidays safe and merry: Part 2



SAFETY TIDBITS
TYLER J. MOFFITT

DID YOU KNOW?

The Christmas Season should be a safe and merry time; but fire has no respect for happy occasions. It can strike with fury when least expected. Fire can be a dangerous enemy, and December is a leading month for home fires, which is largely due to the activities we engage in during this season.

In addition, the Christmas Season brings temptations for many parents and caregivers—while visiting with friends or completing last-minute shopping—to leave small children unattended for short periods of time.

At the same time, decorations, trees, lit-candles, and wrapping paper etc. bring an increased threat of fire danger unless constant care is exercised. Parents and caregivers must recognize the FIRE DANGER of the season, and remember to never leave small children alone in the home even for a moment.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN—CREATE A SAFETY ZONE

Designate a "Kids-Free Zone" that is at least one metre (3 feet) away from the stove.

COOKING SAFETY—LOOK WHILE YOU COOK

Unattended cooking is one of the leading causes of kitchen fires along with having flammable items such as oven mitts, dish towels, paper towels etc. too close to the stovetop.

LOOK WHILE YOU COOK:

Never leave cooking unattended, as well as children unattended in the kitchen; if you have to leave the kitchen, even for a short period of time—turn off the stove.

Wear tight-fitted clothing or roll up your sleeves before cooking; long-hair needs to be pulled back away from the face and tied into a bun or a ponytail before using a stove.

Loose dangling clothing can easily catch fire, as well as loose dangling clothing and jewelry can even hook onto a pot/pan handle and spill its hot contents, which could result in a serious burn injury.

Remember, TURN POT/PAN HANDLES INWARD, facing the wall to prevent burns caused by overturning or spills.

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANNING—TWO WAYS OUT

Santa needs one way out of your home—you need two!

Give your family a gift of peace of mind with a home fire escape plan; have two ways out of your home to ensure your loved ones are prepared for the worst so you can focus on the best ... festive cheer!

HEATING SOURCES—GIVE THEM SPACE

Space heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces are all great ideas until an incident happens.

Keep at least one metre (3 feet) distance between your heat source and things that can burn, such as paper/wrapping paper/Christmas cards, and fabrics.

MATCHES & LIGHTERS—KEEP THEM OUT OF SIGHT & REACH

Keep matches and lighters out of the sight and reach of children.

Matches and lighters can be deadly in the hands of children.

Keep all fire-starting materials out of sight and reach of children; store them in a high cabinet, preferably a locked one.

Children as young as two years old have been able to operate lighters and start fires with them!

SMOKING SAFETY—ALWAYS SMOKE OUTSIDE

Careless smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires in Canada.

Encourage all smokers to smoke outside.

Always, use large deep sturdy ashtrays that can't be knocked over.

DO NOT discard ashes and butts in vegetation such as potted plants, mulch, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves, or other things that could easily ignite.

Before you throw away butts and ashes, make sure they are out; douse them in water or sand.

Additionally, empty ashes and butts into a metal container that has a lid and store outside.

LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES—MONITOR WHEN CHARGING

Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries power many devices, such as smartphones, laptops, cameras, mobility scooters, e-scooters/bikes, power tools, toys, and electric vehicles etc.

Certified Li-ion batteries are generally safe when properly charged, used, and disposed of.

However, overcharged, modified, or damaged Li-ion batteries can be a fire hazard and may even explode.

Remember, always monitor the Li-ion device when it is charging; read the manufacturer's instructions for safe charging, and do not exceed the recommended charging time!

ONE LAST TIDBIT—WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Check to ensure you have WORKING SMOKE ALARMS in your home now!

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

Safety—it starts with you folks.

HAVE YOUR SAY — THE TIMES POLL

As 2024 comes to a close, what are your hopes and dreams for 2025

Write in your answers, we'll publish them on New Year's Eve

To take part in our online poll, visit the Times' Web site at: www.ftimes.com

Last week's question

Do you think Trump was fully joking about Canada becoming the 51st state?

No 70%
Yes 28%

I have more to say (write-in)
2%

What readers wrote in for last week's poll:

- ♦ No, I don't think he was joking. He was being his usual self - a tyrant and a bully.
- ♦ Stop giving that fool attention for deliberately outrageous comments designed to distract from real issues, such as trade wars.
- ♦ I want Canada to become the 51st thru 100th states. Do I think he was serious? I would only have a clue if I was as mentally unstable as he is...

- ♦ I think he wasn't joking, but it shouldn't happen, because we are not in the US and Canada is extremely big.
- ♦ No that's his plan from the beginning because the border doesn't have nearly enough fentanyl to be worried about and it will be the other way around with people trying too come to Canada now that Trump's in office again. It happened in 1812 when the States tried to annex Canada.

We welcome your letters to the editor



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR JANUARY 13, 2025

TOWN OF RAINY RIVER CONCERNING A PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT

The Town of Rainy River has received a complete application to amend the Town's Zoning By-law to permit an existing single detached dwelling on lands forming 215-219 Fourth Street located at the southwest corner of Fourth Street and Broadway Avenue (please see Key Map below).

The purpose of this proposed By-law is to change the zoning on the subject lands from the General Commercial (GC) Zone to the Residential (R1) Zone to permit one existing single detached dwelling.

TAKE NOTICE That the Council of the Town of Rainy River will hold a public meeting at the Town Offices on January 13, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. to consider a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment under Section 34 of the Planning Act to amend By-law No. 1614-15, the Town of Rainy River Zoning By-law. Virtual attendance via Zoom is permitted.

PLEASE ADVISE the Chief Administrative Officer of your email address if you wish a digital invitation/link to join the Zoom meeting sent to you. If you attend via Zoom you will also have the opportunity to speak at the meeting.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River before the By-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION relating to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment is available at www.rainyriver.ca. For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, contact rainyriver@btaytel.net or 807-852-3978 during regular business hours. If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to:

Shara Lavallee, Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Rainy River
201 Atwood Avenue, Box 488
Rainy River, ON POW 1L0

Dated at the Town of Rainy River this 16 day of December, 2024.



Council heard from six candidates vying for council position

More from A1

"Many locals may not know how important the First Nations are to our local economy. Some are buying local businesses and employing Fort Frances residents. Mitaanjigamiing is building a new hotel and restaurant next to Walmart. Nigigoosiminikaaning has over 50 employees working in the town of Fort Frances. There will soon be a biofuel plant built in the area as a partnership with the communities of Treaty #3 south. I believe, to move forward successfully, the town and area First Nations need to find a path, move beyond just being neighbours to working together as partners. I can't promise I can improve their relations, but the first step of working with our neighbours, you approach them like I did with you tonight, by offering *asemaa*, which is tobacco, by giving *asemaa*, you're showing that you respect and honor Anishinaabe culture, and you're putting in a serious effort to work together."

Morrison was ultimately voted in at the third round of voting, where he received the majority vote of sitting councillors over Robert Animikii Horton, the only other candidate whose name was still standing in that final round of voting. Morrison was sworn in as a councillor immediately following voting and will return to the council chambers with his colleagues when council resumes, following their holiday break, on Monday, January 13, 2025.

While the possibility of a by-election to decide a new councillor was available, the majority of council elected to pursue an appointment process that saw nominations open on November 13, 2024, and close last Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. The certified list of candi-

dates was signed off by interim clerk Chelsea Greig at 2:19 p.m. that same day.

During that time, seven individuals put their names forward as candidates for the vacant council seat, though one withdrew their name before the application period came to its official close.

The official candidate list as of the closing of the application period was former Fort Frances CAO Douglas D. Brown, paramedic Kevin John Douse, educator and linguist Robert Animikii Horton, Ink Spoz Apparel+ owner Scott Krienke-Turvey, Weechi-It-Te-Win Family Services community relations specialist William Morrison Jr., and 4 Your Pets owner Pamela J. Williams.

At last night's meeting, each candidate was allowed to make a five minute presentation to council, as well as two minutes each to answer a series of pre-determined questions from sitting councillors. At the beginning of the presentation and question portion of the meeting, all candidates were sequestered in an adjacent room, with each being called one at a time to return to the council chamber to speak. Following their turn, they were invited to return to the adjacent room, or to remain in the council chambers. Candidates were invited to speak to council in alphabetical order of last name, meaning Douglas Brown presented first, with Pamela Williams being the last candidate to speak.

Each candidate was asked four questions in total, given by rotating members of council. Those questions were: what motivated you to apply to this position, and what unique skills and experiences do you bring that will benefit the community?; how do you plan to engage with and represent all residents in your decision making?; how would you handle situ-



William Morrison Jr., second from left, joins the rest of the Town of Fort Frances council in his first photo as a town councillor following last night's special meeting to fill a seat that has been vacant since October. The application process saw seven individuals overall put their names forward as candidates, though only six remained in standing by the time the application process came to a close on December 11, 2024. Morrison will return to council chambers for their first meeting in the new year. — Ken Kellar photo

ations where your personal views or beliefs differ from council's final decisions?; and to describe their decision-making process and explain how they would approach a complex issue where community members are divided.

Doug Brown was a long-serving municipal employee in roles as the manager of operations and facilities, and then as CAO before his retirement in 2021. In his application to fill the vacancy, Brown noted his wealth of municipal experience would be an asset as a councillor, adding it would be "a new challenge" for him.

"In Ontario, it is becoming more challenging to deliver services in a municipal setting," Brown said in his personal statement.

"The vast amount of legislation is very challenging to ensure affordability is maintained for our tax payers. In accordance to the Municipal Act two key responsibilities of Council are; to determine which services the municipality provides and 2) to maintain the financial integrity of the municipality. The councillor's job is to work with other council members to set the overall direction of the municipality through their role as a policy maker. The policies that council sets are the guidelines for administration to follow as it does the job of directing or operating the municipality. I have the capacity to fulfill these key responsibilities as a Councillor with the Town of Fort Frances."

Kevin Douse has been a resident of Fort Frances since 2016, as well as a paramedic and part-time firefighter serving the district in that time. He came before council noting that his experience on the front lines of paramedicine in a time when the district is struggling with staffing shortages directed part of where he feels he can best serve the community.

"I believe that the citizens of

Fort Frances want to see the town's reputation and general safety aspects improve," Douse said.

"The amount of crime plaguing this town is unacceptable, and is deterring families, residents, and visitors from being able to truly enjoy areas such as the Great Canadian Main Street. Business owners on Scott Street other locations must be listened to and loitering and public intoxication laws must be enforced by local law enforcement and by-law officers. Families and other people are worried about finding used needles on the ground while visiting public spaces. There is indeed housing challenges in this town, ranging from homelessness, to affordability as well as sky-high property-tax rates which may deter future new residential development. If I were to be appointed to council, I will be working hard as a strong advocate for public safety, economic development, and fiscal responsibility. I want to help the Town of Fort Frances to grow into this century."

Robert Horton is an educator, linguist and author who is a resident of Fort Frances as well as Rainy River First Nations of Manidoo Baawitigong, and is currently an Anishinaabemowin instructor at Seven Generations Education Institute at their Rainy Lake campus, as well as a professor for Durham College and an instructor for Lakehead University. Horton noted a conversation with Fort Frances mayor Andrew Hallikas prompted him to consider running for council, where he could use his skills and knowledge for the betterment of the community.

"I acknowledge our town and community as an amazing and unique place," Horton said.

"Not only is it full of natural beauty and abundant history, but

it remains a place that rests dear in my heart to which all paths in life have always led back to over the years... I feel it is incumbent upon those with skills and concerns for the future of our communities to go beyond merely supporting, commenting, or critiquing local and regional civics and government. It is necessary to contribute (not as an ascension to power but rather a submission to service) to benefit all our town's residents with reason, rationality, common sense, logic, and positivity in decision making. Please consider me for such a responsibility. Not only to offer what I can contribute, but to learn from each of our current town council (with a clear mind and open heart) how to contribute in the best of ways - to the best outcomes."

Scott Krienke-Turvey is the owner of Ink Spoz Apparel+ in downtown Fort Frances, with a wealth of experience serving in other business, volunteer and community-focused roles, such as a former member and director of the Kiwanis Club, director of the Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship and organizer of the Fort Frances Santa Claus parade. Krienke-Turvey told council he would rely on his experiences to work to bring out the best of what Fort Frances could be.

"With many years of professional experience, including nearly a quarter century as businessowner... I am eager to bring my skills in management, decision making, and critical thinking to help lead Fort Frances to once again become an affordable, productive, and vibrant community," he said.

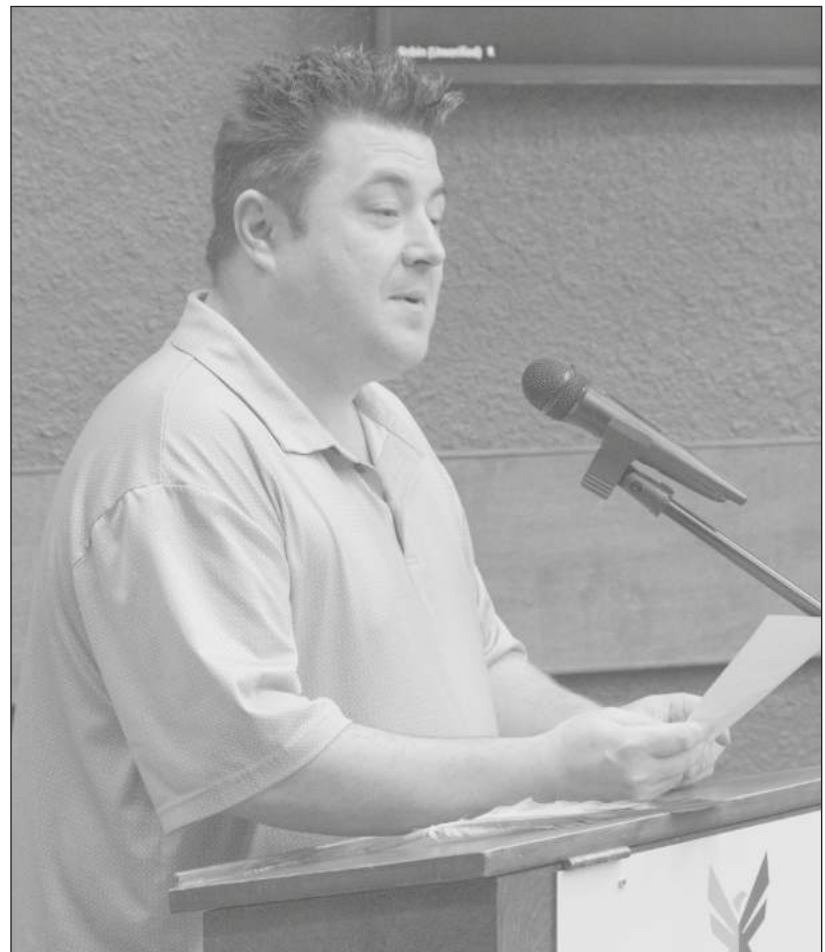
"My professional career has given me a diverse set of skills that align seamlessly with the requirements of a Councillor. From overseeing daily operations to managing budgets and leading

several teams, I have cultivated the decision-making skills necessary to bring structure and efficiency that readies me for the position. Secondly, decision-making has been a cornerstone of my career. Whether it involved strategic planning, addressing challenges, or capitalizing on opportunities, my role required making informed and timely decisions. As a Councillor, this ability will be instrumental in evaluating policies, responding to the needs of constituents, and facilitating meaningful community engagement, while balancing what needs to be done during in-camera meetings with the need for transparency to the electorate."

Pamela Williams is the owner of 4 Your Pets, and spoke to council about her Business Accounting experience, as well as her volunteerism throughout her life, including the Northwood Hockey League in Thunder Bay and the Fort Frances BIA. In speaking to council, Williams noted she would use her experience and skills to be an effective communicator and team player on council, while respecting the differing views and opinions of the public.

"All my work experience and volunteering has taught me many things, including communicating with the public in a respectful and kind manner," she said.

"Being on the BIA board and having my own business, I have learnt the different rules and regulations between being an employee versus an employer and a board member and how to work within a team as well as on my own. I have attended a couple of town meetings and it has helped me see a bit of how the meetings are run. I do believe I would make a good town councillor and I look forward to having a chance to show you. I would also bring a fresh view to our town meetings."



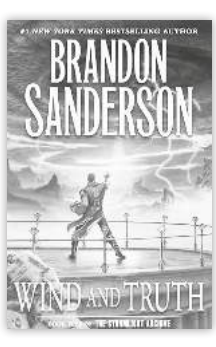
Robert Animikii Horton was the other candidate who went through to the final round of voting during last night's special council meeting. Horton is a writer, educator and linguist who told council he felt it "incumbent on those with skills and concerns for the future of our communities to go beyond merely supporting, commenting or critiquing local and regional civics and government." — Ken Kellar photo

New York Times BESTSELLERS

Here are the Top 10 hardcover fiction and non-fiction books compiled by the New York Times

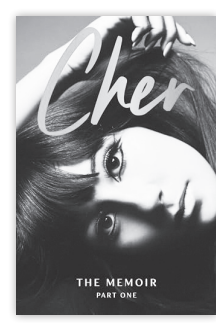
FICTION

1. Wind and Truth — Brandon Sanderson
2. James — Percival Everett
3. The Women — Kristin Hannah
4. The House of Cross — James Patterson
5. Counting Miracles — Nicholas Sparks
6. Now or Never — Janet Evanovich
7. Iron Flame — Rebecca Yarros
8. To Die For — David Baldacci
9. Wicked — Gregory Maguire
10. Hooked — Emily McIntire



NON-FICTION

1. Cher: The Memoir, Part One — Cher
2. Melania — Melania Trump
3. Be Ready When the Luck Happens — Ina Garten
4. Framed — John Grisham and Jim McCloskey
5. Confronting The Presidents — Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard
6. The Serviceberry — Robin Wall Kimmerer
7. The Anxious Generation — Jonathan Haidt
8. Revenge of the Tipping Point — Malcolm Gladwell
9. The Demon of Unrest — Erik Larson
10. Outlive — Peter Attia with Bill Gifford



HOROSCOPES

Aries March 21/April 20
Aries, a special person in your life deserves all of your attention. Romance might be on your mind, and you'll look forward to all of the time you can spend together.

Taurus April 21/May 21
You may feel artistically inspired this week, Taurus. Explore projects like home improvements or crafting. There are many things to try.

Gemini May 22/June 21
Your attendance at a wedding or another special event could have your thoughts moving in a romantic direction, Gemini. Maybe you're thinking of taking your relationship to another level?

Cancer June 22/July 22
Cancer, forge ahead in your efforts if you aspire to learn a new skill or take on a different project. This might involve meeting new and interesting people. Expand your social network.

Leo July 23/August 23
Leo, it is important to put others first this week, particularly your spouse or romantic partner. You don't want any hurt feelings circulating right now.

Virgo Aug 24/Sept 22
An unexpected visitor might come your way in the next few days, Virgo. This could require overhauling your schedule and even space in your home to make room.

Libra Sept 23/Oct 23
Family and friends will have a difficult time changing your mind once you have taken a stance, Libra. You have dug in your heels on this topic.

Scorpio Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, new work assignments or additional business may complicate matters in the days ahead. That can be great during times of year when spending can get out of control.

Sagittarius Nov 23/Dec 21
As you prepare for the colder temperatures, holistic arts, acupuncture, herbs, and therapies might be on your mind, Sagittarius. You don't want to be sick this go-around.

Capricorn Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you will try to meet the demands of your need for information this week. Chances are you'll be reading the newspaper and news outlets as much as you can.

Aquarius Jan 21/Feb 18
You cannot gain traction right now, Aquarius. Perhaps you haven't met the right people yet? Keep your eyes and ears open for new opportunities.

Pisces Feb 19/March 20
Pisces, if a career change has been on your mind, the new year might be a chance to get those gears moving in the right direction.

Sudoku

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Friday.

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 12/18

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

Difficulty: ★★

Yesterday's solution



Christmas wishes

Owen MacDonald having a serious talk with Santa. I'm thinking he's giving him his Christmas list! Santa Claus has been a prominent fixture across the district this Christmas season, with sightings at parades, breakfasts, craft fairs and this event, which was the LaVallee community potluck. - Robin McCormick photo



Volunteers working together to collect donations for West End Food Bank through the Stuff a Cruiser event, which took place across the district on December 7. - Submitted

Rainy River food bank shelves stocked thanks to Stuff a Cruiser

By Robin McCormick
West end correspondent

On Saturday December 7 the West End Food Bank shelves were filled thanks to Stuff A Cruiser 2024. Organizers would like to thank their volunteers, as well as OPP Constable Spencer Brown and Canada Border Service Agency officers for taking time out of their busy day to help make this campaign a success.

Organizers are grateful to members of The Teamster Canada Rail Conference Division 749, Rainy River New Gold mine and West Fraser Barwick for their monetary donations. North Western Health Unit, Riverview School, and Rainy River Canada Customs for collected and donated groceries. Beaver Mills Market has been a welcoming host for many years and organizers thoroughly enjoy the cookies

and refreshments. Huge thanks to all of the customers who helped fill the Cruisers as well as those that donated money.

Every donation helps to fill a growing need at the West End Food Bank.

A special thanks to Ellen and George Chokobocec-Boleyn for sorting groceries on Stuff A Cruiser Day and also for organizing the bags that clients receive every month. They give a lot of their time and they are much appreciated. Members from Our Lady Of God Counsel, Knox United, Trinity Lutheran, Evangelical Covenant, and Our Lady of the Way Churches that take turns volunteering on the third Monday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon.

The West End Food Bank is located at Our Lady of God Council Church, 301 First Street Rainy River.



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Lighting the night with Christmas wonder

The Muskie Girls hockey team, above, stepped up to volunteer at the annual Weechi-it-te-win McTavish Winter Wonderland Trail of Lights, held Monday and Tuesday evening. The popular event typically draws 2,000 people, and collects a mountain of non-perishable food and donations for local food banks. The Lakers hockey team filled the volunteer role for Tuesday, serving hot chocolate and snacks to the many families who attended.

- Allan Bradbury photo




274-2944
leons@vianet.ca
288 Scott St., Fort Frances

*Wishing you
Happy
Holidays*

Holiday Hours December 2024		Tuesday 24	Wednesday 25	Thursday 26	Friday 27	Saturday 28
		9am-2pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	8am-5:30pm BOXING DAY SALE	9am-4pm
Sunday 29	Monday 30	Tuesday 31	Wed. January 1			
CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!		



New experiences in moose country

In last week's column I wrote about how my wife Shelby and I, along with a few friends took a trip north of Kenora last week to enjoy some moose hunting. We stayed at a resort, ate well and spent a good chunk of the week in the outdoors. It was great.

We were lucky with the weather early in the trip - well the temperatures at least. It was warm for the first few days but by later in the week, we got to experience some proper Canadian cold, with nighttime temperatures pushing 30 below. That takes the fun out of the outdoor activities pretty quick.

It became a battle just to stay warm out there, you just fight it all day. Add the that, the large accumulation of snow up north - up to my waist nearly in some of the clearcut and low, boggy areas. It was tough going.

We always find a way to have fun however and this trip was no different. We spent more time on our snowmobiles than we normally do, just because it was too hard to cover any ground on foot. I did a decent amount of walking, just not as much as I normally would. After ten minutes, it was making me sweat.



THE LIVEWELL
JEFF GUSTAFSON



Over the years, doing this annual late season moose hunting trip, we have come across plenty of grouse. I enjoy eating them and they are usually not too difficult to find. While I have never seen a sharp-tailed grouse around the Lake of the Woods area, when you head farther north, they are quite plentiful, especially around some of the clear-cut areas where we find moose.

I have seen large groups of them in trees together and have come across flocks borrowed in the snow that will explode out of the ground when you get close to them. This has always happened while I've been on a snowmobile, they'll just start blowing up out of the snow, the first one or two will startle you every time.

This year we spent a little more time, usually at the end of the day, looking for grouse and it added some fun to the trip. The plentiful ruffed

grouse are really good to eat, one of my favourites of all time, but I had never eaten sharp-tail before. My friend Matt Rydberg was the first of our group to harvest a sharpie. They have a darker meat than a ruffed grouse, but it was still pretty good.

We did end up tagging a moose on the trip, so that was exciting. I understand that hunting is not for everybody. It's an activity that I grew up participating in and I love that it gets me outside, in nature and it's something I get to do with friends and family. We eat everything we harvest and feel lucky to do so.

Northwestern Ontario offers some excellent hunting opportunities because of all the public land available and the variety of wildlife that we have. In addition to the moose and three different species of grouse, we also saw deer, a couple of owls, a pine marten and several otters on the trip.

Hunting season is wrapped up for another year but I'm already looking forward to more time in the wilderness next year. In the meantime, there are plenty of fish to catch between now and then. Have a great holiday season and have some fun in the outdoors.

Matt Rydberg holds up a sharp-tailed grouse, which are plentiful in some of the northern regions of Sunset Country.

Your weekly Fort Frances Times

HARVEST HIGHLIGHT

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A Moment of Record

TAKEN FROM THE PAGES OF THE RAINY RIVER RECORD DECEMBER 19, 1968

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SANTA DAY

in Rainy River, Sat., Dec. 21

RAINY RIVER MERCHANTS AND GAIETY THEATRE ARE INVITING ALL KIDS TO ATTEND THE

Free Movies Saturday, Dec. 21

AT THE GAIETY THEATRE

TWO SHOWINGS — 10:00 A.M. & 2:30 P.M.

AND THAT'S NOT ALL — EVERY BOY AND GIRL ATTENDING THE SHOW WILL RECEIVE A FREE BAG OF CANDY FROM SANTA

and best of all Mom and Dad!

This will give you that opportunity to SHOP IN RAINY RIVER'S MANY STORES for the "BEST YET" Selection of Christmas Gifts and Supplies — away from the eager eyes of the youngsters!

REMEMBER — That's Saturday, December 21, at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

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Harry Arnold	Foodway Store	Tony's Store
Pa Sirman	Rainy River Dept. Store	Rainy River Hotel
Loop & Shop, Bergland	Letiner Furniture	MacLeod's Store
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Norlund Service	Jim Hammond	Bob McMillan
Boonstra Pool Hall	John Delvecchio	Ed's Dry Cleaners
Anneka's Beauty Parlor	Vennes Motors	Corr's Auto Body Shop
Border Motel	Quality Bakery	Jenson's Machine Shop
Fort Frances Dairy	A Kenhead Grocery	C.N. Hotel
Border Espresso Service	Mosley Hardware	Lowes Lumber
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	Rainy River 5c to \$1.00 Store	Arctic Enterprises
Beaver Lumber	Carl's Barber Shop	Alice's Beauty Parlor
Quality Clothing	Bob's Taxi	Pearl's Beauty Shop
Bert's Cafe	Brunn Insurance	Al. Quibell
Calvert's Drug Store	Pat's Hair Fashions	Mike Madger
Gies' Cafe	Laurentian Shores, Ltd.	Roland Desorcy
	George's Shoe Store	Roger's Fruit, Fort Frances

School Year Is Extended

TORONTO (CP) — Education Minister William Davis said last Wednesday the school year is to be extended in Ontario high schools next spring because of declining emphasis on final examinations.

He was replying in the legislature to questions from George Ben (L-Toronto Humber) and Walter Pitman (NDP-Peterborough).

Mr. Davis said one factor in the decision to extend the school year to June 13 with final exams to start June 16 was the elimination last year of Grade 13 departmental examinations.

Another was the "emphasis now on a continued program throughout the school year rather than a reliance on examinations and this applies at all grade levels."

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BY ARCTIC CAT

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HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The first round of Intramural Wrestling was started on Tuesday. The first day winners are as follows: Hodges over Johnson, Erickson over Desorcy, Blight over Berg, Sequin over Paldio, Brusven over Neilson, Blight over Advent, Selman over Westberg, Hartnell over Sirman, Johnson over Ivall, Sandvik over Bourre, Gerula over McCarthy, Bluebird over Ducasse, Chojko-Bolac over Michle, Rusnak over Olinyk, Jolicoeur over Berg, Brusven over Marr, L'Abbe over Westberg, Selman over Pentney, Hannam over Quibell.

RRHS

The Girls' Floor Hockey standings are as follows: Junior-Gloria Nordberg 14, Carol Chrysler 14, Susan Stamler 12, Vicky Atkin 12. Senior-Carol Parker 8, Margaret Larocque 6, Jo Anne Romyn 5, Dorothy Jarvis 5.

RRHS

The annual Christmas assembly will be held on Friday, Dec. 20. Santa Claus will be played by Glen Treflin. The program is: Play: "Why Teachers Go Nuts" by Preston Powell; produced and directed by Louis Hebert. Cast: 12A class. Judging hampers by Mr. and Mrs. Croxford. Louis Hebert, Lawrence Slack, and Carol Parker will sing folk songs. Christmas carols will be sung by Linda Gagne, Marlene Kallstrom and Marge Oster. A performance by the Foggy Illusions. Intramural awards will be given out at the end of the program. The hampers will be donated to families in need in the local area. The assembly will begin at 11 a.m., and will close the first term of school at approximately 12:30.

RRHS

The Owls basketball team played a fantastic game of fumbles, missed baskets and such against an inferior teachers' team. W found that the teachers were not so inferior when they trounced the Owls 20-15. We hope that basketball team will show a better performance in the future.

GREETINGS

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CHRISTMAS

In appreciation of your patronage... Best wishes to customers and friends for a holiday filled with the happy sounds of laughter. Merry Christmas.

WINDY BAY LODGE
Emmett and Bernice Conrad

Junior Lakers AAA spring hockey program ramping up

By Allan Bradbury
Staff Writer
abrabury@fortfrances.com

After a successful first year, the Fort Frances Lakers AAA minor hockey program has decided to expand to more age groups this year.

On October 22 the Lakers announced that the program would expand to include mixed groups from U9, born in 2016 up to U15 born in 2010 as well as 2012/13-born girls and 2015/16-born girls.

Lakers head coach Tyler Miller said they want to help young hockey players in the area work on their skills.

Miller says that a lot of players who are taking hockey a long way whether it's to the Junior, Junior A or post-secondary ranks and beyond, are spending the offseason working on skills.

"I talked to a local guy and we just shared our hockey thoughts and he said 'you know back in the old day it was have a break, go fishing, things like that,'" Miller said. "But today's game has changed a lot of kids are working on their own skill development and personal understanding of who they are as a player and what they bring to the game and what they need to work on."

"Last year, I had a conversation with, you know, a fellow from Fort Frances, and he said, 'if you're not doing it, you're falling behind. Kind of is how it is today. So I said, 'Okay, we're gonna do this. And last year, you know, we did it, and we had success with it.'"

The program is not meant to run the whole summer, it's primarily picking up in the spring when the regular hockey season ends.

"It's just a spring thing we're doing, I think our last tournament last year was in June," Miller said. "And we had all of July off. We joined a tournament at the end of August and started back up on August 15. So the kids really did get a break from hockey but just it's extended that extra month and a half, you get all of April in there and a little bit of May, and then as soon as it's fishing time, hockey time's done, get up to the cabin, enjoy it with the family. Don't focus on hockey, the soccer schedule's out by then, kids are playing soccer too, which is great. It just gives us that extra month of development, which truly helps, I find."

Depending on the age of the player there would be certain skills that might be focussed on during the spring sessions.

"For certain age groups, obviously you've got to be able to skate, any time you develop your skating skills, it's going to help you in the long run when you get to the bigger, better places," Miller said. "Also understanding working on drills with a lot of repetition right? I'm on my way to run the Lakers practice and today's a skill day for us. The guys are probably going to shoot 200 pucks today with some of the skills drills we're going to be doing today."



The U9 Junior Lakers AAA team won their division in the Minneapolis Summer Showdown last June. The team enjoyed great success last spring. With players from around Fort Frances and into Minnesota the team played in several tournaments in the spring and added one at the end of the summer in August and finished third.

—Facebook photo

viously you've got to be able to skate, any time you develop your skating skills, it's going to help you in the long run when you get to the bigger, better places," Miller said. "Also understanding working on drills with a lot of repetition right? I'm on my way to run the Lakers practice and today's a skill day for us. The guys are probably going to shoot 200 pucks today with some of the skills drills we're going to be doing today."

Miller says the hope for the AAA program is to show players how to act like a high level player.

"Our philosophy is, 'be a pro,'" Miller said. "That's what we want, the kids taking over, running their age group, just be professional, manners. You know, take what you see at the college level, at team dinners, dressing rooms that take care of everything. But, you know, be a good person first and then be a hockey player, it's important to us well."

To that end the Junior Lakers players who played last spring stayed together as a team and have participated in community events like the colour run and the glow run with the Canadian Mental Health Association last fall as well.

From Dec. 21-29 evaluation skates will be held and then the teams will be selected. Miller says as a coach he

is looking for compete level in young players.

"I think every coach is different. It depends what age group you have. One thing I focus on for the 2016 male is the skating abilities. They're still young, they're still learning lots about the game. It's all about having fun and just working hard. I think the number one thing we look for is, you know, skating and competing," Miller said. "We want to look for a kid that can skate well, and the kid that's going to always go after the puck and be puck hungry. When you get to the later years, you get to the development side of things, you know, opening up their skill set, their hockey, IQ, give and goes, systems, things like that. But for my age group, I can only speak on that, I'm looking for skating and work ethic is the two biggest things I'm looking for."

The list of coaches for the season is listed on the Junior Lakers AAA Hockey facebook page as well as the link to register.

Miller says one of the advantages to joining a local program is that parents don't have to take their kids four hours away or more and only get one practice a month before playing in a tournament with kids they don't even know that well and pay a lot more to do it.

"We've got the ice here, let's use it," Miller said. "Let's develop our players in the surrounding area and make everyone better. We don't need to be, you know, having three, four hour trips to make a practice once a month and then go down and compete in the tournament and be charged \$1,500 to do it. You know, we can get enough practices in, get tournaments in for around the cost of, you know, \$700 and under. Other programs are \$1,500 \$2,000, \$2500 and it just becomes a business for people. We're not in it for the business. We're in it for the development of our local youth."

Boxing's fall from the top

Often, trying to explain "the way it was" is a challenge. Try telling somebody, for example, that boxing used to be stop-the-press news, and the blank stare will leave you speechless. For decades, sports fans were mesmerized by championship fights that attracted the best sports writers, prime-time television cameras and thousands of spectators that included the rich and the glamorous.

It was the place to be. Often, it was the lead story on sports pages everywhere.

I wrestled with boxing for a long, long time. How could such a pacifist be so enamoured with such a violent sport? Was I just seduced by the black-and-white photos and bold headlines? Did a part of me live vicariously through the action, also black and white, on television every week from Madison Square Garden?

It probably started with Friday Night Fights, a title that sold a lot of Gillette razors with its catchy jingle ("Look Sharp, Feel Sharp, Be Sharp"), a title that unquestionably was parlayed into what is now Friday Night Lights. It probably took hold the first time Canada's Yvon Durelle fought Archie Moore for his light-heavyweight championship. The fight was in Montreal, a city that would much later be my home, and all of Canada was watching...including me. When I saw Moore, this old black man (he was 42) get off the canvas four or five times to win the fight, I was hooked.

Those two fought just twice in an era when many boxing championships were eras: Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran, Floyd Patterson and Ingemar Johansson. One of them, Emile Griffith and Benny Paret, ended in Paret's death...a Friday night fight seared in my memory forever and revived many years later when I learned of Paret's homophobic slurs that angered Griffith. This all came in



DISTANT REPLAY
BOB DUNN

what baby boomers who cared called the golden age of boxing. As one of them, I considered it a major sport.

In time, I would cover Ali's battering of George Chuvalo, Canada's best fighter, in Vancouver...interview Leonard before his first fight with Duran, in Montreal...sit down to talk with Johansson at his motel in Florida...and meet Patterson by chance when he was starting to slur his words badly, at an airport in Cleveland, not many years before he died of Alzheimer's.

That's what those boxers often did — they died from taking too many punches. It was the price they paid for the headlines they made. Ali was mentally crippled by Parkinson's. Johansson died of dementia. Cancer took Frazier at 67 before he faced the inevitable. Chuvalo is in a care home, unable to speak, waiting his turn.

Boxing has paid a price, but what was ever attractive about seeing an athlete being pounded into submission? Yet is that any different than a 360-pound defensive end demolishing a ball carrier half his size, or a 250-pound power forward crushing a smallish hockey player into the boards?

Once, boxing was as compelling as Super Bowls and Stanley Cup finals.

Now? Defensive-end tackles and power-forward hits still bring fans out of their seats. Meanwhile, boxing is so yesterday...does anybody even know who the heavyweight champion of the world is?

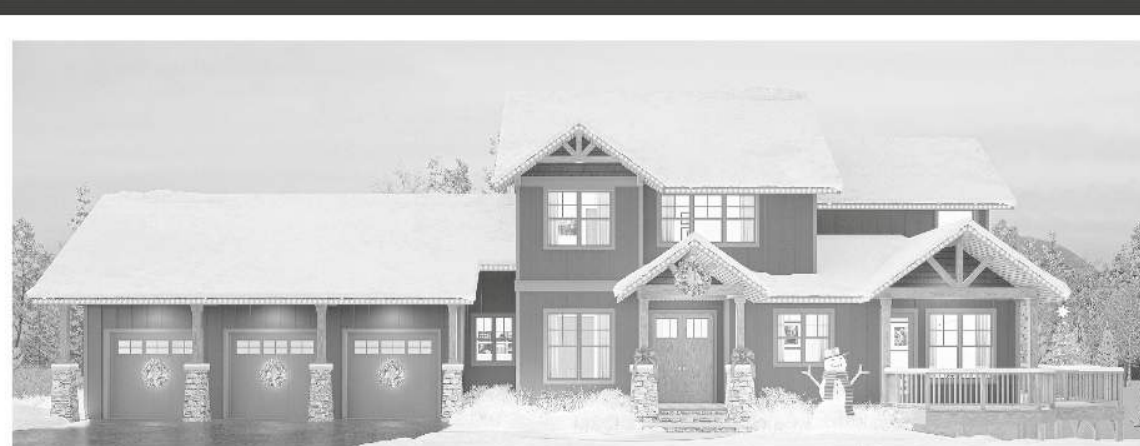
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Elegant Wintercrest Home Plan Blends Style & Function

By Associated Designs

The Wintercrest is a stunning two-story home that perfectly embodies Craftsman architecture, designed with both elegance and practicality in mind. Tailored for families who seek comfort without compromising on style, this plan harmonizes beautifully with its surroundings, making it an ideal choice for homes on a View Lot. With its combination of natural materials and thoughtful design, the Wintercrest offers a timeless aesthetic while seamlessly integrating modern comforts.

As you approach, the façade welcomes you with classic Craftsman elements: gable roofs, exposed timber accents, and stone-wrapped pillars that support a vaulted front porch. These inviting details create a warm entry, hinting at the thoughtful design inside. The rich green siding, paired with natural wood and stone, complements the home's environment, making it the perfect match for a lot with breathtaking views.

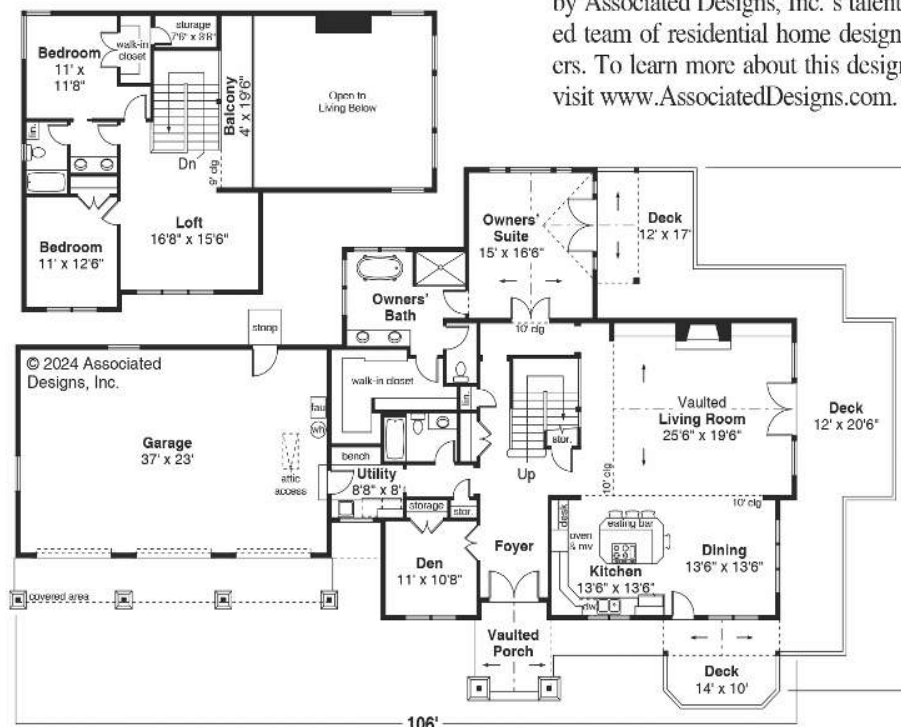
Inside, the Wintercrest opens into a spacious, vaulted foyer, bathed in natural light thanks to large windows throughout. To the left, a cozy den offers the perfect space for a home office or library. Moving into the heart of the home, the vaulted living room provides a grand yet intimate space, perfectly framing the views beyond. The open layout seamlessly connects the kitchen and dining areas, ideal for family gatherings or entertaining. Modern amenities in the kitchen include an eating bar and a walk-in pantry for added convenience.

The main level also features the luxurious owner's suite, offering a private retreat. The bedroom leads to a private deck with panoramic views, while the owner's bath includes a soaking tub, dual vanities, and a walk-in closet, creating a space of both comfort and indulgence.

Upstairs, two additional bedrooms share a well-appointed bathroom, while a loft area overlooks the living room below. This versatile space can serve as a second living area, playroom, or exercise space.

The Wintercrest's design maximizes the potential of a View Lot with a large, elevated rear deck that stretches across the back of the home, offering uninterrupted views. Whether you have a mountain vista, a forested backdrop, or a lakeside view, this expansive deck is ideal for outdoor dining or relaxing. The three-car garage offers ample space for vehicles and storage, with covered access to the main house for convenience.

The Wintercrest 31-407 created by Associated Designs, Inc.'s talented team of residential home designers. To learn more about this design visit www.AssociatedDesigns.com.



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Announcements

Alzheimer Society of Kenora/Rainy River Districts: If you are a caregiver or person who has Alzheimers disease or dementia, we can help. We can provide education, support serves, learning series, resource books, DVD's, care and monthly support sessions. Please contact us today at 1-800-682-0245 or info@alzheimerrkr.com

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Until Christmas, on-duty First Responders' coffee at McDonald's is being paid for by a friendly donor, Santa's helper.

Legal/Public Notices

NOTICE DISTRICT #5 Schedule of A.A. Meetings

FORT FRANCES

Wednesday (C) 8:00pm
- Recovery Centre (previous Police Station), Couchiching First Nations

Friday & Saturday (C) 8:00pm- Knox United Church - upstairs lounge, 340 Church St.

Covid protocols are voluntary (masks, social distancing, sign in etc.)

EMO

Wednesday (C) 8:00pm
- Knox United Church, River Road & Roy Street-Emo, Ont.

RAINY RIVER

Call for meeting time & location 276-1074

SABASKONG, NESTOR FALLS

Monday, Thursday, and Saturday, 7:00pm - Onigaming Health Centre meeting room.

For info. call Jeff @ (807)484-0091.

ATIKOKAN

Sun., Wed., Fri., @ 8:30pm
Community Fellowship Church.

Your co-operation is gratefully appreciated.

For more information call:
Fort Frances- no phone currently
Atikokan 807-597-4500
Rainy River - 852-1560

NOTICE ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS

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at 601 Kings Highway, Fort Frances

For further information contact
Mandi O. at (807) 274-2042

NOTICE DISTRICT #5 ALANON

Schedule of Alanon Meetings

FORT FRANCES

April-September in person Tuesdays 6:30 pm

Church of the Holy Spirit, 842 Victoria Ave. Fort Frances, Ont. 807-271-2091 for info.

October-March online Tuesday 6:30 pm

EMO

Wednesday 8:00 pm Knox United Church, River Road & Roy Street, Emo, Ont.

For more information call 807-271-2091

Rainy Lake Alanon Family Groups
Zion Lutheran Church
530 6th St. Int'l Falls, MN

NOTICE GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS:

Mondays 6:00 p.m.
Riverside

Community Health Services Building,
206 Victoria Ave., Fort Frances.

For more info call 807-275-6445.

Professional Services

Appliance/Refrigeration/Air Conditioning Service. Call C-Tech Mechanical, Clare Brubacher, (807)274-0094. Serving the entire Rainy River District.

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Norlund Oil
is looking for a full time **ACCOUNTING CLERK**
Duties include all accounting functions such as accounts receivable, accounts payable, inventory, payroll and bank reconciliations. Experience with Microsoft Office would be beneficial.
Resumes may be emailed to accounting@norlundoil.com
Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Northwest Catholic District School Board
Position Available
• **1.0 FTE School Counsellor, St. Mary School**
For details of this job and other job opportunities, visit our website at www.tncdsb.on.ca and click on Careers.
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RAINY RIVER CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
Rainy River Cattlemen's Association Request for Tenders: Stratton Sales Barn (Old Barn) Repairs
Scope:
• Repair damaged posts
• Reconstruct East and West exterior walls
• Reconfigure unloading area
For Tender Packages / Questions please reach out to:
Murray McDonald 807-276-0307
murraymcdonald1@outlook.com
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FORT FRANCES Times **VISIT US ONLINE**
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Riverside Health Care
Residential Program Worker
Part-Time and Casual Positions Available
Site: Non-Profit Support Housing
Wage: \$23.95 to \$28.85/hour
Deadline: Open until suitable applicant is found
To apply: please send your resume and coverletter to human_resources@rhcf.on.ca with reference number 61-2022 or apply online at <https://www.riversidehealthcare.ca/hr>
Please visit our website to view this opportunity and all other opportunities.
www.riversidehealthcare.ca

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALBERTON
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ROAD AND PARK SUPERINTENDENT
Type: Part-time (15-30 hours per week)
Salary: \$28.09 per hour
The Township of Alberton is a thriving community located in Northwestern Ontario in the District of Rainy River. This small, rural municipality offers a beautiful and diverse area for recreational, tourism, and agricultural opportunities.
The Township of Alberton is seeking a Road and Park Superintendent. The successful candidate would work a flexible 15-30 hours weekly schedule and respond to road related conditions after hours, as required. The Township of Alberton is a participating employer of the OMERS Pension Plan.
This position is responsible for the day-to-day duties of the Roads and Parks Department. Some of the duties you can expect in this role are: Weekly Road Patrols and reporting, Operation and general maintenance/upkeep of facilities and equipment, Monitor weather and road conditions and schedule plowing and sanding operations as required, Coordinate and schedule required work and contractor assignments, Repairing and installing traffic signage, Lawn and grounds maintenance, Cold mix patching, Maintaining municipal drains and culverts, Roadside debris collection, Work in compliance with Occupational Health and Safety Workplace Regulations, and Other duties as assigned.
The ideal candidate will have strong organizational skills, be self-motivated, prioritize customer service and have a good working knowledge of Provincial Minimum Maintenance Standards (MMS), the Highway Traffic Act and related legislation, regulations and guidelines. A valid Ontario "G" drivers license is required.
A complete job description and Application Form can be found on the Township of Alberton website at www.alberton.ca or by calling the office at 807-274-6053. Deadline for application is 2:00 pm (CST) on January 2, 2025.
For this role, we are open to discussing both part-time and potential full-time hours. At the job offer stage, we will explore your flexibility and what's possible for the role.
Interested applicants should complete and submit the application form, along with their resume by 2:00pm. (CST) on January 2nd, 2025, via any of the following methods:
•In person at the Township of Alberton Municipal Office, 3 Highway 611 South, Fort Frances, Ontario
•By email to the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer at: Lisa.Sheppard@alberton.ca
•By fax to: 807-274-8449
We thank all applicants in advance; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. If you have any questions or would like further information on this opportunity, please call the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer at 807-274-6053

EMPLOYMENT VACANCY spotlight
Wasa-Nabin Worker
Permanent Full Time
The Wasa-Nabin program has been specifically designed to improve the quality of life of at-risk urban Indigenous youth ages 13-18 through culturally appropriate services and activities.
As a Wasa-Nabin Worker, you will get to:
▶ Assist in youth development through increasing life skills, safety awareness, nutrition and healthy physical development activities, anti-violence training and youth diversion initiatives
▶ plan cultural activities for youth and their families including beading, ribbon skirt/shirt/belt making, hand drumming, land-based activities, etc.
▶ build strong working relationships with youth through one-to-one counselling and peer support in order to best meet their needs and provide appropriate referrals
▶ partner with local organizations on fun community events
If you are passionate about leading youth into mino-bimaadiziwin, please email your cover letter, resume, and 3 work related references to: humanresources@unfc.org

EMPLOYMENT VACANCY spotlight
Urban Indigenous Healthy Living Program Worker
(18 month contract)
The Urban Indigenous Healthy Living Program enhances the holistic health of UNFC's clients. We provide opportunities for adults to work on their spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional health while socializing and practicing (or learning) Indigenous culture.
As an Urban Indigenous Healthy Living Program Worker, you will get to:
▶ host outdoor seasonal recreational activities including (but not limited to) hiking, winter walks, skating, gardening, medicine picking, canoeing, paddle boarding, archery, berry picking, fishing, etc.
▶ plan group fitness classes based on client interest such as yoga, Pilates, strength training, etc. that incorporate traditional movement patterns
▶ use your creative side to facilitate workshops and events such as cooking classes, beading sessions, ribbon skirt/shirt sessions, paint nights, etc.
▶ assist clients one-on-one with meeting their fitness, nutrition, and smoking cessation goals
▶ partner with local organizations on fun community events
If you are passionate about assisting others on their holistic health journey, please email your cover letter, resume, and 3 work related references to: humanresources@unfc.org

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Sue Bragg sbragg@fortfrances.com
Or drop by the office:
116 First Street East, Fort Frances



The United Native Friendship Centre is looking for an organized and professional individual to join our team as a **FINANCIAL ASSISTANT**

This person will be efficient with accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll administration, employee entitlement tracking, financial reporting, etc. using Sage Intacct, Dayforce, and Excel

Full time | Pension & Benefits after 90 days | Generous vacation
Starting Wage: \$55,000 - \$60,000 annually
See full job description at unfc.org/jobpostings or call 807.274.8541
All postings will be removed from the website once filled



Please email your cover letter, resume, and 3 work related references to: humanresources@unfc.org or drop off at 427 Mowat Avenue, attention HR Manager

UNITED NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE
is hiring!

We are looking for a full-time **CHILDCARE WORKER** at our Abinoojii Gamig location

The Childcare Worker will contribute to the healthy mental, spiritual, physical, and emotional development of children. They will provide quality, educational programming for children and families in a safe, nurturing and culturally rich environment

Full time | Pension & Benefits after 90 days | Generous vacation
See full job description at unfc.org/jobpostings or call 807.274.8541
All postings will be removed from the website once filled




Please email your cover letter, resume, and 3 work related references to: humanresources@unfc.org or drop off at 427 Mowat Avenue, attention HR Manager



Riverside Health Care

Full-Time Ward Clerk

Site: LaVerendrye General Hospital
Wage: \$27.51 to \$28.26/hour
Deadline: Open until suitable applicant is found

To apply: please send your resume and coverletter to human.resources@rhcf.on.ca with reference number 50-2024 or apply online at <https://www.riversidehealthcare.ca/hr>

Please visit our website to view this opportunity and all other opportunities.
www.riversidehealthcare.ca




Riverside Health Care

Casual Stores Clerk

Site: LaVerendrye General Hospital
Wage: \$26.42 to \$27.42/hour
Deadline: Open until suitable applicant is found

To apply: please send your resume and coverletter to human.resources@rhcf.on.ca with reference number 48-2024 or apply online at <https://www.riversidehealthcare.ca/hr>

Please visit our website to view this opportunity and all other opportunities.
www.riversidehealthcare.ca




Riverside Health Care

Casual Material Handler

Site: LaVerendrye General Hospital
Wage: \$26.24 to \$27.23/hour
Deadline: Open until suitable applicant is found

To apply: please send your resume and coverletter to human.resources@rhcf.on.ca with reference number 49-2024 or apply online at <https://www.riversidehealthcare.ca/hr>

Please visit our website to view this opportunity and all other opportunities.
www.riversidehealthcare.ca

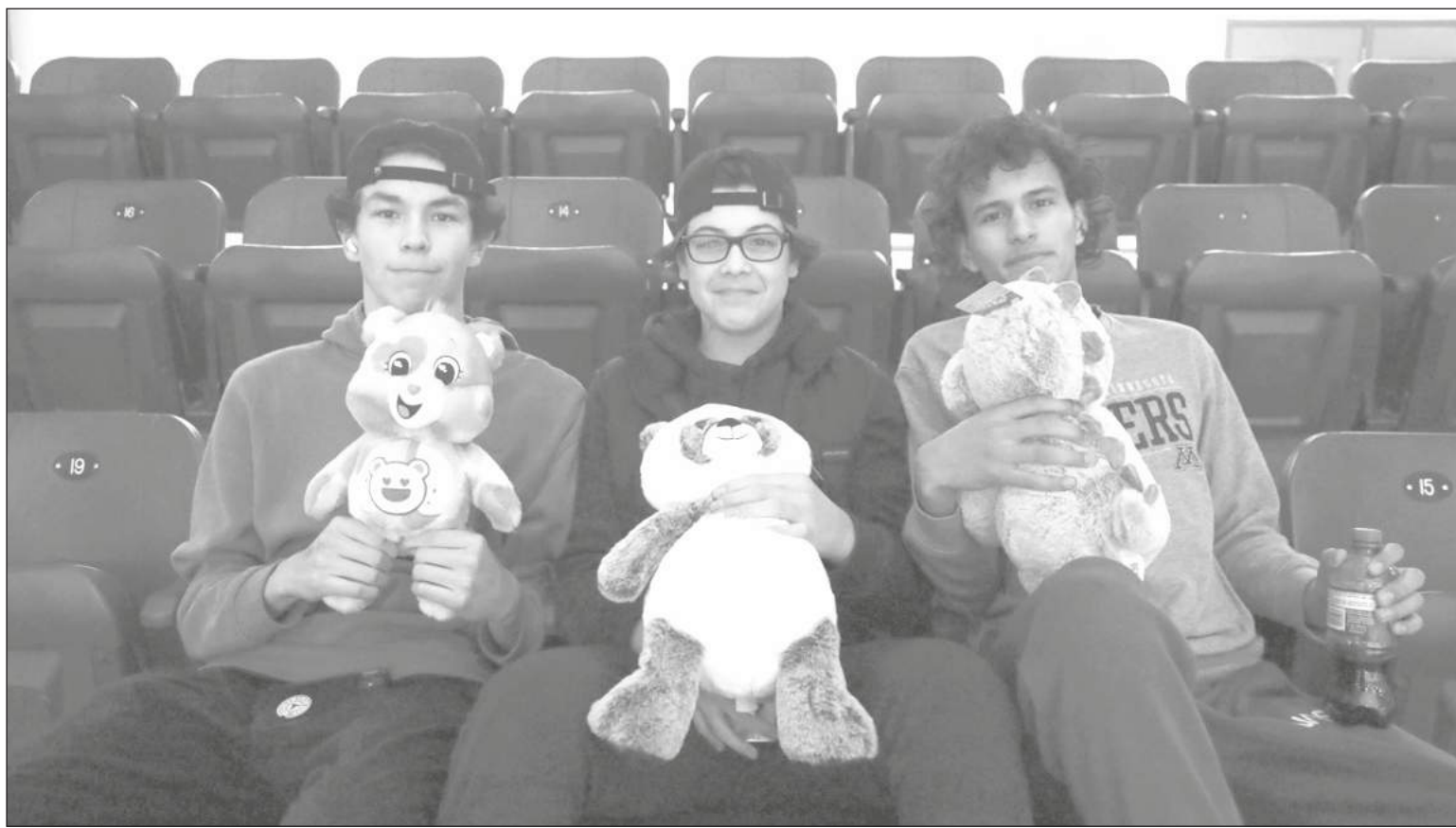


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Christmas spirit on ice

Chase Councillor, Gavin Hill and Jakobe Kempf, above, were armed and ready for the annual Teddy Toss at the Muskie Boys hockey game last week. The tradition sees a flying flurry of stuffed toys collected for donation to holiday hampers through the UNFC and Salvation Army. Left, grandma and granddaughter duo Louise and Marlee Bliss are set with their donations, which get tossed on the ice, and collected by the Muskie players.

- Allan Bradbury photos

Lakers will look to continue winning ways in second half

By Allan Bradbury
Staff Writer
abraddbury@fortfrances.com

The Fort Frances Lakers have enjoyed a much better first half of the season this year over last and they hope to keep up the pace after the break.

The Lakers will play their final two games of the first half of the year this weekend in Ironwood, Michigan. They currently sit around the middle of the standings, fifth of eight teams with 13 wins, nine losses, one overtime win and five ties. The SIJHL removed the shootout this year in favour of a longer four-on-four overtime, and ties.

Head coach Tyler Miller says the coaching staff is pleased with the performance of the team so far this year, knowing the best is yet to come.

"Me and Luke (Assistant coach and GM Luke Judson) talk every day, we were on the phone this morning and he said 'if things went well Saturday night we would have already been past how many points we had last year and it's halfway through the year,'" Miller said.

The Lakers game against the Kenora Islanders was cancelled

"When we took over, we thought it'd be a three year plan, or three to five year plan. This is year two, and we're happy with where we're at."

- Tyler Miller

on Saturday with no explanation. Kenora's game in Dryden was also cancelled on Friday night.

Miller points to a few improvements leading the way for the Lakers.

"The score difference, the games won and the ties, you'd like to get you two points out of it, but getting one point is always good for sure," Miller said.

The coaching staff—which includes Cody Mosbeck and Brandon Bodnar in addition to Miller and Judson—is in their second full season as a group and feel that they're moving forward well.

"Last year was our first full year as a staff," Miller said. "We learned a lot, how the junior world works, we also learned that sticking to the basics with the players goes a long way. I just watched a clip about Kobe

Bryant. His training wasn't these amazing drills or amazing systems. It's sticking to the basics and that's kind of what we've done with this group of guys."

Miller says that no player on the team in particular has stood out but that everyone is playing as a team.

"We know that the talent is there, the hard work is there with them," Miller said. "It's just sticking to the basics of the system that we run. Some guys have definitely changed attitudes and things like that, being hard working teammates, supporting teammates. No one's down on the bench, we nipped that in the bud early in the year. Or penalties too from last year to this year, that's one of the biggest changes. Our powerplay goes to work, our special teams have been great."

On offense the team has been led by captain Brady Krentz who has 15 goals and 24 assists for 39 goals and is averaging 1.39 points per game.

On the back end, defenseman Evan Kabel has four goals and 19 assists to sit second in SIJHL scoring among defensemen with 23.

In net the tandem of Nolan Koethler and Gunner Paradis has backstopped the team to an improved record. Paradis is second in the league with a 2.42 goals against average and second with a 0.935 save percentage, and both tenders are in the top 10 for wins in the league.

"When you're trying to win in any league it starts at the back end and moves forward and we're very happy with our two goalies," Miller said. "I think Paradis has one of the best save percentages in the league. Then you've got a young 18 year old in Koethler that has come in and done amazing things for

Super Crossword

Answers

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Firefighters honoured for year of service

The team at the Chapple Emo and LaVallee Fire and Emergency Services gathered with their loved ones to reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of the year at their annual

awards and appreciation banquet. Emo Station Chief James Klug presented awards throughout the evening, firefighters shared thoughts on the year, and thanks for upgraded equip-

ment and newly recruited CEL Joint Fire Chief Scott Grant was on hand to share some thoughts for the future.

- Facebook photos



Although the public is grateful for the service of every professional and volunteer firefighter, a few were singled out for individual accomplishments at the CEL Fire and Emergency Services year-end awards and appreciation banquet.

Clockwise from top centre: Ty Tesarski was awarded the Firefighter of the Year Award; The Distinguished Service Award was presented for former Joint Fire Chief Tyrell Griffith; The highest attendance award for Chapple was awarded to Leroy Rempel; the highest attendance award for Emo was presented to Ted Bowcock, left, by Emo Station Chief James Klug; the highest attendance award for La Vallee went to Jason Matthews. The CEL Overall Attendance Award was presented to Alyssa Griffith.

- Facebook photos



top 10 movies!

1. **Moana 2** (PG) Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson
2. **Wicked** (PG) Cynthia Erivo, Ariana Grande
3. **Gladiator II** (R) Paul Mescal, Denzel Washington
4. **Pushpa: The Rule - Part 2** (NR) Allu Arjun, Rashmika Mandanna
5. **Red One** (PG-13) Dwayne Johnson, Chris Evans
6. **Interstellar** (PG-13) Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway
7. **Solo Leveling: ReAwakening** (NR) Taito Ban, Aleks Le
8. **For King + Country: A Drummer Boy Christmas - Live** (NR) Joel David Smallbone, Luke Smallbone
9. **Y2K** (R) Jaeden Martell, Rachel Zegler
10. **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever** (PG) Kynlee Heiman, Judy Greer

Season's Greetings

FORT FRANCES Times

THE FORT FRANCES TIMES OFFICES WILL BE CLOSING at noon Friday, Dec. 20 and we will not be publishing any papers the week of DECEMBER 23 - 27.

We will publish the Fort Frances Times Tues, December 31st (Closed Wed, Jan 1st)

We will resume our regular publishing schedule Thur, Jan 2nd

PLEASE NOTE: Obituaries will be uploaded to our website as we receive them. Obituaries and death notices can be emailed to obits@fortfrances.com

DECEMBER 2024

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
					Closing at noon	
22	CLOSED	CLOSED	Merry Christmas! CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	28
29	Open - Regular	31 FF Times Published	January 1 CLOSED Happy New Year!	2 Thur Bulletin Published	3	4



Season's GREETINGS

Wishing you... The Brightest *Joy*
The Warmest *Cheer*
The Greatest *Happiness*



Letters To Santa

Dear Santa,
My name is Emily I am 5 years old This year I have been mostly good For Christmas this year, I would really like: a Barbie and a shark toy. And something for my baby sister.
Love,
Emily and Carly

like a kinetic sand ice cream, Lego Friends Heartlake City Shopping Mall, Dr Squish Squishy Maker, Miniverse appliances, Rainbow High Original Sunny Doll I know I won't get all the gifts, but these are just the things I want.
Love, Paisley
PS Please get my Dad a Star Wars shirt.

little brother Fisher would like a toy motorcycle, I think When he sees one, he gets so so excited! How do the toy building machines work? I love you Santa!
Love, Elodie
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 5

Dear Santa,
I love you Santa! My name is Olive and I love Rudolph and want to know how the elves magic works? I want a talking dog like my sister has I also want a stuffed Santa and a Santa doll
What colour is your sleigh?
Love Olive,
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 5

he likes carrots? I don't like carrots I also want new Barbie shoes I have been good this year.
Love, Scarlet
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Kasen and I want new markers like the ones my teacher has I also want a new stuffy and a Roblox card, please! Santa, I like the elf Rosie you sent to my classroom
Love Kasen
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 5

Dear Santa,
My name is Clark I want a new train and a big robot! My sister Andi wants a Polar Bear Express train Santa, I have been SO good this year and just a little bad but I help my dad shovel snow.
I'll leave you train cookies, but I also want a train cookie too with my Andi See ya later.
Love, Clark Age 4
Kindergarten, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
My name is Arya and I am 6 years old I would like a Thready Bear and a Bluey House that I can build with my cousin Arlie My brother Billy is 3 and he would like a T. Rex and a Raptor.
Also, I would like a Hot Wheels Ultra Shark Car Wash Merry Christmas and thank you, Arya

Santa Letters
Dear Santa,
This is my Christmas list I would like a Minecraft Lego set and a Minecraft Player. How do your reindeer fly? Can I have a Creeper?
Thanks!
Love, Blake
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 5

Dear Santa,
I want to give you a present. I will leave it by the bed For Christmas I want a Pikachu and a robot that talks and dances Santa, you look so cool!
Love, Tripp
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 5

My name is Joey I really really want a squishy maker- a christmas one! I also want a doll with a strawberry hat. Santa, I clean up sometimes and help my mom pick up my Barbies, I want to know why Rudolph has a red nose?
Love, Joey
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Lukenna would like a short black wig that goes to your neck, a black dress and black shoes Do you know the Grinch? I love Christmas
Love, Lukenna
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 5

Dear Santa,
My name is Tanner I want a spinosaurus toy from my show and I want a t-Rex too Where do you live? Where do you buy the toys?
Love, Tanner Age 5
Kindergarten, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas I would like a Furby Galaxy Edition Glow in the Dark I would also

Dear Santa,
I am 5 years old, and my name is Elodie For Christmas, I want a purse and a teddy bear. My

Dear Santa,
My name is Kenny Santa, I want Minions and a puppy for my presents Santa, I have been a little bad but I'll be good I love reindeer!
Love, Kenny
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 4

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa, I think I want a Barbie and a flying ballerina Can you say Hi to Rudolph and see if

Happy Holidays
From **NCDS**

Wishing all our customers and friends a
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR

RB AUTO REPAIR
800 Fifth St W, Fort Frances, ON
807 274 1474

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
Thank you for your patronage in 2024.
Dennis, Kyle & Dave
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"See The Light"

Happy Holidays
The BIA Member businesses wish you all the best during this Holiday Season and throughout the coming year.
Thanks for shopping at your local BIA Businesses
Business Improvement Area B.I.A. FORT FRANCES

STAY WARM ALL YEAR-ROUND With a Regency Fireplace!
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Filled With Our Gratitude
From the staff at **SAFEWAY**

With best wishes at the holiday season, and heartfelt thanks for your loyal patronage all year long.
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Merry Christmas!

Fort Frances Denta Centre
310 Church Street, Fort Frances 274-9001
www.ffdentalcentre.com

With wonderful clients like you, we have every reason to smile during the holidays & all year long!
Best wishes for a happy & healthy 2025!

Emo Denta Clinic
260 Front St. Emo 482-3070
www.emodentalclinic.com

Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer fly at night? How do they see?
Santa, I love you I watched some Santa movies and seen you in them! I just love that. I would like some painting supplies because one day I'll be an artist and singer and dancer. I love you!
Love, Indie
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Novalee I would like a hat for Christmas How does your sled work?
Love Novalee
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 5

Dear Santa,
My name is Aspen I want a squishy baby doll and a Bitzee I have been good this year, I help my mommy and daddy clean up
Love, Aspen
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Max I want a toy for Christmas A bat or a robot I have been good this year.
Love, Max
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 5

Dear Santa,
My name is iylah Santa you go on my roof. I want a present for Christmas Like blocks or Barbie I love you Santa,
Love, iylah
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Zayda For Christmas I want an LOL doll My sister Zara would like some slime but I don't know what else Santa what is your middle name?
Love, Zayda
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 5

Dear Santa,
My name is Zach For christmas I want a puppy and Lego Thank you
Love, Zach
Kindergarten, Robert Moore
Age 4

Dear Santa,
How are you? My name is Addison I live in Fort Frances, Ontario Christmas is my favourite holiday. When you come to my house can you talk to me, I really want to meet you! How many cookies do you want this year and can I please have a ride in your sleigh this Christmas I like you reindeer! Do you think you like my tree? I really hope I will see you this year. Can I please, please, please have my own flying reindeer! Can I have my own TV and headset. And can I please, please, please have a hatchey baby and a real magic wand
Love,
Addison
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
How are you? My name is Clara I have a little sister her name is CeCe I go to JW Walker school I like to snowmachine with my dad

and my sister. In the summer and winter, I like fishing for crappie I like to play with my sister. Are the reindeer getting ready? Are the elves hard at work making toys How is Mrs Clause? What is your favourite cookie? My favourite cookies are the ones my mom makes with sprinkles on top. I want for Christmas is squishmallows I also want Lego friends, Bitsy and Hatching Alive the one I want is rainbow coloured, Disney Hugmees, Bluey Keepy Uppy and LOL Merry Christmas,
From Clara
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
How are you? My name is Keith I live in Fort. How many elves do you have? I will set out some carrots to give to your reindeer. I was wondering how cold the North Pole is? How many bells do you have on your sleigh? I enjoy playing Legos, driving my dad's snowmachine and I LOVE fishing My favourite cookie is chocolate. What is your favourite cookie? And how old are you?
This year for Christmas I want a big frog Squishmallow and an orange I-Pad We just got snow in Fort and I hope you have snow at the North Pole
From,
Keith
JW. Walker School

Hi Santa,
My name is Tia I love Christmas because I like giving and getting presents What do you like best about Christmas? Will you please bring me a cat stuffie and a dog stuffie too?
Merry Christmas,
From Tia
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
How are you? My name is Brooklyn and I'm eight years old How is Mrs Claus? What is it like in the North Pole? I live in Fort Frances Can you name all of your elves and reindeer? My school is JW Walker. How many cookies do you want, and do you want white milk or chocolate milk? Do you remember my elf Cookie Dough and Bob? I hope they come back soon. This year can I get a skateboard, so I can have fun racing my sister and uncle. Can I get Lego friends Heartlake City Café and Little Live Pets mama surprise mini bunny playset. Can I get a dog too!
From,
Brooklyn
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs Claus? My name is Sophia I live in Fort Frances, Ontario In my spare time at home, I like reading to my little sister. Her favourite book is Thelma the Unicorn, and my favourite

books are cat books My favourite food is spaghetti with milk and my sister's favourite food is Lunchables with juice What is your favourite food? My favourite stuffie is my cat that my mom gave me when I got back home from school What are your favourite kinds of cookies? My best friend is Sierra For Christmas I want a Hatchy baby, a magic mixy and a big bear. My sister wants a unicorn for her, my life doll, she wants a journal, make-up and some books. For my wish and my sister's wish is to see you and Mrs Claus
From,
Sophia
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
How are you? My name is Maci It finally snowed in Fort Frances I was worried about the snow because if we didn't have snow how are you going to land on the roof? In Ontario it is snowing, and it is kind of getting deep too. Oh, I forgot to ask how is my elf "Oink Oink" doing at the North Pole? I have a magical key in my home, so this year I'm going to leave it out. In the morning, I will put it back for when you come next year. Sorry, we didn't leave any carrots for your reindeer and poor Rudolph is probably hungry. Oh yah, I live with 2 dogs, 2 cats

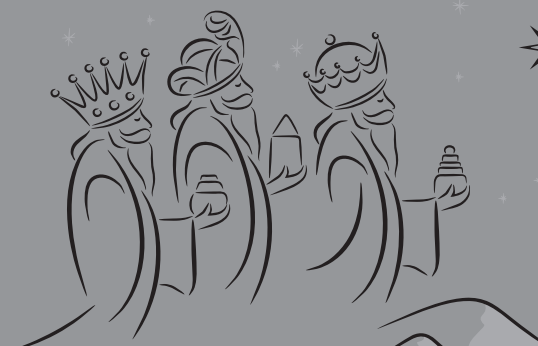
and I fish
Can I please have a skateboard, a telescope and a pair of roller skates? Hope you have fun eating cookies and milk! Merry Christmas!
From,
Maci
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
How are you? I am 8 years old and my name is Yannick I love snowmobiling, drawing the monster verse, hockey, playing on my PS4, hunting and fishing Is Rudolph OK and the other reindeer? I like deer, elf, caribou and reindeer.
Can I have a 3D printer, gigin toy, the disk for Godzilla PS4 game, and a tiny TV with a PS5. Have a safe trip!
From,
Yannick
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
How are you? I have 3 kittens and their names are Juniper, Bullseye, and Venus I am 8 years old I love to build snow forts with my friends
How is Ruby my elf? What is your favourite cookie? Do you have pets? I have 12 horses I would like to receive a big, big, big candy cane this year.
Have a Merry Christmas,
From,
Ripley
JW. Walker School

May the Gifts of Faith, Friendship and Family Light Your Way at Christmas and All Year!

Thanks to everyone who has shown us so much kindness and generosity this year. It is a joy serving this community, and we wish you all the best in 2025.



HOLIDAY HOURS
OPEN: Dec 23, 9:30am-5:00pm
Dec 24, 9:30am-12:00pm
Dec 27, 9:30am-5:00pm
CLOSED for Inventory:
Dec 30 through Jan 1

Misty River Alternatives


133 Colonization Street Emo, ON (807) 482-3232



We're dashing through the snow to say, have a Merry Christmas!
May all of your wishes come true this season.
Thank You from the management and staff at

STRATTON EQUIPMENT
SALES & SERVICE LIMITED
STRATTON, ONTARIO, SALES AND SERVICE PH: (807) 482-7777
www.strattonequipment.com

Holiday Hours: Closed Dec. 23-27, Open Dec. 30 & 31, Closed Jan. 1 & 2, Open as usual Jan. 3. Emergency services still available.



NOEL

May this holy season show you the way to peace, happiness and contentment.
Blessings and thanks to you, our customers and friends.

Ed Kaun & Sons Ltd.
At the CN crossing, west of Fort Frances • 807-274-6246

Holiday Hours: Closed Dec. 24th
Open Regular Hours Dec. 30th
Closed noon Dec. 31st
Open regular hours Jan 2, 2025

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Wishing everyone a happy new year.
Rob, Carla, Chris and the team at Lakewood Tire.

LAKWOOD TIRE LTD.
991 King's Hwy. Fort Frances (807)274-5535

Season's Greetings

Whatever you have planned for the holidays, Riverside wishes you good health, happiness and the very best in the coming New Year.

All the best from the Board, Management and the entire staff of Riverside Health Care

Riverside Health Care



Dear Santa,
How are you? My name is Connor. I am 8-and-a-half years old I'm from Fort Frances, Ontario I hope I'm on the nice list, if not I'm sorry. How is Mrs Claus doing? I hope my elf "Star" is coming back this year. What is your favourite country you like to visit?

I like to play hockey, soccer and play video games I know A LOT about geography. Do you? I bet you do as you visit lots of houses in every country. Do you get tired after Christmas?
Can you please get me a new hyper lite hockey stick. Can you also please get me a mystery mini stick like last year. Have a safe trip!
From, Connor
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? I live in Fort Frances in the country. How are the reindeer? What do you feed them? Am I on the nice list? My favourite hobbies are fishing, playing Legos, and snowboarding. Which way do you go down the chimney or the back door? For Christmas can I have the Golden Mr. Beast panther and the rest of the Mr. Beast toys. Have a wonderful Christmas,
From, Nash
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
How are you? My name is Hope. How is Mrs Claus? Here in Fort Frances, ON It started to snow a few days ago. Are the elves hard to work with? My favourite sport is volleyball. In the winter I like to go snowboarding when my mom and I go on trips together for my birthday. I have 3 siblings I like playing with my friends at

recess. At recess we play tag and also hide and seek. What are your favourite cookies? I would like for Christmas a Nike volleyball. Next, I would like 5 squishmallows and I hope I get them.
From, Hope
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
How are you doing? My name is Claire. How are your reindeer and elves and Mrs Claus? What is your favourite type of cookie? Mine is chocolate chip. During winter, I like to play in the snow with my dad. We go sledding off the curb and down the hill. I also like to go to my cabin in the winter and go down the big hill by the cabin. When I am there, I can also go on my little snow machine with my sister. For Christmas I would like a Trilogy set. I also would like snackles monkey and a basketball.
Merry Christmas, Claire
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
How are you? My name is Thomas. I live in Fort Frances. I have a dog. I have a brother. How are your elves? How's your weather? I want some Lego Speed Champion Cars, and my brother also wants some Lego sets too.
Love, Thomas
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
How are you this year? My name is Westyn, I am 8 years old. I live in Red Gut First Nations. How is Rudolph this year? How is buddy this year? What are your favourite cookies? My favourite cookies are oatmeal cookies. For Christmas this year, I want a

new hockey stick because I love playing hockey. I also want a Super Deker and a Zomboni for Christmas. I would practice stick handling with my Super Deker and I will use the Zamboni to clear off the snow off the ice. I really like hockey, do you like hockey? When is my Elf on the Shelf coming back to my house? I hope you have a good Christmas and I will leave some celery out for the reindeers.
Love, Westyn
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Jackson, and I am 8 years old. I live in Fort Frances, ON. How are you, Santa? I hope you are doing good. How are the elves? I wonder what they are making? One question am I on the nice list! I hope I am. We just got snow here in Fort Frances. I am hoping for more! How is Mrs Claus? What is the weather like at the North Pole? Can you please write back to me? How is Cookie doing my elf? I hope he is doing well and make sure you give him lots of cookies. For Christmas, I want a model of a 242-night hawk. I also want a model of a B2 stealth bomber. I would like an air-up water bottle. I would like an Apple Laptop too and a guitar. Lego set. I also want Call of Duty Blacks OPS 6. For my X-box can you get me a Jurassic World Crushivores Spinosaurus cag crasher. Lastly, I want a Mr. Beast lab golden Panther and

that is it.
Merry Christmas to you!
From, Jackson
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
I am 8 years old, and my name is Ryker. I live in Fort Frances, ON. What are the elves doing this year? For this Christmas, I want a scuba diving suit, bongo drums, and a guitar string because my guitar is broken. Next, I want Minecraft dungeons and the Minecraft dungeons Redstone Gollum toy. This is what I want this Christmas!
Merry Christmas,
From Ryker
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs Claus? Here in Fort Frances, ON when I woke up, I saw snow today and yesterday. By the way, my name is Abby. I am 8 years old. In my spare time I like to spend time with my family. I also like it when my dad (Jim) takes me and my brother on his snow machine. Another thing I like to do is make snow bunnies. I also like skating with my family. Santa, can I please have an elf this year. This Christmas I would like a little live mama surprise playset in a bunny version, a baby LOL, a hatchy baby, a bitzee magical and lastly, I would like a Rainbow High Winter wonderland fashion doll.
Santa, how are your reindeer and your elves? Merry

Christmas!
Love, Abby
JW. Walker School

Dear Santa,
Hello! Hope you are doing great! My name is Kaidess, I am 9 years old. I live in Northwest Bay. I have been very good this year. I have listened to my teachers, and I have helped my mom. I have been kind at school. This year for Christmas I would like a SWAT uniform so I can look cool and pretend to be in the police. I would like a remote control jet so I can fly it in the spring outside. I would like one that is super super fast. I would also like a video game named Halo which I will play on my PS4. It looks like a really cool game. Assassins Creed would be a cool game too please. I can't wait for you to visit me this year!
From: Kaidess
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
Hello! Hope you are doing great! My name is Noah. I am 8 years old. I live in Northwest Bay. I have been very good this year. I have finished my work at school. This year for Christmas I would like a sled so I can go sledding with my

friends. A light one would be nice so I can carry it. I want a ski mask so my face won't get too cold and get hives during the winter. I also want grippy boots so I can climb the slippery hill when I go sledding. I can't wait for you to visit me this year!
From: Noah
Crossroads School

Dear Santa
My name is Jordyn. I am 10 years old and I live in Northwest Bay, Ontario. I think I have been very good this year because I've been helping my family a lot and my mom with the house. This Christmas is going to be good. I say and so the 3 things I want is a sled because I like to go the hills with my friends and go super fast. I would also like clothes some of them Graphic T-shirts and Cargo pants and graphic named sweatshirts and hats. The last thing I would like is slime because it is gooey and cool. I love the stretch. Maybe light blue or green because I don't like making it myself and getting it all over my hands. It is too hard to get off and I don't like the texture. I can't wait for you to visit me.
From: Jordyn
Crossroads School

Merry Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Webb's Wholesale
930 Fifth Street East,
Fort Frances
P9A 3C7

With Wishes Merry & Bright

With glad tidings to all our neighbours and friends at this joyous time of year. We truly value your business and support and renew our commitment to serving you well in the year ahead.

Thanks Everyone!
Marty Kreger, family & staff

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USED CAR SALES
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Hope Your Holiday Sparkles

May this Christmas season shine with warmth and happiness.

Like twinkling ornaments and lights on a tree, you've decorated our year with brightness and beauty.

We appreciate your kind patronage, and we look forward to working on all your home decorating projects in 2025.

Thank you for an incredible year.
Karen and Stan

Staris

500 SCOTT STREET, FORT FRANCES 274-9249

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

From the Physicians and staff at

FORT FRANCES PHYSICIANS GROUP

Heartfelt Greetings & Very Best Wishes

As we celebrate this Christmas season, we're filled with gratitude for the friendship and support of this community. Thanks for being our Neighbor!

Happy Holidays Everyone!

From Ashley and the team

TSC TRACTOR SUPPLY CO.

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218-285-3000

Happy Holidays! All The Best in 2025!

From all of us at
NOR-WEST ANIMAL CLINIC

Front (l-r): Lara, Brianna, Mireille, Dr Maria, Lindsey, Dr Doug, Jessica
Back (l-r): Madison, Colleen, Karen D, Karen W, Kelsey
Missing: Paige, Jasmine and Kya

411 McIrvine Rd. Fort Frances
274-7393
www.norwestanimalclinic.com

HOLIDAY JOY

Dear Santa,
Hello, Hope you are doing great! My name is Rylee, I am 9 years old I live in Northwest Bay. I have been very good this year. I work hard on math, I kind of love school, I help my family and organize my room. This year for Christmas I would like 1000 puppies because they're so cute and my dog Kiko is all alone. I think he needs 1000 brothers and sisters. I would also like a new trampoline because they're fun to jump on and make me feel less bored. Lastly, I would like 4 stanley cups for Christmas. I want one blue with a moon and stars, another with flowers and a sun on a blue background. The third one should have my 1000 puppies on it, and the last one I would like a rainbow with a picture of my Uncle Travis on it. I can't wait for you to visit me this year! From: Rylee
Crossroads School

I wish for a pokeball blue fire pokemon I will set out milk and cookies for you on Christmas eve.
From,
Rhett
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
My name is Karis I am six years old I might set out cookies and milk for you and carrots for your reindeer. I wish for lego. This year I have been good I wish for elves. This year I am going to my grandmas house for Christmas. I like Christmas. Merry Christmas!
Sincerely,
Karis
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
My name is Benj I am six years old I wish for a stuffie log I wish for a lego airplane I wish for a lego castle I am good
Love,
Benj
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
Santa I will be better. I hope you will be able to give everyone in the universe presents on Christmas. I am 6 years old I want a present. I want the gigantamax I will set out milk and cookies for you
Love,
Marek
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
My name is AJ I am 6 years old This year I have been good I wish for a battle sword and pokemon. I love my elf Fred I will set out milk and cookies for you on Christmas Eve
Love,
AJ
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
My name is Benni-Lou I am 6 years old. This year I have been good I wish for a cat toy. I like to play with barbies I love my baby sister. I will put out milk and cookies for you
From,
Benni-Lou
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
My name is Jett. I am 6 years old My birthday is May 3. I want a Pokemon Ash Ketchum from pallet town and a lot of pokemon cards I love my elf Hug
Love,
Jett
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
My name is Rhett. I am six years old. This year I have been good For Christmas

Dear Santa,
I am 6 I am Benedict. This year I have been good Today it is 21 days until Christmas. You are the best!
Sincerely,
Benedict
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
My name is Nixon I am 6 years old This year I have been good I wish for a pocket knife. I like you Santa I love my elf Pickles
Sincerely,
Nixon
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
My name is Paisley I am 6 years old This year I have been good I really like barbies and LOL Dolls I love my elf, Elfy I will set cookies out on Christmas Eve
From,
Paisley
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
My name is Leni I am 6 years old This year I have been good I really like unicorns I like my elf. I will set out my milk and cookies Your reindeer are good at flying I like Christmas
From,
Leni
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
My name is Anastasia I am

six years old This year I have been good I like playing with plus plus How are your elves doing Santa? I like playing with lego How are you doing Santa? When can I come to your house?
Sincerely,
Anastasia
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
My name is Jillian I am 6 years old This year I have been good I really like to play with my puppy Rainbow. My puppy really wants a jacket. I really want a LOL Doll Box
From,
Jillian
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
My name is William I am 6 years old This year I have been good I wish for transformers I will always put out cookies and milk for you
Love,
William
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
My name is Myles I am six. This year I am trying to be good I wish for a computer. Can you download Minecraft?
From,
Myles
Donald Young School

Dear Santa,
My name is Nirvana This year I have been quite good What I would most like for Christmas this year is; a big unicorn stuffy because I love unicorns. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like fake makeup. I promise to leave you some cookies and milk on Christmas Eve

Hi Santa,
Thank you for bringing toys all around the world and to me. Say "Hi" to the reindeers. I want a Pokemon plush and a lobster monster truck toy. Please could I have that stuff? Can Elliot have a slide please? I like that you bring toys to everybody and everyone
Jack Sigurdson
5 Years Old

Dear Santa,
My name is Joey Brooke George, sometimes my name is Baby chick, Jo Jo or Sweetheart. I think I'm four years old
This year I learned how to wink, boogie and I like getting my nails done. I like hanging out with my auntie Gigi and

my auntie Boo Boo because they are so much fun. I'm pretty sure I've been a good girl this year because my Grammie always tells me I am. I like my Grammie's spaghetti and I like eating chocolate with her at night.
I hope that I find a new doll that has its own red boots, a new loofah and a spa bath bomb.
I promise to leave a little glitter out on Christmas Eve, so Rudolph will find me. I will leave pickled herring out for you Santa. I love you and Mrs Clause and baby Jesus.
Peace and Love,
XOXO
Joey Brooke

Dear Santa,
I am a good boy. How are your reindeer and how are you?
Santa, could you bring me a Bruder Riding Lawn mower and maybe a Bruder Sea-doo? Can you bring my older brother Ben a charger for his phone?
I will leave some carrots for your reindeer, and some cookies and milk for you!
Love JJ Pentney
Thank you for doing this for our community!
Merry Christmas to everyone there!
Nicole Pentney



Tara Jerry
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Direct Line:
807-276-0843
tarajerry@remax.net
tarajerry.com



Caryn Myers
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
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carynmyers.com



Kerry Pasloski
SALES REPRESENTATIVE
Direct Line:
807-271-2486
kerrypasloski@remax.net
kerrypasloski.com

Merry Christmas

From our homes to your homes, have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



RE/MAX
NorthWest Realty Ltd.
BROKERAGE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED



MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

December 22nd - Open 12pm - 4pm
Shop with us right up until Christmas Eve!




May your Christmas leave you rejuvenated, filling your hearts with joy, as we witness the magic of the season.



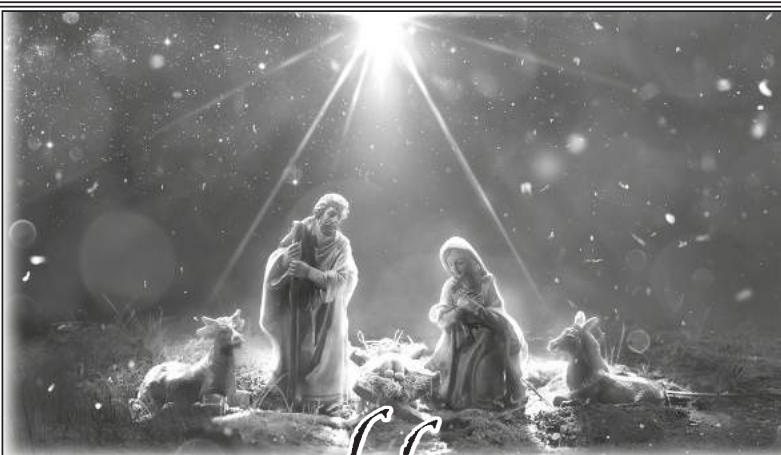
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Celebrate the Birth of Christ

May you celebrate a joyous and peaceful Christmas with those you hold close to your heart.
We truly appreciate your friendship and patronage.
From Jo, Robert, Michael & Melissa, Les & Tina, our families & staff

Belluz Concrete & Rentals Ltd.
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Merry Christmas

and

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From the partners and staff



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Locations throughout Northwestern Ontario



FORT FRANCES SANTA CLAUS PARADE



Wishing You a Merry & Magical Christmas...

May all of your hopes and wishes come true!

We're so grateful to be a part of this community, and we thank you all for making our year so rewarding and enjoyable.

Legns

Mark, Twyla, Jill and staff
part of the family

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year...

from Couchiching First Nation Chief and Council and Band Administration.



Merry Christmas

SUNSET COUNTRY Ford



Fort Frances, ON.
THIS IS FORD COUNTRY



Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to serving you in 2025 and beyond.

A Very Merry CHRISTMAS

From all of us at the



FORT FRANCES Times

Writing to Santa is practiced by children all over the world.

I just can't decide what I want!

Ha ha! Let's see them find it here!

Elf on the Shelf is a relatively new tradition where the elf reports nightly to Santa and returns to sit in a new spot every morning.

Hiding brooms and wops in Norway is a tradition to deprive witches and evil spirits of having something to ride on.

I don't mind putting away the broom for a few days!

The streets in Venezuela are closed so people can roller skate to Christmas Mass. Yikes!

In the Netherlands, children put a shoe filled with carrots for Sinterklaas' horse and their wish list in front of the fireplace, in hopes it will be filled with gifts.

Singing Christmas carols is a tradition in many countries as a way to spread joy and happiness.

Part of the magic of Christmas is the traditions we carry on year to year. This year's Christmas page honours a few of these traditions from here and abroad that make gathering with family and friends so special. Wishing everyone a Christmas full of warm memories and traditions!

It is custom in Germany to hide a single pickle ornament on a tree branch for children to find on Christmas Day. The first person to find the pickle gets an extra present!

Hanging spiders and spider webs is a tradition in the Ukraine. It is said to bring good luck and fortune in the coming year.

Nothing like watching a favourite Christmas movie to put you in the holiday spirit.

Oh boy, I hope I get the prize!

Christmas crackers are popular at gatherings. The person who ends up with the larger end of the cracker gets to keep the contents.

One theory for leaving cookies for Santa is that parents wanted to teach children the importance of sharing with others.

Any reason is a good one for making cookies!

Of course these are for Santa!

Many families enjoy creating a gingerbread house. Who wouldn't... cookie, icing, candies YUM!

In Sweden, a gigantic straw Yule goat is built. Legend says that Santa would ride the Yule goat instead of his sleigh.

No one told me they already have a tree.

The Christmas tree tradition is thought to have originated in Germany, but many countries have made putting up and decorating a tree their own.

People have been building snowmen through the ages, but the song 'Frosty the Snowman' added a Christmas spin to this fun winter activity.



Letters To Santa

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
I sometimes help make breakfast. I always put up ornaments I sometimes make my bed
My Christmas wishes are:
1 I want a Bitzee
2 I wish myself a good holiday I will give you milk and cookies I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Theo
Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 I share toys with Jack
2 I am nice
My Christmas wishes are:

1 A plane that flies with wings
2 Acrylic markers
3 Paper
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Garrett
Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 I help set up the tree
2 I help Mom clean up
3 I helped the mailman
My Christmas wishes are:
1 A dirt bike
2 A Barbie doll for my sister
Thank you for the nicest teacher.
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love, Lexton
Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 I play fair on the soccer field
2 I help my friends
3 I help my Dad
My Christmas wish is:
1 A new soccer ball
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Gunnar
Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 I play with my friends
2 I am sharing with my friends
3 I am helping my family
My Christmas wishes are:
1 I want video games
2 I want an iPhone
3 I want clay like Play-Doh)

I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Nikina
Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
I help my brother when he is sad I help my Mom when she tells me to clean up
My Christmas wishes are:
1 A candy cane
2 I really want grown-up make-up
3 A big spidey toy for my brother.
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Marina
Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 I made gifts for Cleo
2 Making presents for people I love
3 Giving Mom hugs and cookies
My Christmas wishes are:
1 To get a box
2 A My Littlest Pet Shop hotel
3 A baby dog
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Lily
Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 I help people get up
2 I play with people
3 I play with everyone
My Christmas wishes are:
1 I want a Squishy
2 I want a doll
3 I want nail polish
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Elayne
Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 I snow sled with Kayden
2 I share toys with Mackenzie and Marina
3 I am nice to Colton
My Christmas wishes are:
1 A tow unicorn
2 A heart plushy
3 A stuffy puppy
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Isabella
Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 I play with my friends
2 I give Santa cookies
3 I help my family
My Christmas wishes are:
I want a realistic SWAT team with everything they have
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Maddox
Grade one, Robert Moore

PEACE ON EARTH

...and good will to our neighbours and friends at Christmas. We wish you a safe and healthy holiday season.

V Rainy River District Victim Services

WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Here's hoping your holiday season is a cut above the rest. We loved every moment of serving you this year, thanks to all of our wonderful clientele!
From Denise & Ashley at
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We hope your holiday is filled with good stuff, happiness, friendship, peace, gratitude, goodwill and more of your favourite things!
Merry Christmas and thanks for choosing us!

Kristie, Donny, Sandy and all of our families and staff.

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Merry Christmas

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Sales Representative
Rainy River District Candidate Member,
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Wishing joy and fun to everyone who has made our year so memorable!

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A joyous and wonderful holiday season from our family to yours.

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Season's Greetings

On behalf of the team at Confederation College, the 2024/25 Board of Governors would like to extend warm wishes this holiday season and all the best in the New Year. Kim Vares | Chair

Front Row (left to right): Miranda Bevilacqua, Barb Greer, Michelle Salo, Kim Vares, Grace Filice, Jessica Alves
Back Row (left to right): Georgette O'Nabigon, Wendy Landry, Dave Paxton, Shane Strickland, Aaron Skillen, Peter Myllymaa, Kim Smith

Missing: Adam Brown, Edmond Collins, Matt Dupuis, Geoff Gillon, Chris Heikkinen, Gavin Hemeon, Eveline O'Flaherty, Lekshmy Sinkhu, Tracie Smith

Confederation COLLEGE
Visit us at www.confederationcollege.ca

Dear Santa,
 I have been very good this year!
 I have done these nice things:
 I help my Dad at shovelling
 I play fair hockey. I help my Mom at doing the dishes
 My Christmas wishes are:
 1 A Winnipeg Jets helmet or Manitoba Moose
 2 A real diamond ring
 3 An iPhone 15
 I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
 Love, Dawson
 Grade one, Robert Moore

I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
 Love, Archer
 Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
 I have been very good this year!
 I have done these nice things:
 I help Mom brush the car. I am good at school I help stack chairs
 My Christmas wishes are:
 1 An Xbox
 2 I wish I got a girl toy
 3 I wish I got an iPhone 15
 I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
 Love, Declan
 Grade one, Robert Moore

I help my Mommy
 2 I help my Dad put up the tree
 3 I like to clean
 My Christmas wishes are:
 1 A PS5
 2A 4-wheeler
 3 An Xbox
 I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
 Love, Jack
 Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
 I have been very good this year!
 I have done these nice things:
 1 I play with my friends
 2 I turn the smart board on for my teacher
 3 I make sure I give my friends high five when they do their jobs
 My Christmas wishes are:
 1 Be happy
 2 Good for all
 3 A new game for me to play with my friends and family.
 I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
 Love, Landon
 Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
 I have been very good this year!
 I have done these nice things:
 1 I am good to my sister.
 2 I share my ice cream
 3 I love my sister.
 My Christmas wishes are:
 1 A doll
 2 I want a kite
 3 I want a toe fan
 I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
 Love, Natalee
 Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
 I have been very good this year!
 I have done these nice things:
 1 Share with friends
 2 Help my teacher
 3 Give the best cuddles
 My Christmas wishes are:
 1 Trains
 2 Games
 3 Play-Doh

Dear Santa,
 I have been very good this year!
 I have done these nice things:
 1 I gave my sled to my friend
 2 I help my mom wash the dishes
 3 I help my dad wash the car
 My Christmas wishes are:
 1 For Christmas I want a transformer
 2 For Christmas I want jewelry
 3 For my baby sister I want a walking set
 I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
 Love, Mackenzie
 Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
 I have been very good this year!
 I have done these nice things:



Alberton Township hosted a 'Breakfast with Santa' on Saturday, December 14th featuring a visit with Santa, treats and toys for the kids along with a delicious pancake breakfast for all. Everyone who attended left full of the holiday spirit as well as pancakes!

Warmest Wishes
 for a safe & Happy holiday season from our family to yours.

Fort Frances Family Dentists
 1201 Sunset Drive, Fort Frances
 274-5365 www.ffdentist.com

A world of good wishes.
 One of the real joys this holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you for shopping local and wish you the very best for the new year.

Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce
 SINCE 1919

Merry Christmas

Mino anama'e giizhigad idash mino animikodaadim.

The Board of Directors and Staff at the United Native Friendship Centre wish you all good health, happiness and peace this holiday season.

The UNFC offices will be closed December 20, 2024, to January 5, 2025. We will reopen on Monday, January 6, 2025.

From my family to yours...

Wishing you the very best of the holidays and a Happy New Year.

Nicole D.S. Miller
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On Monday, December 9th the Rainy Lake Community Orchestra put everyone in the Christmas spirit with a festive concert at the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre. Despite the heavy snowfall, the concert was well attended and the audience enjoyed both listening and singing Christmas carols along with the orchestra.



Dear Santa,
My name is Mason. This year I have been quite good and a little bit naughty. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, a go carts playdough set because I like playing with playdough. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like dinosaurs. I promise to leave you some: milk and cookies on Christmas Eve.

Dear Santa,
My name is Ky. This year I have been quite good and a bit naughty. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, a hoverboard because I saw a girl use one on tv and thought it was cool. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like, makeup. I promise to leave you some: milk and cookies on Christmas Eve.

Dear Santa,
My name is Xavier. This year I have been quite good and a bit naughty. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, a remote control car because it's my favourite. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like, clothes for my baby. I promise to leave you some: cookies and milk on Christmas Eve.

Dear Santa,
My name is Davina. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, an LOL doll because I have some but would like one more. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like, a mermaid Barbie. I promise to leave you some: chocolate chip cookies and milk on Christmas Eve.

My Christmas wishes are:
1 A hedgehog stuffy
2 A stuffy of Stitch and Lilo
3 Some yellow building blocks
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Amora
Grade one, Robert Moore

3 A black case for my iPhone 15
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Colton
Grade one, Robert Moore

Dear Santa,
My name is Vera. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, a remote-control pink car because I saw it at Fort Frances Canadian Tire and it looked really cool. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like, a barbie riding horse. I promise to leave you some: milk and cookies on Christmas Eve.

Dear Santa,
My name is Alex. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, a new play kitchen and a baby because I like to play house. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like, a doll stroller where the baby can lay down. I promise to leave you some: milk and chocolate chip cookies Christmas Eve.

Dear Santa,
My name is Gracey. This year I have been quite good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, a barbie boat because I love barbies, and one have that can ride in the boat. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like, a watch. I promise to leave you some: gingerbread cookies and coco Christmas Eve.

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 Being kind to my sister
2 I play with my sister
3 I play with my friends

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 I help every day
2 I have a smile every day
3 I have a good attitude
My Christmas wishes are:
1 An iPhone 15
2 A TV and Xbox

Dear Santa,
My name is Koltin. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, an electric train because my old one isn't working. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like a lizard that can climb walls. I promise to leave you some milk and cookies Christmas Eve.

21 CENTURY 21
There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays
Thanks for making us feel so welcome here, and for trusting us with your business!
Best Wishes,

Chad Jack
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Miranda Veitch
BROKER
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Mitchell Turcotte
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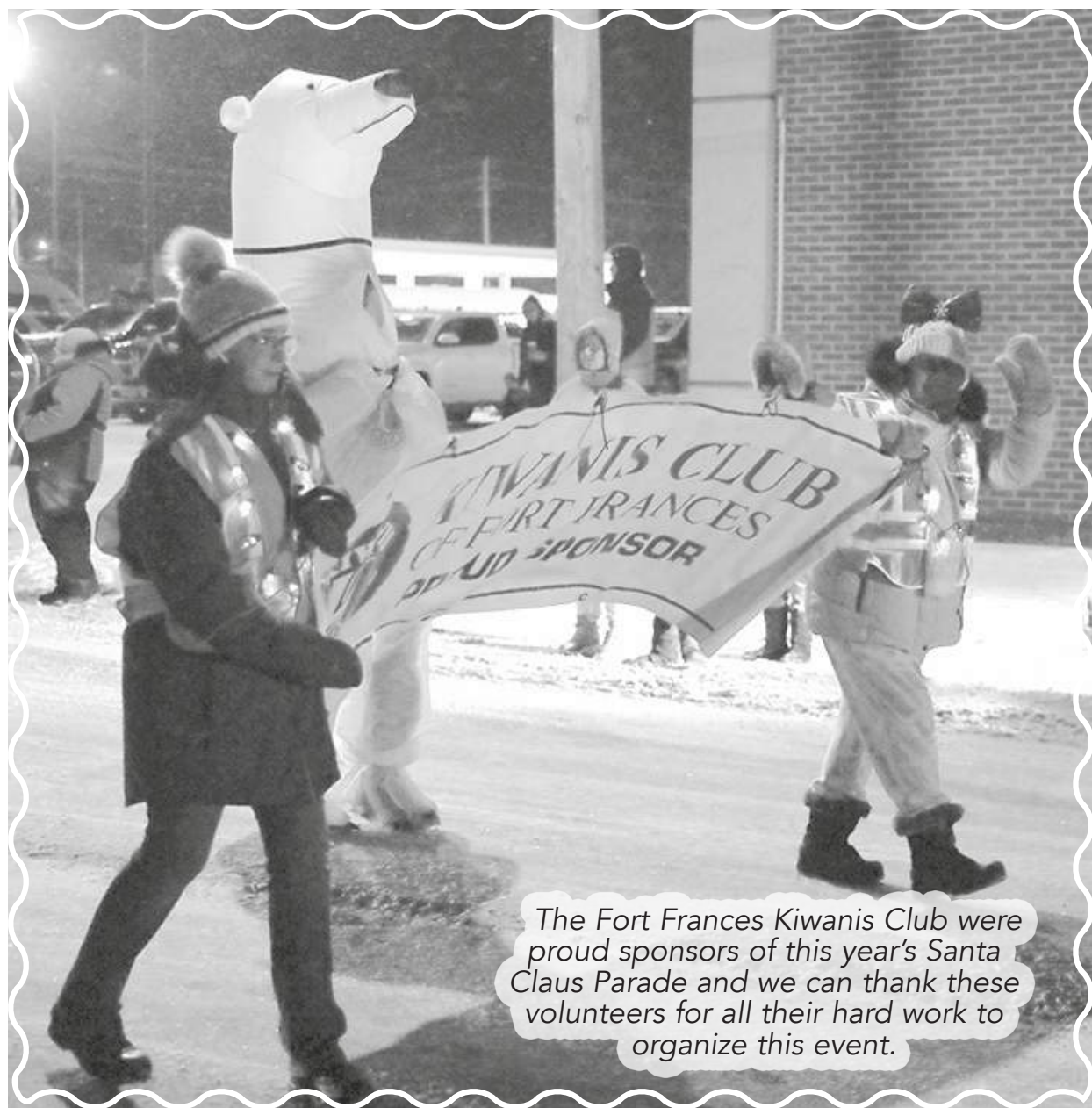
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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Back: Casey, Duane, Cassie, Ray, Travis, Alex, Daniel, Jessica
Front: Lance, Chris, Arjay, Rodney, Brendan
Missing: Clayton

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The Fort Frances Kiwanis Club were proud sponsors of this year's Santa Claus Parade and we can thank these volunteers for all their hard work to organize this event.

Love: Mason
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Leona I am 5 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like a treat and a dinosaur toy. Merry Christmas!
Love: Leona
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Parker. I am 5 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like a toy fridge with a surprise in it. Merry Christmas!
Love: Parker
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Mariah I am 4 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like a hockey stick and a reindeer toy. Merry Christmas!
Love: Mariah
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is JJ I am 4 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like a toy John Deere lawn mower and a toy John Deere boat. Merry Christmas!
Love: JJ
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Everly. I am 4 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like new jammies. Merry Christmas!
Love: Everly
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is David I am 4 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like a choo choo train. Merry Christmas!
Love: David
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Amelia I am 5 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like a LOL doll. Merry Christmas!
Love: Amelia
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Bridget. I am 5 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like a necklace. Merry Christmas!
Love: Bridget
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Ian I am 5 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like new playdough and a toy boat. Merry Christmas!
Love: Ian
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Ezra I am 5 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like a Power Ranger figure and an Ant Man figure. Merry Christmas!
Love: Ezra
JW Walker School

years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like Legos and a Nerf gun. Merry Christmas!
Love: Bennett
JW Walker School

Love: Ivy
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Mason I am 5 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like a toy robot. Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa,
My name is Griffin I am 4 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like a construction set. Merry Christmas!
Love: Griffin
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Rowan I am 5 years old I have been kind this year. For Christmas, I would like a dog stuffie and magnet builders. Merry Christmas!
Love: Rowan
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Jack. I am 3 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like a Monster truck. Merry Christmas!
Love: Jack
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Ivy. I am 4 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like a bear stuffie. Merry Christmas!



FORT FRANCES CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW



Dear Santa,
My name is Tammy. I am 4 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like an unicorn toy. Merry Christmas!
Love: Tammy
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Rush. This year I have been quite good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, a Minecraft Lego set because it's my favourite game. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like a Spiderman and a teddy bear. I promise to leave you some chocolate cookies and white milk on Christmas Eve.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dear Santa,
My name is Bianka. I am 5 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like a cute teddy bear. Merry Christmas!
Love: Bianka
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Kai. I am 4 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like a toy cat. Merry Christmas!
Love: Kai
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Amber-Leigh. I am 4 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like magnets and blocks. Merry Christmas!
Love: Amber-Leigh
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Kairo. I am 4 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like toy magnets. Merry Christmas!
Love: Kairo
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Tate. I am 5 years old I have been good this year. For Christmas, I would like Lanky Box. Merry Christmas!
Love: Tate
JW Walker School

Dear Santa,
My name is Kyro. This year I have been quite good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, a new toy car because I like racing them and lost my other cars. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like a train track. I promise to leave you some water and breadsticks on Christmas Eve.

SEASON'S GREETINGS
We sincerely appreciate your patronage, and wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year!
 Marty & Heather DeGagne, family & staff
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Merry Christmas
 Wishing you good health and happiness in 2024



 Rob Georgeson,
 CFP, CIM, RRC
 276-5439


 Scott McGinnis
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The IG WEALTH MANAGEMENT office is situated at 281 Second Street East - Unit E, Fort Frances
 Investors Group Financial Services Inc.



The Joy of Advent




The Light of Christ

The Warmth of the Season

May all these be yours this Christmas

From the trustees, staff and students of the Northwest Catholic District School Board



Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a safe and happy New Year. We look forward to serving you in 2025 and beyond. From all of us at Fort Frances GM.







From our family to yours!



Great times at the

Emo Holly Daze Parade!

Letters To Santa

Dear Santa,
 I have been very good this year!
 I have done these nice things:
 1 Nice to my Sissy
 2 Played with my friends
 3 I played outside
 My Christmas wishes are:
 1 To get baby dolls
 2 For Sissy to make good times in winter pen
 I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
 Love, Taylor
 St John's Anglican Church

year!
 I have done these nice things:
 1 I helped Mommy with baby
 2 I cleaned my room
 3 I helped Daddy
 My Christmas wishes are:
 1 Lego Movie Legos
 2 Barbies
 3 A big Barbie
 I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
 Love, Maddie
 St John's Anglican Church

2 Smiling Critters mini figs, all of them
 I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
 Love, Jarrek
 St John's Anglican Church

Dear Santa,
 I have been very good this year!
 I have done these nice things:
 1 I helped my Mom
 2 Cleaned my room
 3 I played with my dog
 My Christmas wishes are:
 1 Doll closet
 2 Puppy ornaments
 3 Baby stockings
 I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
 Love, Georgia
 St John's Anglican Church

Dear Santa,
 I have been very good this year!
 I have done these nice things:
 1 Helped mom with baby
 2 Shovelled snow for Nanny
 3 Helped Daddy at work
 My Christmas wishes are:
 1 Mario Cart
 2 Ghost Busters Monster Jam
 3 Normal Monster Jam with trucks
 I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
 Love, Logan
 St John's Anglican Church

Dear Santa,
 I have been very good this



Season's Greetings
All the best from our family to yours!

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MERRY Christmas

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

MARCUS POWLOWSKI
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 THUNDER BAY RAINY RIVER
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marcus.powlowski@parl.gc.ca

FORTFRANCES

Happy Holidays & a Joyful New Year

This season, we celebrate the kindness and resilience that makes Fort Frances exceptional. Wishing you joy, connection, and a New Year full of promise.

Mayor Andrew Hallikas Councillor Kaleb Firth
Councillor Mike Behan Councillor Steven Maki
Councillor Wendy Brunetta Councillor John McTaggart

CAO Marcel Michaels
and Staff of the Town of Fort Frances

Merry Christmas

Here's to LOADS of fun this holiday season! Thank you for your patronage.

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ARMSTRONG CRANE

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 I helped people
2 I helped kids
3 I helped the school
My Christmas wishes are:
1 A dolly
2 A dollhouse (big)
3 Help elderly people around the world
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Adelynn
St John's Anglican Church

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 Helped clean
2 Shared with my sister
3 Fed the dog
My Christmas wishes are:
1 Nintendo Switch
2 Monster trucks
3 Super Mario Brothers
Wonder
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Louis
St John's Anglican Church

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 Help clean up
2 Sharing with my brother
3 Play with my friends I eat snow with Georgia
My Christmas wishes are:
1 Skateboard
2 New dolls
3 New bed
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Haley
St John's Anglican Church

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 Shovelling snow
2 Helping others
3 Walk Max
My Christmas wishes are:

1 I want Pokemon cards
2 Hot Wheels
3 Nintendo
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Hudson
St John's Anglican Church

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 Shovelling snow
2 Helping others
3 Making coffee at wok
My Christmas wishes are:
1 The Toronto Maple Leafs to win the Stanley Cup
2 Goalie Pads (CCM Hyperlite)
3 Non-certified Cat-Eye goalie cage black
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Sam
St John's Anglican Church

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1 Shared with my friend
2 Helped mom when she was sick
3 Helped Gramma clean
My Christmas wishes are:
1 Doll high chair
2 Little doll (strawberry one)
3 Squishy making machine
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Joe
St John's Anglican Church

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
Helped my brother when he was sad
My Christmas wishes are:
1 A candy cane
2 I really want grown up make-up!
I hope you enjoy the cookies and milk!
Love,
Marina
St John's Anglican Church

Dear Santa,
My name is Jessa, and I am 5 years old Thank you for the toy you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a toy unicorn for Christmas because I love them I really need a new bike On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies, milk, and carrots for you and the reindeer! Have a safe trip!
Love, Jessa

Dear Santa,
My name is Isla, and I am 6 years old Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like magical toys for Christmas because they are cool I really need rainbow shoes On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies and carrots for you and the reindeer! Have a safe trip!
Love, Isla

Dear Santa,
My name is Mya, and I am 6 years old Thank you for the present you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a kitty cat for Christmas because I can play with it. I really need mittens On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave milk, carrots and cookies for you and the reindeer! Have a safe trip!
Love, Mya

Dear Santa,
My name is Atticus, and I am 6 years old Thank you for the gifts you brought me last year! I have been nice this year. I would really like a scarf and a hat for Christmas because I would be warm I really need a neck warmer. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave a gift for you and the reindeer! Have a safe trip!
Love, Atticus

Dear Santa,
My name is Jaxx, and I am 7 years old Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! I have been good



Chet and Arlo Mosbeck enjoyed playing in the snow with Ian Donaldson as much as watching the Holly Daze Parade.

this year. I would really like a hoverboard or a split machine for Christmas because I like to stretch I really need new shoes. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave candy canes for you and the reindeer! Have a safe trip!
Love, Jaxx

Dear Santa,
My name is Emily, and I am 7 years old Thank you for the toys you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a big LOL doll for Christmas because I have tiny LOL dolls and would like a big one I really need you. On

Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave my doll for you and the reindeer! Have a safe trip!
Love, Emily.



Dear Santa,
My name is Layla, and I am 6 years old Thank you for the necklace you brought me last year!
I have been good this year. I would really like pink slime for Christmas because it's fun. I really need ski pants. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies, milk and carrots for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love,
Layla

Dear Santa,
My name is Ruby, and I am 6 years old Thank you for the gifts you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a kite for Christmas because I like to fly my kite. I really need a scarf. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies for you and the reindeer! Have a safe trip!
Love, Ruby

Dear Santa,
My name is Kendal, and I am 7 years old Thank you for the troll toy you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like an iPhone for Christmas

because to store my pictures. I really need a scarf. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave pudding for you and the reindeer! Have a safe trip!
Love, Kendal

Dear Santa,
My name is Kaliyah, and I am 7 years old Thank you for the dolly you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like air pods and an iPhone 15 for Christmas because I could play Roblox with my friends. I really need more socks and shoes. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies, milk and carrots for you and the reindeer! Have a safe trip!
Love, Kaliyah

Dear Santa,
My name is Chaz, and I am 6 years old Thank you for the all wheel tractor you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a turbo till for Christmas because I need to get the field worked up. I really need socks. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies, carrots and milk for you and the reindeer!

Have a safe trip!
Love,
Chaz

Dear Santa,
My name is Ethan, and I am 6 years old Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a computer for Christmas so I can play Melon Playground. I really need a hat. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love,
Ethan

Dear Santa,
My name is Mia, and I am 6 years old Thank you for the blanket you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like jewelry, any type, for Christmas because I can chew on it. I really need a phone. On Christmas Eve I'll

be sure to leave milk, cookies and carrots for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love,
Mia

Dear Santa,
My name is Hadley, and I am 6 years old Thank you for the blanket you brought me last year! I have been nice this year. I would really like a bike with no training wheels for Christmas because I can do it by myself. I really need new hair ties. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies and carrots for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love,
Hadley

Dear Santa,
My name is Carter, and I am 6 years old Thank you for the robot you brought me last year! I have been nice this year. I

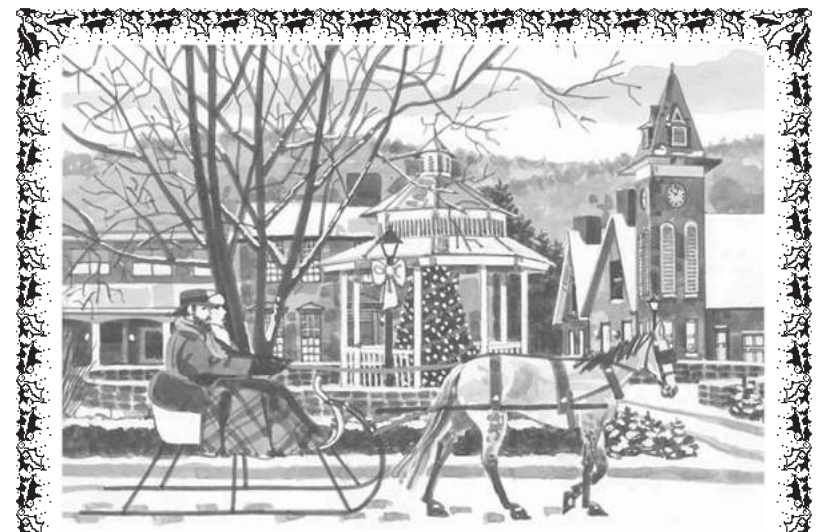
would really like a scarf and a toque for Christmas so I can stay warm at school. I really need a robot that protects and cleans. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love,
Carter

Dear Santa,
My name is Cora, and I am 6 years old Thank you for the slime you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a big LOL doll for Christmas because I don't have one. I really need a new scarf. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave carrots for you

and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love,
Cora

Dear Santa,
My name is Thea-Mae, and I am 7 years old Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like Sonic stuff for Christmas because I love Sonic. I really need new markers. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave candy, hot chocolate, milk and cookies for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love,
Thea-Mae

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Warm holiday wishes and our sincere thanks to all our customers for making this past year special.

Jesus is the reason we celebrate the season!

God's Blessings of peace and joy this Christmas. Have a wonderful New Year!

Kaemingh Family & Staff at

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Greetings & Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!

From the staff at

Confederation COLLEGE
RAINY RIVER DISTRICT CAMPUS

Season's Greetings

Best wishes for the holidays, and for health and happiness throughout the coming year.

From the staff at the Rainy River District Campus

www.confederationcollege.ca/fort-frances

This is Learning

Merry Christmas

Deepest thanks and brightest wishes to everyone who has connected with us this year!

We are honored to be a part of this community, and we wish you all the best this holiday season and always.

Jeff, Kelsey & the team at

Wright
PHYSIOTHERAPY

Season's Greetings

The Board of Directors and staff would like to wish district residents a happy, healthy and prosperous 2025.

RAINY RIVER FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
A Community Futures Development Corporation

Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario / Agence fédérale de développement économique pour le Nord de l'Ontario

Canada

Serving up our **best wishes** for a happy holiday!

The end of the year brings no greater joy than the opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for your patronage and best wishes this holiday season. May your holidays and new year be filled with health and joy. From our family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Dale, Elizabeth + Isabella and the Boston Pizza family

Merry Everything!

Wherever you are, however you celebrate, we hope the holiday season brings love to your heart, peace to your soul and joy to your spirit.

With our gratitude and best wishes,

DISTRICT OF RAINY RIVER SERVICES BOARD

Dear Santa,
I hope you had a good year. I have been a pretty good boy this year. For Christmas I would like an orange bouncy toy, a Chase monster truck and a girl toy and that's it. My brother Owen has been good to and would like a tool kit. We will leave you lots of milk and cookies and carrots for the reindeer!
From Weston
Age 3

Dear Santa,
My name is Alice I am 3 years old I have been really good this year and I've tried my best at being kind and caring. There are some very special things I would like for Christmas It is a Santa Mickey Mouse toy.
Thank you, Santal

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I want a Donkey Kong Switch Game and some headphones. What kind of cookies do you like? I think I have been a good boy this year. I have been doing a lot of fun stuff.
From your friend,
Declan Jon

Dear Santa,
My name is Layla, and I am 7 years old. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a Nintendo Switch for Christmas because it is a gift for my brother. I really need a water bottle. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave milk, cookies and carrots for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love, Layla

Dear Santa,
My name is Jamie, and I am 6 years old. Thank you for the toys and bedding you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a new bike for Christmas because I can pop wheelies. I really need a pair of mitts. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies and milk for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love,
Jamie

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus? I am doing good. I have been a little bit of a good girl this year. I am working on an igloo with my brother this winter. This year for Christmas, I would like a Cry Baby with a floatie this year. I will leave chocolate milk out for you.
Love,
Lily Age 3

Dear Santa,
How are you and the

reindeer? I am doing good. I am working on building an igloo this winter. This year for Christmas, I would like a truck. I have been a good boy and not running around. I will leave you cookies and milk.
Love, Waylon Age 2

Dear Santa,
My name is Rae-Lynn. This year I have been quite good and a bit naughty. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, a PS5 because I love to play video games. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like, family time. I promise to leave you some: milk and chocolate chip cookies on Christmas Eve.

Dear Santa,
My name is Nash. This year I have been quite good and a bit naughty. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, a monster truck because uncle Ronnan loves to drive them with me. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like, a

bat mobile. I promise to leave you some: milk and chocolate chip cookies on Christmas Eve.
Dear Santa,
My name is Lucas. This year I have been quite good and a bit naughty. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, a remote-control car because I think they are cool. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like, a doll for my sister Layla. I promise to leave you some: cookies, carrots, and milk on Christmas Eve.

Dear Santa,
My name is Kenzie. This year I have been quite good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, a train because I like Christmas trains. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like, a rocket ship. I promise to leave you some: milk and cheese on Christmas Eve.

Dear Santa,
My name is Declan. This year I have been quite good and a bit naughty. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, dinosaurs and a Jurassic Park jail because I love them. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like, a baseball and baseball glove like my mom and dad. I promise to leave you some: milk and cookies on Christmas Eve.

Dear Santa,
My name is Kennedy. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is, a train set because they are fun. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like, sand. I promise to leave you some: water and cookies on Christmas Eve.

No room for those extra guests?
Don't fret, we'll take care of them for you!

CALL ABOUT OUR CHRISTMAS RATES
Available December 22 - January 2

Destination Super!



Merry Christmas
from all of us at Super 8!

810 King's Hwy., Fort Frances
274-4945

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Of all the things we love about this season, the chance to say thanks and wish our friends and customers a wonderful holiday is at the top of our list.

From the McDonald Family and staff at
STRATTON SERVICE
Stratton, ON 807-483-5533



Believe

We are so grateful to the community for supporting us this year!

May the miracle of our Saviour's birth fill you with hope and renew your faith at this blessed time.

Emo Feeds

Since 1972
Canning Lane, Emo 482 2017
www.emofeeds.com info@emofeeds.com

Best Wishes

for a wonderful holiday season and a healthy prosperous New Year!

Mino-niibaa-anama'ewigiizhigad gaye mino-animikokdaadiwgiizhigad

Joyeuses Fêtes et Bonne Année

We thank our dedicated staff, parents and guardians, and our community partners for their continued work in support of our students.



Jiikendamowin Anwebi-giizhigad!!!
(Happy Holidays!!)

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy 2025!

From the Board and Staff of the
Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre





Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Weechi-it-te-win Family Services is proud to support a system of care that is rooted in the customs, traditions and values of the Anishinaabeg in southern Treaty #3.

May the new year bring you good health and happiness, and may we all continue to grow together with respect and understanding in 2025.




WEECHI-IT-TE-WIN
Family Services Inc.



FFPC
FORT FRANCES POWER CORPORATION

Congratulations!
250,000 Injury Free Work Hours
November 2024

Merry Christmas and Happy New Years
from the folks at FFPC

Back Row Left to Right: Marah, Brian, Scott, Chad, Todd, Brandon, Gary, Margitta
Front Row Left to Right: Jillian, Larry, Joerg, Zach, Declan, Kirk, Aimee, Andrew

FFPC
FORT FRANCES POWER CORPORATION



CROCKPOT HOT CHOCOLATE

oldsaltfarm.com

Servings: 15

Rich and creamy crockpot hot chocolate...so easy to make, and perfect for cozy fall and winter days, holiday parties, and guests.

INGREDIENTS

6 cups whole milk, OR 3 cups whole milk and 3 cups half and half

2 cans evaporated milk

2 cups heavy cream

2 teaspoons vanilla

3 cups chocolate chips

INSTRUCTIONS

Mix all the ingredients together in a 6 quart crockpot. Cook on low for 2-3 hours, stirring often the first hour, to make sure the chocolate incorporates and doesn't burn on the bottom. You can leave it on warm once it's heated through, and if it's too hot to serve on low.

In the 30 minutes before serving, add large and mini marshmallows to the crockpot. They'll get all melty and yummy! Use a

WORD SEARCH

Holiday ROUNDUP

D	E	I	N	V	I	T	A	T	I	O	N	N	I	Z	R	K	W	G	S
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X	K	Y	U	B	N	I	F	Y	V	G	A	M	E	S	Y	O	Z	R	I

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

WORDS

CELEBRATE
CHANUKAH
CHRISTMAS
DINING
EASTER
EXCITEMENT
FEAST
FESTIVE
FIREWORKS
FOOD
FRIENDS
GAMES
GUESTS
HALLOWEEN
HOLIDAYS
INDEPENDENCE
INVITATION
KWANZAA
NEW YEAR'S DAY
PASSOVER
PRESENTS
THANKSGIVING
TOGETHER
VACATION

ladle to serve hot chocolate into mugs, then top with all of your favorite hot chocolate toppings.

Happy Holidays!

From the
Royal Canadian Legion
Branch #29 Fort Frances
and
Branch #29 Legion
Ladies Auxiliary
Have a wonderful and safe holiday season and we will see you in 2025!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to our cherished clients, colleagues, families, and friends!

naughty

nice!

i tried

SUZIE Q, DON, WENDY AND BRITTANY
WISH YOU AND YOURS ALL OF THE BEST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND THROUGHOUT 2025!

DONALD A. TAYLOR LAW OFFICE
504 Armit Avenue - Fort Frances, ON - P9A 2H7
Phone: 807-274-7811 - Fax: 807-274-8485 - dalaw@shaw.ca

May the joy of
Christmas
and the hope for good health and happy times ahead warm your heart this holiday season.

Township of Alberton
Council, Staff,
Alberton Volunteer Firefighters,
& Members of Committees

Those we miss will always be in our memories.

We know that for some, this holiday season may not be as festive as it was just a short time ago. We wish those experiencing loss the comfort that having family and friends around can provide them.

NORTHRIDGE
Funeral Home Ltd

6446 Highway 11 West
Emo Ontario
(807) 482-3788
northridgefuneralhome.com

Jason and Rhonda Lilley, Rachel Korchak,
Aime Desaulniers, Larry Beere, Ralph Fluit, Anne Mailloux,
Dixie and Don Kinnear, Elaine Lilley, Robert Ivall,
Bryce Kabatay, Scott Olson, Amanda Grywacheski

Seasons Greetings

From the New Gold family to yours...
Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and prosperous New Year.

newgold™ Rainy River

Thanks for your support in 2024.

We appreciate this wonderful community's trust in us, and we look forward to serving you in the future.

TOMPKINS HARDWARE
PROUDLY SERVING THE AREA SINCE 1898

Home Hardware

Front Street, Emo, ON, Canada, ON POW1E0 • 807-482-2754
tompkinshardware.com • info@tompkinshardware.com

YAMAHA

TOMPKINS OUTDOORS

6152 Highway 11/71 - Emo, ON, Canada, ON POW1E0 • 807-482-2833
tompkinsoutdoors.com • info@tompkinsoutdoors.com

JOHN DEERE

Downloading our best at Christmas!

With appreciation from our entire team, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Thanks so much for stopping in this year. We look forward to serving you again soon.

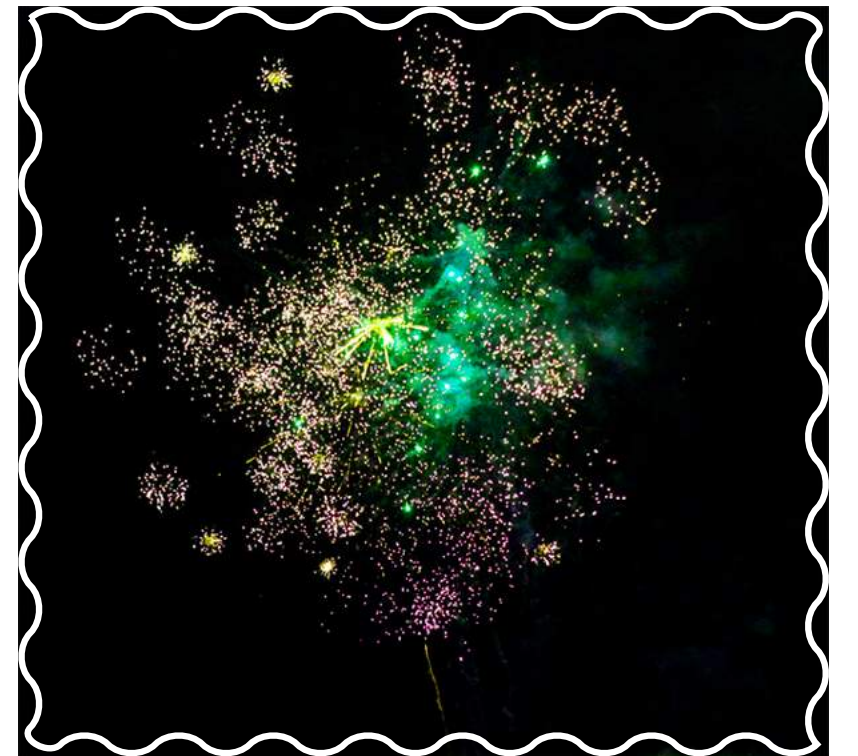
398 Scott Street
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 1G9

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Santa and Mrs. Claus ended the Holly Daze parade which was followed by an impressive fireworks display.



Brittany Duke, M. Morrisseau, Bodie White and Dale Kaemingh enjoying the warm temperatures as they take part in the successful Emo Stuff A Cruiser.
- Robin McCormick photo

Best Wishes
for a wonderful holiday season!

Dr. Lorelei Locker
~OPTOMETRIST~
314 Scott St, Fort Frances
807-274-0510

MERRY Christmas

Sending best wishes to you for a happy and healthy 2025.

M. Gus MacDonell, CLU
Wealth Planner

Optimize Wealth Management

Optimize Wealth Management
318 Scott Street
Fort Frances ON P9A 1G9
www.optimize.ca

D: (807)274-3114
F: (807)274-3114
gus.macdonell@optimize.ca

Merry Christmas

Wishing you & yours a wonderful holiday season and happiness throughout the new year.

Greg Rickford, MPP Kenora-Rainy River
5907 Hwy 11/71, Emo 1-800-465-8501 gregrickfordmpp.ca

Though the weather may be cold and frightful, we hope that the Christmas Spirit makes your holidays warm and delightful!

Merry Christmas
from Rob & Kathleen

Borderland JEWELRY

324 3rd Street, International Falls, MN ✪ 218-283-4701

Clearview CO-OP

WE WISH YOU A *Merry Christmas* AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Warm wishes to all our members, customers and friends.
We appreciate your loyal support and look forward to continuing to serve you in 2025.

FUELLING YOUR CHRISTMAS

f @ X
www.clearviewco-op.crs