

# Bulletin



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## Five candidates on ballot for Kenora-Rainy River

By Ken Kellar  
Editor  
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Voters in the Kenora-Rainy River will have five names to choose from on their ballot this election.

According to Elections Ontario, as of closing of nominations, members from five of Ontario's registered political parties have stepped forward to represent the riding as part of the next provincial government.

In the running to become the next Member of Provincial Parliament for Kenora-Rainy River are (listed alphabetically by last name):

- Anthony Leek (Ontario Liberal Party)
- John Redins (Green Party of Ontario)
- Randy Ricci (New Blue Party)
- Greg Rickford (PC Party of Ontario) [incumbent]
- Rudy Turtle (Ontario NDP)

Election day in Ontario is Thursday, February 27, 2025, and advanced voting will begin on Thursday, February 20, 2025 and run until Saturday, February 22, 2025. Advanced voting in Fort Frances will be available at the Memorial Sports Centre.

## Advanced voting to be held at Memorial Sports Centre beginning Thursday

By Ken Kellar  
Editor  
kkellar@fortfrances.com

Election Day in Ontario is fast approaching, and you can cast your early vote this week to have your voice heard.

Ontarians will head to the poll to decide the province's next government on Thursday, February 27, 2025, but for those in Fort Frances looking to cast their vote ahead of schedule, Elections Ontario has stated that advanced voting will be available at the Memorial Sports Centre from Thursday, February 20, 2025 until Saturday, February 22, 2025. Voting each day will run from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., allowing those who work or are otherwise predisposed on voting

day to cast their ballot for the party of their choice.

In order to vote in Ontario, individuals must be 18 years of age or older, be a Canadian citizen and a resident of Ontario. Voter information cards will be in the mail from February 17 to 22, and anyone wishing to vote by mail must apply to do so before February 21 at 5:00 p.m. Central Time to receive their kit in the mail. Elections Ontario must receive the completed voting kit by 5:00 p.m. Central Time on February 27, 2025, to be counted.

In order to vote on Election Day, individuals must have identification with them, as well as their voter information card. You can still vote if you do not have a voter information card, but your name may not be on the Register. In order to vote, you must bring one piece of ID showing both your name and home address to register and receive a ballot. The full list of acceptable identification can be found on the Elections Ontario website.



### Making art with ice

These ice mosaic pieces were one of the fun activities held around town on Family Day Monday, February 17, 2025, as part of the Family Frost Festival. Families could take in

different events like curling, snowshoeing, skating, swimming and more at many of the different participating locations around town.

– Allan Bradbury photo

## Inclusive education banks on more success

By Sandi Krasowski  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
The Chronicle-Journal

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) says it understands the importance of reducing financial burdens for post-secondary students and has stepped up to try to make a difference.

This week the financial institution contributed \$100,000 to Confederation College aimed at supporting its students in the Community Integration through Co-operative Education (CICE) program.

Michelle Salo, president of Confederation College, said the CIBC contribution demonstrates their commitment to inclusive education and community development.

"The impact of this donation will be far-reaching, providing our CICE students with enhanced financial support and valuable experiential learning opportunities," Salo said.

While providing financial assistance and enhancing experiential learning opportunities

for CICE students, the funding includes \$75,000 allocated for student awards, creating 10 bursaries of \$2,500 each per year for three years. Salo noted an additional \$25,000 will be designated as an experiential learning fund, providing almost \$8,500 per year for three years.

She said, "This fund will also assist students in purchasing necessary equipment and resources and covering service fees and travel expenses related to their co-op placements."

Rose Hankio, the college's lead integration facilitator, called the CIBC support "transformative" for CICE students.

"It reduces financial burdens and lets them engage fully in their educational experiences," Hankio said. "This funding will open doors to new opportunities and help our students thrive academically and personally."

Per Humle, the CIBC senior vice-president and head of the bank's Ontario East region, told The Chronicle-Journal that CIBC is proud to help support these students in achieving their academic dreams.

"CIBC aims to create a world without limits to ambition and we're committed to helping remove barriers that all too often stand in the way of success for many students from underserved communities," Humle said.

The college's CICE program is designed to provide individuals with developmental disabilities and other significant learning challenges with a college experience that prepares them for greater independence and employment opportunities. It offers a personalized, assisted learning approach tailored to each student's academic needs, supporting in and out of the classroom.

Skills for life and work, enhancing communication skills, promoting healthy lifestyles, and personal and professional growth are all part of the curriculum. The program also includes supervised field placements, which provide students with work experience.

The program accepts 20 students per year for a two-year term, totalling 40 students at any given time.



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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 Daily Bulletin is no exception.

Rules governing letters to the editor in the Daily Bulletin 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 Bulletin will allow a response in the same edition.
5. Letters should not exceed 300 words and may be edited for length and content.

**Doug Rowe,**  
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Editor

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# Advocate using their voice to help young adults with autism

By **Marissa Lentz-McGrath**  
Local Journalism Initiative  
Reporter  
*TimminsToday.com*

**TIMMINS** - Following a recent autism diagnosis, an Indigenous youth is speaking out to advocate for others with similar experiences.

Katherine Jeremiah-Génier, a 24-year-old member of Missanabie Cree First Nation, has been selected to join the National Youth Advocacy Council with the Child-Bright Network.

Jeremiah-Génier, who uses they-them pronouns, applied for the council in August and underwent an interview process before learning of their selection in November.

They are one of 12 young Canadians chosen to provide input on research development and policy changes related to brain-based developmental disabilities. They have already participated in several Zoom meetings.

"Being part of the council, I want to advocate for youth who have similar experiences to me," they said.

Diagnosed with autism in March 2024, Jeremiah-Génier has a unique perspective.

"Being Indigenous, being from a remote area where we don't have a lot of services, and being diagnosed ... as a young adult are things I can share insights on," they said.

"If I had been diagnosed sooner, I would have had more support. I wouldn't have been so hard on myself. I would have realized that there was nothing wrong with me — my brain just works differently."

Reflecting on their childhood, Jeremiah-Génier said that an earlier diagnosis could have eased many struggles, such as transitioning between activities, adapting to new environments, and managing sensory sensitivities in school settings.

"It was also frustrating for my mom because my younger brother got his diagnosis a few months before I got mine. When I got mine, she said, 'I wish I could have

known sooner or advocated for you better,'" they said.

Since receiving their diagnosis, they have encountered frustrating misconceptions.

"People will say, 'Oh, you don't look autistic,' or 'Girls can't have autism,' which is really frustrating. People need to be more open and understanding. Everyone is different and requires different tools and accessibility options to participate fully in life."

One of the biggest challenges they see is the lack of services for young adults with autism. While there are many programs for children and their parents, support for those in their late teens and early 20s is scarce.

"I am trying to find different services for myself, and they don't have a lot for young adults. There's a lot for kids, but not much for us."

As a council member, Jeremiah-Génier hopes to raise awareness of these gaps and advocate for better resources for young adults with autism. They see their appointment as an opportunity to collaborate with other passionate youth to make meaningful change.

In addition to their role with the Child-Bright Network, Jeremiah-Génier is active in several other advocacy groups, including the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Oshkaatisak Council, the Mushkegowuk Regional Youth Council, and the Missanabie Cree First Nation Youth Council.

They encourage other young people to take part in advocacy efforts.

"I think it's important for people to use their voice because there's someone out there going through the same thing. If you speak up, you can help others who might not feel ready to use their voice yet," they said.

Jeremiah-Génier is also deeply involved in Quilts for Survivors, an initiative founded by their mother, Vanessa Génier. As the studio manager, they have played a significant role in sewing and organizing the distribution of quilts to residential school survivors.

Jeremiah-Génier plans to share updates on their advocacy work through their X account here.

## Frigid temps to even out over the week

Tonight will be partly cloudy with periods of light snow and a low of -23 C (-9 F).

Tomorrow will be mainly cloudy with periods of light snow during the day with cloudy periods overnight and a high of -16 (3) and a low of -25 (-13).

Thursday will be sunny and clear with a high of -10 (14) and a low of -20 (-4).

In the extended forecast, Friday will see cloudy skies during the day with cloudy periods

overnight with a high of -8 (18) and a low of -14 (7), and Saturday will bring a mix of sun and cloud with a chance of flurries during the day and becoming cloudy with a chance of flurries overnight with a high of -3 (27) and a low of -7 (19).

The record high for today is 11 (52) set in 2017 and the record low is -42 (-44) set in 1966.

Sunset today is at 5:40 p.m. and sunrise tomorrow is at 7:15 a.m.

## AROUND TOWN

Add your event to our online community event calendar at [fortfrances.com/calendar](http://fortfrances.com/calendar)

### FEATURED POST

Kids and Company's next show is coming Monday Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. at the Townshend Theatre. In *Circus Incognitus*, virtuoso clown Jamie Adkins is the vulnerable everyman. An expert at comedy born of desperation, Jamie's performance is humble and unguarded. Adkins deftly escorts the audience along his poetic journey with sidesplitting wit. This is a free show.

### EVENTS CALENDAR

**TONIGHT:** Drop in to SGEI's Women's Hand Drumming on February 18 at 5:30 p.m. Learn more online at [7generations.org/events](http://7generations.org/events)

Memory Lane Cafe is being hosted by the Alzheimer Society of Kenora Rainy River Districts on February 5. A warm, inviting space for individuals living with dementia and their care partners to connect, socialize and participate in enriching activities. It fosters a supportive atmosphere where participants can share experiences, form friendships and access community support. Cafes will be at the Sister Kennedy Centre, from 1-3 p.m. Future date is March 5. For more information, call 807-468-1516 or e-mail [mary@alzheimerkrr.com](mailto:mary@alzheimerkrr.com).

The 55+ Movie matinee for February will be *White Bird*. The screening will be held at the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre, Friday, February 21 at 1 p.m.

The Fort Frances and Area Human Trafficking Coalition is hosting a special Dinner & Documentary event on February 21, 2025, at the Métis Hall from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This powerful evening aims to educate the community about human trafficking while offering an opportunity to hear from guest speaker Cynara Vondra, an advocate with lived experience. Guests will enjoy a prime rib dinner catered by Flint House while viewing an eye-opening documentary that highlights the realities of human trafficking. Cost is \$25 in advance from coalition members or \$30 at the door. Email [ffhumantraffickingcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:ffhumantraffickingcoalition@gmail.com) for tickets or more information.

The CMHA is hosting a Monthly Men's Group. Enjoy coffee, snacks and conversation with other men, in a safe place to connect. Everyone welcome! Meetings will be held at the HOPE Centre, 324 Victoria Ave in Fort Frances. Scheduled dates are Fridays, February 28 and March 28, at 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Levi Morris at 807-274-2347 ext 202.

The Monthly supper from the Legion Ladies Auxiliary to Branch #29 is a Roast Beef Dinner on Friday Feb. 28. Meals are \$25 each under 12 is \$12. There is a limit of 120 meals. Tickets available at the Legion Office, the Senior Centre or by calling Vicki 807-271-3514

The World Day of Prayer is Friday March 7, 2025. This year's theme is "I made you wonderful" come pray at St. John's Anglican Church March 7 at 2 p.m. All are Welcome. For more information contact Pattie Anderson.

The Fort Frances Kiwanis Club is hosting Music Bingo at the Fort Frances Royal Canadian Legion on March 29 at 7 p.m. \$5 per card, cash only 18+ only. Get ready to dance in your seat as our talented "DJ" spins a variety of music genres, from chart-topping hits to nostalgic classics. Sing along, test your music knowledge, and compete with friends for a chance to win a prize!

### ONGOING EVENTS

Senior's Bingo is back! Bingo will be held Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Fort Frances Senior Centre. Cost is \$2 for 10 games.

Winter and Spring courses will be held at the Valley Adult learning Association. Classes are all free! Choose from Excel, Cricuit, or Canva, or ask about online courses, one-on-one tutoring and assistance with your technology. Call 807-274-3553 or e-mail [info@vala.ca](mailto:info@vala.ca) for more information or to register. Visit online at [www.vala.ca](http://www.vala.ca) or follow them on Facebook.

A free exercise class for men at the Fort Frances Seniors Centre is seeking participants. All men aged 55+ are welcome to join. If you're interested, text 807-271-2021.

Lions TV Bingo — on Shaw/Rogers channel 10 every Thursday from 6:30 — 8:30 p.m. Cards available from the usual outlet including the Fort Frances Times.

Story Time with Miss Sam is held every Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. at the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre! Story Time features a new theme each week, with carefully selected stories, songs and activities that will captivate and engage your little ones. No registration required. Perfect for ages 2-6 with a caregiver.

Baby Time is held Thursdays at 1:15pm (NEW TIME) at the Fort Frances Public Library technology Centre. Enjoy bouncing songs, rhymes, and plenty of smiles! Bond with your little one and connect with other caregivers in a warm, welcoming environment. Designed for babies aged 0-18 months and their caregivers.

Pokémon Club is held Fridays at 4 p.m. at the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre. New to Pokémon? Learn how to play and develop your skills! We play Pokémon cards in the unlimited format, which means that you can use cards from any set to build your deck! Recommended for ages 8-14+. Please bring your own snacks.

## AROUND TOWN

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Lego Club at the Library, every Thursday from 3:30-5 p.m. come build, create and connect. Compete in Lego building challenges, create unique builds and build big!

STEM Saturday is at the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stop by for STEM-based fun, games and crafts! Anyone under 8 needs to be accompanied by an adult.

Free Yoga sessions will be offered by Rainy Lake Zen Life Yoga, each Wednesday at 11 a.m. The studio is located at 600 hwy 11 (old Pinewood Sports building across from Badiuks). Space is limited, so please register first at [www.vagaro.com/zenlifeyoga](http://www.vagaro.com/zenlifeyoga).

Stroke Survivors group— meeting the Second Wednesday of every month 10-11 a.m. Let's have a coffee and talk. A good time to make friends with other people that understand what you're going through. To register call or text Nathan Galusha 807-271-6262 or Shelly Jones 807-276-1319.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Calling sewers! The Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre is creating a Gratitude Banner, and needs a few extra hands to make it a reality. Crafting will be held Fridays at the SGEI Makerspace, from 2-4 p.m. Some sewing experience would be helpful. If you're interested in helping out, call Holly at 807-274-9879 ext. 1614 or e-mail [hanguis@ffpltc.ca](mailto:hanguis@ffpltc.ca).

The Fort Frances Legion Ladies Auxiliary to Branch #29 is seeking new members to join their dynamic group of fun, hard-working Ladies. If you would like to know more about this group, please contact Andrea at 275-8912.

Volun-TRY with the Girl Guides! Volun-try is a program that lets adults explore being a Guide leader. Age groups currently overseen are 5-11. Make new friends, have fun, and shape the future for a group of girls. Older groups could start with more leaders! To find out more, contact Monica Armour on Facebook.

The Rainycrest Tuck Shop is accepting donations— The Tuck Shop is open to residents, family, staff and visitors. Great items for donation are things like large stuffed bears, knick knacks, gift items and items for residents to place on their night stands or wall/door. Proceeds from the Tuck Shop go to the Rainycrest Auxiliary, which benefits residents. Donations can be dropped off inside the main entrance, labelled ATTN: Tuck Shop.

Rainycrest Auxiliary Membership – New members are always welcome and current members are reminded to renew their membership for 2024 dues are \$5 per year and can be paid at the Tuck Shop or by calling 274-6954 (Judy) or 271-4114 (Donna).

Meals on Wheels – Seeking volunteer drivers. Contact Nicole Piotrowski at 807-274-3266 ext 4818 or by email [n.piotrowski@rhcf.on.ca](mailto:n.piotrowski@rhcf.on.ca).

Best for Kitty is in desperate need of foster homes, to provide a safe, warm and loving environment to house cats and kittens, while they wait for their forever homes. Full support and supplies are provided. For more information, e-mail [bestforkitty@gmail.com](mailto:bestforkitty@gmail.com), or visit Best for Kitty over Facebook or at [bestforkitty.net](http://bestforkitty.net) for more information. For donations via e-transfer, use [bestforkitty@gmail.com](mailto:bestforkitty@gmail.com), or donate through [www.bestforkitty.net](http://www.bestforkitty.net) for instant tax receipts. cheques can be dropped off at Northwood Gallery and gifts. After the strike, they can be mailed to 308 Fifth Street West Fort Frances, P9A 3S1. Tax receipts can be issued for donations over \$20.

# Power transmission shortfalls exist: analysis

By Sandi Krasowski  
Local Journalism Initiative  
Reporter  
The Chronicle-Journal

An analysis of the electrical needs to the extensive growth in the region's mining industry, released by the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), found the existing and proposed transmission system is unable to meet the growing demand.

Iain Angus, the co-chairman of NOMA's Northwest Energy Task Force, said with the new transmission lines, including the Waasigan Bulk Transmission line, there would be a significant shortfall of power in the Dryden, Red Lake, Ear Falls and Pickle Lake areas.

The Task Force also identified shortfalls in the area north of Nipigon, the immediate Thunder Bay area and in the Shebandowan area to the west.

Angus says that for close to 20 years, they have been taking a look at the details of the proposed mining projects.

"They all have to file documents in terms of various stages of their planning process," he said, noting they have been studying the electrical needs on a "region-wide basis" and this time, they studied area by area.

"We already knew that the transmission line from Dryden up to Red Lake is almost at its maximum, so it can't handle anything new," Angus said. "But then we looked at Pickle Lake, which

has got a significant amount of mining activity. The new (Wataynikaneyap) power line and the line from Ear Falls don't have the capacity to add those new mines in, so we needed to find a solution there."

Angus explained the Waasigan transmission line, which is currently being built by Hydro One between Shuniah and Atikokan, is a two-circuit line.

"The second phase of it is a single circuit connecting Atikokan to Dryden and we've identified that is insufficient to provide the power up there, and it needs to be doubled and they might as well do it now before they start building it because it is expandable," he said.

"It's not like they have to reinvent the wheel, but it's important that they make the decision now to put two circuits."

Revising plans mid-stream could be costly.

"It doesn't double it per se, but it certainly will increase the cost. There's no question about that," he noted. "But as a bulk transmission line, that cost will be absorbed by the entire ratepayer system across Ontario, as opposed to any one customer paying the upfront capital costs."

NOMA works closely with Hydro One, which has already recommended to the Independent Electrical System Operator (IESO) that a new twin circuit line go from Dryden to Red Lake.

"And that's an important step," Angus said. "The IESO puts it in their plans, which are recommended both to the government and the Ontario Energy Board for approvals. The province needs to declare them priority projects because most of these mines are planning on being in service by 2033, and it takes seven years to build a transmission line."

Another part is ensuring that there's sufficient power to Greenstone because several mines are developing there, as well as the connection to the Ring of Fire. He said Ontario's investment of \$75 million, which involves Aroland First Nation planning to bring power into the Geraldton area and then north to the Ring of Fire, is also good news.

"There needs to be work around Thunder Bay, and although it hasn't been on our radar, there are some mines that are in close proximity," he said.

"Plus, there's the potential of new lithium and other ore processing facilities which do require a lot of megawatts. So Thunder Bay needs a solution."

He added the Community Economic Development Commission, which is a member of the Energy Task Force, together with Synergy North, Hydro One and the IESO have been working on identifying a solution, which makes NOMA "comfortable."

## Unlocking northern opportunities

By Sandi Krasowski  
Local Journalism Initiative  
Reporter  
The Chronicle-Journal

Indigenous communities throughout Northwestern Ontario could have better opportunities for economic growth and new business development thanks to a \$2.5-million investment from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario, (FedNor).

Patty Hajdu, minister of Indigenous Services and minister responsible for FedNor, made the funding announcement Tuesday in Thunder Bay while attending the Neganishwin Gathering at the Valhalla Inn.

Hajdu said the investments total \$2,665,565 for seven initiatives supported and led by Indigenous communities and organizations in the Northwest.

"These initiatives will enhance the ability of First Nations communities to lead and benefit from business development within their traditional territories," Hajdu told The Chronicle-Journal.

"The projects include the delivery of several critical plans and strategies, the hiring of skilled professionals including economic development officers and business managers, as well as the construction of new facilities and infrastructure and the acquisition of new equipment."

Audrey Gilbeau, executive director of Nookiiwin Tribal Council Inc., said they are appreciative of the FedNor funding that will support its comprehensive community planning initiative into the implementation phase.

"The initiative process honours community members' voices and engages all departments in the pursuit of a healthy and prosperous future," Gilbeau said. "This collaborative effort ensures that communities lay a strong foundation today, paving the way for sustainable growth and well-being for generations to come."

Peter Collins, chief executive officer of Chi Mino Ozhi-toowin, said the Waasigan Transmission Line, which will receive a portion of the funding, will not only strengthen

the economy in northern communities, it will create lasting benefits beyond its immediate impact.

"With FedNor's support, we can unlock new opportunities across the region, driving sustainable growth and prosperity for generations to come," Collins said.

Hajdu added supporting Indigenous-led initiatives isn't just about economic reconciliation — it's about recognizing that Northern Ontario thrives when Indigenous knowledge, leadership and innovation help shape the region's shared future.

"These community-driven projects create good jobs, build sustainable economies, and strengthen partnerships across Northern Ontario," she said.

The funding comes from FedNor's Northern Ontario Development Program stream that supports projects led by municipalities, First Nations, and other organizations and institutions that support community economic development, diversification, job creation and self-reliant communities in Northern Ontario.



Got an idea for a story?

Email us at [tips@fortfrances.com](mailto:tips@fortfrances.com)

## ☺ Cheers & ☹ Jeers

☺ **Cheers** for all those good things that happen to you in the run of a day or to the person who was kind or helpful.

☹ **Jeers** for the bad things that happen in your day or for the inconsiderate people you encounter.



Submit your Own  
and read them every Tuesday!

Email: [tips@fortfrances.com](mailto:tips@fortfrances.com)  
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All Cheers & Jeers are published anonymously however, your name, address and phone number must be including in your submission.

The Times reserves the right to withhold your submission if the content is deemed to be inappropriate or libelous.

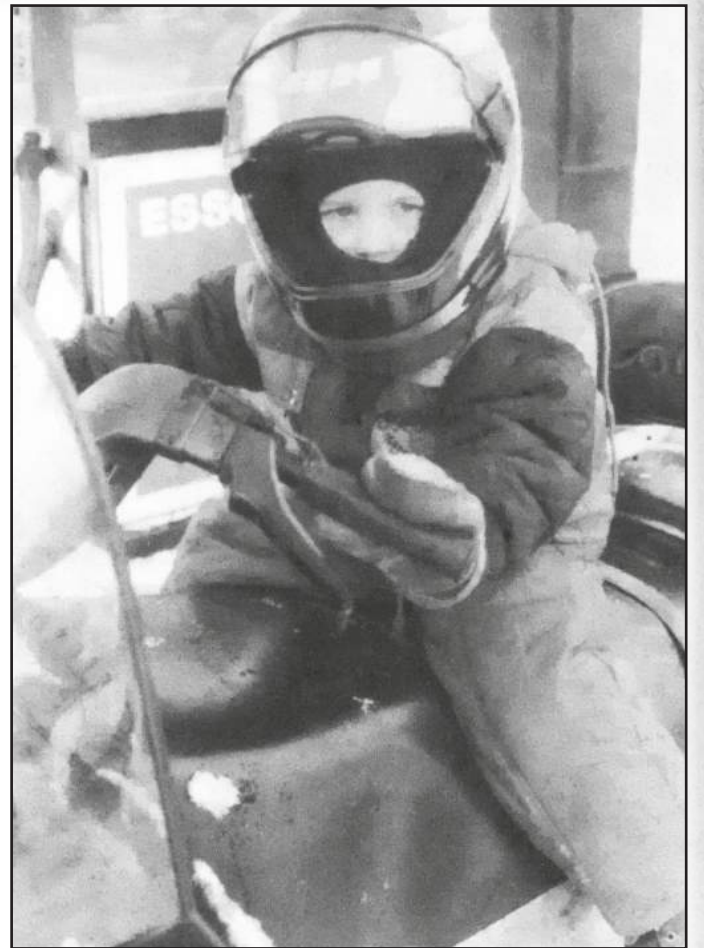
# A Moment In Time...

FORT FRANCES TIMES, FEBRUARY 16, 1994



## Golden girls

The Muskie girls' curling team were tested in their final game, but they came through with flying colours to win the NorWOSSA championship. Stacey Flatt, back, Christie McTaggart, Christine DeGagne, Jacquee Savage and Tena Richert will be travelling to the NWOSSAA bonspiel at the end of February.



## Ready to ride

Jason Matthews probably was the youngest rider on the trails Saturday. He stopped with his mom and dad, Peggy and Jeff, to gas up at Witherspoon's before hitting the trails and heading to LaBelle's for an enjoyable afternoon of sledding in the long-awaited sunshine and milder temperatures.

Fort Frances. Proceeds from the raffle will go towards the Contemporary Aboriginal Artists in Action performing group as they continue their fundraising drive.



## And the winner is...

Dylan Simard drew the winning ticket while OYC vice-president Danica Medicine held the box of entries. Anne Bruyere of Couchiching won a \$50 gift certificate and floral arrangement from Tammi's Flowers, Cards and Gifts in

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# Science North's new LEGO show to build imagination, brick by brick

By Hugh Kruzel  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
The Sudbury Star

Science North is again hosting a LEGO exhibition, this time called Sean Kenney's Brick Masters Studio: Build with LEGO bricks like a pro, which opened this Family Day Weekend.

Kenney, a world-renowned LEGO artist, developed the Brick Masters Studio with science content from Science North. Imagine produced the show, which features three million LEGO Bricks and more than 100 sculptures that include landscapes, animals, insects and philosophical objects.

As part of the exhibition, Science North Bluecoats will show budding brick builders the science and engineering tools and techniques that Kenney, a world-renowned artist, uses to build his incredible creations. Brick Masters Studio portrays a deeper understanding of how imagination and innovation come together to create something extraordinary.

The perennial LEGO is a favourite Danish invention with massive sales worldwide. Translated, LEGO means "play well" in English. Described by Wikipedia as "a line of plastic construction toys," that does not capture the essence of what it can be.

Started in 1949, LEGO has had quite a history. The great thing about the interlocking bricks is the ability to spark creativity over and over as you assemble and take them apart. Pieces can be reused infinite times to create spacecraft, cities, Rivendell, models of DNA or an X-wing fighter. In short, anything big or small.

Not just for kids, interest from adults exploded during the COVID-19 pandemic. There is even an 18-and-older product line. Last year, nearly 15 per cent of sales in the U.S. were aimed at adult builders, so don't blame the kids for leaving a block to be stepped on in the night.

Visitors impressed  
Gwen Cyr and granddaughter Zoey Chisnell were early arrivals for the Friday event at Science North. Cyr acknowledged this is a huge educational opportunity.

"Zoey has been coming here to Science North all her life - 10 years. We have a membership," she said.

Chisnell sat right up front. "I am so excited by this. I have lots of LEGO (bricks) at home. I gave my mum LEGO flowers for Christmas."

Hillary Brisson, a teacher of the deaf at Chelmsford Valley District Composite School, believes that "LEGOs are for everyone - blind, deaf - they are super tactile. I have two boys in our family. There is LEGO everywhere at our home."

Kids dream big and set their

sights on architecture, art and engineering as careers while they play.

Allison Tryon is the Grade 5/6 teacher at the same school. "I've brought about 30 students today. LEGO is really non-gendered. Some of the students here are part of our school robotics team and they are just back from a competition in Toronto. They got the Rising Star Award."

"They are super excited ... this is an inspirational moment. We had just booked a regular school trip and then found out it is the world premiere of this exhibition. What luck."

Dylan Lunham is one of those students. "I think it is really cool to have hands-on experiences. I have been to a LEGO competition recently, and this place allows you to have fun and explore. We will come back on the Family Day weekend. We have a membership, too, so we will be here often."

Cole Benoit brought along his dad, Eric Benoit, the Ward 2 councillor for the City of Greater Sudbury. Cole's enthusiasm was apparent in his sparkling eyes and bubbly conversation.

"I think will see this at least five more times," he said. "I had such a good time inside the exhibition. It was pretty fun. We went through the shop at the end and I shared my opinions on what my brothers might like. For my baby sister, we got DUPLO. It is LEGO compatible."

The show also impressed Jim Lundrigan, chair of Science North's board of trustees. "It is always exciting to welcome new exhibitions to Science North," Lundrigan said. "This is amazing. I have three children of my own and a grandson."

"I stepped on a lot of LEGOs over the years. We had buckets of LEGO. There was never enough LEGO. I've built countless castles for princesses."

The Brick Master  
Sean Kenney - the Brick Master - thinks of LEGO as an art medium. "The Brick Masters' Studio is like me dumping my brain out into all of you. This exhibit is for all of you. I want to teach you all the tips and tricks ... how you can draw out your ideas and use your imagination. This is not a hands-in-your-pocket kind of show."

Speaking informally as Science North's doors opened, Kenney admitted he was "that LEGO kid" when growing up in New York. He now lives in Europe.

"I never thought this could be my job. At the time, I couldn't fathom it. It's bizarre and yet here I am. I did what society said: get good grades, go to university, and get a job. I studied art and also computer science. I broke free of the dotcom world to become a guy who makes art with LEGO

bricks.

"We were still up to 1 a.m. putting on the finishing touches (Friday). Making sure it was perfect. I'm sure you can believe - though I've been here for days - I have not yet seen the rest of the science centre. I can't wait."

"There are many interactive parts for participants, like building a cheeseburger. Just don't try to eat it," chuckled Kenney.

Ashley Larose, Science North CEO, shared with the audience that the opening of this exhibition "felt a little bit like Christmas morning."

"As the show concludes here in September 2025, it will start an international tour. It will tour for five to seven years across North America. We think of this as an all-ages show."

There is no special fee to view the LEGO bricks.

Larose mentioned the show earlier in the week at another event. "We have not had a LEGO exhibition for 15 years. There is a cycle to what we show. It is actually the third time we have had LEGO in our special exhibits hall."

Attendance numbers for these, and anything dinosaur, are always huge, she acknowledged. "We are opening this exhibition for the Family Day weekend. March Break is just around the corner. A lot of what you will see has never been done before."

# Win games, inspire next generation: Nunavut's goals set in Scotties return

By Jeff Pelletier  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
Nunatsiq News

Nunavut is headed back to the Scotties Tournament of Hearts and this year's team is hoping to make an impact on and off the pebbled ice.

"We want to come away with a few wins and we think that's totally within our grasp to do that," said Leigh Gustafson about her hopes for the national women's curling championship.

Gustafson plays third on the team and serves as vice-president of both the Iqaluit Curling Club and Nunavut Curling Association.

This year's Scotties marks Nunavut's return to the tournament after the team withdrew last year.

The decision to withdraw was partly due to lack of time to prepare for the national event. As well, Iqaluit curlers lost access to their rink last winter when the city rented it out for filming the CBC/Netflix/APTN comedy North of North.

Joining Gustafson in Thunder Bay, Ont., for the curling championship are team veterans Sadie Pinksen as vice-skip and Alison Taylor as lead.

Julia Weagle is Nunavut's new skip. Based in Ottawa, she's making her Scotties debut as Nunavut's designated import player.

Weagle and Gustafson's dads were the "matchmakers" who helped bring this team together, Weagle said.

Over the past year, phone calls and video chats kept the four players connected. Weagle eventually made the trip north to join her Iqaluit teammates to practise, play and take part in some clinics.

"It's been incredible," Weagle said, describing getting to know Iqaluit's curling community.

"I think there's an appetite to grow the sport as well."

This year's Scotties is not just about getting wins, Gustafson said. They want to be an example for Nunavut's up-and-coming curlers.

Nunavut is also sending teams to Saskatoon for the Canadian under-18 curling championships, which start Feb. 16.

"We have some really promising junior teams that we just want to be good role models [for]," Gustafson said.

"I think we have a really good next generation coming up."

Nunavut's first game at the Scotties is Saturday at 7 p.m., versus one of the two Alberta teams in their pool.

The Scotties tournament runs until Feb. 21 with games airing on TSN.

## ComParrot<sup>®</sup> by Bonnie J. Malcolm Can you spot 12 differences between these pictures?



www.comparropuzzles.com © 2025 Bonnie J. Malcolm



Solution: 1. Rock in flowerbed is missing. 2. Leaf on fern is missing. 3. Flower beside tree is missing. 4. Flower in pot is missing. 5. Leaf beside fountain is missing. 6. Bird's wing is colored in. 7. Splash from fountain has moved. 8. Grass beside flowerbed has moved. 9. Leaves on edge of pot have moved. 10. Rake handle is longer. 11. Shovel handle is longer. 12. Man's shirt is longer.



1. What team did Basketball Hall of Famer Al McGuire lead to an NCAA championship in his final season as head coach in 1977?
2. Brazilian footballer Ricardo Izecson dos Santos Leite, winner of the 2007 Ballon d'Or, was commonly known by what name?
3. Name the brothers who played together on the NHL's Chicago Black Hawks for eight seasons from 1964-72.
4. What Washington placekicker led the NFL in scoring in 1991 with 149 points, more than the 143 points scored by the entire Indianapolis Colts team that season?
5. Women's Basketball Hall of Famer Jennifer Azzi won an NCAA championship in 1990 as a member of what team?
6. Who became the first U.S. women's figure skater since Alissa Cizsny in 2010 to win the ISU Grand Prix Final when she accomplished the feat in December 2024?
7. The Patrick Mannelly Award, founded in 2019, is presented annually to the best U.S. college football player at what position?

### Answers

1. The Marquette University Warriors.
2. Kaka.
3. Bobby and Dennis Hull.
4. Chip Lohmiller.
5. The Stanford University Cardinals.
6. Amber Glenn.
7. Long snapper.

# Caramel Creations



## MILLIONAIRE'S SHORTBREAD

preppykitchen.com

### INGREDIENTS

#### SHORTBREAD CRUST

- 2 cups all-purpose flour (240g)
- 1 cup unsalted butter room temperature (226g)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar packed (100g)
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

#### CARAMEL

- 1 14-oz can sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter cut into Tablespoon-sized pieces (113g)

- 1 cup light brown sugar packed (200g)
- 1/4 cup Golden or corn syrup light or dark (60ml)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

#### CHOCOLATE GANACHE

- 1 1/2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/3 cup heavy cream (80ml)
- 1 pinch sea salt to sprinkle on top

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350F and line a 9x9 inch baking dish with parchment paper or foil.
- Cream the butter then add the sugar, salt and beat until light and fluffy. Add the vanilla and egg yolk then mix until combined. Add the flour in a few batches and mix until just combined.
- Transfer to your prepared pan and press into an even layer then bake at 350F for about 22 minutes or until the edges are golden.
- While the base bakes make the caramel. This is easiest with a candy thermometer but you don't need one. Combine the butter, brown sugar, salt, vanilla, sweetened condensed milk and either golden syrup or corn syrup.
- Place over medium heat and whisk until melted and combined then continue whisking over the heat while the caramel bubbles and darkens to a richer color. Once it reaches 225F you'll see it starts to thicken and pull away from the edge, 5-6 minutes, your caramel is ready.
- Pour onto the shortbread base, smooth to the edges creating a flat layer. Chill for about 10 minutes so the caramel sets.
- Chop chocolate and melt with cream either in a double boiler or be microwaving in 2-3 20 second bursts, stirring in between. Pour the chocolate over the caramel and smooth into an even layer. Sprinkle with salt if desired then chill and cut into pieces.



## CARAMEL PUFF CORN

thereciperebel.com

### INGREDIENTS

- 10 cups popcorn twists (also called Puff Corn)
- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 1 cup brown sugar packed
- 1/2 cup corn syrup
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 250 degrees F.
- Line a large rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper and spread popcorn twists over top.
- Set aside.
- In a large saucepan, heat butter, brown sugar and corn syrup over medium-high heat, whisking often, until it reaches a boil.
- Boil and stir 2 minutes, then add baking soda. It will foam up — continue cooking and whisking for 1-2 minutes until foam settles down slightly.
- Pour caramel over popcorn and stir to coat evenly. Bake for 45 minutes, stirring every 10-15 minutes.
- Remove from the oven, let cool for 5-10 minutes and then break into smaller pieces as desired.
- Store in an air tight container or ziploc bag 1-2 weeks.



## CHOCOLATE CHIP CARAMEL BARS

iambaker.net

### INGREDIENTS

#### CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE BARS

- 1 cup (2 sticks or 226g) butter, room temperature
- 1 1/2 cups (300 g) brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 2 1/4 cups (282 g) all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate morsels

#### CARAMEL SAUCE

- 5 ounces evaporated milk
- 1 package (11 ounces) caramel bits or wrapped caramels, (be sure to unwrap if using the wrapped caramels)

### INSTRUCTIONS

#### CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE BARS

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a 9x13-inch baking dish with parchment paper or spray with nonstick cooking spray.
- Add butter, brown sugar, and vanilla to a large bowl. Using a hand-held mixer, cream ingredients until they are lighter and fluffier.
- Add in eggs, mixing well after each addition.
- Add the flour, baking soda, and salt. Mix on low until combined. I usually add my chocolate morsels right into the cookie dough and mix with the hand-held mixer, but you can also stir them in by hand.
- Press half of the cookie dough into the prepared baking dish. Try to get an even layer.
- Set the remaining cookie dough aside.
- Bake for 10 minutes. While the cookie bars are baking, prepare the caramel.

#### CARAMEL SAUCE

- To a saucepan over medium heat, add evaporated milk and caramel bits. Stir frequently for about 8 minutes, or until the caramels are melted and the evaporated milk is fully incorporated. Remove from heat.
- Carefully remove the cookie bars from the oven and place on a heat-safe surface.
- Pour the caramel sauce over the bars making sure to get it into every nook and cranny.
- Carefully start placing flattened dollops of the remaining cookie dough over the hot caramel. I find it works best to pick up a small handful, flatten it in your hand a bit, and then place that directly on top of the caramel. Do this with all remaining cookie dough. It is ok if there is some caramel showing.
- Bake for an additional 15-18 minutes, or until the caramel is bubbling and the cookie is golden brown.
- Allow bars to cool to room temperature and then cut and serve.



## SALTED CARAMEL CAPPUCINO CHEESECAKE

tasteofhome.com

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 package (9 ounces) chocolate wafers
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons instant espresso powder
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 cup butter, melted

#### FILLING:

- 3 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup Kahlua (coffee liqueur)
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons instant espresso

- powder
- 4 large eggs, lightly beaten

#### TOPPING:

- 1/2 cup hot caramel ice cream topping
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse sea salt

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350°. Place a greased 9-in. springform pan on a double thickness of heavy-duty foil (about 18 in. square). Securely wrap foil around pan.
- Place the first 5 ingredients in a food processor; cover and pulse until fine crumbs form. Gradually add melted butter, pulsing until combined. Press mixture onto the bottom and 2 in. up side of prepared pan.
- In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and brown sugar until smooth. Beat in sour cream, Kahlua, flour and espresso powder. Add eggs; beat on low speed just until blended. Pour into crust. Place springform pan in a larger baking pan; add 1 in. of hot water to larger pan.
- Bake until center is just set and top appears dull, 55-65 minutes.
- Remove springform pan from water bath; remove foil. Cool cheesecake on a wire rack 10 minutes; loosen side from pan with a knife. Cool 1 hour longer.
- Refrigerate overnight, covering when completely cooled.
- Pour caramel topping over cheesecake. Refrigerate at least 15 minutes. Remove rim from pan.
- Sprinkle with sea salt just before serving.

# Election candidates weigh in on station's hours

By Carl Cluthey  
Local Journalism Initiative  
Reporter  
*The Chronicle-Journal*

Staffing a new truck inspection just east of Thunder Bay around the clock may not be realistic in the short term, but some sort of regular shift would be a good place to start, some provincial-election candidates and truck-safety advocates say.

"Even eight hours per day, with irregular day and night rotations, would make a big difference," Thunder Bay-Superior North NDP candidate Lise Vaugeois, who is the riding's incumbent MPP, said in an email this week.

The \$30-million inspection station in Shuniah opened last year on the north side of Highway 11-17, but is in service on an intermittent basis only.

When truckers and other motorists drive past the stand-out facility, there often seems to be nobody on site.

The Ministry of Transporta-

tion has said that not maintaining set hours is an effective way of catching drivers of unsafe trucks unawares.

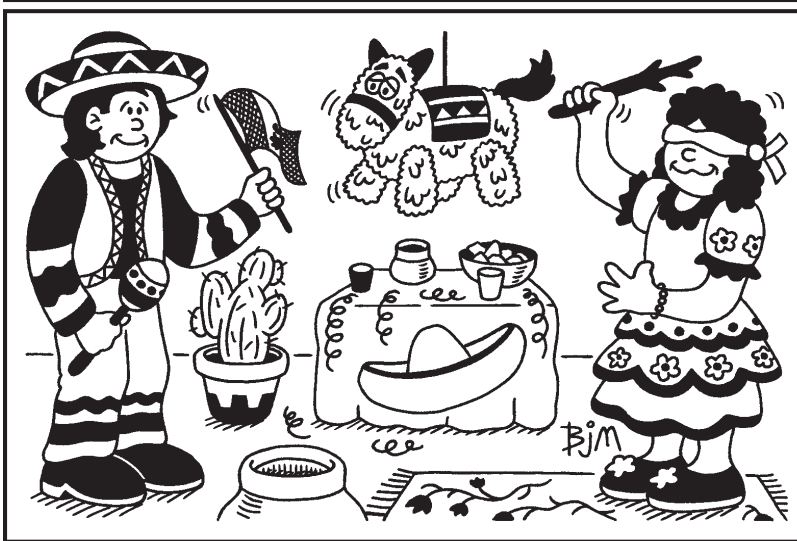
But some trucking associations have called for the Shuniah station to be in service at least 16 hours per day.

Thunder Bay-Superior North's Conservative candidate, Rick Dumas, didn't suggest specific hours of operation for the Shuniah station, but said if elected he would advocate for "expanding the operation of commercial vehicle inspection stations across our community."

Liberal candidate Brian Hamilton has said the station should aim for a "24-7" operation, but said the province must also address other factors that impact highway safety, including adequate training for transport drivers. Vaugeois has taken a similar position.

The Green Party didn't respond this week when asked about the operating hours at the Shuniah inspection station.

## ComParrot<sup>®</sup> by Bonnie J. Malcolm Can you spot 12 differences between these pictures?



www.comparrotpuzzles.com © 2025 Bonnie J. Malcolm



Solution: 1. End of tie on girl's blindfold is missing. 2. Back leg on pinata is hidden. 3. Girl's bracelet is missing. 4. Top of maraca is colored in. 5. Cup on table is colored in. 6. Rope on pinata has moved. 7. Steamers in front of table has moved. 8. Arm on cactus has moved. 9. Tail on pinata is different. 10. Girl's stick is longer. 11. Hat on table is wider. 12. Bottom of girl's skirt is wider.



1. Who was the first to record "This Time I'm in It for Love"?
2. Name the trio that released "Candida."
3. Which artist was a regular on a daytime soap opera at the same time he had a song hit the top of the charts?
4. Name the only No. 1 song by Spandau Ballet.
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I can't help it, I can't help it, if I cry, I remember that you said goodbye."

### Answers

1. Austin Roberts, in 1976, followed by a Player cover in 1977. Roberts was best known for "Rocky" in 1975.
2. Tony Orlando and Dawn, in 1970. The song charted around the world, was covered by several others and was even recorded in foreign languages.
3. Rick Springfield. He had a role on "General Hospital" and released "Jessie's Girl" in 1981. He later won a Grammy Award for Best Male Rock Vocal Performance.
4. "True," in 1983.
5. "In Dreams," by Roy Orbison, in 1963. Penned by Orbison himself, the song ended up on the Rolling Stone "500 Greatest Songs of All Time." While on tour with the Beatles, Orbison got 15 calls for encore while the Beatles cooled their heels backstage.

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## HEART HEALTH

# WORD SEARCH

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

## WORDS

- AORTIC
- BLOOD PRESSURE
- CARDIAC
- CARDIOLOGIST
- CHOLESTEROL
- CORONARY
- ELECTROCARDIOGRAM
- FAILURE
- HEART
- MITRAL
- PACEMAKER
- PRESSURE
- PULMONIC
- PULSE
- STRESS
- STROKE
- SYSTOLIC
- TACHYCARDIA
- THROMBOSIS
- TRIGLYCERIDES
- VALVES
- VENTRICLE

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



# We invite you to worship

## **St. John the Baptist Anglican Church**

360 Church St. 274-7692  
stjohnthebaptistff@gmail.com  
The Rt. Rev. Larry Robertson  
Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.

## **Knox United Church - FF**

340 Church St. 807-274-4543  
knoxnet@gmail.com

"An Affirming Congregation seeking to be a Vibrant Force for Christ."

All are Welcome. Coffee Hour to follow Service.  
Choir Practice – Thursday nights at 7:00 pm.  
All Are Welcome to join.

**Sunday, February 23, 2025**

7th Sunday after Epiphany  
Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.  
Please use Front Entrance Only.  
Social Distancing and mask wearing are voluntary.

## **Guthrie United Church**

Devlin, Ontario 807-482-2835  
Everyone Welcome  
Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.  
Next Service: **Sunday, Feb. 23**  
Social Distancing and mask wearing are voluntary.

## **Knox United Church - Emo**

Emo, Ontario 807-482-2835  
Everyone Welcome  
Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.  
Next Service: **Sunday, March 2**  
Social Distancing and mask wearing are voluntary.

## **Evangelical Covenant Church**

1027 King's Highway 807-274-1873/482-2964  
Pastor Ken Johnson  
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesdays: Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
Everyone Welcome

## **Zion Lutheran Church**

1105 Scott St. 807-274-5415  
Pastor Christie Manisto  
Sunday Morning Worship  
and Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.  
Wi-Fi available  
Everyone welcome!

## **Our Lady of Lourdes**

Couchiching First Nation  
807-274-5233  
Sunday Mass 9:00 a.m.

## **Our Lady of the Way**

Pinewood, Ontario  
Father Thomas Mullamangalam  
Sunday Mass 9:00 a.m.  
Confessions 8:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Mass 9:30 a.m.

## **St. Patrick's Parish**

Emo, Ontario  
Father Thomas Mullamangalam  
Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.  
Confessions 10:30 a.m.  
Thursday Mass 9:30 a.m.

## **Our Lady of Good Counsel**

Rainy River, Ontario  
Father Thomas Mullamangalam  
Saturday Mass 5:00 p.m.  
Confessions 4:30 p.m.  
Friday Mass, 9:30 a.m.

## **Our Lady of the Lake**

Morson, Ontario  
May through September  
Saturday Mass 3:00 p.m.  
Confessions 2:30 p.m.  
Closed October through April  
Office Hours Tuesday-Thursday  
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

## **St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church**

209 Victoria Ave. 807-274-5233  
Father Gino Mathias  
Sunday Masses  
Saturday Mass 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.  
Food bank collection third Sunday of the month

## **New Beginnings Fellowship**

Pastor/Doctor John. W. Telman  
Affiliated with  
The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada  
1302 Mill Road, Fort Frances  
RR #2, Site 202-1 807-274-3638  
Sunday morning worship 10:30 a.m.  
www.nbf-paoc.ca  
All Are Welcome!!

## **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**

Third St. W. & Keating Ave.  
Fort Frances, Ontario  
Branch President: BP Robert Tovey  
Chapel: 807-276-0510  
Missionary 807-271-0402  
Sunday - Sacrament Service 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
Priesthood, Relief Society 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

## **The Salvation Army**

242 Scott St. Fort Frances, Ont. 291-0012  
Corps Officer: Aux-Capt. Arthur Heathcote  
Worship Service: no in-person presently  
Tuesday: Bible Study at 5:00pm  
Worship the LORD in the beauty of Holiness!

## **Emo Christian Reformed Church**

*A Passion for Jesus, A Passion for People*  
Pastor: Dr. Marno Retief  
18 Meadow Street, Emo, Ontario 807-482-2155  
Sunday Worship Service: 10:00  
Website: emocrc.ca

## **Evangelical Fellowship Church**

605 Mclrvine Road, Fort Frances 807-274-2328  
Pastor Alain Reimer  
11:00 a.m. Worship Services  
Wheelchair accessible. Nursery available.  
Everyone welcome!

## **Victory Baptist Church**

*Where the SON Always Shines!*  
Highway 11/71 807-274-1472  
10 min. West of Fort Frances 20 min. East of Emo  
Pastor Shane Belding  
Adult Bible Study - Sunday, 10:00 a.m.  
Services 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Nursery available for all Services  
**DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE!**

## **Church Of The Holy Spirit**

Free Methodist Church in Canada  
824 Victoria Avenue--277-0117  
Rev. Diane Clifford  
10:30 am - Worship in the building.  
Services are available live  
on the church's Facebook page  
- Fort Frances Church of the Holy Spirit  
*You've Been Treated Generously,  
So Live Generously - That's So Like Jesus!*  
Wheelchair Accessible--Everyone Welcome

## **Church of the Lutheran Hour**

A Congregation of Lutheran Church-Canada  
508 Victoria Ave. 807-274-5935  
Service times will be posted on our  
Facebook page and the church door.

## **St. George's Ukrainian Orthodox Church**

800 McKenzie Ave.  
Rev. Fr. Bohdan Statkevych  
**No Services in February**

## **Bethel Baptist Church**

720 Morrison Cres.  
(behind Copper River Inn)  
807-274-5569  
Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.  
Ramp Access-Wheelchair Available  
Everyone welcome.

# Deer colony a headache for horse breeder

By Connor McDowell  
Local Journalism Initiative  
Reporter  
Brandon Sun

A growing deer colony has created problems for a Russell neighbourhood, including thousands of dollars in stolen horse feed and a two-car collision that totalled a vehicle.

Sherisse Ziprick of Ziprick Thoroughbreds tells the Sun she is frustrated with a deer colony that returns to her property every winter and steals horse feed, consumes her plants and covers the property in manure. Ziprick said more than \$3,000 in damage was recorded last year through stolen food, and the colony causes more issues on her property by pooping, as well as loitering on the nearby highway.

At her family property in Russell, Ziprick breeds racehorses. The sanctuary for horses makes for an attractive winter location for deer, and it's becoming a bigger issue year by year, she said.

"I just don't even have an idea left in me of what to do," said Ziprick. "We're the Caribbean for the deer, or Phoenix. We're like the snowbird location. They just want to congregate here because it's their safe haven."

Five years ago, Ziprick learned the local deer were behind "a really bad" disap-

pearance of food. She began to apply every year for payouts from the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC), which she learned has a program to cover deer and elk eating stored food.

But the damage at her property surpasses the stolen food, she said. And after the family employed a list of strategies to scare the deer away, to no avail, she said she's frustrated.

Ziprick took to social media recently, posting a video of the deer and expressed frustration that it seems to be an issue she has no control over. Outside of hunting season, the deer are protected by conservation laws, and she said when the seasons turn, and hunting is legal, the deer disappear.

"Every morning you raise the blinds, and you got (dozens) laying 15 feet from the house. Or you go to do chores in the morning, you pour your grain ... walk (away), and 20 deer are coming out of the bush," Ziprick said.

The family has tried numerous strategies to push the deer away — they've set up a scarecrow and sprayed it with perfume, left an inflatable Christmas decoration partially untied and flapping, kept dogs outside and shot guns into the sky.

Yet, nothing has worked. Ziprick said the growing colony of deer has reached

more than 100 since the pandemic. It flows in at opportune times to take a bite of hay and grains, and leaves a season's worth of manure on the property that requires cleanup in the spring.

"The deer manure on the trail, it was like having dirt paths through our yard. And in the spring, when all of the snow melted, it was just like a swamp. It was walking through puddles and puddles of deer manure."

Ziprick provided a photo to the Sun, showing deer droppings so dense on the trail that they appeared to be a gravel pathway.

Candace Higgs, a resident of Binscarth, was in a two-car collision involving the deer colony in the winter of 2022. She told the Sun she was on her way to Russell, when right in front of the Ziprick farmyard she was forced to slam on the brakes as deer stood in the middle of the highway.

Higgs said she slid into the ditch, her vehicle undamaged until minutes later when the driver of the next vehicle coming in the same direction couldn't avoid the deer. The vehicle slammed into a deer, launching it into the side of Higgs' vehicle, causing enough damage to write it off.

"It was kind of a wild experience," said Higgs. "I had to step over it to get out of my

vehicle."

Since the accident, Higgs slows down in the area. Her husband still sees the deer every day and she says people know to slow down and keep their eyes peeled.

"I slow right down," Higgs said. "I know that area. I'm a little bit of freaked out about that area."

David Van Deynze, chief product officer at MASC, told the Sun that the agency paid roughly \$10 million to farmers in the most recent crop year for a program that reimburses wildlife damage. The program, called the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program, pays out to farmers who lose "stored forage" like the Zipricks' horse feed, and also to farmers who lose crops to wildlife that trample, destroy and eat them during the growing season.

When it comes to stolen feed, Van Deynze said it is most common on land surrounding natural parks — such as the Ziprick's property near Riding Mountain National Park — and Duck Mountain Provincial Park and the Interlake region.

The snowbird metaphor was right on target, he said.

"We don't really see much damage happening through the summer months," Van Deynze said. "That's the choice of the deer and the elk; they find better food somewhere else in that in

that time of year."

Protecting food from wildlife can include many strategies. The Province of Manitoba wrote a guide in 2022 that includes advice about protecting stored forage — allowing hunters on the land during hunting season, for example, or building eight-foot-high fences around areas that are used for storage and deploying "scare cannons" that activate randomly.

Ziprick said fences aren't feasible for her 80-acre property, as it's designed for horses, not strictly for storing food. And other tactics would make life more difficult for her horses, most which go on to race at Assiniboia Downs in Winnipeg.

Frustration was one of the key factors for Ziprick. She said the deer quickly acclimatize themselves to different scare tactics, and return to their calm way of life even after guns are fired into the air. For the family, which takes a financial hit every year, it has become a test of mental fortitude.

"We just kind of laugh at all of the different ways you try to cope with it because you do start to go crazy," Ziprick said. "I think of it like a ... torture test, you know, where it's the drip, drip, drip. And eventually you go crazy."

# Selkirk getting its rabbit issue under control

By Dave Baxter  
Local Journalism Initiative  
Reporter  
Winnipeg Sun

A rescue operation to get a growing number of rabbits off the streets of Selkirk has saved dozens of animals intentionally set free from "certain death," the city said this week.

In November the City of Selkirk began a "large scale" capture operation for a growing population of domesticated rabbits that owners released, to try to contain the situation.

The City worked with local animal rescue organization Popcorns & Binkies (P&B), in order to safely capture the bunnies and then provide veterinary care before attempting to re-home them.

"Efforts to trap, foster and re-home domestic rabbits in the City of Selkirk has saved the lives of nearly 50 of the animals, who faced almost certain death after a few were intentionally released into the wild and rapidly multiplied into an overwhelming population," the city said in a release.

The city added that P&B, a registered charity that began trapping the domestic rabbit population last fall, is caring for nearly all of the rabbits in a city-provided facility, while some are in foster homes in Selkirk and Winnipeg.

The city said many of the rabbits captured were in horrible shape and in many cases close to death.

"Many were sick, malnourished and some

of the females pregnant," the city said.

A spokesperson for P&B, warned that domesticated rabbits are put in extreme danger when they are left outside and to their own devices, saying they are susceptible to parasites that can spread between rabbits and can affect neurological systems, eyes and kidneys, and that are easier to catch when rabbits are stressed.

The organization said that all of the rabbits they captured had fleas, some were anemic, all were malnourished, and many required surgeries of various types.

The rabbits captured were all also under high levels of stress, which the organization said does more to contribute to the possibility that they will die.

City of Selkirk director of protective services Kristy Hill said they don't want to see more rabbits released onto the streets and said all pet owners are responsible for keeping their pets indoors if that's where they should be.

"These bunnies weren't made to be outside during a Manitoba winter — they're not wild animals, they are domestic and survival in the cold is unlikely," Hill said.

"If your pet gets out of your yard, it's up to you to retrieve it, and no matter how your pet gets loose, you, as the owner, are responsible for getting them back into your possession so that the animal can be properly cared for."

"It's unacceptable to just throw up your hands and let the animal fend for itself."

## 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 Concepts Sudoku increases from Monday to Friday.

### King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★

2/18

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### Yesterday's solution

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

Difficulty: ★★★

2/13

# Trump tariff threat a Trojan horse for B.C.'s fossil fuels

By Rochelle Baker  
Local Journalism Initiative  
Reporter  
*Canada's National Observer*

Trump's tariff threat provides convenient cover to accelerate the expansion of fossil fuels and raises alarm bells about First Nations rights tied to mining, say critics.

The B.C. government announced it is fast-tracking an "initial" mix of 18 energy, mining and fossil fuel projects, valued at \$20 billion, that have business cases still needing government permits or approval.

It's a bid to diversify trade markets so B.C. is never again exposed "to the whims of one person in the White House," Premier David Eby said this week.

A trade war with the province's largest trading partner would cause real harm to the economy, said Marc Lee, senior economist with the Canadian Centre of Policy Alternatives. But so will scrapping climate progress by doubling down on the liquified natural gas (LNG) export industry, he added.

The province was already pushing to expand and clean up the oil and gas industry before the trade threat materialized, he noted.

"There are longstanding interests that wanted to expand oil and gas projects even before the Trump tariffs, but they are a convenient excuse to ramp those [operations] up," Lee said.

Cedar LNG, B.C.'s first majority Indigenous-owned project, already under construction, is one oil and gas project on the province's list.

Two others are natural gas pipeline projects in the north-eastern corner of the province. NorthRiver Midstream's NEBC Connector Pipeline, which the

province approved on Jan. 17, will ship B.C. natural gas liquids and condensate across the border to Alberta's Gordondale area, primarily for use in the nearby oil sands industry or for export to the U.S. or eastern Canada.

Westcoast Energy's T-North Aspen Point involves the build-out of 18 kilometres of new gas pipeline segments, electrification of the three compressor stations to replace diesel generators and construction of associated power lines.

Eby's recent vow to speed energy and resource projects includes previous plans to exempt 10 Indigenous-led wind projects from environmental assessments and streamline the permits for BC Hydro's North Coast Transmission Line (NCTL).

On Thursday, Eby took another step, announcing legislative changes will be made in spring to allow the BC Energy Regulator to assume responsibility as the one-stop shop for permits for both renewable energy projects and the North Coast Transmission Line.

The project involves \$4.7 billion for new transmission lines between Prince George and Terrace to meet rising electrical demand for critical mineral mines and other resource industries, such as natural gas.

"If the NCTL is not built, and built quickly, major critical minerals, future port expansions, and LNG, hydrogen and other important resource projects may not proceed," said Adrian Dix, minister of Energy and Climate Solutions, in the Jan.13 press statement.

"We need to move this vital project forward to realize B.C.'s resource-development potential and create jobs and investment opportunities, while achieving provincial climate targets."

While LNG export projects may provide a new market for gas exports, it's misguided to lock in infrastructure to serve an industry the province should be phasing out, while using B.C.'s limited clean electricity to meet emissions targets, Lee said.

The province wants to ramp up hydro or renewable electricity so coastal LNG export projects starting to come online this year can eliminate the huge emissions generated by burning natural gas during the energy intensive liquefaction process, which sees natural gas chilled into a fluid for easy transport by ship to overseas markets.

Pipelines, like the T-North Aspen Point project, are also looking to wean compressor stations off diesel to electricity to move fossil fuel products through pipelines and lower emissions.

## 'Uncomfortable contradiction'

The provincial focus on driving down the oil and gas sector's emissions at home only to export them overseas is an "uncomfortable contradiction" between climate action and fossil fuel expansion, Lee said.

"Looking at the big picture, it's like preventing workers at the cigarette factory from smoking, but we're still producing cigarettes."

There's also a contradiction in speeding up permits of critical mineral or mining projects that may jeopardize the environment and the province's duty to properly consult First Nations, said Jessica Clogg, executive director and senior counsel for West Coast Environmental Law.

The province is fast-tracking four mining projects: the Mount Milligan Copper and Gold project, as well as proposals, such as the Eskay Creek, Highland

Valley and Red Chris mines, facing concerns from some B.C. First Nations and Alaska Native groups.

The government should show equal eagerness to speed its promise to reform the Mineral Tenure Act to align with the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Clogg said.

"If B.C. wants nations to take them seriously, it should sit down ... in good faith to develop what we hope will be a consent-based regime," she said.

"Yet, in the same breath, they may be exempting mining companies from certain types of approvals or permits. Those two things feel completely at odds with each other."

Failing to respect First Nations rights around mineral exploration claims in their territory has already been sanctioned by the courts, Clogg observed.

In September 2023, the Gitxaala and Ehattesaht Nations won a B.C. Supreme Court case reaffirming that First Nations must be consulted before any mineral claims are made in their territories.

However, the nations saw the ruling as a partial victory because the court did not affirm UNDRIP, which demands Indigenous free, prior and informed consent for projects on their lands.

On Jan. 20, the Gitxaala and Ehattesaht appealed that aspect of the former ruling in hopes the court will rule favourably about the legal enforceability of B.C.'s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA).

The Gitxaala Nation has made clear to the province and project proponents the best way to achieve certainty is to respect the U.N. Declaration's requirements, said The Lou Gwelks (Linda Innes), elected

chief councillor, in an email on Wednesday.

Consent for a project isn't a long-drawn-out process but is about working with nations to determine what is needed under Indigenous laws, she added.

"Providing proponents with clear direction that certainty and efficiencies begin with respecting Indigenous ownership and consent is the best guidance any government can provide in order to get the buy-in needed to avoid timely delays," she said.

Not everyone was critical of Eby's plan. Various groups are backing B.C.'s commitment to hurry energy and resource projects through the regulatory process.

"This project list is a thoughtful balance of efforts to electrify projects that would otherwise be powered by fossil fuels and getting new mines and mine expansions off of the ground," said Mark Zacharias, executive director of Clean Energy Canada in a statement.

The United Steelworkers Union also supported the rapid deployment of the projects, particularly for the mining sector, as a sign of the province's commitment to growing employment and the economy.

"This initiative not only secures jobs for our members, but also strengthens the province's economy, making it more resilient against external challenges, including those from U.S. President Donald Trump," said Scott Lunny, USW Director for Western Canada.

USW will work with the province and industry to ensure the projects meet high standards for engagement with First Nations and communities and for safety and environmental concerns, he said.

— With files from *Canadian Press*

# LU holds convocation for 2,000 graduates

By Katie Nicholls  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter  
*TBnewswatch.com*

THUNDER BAY — Close to 2,000 students will walk across the stage at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium as the graduating class of 2024 from Lakehead University.

In a release, university president and vice-chancellor Gillian Siddall expressed her pride in the students and offered congratulations for their achievements.

Saskia Pateman is graduating with a bachelor of arts in sociology and noted that the last four years weren't the easiest.

"Years of hard work finally paying off and being able to celebrate with my fellow graduates. It was difficult. I took a couple of breaks, but I got it done."

Amani Sloley is walking away as a music graduate. He said the day means a lot.

"I'm excited to share with my friends and especially just kind of having it as a culminating event to my degree."

"So it's been like a lot of exploration in myself - what I want to do with music and what I want to see in the future."

Casey Van de Sande is a graduate of the outdoor rec and natural science program at the university.

After five long years of work, Van de Sande is grateful for the experiences he's had.

"My parents are here to watch me finish up, which is great . . . it's been amazing. I've gone on some amazing trips and got some great experiences through the course."

Erin Lennie and Jordon Bevis are roommates and classmates from the outdoor rec and geography program at Lakehead.

The pair have enjoyed their time at the institution.

"It's a nice celebration of our four years that we spent at school. And with Covid and everything, it's nice that we actually got to see it through and be here with everyone today," said Lennie.

"I think moving to Thunder Bay was also huge, and we met so many amazing people," added Bevis.

"The community here is fantastic, especially the outdoors community, and it's been an awesome four years for us."

A rally of students and faculty members was held outside the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium in support of Palestine.

The group was calling on the university to "dis-

close and divest."

Andrew Wilson, a student activist at the university, spoke to TBnewswatch about why the group decided to rally on the same day as convocation.

"We are celebrating their special day too. We're giving them rounds of applause, we're giving them cheers and we're giving the students who are graduating, who might be scared or uncomfortable to show their voice a safe place to do it. So what we are not doing is trying to take away from their day at all."

Wilson explained why the group was there in the first place.

"The main reason we decided to have this today is that so many people reached out to us and asked us, 'how can we help and what can we do' to help convince Lakehead University to divest from all sorts of things like military development, defence development and especially the ongoing genocide in Palestine."

"We just want to be sure that this can be a university that we're proud of, a university that won't be funding genocide, because we don't want our tuition going to that."

Wilson said 150 students and 100 faculty members signed an open letter in support of Palestine.



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# Times

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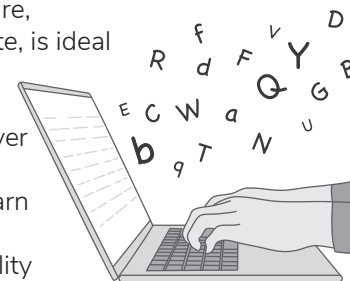
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## Home side wins three medals in NORWOSSA playoffs

It was a golden day for the Junior Boys Basketball team and the Senior Girls Volleyball team on Friday at Fort Frances High School. The junior boys mounted a comeback for the ages to win gold over Dryden while the Senior girls won convincingly in three straight sets over Sioux North for a chance to go to OFSAA in a playoff against St. Patrick High School from Thunder Bay at home this weekend.

The Junior Girls Volleyball team lost a heart breaker in five sets to Beaver Brae to take the silver medal.

—Allan Bradbury and Facebook photos

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