



OPP warns northwestern Ontario residents to stay “Bear Wise” this fall

Staff

With a rise in black bear activity across the region, the Ontario Provincial Police are once more warning the public to be “Bear Wise” when out and about this fall to minimize the potential for dangerous interactions with bears.

Fall marks the beginning of bear season in northwestern Ontario as the black bear (*Ursus americanus*) prepares for hibernation. While black bears usually bed down for the winter in late October and early November, the fall weather of September brings about the final chances to fatten up for the long winter months. Therefore, bears will seek out more sources of food, actions that will often push them further and further into residential areas, especially if late season fruits and vegetables are available, or unsecured garbage bins, which in turn increases the chances of run-ins with humans.

Although black bears are typically less aggressive towards humans than their larger grizzly and polar counterparts, the animals have nonetheless been responsible for human injury and death in the past, making any encounter with a black bear a potential risk.

In order to minimize the chances of harm, the OPP is reminding residents and outdoor enthusiasts to remain vigilant and “Bear Wise,” when outside during the fall months. The police note that there has already been an increase in reports of bear sightings and encounters, and share that people in northwestern Ontario take appropriate precautions to avoid

negative interactions with local bears.

Some tips the OPP provide for staying safe this fall include:

- Make noise while hiking to avoid surprising bears - talking, singing, or clapping can help
- Travel in groups whenever possible
- Avoid areas with food sources bears frequent, such as berry patches, garbage sites, or locations where animal remains may be present
- Store garbage in bear-resistant containers or indoors until collection day
- When camping, keep food and garbage in bear-proof containers and away from your campsite
- Clean up thoroughly after outdoor meals
- Carry bear spray and know how to use it
- Stay indoors or seek shelter away from the bears when possible
- Keep your pets leashed on trails or in open yards - unleashed dogs can surprise bears and running back to their owners can create a chase response

If you encounter a bear:

- Remain calm. Do not run or approach the bear
- Back away slowly and steadily
- If the bear approaches, make yourself appear larger and make noise
- In the rare event of a predatory attack, fight back

“The OPP reminds everyone to stay alert, plan ahead, and prepare appropriately by ensuring mobile or satellite devices are fully charged before entering the backcountry,” the OPP shared.

“If you are in immediate danger or witness an aggressive bear, call 9-1-1. Non-emergency bear encounters can be reported to Bear Wise at 1-866-514-2327.”

For more information and tips, visit Ontario.ca/Bear-Wise.



Muskies running back Landon Medwechuk carries the ball while facing down a tackle from a Dryden defender in the Muskies 17-6 win over the Eagles last Friday. Medwechuk and the ‘skies look to go 3-0 on the season as they prepare to face the Beaver Brae Broncos in Friday’s homecoming game.

— Allan Bradbury photo

Muskies to Honour 50th Anniversary of 1975 Championship team at homecoming tomorrow

Staff

This Friday, the Fort Frances High School (FFHS) Muskies football team is turning back the clock as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of the team’s 1975 NorWOSSA Championship win.

Alumni, and fans are invited to unite with current players will unite in a display of “pride and history” at the team’s 76th annual Homecoming Game on Friday, 3 PM at the FFHS football field.

The Muskies are off to a 2-0 start and are currently tied for first place in the AAA Division of the Winnipeg High School Football League.

Meanwhile, their Homecoming opponents, the Beaver Brae Broncos from Kenora, will be looking for their first win of the season.

As part of the anniversary celebration, three of the five team captains from the 1975 squad – Greg Allan, Dale Brunetta, and Dean Bruyere – will return to the field as honorary game captains. They will join the current Muskie team captains at midfield for the of-

ficial coin toss before the 3:00 PM kickoff.

Former Muskie players, coaches, equipment managers, and officials are invited to wear their old jerseys, jackets, and hats to cheer on the current team. The alumni section on the north side of the yellow canopy will be a dedicated area for all former players to relive the glory days and support the Muskies.

The Touchdown Club will also be on hand at the concession area, selling Muskie clothing, snacks, and refreshments. Additionally, they will be selling Muskie Discount Cards, 50/50 tickets, and a Gas for a Year raffle tickets, with all proceeds supporting the football program.

At halftime, former Muskies coaches, players and managers will gather for a special team photo to commemorate the occasion. It will be a memorable moment for all involved.

Following the game, all fans, former players, coaches and managers are invited to the Fort Frances Legion on Church Street to continue the celebration and reminisce about decades of Muskie football greatness.

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- Rules governing letters to the editor in the Daily Bulletin are:
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 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.

Andrew Flynn,
General Manager
Ken Kellar,
Editor

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Local Journalism Initiative
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**College support
staff looking for
job security**

By Sue Nielsen
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
Temiskaming Speaker

TEMISKAMING SHORES — Under cool, cloudy skies, Northern College (NC) support staff and their college counterparts across Ontario took to the picket lines last Thursday.

The 10,000 full time support staff across Ontario were in a legal strike position as of 12:01 a.m. on September 11.

Ontario Public Service Employee Union (OPSEU) workers were on the picket line at the Haileybury and New Liskeard campuses of Northern College.

Their jobs include trades staff, student workers, financial aid officers, employment services, IT services, food services, library technologists, and disability service staffers.

The union says the colleges' bargaining agent left the negotiating table with remaining issues to be resolved.

Across the province, job security, wages and access to public education are the stumbling blocks to a settlement.

According to OPSEU local president Aaron Minor, who represents full-time support staff at Northern College, there are several pressing reasons why his membership has gone out on strike.

"I am an employee of Northern College and my membership consists of roughly 150 members of my bargaining unit who cover everything from student services, employment services, skilled trades workers, caretakers, program assistants, daycare workers who are currently on the picket lines."

He said in the last six months in Ontario there have been 10,000 jobs lost.

"My employer cut 50 jobs and we had a six million dollar deficit that the college had to address. Over 30 of those full-time jobs were lost from my bargaining unit alone. Those positions, many of them are still vacant. Seeing across Ontario what is happening at the 24 colleges, our bargaining unit on our behalf is working to strengthen job security in our collective agreement."

He said the contract language between the two sides is still outstanding and he hopes the no-contracting-out language will be addressed.

"Right now we can't fight back on having entire departments cut and bringing in contractors. We are asking for strong no-contracting-out language and further to that, as members were laid off or voluntarily left, they thought they were helping other members, the management is now doing our jobs in the workforce. We are asking for no non-bargaining workers doing

our jobs in the workforce."

He said wages are not as contentious an issue as job security.

"Right now we need strength in job security."

Minor says there are no talks scheduled between the college and its striking workers (as of this writing) and he has no idea how long they will be on the picket line.

He mentioned the strike affects more than students and staff - the public is also affected by the lack of employment services for those who are unemployed and those looking for retraining.

COLLEGES HIT HARD

Ontario's colleges have been hit hard by cuts to international student enrollment levels. They pay several times more in tuition, which schools had come to rely on to boost revenues.

In a telephone interview earlier in the week, College Employer Council chief executive officer Graham Lloyd spoke about the tight spot Ontario's colleges are in and how some of the demands of the support workers can and cannot be met.

"We are disappointed with the strike. The colleges are in a significant financial restraint. They have lost up to 50 per cent of students and their revenue and the colleges have had to make some significant decisions to date. We have offered the union some pretty big things in this contract amounting to more than \$140 million with wage benefits, protection for contracting out, enhanced severance packages, enhanced recall period. But they have demands on the table we just can't agree to."

He outlined four main points to the strike that he sees as crucial to protecting students and getting the two sides back to the bargaining table.

"The four issues are no campus closures or mergers. They want a guarantee of no staff reductions for any reason and then there are two other ones. No contracting out - they already have that provision, what they want to expand it to for any purpose you cannot contract out. It's not financially viable for us. Then the other one they have, it is a provision for only bargaining unit people (that) can do bargaining unit jobs. We have asked them to go to mediation and an arbitrator. We won't give it to them and that protects the students."

He said the fact that colleges don't have as many foreign students is unfortunately the reality that Ontario colleges have to live with.

"We have half the students and half the revenue and that has placed pressure on college budgets. We are hopeful the union will recognize some demands are certainly not tenable, let's protect the students."

AROUND TOWN

Add your event to our online community event calendar at fortfrances.com/calendar

EVENTS CALENDAR

Tour De Fort is holding its Annual General Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 18 at the Memorial Sports Centre in the IFK meeting room. Open to the public, new volunteers are welcome, email info@tourdefort.com for more information.

The Next 55+ movie Matinee at the Fort Frances Library in the Shaw Room is Sept. 19, 1-3 p.m. Featuring Pirate Radio, the story of a band of rogue DJs that captivated Britain, playing the music that defined a generation and standing up to a government that wanted classical music, and nothing else, on the airwaves. Starring Philip Seymour Hoffman, Bill Nighy and Nick Frost. Directed by Richard Curtis. Rated R 1hr 59 minutes

The Township of Albertain invites you to a Roof Raising Good Time as they celebrate the roof installation over their ice rink at Millenium Park 168 Hill Road, Albertain. Saturday Sept. 20 from 3-7 p.m. Featuring live music by The Faculty, Barbecue, Bounce house, fire simulator, pickle ball, Face painting, and more.

Seniors Active Living Fair takes place at the Fort Frances Senior Centre on Tuesday, Sept. 23 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Fire Department and Diabetes Clinic will be giving talks and there will be all kinds of exhibitors with information and give aways.

The Pushing Up Daisies fair has been rescheduled for Thursday Sept. 25 from 1-4 p.m. in Hallet Hall at Raincrest Long Term Care. Hosted by the Sunset Country Palliative Care Committee. "Explore our informational booths and connect with local services offering support for you and your family through the end-of-life journey. This year's event also features powerful keynote speakers you won't want to miss."

The Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary to Branch #29 will be holding their monthly supper on Friday, September 26, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. (doors open at 4:30 p.m.). Dinner this month is Pork Cutlets and tickets are \$25 each, or \$12 for those under 12. Tickets for delivery, dine-in or pick-up are available at the Legion office, **The Bergland Giant Pumpkin Festival** will be held Saturday Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bergland Hall. Vendor market, Free admission, competitions for heaviest pumpkin (kids & adults) Best decorated pumpkin, Ugliest pumpkin, a variety of largest vegetables and many more. See the Bergland Giant Pumpkin Festival Facebook event page for more information.

Join us for a Minions Tea Saturday Sept. 27 at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church 2-4 p.m. Sandwiches, dainties, coffee and tea. Adults \$8, kids \$4 and five and under free.

Orange Shirt Day Awareness Walk and Pow Wow will take place Tuesday Sept. 30th starting at the residential school monument in Couchiching and proceeding down Idylwild Dr. to Point Park. More details to come.

10th annual Steps against Stigma Glow Walk/Run will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025 6:45 p.m. opening ceremonies, 7 p.m. walk/run. Dress in your best glow! Prizes awarded for best glow adult and child, best glow group and best glow pet. Water and healthy snacks provided. Registration required see the link on the Facebook Event page or CMHA Fort Frances Branch page.

Cornerstone Christian School is holding its annual Corn Maze fundraiser Starting Friday Oct. 3 at 5-9 p.m. (Bring a flashlight for the maze) Saturday Oct. 4 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12-4 p.m. Admission is a suggested donation of \$15 per person or \$50 per family. Cash canteen available. Horse rides Saturday 11-4 \$5. Located at Kooistra Farm 956 Emo Road in Emo. See their Facebook event page for more details.

Weechi-it-te-win Family Services will be hosting its annual McTavish Haunted Woods on October 29th and 30th. More details to come.

Rainy River regional Abbatoir is hosting a fundraiser dinner Nov. 1 at the Barwick Hall. This year's theme "Diamonds and Denim." Tickets \$100 for Local Beef and Pork Dinner with all the fixings and home made desserts. Contact Kelsey Desnoyers to buy tickets or a table. 289-439-9933 or by email kdesnoyers@outlook.com

ONGOING EVENTS

Registration is open for indoor youth soccer Ages 8-10 Mondays 6-7 p.m. ages 11-13 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Ages 5-7 6-7 p.m. Wednesdays. Limited to 25 spots per night See the Fort Frances Youth Soccer Facebook Page for pricing and more information. Register via ffys.goalline.ca.

Bingo has resumed at the Senior Centre Fridays from Sept. 12 until Dec. 5. For more information call Diane, 807-275-9308.

AROUND TOWN

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The Final day for Tai Chi in the park is next Wednesday Sept. 24. at 11 a.m. at Lion's Park at the gazebo.

Memory Lane Café hosted by the Alzheimer Society—a welcoming space where individuals with dementia and their care partners can connect socialize and enjoy activities. At the Fort Frances Senior Centre 1 p.m. Next date is Oct. 1 Nov. 5 and Dec. 3. For more info call 807-468-1516.

The Rainy Lake Readers book club meets the third Tuesday of each month from 6:00-7:45 at the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre. Visit the Library and check out the display of this month's book selections. New members always welcome.

Story Time at the Fort Frances Library 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. (There will be no Story Time on Aug. 27, see you next week)

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.

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. (STEM Saturday is taking a break, check out the library page for an update when it resumes).

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

The Fort Frances Lakers are looking for gameday volunteers- Positions include camera operators, Stats keepers, camera operators, beer garden servers and security, and raffle sales. Training provided and volunteer hours available for high school students Contact Fortfranceslakersmedia@gmail.com to volunteer.

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

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 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.

Best for Kitty is in need of foster homes, to provide a safe environment to house cats while they wait for forever homes. Support and supplies are provided. For more information, e-mail bestforkitty@gmail.com, for more information. Donations accepted via e-transfer, or donate through www.bestforkitty.net for tax receipts. Cheques can be dropped off at Northwoods Gallery and Gifts

Developer of power plants eyes Northwest

By Sandi Krasowski
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
The Chronicle-Journal

Alberta-based Versorium Energy Ltd. has proposed the development of a natural gas-fired power-generating facility at the intersection of Central Avenue and Maureen Street in Thunder Bay.

The Central Avenue Generating Facility project is being proposed in response to the Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) Long-Term 2 capacity procurement program, which seeks to procure up to 400 megawatts (MW) of dispatchable generation.

It will also store and supply heat to Canada Malting's facility in Thunder Bay and the electricity could be used to serve demand growth within both northwestern and northeastern Ontario.

Jeff Trynchy, Versorium's manager, stakeholder, and community engagement spokesperson, said the facility would have a capacity of up to 31 MW and would utilize reciprocating engines, similar to car engines, to generate electricity from natural gas.

The engines used for the plant will be able to transition to renewable natural gas and green hydrogen if those fuels become economic.

"The plant will operate as a peaking cogeneration plant that provides flexibility to the electricity system to back up renewable power generation without creating surplus baseload generation," Trynchy said.

"The power plant will also have safety equipment in place to detect and prevent hazardous conditions from arising."

Trynchy added that if the project moves forward, Versorium will be working closely with the City of Thunder Bay emergency services to develop appropriate emergency response plans.

Versorium began in late 2020 with a focus on supporting energy transition by developing small, flexible power plants in Alberta. It currently has five operating plants, totalling 25 MW, and approval to build another six plants in Alberta, totalling 30 MW.

"We have selected Thunder Bay as the site for a power plant based on the opportunity to work with Canada Malting and the preference in the IESO's procurement for resources located in Northern Ontario," Trynchy said.

"The proposed site is also well situated to use existing electricity and natural gas infrastructure, which lowers the cost of the development compared to other sites."

Canada Malting, Canada's largest malting business, currently operates three malthouses located in Calgary, Montreal, and in Thunder Bay, as well as nine Country Elevators. The Thunder Bay plant has a capacity of 125,000 metric tonnes and is well situated to handle malting barley from the Eastern Canadian prairies.

Trynchy says there are economic benefits of having this power plant in Thunder Bay, beginning with the investment and jobs associated with the plant's construction and operations.

"This includes contributing to the City of Thunder Bay's tax base and supporting the local community through Versorium's community investment strategy once the plant is operational," he said.

"The indirect benefits include making Canada Malting's operations more competitive and sustainable, and the power plant would also serve growth demand in Northwestern Ontario with local electricity resources."

Before the plant can be built, Trynchy explained that there are three stages through which the project will first need to pass through.

"The first stage is to complete the requirements of the IESO's procurement program," he said.

"One of the major requirements is obtaining a municipal support resolution, and we are appearing at the City of Thunder Bay's Growth Standing Committee to start that process."

He added that Versorium will be holding an open house to introduce the project to the public on Sept. 24, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Slovak Legion.

The second stage will be successfully competing in IESO's procurement to obtain a contract. Successful proponents will be notified by IESO in June of 2026.

"The third stage is to apply for several approvals from various regulators to ensure it complies with requirements for power plants in Ontario," he said.

"After completing all three stages, Versorium and its engineering, procurement and construction partner, Enerflex, will start construction and bring the facility into operation."



MISSING CAT

Grayson is an all grey, male neutered cat from Atikokan who has been lost in Fort Frances since September 5th.

His last known location was the 1200 block of 2nd street east, close to the Harbourage restaurant.

Please check your sheds and garages or anywhere a cat may hide!

If anyone sees this cat please
call or text this number, 807-274-3633

Thank you!

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

CHECK IT OUT EVERY TUESDAY!

by Helene
Hovanec

Look up, down, and diagonally, both forward and backward to find every word on the list. Circle each one as you find it. When all the words are circled, take the UNUSED letters — and write them on the blanks below. Go from left to right and top to bottom to find the answer to this riddle: **What fairy tale character is an expert on time?**

ANIMAL
CASTLE
COTTAGE
CROWN
ELF
GIANT
GOOSE
HERO
HORSE
KING
MAIDEN
OGRE
PALACE
PRINCESS
QUEEN
TOWER
TROLL
UNICORN
VILLAIN
WITCH

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

Riddle answer: _____

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Sourdough, e.g. | __ __ E __ __ | Wide | __ __ O __ __ |
| 2. Design | __ __ __ __ T __ | Pleat | __ __ __ __ S __ |
| 3. Jolly | __ E __ __ __ | Take to the altar | __ A __ __ __ |
| 4. Burn with water | __ __ A __ __ | Reprimand | __ __ O __ __ |
| 5. Nappy | __ __ A __ __ __ | Water ladle | __ __ P __ __ __ |
| 6. 50's sitcom gal | __ __ __ __ __ E | Page border | __ __ __ __ __ N |
| 7. Knife edge | __ __ __ D __ | Culpability | __ __ __ M __ |
| 8. Code inventor | __ __ R __ __ | Computer clicker | __ __ U __ __ |
| 9. Iguana, e.g. | L __ __ __ __ __ | Merlin, e.g. | W __ __ __ __ __ |
| 10. Fall bloom | __ S __ __ __ | Change | __ L __ __ __ |

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BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Paper is longer. 2. Mirror is moved. 3. Man's left arm is not showing. 4. Light is lower. 5. Hood is different. 6. Pants are different.

Goldilocks
Hedge Fund

1. Bread, Broad	6. Marge, Margin
2. Create, Crease	7. Blade, Blame
3. Merry, Mary	8. Morse, Mouse
4. Scald, Scold	9. Lizard, Wizard
5. Diaper, Dipper	10. Aster, Alter

Even Exchange answers



Puzzles 4 Kids
Answer



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NDP eyes comeback with a return to the left

By Rochelle Baker

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
Canada's National Observer

The federal NDP plans to rebuild by reclaiming political ground on the left, interim party leader Don Davies said in an interview with Canada's National Observer.

The NDP is positioning itself as a progressive alternative to the Liberals, who have shifted to the right under Prime Minister Mark Carney, Davies said at a post-election town hall in Courtenay, BC on Sept. 10.

Davies is confident NDP voters, who selected the Liberals to ward off a win by Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives, will return to the party as Carney's priorities and policies crystalize.

"He's governed like a small-conservative," Davies said.

"His first 10 or 12 policies [after being elected] are literally right out of the Conservative playbook. He's done literally nothing progressive."

Discussion between the MPs and audience at the event focused on Indigenous and labour rights, resisting the overreach of Bill C-5 to speed major projects, housing, climate action and strengthening Canadian support for Palestine in the Gaza war.

However, Carney was also heavily criticized for "deceiving voters" during the election. He cloaked himself as the face of the "elbows up" movement and an alternative to the Conservatives — only to poach Poilievre's policy and talking points after gaining power, NDP caucus members said.

Carney jokes jovially to the country about hockey but is a Conservative disguised in a "red

jersey," said Heather McPherson, MP for Edmonton Strathcona.

Carney's elimination of the ministries of labour, and other cuts to the cabinet table for women, gender equality and youth, as well as the diversity, inclusion and disabilities portfolio, are red flags that signal where his government's priorities lie, the NDP MPs said.

Fear and frustration about Carney's anticipated austerity measures and cuts to healthcare or social programs for vulnerable groups to pay for his pledge to boost NATO defence spending to five per cent of the GDP by 2035 were also discussed.

The defence spending expected to cost more than \$150 billion — more than the amount transferred to provinces for healthcare — could be better spent on housing or other social programs, noted the MPs.

Carney has no mandate from voters for such massive spending to appease US President Donald Trump, said Jenny Kwan, MP for Vancouver East.

"Trump is driving our political agenda here through Carney," Kwan said.

"He says he's, 'elbows up,' but [we say] elbows up against Trump and the tariffs. Elbows up for Canada and sovereignty, and elbows up for Canada's identity because we are not the United States."

Aside from anger over the Liberal agenda, the mood and energy at the town hall was surprisingly upbeat and hopeful.

Supporters packed the event room in the log-built Native Sons Hall to provide input to the party after the self-described "brutal" election in April.

The party lost 17 of their 24 seats to the Liberals and Conser-

vatives and failed to meet the bar of 12 MPs needed to maintain official party status.

Rejuvenate and rebuild

Davies said the party, in a state of review and renewal, isn't chasing the centre of the political spectrum as it prepares for a leadership race.

"We're rediscovering our roots," Davies said.

The party and caucus are making concerted efforts to connect with grassroots members, riding association presidents, potential candidates, labour and other allies to "take an inventory" on key issues to reshape the party.

"We have to truly solicit their views and use that to build a renewed, reimagined progressive option federally," Davies said.

"I feel excitement across this country, and I think we're going to come back stronger than ever."

Manitoban hopes Rhodes Scholarship can help her save lives

By Maggie Macintosh

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
Winnipeg Free Press

Amy Mann is one of the unlucky teenagers whose Grade 12 year was disrupted by COVID-19, over and over and over again.

Mann, now a 21-year-old, recalled feeling incredibly frustrated about Manitoba public health officials' unclear explanations related to moving students in and out of remote learning in 2020-21.

"I didn't understand why schools were staying closed when the evidence suggested there was no or limited transmission," she told the Free Press.

"And bars were open — that really upset me."

Five years later, the high-achiever is preparing to pack her bags for the U.K. to study the intersection of statistics, public health and the social sciences on a prestigious international scholarship.

Mann was named a 2025 Rhodes Scholar, and she's the only born-and-raised Manitoban in the incoming cohort.

The Class of 2025 encompasses just over 100 recipients who are slated to pursue fully funded graduate studies at the University of Oxford.

The group represents 29 nationalities and 73 post-secondary institutes, including the University of Toronto.

Mann enrolled in U of T after graduating from both the Pembina Trails School Division and University of Winnipeg Collegiate — the downtown campus on which she learned to practise social distancing.

The young statistician said she spent much of her high school career doing homework at public libraries in her hometown.

"People definitely underestimate Manitoba. I'm proud to be from here," said the U of T alum who returned to Winnipeg over the summer to spend time

with her family after completing a statistics-related program (her official degree is a bachelor of science).

Mann originally entered university with a plan to become a physicist, but she said she quickly realized her love of sorting and coding data could assist with evidence-based decision-making to improve the lives of others.

She has been a part of research teams that have studied how climate change will affect malaria and the fallout of incomplete record-keeping — also known as "garbage-coded deaths" — in health care and government-run databases.

"When we don't specify what exactly (a patient) died of, it hampers us from understanding epidemics and responding to them," Mann said.

The 21-year-old academic called the worldwide phenomenon that is "bias in mortality data," a special research interest of hers because it is a literal life-or-death issue.

Mann likened public health statisticians to advocates who have "a kind of moral respon-

sibility" because they analyze datasets to uncover oddities and inequities.

Oftentimes, they expose issues that negatively affect the most marginalized patients in a society, she said. As far as she is concerned, one of the biggest problems in 2025 is that decision makers care most about the loudest of critics and they are typically privileged as they know how to speak up and advocate for themselves.

The Rhodes Scholar said that growing up in a province that continues to grapple with the health consequences of colonialism and intergenerational trauma, including the respective meth and opioid crises, has influenced her greatly.

The University of Manitoba's Natalie Riediger supervised one of her undergraduate research projects.

Riediger, an associate professor of food and human nutritional sciences, was one of Mann's six required references for her application. She described the up-and-coming researcher as an "excellent student."



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Mann said her studious nature is what made her so irritated about COVID-19-related classroom closures.

"Having lived through (a pandemic) makes me a lot more aware of the importance of community input and the importance of really thinking about social sciences questions in public health," she said.

Citing that experience and her undergraduate studies, she said the best public health response to any given issue is "the response that people are OK with and willing to follow."

Mann noted the recent surge in measles, as well as the rise of vaccine hesitancy in Manitoba and outside the Prairies, has sparked her interest.

The problem is not that peo-

ple do not trust science, she said. "They don't trust scientific institutions, and there's a real reason for that."

While noting that public health officials were under immense pressure during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 21-year-old said top-down, "this is how it is" attitudes damaged many citizens' trust in the discipline.

Mann is anticipated to work alongside Sunetra Gupta, an infectious disease epidemiologist, when she arrives at Oxford University this fall.

Gupta gained international fame during the COVID-19 pandemic, owing to her expertise in immunology, vaccine development and mathematical modelling of infectious diseases.

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Sunday September 28th, 2025
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This year could be ‘the worst season in memory’ for bear encounters, Nipigon mayor says

By Matt Prokopchuk
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
TBnewswatch.com

NIPIGON — Nuisance bears have been a common sight as summer winds down this year, according to two people living along the North Shore.

Nipigon mayor Suzanne Kukko said she’s been living in the community for just shy of 20 years now, and “it is probably the worst season in memory.”

On Sept. 16, two people in Nipigon were attacked in their home and injured by a black bear before their dog cornered the animal in the basement, Ontario Provincial Police said.

Kukko said she’s heard many reports from people encountering bears around town and in other regional communities. Additionally, she said the Ministry of Natural Resources has told her its BearWise program received two calls in August and 18 calls up to about the middle of September, just in Nipigon alone.

Kukko said ministry officials told her they’ve received over 300 calls throughout the district.

“It’s been pretty scary for our community for sure in Nipigon and, from what I’m hearing, all along the North Shore,” she said.

Kukko said she’s had one marauding bear go after her garbage in her car port when she forgot to put it away. And while a number of reported encounters have been similar in nature, others have been more destructive.

“Mostly it’s those kinds of things, (bears) getting into garbage, looking for food, but there have been some incidents where — normally the bears will be coming out at dusk and at dawn or overnight — but there have been sightings in

the afternoon, during the day ... which is unusual,” she said.

“And, actually, some trying to get into porches, screen doors, things like that, which definitely indicates an aggressive and very hungry bear.”

People living and working in the middle of Lake Superior aren’t immune either.

Paul Morralee, the managing director of the Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior not-for-profit, said a pair of black bears have been a constant presence for the past couple of weeks at the Porphyry Lighthouse, which is located on an island south of Black Bay.

The animals are more than capable of swimming out to the relatively remote location, likely drawn to the spot as berries tend to ripen later in the season out there, he said. One encounter saw one of the animals drawn to the door at breakfast.

“As my assistant Andrew Ehn was at the light station cooking sausages, the smell attracted a bear who entered through the screen in the door and who then stood up on the veranda looking through the double pane glass at us having sausages in the morning,” Morralee said.

“So, it was quite the start to the day.”

Morralee said they can become quite a distraction.

“It’s quite destructive when you’re working and living in a house to have a bear claw your front door because you’re worried about your front door being caved in by the bear and coming into the house because who knows what could happen,” he said. “So, the fear factor of living at a light station, surrounded by two bears that are hungry and that can smell that sausage and bacon in the morning, and the eggs.”

“There’s literally claw marks on the door of the light station



Nipigon mayor Suzanne Kukko is warning those in her community and beyond to be aware of black bears this year following an incident where a Nipigon couple were injured in their home after a bear gained entry. Black bears are currently preparing for hibernation, and Kukko said she’s heard many reports from residents in the community of their encounters with the animals this season.

— Getty Images / Donna Feledichuk photo

and ... three or four screens broken out, basement windows broken.”

Back in Nipigon, Kukko said the municipality is helping to share information from relevant officials, like the OPP and the Ministry of Natural Resources’ BearWise program, and amplifying messaging around keeping garbage secure, not having things like dog food accessible, being aware and alert when outside, especially around dawn and dusk, and to never run from a bear.

“I know it’s scary when something like this happens, with the attack that occurred,” Kukko said, referring to the bear that injured the two people in Nipigon, adding that she’s encouraging people to be

aware.

“They want to eat lots of food and they don’t want to be chasing and running after people and things like that,” she said. “But I mean, some of them do, some of them are angry or

so desperate, for whatever reason they’re starving, and so just to try not to be terrified when you’re walking out and about.”

“Just to have that in the back of your mind, to make sure that you’re cautious.”

Not much sun this weekend as chance of showers dominates

Tonight will be cloudy with a low of 10 C (50 F).

Tomorrow will continue to see cloudy skies with a chance of showers throughout the day and overnight with a high of 18 (64) and a low of 12 (54).

Saturday will once again bring cloudy skies with a chance of showers throughout the day and overnight with a high of 18 (64) and a low of 13 (55).

In the extended forecast, Sunday will be

cloudy with a chance of showers during the day, remaining partly cloudy overnight with a high of 20 (68) and a low of 13 (55) and Monday brings a mix of sun and cloud with a chance of showers during the day and cloudy periods overnight with a high of 22 (72) and a low of 12 (54).

The record high for today is 29 (84) set in 2024 and the record low is -7 (19) set in 2020.

Sunset today is at 7:21 p.m. and sunrise tomorrow is at 6:56 a.m.

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

9/18

Yesterday's solution

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

Difficulty: ★★★

9/17

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Fort Frances Times
Wednesday, September 17, 2025



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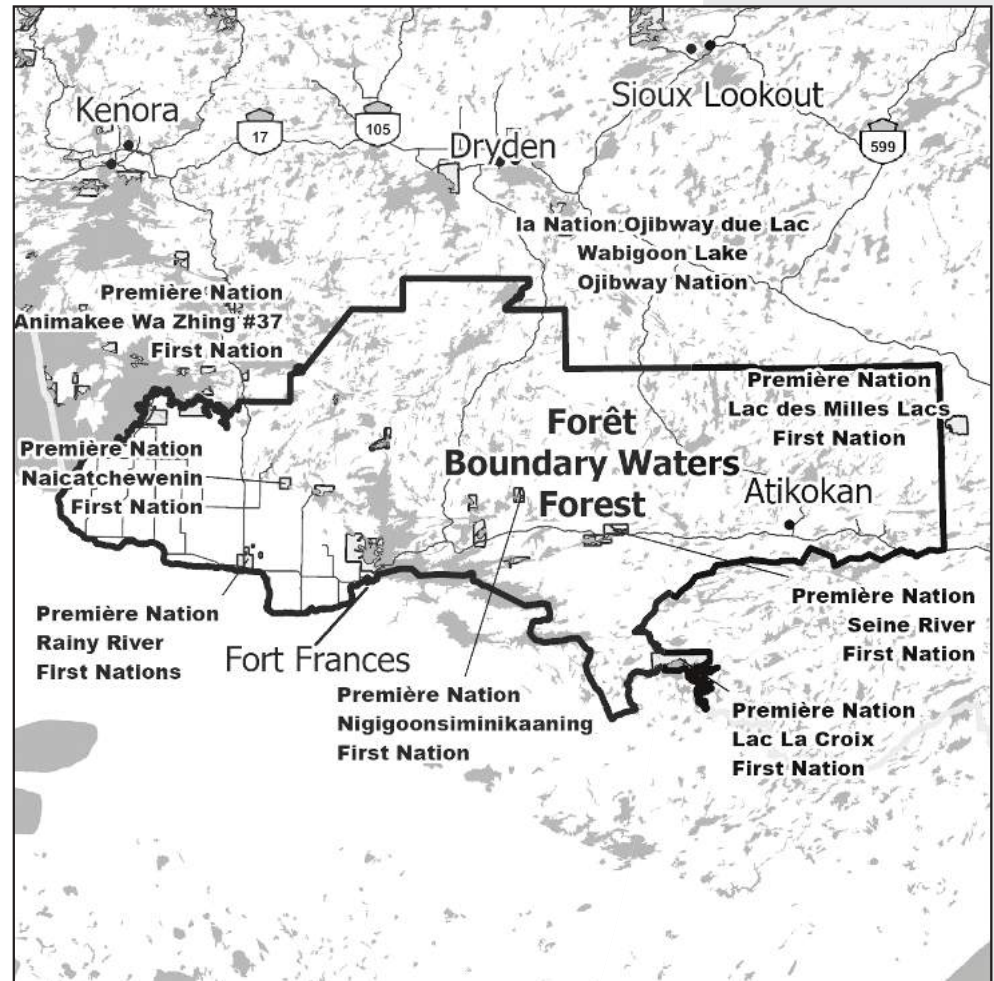
To read these stories and more, pick up your copy of the Fort Frances Times at newstands today.



Inspection

Inspection of MNR-Approved Prescribed Burn Plan for Slash Pile Burning for Boundary Waters Forest

The Ontario **Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)** invites you to inspect the MNR-approved prescribed burn plan for slash pile burning that will be carried out in the **Boundary Waters Forest** (see map).



As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, some recently harvested areas have been selected to be burned under the guidelines of the MNR's *Prescribed Burn Manual*. The prescribed burn will reduce the area covered in slash piles while increasing the area available for regeneration and reducing the fire hazard. The burn is scheduled for ignition between **October 21, 2025, and February 15, 2026**.

The approved prescribed burn plan for slash pile burning, including specific locations and maps, is available for inspection by contacting Boundary Waters Forest Management Corp. and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at <https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online> until **March 31, 2026**, when the Annual Work Schedule expires. Please note, the **burn** will be occurring in a specific area of the **Boundary Waters Forest**, and not the entire forest management unit. More detailed information on the location of the activities within the **Boundary Waters Forest**, can be obtained electronically on the Natural Resources Information Portal <https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online>, or by contacting the BWPMC/MNR staff listed below.

Interested and affected persons and organizations can arrange a virtual/in-person meeting with MNR and/or BWPMC staff to discuss the prescribed burn plan. For more information, please contact BWPMC/MNR staff listed below:

Sangeetha Subhash
Assistant Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources
Dryden-Fort Frances-Atikokan District
922 Scott Street
Fort Frances, ON P9A 1J4
tel: 807-861-0849
e-mail: sangeetha.subhash@ontario.ca

Renee Perry, R.P.F.
Management Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources
Dryden-Fort Frances-Atikokan District
108 Saturn Avenue
Atikokan, ON P0T 1C0
tel: 807-324-0163
e-mail: renee.perry@ontario.ca

Ian Armstrong, R.P.F.
General Manager
Boundary Waters Forest Management Corp.
RR#2, Site 210-10
443 Sand Bay Road
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3M3
tel: 807-627-8214
e-mail: iarmstrong@bwfmc.ca
website: www.bwfmc.ca

Christa Campbell, R.P.F.
Forestry Coordinator
Domtar
Ontario Woodlands
2001 Neebing Ave.
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S3
tel: 807-475-2409
e-mail: christa.campbell@domtar.com

Renseignements en français : Renee Perry, renee.perry@ontario.ca, 807 324-0163.

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Funding the battle against invasive species

By Ethan Braund
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
Woolwich Observer

The Invasive Species Centre (ISC) is supporting 116 new projects across the province based on investment from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

The ISC has provided support to local municipalities and community groups across the province to help them combat the spread of invasive species. It's a pressing issue in Ontario, as it has the highest number of Invasive species in Canada.

ISC describes invasive species as "plants, animals, insects, and pathogens that are introduced to an ecosystem outside of their native range and cause harm to the environment, economy, or society."

The Invasive Species Action Fund has three different streams, including microgrants, that offer up to \$3,500. The Accelerated Impact provides funding of up to \$15,000, and the Transformative Action provides funding of up to \$50,000.

The ISC's Chelsea McIsaac told The Observer that when choosing projects, the fund looks to do more than just educate people about invasive species.

"It's not just about education or anything. We want to see the work happening on the ground. When we receive our applications, we review them and score them based on the merits related to that directive in general," said McIsaac.

This year, in addition to the 116 projects, the fund has sponsored 118 jobs and engaged 2,500 volunteers. Some 127 municipalities and 40 Indige-

nous communities are involved in projects, including three in the Waterloo Region.

Two of the three local projects were microgrants, with the first going to the Rare Charitable Research Reserve, which was focused on removing giant hogweed along the Grand River.

"They're often found in riparian zones along rivers and streams. They're also really big. They can grow up to seven feet tall and shade out native species," explained McIsaac.

"They are really a hot topic in the news because their sap can actually cause severe dermatitis, and burns on human skin, so they're a little bit dangerous for human safety as well."

Another microgrant went to the University of Waterloo, awarded \$3,500 for removing invasive species such as garlic mustard around the campus.

The third project was funded through the accelerated impact stream to the Grand River Conservation Authority, which received \$12,501 to investigate the removal of the dog strangling vine from its land.

"What they were trying to do is expand early detection and intervention efforts to protect forests, oak savannas and tall grass prairies throughout the Grand Water Grand River watershed," she added of the GRCA project.

"They have 10 properties they were targeting, and then they're also controlling some Japanese knotweed and some other woody species."

According to the ISC, invasive species also have an impact that extends beyond environmental effects, including to the economy. There is an estimated \$3.6 billion annual impact on



Invasive phragmites are one invasive species in Ontario that could be targeted thanks to new funding for the Invasive Species Action Fund from the Ministry of Natural Resources. The fund is administered by the Invasive Species Centre and will help support 116 new projects across the province.

— Invasive Species Centre photo

forestry, fisheries, agriculture, infrastructure, tourism and recreation in the province.

"Our government is proud to support the Invasive Species Action Fund and the incredible work the Invasive Species Centre does with our partners to protect Ontario from invasive species," said Minister of Natural Resources Mike Harris in a release.

There are many ways that individuals can also help with preventing the spread of invasive species, said McIsaac. One way to is as simple as wiping off

your boots before going on a trail or cleaning them off before heading out.

"There's so much you can do. Don't move firewood when you're camping — things like that. There's so much action," she added.

Another way to come into

contact with an invasive species is to report sightings on reporting apps such as iNaturalist or EDDMapS.

For more information on species and their potential impacts, see www.invasivespeciescentre.ca.

Funding supports work research of on-site milk testing

By Ethan Braund
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
Woolwich Observer

The provincial and federal governments last week announced \$4.8 million in funding 48 agricultural research and innovation projects, supporting 20 companies through the Ontario Agri-Food Research Initiative (OAFRI).

The money was made available through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

"It takes innovation to build a successful agri-food sector in Ontario and across the country," said the federal Agriculture Minister Heath MacDonald in a release announcing the funding. "By investing in companies that bring forward bold ideas and practical solutions, we're helping the sector seize new opportunities and stay competitive and resilient."

The goal is to ensure Ontario's farmers and agribusinesses have access to the latest technology,

noted Ontario Agriculture Minister Trevor Jones.

"Through OAFRI, we are helping them prepare for the future, take advantage of new opportunities and stay competitive and resilient in the face of economic uncertainty," he said.

One project being funded is taking place at the University of Waterloo, where researcher Juewen Liu is developing an on-site litmus test that would detect antibiotics in milk.

When dairy cows become sick and need to be treated with antibiotics, they are removed from the process to ensure the antibiotics don't make it into the milk.

Even when these protocols are followed, they are carefully inspected and graded for quality. Samples are also taken for analysis and quality control. That is where Liu's research would come in — he is looking to develop an on-site litmus paper test that would be able to get results in minutes versus days.

"It would cut down the turnaround time by being able to

know right away and without the use of expensive equipment," he explained.

The test would work similarly to the strips used to test the pH balance of water or other similar products.

This type of product would be especially important because when milk is picked up from farmers, it is combined with milk from other farms. If traces of antibiotics are detected, the producer can refuse the entire truckload, and it must be disposed of.

That is why the ability to catch this on-site before it happens would not only save time but also reduce the amount of milk thrown away.

Liu is in the very early stages of research and said that this funding will help pay post-docs to assist with the project.

"I am very grateful for the funding as this is an important problem and I think that this research will be able to develop to help other agriculture and food safety related problems in the future," he said.

ComParrot® by Bonnie J. Malcolm Can you spot 12 differences between these pictures?



www.comparrotpuzzles.com

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Solution: 1. Pocket on girl's pants is missing. 2. Fold in paper bag is missing. 3. Extra leaves appear on tree behind pond. 4. Frog's back foot appears. 5. Flower behind girl is different. 6. Branch on tree has moved. 7. Plant in pond has moved. 8. Bush behind tree is taller. 9. Extra spot appears on frog. 10. Flower behind girl is different. 11. Bullrush is taller. 12. Log is longer.

Federal freshwater agency stares down budget cuts

By **Natasha Bulowski**
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
Canada's National Observer

A brand new agency tasked with protecting Canada's freshwater is likely on the chopping block as part of an array of budget cuts promised by Prime Minister Mark Carney that span most departments and agencies. Texts from Environment and Climate Change Minister Julie Dabrusin's staff suggested "there is nowhere else to cut" while deliberating how to meet Carney's order to cut spending 15 per cent over three years, the *National Post* reported on Aug. 26.

The Canada Water Agency, tasked with protecting and managing Canada's freshwater and brokering international agreements, launched in October 2024. Less than a year into its mandate, it could be facing spending cuts that experts and some opposition MPs warn could not come at a worse time.

"It's a really bad decision, at a really bad moment," NDP MP and environment critic Alexandre Boulerice said in a phone interview with *Canada's National Observer*. Canada is locked in a trade war with the US and the protection, monitoring and management of water is critical for health, safety, economic development and sovereignty, Boulerice said.

"Mr. Carney was elected to protect Canadian sovereignty ... to cut the water agency to be able to buy submarines and increase the defense budget, it's completely ridiculous," Boulerice said.

Water is a split federal and provincial responsibility, but many of these watersheds, rivers and lakes are also shared with the US.

"Fresh water has become a strategic priority in Canada because President Trump has directly threatened to take our water resources," Ralph Pentland, a former water director at Environment Canada, said in a phone interview with *Canada's National Observer*. Pentland was Canada's director of water planning and management for 13 years from 1978 to 1991, helped draft the 1987 Federal Water Policy and has negotiated bilateral water agreements.

This March, US President Donald Trump's administration paused negotiations on the Columbia River Treaty, which deals with the flows of the Columbia River between BC and the northwestern US. Trump also commented last September that a "very large faucet" could be turned on to use Canada's water to alleviate drought in the US. Trump's budget proposal would slash federal funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the New York Times reported that in February Trump indicated he wants to tear up the Great Lakes agreements with Canada that lay out the shared management

of Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario.

"At this time, I would think that fresh water is something the federal government should be doubling down on in its investments and even increasing them," Pentland said.

Pentland said the Canada Water agency is as important as the Public Health Agency of Canada, established in 2004. The public health agency, tasked with protecting against threats to public health and preventing diseases, played a critical role when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, he said.

"If climate change is a shark, its teeth are fresh water. That's where we're going to feel the bite and we certainly have been across the country," Pentland said, paraphrasing renowned Canadian scientist Jim Bruce.

Water underpins everything from energy — hydroelectric power and cooling systems for nuclear power — to shipping to agriculture.

Right now, Canada is facing water crises on all fronts: droughts in the prairies, BC and Eastern Canada; toxic algae blooms in the Great Lakes and other bodies of water, overuse in Western Canada and water contamination and shoreline erosion across the country.

On the flip side, climate change is driving increasingly severe and frequent floods. Canada does not have a national flood and drought forecasting strategy. Legislation to develop such a strategy made it through the House of Commons but died in the Senate when the 2025 federal election was called. This is exactly the kind of work the Canada Water Agency is primed to do, Pentland said.

"The Canada Water Agency was a brilliant move by the federal government to finally set up a coordinating agency that could pull together the expertise from the many federal departments that deal with fresh water and our provinces and territories, and work with [First Nations] and others and then also coordinate our international positions," Pentland said. "This is necessary for Canada to negotiate the very difficult times ahead as climate change gets worse."

Importantly, the Canada Water Agency was also set up to ensure First Nations, approximately 35 of which are still under long-term boil water advisories, are at the table.

When Soula Chronopoulos, president of Aqua Action, heard about the possible cuts to the agency, her immediate reaction was, "Are you kidding me?"

"Water security is national security ... it fuels the economy, it fuels our infrastructure, it fuels our health, food security and cutting the Canada Water Agency budget risks undermining Canada's ability to manage freshwater resources, respond

"If climate change is a shark, its teeth are fresh water. That's where we're going to feel the bite and we certainly have been across the country."

— Ralph Pentland

to climate threats and basically lead in global water innovation," Chronopoulos said in a phone interview with *Canada's National Observer*.

She pointed to the ongoing Mexico-US water wars, where Mexico is struggling to deliver water to the US under a shared water agreement due to worsening droughts driven by climate change.

"That's a harbinger for what could definitely happen to us across all our shared waters," Chronopoulos said. "Cutting [the agency] right now is like removing the rudder from a ship in stormy seas. We need that ship."

Chronopoulos warned that without an institution to protect our water, "we can see things like the nationalization of water, the ownership of water, where players are going to look at it ... as a money-making asset, long term, and we can't let that happen."

Cuts still uncertain

The federal government would not confirm whether the Canada Water Agency will be subject to cuts.

As part of a mandate to "spend less on government operations" to invest in building a strong economy, the federal government is reviewing government spending to ensure programming is being delivered efficiently and effectively, Keean Nembhard, press secretary for the minister of environment and climate change, said in an emailed statement to *Canada's National Observer*.

"While this process requires candid discussions on various options, no final funding decisions have been taken at this time," Nembhard said, adding the government "will continue to support programming to fight climate change, protect nature, and support communities."

Bloc Quebecois environment

and climate change critic Patrick Bonin was unavailable for an interview. Conservative Scot Davidson did not reply.

"It's such a small agency, I don't see the point of cutting their budget to ... not be able to do their job correctly in service of Canadians," Boulerice said. The Canada Water Agency's budget for 2024-2025 is \$52 million. In 2025-2026 the Agency's budget is \$84.8 million.

Boulerice said it is fine to review federal programs to see if they are efficient, but this is "bad management" and "short-sighted."

"For an ordinary citizen to see that the cost of F-35s is up 50 per cent and there's no problem with that, and after that, they go after a little agency that helps Canadians and protects our fresh water all around the country ... its bad priorities," Boulerice said.

The federal government is a "huge, huge machine" and if the water agency is subject to cuts there will be "great consequences to save little money," he said.

Green Party leader Elizabeth May also panned the possibility of cuts to the Canada Water Agency.

"This is not acceptable, we are at a crisis moment, and this is not when you cut the basis of understanding what's critical to healthy Canadian populations or, for that matter, to our economy," May said in a phone interview with *Canada's National Observer*. "We need to understand water systems and protect them. This is not a place to cut."

Carney's focus on national security has largely revolved around ramping up military spending to five per cent of GDP by 2035, but "the climate crisis and the water crisis are a much larger threat to our secu-

urity," she said.

"As the climate crisis worsens, the water crisis worsens, Canada has, over the last number of decades, lost almost all our scientific capacity in monitoring and developing the science that we need to support water policy," May said. She said the Canada Water Agency is a major step to repairing that deficit but these potential cuts could throw a wrench in that work.

"It's really disheartening to think that Mark Carney needs educating on things as basic as our water policy ... It's not a solution that suggests intelligence or thoughtfulness," May said.

The federal government's fall budget is expected to be released in October.

This summer, Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne tasked cabinet ministers with proposing operational spending cuts totalling 15 per cent over three years. The deadline for ministers to submit their proposals was Aug. 28.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- The U.S. postmaster general was in the line of succession to the presidency until 1971.

- There are more mobile phones than people alive.

- In the late 18th century, Sweden's King Gustav III tried to prove that coffee was a deadly substance by making one twin drink coffee and the second one tea on a daily basis, while betting on which would be the first to succumb. Both twins survived and outlived both the king and the doctors conducting the experiment.

- The longest English word that generally appears in dictionaries is "pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanocytosis," the name of a lung disease.

- Watermelons were often used as canteens by early explorers and travelers.

- The tobacco industry spends almost \$4 billion per year to promote smoking, more than is spent advertising and promoting any other product.

- Black holes aren't black. They glow slightly, giving off light across the whole spectrum.

- The world's largest playable guitar is 43.5 feet long.

- Before an NHL game, hockey pucks are frozen to make them glide more smoothly and reduce bouncing.

- The ancient Greeks believed that amethysts could ward off intoxication and hangovers, so they often drank wine from cups carved from the gemstone.

- Seven percent of Americans steal toilet paper rolls in hotels or motels.

- About 70-75% of the world's population does not even use toilet paper.

- In 2009 a pigeon named Winston raced Telkom, South Africa's largest ISP, to see which one could deliver 4GB of data to a location 60 miles away the fastest. By the time Winston arrived with the 4GB flash drive, Telkom had transmitted only 4% of the data.

Thought for the Day: "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born ... and the day you find out why." — Mark Twain

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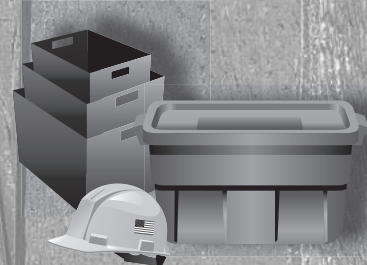
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All claims against the Estate of **Marjan Fraczkiewicz**, Fort Frances, in the District of Rainy River, who died on the 16th day of December 2023, must be filed with the undersigned Estate Trustee, on or before the 20th day of October 2025 after which date the estate will be distributed having regard only to claims of which the Estate Trustee then shall have notice.

DATED at Fort Frances, Ontario, this 17th day of September 2025

Jessica Jones
Estate Trustees

By her Solicitors,
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Thunder Bay jail staff rally against 'crisis' in corrections

By Clint Fleury
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
Tbnewswatch.com

THUNDER BAY – Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) president JP Hornick is calling the province's current state in corrections a "crisis."

Thunder Bay correctional, probation, and parole officers held a rally outside the Ontario government building on Red River Road on Tuesday to call on the province to offer a fair deal that addresses chronic understaffing, overcrowding, and unsafe working conditions.

"We have a group of workers, about 9,000 workers who work in the correctional bargaining unit, everything from adults, youth, parole, probation, inside the walls, and they've been bargaining for over 10 months, and the employer has steadfastly refused to entertain any of their solutions for the mental health crisis, the understaffing crisis, and the retention," Hornick told Newswatch in an interview.

The correctional bargaining unit's collective agreement expired on Dec. 31, 2024. Hornick said that two weeks ago, the province tabled a three-year collective agreement with a 3.75 per cent increase in wages over three years, "that

"We need a commitment from the province to not only add more infrastructure, obviously, but to commit more resources and officers to managing the overcrowding..."

—Tony Rojik

doesn't even keep up with the rate of inflation," and no mental health supports.

Hornick noted that violence in correctional institutions in the province has risen by 445 per cent between 2012 and 2024, and "the employer comes up with nothing to address these key issues."

"We have a crisis, and we've seen 12 suicides in the past few years in this sector, and that is something that needs to be addressed," Hornick said.

Shawn Bradshaw, OPSEU Local 708 president and correctional officer at the Thunder Bay Correctional Centre, said the OPP considers six officer suicides an epidemic.

"We're at 12 (in Ontario), so it is just an epidemic in corrections. We're asking at the table for more mental health supports on top of the general stuff, benefit increases, which are not forthcoming, wage increases, which are not keeping with inflation, and pension increases. We have some pen-

sion adjustments that are the worst, some of the worst, in the country for correctional officers and law enforcement officers," Bradshaw said.

Tony Rojik, OPSEU Local 737 president and correctional officer at the Thunder Bay District Jail, said the jail is understaffed and the building's inmate population is at "120 to 135 per cent capacity week to week."

"It's tough when you're putting people in a space the size of your average bathroom, three to a cell, one sleeping on the floor. It's just not humane. And when that happens, usually tensions rise, violence starts, and that violence will spill over," Rojik said.

From Jan. 1 to June 30, the recorded number of inmate-on-staff workspace violence incidents is 42 at the Thunder Bay Jail and 22 at the Thunder Bay Correctional Centres.

This number includes assaults, attempted assaults, and threats, according to the statis-

tics provided by Bradshaw.

In 2024, the recorded number of inmate-on-staff workspace violence incidents was 66 at the jail and 25 at the correctional centre.

"We need a commitment from the province to not only add more infrastructure, obviously, but to commit more resources and officers to managing the overcrowding. We have a 345 bed facility that's going to open up within the next 2 years, hopefully, but that barely puts a dent in our overcrowding," Rojik said.

"What we're hoping is that the ministry, even though they have slated the Thunder Bay jail for closure, that they will maintain operation of it to ease that pressure, because if they do put it on the chopping block, then we're looking at being overcapacity at the new facility the moment it opens its doors."

One of the terms Bradshaw mentioned is the overhaul of corrections hiring practices.

"When you begin a career in corrections, you do not start like in many law enforcement agencies as a full-time officer. You are designated as a fixed-term employee, which means you're regularly scheduled up to 40 hours," Bradshaw said.

"They want them to work beyond 40 hours at straight time. They want to adjust the

notice they can give them to change or add to their schedule without verbal confirmation. It is absolutely atrocious the way they're treating the new staff and expecting retention."

Currently, corrections has 64 full-time employees, and approximately 38 full-time fixed-term correctional officers, according to Rojik.

However, he said correctional officers are not the only ones experiencing staffing shortages.

"We have shortages in staffing of the maintenance department, the records department, and even management. They have their own issues with staffing and have holes in their full-time lines, so a lot of our correctional officers take acting positions," Rojik said.

"They go to our compliments to do these extra jobs, which pulls out of the roster and the compliment for the jail, and takes away from even the availability of our fixed terms."

Hornick said, employees need "adequate wage increases" above inflation and mental health support to attract new people into those positions, "so that these folks can retain people and recruit really qualified individuals who remain in the system as a good job and a good place to work so that they can keep our community safe."

Guelp researches meld technology with traditional farm practices

By Ethan Braund
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
Woolwich Observer

A researcher, along with industry partners, is giving the age-old task of combating weeds in agriculture a smart technology upgrade.

Medhat Moussa, a professor in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Guelp, has developed a tractor attachment that utilizes computer vision and artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms to identify and manage weeds in lima bean crops.

It then creates maps that enable farmers to spray herbicides with greater precision and efficiency. The technology aims to save farmers time and money by reducing costs and minimizing the amount of chemicals wasted.

Moussa told The Observer that weeds were a big problem for farmers of different crops, and in the case of lima beans, they also affect the harvesting of them and the yield.

"The current practice is to spray so that you mitigate and you try to reduce the pressure from weeds. What type of spray pesticides you're going to use,

and the rate of spraying, is dependent on what the farmers feel the weed pressure in the field is."

To do this, they have to go to each of the fields and scout areas manually. On a 100-acre farm, they are counting perhaps one per cent of the field to decide how much and where they should spray the herbicide, he explained.

"Our robotic attachment, equipped with cameras, gets mounted onto a small tractor or similar vehicles. As the tractor is driven through the field, the cameras scan the ground and take photos that are analyzed by a three-stage AI algorithm. Our algorithm differentiates between lima beans and weeds in each image, then combines the images into a complete density map showing exactly which areas need to be treated."

These pictures are then processed using AI to visualize the exact weed pressure in every area of the field and create a very precise weed density map. This map can then be uploaded to the herbicide sprayer for a more precise dispersal of spray.

"On that basis, when you are going and spraying, you can adjust the spray depending on the area. You create a weed density

map that you upload into the sprayer to adjust accordingly," Moussa explained.

The process will not only make the current year's harvest more efficient, but also provide many benefits in future years, as well.

"What happened is, you go this year and spray, and have information about the weed density that you started with and what happened at the end of the season and so on."

"Next year, you have a very good understanding of every corner of that field, and that will enable you to adjust your practices, hopefully leading to higher yields and less cost."

Moussa worked with Nortera Foods, a fruit and vegetable producer and end-user of the system, and Haggerty AgRobotics after they presented him with the challenge of improving spraying for their lima bean crops.

"Our lab has been working in the automated agriculture space for years using technologies such as computer vision and machine learning," he said.

"It's a great fit because our partners have the capabilities to test our technology on a larger scale, show it to farmers and bridge the gap to market

adoption."

He noted that robotics technology in agriculture tends to have a tough time being adopted by farmers, especially those who promote full automation. That is why he believes that his combination of automation and traditional farming practices will make it more appealing for farmers to adopt.

"The issue about autonomy here is that, as a researcher, you think absolutely, 'Yeah, let's go fully autonomous,' stuff like that. However, I think that a middle ground, now that might be better existing machinery more effective and utilize it in a more optimized way."

Many of these new technologies aim to reduce operational costs by cutting labour, but that's not the case in this instance.

"You want to have better, sustainable agriculture, but you're not necessarily wanting to really go and fire all of these people. That's not the aim of this project."

There are other autonomous weed removal units in Europe and the United States, but they have not been commercially successful due to their slow operation or high cost. That is why Moussa's project team

wanted to improve and upgrade the current practices without having a negative impact in terms of labour.

The product is in the final stages of testing and has the potential to be used for other crops in the future.

"I think that it is better to reach that point where we introduce a technology to optimize current operation without having any negative impact in terms of the labour, of course."

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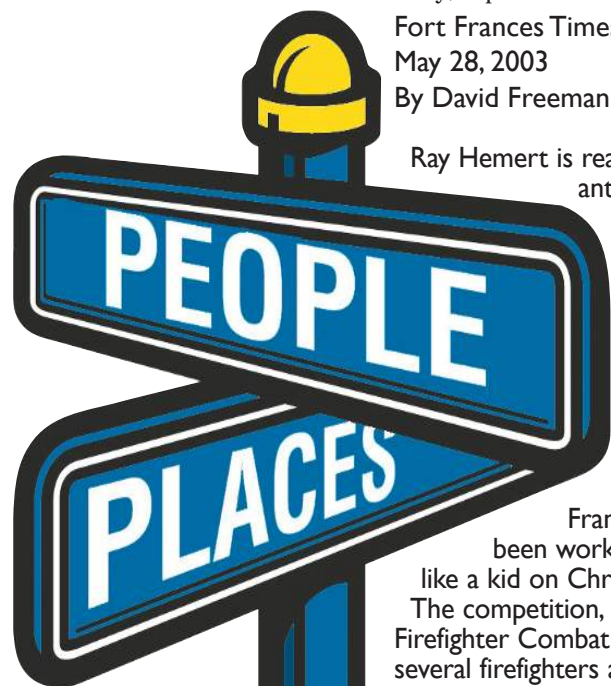
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Fort Frances Times

May 28, 2003

By David Freeman



Ray Hemert is ready to explode with anticipation.

He is scheduled to leave Friday for Swift Current, Sask. to compete in a firefighter competition. And for him, Friday can't come soon enough.

"I've been looking forward to it for a long time," said Herbert, a volunteer with the Fort

Frances Fire Department. "I've been working really hard and I'm just like a kid on Christmas Eve. I can't wait." The competition, known as "The Fire Fit Firefighter Combat Challenge," is one of several firefighters across the country to

Firefighter to compete in challenge

attempt to qualify for the Canadian and world championships.

This will mark Herbert's first attempt at qualifying.

"This is my first time," he said.

"I've trained, but I've never even run the course so I'm at a disadvantage there."

Herbert said you have to run the course in under three minutes to qualify for the national competition and less than two to automatically qualify for the world competition-which happens to be in Ottawa this year.

But first he must get through the competition in Saskatchewan.

Participants are required to run the course in their full firefighting gear, including mask and air tank, Herbert explained.

The first task is to carry a section of hose up six flights of stairs, stepping on each step, then, once at the top, haul up 42 pounds of hose using a rope.

Then you have to go back down the stairs, making sure to hit every step.

The next challenge forces the firefighter to knock a 165-pound I-beam five feet with a hammer.

Then the participant must run an obstacle course of fire hydrants 140 feet long, weaving in and out of the hydrants.

"Then you pick up a charged line and haul it 100 feet and hit a target [with a spray of water]," Herbert explained.

Finally, the firefighter must drag-using proper rescue techniques-a 175-pound "dummy" across the finish line.

"My goal is to get under three minutes," said Herbert, adding that probably would put him in the top 50. "I would love to get under three minutes. I'd be the happiest guy in the world."



Ray Herbert trained with his son Jacob, four, on his back in a backpack to simulate the weight of his air tank. When competing in the firefighter challenge, he will have to endure that kind of weight for nearly three minutes.

"I think I'm going to prove myself, as long as I don't trip on the first stair," he continued.

He has been training intensively for the competition.

"My son weighs 80 pounds and I get into my gear and hike through the bush with him on my back," Herbert explained. He also runs on a treadmill or down along the river and has done close to 1,000 flights of stairs on the Stair Master.

Herbert is in great shape, though he would admit that wasn't always the case. Back in 1999, he tipped the scales at well over 300 pounds.

"In 1999 I was very, very large," he said.

It was in 2000 that he began training hard and dieting.

"I've found that the green stuff that comes out of the garden is pretty good," he joked.

"Now I can have one cookie and not eat the whole bag."

Herbert said he tried very hard to lose the weight, and at one point dropped 80 pounds in just five months. It was then he realized, while feeling weak and not very energetic, that he'd have to gain weight and lose it slower.

"When I started losing weight, I started feeling really good about myself," he said. "And when I'm working out, I feel like eating better."

Today, Herbert weighs 194 pounds, eats healthy, and feels good about himself.

He decided to start training for the challenge more than a year ago when he found he was getting bored just working out. The challenge gives him something to train for.

"A guy's got to do something," he said. "I was looking for something to do."

He found information about the challenge on the Internet and realized how big it was across North America and the world.

"It keeps guys in shape," he said of the competition. "I know that benefits the towns and cities that the firefighters come from. They are good role models, too."

Herbert is trying to talk some of his fellow firefighters to start training so they can enter as a team.

For now, though, he'll make the trip to southwestern Saskatchewan on his own.

"It seems like a long way to go for three minutes of work," he joked, but remains confident he can beat the three-minute barrier this weekend. "I'm pretty sure you'll be reporting that [next week]."

And if he doesn't do as well as he'd like, he can try his luck again at the next competition.



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