

Fort Frances Times

Christmas Greetings
& Letters to Santa inside!

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Stuff A Cruiser a big success, Kettle Campaign approaching this year's goal

By Allan Bradbury
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On Friday, staff at the Fort Frances Salvation Army took members of the media and invited guests behind the scenes to see how the Stuff A Cruiser event benefits local food banks.

Salvation Army Fort Frances Corps officer Arthur Heathcoat said that the event helps local food banks get through the cold winter months when many people are availing of its supplies.

"What you're seeing here is the result of last weekend's Stuff A Cruiser," he said, showing the filled shelves in the food bank.

"Stuff A Cruiser raised about 9,000 lbs of non-perishable food items. That was divided between the UNFC and us and that's going to sustain us until about April or the beginning of May, so the support means the world, because you're not giving to the Salvation Army, you're giving to people who need it."

Salvation Army Community and Family Services Coordinator Ryan Daw says the community has shown up in a big way to support the community Christmas hamper program again this year, which will prepare over 200 hampers for families in need this holiday season.

"The community is fantastic, they came out in spades to help

us out and we really appreciate it," he said.

"The food bank went from very little food to completely stocked and we couldn't do it without the community. You're really bringing hope and you put presents under the tree for lots of kids."

Kettle Campaign coordinator Kaleb Firth said as of time of writing on Nov. 16, the Kettle Campaign had reached 80 per cent of its goal for the season.

"We couldn't have done it without the many gracious donors, small donations and big donations from so many people," Firth said.

"This is what it means to be part of a giving community. I've said that for a long time and this is a great town to live in."

Throughout the last month, a wide range of individuals and organizations have volunteered time to ring bells at the Salvation Army Christmas Kettles which raise funds to support the programming of the Salvation Army at a local level, including the Christmas hamper program.

This weekend will mark the last weekend of the campaign and Firth says they're calling it the "Hammers for Hampers" weekend, with many businesses in the construction field sponsoring match days at the various kettles throughout the Fort Frances area, including at Safeway, The Place Fine Foods and Walmart.



A look at the shelves of the Fort Frances Salvation Army food bank before the annual Stuff A Cruiser event, left, which was held on Saturday, December 6, 2025, and the shelves full of donated food items for those in need following the event. The Salvation Army said roughly 9,000 lbs of food was collected in Fort Frances during this year's event, all of which goes to supporting those in need and experiencing food insecurity in the community. The Salvation Army's Kettle Campaign has also collected roughly 80 per cent of its goal for the year, with this weekend featuring several contractors and construction companies matching donations made. — Salvation Army Fort Frances photos

INSIDE



Emo food bank donation

The Redrum Motorcycle Club made a significant donation to the Emo foodbank at a time of year when it's most needed.

See story on A5



Following the Trail of Lights

The McTavish Trail of Lights was a big hit yet again this year as hundreds flocked to the annual display.

See photos on B1

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New temporary exhibit highlights law enforcement crime history of region

By Laura Balanko-Dickson
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The Fort Frances Museum will be showcasing a law-enforcement-themed exhibit in the New Year, covering everything from the badges and uniforms of local officers to police equipment and court cases with over 100 years of history to draw from.

The exhibit is titled "From Badge to Bench," and Fort Frances Museum and Cultural Centre curator Lisa Hughes said it will be an opportunity for the museum to pull out some historic artifacts that don't often have the chance to see the light of day.

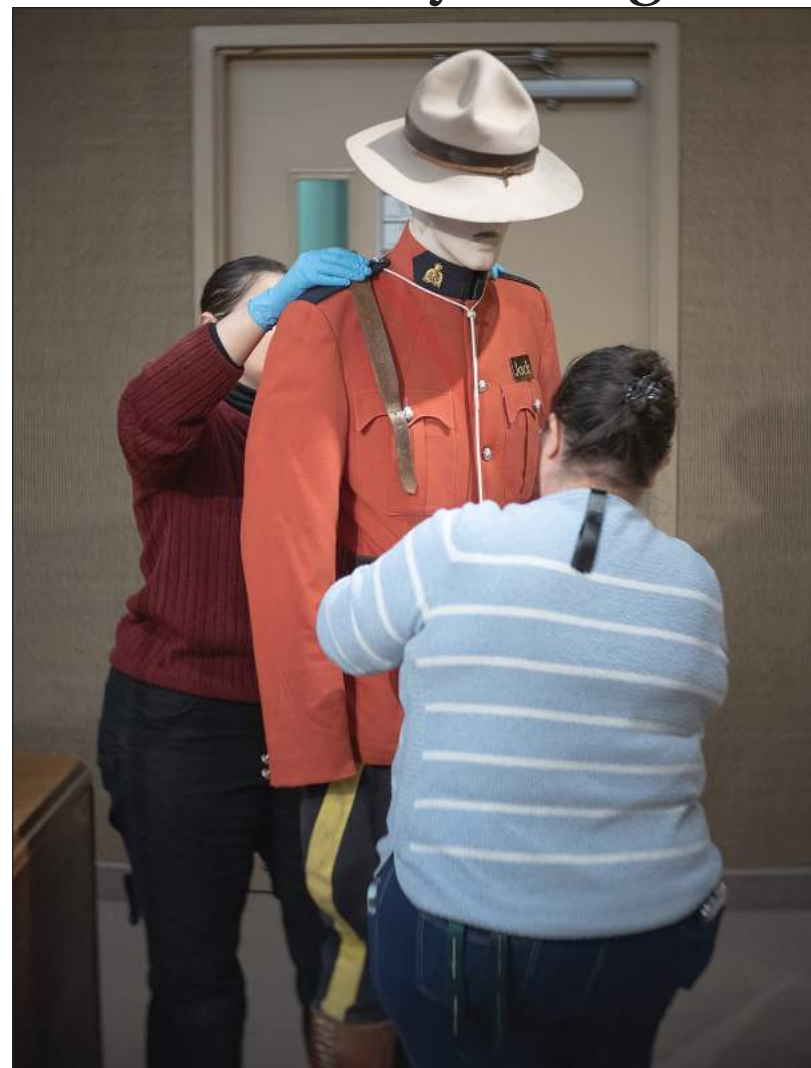
"We have so many things in storage in our basement, and they don't get seen," she said.

"So, a temporary exhibit is a chance for us to pull those things out and display them for people to get to see."

As part of the exhibit, Hughes said the museum will be able to teach visitors about some notable criminal cases from Fort Frances' history, and will include various artifacts, police equipment from a bygone era like handcuffs, and a mention of the infamous Hot Stove murder.

The goal of the exhibit is to explore the history of law enforcement in the district, from court hearings of criminal cases to officers on duty.

"The courthouse was built over 100 years ago, so the history and the changes of that are interesting," said Hughes.



Fort Frances Museum and Cultural Centre staff set up a mannequin that will be displaying an old Royal Canadian Mounted Police uniform as part of the museum's "From Badge to Bench" exhibit that will run beginning January 2026 and will feature artifacts relating to policing, crime and justice in Fort Frances across its history.

"This is just an example, but two boys ended up stealing horses in 1912, and then the owners ended up tracking down the youth and marching

them back and putting them in jail. There are unique little crimes like that which have taken place and are interesting.

Please see "Local" on A3

CMHA bringing people together over the holidays

By Allan Bradbury
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Since not everyone has family or friends close at hand during the holiday season, a local organization is hosting a pair of events meant to bring people together.

On Dec. 29 and 30 the Canadian Mental Health Association's (CMHA) Fort Frances Branch will host A Celebration of the Winter Season at the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre for people ages 16 and older.

Christina Hahkala is a Community Services Co-lead with CMHA and says the event is planned to be a time for people to spend time with others during the holiday season.

"I think it's good for people in the community if they don't have somewhere to go. A lot of places are closed during the holiday season, they might feel a little isolated or sheltered," Hahkala said. "So it's a good place to come out and meet new people, get together, make a new friend. So we've partnered with the library to do this, and some of our staff will be there helping."

The events, which run from 12 - 4 p.m. both days, will be a time for people to play games, eat some light snacks, watch some movies or just be together.

Many people may feel the need to gather with others during the holidays, for any number of reasons, Hahkala said, and people in need can't always necessarily get timely

help. "It depends on what's going on in somebody's life, loneliness, it could be a loss," she said.

"There's a lot of services that aren't available during the season because they're closed for their staff."

While the days will have started getting longer by the time the event rolls around, the long cold nights of winter can be tough for people as well.

"You have some seasonal depression in the dark days," she said.

"December 20 it starts to turn around and we get longer days of the year, but that all plays into somebody's mood and how they're feeling."

If you're having a blue Christmas, there are people available to help.

If you're feeling overwhelmed or experiencing suicidal thoughts you can contact the national suicide Crisis Helpline by phone or text at 9-8-8 24 hours a day seven days a week.

The Canada Mental Health Crisis line is also available 24/7 at 866-888-8988.

Talk4Healing has free confidential support available across Ontario in English or Ojibwe 24/7 talk, text or chat at 855-554-HEAL (4325).

Giishkaandago'ikwe Health Services has a mental health direct line available Mon.-Thurs., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. closing at 4 p.m. on Fridays. This line will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Messages will be returned when staff are available.

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Workers brave the winter weather to prepare for the concrete pad pouring of what will be the home of a new generator system that is capable of powering all of La Verendrye General Hospital (LVGH) in the event of an outage.

On track for Spring 2026, this major upgrade project will help Riverside Health Care deliver safe, reliable care in any situation.

The investment is part of Riverside's long-term vision for infrastructure renewal, patient safety, and operational resilience across the entire Rainy River District.

Generator Upgrade to Power Riverside's Future

A Multi-Year Investment in Safety, Reliability, and Sustainability for District-Wide Improvements

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

If you've been near La Verendrye General Hospital (LVGH) recently, you may have noticed the new construction near the ambulance ramp. That new building is the future home of LVGH's upgraded generator system — a major infrastructure investment that will take the site from 40 percent power coverage to 100 percent during an outage.

This represents the culmination of a multi-year journey, beginning with early advocacy and planning, moving through engineering and design, and now to construction and installation. The project is on track for Spring 2026, when the generator and switchgear arrive, and final commissioning takes place.

This milestone reflects Riverside's long-term vision for infrastructure renewal, patient safety, and operational resilience across the entire district.

A Look Back: Meeting Needs With Limited Power

For years, LVGH has relied on backup generators capable of powering roughly 40 percent of the facility during an outage.

This limited capacity — although safe, compliant, and carefully prioritized — meant only essential

areas such as the Emergency Department, Acute Care, and core clinical and diagnostic services, could operate uninterrupted.

Support departments and other non-clinical operations had to face restrictions during prolonged outages. This placed additional demands on staff and introduced operational complexities during power interruptions. In a modern hospital environment in a modern hospital environment.

"In the hospital environment, reliable power is not a convenience, it's a necessity," says Henry Gauthier, President & CEO. "This upgrade project represents an essential investment in safety, reliability, and our very ability to deliver care in any circumstance."

Building for Tomorrow: Full Capacity for Full Service

Once the project is complete, the new generator system will allow 100 percent of LVGH to remain fully functional during an outage, supporting every clinical area, diagnostic service, support department, and internal system. This will provide power to the entire hospital, including but not limited to all patient care units, diagnostic imaging, laboratory and therapeutic services, HVAC and internal climate systems, kitchen operations, security and IT infrastructure, communication, administrative, environmental services, maintenance, and the many back-of-house areas that keep things at the hospital running smoothly.

This move from 40 to 100 percent capacity is an infrastructure upgrade, that also represents a transformational shift in the health care organization's ability to maintain safe, uninterrupted service under any circumstance. To achieve this, the project includes the construction of a purpose-built external generator building, designed to support safety, accessibility, and long-term expansion. Extensive collaboration among Riverside staff, engineering partners, and contractors has ensured that all aspects of the project, from

equipment placement and wiring to load capacity, fuel systems, redundancy features and safety controls, meet modern standards and provide reliable performance for decades to come.

"The design and installation of the new generator system was a highly coordinated effort," says Ed Cousineau, Riverside Director of Engineering.

"This upgrade not only expands our capacity but also significantly enhances our overall emergency readiness. It gives our teams the stable, dependable infrastructure they need to respond quickly and safely in any situation."

Strengthening Patient Care and Clinical Stability

For patients, families, and our communities, this project brings peace of mind: that no matter the weather, no matter the grid interruption, the hospital will remain fully operational.

For our Riverside team, the upgrade means full access to equipment, heating and cooling, communication systems, and the day-to-day tools required to deliver care safely.

"Reliable power means reliable care," says Diana Harris, Chief Nursing Executive.

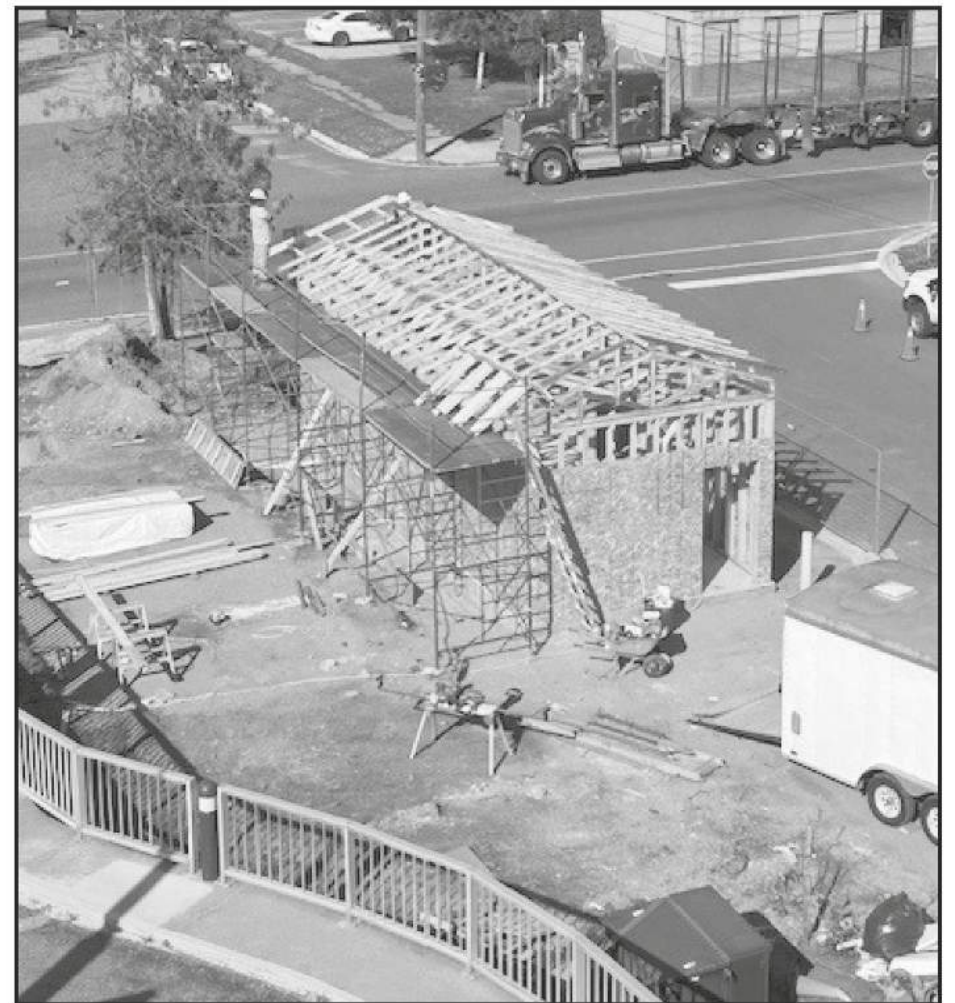
"Our teams can stay fully focused on patients, knowing the systems they rely on — lights, monitors, and equipment — will stay on at all times. This upgrade strengthens safety and stability across the entire hospital."

Extending Benefits Across the District

This project enhances Riverside's entire system. Once the new generator goes live, existing generators at LVGH will be redeployed to other Riverside sites, improving backup capacity, reliability, safety and sustainability across the district.

This repurposing reduces waste, extends the life of existing capital assets, and strengthens the power infrastructure at multiple facilities — a system-wide benefit made possible by this single major investment.

This project is a tangible example



Seen in an earlier stage, the new building will house 'switchgear' — equipment that manages the power sources for LVGH.

of Riverside maximizing value, leveraging resources responsibly, and improving infrastructure for all communities served.

A Major Investment in Long-Term Sustainability

The LVGH generator upgrade represents a significant financial commitment, with a total project cost of \$1,811,996 spread across the 2023-24 and 2024-25 fiscal years. In the first year, \$240,008 supported early planning and initial project work, while the remaining \$1,571,998 was invested in the 2024-25 fiscal year as construction and system integration advanced.

This work was made possible through dedicated funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health's Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund (HIRF). Riverside received \$383,446 in 2023-24 to support multiple infrastructure priorities, including foundational elements of the generator project.

During 2024-25, Riverside was allocated \$2,062,912, with \$1.5M approved specifically for the LVGH generator upgrade, a clear recognition of the project's

importance to patient safety and service continuity.

This key multi-year investment reflects the strong commitment of Riverside's leadership team, Board of Directors, and staff, all of whom recognized the need to strengthen the hospital's power infrastructure, modernize critical systems, and support long-term sustainability across the district.

"This project demonstrates what can be accomplished through strong advocacy and strategic investment," says Carla Larson, Chief Financial, Information & Technology Officer.

"I am proud of the work our teams have done to bring this forward. Our coordinated efforts with the Ministry ensured this critical upgrade moved ahead, and it will significantly enhance the stability and reliability of operations not just at LVGH but across our system."

As Riverside invests in the tools and infrastructure of the future, the organization is focused on providing exceptional care today and a stronger, more resilient health-care system for tomorrow.



Many have been working hard to bring the generator upgrade project to life at Riverside.

Volunteer hours and love go into making Community Christmas Dinner special

By Allan Bradbury
Staff Writer
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The annual Community Christmas Dinner sponsored by Flint House and the Cridland family will take place once again this year, bringing together volunteers across the community to give everyone a free holiday meal.

Stacey and Christine Cridland and their family are busy preparing to serve over 500 meals to members of the Fort Frances community this Christmas Eve. The family is marking their sixth year helping with the local tradition, dating back to a time when the meal was available as a sit-down dinner at Knox United Church.

"We're already starting to prep, we have a full team, we're lucky to have our staff on board helping us with it," Stacey said.

"We have one more week of full business here at the restaurant and then it's kind of all hands on deck to get prepared for Christmas dinner, but we've already started bringing in some of the food and ordering in some of the stuff."

The family offers the meal for free, but monetary donations are welcome.

"The first year we did it we did accept food donations, but it was a lot more work. We were getting all different sized hams, different sized turkeys," Stacey said.

"To juggle and cook everything was a lot harder. So it's just easier to streamline it all through [bulk food distributor] Sysco. Then we do have a couple of businesses that donate in town, we're lucky to have those."

"I don't know how many boxes of stuffing we opened that first year," Christine said.

"Because of course everybody donated stuffing, it was great. But we can buy a big bag of stuffing from Sysco and it's done in one shot."

Anyone looking to donate by cheque can make them payable to Community Living and any donations can be dropped off at Flint House or Northwoods Gallery and Gifts.

Local businesses involved in helping out include Safeway which donates buns, Boston pizza donates takeout containers, M&M meats donates desserts, and Sysco also donates some hams.

Outside of food donations, Sight&Sound also donates the use of a cell phone which volunteers and those looking to receive a meal can call so the family don't have to use their personal phones to coordinate the meal.

While they have many volunteers, between the Cridlands and extended family, it never hurts to have a few more helping hands.

"We enjoy having volunteers, especially for the driving portion. The same handful of people do seem to pop up and want to help, and we want to let them help year after year, if they're willing to," Stacey said.

"But we are doing something a little bit different this year. We're going to be prepping some stuff on Sunday the 21st. We're going to be here in the restaurant prepping some things ahead of time. We do candy bags and desserts and stuff like that. So we are looking for some volunteers for that day to help us with that part

of it." On Christmas Eve they tend to keep the group serving food small just to keep things organized and safe.

"When we do it on Christmas Eve inside the building, we kind of keep it small. I mean, it's mostly our family. We have a couple close people might help and as well. But again, just because we've done it so many years now, we feel like having the same crew. It's like we all get in here and we know what we're doing. We just get to work," Stacey said.

"So we don't want to say, 'No, we don't want any other volunteers.' But drivers are probably, [the biggest need] the day of. In-house, it's kind of hectic in here, there is a lot going on."

As they gather the orders and people requesting deliveries, orders will be grouped together so it's convenient for the volunteer drivers to have most of their orders in reasonable proximity, which the sisters say their mom spends a good deal of time on.

"My mom is behind the scenes and does all of the organizing of where everyone's going and groups all of the orders together," Christine said.

"Once we get all of the addresses of where meals are going they all get grouped together."

The meal includes ham, turkey, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, gravy, a dessert, a bun, and a candy bag.

To order a free holiday meal for pickup or delivery, call 807-275-6671. Because of the coordination and food ordering required, the cutoff for orders is this coming Sunday, Dec. 21.

Local policing, justice focus of museum's New Year exhibit

More from A1

We're trying to highlight some of those, the unique ones of Fort Frances."

Court proceedings for some of these crimes would land the accused in jail, and pieces of the former Fort Frances Jail will be on display.

"Our jail in town is actually one of the oldest in Ontario, the one that is still present and used today," said Hughes.

"[The town] actually had an old, wooden-style jail, and they managed to save a few of the corner pieces when it was torn down. It's really unique when you see the picture."

A selection of uniforms and artifacts from the various police forces that have operated within Fort Frances across its history will also be on display during the exhibit.

"If you look at Fort Frances' history, we have a town police department, we have the OPP, and we have the RCMP. Those will all be on display, and for many years, all three were running at the same time," said Hughes.

"We're very fortunate. This is

actually Police Chief Mike Solomon's uniform. We also have an OPP uniform, and if you look at the Fort Frances Police Department, they have their own logo. You can definitely identify that it's related to Fort Frances. We also have two or three radar guns in our collection. At one time, they needed two people to operate them. They're not exactly the lightest things, and they needed more than one person. Now you have the handheld version, but you can see the progression of that over time."

According to Hughes, Fort Frances Police worked with a tailor at McTaggart's to design its uniform. An old-style RCMP uniform will also be on display until it goes into storage for the foreseeable future due to light damage.

"In another 100 years, it can come out again," Hughes said.

There will also be historic shackles from the 19th century, which were used during the genesis of lock-and-key technology.

"For many, many years, you would need a blacksmith to put on shackles, and then you'd al-

so have to have them removed by them," Hughes said.

"In the 1800s, they began to develop lock-and-key locking methods. This is one of the precursors to our regular style. Not having bars or a lock on your door, they put a rope or a chain around it."

Lastly, there is the section of the exhibit about the Hot Stove Murder, an infamous case from the town's past which led to three accused persons being given capital punishment for their involvement. Should observers choose to abstain from viewing that or other more sensitive materials, artifacts associated with the case will be on display behind a room divider with content warnings.

"We do have an area here that does actually talk about the death penalty, so that's one of the reasons we do have a content warning," Hughes said.

"If anyone doesn't want to learn about capital punishment, we give them that option."

The exhibit will open on January 5, 2026, and will run until sometime in the spring of 2026.

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Thank you for sharing your time, contributions, and compassion with us during these challenging and uncertain times, we are endlessly grateful for all the support we have received.

As we navigate the difficulties of living with ALS, knowing that we have such a strong community behind us brings immense comfort and hope.

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Town Of Fort Frances
Adoption Of New Zoning By-law

TAKE NOTICE that the Town Of Fort Frances is pleased to announce the adoption of its new Zoning By-law, pursuant to the requirements of the Planning Act, R. S. O. 1990, c. P.13., as amended.

THE PURPOSE AND EFFECT The Fort Frances has passed a new Zoning By-law as required by subsection 16(20) of the Planning Act, which repeals and replaces existing by-law 03/14 and all amendments to this by-law. This adoption comes after receiving approval from the Province regarding Town's adoption of its new Official Plan earlier this year.

An **Official Plan** provides direction and policy objectives for the growth and development of the community and establishes where land uses (e.g., residential, commercial, and industrial should be located.)

A **Zoning By-law** is a legal document that implements the policies of the Official Plan. The Zoning By-law translates the land use planning objectives and policies of the Official Plan into detailed standards for how a property may be developed, including the types of uses that are permitted on a property; where buildings and other structures can be located; lot sizes and dimensions; parking requirements; building heights; and setbacks from streets.

THE SUBJECT LANDS include all lands located within the Town of Fort Frances municipal boundary. Accordingly, no key map is provided.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION related to the new Zoning By-law, and to view the Zoning By-law and associated Schedules (i.e., maps), please visit the Town's website at <https://fortfrances.ca/town/planning-development/zoning>.

The new Zoning By-law and Schedules will also be available at the following location during regular hours:
Fort Frances Civic Centre, 320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9
(Monday to Friday - 8:00 am to 4:00 pm)

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, please contact:
John Burrows, Chief Building Official/ Municipal Planner
Telephone: (807) 274-5323 ext. 1216
Email: jburrows@fortfrances.ca
Fax: (807) 274-8479
Mail: 320 Portage Avenue, Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

Dated at the Town of Fort Frances this 17th day of December 2025.

Fort Frances Times and Rainy Lake Herald, Est. 1895
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Letters policy
All newspapers encourage letters to the editor and intend to print the opinions of their readers with as few restrictions as possible. The Fort Frances Times is no exception.

Rules governing letters to the editor in the Fort Frances Times are:

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

General Manager
Andrew Flynn
Editor
Ken Kellar

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



All I Want for Christmas



WENDI WITH AN 'EYE'
WENDI STEWART

The other day (one of my favourite expressions) I overheard someone asking another what they wanted for Christmas and, like flipping on a switch, my brain immediately began making my own list that required no thought, just the flood of memories pouring freely from my heart in no particular order.

- to run into Annie's kitchen and hear her laugh, her arms gathering me in, and together we will make sugar donuts and know the delicious comfort of being loved
- to cruise through town with Lori in my dad's car, being just as comfortable with silence as with laughter, curious about the questions that seem to have no answers, blessed with the gift of friendship
- to listen to Billy and Jim on their guitars, their music from the once upon a time when we had no idea what aging meant
- to watch Doug and Blair riding Stormy and Rock, the coolest of cowboys
- to sit in Mr. Quesnel's homeroom, third row from the window, second desk from the front, and know the safety of his care and concern for all who came through his door
- to watch Mr. Hickling's enthusiasm for mathematics come

to life right before our eyes

- to gallop over hill and dale with Deb on Holy Smoke, me behind on Flirt with her much shorter legs
- to sit atop the stairs with Sherry, waiting for permission for Christmas Morning to begin and feel the sublime blessing of being sisters
- to see the friendly smile of Barry Cox behind the counter at the post office as I hand him the stack of Christmas cards from my parents to be mailed, being witness to kindness in its purest form
- to lie beneath the Christmas tree, its lights twinkling in the dark room, next to the piano and to the angels sprayed on the glass with "snow" on the nearby window while Perry Como softly croons "Twas The Night Before Christmas"
- to find a patch of ice somewhere in the field, no matter the size, upon which to skate to my heart's content, doing toe loops and double axels in my imagination without a single misstep
- to be tucked into "Uncle Dick's" trailer behind the snow machine, to zoom along the trails to a fire waiting to warm us all up, the "Stewart boys" and the Lyons family whom we claimed as our own
- to hear my daughters giggling in bed, imagining they can, as I did before them, hear Santa's sleigh on the roof and hear his jolly laugh
- to buy a small white bag of warm roasted cashews from Ray S Holmes Confectionery,

hearing the tinkling of the bells hanging on the door to alert an arrival, and pausing long enough to take a spin on the stools at the soda counter

- to toboggan down the hill at the farm, snow stinging my face with exhilarating joy and with screams of delight, while a hot mug of cocoa waits for me in the house to warm my toes and fingertips, and to soften the red of my cheeks
- to taste my mother's shortbread melting on my tongue, the bits of sweet maraschino cherries sticking to my teeth
- to drive up and down the streets of town to see all the Christmas lights, the grand and the humble, the bright and the dim, all of it
- to see a Christmas movie at the Royal Theatre with its red corduroy seats, after the Santa Claus Parade and the little tub of ice cream with the wee wooden spoon from Flinders Dairy
- to feel the humble gratitude for the season, while digging through the stocking filled with surprises, especially the single mandarin orange at the very bottom
- to rest my face against my father's chest to hear the rhythm of his heart, as he whispered "Merry Christmas" into my hair

To relive one of these would be gift enough; to remember them all fills my heart to the brim. Wishing each of you the joy of Christmas remembering.

wendistewart@live.ca

Christmas brings light to the cold, bleak days of winter



FROM THE PUBLISHER EMERITUS' PEN
JIM CUMMING

We are in the Advent Season. The Christian religion begins with the lighting of the first of four candles symbolizing the season of hope. We are also in the Jewish season of Hanukkah in which multiple candles are lit over an eight day period. Each has its own rituals and can seem very similar to each other. Although they may seem different, there are many similarities. Both focus on family.

The helping of less fortunate, the sharing of food with friends and relatives and the spirituality of their faiths. As we approach the coming year, it is a time to look back on the past 12 months and reflect what has been good in our lives. We can also look back and see what has been troubling in our lives and the lives of friends.

Around Fort Frances and the district homes are being lit with light warding off the darkness of the year. We will pass the

longest night on Sunday and then our days will begin growing once again. The darkness of the year disappears through the Christmas season bringing joy and laughter. And by the new year we hope that love is blossoming. The lights on homes may disappear, but the joy of the new year and the excitement of new opportunities removes the bleakness of winter.

We are in a period of changing times and those changing times bring new challenges to overcome. Just as the COVID crisis only a few short years ago, brought changes to our lives and world, so too will the coming years. We can't predict what we will see and hear in the next few years, but we can be optimistic.

We can look forward to the future with hope and understanding. We can dream that our future will see the elimination of hate and the ceasing of war and peace will break out. We can dream that the hunger of so many will disappear. We can be optimistic that good things will happen in our community and our lives.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Letter to the Editor

Thanks for the memories

As I read and reread last week's Times article on the sale of Sunny Cove, memories come flooding back. Thoughts of weddings, anniversary parties, family reunions, school year ends, safe grad, church services, teaching canoeing skills and studying wildlife. They are all pleasant reruns of the past. My thoughts then switch to the future and the youth of today who will not have that opportunity.

Growing up in Fort Frances, lake life and all it encompasses is precious. Sunny Cove is a gem or rare gift, as Ken Perry stated in May 2020 when describing the property. The Kiwanis Club had sold the 28-acre plot to the Town of Fort Frances in 2009 for the tidy sum of \$1.00. He went on to say all of our sporting and recreational entities cost mon-

ey and do not break even, but can be replaced. All but Sunny Cove. If we divest ourselves of Sunny Cove, that jewel will be lost forever.

Sunny Cove is our only property on Rainy Lake and I wonder if we have done enough to save it. Have we exhausted our ideas and energies to maximize its value? I wonder how many communities in the world would love to have the opportunity we have.

I am thankful for the memories while I hide some guilt for not doing more to save Sunny Cove and polish the gem in our own back yard.

In closing, I would like to thank all Kiwanians and citizens for their contributions to make Sunny Cove such a special place for many years.

Sincerely,
- Terry Ogden

The Christian message of Christmas

During this Christmas season, we start thinking about the gifts we want to give to our family and friends.

Often we wander store to store in search of the "perfect gift" for each person. Wouldn't it be great if we could choose one gift that would fit everyone, like a "one-size-fits-all" sweater?

God had all of us in mind when he planned to send His perfect gift to earth - His Son Jesus. His gift of salvation is perfectly designed for every person. He even sent His gift at the perfect time, not too early and not too late. "But when the time was right, God sent his Son, and a woman gave birth to him." (Galatians 4:4 CEV).

Part of the fun of gift giving is wrapping our gift in an appealing way. God knew just how to wrap up our Saviour. He didn't send him as an angelic being or as a blaze of fire, instead God put His gift of salvation into a human mother, just like every human being on earth. God's gift came in human form which is someone we can relate to. Jesus lived 33 years on the earth to demonstrate the love of God to us, paying the ultimate price

of death on the cross for our salvation. "He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at the right time." (1 Timothy 2:6 NLT).

Unfortunately, most of the gifts we give at Christmas eventually get broken, used up and discarded after some time. This is not the case with God's gift. Jesus is the gift that keeps giving! He provides limitless eternal salvation for anyone who will receive. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name." (John 1:12) Even after centuries have passed, God's gift has not been diminished in any way, in fact the more it's shared, the more it brings joy and peace to the world! This is the message the angels gave the shepherds on the night of our Saviour's birth: "Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.'" (Luke 2:10 NKJV)

May this Christmas season be a time for you to share this joyful message.

- Submitted by Mike Andrusco

HAVE YOUR SAY - THE TIMES POLL

Christmas is less than 10 days away!
What is your favourite part of Christmas?

Food Presents
Family time
Time off work
Something else
(Write it in)

Do you agree with the Town of Fort Frances council's plans to sell Sunny Cove Camp?

No 41%
Yes 38%
There needs to be more consideration
21%

146 responses

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

Redrum Motorcycle Club makes donation to Emo Food Bank



Emo Food Bank coordinator Charlene McTavish, left, accepts a \$4,000 donation to the food bank from Redrum MC members Kelvin Caul, WillMcGinnis and Jim Strachan. — Robin McCormick photo

The Redrum MC Treaty 3 Chapter made a donation of \$4,000 to the Emo Food Bank on Sunday, December 14. Redrum MC Treaty 3 recently held a raffle with the proceeds being donated to the Emo Food Bank. Charlene graciously thanked the three members that handed her the donation, plus all their fellow members and everyone involved with the raffle for their generosity. She shared, "Our community is lucky to have such generous people living in it!"

The LaVallee Municipal Office will be closed December 24, 2025, to January 1, 2026. Regular hours resume January 2.

Landfill hours for the holiday season are as follows: closed December 25 and January 1.

Regular hours December 27 and 30.

The Emo Knox United Church, with the support of the Emo Senior's Centre and New Gold, are offering a free frozen Turkey Dinner Takeout or delivery, to

the west end of the district. Call Coleen at 482-2280 to order a meal.

The Beer and Burger held Friday evening, December 12, at the Emo Legion ended with Glenda Belluz and Nancy Witherspoon winning the meat draws.

Students from the Rainy River District school boards last day of school is this Friday, December 19, and school resumes Tuesday, January 6.

Huge congratulations are in order for the 14 Chapple, Emo and LaVallee members that passed their FireFighter Practical and written Exam last month: Glenn Dale, Simon Dyck, Luke Eselink, Teagan Friesen, Cassie Lalonde, Jeffrey Judson, Fletcher Klug, Mackenzie Mahon, Jason Mathews, Mathew Penner, Jarid Sandelovich, Andre Valenzuela, Jason Wiersema, and Ben Winik.

Our communities thank you for your dedication and commitment to this important cause ,

and for making us all know we live in a safer community because of your service.

I'd like to wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and all the best in 2026. Here's hoping for good health and well being for each and everyone of us.

Robin's 2 Cents:
I've Learned All About Life...
From a Snowman

It's okay if you're a little bottom heavy. Hold your ground, even when the heat is on. Wearing white is always appropriate. It takes a few extra rolls to make a good midsection. They key to life is to be jolly, happy soul. We're all made up of mostly water. You know you've made it when they write a song about you. Accessorize! Accessorize! Accessorize! Don't get too much sun. It's fun to hang out in your front yard. There's no stopping you once you're on a roll...

— Author unknown

Mind Management Part 6: Focusing on What is Important

By Liz Adam
Life Coach's Corner

We've been learning about how to improve focus as an important aspect of managing our minds.

The holidays can be a season in which it becomes more challenging to be able to focus well. There are so many things to do! Our minds and bodies can become particularly busy and tired during this time as we think about buying and wrapping presents, preparing special meals, baking, decorating, school activities and perhaps having extra people around.

If you're starting to feel overwhelmed, it can be helpful to take a step back and observe yourself as a friend might. Feeling less intense and knotted up about everything you think you need to do can calm you down enough to be able to see that there are some things that real-

ly aren't all that important and aren't worth the time or energy they require.

Take a look at all your lists in a detached way and see if there is anything you would advise a friend not to worry about.

It can be very helpful to take a few minutes to think about what is important to you about the holiday season and what you most want to focus on.

Last month we looked at the concept of using a schedule to help keep us on track during the work sections of our days, and incorporating the habit of taking regular breaks. They do not need to be long to be refreshing and help us focus better after.

Any kind of movement increases blood flow to the brain and can reset your brain to focus better. Even just walking around the house or office for a few minutes can clear our brain enough to be able to come back

to our tasks refreshed and better able to think well.

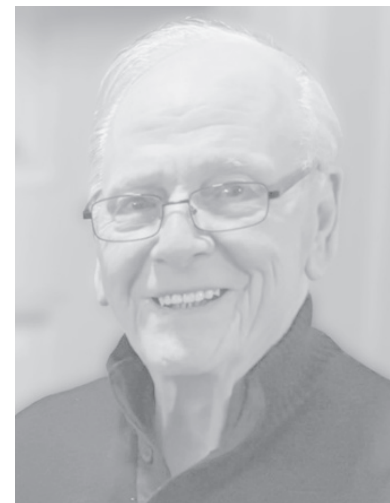
Taking regular brain and body breaks may feel like slowing down, but a brief break from thinking, sitting, standing, or working on a project helps our focus tremendously, resulting in increased overall productivity.

Observing our own thoughts can be very informative. By paying attention to what goes on in our minds, we train the brain to notice when it is wandering off or jumping around.

The holidays with their extra activities and responsibilities can definitely create a serious case of "busy brain." Don't worry if your mind hops around a lot while it helps you figure out how to get everything done. Just don't let it criticize you or boss you around. You get to decide how to handle the holidays. The most important part is to enjoy them!

Obituaries

BRUCE HOUCK



Bruce Houck passed away peacefully on December 10, 2025, at the age of 91. Born on February 15, 1934, in Fort Frances, Ontario, Bruce lived a life defined by dedication to family, service to his country and province, and a deep commitment to community.

Bruce was raised in Fort Frances, where he met the love of his life, Pearl Taylor. After a short courtship, they knew they were meant for one another and were married on October 5, 1955. Together, they shared a devoted partnership that spanned seven decades, marked by mutual respect, support, and adventure.

Early in his working life, Bruce held several jobs before proudly serving in Korea with the Canadian military. Upon his return to Canada, he began a 35-year career with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, a role that would take Bruce and his family across Ontario's most treasured landscapes.

His first posting in 1957 was on a remote island on Basswood Lake along the Minnesota border within Quetico Provincial Park. In 1961, the family returned to Fort Frances while Bruce attended Ranger School. Upon completion, the family moved to Nestor Falls to Caliper Lake Provincial Park. Bruce's career later brought

them to Ipperwash Provincial Park (1970-1973), Pinery Provincial Park (1973-1981), and finally to Burlington, where Bruce completed his career at Bronte Creek Provincial Park. He retired in 1992 after 35 years of dedicated public service.

Throughout their many moves, Pearl was always at Bruce's side, supporting their shared life and family. Bruce, in turn, was equally devoted—especially later in life—proudly supporting Pearl in her many pursuits and passions.

Bruce was a devoted father to his two sons and the eldest brother to many siblings, a role he carried with quiet leadership, care, and responsibility throughout his life.

He is survived by Tim Houck (Faith) of Halifax, Nova

Scotia, and Ted Houck (Mary Ann) of Sarnia, Ontario; grandchildren Kim Houck and Taylor Houck of Halifax; Jeremy (Lauren) Houck of Sarnia, and Jason (Jen) Houck of Fort Gratiot, Michigan; and was a loving Grampy to Colton, Harrison, Beckett, and Hadleigh.

Bruce was predeceased by his beloved granddaughter Kristen Houck (1992), daughter of Tim and Faith, who was forever held in his heart.

Community service was central to Bruce's values. Wherever his career took him, he and Pearl were actively involved in their communities, contributing their time and energy to foster connection, kindness, and support.

Bruce will be remembered for his strong work ethic, quiet leadership, loyalty, and deep love for his family. His legacy lives on through the values he instilled, the lives he touched, and the family he cherished.

A celebration of Bruce's life will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to Smith Funeral Home, 1576 London Line, Sarnia. Memories and condolences may be sent online at smithfuneralhome.ca.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bruce's memory to St. Joseph's Hospice: www.stjosephshospice.ca/donate-online

That familiar Christmastime stress



MOO'S FROM THE HERD
KIM JO BLISS



I once again find myself feeling stressed because I am not ready for Christmas! I don't even have my house decorated or tree up yet! This week it will happen but not sure when! I did manage to finish my outside lights despite the cold temperatures and my fingers freezing! I don't have all my gifts purchased either but that is mostly normal for me. I really want to get my cows vaccinated and dewormed but it wasn't a top of the list job when it was -30. I am thinking that I will try for Tuesday or Wednesday this week but I have to wait and make sure it isn't a wet day because the dewormer is topical and will be less effective if the cows' backs are wet or get wet. I have booked Maddy help for the job so I just need the weather to cooperate now. I feel like I am late doing this job but I just looked and I did

it on December 17 last year. I think I might have had more Christmas decorating completed last year. I normally try to do some extra cleaning but I didn't even consider it this year since I was away last week – it will have to be something I tackle in January! I must be getting older because I think I am getting slower.

I had a good few days in Toronto last week and they were dealing with much more wintry weather than us. There was a fair bit of snow in Toronto and they have been getting more since then. Our meetings were excellent and we even did a trivia night to celebrate the season! I wanted to be on the winning team and our team started off strong but it went downhill from there!

Maddy got home a couple days earlier than planned last week so we were all excited to see her! We have to enjoy her company before Christmas as she heads back right after. They were lucky to get tickets to a Junior Game in Minneapolis so that is exciting!

I am determined to get a lot of work done these next

couple of days because I have some girlfriends that want to get together later this week for an afternoon visit and catch up! It will be fun and I want to go and not stress because of all the things I need to do at home. I know it will all come together but it sure makes for a busy time and a lot of pressure.

I just want to give a big shout out to the Rainy River Cattlemen's Association for once again purchasing a cow and processing into burger for the Emo and Rainy River Food Banks. I am so proud that they are willing to give back to the community like this and I happy that they are making a difference in some people's lives. We often forget about those that are less fortunate and take for granted having access to food. Feed Ontario often does presentations to the BFO Board and it is staggering how the need for Food Banks continue to increase each year. The donations boxes that are collected at this time of the year are very much needed and appreciated. So thank you to those that make an effort to donate.

the HARBOURAGE®

would like to thank you for your support and friendship in 2026.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

We're closing for the season on Saturday, December 20th, 7:00pm.
We will see you in February 2026!

Complimentary Desk Calendars...

Support the Fort Frances Community Chest!

As always, the desk calendars are FREE. However, the Fort Frances Times is accepting donations in support of the Fort Frances Community Chest.

Pick yours up at the front counter of the...

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Merry Christmas

from all of us at the Fort Frances Times!

We are posting this week's Times edition

Wednesday, December 17th

FREE online for everyone to share.

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

Enjoy reading the delightful Letters to Santa!

We wish you a Safe & Merry Holiday Season!

FORT FRANCES Times

We are closed Dec 22nd - 26th

Obituaries

CALVIN (CAL) GAMSBY ROBERTSON

The family of Calvin Robertson announce his passing at the age of 94 at his residence on December 6, 2025.

Cal was born in Rainy River on August 1, 1931, to parents Wilfred and Annie Robertson (nee Gamsby). He was united in marriage to Noreen Rogers in 1952, and they had three children Susan, Dale and Don.

Left to mourn his passing is son Don (Sandra) Robertson of Fort Frances; sister Bev (Denis) Busch of Fort Frances; and sister-in-law Harriet Robertson of Victoria, B.C.

Cal also leaves behind granddaughter Karrie (Darren) LeCraw of London, Ontario; grandson Steve (Cheryl) Robertson of Sunderland, Ontario; granddaughter Laura (Travis) Lichti of Jarvis, Ontario. His great-grandchildren are Reid and Birch LeCraw, Ella Robertson, Tyson and Leah Lichti.

He was predeceased by his wife Noreen in 2024; also predeceased by parents Wilfred and Annie Robertson and brother Murray Robertson; son Dale in 1980 and daughter Susan in 2024.

Cal was well known throughout the northwest, as his policing career with the Ontario Provincial Police saw many transfers. Over the course of his distinguished 32-year career, he served at Kenora, Ear Falls, Sioux Lookout (twice), Dryden (twice), Atikokan (twice) and Emo (twice). He was the Detachment Commander at Atikokan, Sioux Lookout and Emo, an assignment that he was honoured to hold for more than fifteen years.

Cal had an active youth, participating in a variety of sports but he excelled at curling and



fastpitch softball. It has been said that his blistering line-drive home runs over the right field wall were quite something to be seen. He was on a fastpitch team that played against the legendary "King and his Court" travelling exhibition team. He said, as the opposing catcher, he was invited to catch a pitch or two from the great Eddie Feigner.

He curled on many successful teams, winning numerous bonspiels and club championships. In 1986 he was proud to be part of the victorious Northern Ontario Senior Curling Championship rink. Along with Jake Kehler, Walter Avis and Bruce Holmlund they went on to represent the North at the National Championship. He also skipped teams many times at the National Police Curling Championship. When his competitive days ended, he continued in the games he loved as an official. For many years he umpired softball throughout Northwestern Ontario and served as an official at local, regional and provincial curling championships. He and Noreen also travelled extensively just to

watch curling championship of all sorts including the Brier and World Championships.

His love of working in the community was not limited to sport. He was heavily involved with the Masonic Lodge, Shriners, Kiwanis Clubs and Laverendrye Hospital Auxiliary. For many years he could be found working at the Shrine Circus or the Kiwanis steak fry. He had a particular passion for Sunny Cove Camp and he was a fixture with the Kiwanis TV auction. He truly believed in volunteering in his community.

He also knew how to relax and he loved their cabin on Lake Of The Woods at Morson, travelling there almost every weekend from May to September from whichever town they lived. When the chores were finished, he was known to hop in the boat for a bit of fishing or just dive in the lake for a refreshing swim.

Cal held Life Memberships in The Police Association of Ontario, the Ontario Provincial Police Veteran's Association, The Canadian Police Curling Association and La Verendrye General Hospital Auxiliary.

A funeral will be held Saturday, December 20, at 11:00am at Northridge Funeral Home in Emo, Ontario. Interment will occur in Rainy River Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, as per the family's wishes, donations may be made to the Kenora/Rainy River Districts Alzheimer Society, The Riverside Health Care "Lights, Camera, DIAGNOSIS!" Campaign or to a charity of your choosing.

Arrangements entrusted to Northridge Funeral Home Ltd., Emo, Ontario.

CADEN CUNNINGHAM

It is with profound sadness that the family of Caden Cunningham announce his sudden passing on December 5, 2025, at the age of 21. Caden was born in Fort Frances on June 16, 2004.

He was predeceased by his father Reijo Tyrvaainen; Nana Connie Cunningham; Grandfather Leroy Cunningham; Great-Grampa and Gramma Daw and Great-Gramma and Gramma Cunningham.

Caden loved hockey, the Toronto Maple Leafs being his favourite team. He enjoyed playing hockey as well and was quite good at it. Caden won an award for top athlete in school and made the honour roll one year. Caden had a very giving soul and would jump to help anyone who needed it. Caden loved all his siblings and was the best big brother to his



younger sister and brother.

He will be greatly missed by his mother Amanda Cunningham; step-father Justin Drapeau; Gramma and Grandpa Tyrvaain-

en; Papa Jim Elias; uncle Robert (Kim) Daw; auntie Bonnie Daw; uncle Stuart Daw (Maria); numerous cousins, including special cousins Brooke and Amelia; and two nieces and one nephew; aunt Jasmyrn (Brock and family); brothers Jared (Tessa) Cunningham, Wesley Drapeau; sisters Violette Drapeau, J'Naya Cunningham (Vincent Shackleton); numerous aunts and uncles, Shirley, Bonny, Shelly, Darlene, Keith and Kenny from the Cunningham family.

A service was held on Saturday, December 13, 2025, from 1-3 p.m. at the Métis Hall in Fort Frances, Ontario.

Arrangements entrusted to Northridge Funeral Home Ltd., Emo, Ontario.



Remembering You


Sydney

Your Family Misses you so much!

Super Crossword

UNIVERSITY SUBSTITUTES

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 54 Baseball Hall of Famer Tony | 98 Unable to escape from a New York university? | 3 Wall builder, e.g. | 39 "La, — to follow so" | 87 Wishing to receive |
| 1 Small, sticky sheets | 56 Some Siouan people | 103 Routine | 4 Moist wipe | 40 Sternward | 89 Stale |
| 8 Sentimental souvenir | 58 Shakur of hip-hop | 105 Animals of a region | 5 "Son of," in Arabic names | 44 Dog in Oz | 91 Royal name of Norway |
| 16 Bit of aquatic flora | 62 LAX stats | 106 Pretenses | 6 Successor of Roosevelt | 45 X-rated stuff | 93 Sow or boar |
| 20 In hitting position, in baseball | 64 Little — ("Hairspray" girl) | 107 Houston university attended for four complete years? | 7 Malt brew | 46 Actress Mary — Hurt | 97 Figure skater Midori |
| 21 Haphazardly | 65 Certain till bill | 112 Tattoo fluid | 8 Kit — bar | 49 Like loafers | 99 Arles assent |
| 22 Ringing thing | 66 Title of a picture album featuring an educatee | 113 Make ecstatic | 9 Biblical verb ending | 53 Fix | 100 Wolf Blitzler's channel |
| 23 Providence university founded to educate Dracula? | 70 Paella veggie | 114 "Way cool!" | 10 Sooner than, in verse | 55 Peru's capital | 101 Chiang — -shek |
| 25 Not phony | 71 Singer Abdul | 115 Tazo drink | 11 — Man (arcade game) | 57 Went swiftly | 102 Rapa — (Easter Island) |
| 26 Auld lang — | 72 Org. offering preceder | 117 "Intolerance" star Lillian | 12 Hair nets | 59 Burst open, as corn | 104 No longer ill |
| 28 Stale | 73 Inadequate leader of a Durham university? | 120 TV imp | 13 Past puberty | 60 Lab gel | 105 Hat for Frank Sinatra |
| 29 Passover bread | 80 Easter meat | 121 Leave a New Haven university with no exit fee? | 14 Organizing expert Marie | 61 Very mean | 107 Muttonous sort |
| 30 Pixieish type | 83 Santa — (desert winds) | 122 Kin of -trix | 15 First-aid pro | 63 Eye carefully | 108 Former senator Lott |
| 32 Nicer than a Madison university? | 84 Tart garnish | 128 Able to do no wrong | 16 Chafe | 67 Lug | 109 Spiteful sort |
| 38 Actress Anderson | 85 Italian actress Sophia | 129 Swiveled | 17 Golf great called "The Merry Mex" | 68 In addition | 110 Home for a 93-Down |
| 41 Jeans, e.g. | 86 NFL coach Don or Mike | 130 Big name in private jets | 18 Like many a bored person's eyes | 69 Gobbles up | 111 Messy stacks |
| 42 Ridden horse | 88 Fort Knox bar | 131 Used a sieve on — deck | 19 Permit | 70 Cali currency | 116 Dismounted liberties |
| 43 Located on a Somerville university's campus? | 90 — deck (cruise ship part) | 132 Partner of Hutch | 24 Early car inits. | 71 Metric mass, in brief | 118 Search for |
| 46 Pooch or Yogi | 92 Cup edge | DOWN | 29 Subway system | 77 Give forth | 119 Lamarr of "Algiers" |
| 48 Encyclopedia unit: Abbr. | 94 Actress Lena | 1 Alehouses | 31 Winter woe | 78 Nixing mark | 121 Mil. enlistees |
| 50 Clueless | 95 Loud noise | 2 Nashville's Grand Ole — | 33 Mil. missions | 79 City in Oklahoma | 122 Mentalist Geller |
| 51 Cruise of firm | 96 Meqa melee | | 34 Fissure | 80 Hawaiian dancers' garments | 123 Khaki cousin |
| 52 Mine metals | | | 35 The Yoko of "Dear Yoko" | 81 Wonderland girl | 124 Certain till bill |
| | | | 36 "Beetle Bailey" dog | 82 Long, thick heads of hair | 125 Bouquets-to-order co. |
| | | | 37 Troop gr. | | 126 Mendes of "Hitch" |
| | | | 38 Plane flier | | |



VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE

Obituaries that have appeared in the paper may also be viewed online at www.fftimes.com

Raymond Calder

With heavy hearts and much sadness, the family of Ray Calder announce his passing on December 12, 2025, in Fort Frances, Ont. surrounded in love with family by his side. Dad was born in Fort Frances Ont. January 12, 1937, to Edward 'Wardy' and Margaret Calder. He married the love of his life, Valerie Anderson in June of 1956 and together they shared 68 years of love and four children, Pat, Kelly, Raymond and Susan. Dad was pre-deceased by his parents, Edward 'Wardy' and Margaret Calder, sister Delphine Bodnarchuk, nephew Barry Bodnarchuk; In-laws Rudy and Sarah Anderson, Wes (Sonny) Anderson and Selma Anderson, Muriel (Babe) Pearson, Sherry Pearson, nephew Rudy Anderson and his most loved grandson William Moody. Left to mourn are his children Pat (Ken) Cupp, Kelly Calder, Ray (Lisa) Calder and Susan (Mike) Carmody; grandchildren, Jason (Laura), Sarah, Ashley, Cody (Nadou), Jesse (Natalie), Amy (Ryan), Cara (Kyle) and Ray III, and great-grandchildren, Olivia (Holdyn), Jonas, Cooper, Amelia, Carter and Achilles, with numerous nieces and nephews and extended family. Life for Mom and Dad truly centred around Phair Avenue and Third Street East where extended families lived and life long friends were made. The home parties, the Calder Christmas tradition of visiting family homes by foot, singing all the way. They were part of many different sports together but dad loved to tell the story of when he was coach to mom's baseball team and when she didn't follow instructions, or yelled at the umpire, he had to bench her!

Our dad was truly a storyteller. His face would light up when he reminisced about the good ole days and growing up in different times; dog sledding with his dad, the outdoor hockey games and lack of equipment; the old songs and just the old ways in general. Sharing these stories, and passing on traditions, with his grandchildren always made him proud. But his favourite story was of watching a beautiful girl walk by his house everyday from school and how one day she stole her scarf and she chased him down for retrieval (he would say he slowed down for her) and that was when his happy ever after began. Her name was Valerie Anderson. Dad was a worker and held pride for every job he had; from the age of 14 at Herem Woodworking, bellhop and chef's assistant at the Rainy Lake Hotel, J.A. Mathieu Sawmill in both Couchiching and Sapaw; and of course, his fondest memories, were aboard the Hallet where life long friends were made while jumping from log to log and chatting over meals. He also spent a few months working in Marathon at Chapples store. When they returned to Fort Frances, Dad went to the Ontario Minnesota Pulp & Paper Mill where he was employed until retirement. After retirement, Dad drove school bus and loved to make the children smile getting on and off; he really enjoyed this adventure. A fond memory dad loved to share was when he was a guide on Rainy Lake and the stories of the groups he would take; fun days. He was a member of the Fort Frances Recreation Board, President of the local Centennial Community Club, and was a strong leader of the Papermaker's Union. He belonged to various clubs throughout the years but his favourite was Minor Hockey and his 14 years of coaching; many young men still stop to tell stories of life on the bench with Ray. The rink and out of town tournaments built lifelong friendships and made dad incredibly happy. In 1974 mom and dad won a bid on a Rainy Lake property lot and built their mansion on a hilltop of Crowrock Inlet with the guidance of his dad and mom. For 44 years there was an open door to this cabin. All were welcome. Hard work was a must, but it was all fun and whatever Mom and the kids wanted. Mom and Dad enjoyed hunting and fishing and stopping at the odd island to 'blue berry pick'. Dad's cabin day's most often started with coffee and solitaire and ended with whomever was there at the time. If he knew the lake was quiet and most were asleep, you'd hear him howling at the moon to wake up the peaceful night. Our dad loved working with his hands and was a true craftsman. After the cabin was sold you could find him in his garage making furniture and keepsakes for family. He also loved to cook, he was a natural and enjoyed searching magazines and books for new recipes. To say dad could make people laugh is an understatement and anyone was lucky to be on the receiving end of his charm and wit. If you knew Dad, you knew his teams were the Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Blue Jays and Minnesota Vikings; but over and over he said his favourite team were his grandchildren. He was so proud of this team. Family was always Dad's priority. His strength in caring for his family is a true treasure chest full of love, laughter, stories and adventures. Dad's last year was mostly spent in Rainycrest and there are no words to express the gratitude and care he felt from the staff. Again, he made friends and adopted new ears to tell his stories to and hearts to make laugh. We are truly grateful for the care given and hope each of you never feel less than appreciated in this most important role. Dad held his faith close to heart and loved to sing the hold hymns. They both especially loved their times seeing The Gaithers and other gospel performances live. It gives us comfort that he will be with Mom, and many others, laughing, reminiscing and dancing. Through the ups and downs of life, our dad left behind a wealth of memories and invaluable lessons, instilling a solid work ethic, compassion for others, the drive to overcome, and the importance of living life on one's own terms. He nurtured by example the love of nature, music, dance, personal integrity and the necessity for honour and humour in our everyday lives, guiding each of us to the people we are today and continue to become. His legacy will be present with us in every step we take ... a constant reminder of the love and wisdom he shared with us all. As per dad's request, there will be no service, but a private burial come a warm sunny day in the spring. In lieu of flowers or gifts; if you wish, please make donations to Fort Frances Community Chest and Rainycrest. Yes, it hurts to let you go, but what a privilege it was to be the ones to call you Mom and Dad, Papa and Gram; How blessed we were to be in your beauty, your laughter, your hearts. We will forever carry your strength to guide us and have peace knowing you're together again. So, for now, we say "see ya later Mom and Dad" Always and forever, we love and miss you both dearly. Arrangements entrusted to Northridge Funeral Home Ltd. Emo, Ontario.

Obituaries

JANICE ANN WIERSEMA (SELMAN)

It is with profound sadness that the family of Janice Ann Wiersema (nee Selman) announce her passing on December 12, 2025, days after her 81st birthday, at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre after a short battle with cancer.

Janice was born on December 4, 1944, in Blue Township, Ontario, on the family farm to Curtis and Ila Selman. Janice enjoyed life on the farm with her siblings and often spoke of time spent there with her cousins. She attended Blue #3 public school and Rainy River High School. In high school Janice met Cornelis (Corrie) Wiersema and they were united in marriage on February 16, 1963 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where they lived for three years before returning to the Rainy River District, where she lived until her passing.

She is survived by her husband Corrie; and their children Dean (Christine) Wiersema, Corinne (Brad) Webb, and Curtis (Janice) Wiersema; her grandchildren Kevin (Angela) Wiersema, Janine (Colin) Angus, Braden Webb (Autumn), Griffen Wiersema, and Claire Wiersema (Grant); and her great-granddaughters Hunter, Carter, and Wyatt; Also left to mourn are her brother Ernie (Diane) Selman; sisters Shirley Jenson and Linda Selman; and numerous nieces and nephews. Janice was predeceased by her infant daughter Kimberly



Ann; her parents Curtis and Ila Selman; in-laws Jan and Froujke Wiersema; and brother Donald Selman.

In 1967, Janice and Corrie started Corrie's Auto and Body Service (C.A.B.S.) in Rainy River. After selling the business in 1977, Janice went to work at CIBC in Rainy River until her retirement. During these years, Janice was an instrumental part of the successful businesses that she and Corrie started, including an auction service, CN van service, laundromat, and Camp of the Woods to name a few.

In their retired years, Janice and Corrie spent 23 winters in Palmetto, Florida, at the Coach House Mobile Home and RV Park, where they made many lifelong friends. They enjoyed several cruises and travelled across Canada and the U.S., visiting friends, family and discovering new places. A memorable trip was to Holland for a family

reunion and to see where Corrie's family was from.

Throughout her life Janice enjoyed gardening and sewing; she made each grandchild a personal quilt. Knitting sweaters, baby blankets and many, many pairs of slippers was her favourite way to pass the evenings. She also enjoyed camping and fishing.

Janice was a member and at one time president of the Kinettes club. Her family was most important to her and she loved spoiling her children & grandchildren with their favourite meals and treats.

Janice was a faithful member of the Emo Christian Reformed Church. She taught Sunday school and helped with catechism classes, and was a member of the building committee for their current church.

Per her wishes, cremation has taken place and there will be no funeral. A celebration of life will be held at a later date at her final resting place at the Blue cemetery.

The family would like to thank Dr. Karina Arnesen in Fort Frances, and the doctors and nursing staff on unit 2B at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, for the excellent care and compassion during her short illness.

The love of a family is life's greatest blessing.

Arrangements entrusted to Northridge Funeral Home Ltd., Emo, Ontario.

STANLEY VERNON CALDER

Stanley Vernon Calder passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the age of 78, surrounded by his family. He was born in Fort Frances, Ontario, on February 12, 1947, to Stanley (Beaver) and Lillian (nee Lucas) Calder.

Stan is survived by his wife Vicki, with whom he shared 50 years of marriage. He is also survived by his daughter Courtney (Brian) Stone; close family friend Holly Gosselin; granddaughters Brinley and Jayda Calder, Jocelyn (Mike) and Janelle Allen; his sisters Judy (Dennis) Deschamps and Janice (Steve) Miller; and his brother Troy (Jen) Calder. Additionally, he is survived by his sister-in-law Giselle Calder; sister-in-law Karen (Marshall) Chow; and brother-in-law Dale (Debbie) Lindsell; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Stan's greatest pride and joy were his four granddaughters: Brinley and Jayda Calder, and Jocelyn and Janelle Allen. He loved having the girls visit the farm for tractor and gator rides, spending time with the cows and donkeys, pushing them on the swings, and enjoying family wiener roasts, which were one of his favorites.

Stan was predeceased by his



son Aaron Calder; his brother Bryan Calder; his parents Stanley (Beaver) and Lillian Calder; and his in-laws Melvin and Thelma Lindsell.

Stan spent his working career as a yard labourer at the mill until his retirement. In his free time, he enjoyed camping at Lake of the Woods, specifically at Morson Provincial Park in the Aspen Campground. This typically involved hanging his hammock—usually a challenging first attempt—by the water, swimming with Aaron and Courtney on large inner tubes, and biking. During the summers, Dad dedicated much of his time to helping the kids train and care for their 4-H steers

and heifers, which made the weekends at the Emo Agricultural Fair busy but enjoyable. He was also a regular spectator at the Emo Speedway, where he loved watching his youngest brother, Troy, race his modified cars.

Stan thrived at home on the farm, surrounded by his animals—dogs, cats, horses, donkeys, and his cherished cows, whom he proudly called "the girls." His passion for the farm was clear in the meticulous upkeep of his yard, where he dedicated countless hours to riding lawnmowers and using a weed-eater. He took great pride in his stunning flowers and thriving gardens, especially sharing his numerous pumpkins. The peak of his day was spent on the tractors, making the most of haying season.

Stan will be greatly missed by many and lovingly remembered as a beloved family man, neighbour and friend, who was "out-STAN-ding" in his field.

At Stanley's request a celebration of life will be held in warmer weather without rain in the forecast!

Arrangements entrusted to Northridge Funeral Home Ltd., Emo, Ontario.

BETTY ANN (CROWE) MAINVILLE

Manidoo Gekek Kwe



With love and regret, we announce the passing of Betty Ann, born on November 22, 1955, in Fort Frances, Ontario. Betty Ann passed away peacefully in the early hours of December 14, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of strength, and devotion.

Betty Ann was a proud East-Ender, with a spirited energy and a love for the outdoors. She spent much of her childhood on the outdoor rinks and with her grandparents, Peter and Margaret (Sinclair) Calder, in the north arm of Rainy Lake, working at camps and spending time with Topsy, the pony. These early years shaped her love for the land, water, and family traditions that would remain central to her life.

Betty Ann was united in marriage to Nichol Mainville on May 5, 1978. Together they welcomed children and grandchildren, building a beautiful life. In the summers and winters, Betty and Nick spent countless hours on the lake, creating memories with family and friends. Nick's passing in February 2007 left a lasting void, but Betty continued to honour his memory and the love they shared through the years.

As a mother, Betty Ann raised her children with joy surrounding them with cousins, aunts, and uncles. She instilled in them a strong sense of family, tradition, and love, and her lessons will live on in them for

generations to come. Her greatest joy in life was becoming a grandmother, and she embraced the role with the same commitment and devotion that defined her entire life. Betty Ann adored her grandchildren, and they, in turn, adored her—cherishing every moment they spent together.

Betty held various jobs throughout her life. She opened her home for babysitting and always remembered the children she cared for fondly. She worked at the Gas Bar and formed many lasting friendships with her employers and coworkers. Later in life she became a home care worker and cared for elderly folks while helping them with light duties around their homes.

She is survived by her children Angela, Jessica (AJ Strey), and Perry Lougheed; grandchildren Emma, Anna, Clara,

Cecilia, Natalie, and Olivia; her brothers Ray, Fred (Lori), Tom (Ruth), Darrell, and Bob (Tammy); her brothers-in-law Elmer and Tony Mainville; and her sisters-in-law Anita (Norman) Copenace, Gloria Manitowabi, and Donna Mainville. Betty leaves behind many nieces and nephews, cousins, and her Aunt Nancy.

She is predeceased by her beloved husband Nick Sr. and cherished son Nick Jr.; by her parents Wallace and Marvel (Minnie) Crowe; her sister Donna (Sass) and Donna's husband Wayne Lee; her sister-in-law Wendy (Cawston) Crowe; parents-in-law Elmer and Bessie Mainville; her sister-in-law Teresa Mainville; and her brothers-in-law Maurice and Ritchie Mainville.

Betty's pallbearers will be nephews Greg and Braeden Beazley, Justin and Alex Booth, Frankie Redford, and James Mainville.

A private interment will take place at the Couchiching First Nation Cemetery. A celebration with catered food and refreshments will take place at the Couchiching First Nation Recreation Centre at 2:00 p.m. on December 18, 2025. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Arrangements entrusted to Northridge Funeral Home Ltd., Emo, Ontario.

NICOLE-MARIE BOS



Nicole-Marie Bos, age 31, passed away on December 5, 2025, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Born on July 5, 1994, also in Winnipeg, Nicole-Marie spent most of her life in the city she called home.

Nicole-Marie was a vibrant and spirited individual whose presence brought joy and laughter to those around her. Known to many as "Nick," she brought a unique spirit and presence to those around her. She had a deep love for animals and was known for her kind heart and non-judgmental nature. Her energy was infectious – funny, carefree, and easy going, she had a way of making every moment feel lighter and more joyful.

She found joy in the simple pleasures of life: immersing herself in video games, getting lost in books, listening to all

kinds of music, drawing with creativity and passion, spending time with friends, and watching her favourite TV shows and movies. These hobbies were not just pastimes but expressions of her unique personality and zest for life.

Nicole-Marie's memory will

be cherished by her mother Crystal Howe; her sisters Robin Hawk Fontaine and Ahleeka Hawk; her brother Jeremiah Howe; and her childhood friend Danielle Tychnski. She was predeceased by her father Brian Bos; her uncle Clifford Bos; and her brother Ethan Hawk Fontaine.

Though gone too soon, Nicole-Marie leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter. She will be forever missed and live on in the hearts of her family and friends. May her memory bring comfort to all who knew her.

A Wake was held on December 15, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at Big Grassy Community Hall with a Funeral Service on December 16, 2025, at Big Grassy Community Hall.

Arrangements entrusted to Northridge Funeral Home Ltd., Emo, Ontario.

Snow and frigid temps last this weekend

The region is currently under a Yellow Watch for a Winter Storm by Environment Canada. A brief period of snow or ice pellets will develop late this afternoon into this evening. Snow is expected to develop Thursday morning. Strong northerly winds gusting to 70 km/h are expected to develop late Thursday morning into Thursday afternoon as temperatures fall. As a result, blowing snow giving poor visibility is also likely. Conditions are expected to improve Thursday evening. Tonight will see snow or rain

with a low of -2 C (28 F). Tomorrow will continue to see snow or rain during the day before becoming partly cloudy with a chance of snow overnight and a high of 1 (34) with a low of -27 (-17). Friday will bring a mix of sun and cloud with a chance of snow during the day before becoming cloudy with a chance of snow overnight and a high of -14 (7) and a low of -21 (-6). The record high for today is 4 (39) set in 1923 and the record low is -37 (-35) set in 1983. Sunset today is at 4:19 p.m. and sunrise tomorrow is at 8:02 a.m.

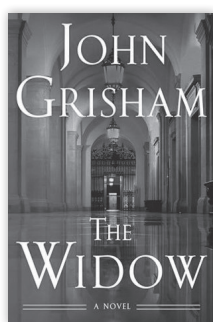
during the day with partly cloudy skies and a chance of flurries overnight and a high of -12 (10) with a low of -25 (-13) and Sunday will continue to see a mix of sun and cloud with a chance of flurries during the day with partly cloudy skies and a chance of snow overnight with a high of -14 (7) and a low of -21 (-6). The record high for today is 4 (39) set in 1923 and the record low is -37 (-35) set in 1983. Sunset today is at 4:19 p.m. and sunrise tomorrow is at 8:02 a.m.

New York Times BESTSELLERS

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

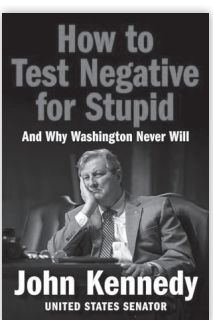
FICTION

1. The Widow— John Grisham
2. The Secret Of Secrets— Dan Brown
3. Brimstone — Callie Hart
4. The Correspondent — Virginia Evans
5. Alchemised — SenLinYu
6. Return Of The Spider — James Patterson
7. Mona's Eyes— Thomas Schlessler
8. Nash Falls — David Baldacci
9. Exit Strategy— Lee Child and Andrew Child
10. The Intruder — Freida McFadden



NON-FICTION

1. How to Test Negative For Stupid— John Kennedy
2. 1929— Andrew Ross Sorkin
3. The Look — Michelle Obama with Meredith Koop
4. Heart Life Music — Kenny Chesney with Holly Gleason
5. Nobody's Girl— Virginia Roberts Giuffre
6. The American Revolution — Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns
7. The Gales Of November— John U. Bacon
8. Poems & Prayers— Matthew McConaughey
9. 107 Days — Kamala Harris
10. The Anxious Generation— Jonathan Haidt



HOROSCOPES

Aries March 21/April 20

Aries, you have been looking for some new ways to make some extra money, and now might be the time to start putting your plan in motion. Good fortune awaits.

Taurus April 21/May 21

Passion is on your mind this week, Taurus. Get together with a spouse or romantic partner and enjoy an evening with just the two of you. Embrace this chance to let the sparks fly.

Gemini May 22/June 21

A gift would be a wonderful surprise for a loved one or friend this week, Gemini. Perhaps there is something that this person has had an eye on for some time now?

Cancer June 22/July 22

A group activity may bring new information and people into your life, Cancer. You might meet people from different backgrounds. Keep your eyes and ears open.

Leo July 23/August 23

Leo, you might be interested in expanding your horizons. You could think about attending a lecture or seeing a documentary on a particular subject. The education will enlighten.

Virgo Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, a long-awaited phone call or text from a person who has been out of touch for some time could come through this week. This may reopen the lines of communication between you both.

Libra Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, if finances have been on your mind, now is a good time to read the financial pages or study the stock reports. You also may want to sit down with a financial planner.

Scorpio Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, keep communication with business partners warm, open and honest. This will help you see your ideas come to fruition. It's always easier to catch flies with honey than vinegar.

Sagittarius Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, your tasks should go smoothly and quickly this week, particularly any paperwork you may have. Others are willing to help out if you need it.

Capricorn Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, newfound communication heightens the relationship you have with a romantic partner this week. Feelings and memories are shared willingly, and you may learn something new.

Aquarius Jan 21/Feb 18

A number of interesting visitors may come to your home this week, Aquarius. At least one may present some fascinating facts on a subject that is new to you. Enjoy the interaction.

Pisces Feb 19/March 20

Pisces, expect some interesting new neighbors to move in shortly. A friend will likely introduce you to these people, and a relationship could bloom.

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

12/17

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

Yesterday's solution

Difficulty: ★★ 12/16

Keep the Christmas Season Safe & Merry: Part 2 of 2



SAFETY TIDBITS

TYLER J. MOFFITT



DID YOU KNOW?

December is a high-risk month for home fires, largely because of seasonal activities. While the Christmas season is meant to be safe and merry, fire remains a dangerous, unpredictable threat that can instantly ruin happy occasions. The most effective way to ensure a truly safe and happy season is to acknowledge these risks and actively commit to essential fire prevention precautions.

Furthermore, during the Christmas Season, the pressure of activities like socializing with friends or finishing up shopping can lead many parents and caregivers to briefly leave young children without supervision. At the same time, decorations, trees, lit-candles, and wrapping paper etc. bring an increased threat of fire danger unless constant care is exercised. Parents and caregivers must recognize the FIRE DANGER of the season, and remember to never leave small children alone in the home even for a moment.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN—CREATE A SAFETY ZONE

• Designate a "KIDS-FREE-ZONE" based on the 3-5 RULE: Children must stay at least 3 to 5 feet away from anything HOT, including the STOVE, OVEN, MICROWAVE, TOASTER, KETTLE ELECTRIC GRILL, etc.

• Use the stove's back heating elements whenever possible.

• TURN POT/PAN HANDLES INWARD, towards the back of the stovetop to reduce the risk of pot/pan handles being knocked over, as well as to ensure little ones can't grab a pot/pan off the stovetop.

COOKING SAFETY—LOOK WHILE YOU COOK

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

to the stovetop.

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

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

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

• Remember, to prevent cooking fires, you must be ALERT; avoid cooking if you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, drugs, or medicine that makes you drowsy!

COOKING FIRES

• Keep a proper fitted LID near the stove when cooking.

• If a pot/pan catches fire, SLIDE the lid OVER the pot/pan.

• TURN OFF the stove.

• DO NOT move the pot/pan until it is fully cooled.

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANING—TWO WAYS OUT

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

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

HEATING SOURCES—GIVE THEM SPACE

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

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

MATCHES & LIGHTERS—KEEP THEM OUT OF SIGHT & REACH

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

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

• Keep all fire-starting materials out of sight and reach of children; store them in a high

cabinet, preferably a locked one.

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

SMOKING SAFETY—ALWAYS SMOKE OUTSIDE

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

• Encourage all smokers to smoke outside.

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

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

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

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

LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES—MONITOR WHEN CHARGING

• Always use the cables and charger that came with the product to charge, and follow the instructions from the manufacturer.

• Only buy new cables and chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved and is compatible with your device.

• Charge your device on a hard surface; don't overcharge your device.

• Unplug it or remove the battery from the battery-charger when it's fully charged.

• Get to know how long your devices take to charge, such as a lithium-ion battery for a cordless drill; set a timer to remind you to check on the device you are charging.

ONE LAST TIDBIT—WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

• Make the Christmas season safe and happy with WORKING SMOKE ALARMS.

• Ensure you have WORKING SMOKE ALARMS installed on every level of your home and outside all sleeping areas; for added safety, install WORKING SMOKE ALARMS in every bedroom.

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

Wishing everyone a SAFE and MERRY Christmas Season!

Fulfilling Our Commitment



Riverside Foundation
for Health Care

The Riverside Foundation for Health Care

was pleased to provide Riverside Health Care Facilities

with a check for **\$286,289.30**

to complete their 2024/2025 commitment to purchase equipment for each of the facilities.

Emo Health Centre:

\$14,995.00 Stryker Hospital Bed & Isoflex Mattress Bundle
\$915.99 Transport Wheelchair

LaVerendrye General Hospital:

\$10,933.20 Paediatric Crib for Inpatient Unit
\$6,847.93 Sare Flex Active Sit-to Stand Lift for Inpatient Unit
\$3,181.89 Welch Allyn Connex Vital Signs Machine
\$10,061.64 Symphony Plus Ice & Water Dispenser for Inpatient Unit
\$77,679.92 Xhibit Central Stations & Telemetry Monitors for ICU
\$10,739.20 Novum IQ IV Pumps for Emergency
\$32,217.60 Novum IQ IV Pumps for Emergency
\$21,478.40 Novum IQ IV Pumps for Obstetrics
\$16,108.80 Novum IQ IV Pumps for Emergency
\$12,260.02 Iversen Recliner Treatment Chair for Chemotherapy

Rainy River Health Centre:

\$1,663.96 Disinfectant System for Tub Room
\$25,472.50 Hematology POCT CBC Analyzer

Rainycrest Long-Term Care:

\$5,261.38 Resident Room Dressers x 10
\$4,134.79 Resident Room Nightstands x 10
\$4,131.61 Metro Heated Proofing Cabinet for Food Services
\$12,754.47 36E Series Heavy Duty Deep Fryer for Food Services

Corporate:

\$15,451.00 Central Monitoring Temperature Control System

The Foundation continues to look to the future supporting health care across the Rainy River District.

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Ontario 

McTavish Trails offers wonderland of wintry lights for district families

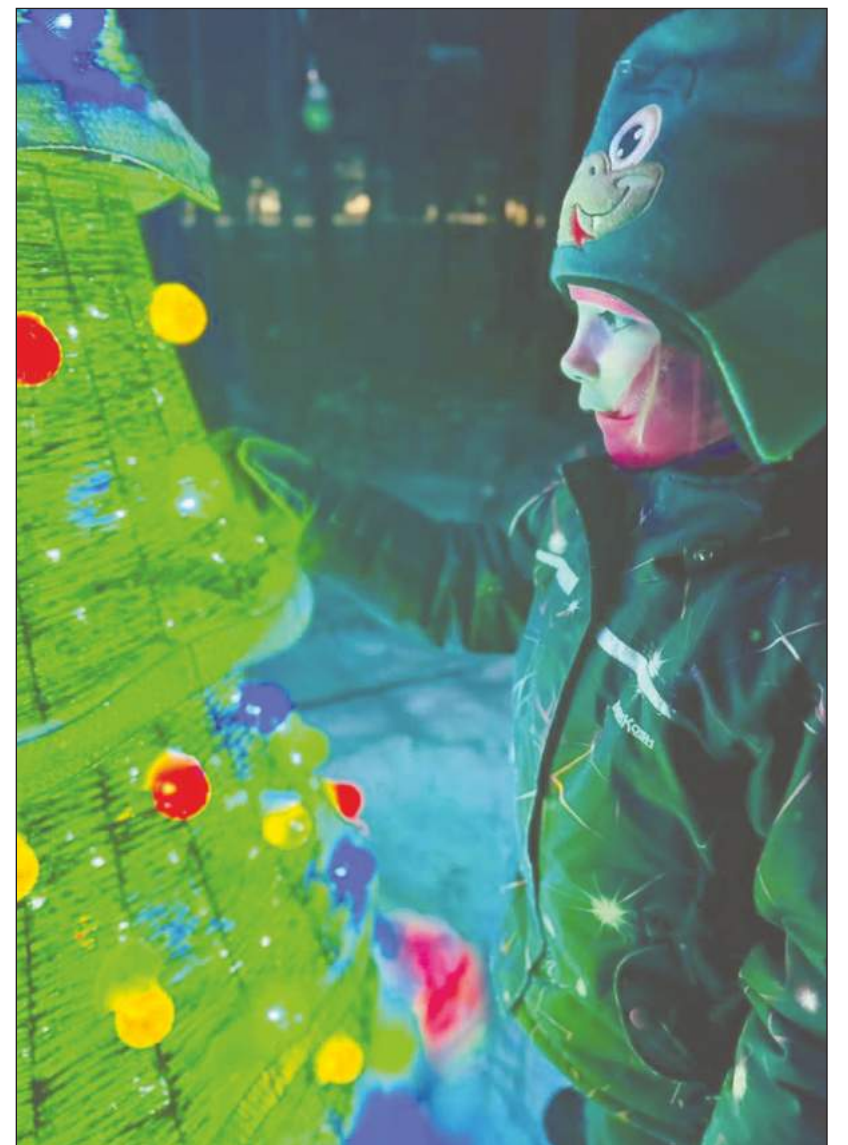


Weechi-it-te-win Family Services (WFS), in conjunction with Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre and Giishkaandago'ikwe held the fifth annual McTavish Winter Wonderland Trail of Lights last week on December 9 and 10. The annual event invited families from across the district to head to LaVallee Township to take in a veritable wonderland of beautiful Christmas lights, fun inflatable and seasonal props in order to spend time together enjoying the spirit of the holidays together. The event brought roughly 2,000 people across the two nights. The enchanting winter celebration transformed the Family Healing Program location on McTavish Road into a dazzling holiday destination. Dedicated staff and volunteers spent weeks creating the magical experience, carefully stringing hundreds of meters of twinkling Christmas lights along a winding woodland path. Staff kept everyone warm and merry with complimentary hot dogs, hearty soup and steaming hot chocolate.

"Our team, along with the dedicated staff from our partnering tribal health agencies, worked together to capture the holiday spirit for children and their families," said WFS Executive Director Dean Wilson.

"These special moments, become cherished memories, and we're honoured to play a part in spreading holiday joy throughout the communities."

— Allan Bradbury, Submitted photos





UNWRAP YOUR BOXING WEEK DEAL
Pick a gift.
Reveal your savings.
Up to 25% off
your furniture or mattress purchase.
*excludes clearance items



BOXING WEEK SALE CONTINUES

Holiday Hours;
December 24th: 9AM-1PM
December 25th - 28th: CLOSED
December 31st: 9AM-1PM
January 1st: CLOSED

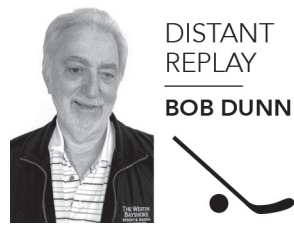


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Tales of trophies and trades



DISTANT REPLAY
BOB DUNN

The deal that made superstar defencemen Quinn Hughes a member of the Minnesota Wild last week sent hockey historians — well, one of them anyway — scurrying to see how many other Norris Trophy winners have been traded.

The answer is surprising. Just 33 players have won the Norris, as the National Hockey League's best defenceman — 25 retired and 8 active. Of the 25 retired trophy winners, only three of them were never traded at some point in their careers; four if you count Bobby Orr, who went from Boston to Chicago as a "free agent" before there were free agents. The other 22 were all traded at some point in their careers.

The three who weren't traded could be answers to a trivia question: Jacques Laperriere, Denis Potvin and Nicklas Lidstrom. Meanwhile, seven-time winner Doug Harvey was traded three times. Ray Bourque, who won five Norris Trophies with Boston, finished his career in Colorado. Paul Coffey, the best defenceman Edmonton has ever had and a three-time winner, was traded eight times.

The eight Norris Trophy winners still playing can, of course, still be traded. Three have been: Hughes, Erik Karlsson and Brent Burns. The 26-year-old Hughes was more than Vancouver's best defenceman, until last week. He was their generational player, their best in the 55 seasons they've been around.

In today's vernacular, players are being able to "walk the line" — dancing along the opposition's blueline as if the puck was his toy only. Hughes didn't walk the line, he ran it. For those who remember

the defenceman who changed hockey by re-setting the pace, Hughes was the Canucks' Bobby Orr. And now that he has been traded, for a package that's the equivalent of four first-round draft choices, he joins the other Norris footnotes — award winners whose silverware wasn't enough to keep them with one team.

Only three players in the Canucks history spent their entire careers in Vancouver: the Sedin twins and Stan Smyl. Given his talent level, it was widely anticipated that Hughes would be number four.

In NHL history, 131 players who played 10 seasons or more did it with one team. Depending on whether longevity is measured in seasons or games, the all-time leader is either Detroit's Alex Delvecchio (24 seasons) or Detroit's Nicklas Lidstrom (1,564 games). They're two members of the exclusive club of 12 players who played two decades or more with only one team, from Montreal's Jean Beliveau to Patrick Elias of New Jersey.

The big bucks and the evolution of free agency limits opportunities for players to have one-team careers. Not surprisingly the teams with the most players who never moved for at least 10 seasons are all the Original Six — Montreal, Boston, Detroit, New York, Chicago and Toronto, in that order.

However, there may be a changing of the guard on the horizon.

Alex Ovechkin, Anze Kopitar and Sidney Crosby are fourth, sixth and eighth in the games played exclusively with one team. In seasons, Ovechkin and Crosby are playing their 21st seasons with Washington and Pittsburgh, respectively, one more than Kopitar in Los Angeles.

However, even though they are superstars, the loyalty that comes with playing for one team can change quickly.

Just ask Quinn Hughes.

Brush and tree removal will make municipality safer: Greenstone fire chief

By Matt Prokopchuk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
TNewsWatch.com

GREENSTONE — Greenstone residents may notice some landscaping work in the community over the next couple of months.

The municipality has received \$150,000 through provincial FireSmart grant funding to reduce the number of trees and the amount of other vegetation in several of its component communities. That's according to Adam Lopatka, Greenstone's fire chief and director of fire services.

The goal, he said, is not to create full fire breaks where all trees and plants in a given area are removed, rather to thin out vegetation in parts of Jellicoe, Caramat and Geraldton.

"The whole idea is to create what we're calling reduced fuel areas and defensible space," he said. "What that means is that any fire that might come up to that point, or maybe even originate in the area, it's not going to have as much ready fuel in order to grow and take off."

A contractor has been awarded the work, Lopatka said, and is set to start imminently. The work has to be completed by the end of March, 2026, he added.

He said the goal is to reduce the density of the vegetation in the targeted areas, as well as the number of really tall trees. The work will focus on larger specimens, he said, adding that "we're not cutting grass."

"There's a lot of coniferous trees," Lopatka said. "If you look through the FireSmart principles, that's what you need to be targeting."

"Fire really likes to take off and then it can jump through the tops of trees — the pine needles and stuff like that can catch fire and float and become embers and start spot fires elsewhere."

When applying for the funding, the municipality received a welcome surprise, Lopatka said, as they initially were to receive \$40,000 but due to a relatively low number of submissions to the funding stream, there was more money available for Greenstone's successful application.

The work will be done on municipally-owned property and is designed to maintain the existing natural aesthetic. "Most project areas follow existing roads and trails," says a notice on Greenstone's website. "Locations were selected to balance public safety

benefits with the preservation of the area's natural character."

"Smaller material will decompose naturally on site; some larger tree sections may remain."

"We're not just completely making areas uninhabitable for wildlife or anything like that," Lopatka added. "The point is to reduce the amount of brush and vegetation that's in some key areas."

There is ongoing community wildfire planning taking place for Beardmore and Nakina, Lopatka said, which is a separate slate of work from this project.

"We didn't want to really jump the gun too much on (those communities)," he said. "Because we're kind of reevaluating what would best suit those communities, we tried to spread this around everywhere else for now."



A Moment of Record

TAKEN FROM THE PAGES OF THE RAINY RIVER RECORD DECEMBER 18, 1969

Rainy River High News

REPORTERS -
**Valerie Marchuk,
Donna Marquardt,
Dennis Olinyk
and Joanna Romyn**

HOCKEY

On Friday, Dec. 9, the R.R.H.S. hockey team travelled to Dryden to compete in the NORWASSA tournament.

The Owls played their first game at 12:30 p.m., Saturday against Kenora Beaver Brae. Kenora squeezed past the Owls by a 3-2 score. Goal scorers for the Owls were Dennis Olinyk and Jim Mosley. At 4 p.m., the Owls played against the powerful Fort Frances Muskies. The Muskies fought hard to edge the Owls 5-3. Gary Hagarty, Ed Berard and Eric Mosley scored for the Owls. The Muskies scored four of their five goals while Rainy was a man short. Rob Johnson played extremely well in goal in both games.

The Owls out-checked and outskated the opposition in both contests. With more practice the boys could improve tremendously.

This Friday night the Owls will host Indus in their first home game. All fans are urged to support the team and watch some good hockey.

BASKETBALL

The RR.HS basketball teams competed in an eight-team tournament hosted by Dryden. The Seniors faced Fort Frances in the first game and were soundly thumped 39-4. However, Fort Frances scored only half as many points against the seniors as they did two weeks ago. In the second game, Saturday morning, Red Lake had to wait until the fourth quarter to get a substantial lead and Rainy River went down to defeat 34-21. Until the fourth quarter, Rainy River trailed by just 2 points. Saturday afternoon the seniors were down by one point, 11-10, against Sioux Lookout at the end of the third quarter. At the end of the game Rainy was on the short end of a 23-12 score.

The girls played a tough defensive series with Captain Joanne Romyn and Martha Heyens playing excellent defense. Offensively, co-captain Joanne Abma hit for 23 points, with Donna Marquardt, Gloria Nordberg, Jean Daley, Veronica Tesarsky and Joanne Romyn

scoring 14 points.

The future looks bright since R.R.H.S. has had only six weeks of basketball and the opposition teams have had at least 4 years.

The next tournament is on Feb. 6 in Fort Frances.

The Junior girls' basketball team has greatly improved since November and their coach is confident of a win in the next tournament.

All members of the team have learned a great deal in the practices and games so far, giving the team a strong starting five and good bench strength. In the recent tournament in Dryden, the girls were badly beaten by Fort Frances. The girls, far from being discouraged, came on strong in the latter stages of the game. The same evening, the girls played their best game to date, staying within 2 points of the lead until the last four minutes of the game. They finally bowed out to Sioux Lookout 23-16. Against Dryden, they played an excellent defensive game, controlling the play for half the game and limiting the powerful Dryden team to 33 points. All the girls played aggressive, heads up basketball and the other coaches were impressed by our girls competitiveness and good sportsmanship.

Extremely impressive in the tournament were Valerie Hanon, who scored 21 points and gathered many rebounds, Betty Nielson, who acted as a playmaker, and Anna Cunningham who was a defensive standout.

WRESTLING

While the hockey and basketball teams played in Dryden, the wrestling team hosted the strong Roseau wrestling team. Our boys wrestled extremely well, but lost by a close 31-32 score.

Results - 90 lb., Bill Michl, lost 3-0 decision; 98 lb., Lynn Kregger 2-0 draw; 106 lb., Robin McQuaker, lost to a pin; 115 lb., Jim Malowany, won a pin; 123 lb., Trevor Blight, won a pin; 130 lb., Allen Johnson, lost a 3-0 decision; 136 lb., Paul Gerula, lost to a pin; 141-lb., Chuck Arpin, won a 3-0 decision; 148 lb., Joe Rodrigues, won a point; 157 lb., Terry Selman, lost a 3-0 decision; 168 lb., Allan Joliquier, lost to a pin; 178 lb., John Carroll, lost to a pin; h.w., Jim Major, lost to a 3-0 decision.

Federal Pension age drops to 65 in 1970

OTTAWA - The eligible age for the Canada Pension Plan retirement pension and the Old Age Security pension will drop to 65 in January 1, 1970, completing the age-reduction program, started five years ago, when the eligible age was 70.

Announcement of the reduction was made December 3 by Hon. John Munro, Minister of National Health and Welfare.

The age reduction, it was estimated, will add 250,000 to the number of people eligible to receive the Old Age Security pension in 1970. It is also expected, because of the age reduction and other factors, some 90,000 people will likely apply next year for retirement pensions under the Canada Pension Plan. At the end of October, more than 84,000 were receiving CPP re-

irement pensions.

To receive a Canada Pension Plan retirement pension, a person must have contributed to the plan, must have a Social Insurance number and must apply for the pension. If he is between the ages of 65 and 70, he must also be retired from regular employment.

At age 70, however, he can apply for his retirement pension whether or not he is retired.

Free Xmas Show here Saturday

There's an open invitation to all youngsters in the district to attend the annual Christmas show in Rainy River on Saturday, December 20. Following the pattern of last year's program, there are two shows scheduled, the first at 10:00 a.m., and the second at 2:30 p.m. This is necessary to accommodate the large number of youngsters who take advantage of this offer. Last year over five hundred attended the two shows.

Santa has been invited to spend the day in town, and he will be at the Gaiety Theatre at the conclusion of each show to present each child with a bag of candy.

Local parents should make an effort to have their children attend the morning show. This will accommodate the rural children, who may not be able to be in town during the morning.

Your weekly Fort Frances Times

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Have a Very Merry Smithmas: Kevin Smith and the Lives He Reflected Back to Us

By Robert Animikii Horton
Northern Reflections

Being an Xennial, growing up as a 90's, and raised in the suburban northwest metro of Minneapolis made for a unique experience.

Life was suddenly electric with all things new. All things experimental, fresh, and dynamic. Be it art, music, media, culture, or new ways to spend time, the loud arrival of so many choices was just incredible as it was overwhelming. At the same time, here was a sense of bewilderment in our bearings because there was rarely a map to navigate our way through the world as we stumbled towards adulthood.

The lives of my best friends and I were defined by movie theatres, video rental stores, comic books, X-Men trading cards, biting and witty sarcasm, sketch comedy, "borrowed" video cameras with which we made our own short films, all-night lock-ins at Cheap skate's rollerblade rinks, pop culture references, movie quotes, and conversations until 4:00am about Batman's rogues gallery.

At that defining moment, filmmaker Kevin Smith arrived quietly on the scene. Raised in suburban New Jersey, he felt like as much as a conduit of laughter as a reflecting surface who understood us, who "got" the dry humour our micro-generation sustained to ward off cynicism, and our way of looking at life.

Immediately, we saw ourselves. Our dialogues, our diatribes, and our lives were represented in film - which was rare. Generation X had their film manifests. Millennials would too. With a thumb on the pulse of the times, Smith captured us and earned our respect and dedication.

When Smith's first movie - Clerks - arrived on the shelves (yes, the VHS version), I was working part-time at a convenience store next door to a video rental store (Top Tan Video) just as Dante worked the counter at Quick Stop and Randal scratched the raw nerves of customers at RST Video next door.

Maybe it was the black and white CCTV footage-feel. Maybe it was the random arrival of characters recognizably comparable to many folks we knew. It didn't feel like a movie. They talked like us, wrestled with the life mases as us, and had the same tongue-in-cheek debates that we argued about in-between high school classes and across entire weekends.

It felt like someone had used their gift, taken the time to notice us, and represented us on film. The in-between people. In between the Generation X and Millennials. In between analog childhoods and digital adulthood. The ones killing time, arguing about nothing, dreaming quietly, and finding dignity in the mundane. The ones stuck behind counters and registers and stuck within routines during our teenage years. The ones who were unable to find heroes where everyone else seemed to - we instead found them in pop culture, comic book ink, and cinema reels. Suddenly, our lives too felt cinematic. What we thought and how we felt (and how we expressed it) mattered.

Clerks (1994) was just the beginning. Smith followed suit with Mallrats (1995), Chasing Amy (1997), and Dogma (1999). This core four-fecta will be remembered as the event horizon that spoke to many of us. They weren't just comedies, but rather conversations about identity, faith, love, and the slow realization that growing up rarely comes with a map. As a gifted storyteller, he showed that a director with small town roots could be hilarious without being cruel, human without being ordinary, sentimental without apology, profane without being empty, creative without being sanded down or polished, and being poetic without didactic.

Looking back, Clerks 2 resonates beautifully and hits the heart in a totally different way after living a little in our world.

If you're looking for some smiles and laughter over the holiday season, revisit (or discover for the first time) Clerks,

Mallrats, Chasing Amy, Dogma, and Clerks 2. Clerks still crackles like embers. Dogma remains one of the most thoughtful religious satires put to film. His film Jersey Girl (with the late George Carlin) still packs a heartfelt punch. Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back is like visiting a crew of old friends if viewed after the legendary four-fecta. His later projects like Zack and Miri, Red State, and the most recent Clerks each retain a familiar charm while reaching outside the box.

Side-splitting hilarious? Always.

Profane? At times, but never without purpose. Always counterbalanced with message and sincerity. But buckle-up and try to not sip a beverage too often during dialogue.

The same can be said about his Smodcast podcast network, spoken-word storytelling (his jury duty story from Sold Out: A Threeevening with Kevin Smith still nearly puts me into a coma from laughter), and his contribution to streaming pop culture.

Ground-shifting directors are rarely recognized in their day as history seems to have a long delay, especially in the arts. The full substance (and realization of one's influence and contributions) seem to become visible years later. He is brilliant in our day and when generations look back, he will rise far beyond legendary.

Perhaps Smith's most lasting and lingering influence is his gift of collapsing the chasm between story and audience.

As for those of us who recognize ourselves in the Quick Stop or Nowthen convenience stores, in the Northtown or Eden Prairie mall food courts debating comics - in the characters who wonder, wait, dream, and love deeply but quietly - Kevin Smith didn't just impact an era. Helped define us.

History will demonstrate this inarguable truth.

- Robert Horton is an educator, author, orator, and linguist. He is a member of Rainy River First Nations.

Young people will speak up in court after leaders stayed silent about Ontario development bill

By Sonal Gupta
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
Canada's National Observer

Ramon Kataquapit says it was the silence from his First Nation leaders after Ontario introduced legislation to fast-track land development, that ultimately rallied other young people in his community to take charge of their future.

From Attawapiskat First Nation, Kataquapit, 23, said others in Treaty 9 also felt frustrated and excluded from decisions impacting them after the province introduced Bill 5. And "that caused a lot of the youth all at the same time almost to spark into action," he said.

This week, Kataquapit is taking their fight into court.

In a motion filed Monday, he and Michel Koostachin, who is also a member of Attawapiskat First Nation, seek to intervene in an existing lawsuit launched by nine First Nations shortly after Bill 5 passed.

While nine First Nations are already challenging the legislation on the grounds it violates treaty rights and removes environmental protections across Treaty 9, Koostachin said the case must also include the lived experiences of grassroots people: youth, elders, knowledge keepers and community members who are most vulnerable to the changes Ontario is trying to introduce.

Treaty 9 covers much of northern Ontario, stretching from the boreal forests along the Hudson and James Bay coasts to the mineral-rich interior known as the Ring of Fire.

Kataquapit and Koostachin are asking to participate as friends of the court, where they could share legal arguments but wouldn't be allowed to bring new evidence. The motion states they plan to address three key points: how reconciliation connects with Indigenous legal traditions and treaty obligations, how international standards, such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, should shape provincial decisions and whether Bill 5 creates discriminatory effects by exposing some communities to greater environmental harm.

Koostachin describes a long and growing disconnect between elected chief-and-council struc-

tures and the community members who continue to live by what he calls Indigenous natural law - a system of responsibilities and teachings that predates the Indian Act. He said elected leadership "follow the Indian Act," which changes every election cycle, while community members must live with the long-term consequences of industrial development.

He said the legal fight cannot be understood without acknowledging those who rely on river systems, peatlands and wildlife for food, ceremony and teachings. The vast northern peatlands - waterlogged and mossy wetlands that store enormous amounts of carbon - stretch across the Hudson and James Bay lowlands, forming one of the largest intact ecosystems of their kind on Earth. "We're the ones that travel our waterways," he said. "We have ceremonial sites. We have burial sites that we have to respect."

He pointed to ongoing social pressures, including housing shortages, addiction crises and limited services for youth and families. Rapid development, such as the proposed mining linked to the Ring of Fire, could intensify those strains.

Even though the proponents of development promise jobs and prosperity, past projects have offered little long-term benefit to their communities, he said. He pointed to the De Beers-owned Victor diamond mine as an example: "We went to sweep the floors... we didn't manage what was up."

A larger movement is happening across the region where many other First Nations members oppose the bill and demand a voice in decisions affecting their homelands.

In his community, Kataquapit helped create a youth-led movement called Okiniwak to bring young people into political conversations. It gave them a direct platform, Kataquapit said, "without having to go through any organization, any chief, anything that might be able to get misconstrued." The group took the movement "all over Ontario," hosting workshops, rallies and lectures to raise awareness and mobilize communities.

Kerrie Blaise drafted the motion and said this intervention is

supported by a coalition of allies and nonprofits, including Ontario Nature, to overcome financial and legal barriers that typically prevent such participation.

"It takes an all-hands-on-deck approach to make sure that you have the funding, the resources, the capacity to do this work. No one is profiting from this, this is grassroots advocacy at its core," Blaise, who is founder of Legal Advocates for Nature's Defence and an environmental and Indigenous rights lawyer, told Canada's National Observer.

Too often, the burden of opposing extractive development has fallen disproportionately on First Nations, who face limited resources within a system that already restricts their ability to make decisions, said Shane Moffatt, campaigns and advocacy manager for Ontario Nature.

Moffatt said environmental groups nationally must step up as allies without dictating outcomes to Indigenous communities. "At the end of the day, it's really important that Indigenous Peoples are able to make the best decisions, and they have the right to make the best decisions for their communities in the context of a colonial system, which imposes significant limitations and restrictions and inequities on those communities," he said.

The impacts of accelerated development will first affect territories where communities rely on healthy waterways and peatlands. Disrupting them, Kataquapit warned, could release sequestered carbon and further damage already stressed river systems. Residents along James Bay, he added, "know the facts of having pollution within waters," pointing to long-standing concerns that followed the Victor mine.

Kataquapit is one of the first in his family not to attend residential or day schools, yet the legacy of those institutions continues to shape his daily life. Reconnecting with the land, he said, has informed his view that decisions about Treaty 9 must look beyond short-term development and consider the future of the territory and the people who rely on it.

He said the costs of Bill 5 will fall on northern youth, not policymakers. "We will be the ones that have to deal with the consequences."



1. Five Nights at Freddy's 2 (PG-13) Josh Hutcherson, Piper Rubio
2. Zootopia 2 (PG) Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman
3. Wicked: For Good (PG) Cynthia Erivo, Ariana Grande
4. Jujutsu Kaisen: Execution (R) Jun'ya Enoki, Yuma Uchida
5. Now You See Me: Now You Don't (PG-13) Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson
6. Kill Bill: The Whole Bloody Affair (NR) Uma Thurman, Lucy Liu
7. Eternity (PG-13) Miles Teller, Elizabeth Olsen
8. Hamnet (PG-13) Jessie Buckley, Paul Mescal
9. Dhurandhar (NR) Ranveer Singh, Sanjay Dutt
10. Predator: Badlands (PG-13) Elle Fanning, Dimitrios Schuster-Koloamatangi

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Cambridge Small Farmhouse Plan Blends Comfort & Style

By Associated Designs

The Cambridge is a standout among small farmhouse plans, offering timeless country charm in a compact, efficient layout. While many farmhouse designs with gabled rooflines, dormer windows, and welcoming wrap-around porches tend to be oversized, this thoughtfully crafted plan keeps everything attainable for first-time homebuyers, downsizing empty nesters, or anyone seeking the warmth of a classic country plan without excess square footage.

Designed for economy, comfort, and easy maintenance, the Cambridge adapts beautifully to different life stages: whether for singles, young families, or couples transitioning into grandparenthood. The front bedroom sits just off the porch, making it a natural fit for a home office. With a simple closet relocation, this space can even gain direct porch access, ideal for remote work, private client entry, or creative studio use.

At the heart of this small farmhouse design is a bright, vaulted family room and kitchen that open toward the rear of the home. Skylights, side windows, and a high dormer fill the space with natural daylight, reducing the need for artificial lighting. Sliding doors in the eating nook lead to a wide deck, encouraging seamless indoor-outdoor living during warm months. Utilities remain efficiently positioned just steps away along the path to the garage.

Eight-foot recessed plant shelves frame the vaulted entry, define the entrance to the family room, and guide the way to the owners' suite. Whether used for thriving greenery or stylish decor, these built-in ledges add character to the home.

The owners' suite brings a touch of luxury to this compact farmhouse plan, featuring a spacious walk-in closet and a dual-basin dressing area separate from the shower and water closet. While the Cambridge does not include a formal dining room, it compensates with an inviting living room enhanced by a wide bay window. Built-in bookcases flank a generously sized fireplace, creating a cozy, display-friendly space perfect for family gatherings.

The Cambridge 10-045 is created by Associated Designs, Inc.'s talented team of residential home designers. To learn more about this design visit www.AssociatedDesigns.com.

Cambridge PLAN 10-045	
Living Area	1794 sq.ft.
Garage	477 sq.ft.
Dimensions	62' x 50'

www.AssociatedDesigns.com

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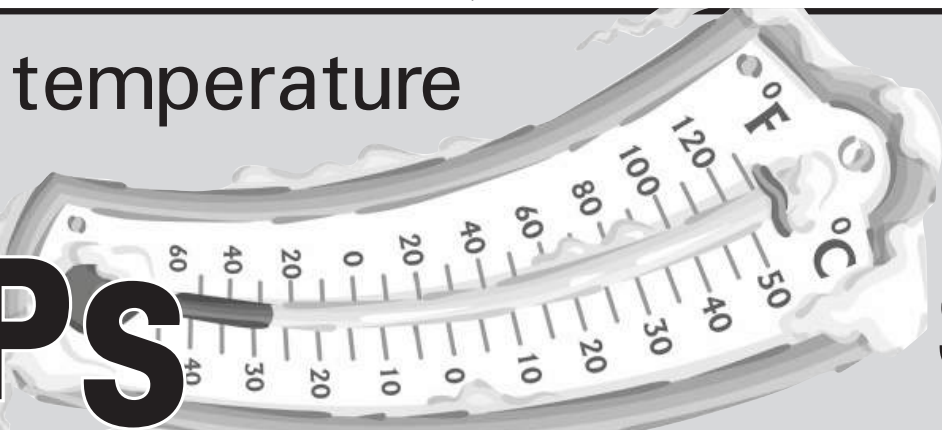
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Announcements

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Legal/Public Notices

NOTICE

DISTRICT #5 Schedule of A.A. Meetings

FORT FRANCES

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

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

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

EMO

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

RAINY RIVER

Call for meeting time & location 276-1074

SABASKONG, NESTOR FALLS

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

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

ATIKOKAN

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

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For more information call:
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Atikokan 807-597-4500
Rainy River - 852-1560

NOTICE

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NOTICE

DISTRICT #5 ALANON

Schedule of Alanon Meetings

FORT FRANCES

April-September in person Tuesdays 6:30 pm
Church of the Holy Spirit, 842 Victoria Ave.

Fort Frances, Ont. 807-271-2091 for info.

October-March online Tuesday 6:30 pm

EMO

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

For more information call 807-271-2091

Rainy Lake Alanon Family Groups

Zion Lutheran Church
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Legal/Public Notices

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Riverside Health Care

PART TIME HOUSEKEEPING AIDE

Site: LaVerendrye General Hospital

Commencing: As soon as possible

Wage: \$25.34/hr to \$25.78/hr

Application deadline: Until a suitable applicant is found

To apply email: please send resume & cover letter to human.resources@rhcf.on.ca with reference number 76-2025 or apply online at <https://www.riversidehealthcare.ca/hr>

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

www.riversidehealthcare.ca



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- Home and Community Support Worker
- Membership Registrar Trainee
- Casual Medical Van Driver

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To apply for any of these positions please send a cover letter, resume and 2 references to:

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VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE

Obituaries that have appeared in the paper may also be viewed online at www.fftimes.com

JOIN OUR TEAM! LUMBER SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Are you a motivated sales professional with a passion for the building materials industry? We're looking for a Lumber Sales Representative to join our team and help drive growth in a fact-paced, customer-focused environment.

Key Responsibilities:

- Build and maintain strong relationships with contractors, builders, and retail customers.
- Provide expert advice on lumber, panels, and other building materials.
- Generate quotes, process orders, and follow up to close sales.
- Work closely with yard and operations staff to ensure accurate and timely fulfillment.
- Identify new business opportunities and support ongoing customer projects.
- Stay informed on market pricing, product availability, and industry trends.
- Deliver exceptional customer service, both in person and over the phone.

Requirements:

- Experience in lumber or building materials (preferred)
- Strong product knowledge of lumber grades, construction materials, and related hardware.
- Excellent communication and relationship-building skills.
- Ability to multitask in a busy environment with high accuracy.
- Strong work ethic, positive attitude, and commitment to customer satisfaction.
- Computer proficiency (ERP or POS experience is an asset).
- Ability to read construction drawings is considered an advantage.

Why Join Us:

- Competitive compensation
- Opportunities for growth within a respected industry leader
- Supportive team environment
- Employee discounts and industry training opportunities

Please send Resume via email: eric@tompkinshardware.com

Deadline: January 9th, 2026

TOMPKINS HARDWARE

PROUDLY SERVING THE AREA SINCE 1898
Front Street, Emo • Phone 807-482-2754
www.tompkinshardware.com • E-mail: info@tompkinshardware.com

JOIN OUR TEAM! DRIVER / YARD WORKER

Tompkins Hardware is currently seeking a Driver / Yard Worker to join our team.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist contractors and customers in locating products; load and unload vehicles.
- Deliver building materials to locations in and around Rainy River District.
- Safely operate a large flat-deck delivery vehicle.
- Follow all OH&S standards and safe-work practices.
- Unload transport trucks and organize product for store and yard.
- Use proper material-handling techniques to minimize inventory damage.
- Maintain cleanliness in warehouse and yard areas, including garbage disposal.
- Collaborate with team members in the fast-paced environment.
- Perform additional duties as assigned by the Foreman and Operations Manager.
- Ensure all products leaving the yard have been properly invoiced.
- Work outdoors in varying and sometimes adverse weather conditions.

Requirements:

- Valid G driver's licence is required; DZ licence is considered a strong asset.
- Experience in shipping and receiving is an asset.
- Forklift certification is an asset; training available for the right candidate.
- Willingness to become knowledgeable about all yard products.
- Physically fit with an ability to lift heavy, bulky items up to 80 lbs.
- High attention to detail and commitment to accuracy.
- Strong work ethic and positive team attitude.

Why Join Us:

- Competitive compensation
- Opportunities for growth within a respected industry leader
- Supportive team environment
- Employee discounts and industry training opportunities

Please send Resume via email: eric@tompkinshardware.com

Deadline: January 9th, 2026

TOMPKINS HARDWARE

PROUDLY SERVING THE AREA SINCE 1898
Front Street, Emo • Phone 807-482-2754
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Riverside Health Care

CASUAL MEDICAL LABORATORY ASSISTANT

Site: LaVerendrye General Hospital

Commencing: As soon as possible

Wage: \$25.90/hr

Application deadline: Until a suitable applicant is found

To apply email: please send resume & cover letter to human.resources@rhcf.on.ca with reference number 75-2025 or apply online at <https://www.riversidehealthcare.ca/hr>

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From dialysis despair to new life: the Manitoba doctor behind 1,000+ transplants

By **Steven Sukkau**
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
Winnipeg Sun

A Manitoba physician whose work has reshaped kidney transplant care across Canada has been awarded the 2025 Canadian Blood Services Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing a career that has improved survival, expanded access and offered new hope to thousands of patients.

Dr. Peter Nickerson, a long-time transplant immunologist and now Dean and Vice-Provost (Health Sciences) at the University of Manitoba's Max Rady College of Medicine, is credited with helping design the modern health-systems approach to transplant medicine that Canada relies on today.

For more than two decades, Dr. Nickerson has led innovative work in transplant rejection, immunogenetics and immune monitoring, research that has improved outcomes for kidney transplant recipients in Canada and internationally. He also led the national standardization of HLA laboratory practices, the testing used to match donors and recipients, and helped develop a coast-to-coast organ-sharing network that has enabled more than 1,000 difficult-to-match Canadians to receive life-saving kidneys.

A Manitoban was the very first patient to benefit from one of those programs.

Building a national system
Dr. Nickerson played a pivotal role in creating and implementing the national transplant programs now operated by Canadian Blood Services under a mandate from provincial, territorial and federal health ministers. Those include the Kidney Paired Donation Program and the Highly Sensitized Patient Program, which pair donors and recipients across provincial borders, making transplants possible for patients who previously had little chance of finding a match.

"By creating this national network, we created hope again," Dr. Nickerson told the Canadian Blood Services, noting that some patients waited more than 15 years before a viable donor could be found.

Transforming care in Manitoba

From 2014 to 2023, Dr. Nickerson served as medical director of Transplant Manitoba, playing a key role in developing the Transplant Wellness Centre at HSC Winnipeg, home to the province's kidney transplant program.

His leadership has also helped drive advances in lab technology and standards. When he began working in the field in the late 1990s, he recalled that testing

methods had changed little since 1969. Introducing newer, more sensitive systems dramatically reduced early transplant rejection and became the foundation of Canada's national approach.

"Where we used to lose up to 10 per cent of kidneys in the first year, we were now losing one per cent," Dr. Nickerson said.

A legacy measured in lives changed

Colleagues say Dr. Nickerson's influence extends beyond scientific research to national systems, clinical practice and mentorship. He has served more than 12 years as medical advisor to Canadian Blood Services, continues to provide strategic guidance, and has earned multiple national and international honours, including previous awards from the Canadian Society of Transplantation and the Paul I. Terasaki Award Lecture.

"In a lot of medicine, you temporize," Dr. Nickerson said. "With organ donation, you can save the lives of many."

Asked what makes him most proud, he pointed to the human impact: patients able to live longer, travel again, reconnect with family, and look beyond a future once defined by dialysis.

"Not only are more transplants being done, the outcomes are better," he said. "They're lasting longer."



Manitoba transplant expert Dr. Peter Nickerson has received the 2025 Canadian Blood Services Lifetime Achievement Award for leading the creation of Canada's modern national kidney-transplant system and dramatically improving outcomes for hard-to-match patients across the country.
— Supplied photo

Super Crossword

Answers

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A Christmas Classic.

Happy holidays from all of us at Hockley!

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AHCS

Atikokan Health and Community Services

Atikokan Health and Community Services is seeking applicants for the following position:

Family Health Team Manager

Full-Time, Temporary

Start Date: as soon as possible

Reference #2025-59

Wage: \$50.24 – \$59.99

Job Summary:

The Manager of the Family Health Team provides strategic and operational leadership to ensure the delivery of high-quality, patient-centered primary care services. This role oversees daily operations, supports interdisciplinary team functioning, and ensures compliance with organizational policies, regulatory requirements, and quality standards. The Manager leads initiatives that enhance clinical workflows, improve patient experience, and optimize resource utilization. Working collaboratively with physicians, clinicians, administrative staff, and community partners, the Manager fosters a culture of excellence, accountability, and continuous improvement. This position requires strong leadership skills, sound judgment, and the ability to navigate complex healthcare environments while supporting the mission and values of Atikokan Health and Community Services.

Qualifications / Requirements:

1. Bachelor's degree in healthcare or administration is preferred
2. At least 5 years management or leadership experience in a primary care or multidisciplinary healthcare setting
3. Experience overseeing interdisciplinary teams and operational healthcare management
4. Clinical experience and knowledge considered a strong asset.
5. Strong leadership, communication and interpersonal skills.
6. Knowledge of primary care practices, healthcare regulations and quality improvement frameworks
7. Ability to manage budgets, resources and operational workflows effectively
8. Strategic thinking and problem solving and decision-making abilities
9. Proficiency in healthcare information systems and reporting tools

Apply with resume and cover letter – quoting the reference number – in confidence to:

Human Resources
Atikokan Health and Community Services, 120 Dorothy Street
Atikokan, ON P0T 1C0
Fax: (807) 597-1210
Email: careers@aghospital.on.ca

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL POSITION IS FILLED

NOTE: Applicants who require accommodations in the recruitment process are encouraged to contact Human Resources for support using the above contact information.

Atikokan Health and Community Services is committed to fostering an inclusive, equitable, and accessible environment supporting diversity in our work environment to provide quality care where all feel valued, respected, and supported. We are dedicated to building a workforce reflective of the communities in which we live and serve and encourage Indigenous people, visible minorities, and persons with disabilities to apply. We thank all those who apply, however, only those candidates selected in the recruitment process will be contacted.

Thunder Bay Port faces crowding in busy season

By **Sandi Krasowski**
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
The Chronicle-Journal

The Fraserborg general cargo carrier from the Netherlands is moored at the Pool Six cruise ship dock and is quite a scene changer from the majestic passenger cruise ships that normally occupy the Thunder Bay slip.

For those who have never seen the massiveness of these carriers, this is a good time to see one close up while she remains berthed at Pool Six.

The 14-year-old cargo ship arrived in Thunder Bay on Thursday, and Wally Peterson,

from the neighbouring Transportation Museum of Thunder Bay, said the Fraserborg was waiting on security clearance in what is an extremely busy port.

"There are so many bulk and cargo ships this year that there's not enough room at Keefer Terminal for them," Peterson said. "Foreign bulk carriers have to be inspected before they can load, and they have to follow regulations that are enforced by International Marine Security."

Peterson added that the cruise ship dock has that classification.

"They can tie the ships up to the cruise ship dock and fol-

low the international security rules and do the inspections," he said.

William Hryb, president of Thunder Bay Shipping Inc., confirmed that the Fraserborg is indeed in a "lay-by berth," which means that the vessel needed its inspection, but there were no lay-by berths at Keefer Terminal.

"Normally, we would use Keefer Terminal, which has room for about three vessels, but they were so busy and all occupied that we had to pull a rabbit out of the hat. We asked the City of Thunder Bay if they would allow us to use Pool Six for the berthing of the Fraserborg, and they were happy to

help," he said.

Hryb speculates that the cargo vessel, which has since received its inspection, could remain at Pool Six until later this week as it waits for a spot to load wheat at the newly acquired Bunge A elevator, formerly the Viterra A elevator, before heading for the United Kingdom.

"We've got so many ships and it's the really big push," he said.

Emily Price, director of corporate and commercial affairs with the Port of Thunder Bay, said that they are in the middle of their busiest time of year.

"Our busiest months typical-

ly are November and December, right before the closure of the locks," Price said.

"We are bound by the Soo Locks, which will close on Jan. 15."

Shipping companies are scrambling to move cargoes before the closure of the locks, which essentially severs access to Lake Superior as it freezes up.

"When people think of shipping, they think summer, and we're all outside looking at the ships on the water," Price added. "But typically, the cold December is one of our best months."

As of Monday afternoon, there were eight ships at various stages of loading in the

port. The saltwater ship Maria G is at the Richardson's elevator in Current River and the Canadian bulk carrier Kaministiquia is at Richardson's main elevator. The Fraserborg is at the cruise terminal lay-by berth, while the CSL St. Lawrence is at Bunge A elevator. The Heemskerck Gracht, a heavy-lift vessel and the Onego Duero saltwater general cargo vessel, both from the Netherlands, are at Keefer Terminal. The Canadian Lake carrier Algoma Equinox is at the G3 elevator, formerly called Mission Terminal, and the Baie St. Paul is at anchor waiting to come in to load grain.

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- rate sheets • greeting cards
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- bookmarks • presentation folders
- membership cards • door hangers • invoices
- gift certificates • receipts...to name a few!



Season's Greetings

THE FORT FRANCES TIMES OFFICES WILL BE CLOSING at noon Friday, Dec. 19 and we will not be publishing any papers the week of DECEMBER 22 - 26.

The Fort Frances Times will publish Wednesday, December 31st
We will not be publishing a paper on Thursday, January 1st.
The weekly flyers will be inserted in the Bulletin on Tuesday, December 30th and will be available for pick up at the Red Box locations.
We will resume our regular publishing schedule Tuesday, January 6th.

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

DECEMBER 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					Closing at noon	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	Merry Christmas! CLOSED	CLOSED	
28	29	30	31	January 1	2	3
	Regular Hours	Tue. Bulletin printed with Flyers *Also located in Red Boxes	Closing at noon FF Times Published	January 1 CLOSED Happy New Year!	Regular Hours	

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first left-handed president?
 - GEOGRAPHY: What country is home to the largest cave in the world?
 - MOVIES: Who is the voice of Buzz Lightyear in the "Toy Story" movies?
 - HISTORY: Who was the first emperor of Rome?
 - LITERATURE: In what city is James Joyce's novel "Ulysses" set?
 - TELEVISION: What is the name of Data's cat on "Star Trek: The Next Generation"?
 - ASTRONOMY: What is an exploding star called?
 - SCIENCE: What kind of cloud is associated with thunderstorms?
 - U.S. STATES: Which states have no sales tax?
 - ANATOMY: What is the function of the carotid arteries?
- Answers**
- James Garfield.
 - Vietnam.
 - Tim Allen.
 - Augustus.
 - Dublin, Ireland.
 - Spot.
 - A supernova.
 - Cumulonimbus.
 - Five states have no sales tax: Alaska, Delaware, Montana, New Hampshire and Oregon.
 - They supply oxygen-rich blood to the face, neck and brain.
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Wishing everyone all the best in the holiday season!



FORT FRANCES
Times

Dear Santa,
I want...
a toy snake
a toy bow and arrow
a toy cash register
a toy BBQ and a kitchen.
Please and thank you.
From Ian Donaldson

Dear Santa,
My name is Luke.
This year I have been nice.
For Christmas I would like:
Dress Up Clothes
Cars
Bluey Toys
K Pop Toys
Sunglasses
Merry Christmas Santa!
Love Luke Donaldson

Dear Santa
My name is Kailey and I am 8 years old and in grade 3 at Robert Moore school. I have been a good girl this year, How are you doing at the North Pole with Mrs Claus and the elves and reindeer? I would like dog man books, diary of a whimpy kid books, iPhone, red putty, Maymei dolls for Christmas. I will leave you some milk and cookies and for the reindeer I'll leave some food. Have a Merry Christmas

My name is Kaid. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice.
What I would love most

for Christmas is lego sets, books and toys. Nash would like lego and 3D lego printer. Merry Christmas!
Love, Kaid

Dear Santa,
My name is Liam. This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been nice. What I would love for Christmas is legos. Luna wants VBucks. Merry Christmas!
Love, Liam

Dear Santa,
My name is Tobias. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year, I have been really good. What I would love most for Christmas is an Iphone 15 and a Nintendo Switch. My brother likes PS5. Merry Christmas!
Love, Tobias

Dear Santa,
My name is Emmett. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year, I have been really good. What I would love most for Christmas is lego and I want an Xbox. Nolan wants onsies. Merry Christmas!
Love, Emmett

Dear Santa,
My name is Cleo. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year, I have been good. What I would love most for Christmas

is smelly markers and chapter books. Ryce will like tractors. Merry Christmas!
Love, Cleo

Dear Santa,
My name is Petra. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. What I would love most for Christmas is a walking puppy and a make up set. Rudy wants an excavator. Merry Christmas!
Love, Petra

My name is Keanu. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year I have been really good. What I would love most for Christmas is a Nintendo switch. I will give an owl to my mom. Merry Christmas!
Love, Keanu

Dear Santa,
My name is Kendall. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year I have been good. What I would love most for Christmas is an ABC chart and a Nintendo switch with 4 controllers. Kallum wants a rubix cube that lights up. Merry Christmas!
Love, Kendall

Dear Santa,
My name is Elodie. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year I have been

Letters to Santa



nice. I want pajamas and slippers. Fischer wants a monster truck. Merry Christmas!
Love, Ellie

Dear Santa,
My name is Jasper. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year I have been really good. What I would love most for Christmas is an Iphone 15 and my brother likes toys. Merry Christmas!
Love, Jasper

Dear Santa,
My name is Noah. This

Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year I have been nice. What I would love most for Christmas is an Iphone and presents. Norman wants a ball. Merry Christmas!
Love, Noah

Dear Santa,
My name is Luna. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year I have been good. What I would love most for Christmas is an Ipad and a teddy. Norman

wants Bluey. Merry Christmas!
Love, Luna

Dear Santa,
My name is Beatrix. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year I have been good. What I would love most for Christmas is a reindeer stuffy, candy canes and lego. My mom would like a pot. Merry Christmas!
Love, Beatrix

TRIMMED WITH A WISH
Here's hoping your holiday season is a cut above the rest.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the girls at
THE DEN
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Front: Denise & Ashley
Back: Rayna, June & Terra
Missing: Paula

Happy Holidays!

From the
Royal Canadian Legion
Branch #29 Fort Frances
and
Branch #29 Legion
Ladies Auxiliary

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Wishing all our customers and friends a
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and
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Merry Christmas
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Merry Christmas!

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

With wonderful clients like you, we have every reason to smile during the holidays & all year long!

Best wishes for a happy & healthy 2026!

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



Dear Santa,
My name is Alice. I am four years old. I have been very nice. For Christmas please bring me K-Pop Demon Hunter dolls. Thank you Santa! Merry Christmas!
Alice, age 4

This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been good.
What I would love most for Christmas is
-a kids laptop
-a suitcase for my sister
-a monster truck for my cousin

Dear Santa,
My name is Freya.
This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been a little bit good.
What I would love most for Christmas is
-a Grinch plushy
-a Grinch phone
-I wish for my mom not to work so hard
Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love, Freya

Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love,
Hazel
Dear Santa,
My name is Rhys.
This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been good.
What I would love most for Christmas is
-Thomas the train
-a magic 8 ball
-a present for Fee
Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love,
Rhys

Dear Santa,
My name is Lola.
This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been nice.
What I would love most for Christmas is
-an orange kitty that's real
-a bunny
-a clean house for my mom
Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love, Lola

Dear Santa,
My name is Aliana.
This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been good.
What I would love most for Christmas is
-an elephant stuffy
-a microscope
-a suitcase for my mom
Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love,
Aliana

Dear Santa,
My name is Hazel

Dear Santa,
My name is Novalee
This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been super good.
What I would love most for Christmas is
-an ipad
-a doll
-an ABC book for my baby brother.
Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love,
Novalee

Dear Santa,
My name is Harper.
This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been good.
What I would love most for Christmas is
-headphones
-a new doll
-a PS5 for my brother
Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love,
Harper

Dear Santa,
My name is Olive.
This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been good.
What I would love most for Christmas is
-a small dog stuffy
-a bigger vanity
-monster trucks for my baby cousin

Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love, Olive
Dear Santa,
My name is Tripp.
This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been good.
What I would love most for Christmas is
-a monster truck
-a little puppy stuffy
-a fake phone for Kasen.
Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love,
Tripp

Dear Santa,
My name is Gracie.
This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been nice.
What I would love most for Christmas is
-a makeup storage box
-decorations for my room
-makeup for my little sister so she stops stealing mine.
Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love,
Gracie

Dear Santa,
My name is Blake.
This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been amazing.
What I would love most for Christmas is

-a remote control 4-wheeler
-a go-kart
-a mystery mini for Easton
Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love,
Blake
Dear Santa,
My name is Max.
This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been good.
What I would love most for Christmas is
-VR headset
-an X-box
-Mom to come home
Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love,
Max

Dear Santa,
My name is Lukenna.
This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been super good.
What I would love most for Christmas is
-a fuzzy white jacket
-purple lip gloss
-an ABC book for my baby cousin
Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love,
Lukenna

Dear Santa,
My name is Tenley.

This Christmas, I am 6 years old.
This year, I have been super good.
What I would love most for Christmas is
-a remote control gecko
-a jungle gym
-a stuffy unicorn for Winnie
Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love,
Tenley

Dear Santa,
My name is Ashtyn Kale.
This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year I have been good. What I would love most for Christmas is Sonic and a remote control toy. My mom really likes make up and lipstick.
Merry Christmas!
Love, Ashtyn

Dear Santa,
This year I have been naughty. This year for Christmas I would like a t-rex. I would make a gingerbread house for you.
Love, David

My name is Zayda. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year I have been good. What I want for Christmas is an Xbox. I want a Nintendo Switch too. Merry Christmas!
Love, Zayda

May the *peace* and *joy* of the *Saviour* fill your heart at Christmastime and all year.

Thank you very much for your kindness and support this year.

We enjoy serving this community, and we wish you all the best in 2026!

Misty River Alternatives

Holiday Hours: Dec 24: Open 9:30 - 12:00
Dec. 25, 26, 27: Closed | Dec. 29: Open 9:30 - 5:00
Dec. 30: Open 9:30 - 12:00 | Dec. 31: Closed for Inventory
January 1: Closed for Inventory | Jan. 2: Open 9:30-5:00

Celebrate the Birth of Christ

May you celebrate a joyous and peaceful Christmas with those you hold close to your heart. We truly appreciate your friendship and patronage.

From Robert, Michael & Melissa, Les & Tina, our families & staff

Belluz Concrete & Rentals Ltd.
1530 Kings Highway, Fort Frances 274-9288

Filled With Our Gratitude

From the staff at **SAFeway**

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

417 Scott St, Fort Frances, ON (807) 274-4521

NOEL

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

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

Holiday Hours: Closed Dec. 24th
Open Regular Hours Dec. 29th and Dec. 30th
Closed noon Dec. 31st
Open regular hours Jan. 5, 2026

Season's Greetings

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

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

Riverside Health Care



Dear Santa,
My name is Kasen. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year I have been really good. What I would love most for Christmas is an Iphone and bath bombs. My sister would like a stuffy.
Merry Christmas!
Love, Kasen

Dear Santa,
My name is Georgia. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year I have been good. What I would love most for Christmas is sea creatures and a Barbie Dream home. Hudson wants a remote control toy.
Merry Christmas!
Love, Georgia

Dear Santa,
My name is Zander. This Christmas I am 6 years old. This year I have been good. What I would love most for Christmas is a bullet train and tracks. Brander wants a 3D printer.
Merry Christmas.
Love, Zander

Dear Santa,
My name is Eli and I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a trailer truck and a race car.
Thank you, Santa!
From Eli

Dear Santa , My name is Oscar and I am 6 years old. I hope everyone is doing well at the North Pole. I have tried my best to be a good boy all year and I am so excited for Christmas! I would really like anything Lego , Magna tiles or robotic style toys . I will leave a snack for you and all the reindeer! Thanks Santa, love Oscar xo

Dear Santa, My name is Marty and I'm about 2.5 years old . I'm a super duper busy boy who loves books and hot wheels and Stitch and all things loud and noisey! Please have a safe journey Santa! Help yourself to some snacks for you and the reindeer at my house.
Love Marty xo

Hi Santa!
How are you and the reindeer? Is it cold at the North Pole?
My name is Scottie and I am 3 years old. I've been a good girl. If you can, I would like Chase, a book and stepping stones.
My boys, Gunner and Kix (dogs) would also like a new toy or a treat. Kassie (grandma & grandpa's dog) would like one too.
I will leave you cookies and a drink and some reindeer snacks.
Merry Christmas!
Love Scottie

Dear Santa,
My name is Tristan and I am 5 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a robot and a Lego set.
Thank you, Santa!
From Tristan

Dear Santa,
My name is Dahlia and I am 5 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a Furbie and a baby Stitch.
Thank you, Santa!
From Dahlia

Dear Santa,
My name is Pearce and I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a Bluey airplane that transforms into a car.
Thank you, Santa!
From Pearce

Dear Santa,
My name is Kai and I am 5 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like trains and Duplo blocks.
Thank you, Santa!
From Kai

Dear Santa,
My name is Jason and I am 4 years old. This year I have been

nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a toy car and a baby doll.
Thank you, Santa!
From Jason

Dear Santa,
My name is Clifford and I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a laser drill and a Paw Patrol toy.
Thank you, Santa!
From Clifford

Dear Santa,
My name is Nova and I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a snow shovel and a Peppa Pig house.
Thank you, Santa!
From Nova

Dear Santa,
My name is Remi and I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a big Monster truck.
Thank you, Santa!
From Remi

Dear Santa,
My name is Jordan and I am 5 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like an old toy truck and a toy clock

that wakes me up in the morning.
Thank you, Santa!
From Jordan

Dear Santa,
My name is Wyatt and I am 5 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a drawing book and a Lego boat.
Thank you, Santa!
From Wyatt

Dear Santa,
My name is Lincoln and I am 5 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a Spiderman shooter and a Spiderman costume.
Thank you, Santa!
From Lincoln

Dear Santa,
My name is Dax and I am 5 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a Lego Hot Wheels car and a package of cars.
Thank you, Santa!
From Dax

Dear Santa,
My name is Charlie and I am 4 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a new Minecraft game and a Pokemon ball.
Thank you, Santa!
From Charlie

Dear Santa,
My name is Mariah and I am 5 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a Pokemon ball and a toy Barbie.
Thank you, Santa!
From Mariah

Dear Santa,
My name is Amber-Leigh and I am 5 years old. This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a new backpack and markers.
Thank you, Santa!
From Amber-Leigh



Let it glow!
Let it glow!
Let it glow!

Soon it will be Christmas and we're all aglow
Thinking of all the good folk that we know—
For your support and goodwill, too,
We're really grateful to each one of you
So to all of you who have stopped by here
We thank you for lighting up our year!

Mark, Lori and the Crew

M.L. CARON ELECTRIC LIMITED

mlcaronelectric.ca
807-274-7945
900 5th St. W.
Fort Frances

Warm & Wonderful
Winter Wishes

May the sights, sounds and traditions of this special season fill your heart and home with delight.
Happy Holidays!

TOWN OF RAINY RIVER

MUNICIPAL OFFICE Closed at 1 pm Dec. 24 Closed Dec. 25 and 26 Closed at 1 pm Dec. 31 Closed Jan. 1	GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE Tuesday Dec. 23 - Regular Tuesday collection Wednesday Dec. 24 collection - Regular Wednesday collection Tuesday Dec. 30 - Regular Tuesday collection Wednesday Dec. 31 - Regular Wednesday collection
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RAINY RIVER LANDFILL
Closed Dec. 24
Closed Dec. 31

Confederation COLLEGE
RAINY RIVER DISTRICT CAMPUS

Season's Greetings

Wishing you a joyful Christmas filled with peace, love, laughter, and beautiful memories to cherish. May the new year bring you closer to your dreams and open doors to new opportunities.

From the faculty and staff of the Rainy River District Campus

www.confederationcollege.ca/fort-frances This is Learning

Happy Holidays! All The Best in 2026!

From all of us at
NOR-WEST ANIMAL CLINIC

411 McIrvine Rd. Fort Frances
Front (l-r): Tori, Dr Maria, Karen W. Back (l-r): Dr Doug, Lindsey, Mireille, Karen D, Colleen, Kya, Kelsey, Sharon, Brianna, Mary. Missing: Paige, Jasmine & Ella
274-7393
www.norwestanimalclinic.com

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

Jesus is the reason we celebrate the season!
God's Blessings of peace and joy this Christmas.
Have a wonderful New Year!
Kaemingh Family & Staff at
Kaemingh Fuels Ltd.
Serving the Rainy River District for over 60 years!
807-482-2390



Winter Wonderland Trail of Lights

WOW! Over 2000 people came out to experience the McTavish Winter Wonderland Trail of Lights hosted by Weechi'ttewin Family Services on December 9 and 10th! Family pictures were taken with Santa, his elves and the Grinch! Donations of non-perishable food items were accepted at the McTavish trail and donated to the local food bank. Weechi'ttewin Family Services Facebook photos



Merry Everything!

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

With our gratitude and best wishes,



DISTRICT OF RAINY RIVER SERVICES BOARD

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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

May the new year bring you good health and happiness, and may we all continue to grow together with respect and understanding in 2026.




WEECHI-IT-TE-WIN Family Services Inc.

Happy Holidays to EVERYONE WE KNOW

Once again the time is here to deck the halls and spread the cheer. And as we all gather to celebrate, we hope all that you anticipate, comes to be and with it brings abundant joy and more good things!


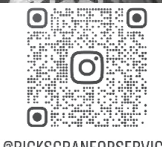
We are incredibly grateful for your support, and we wish you and yours the happiest of holidays. Thank you for standing by us, and may the joy of this special season fill your heart and home with peace and contentment.

Rick, Family and Crew



RIKKS Crane OP Service Inc.
807-271-3351

Rick Peters
807-271-3351 • Boomguy46@hotmail.com

Follow us on  *Locally owned and operated!* 



Fort Frances Santa Claus Parade

The Fort Frances Santa Claus parade was organized by the Kiwanis Club of Fort Frances on Saturday, November 29, 2025. It was a wonderful event to start the festive season off.

Above left: Fort Frances Canadians

Above right: Knox United Church

Left: Stacey and Christine Cridland, Parade Marshalls

Right: Mayor Andrew Hallikas and Citizen of the Year Rob Horton

Below left: Mitaanjigaming float crew

Below right: Santa Claus (of course!)

Photos by Allan Bradbury



*Wishing you Joy, Peace and Fun
this Holiday Season
from your Wilson's team!*

Wilson's business solutions

807-274-4513 wilson.ca
448 Scott St, Fort Frances, ON

*Wishing you a season
that is merry and bright
with health and
happiness in the year
ahead.*

Alberton

Township of Alberton
Council, Staff,
Committee Members & the
Alberton Volunteer
Fire Department

Wishing everyone
in Emo and the surrounding
communities a
**Very Merry Holiday Season
and a prosperous and
healthy New Year**

SUNSET COUNTRY

*Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season.
We look forward to serving you in 2026 and beyond.*

Fort Frances, ON.
THIS IS FORD COUNTRY

The Times is celebrating
this great
country
with a

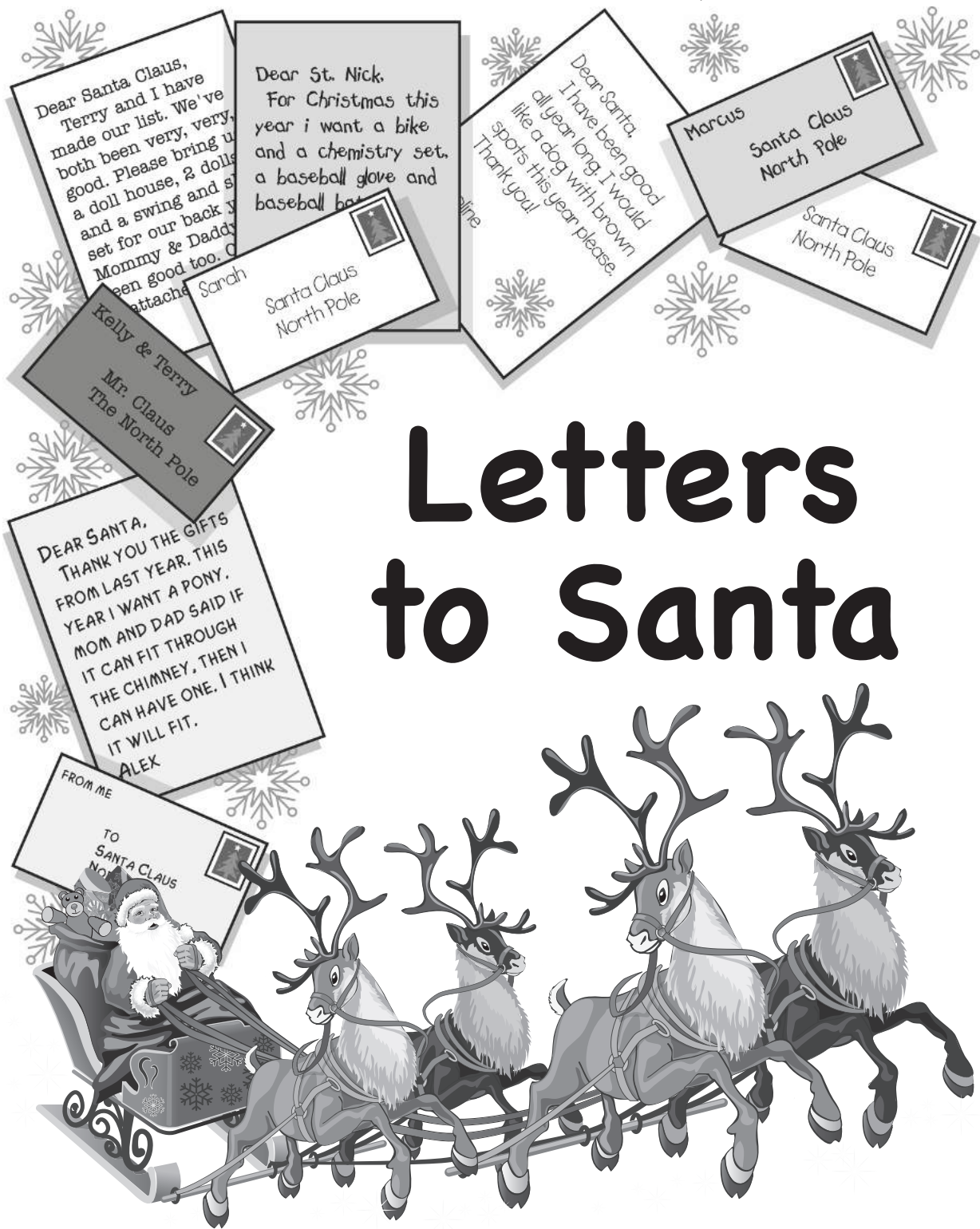
Canadian Christmas!



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from all of us at the



FORT FRANCES
Times



Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
My name is Lily and I am 4 years old.
This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a Barbie airplane and a LOL doll.
Thank you, Santa!
From Lily

Dear Santa,
My name is Freyja and I am 4 years old.
This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I

would like a Barbie.
Thank you, Santa!
From Freyja

Dear Santa,
My name is Taylor and I am 4 years old.
This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a Christmas toy and a dancing dog.
Thank you, Santa!
From Taylor

Dear Santa,
My name is Everly and I

am 5 years old.
This year I have been nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a baby doll and a toy piano.
Thank you, Santa!
From Everly

Dear Santa,
My name is Makayla and I am 4 years old.
This year I have been

nice.
For this Christmas, I would like a stuffed cat and a Hello Kitty outfit.
Thank you, Santa!
From Makayla

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1. Share toys at school
2. Say please and thank you
3. Help on garbage day
My Christmas wishes are:
1. Toys
2. Stuffedies
3. Games
I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love, Atlas

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1. help my twin baby brothers when they are sad
2. I help bath my brothers
3. I clean up my toys and help mom with supper
My Christmas wishes are:
1. Bluey
2. A Hamburger
3. Big truck
I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love, Bennett

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1. I have helped people by being kind to evryone.
2. I did not lie or bully anyone.

3. I asked if need help with things
My Christmas wishes are: You can suprise me!
I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love, Emmett

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1. I helped my friends
2. I made sure my friends are okay
3. I listen to my mom and dad
My Christmas wishes are:
1. mind craft set
2. pokemon set
3. remote control car
I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love, Kurt

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1. Help with my baby sisters.
2. I am the teacher's helper.
3. Help my mama cook.
My Christmas wishes are:
1. taba squishey.
2. Clothes.
3. Mini fridge.
I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love, Laney

Dear Santa,
I have been very good

this year!
I have done nice things.
My Christmas wishes are: bluey presents
Enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love, Livia

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year or Christmas I would like lipstick. I have beautiful shoes at home that came in the mail.
Love,
Ellie-Anna

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like a fidget. I wish to tell Santa that I gave him milk and cookies.
Love,
Scarlet

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like a Jack-in-the-box. I love you Santa.
Love,
Petra

Dear Santa,
This year I have been good. This year for Christmas I would like a kitten named Coco. I like the colour grey.
Love,
Kenneth

Hope Your Holiday Sparkles

May this Christmas season shine with warmth and happiness.

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

We appreciate your kind patronage, and we look forward to working on all your home decorating projects in 2026.

Thank you for an incredible year.
Karen and Stan

Star's

500 SCOTT STREET, FORT FRANCES 274-9249

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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

LAKWOOD TIRE LTD.

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

Believe

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

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

Emo Feeds

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

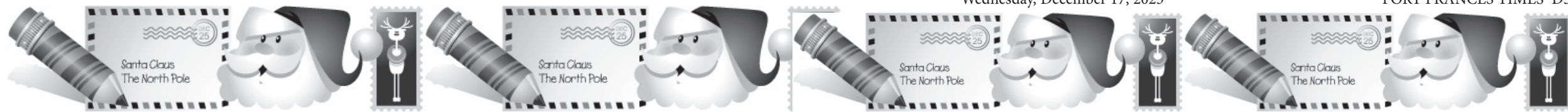
Warmest Wishes
for a safe & Happy holiday season from our family to yours.

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

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

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

BP



Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like Sanrio Hello Kitty Holiday Kuromi. What do reindeer eat?
Love, Everlee

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like Barbie. I have presents under my dad's tree.
Love, Kyra

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1. Help Mommy.
2. Be nice to my friends.
3. Help Nanny.
My Christmas wishes are:
1. Glinda.
2. Elphaba.
3. Baby monkey. And little brother Vinny would like Ms. Rachel stuff!
I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love, Maddie, age 9

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
I have done these nice things:
1. Put my baby brother's diapers in the trash.
2. Help clean up after my brother.
3. I've been a good listener for my teacher!
My Christmas wishes are:
1. Clone wars.
2. Star Wars Stormtrooper.
3. New underpants.
I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love, Logan G., age 5

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like a Cybertruck toy. My toys names are Huggy, Hug Dub, and Mr. Reed-ee Book.
Love, Arthur

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like things for crafts. Can I

help you?
Love, Bella

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like a Rubik's cube. I have a kitty.
Love, Max

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like a Rubik's Cube. Hi!!!
Love, Kallum
Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like colouring books. Hi, Santa!
Love, Rose

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like a house that moves. I like blue.
Love, Tristan

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like a big dinosaur egg. It is orange. I have a nice cat.
Love, Kieran

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like a toy baby with playdough and a spoon. Can I go with you to deliver presents?
Love, Lilith

Dear Santa,
This year I have been good. This year for Christmas I would like a Sonic and giant Lego box. (Minecraft Lego box) I am going to leave you some milk and cookies.
Love, Vincent

Dear Santa,
This year I have been

nice. This year for Christmas I would like Hello Kitty Stuffie. I was to say hi to Santa.
Love, Ava

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like Pokemon Cards. Can you come to my house?
Love, Oliver

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. This year for Christmas I would like a remote control car. I got a cat too.
Love, Ellie

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

things:
1. Helped my parents with decorations.
2. Watched my siblings while my parents were at work.
3. Did all my chores.
My Christmas wishes are:
1. Care Bears.
2. Knitting needles.
3. Catnip.
Love, Araya

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year!
Helping people is the nice thing I have done this year.
My Christmas wishes are:
1. Big seal pillow.
2. Official deer plush (PP Nights).
3. That's all!
I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!
Love, Jarrek

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

Little Branches Landscaping

TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL

275-7523

Happy Holidays

From **NCDS**

STAY WARM ALL YEAR-ROUND
With a Regency Fireplace!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

ALTEIRA CF780 Wood Fireplace

Gas, Wood, & Electric fireplaces available!

REGENCY FIREPLACE PRODUCTS

Revco HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTRE

SIGURDSON CONSTRUCTION LTD.

O.A.C. Financing Available

950 Fifth St West • 807-274-7918 • @SigurdsonConstruction

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Top: Jessica, Elyse, Jake, Arjay, Alex, Travis, Kassy, Linda, Clinton, Casey
Bottom: Ray, Jacob, Rodney, Chris, Cassie, Lance
Missing: Connor, Bryson, Gage, Ray and Jady

BRANDSOURCE Furniture, Appliance & Mattress Sales

Green's HOME FURNISHINGS

516 Mowat Avenue, Fort Frances, ON
Call or text 807-274-3251

Season's Greetings

from all us at New Gold Rainy River Mine

During this festive season, we celebrate being part of the Rainy River District and value the relationships that strengthen our community.

Wishing everyone a safe and joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

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

Fort Frances CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Merry Christmas

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

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy 2026!

From the Board and Staff of the **Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre**



Christmas on the Farm



By Elizabeth Donaldson
Originally published
November 24, 2021

(Editor's Note: Elizabeth Donaldson was a frequent contributor to the Fort Frances Times, sharing many memories of her life and upbringing on the family farm in the Rainy River District. For this year's Gift Guide, we decided to re-share the last Christmas column she wrote with us, reflecting on Christmastime on the farm.)

We were always ready to celebrate any special event or holiday such as Easter, a birthday, or Thanksgiving but nothing eclipsed the joy of Christmas. The excitement began to grow after Halloween. Snow arrived about mid November and that heightened the feeling as did school when the teacher began to talk about the Christmas concert which was held in the bigger church lit by gas lanterns. The whole community attended.

These were simpler times when our main aim was to fill the basic needs for ourselves and the animals. Christmas time gave us a chance to let our thoughts go beyond that and give free reign to our imaginations. It was Christmas and the most wonderful time of the year. There was talk of Christmas until we were just full of the anticipation of this wonderful event. Of course the chores and work went on as usual but it was a magical time.

Sometime in November we made the Christmas cake. I think of it as now more like a wedding cake with three square layers. We all helped with cutting up the fruit and stirring the heavy batter. When it was

baked it was well wrapped (to ripen) and put away until much closer to Christmas when it was iced and decorated. Mom began to talk about the mail order that would go to Eatons in Winnipeg and the air seemed full of secrets. Our house was small and it was hard to find hiding places for gifts and for the fudge that Mom tried to hide from us.

On concert night we would listen for the sound of the McCoy sleigh bells in the frosty clear starlit night and we would ride down to the church with them. The smell of horse blankets and straw mingled with the scent of the big Christmas tree in the church. Every child had a part whether it was the lead in a play or a sheep in the stable. The finale was always a beautiful manger scene with Mary, Joseph, the baby, animals and choir of angels in cheese cloth gowns. The evening was complete with the sound of sleigh bells and the arrival of Santa Claus who passed out a small gift and bag of candy from the Ladies Aid.

The time between the concert and Christmas Day was filled with almost unbearable anticipation and we were wild with excitement. Because of the danger of fire the spruce tree was put up only two or three days before the big day. Most of our decorations were homemade and we saved all bits of colourful or shiny paper. Red Rose loose tea came in a lovely tinfoil package that often became the star for the tree top.

Christmas Eve we played games, sang carols, cracked nuts and ate fudge and Mom would read to us. We were allowed to open one gift. Then our stockings were hung in the corner before we went to bed with visions galore in our heads. Christmas morning we would awaken to the sound of Mom fixing the fires. When the house warm enough the stockings were opened when we looked for the Japanese orange in the toe along with candies and nuts and small gifts. Excitement was high but the animals had to be looked after and cows milked, with maybe a

little extra hay tossed to them for Christmas.

Not until after the chores were done, breakfast over and the dishes done were we allowed to open the gifts under from under the tree. Somehow Mom had already started preparations for the big noon time meal. The gifts under the tree were not large or expensive and were wrapped in tissue paper, tied up with string or bright yarn - no Scotch tape in those days. Mom carefully saved all the wrapping paper. Eric often said he preferred a 'hard' present to a soft one. No matter what it was so exciting to open those mysterious packages. I still have books that I got in 1946. We gave and received small useful or handmade items. We looked forward to the box from Uncle Laurence's store in Emo and Aunt Edna's wonderful homemade candy. It was a day of delights.

Christmas dinner was around noon and sometimes Uncle Bill, Aunt Orph and our cousins came. Uncle Bill always praised Mom's cooking and the roast chicken dinner was enjoyed by everyone - and the Christmas cake was cut. Our little house was full of laughter and love and the joy of Christmas with our cousins!

As a child I thought that everyone was happy at Christmas but in 1946, we learned a lesson when our beloved Grandfather Strachan died on December 21 with the funeral on December 24. There were some that thought that out of respect that we should not celebrate Christmas but Mom went ahead, and though different, we still had our Christmas. I remember very little of that sad time except that it was very cold and all Mom's houseplants froze on the window sills.

I often think of those times when it took so little to bring us such joy. Years later when preparing Christmas for my family memories of those days would come to me and I wondered if my children were feeling that intense excitement that we felt. It seems to me now that much of the joy of Christmas is memories.



Fort Frances homes are



all lit up for the season!



Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year

From everyone at The Barn!!

Thank you to our loyal customers and to all our new customers in 2026.

Experience the Magic in 2026 at 300 Pit Road 2
-- Your One Stop Shop in Fort Frances!!
www.thebarnautomotive.ca

Merry Christmas

WISHING YOU A FROM OUR HOME TO YOURS!

Back: Rodney, Travis, Connor, Jacob, Ray, Chris, Reggie, Clinton, Jason, Dan, Jake, Alex,
Front: Rachel, Jill, Deb, and Emily. Missing: Ray B, Lucas, and Bryson

HOMETOWN
FURNITURE & APPLIANCE

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(807) 274-2944
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Season's Greetings

On behalf of the team at Confederation College, the 2025/26 Board of Governors would like to extend warm wishes this holiday season and all the best in the New Year.
Kim Vares | Chair

Front Row from left: Jessica Alves | Grace Filice
Barbara Greer | Leah Prentice | Kim Smith
Kim Vares, Chair | Michelle Salo, President
Jill Symington | Wendy Landry

Back Row from left: Miranda Bevilacqua
Peter Myllymaa | Omer Belisle | Shane Strickland
Aaron Skillen | Dave Paxton | Garnet Czinkota

Missing: Evie O'Flaherty | Matt Dupuis | Ed Collins
Tracie Smith | Adam Brown

*Mino anama'e
giizhigad idash mino
animikodaadim.*

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

The UNFC offices will be closed
December 19, 2025,
to January 4, 2026.
We will reopen on Monday,
January 5, 2026.

A beginner's guide to wreath-making

- Metro

Those new to wreath-making need not worry, as it's relatively easy to learn the technique. Here are the basics to crafting a wreath, which can then be adorned as desired.

Materials needed

The first step to making a wreath is having the right tools and materials on hand.

- Wreath form: This is the frame upon which the materials will be attached. Choose a form diameter that matches the desired size for the center ring of the wreath, as longer flowers or branches can be attached to create a larger finished wreath. A 10-inch wreath form is good for getting started. The form can be made from metal or grapevine. For a foam form, you'll be poking wire into the form instead of wrapping it around it to secure your greenery and decorations.
- Paddle wire: Choose 22- to 24-gauge paddle wire to attach greenery and additional items onto the form.
- Clippers and wire cutters
- Craft scissors
- Foliage, flowers and boughs
- Decorative items and accessories
- Floral tape
- Door hanger

Prepare your work station

Once you have collected your supplies, it's time to begin. Place all materials on a protected surface. Trim foliage into workable sizes that will fit neatly on the frame, and set aside.

Build bundles

The first step to making a wreath is to make small bouquets or bundles of greenery that look good in small bunches, suggests Homesteading Family. Hold the bundle tightly and use floral tape around the stems to keep each bundle together. Repeat this process until you have several bundles



to attach to the wreath form.

Start attaching the greenery

Begin by laying a bundle onto the form and using a piece of paddle wire to first wrap around the form, and then wrap around the bundle stems to hold in place. Experts suggest pointing the stems inward and arranging the leaves and greenery to point outwards to create a fan shape. Always place the next bundle slightly overlapping and on top of the previous bundle to cover the stems. Repeat this process all around the wreath form until you reach the starting point.

Add your embellishments

Fill in any sparse areas with some decorations, such as small ornaments, bows, pinecones, ribbons, or plastic gems. Simply wrap a piece of wire around the decoration and attach it to the form as you did the bundles. When adding embellishments, work in odd-numbered groupings, as they look more aesthetically appealing on a circle, say the floral experts at Team Flower. Twist all wire ends tightly to avoid scratching your door or wall when the wreath is ready to hang.

Hang the wreath

Place the wreath holder on your door or in another spot. Determine what is the top of the wreath and twist two pieces of your paddle wire together to thicken it. Fashion the wire into a loop shape so you will have a "hook" for hanging the wreath onto the holder, which makes it more secure.

Emo Stuff a Cruiser

Take place on a chilly, Saturday, Dec. 6th with Treaty Three Police and volunteers collecting 1,838 lbs. of food for the Emo Food Bank. Charlene and Ron McTavish were kept busy all day picking up the food from the cruiser and re-stocking shelves.

Above left: Aiden McTavish and Ericka Heil
 Above right: Leah Teeple, Brynlee Libiak and Fair Ambassador Alexis Latter
 Right: Vicki Ogilvee, Fair Ambassador Alexis Latter and mom, Heather Latter



CENTURY 21

There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays

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Best Wishes,



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Miranda Veitch
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Mitchell Turcotte
REALTOR®
807-271-3472

www.CENTURY21FORTFRANCES.com

Merry Christmas

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

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



Jeff, Kelsey & the team at

Wright

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Merry Christmas AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank you for your support in 2025.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday!
We'll see you in the new year.



Merry Christmas

Wishing you good health and happiness in 2026



Rob Georgeson,
CFP, CIM, RRC
276-5439




Scott McGinnis
274-9507

The IG WEALTH MANAGEMENT office is situated at 281 Second Street East - Unit E, Fort Frances



Investors Group Financial Services Inc.

Warm holiday wishes from The Causeway Family!



Causeway

General Insurance Brokers Ltd.
 Affiliate of Stoneridge Insurance Brokers

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year...

from Couchiching First Nation Chief and Council and Band Administration.





Emo Holly Daze



The annual Emo Holly Daze was held Dec. 5th & 6th and once again proved to be a wonderful family event. The parade took place on Friday evening with an impressive fireworks display immediately after the parade.

Left: Emo Feeds Ltd. had a cozy place set up for Jill Savage to entertain the children during the song and story time on Saturday Dec. 6th.



Holiday Baking



Toffee Cheesecake Bars

-Metro

Baking is a popular activity come the holiday season. Families may designate entire weekend afternoons to baking holiday goodies, and those efforts are much appreciated by the beneficiaries of all that time spent in the kitchen elbows deep in flour and confectioners' sugar.

Cookies tend to be a go-to holiday treat, particularly in households with young children who want to leave out something homemade for the jolly old elf on Christmas Eve. But there's also plenty of room to expand your horizons during holiday baking sessions with the family. A finished product like these "Toffee Cheesecake Bars" from "Taste of Home Healthy Cooking Cookbook" (RDA Enthusiast Brands) by the Taste of Home/Reader's Digest Kitchens can delight guests and might even compel the man in the red suit to smile even wider come the night before Christmas.

Toffee Cheesecake Bars
Makes 21/2 dozen

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/3 cup baking cocoa
- 1/2 cup cold butter
- 1 8-ounce package reduced-fat cream cheese
- 1 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/4 cups milk chocolate English toffee bits, divided

1. In a small bowl, combine the flour, confectioners' sugar, cocoa, and baking soda. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press in

the bottom of an ungreased 13-inch x 9-inch baking dish. Bake at 350 F for 12 to 15 minutes or until set.

2. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Add the milk, eggs and vanilla; beat until smooth. Stir in 3/4 cup toffee bits. Pour over crust. Bake 18 to 22 minutes longer or until center is almost set.

3. Cool on a wire rack for 15 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining toffee bits; cool completely. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours overnight.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

We are making all the right adjustments to wish you and your family a happy holiday season!
May the magic of Christmas be with you & your families
Dr. Jeremy, Catherine & Randi

Holiday Hours:
We will be closed
Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2

FORT FRANCES CHIROPRACTIC CENTRE
807-274-2545
...maximizing your health and performance

The Joy of Advent

The Light of Christ

The Warmth of the Season

May all these be yours this Christmas

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

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a safe and happy New Year.
We look forward to serving you in 2026 and beyond.
From all of us at Fort Frances GM.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
From our family to yours!

Season's Greetings



Rainy River Parade

Above and left: New Gold took home the prize for the "Jolliest Float" at the Rainy River parade. See the back page for more photos! Photos from Rainy River Rec

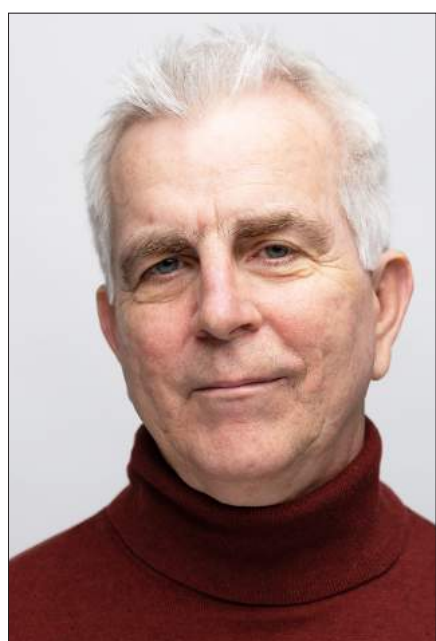


Above: Kreger Sales and Service won the prize for best float with this nostalgic array of classic toys many of us might remember.

MERRY Christmas

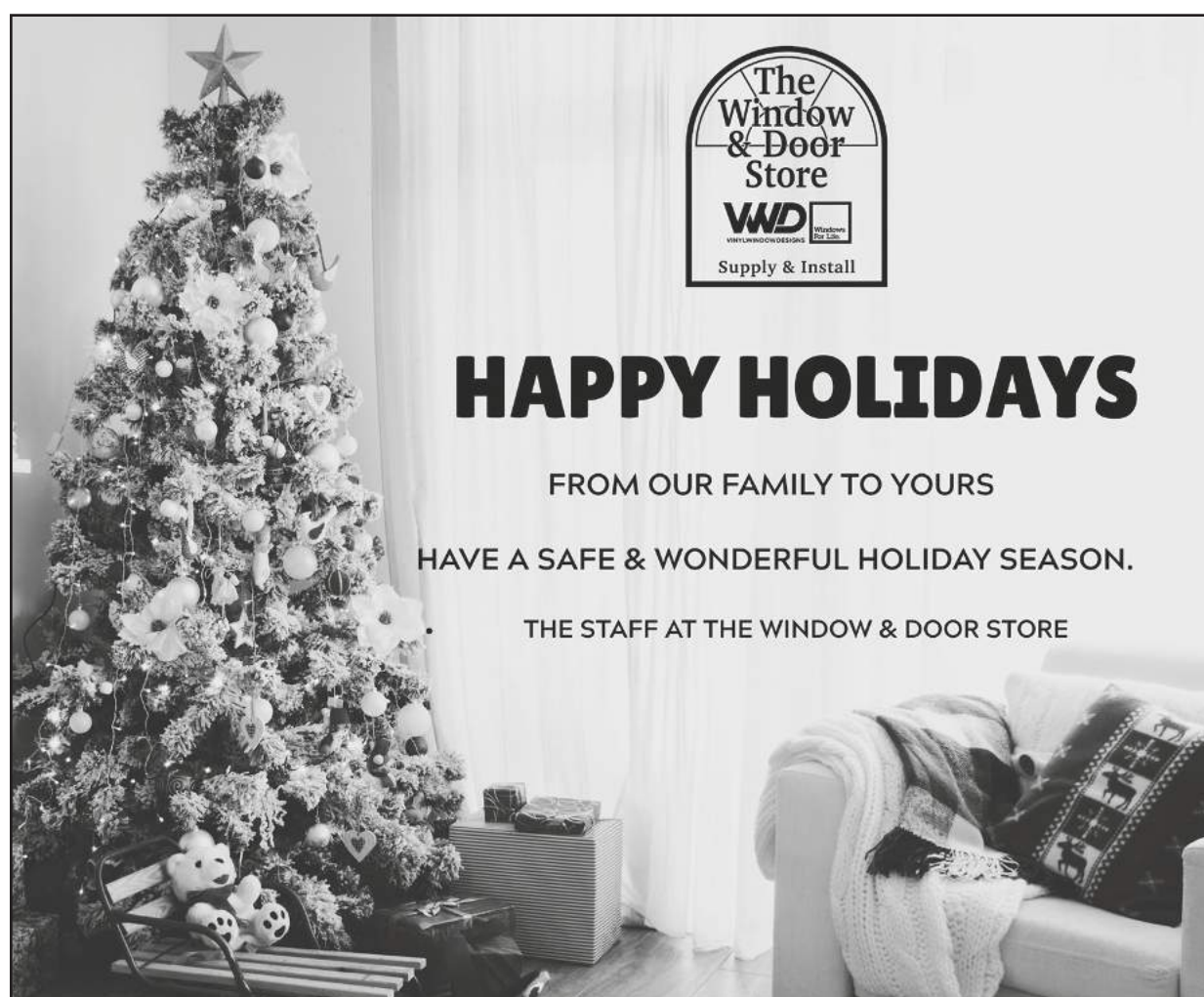
Wishing you joy, peace, and the warmth of community this holiday season.

MARCUS POWLOWSKI
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
THUNDER BAY RAINY RIVER
MarcusPowlowskiMP.ca (807) 625-1160



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS
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| TERRACE & PATIO DOORS | GARAGE DOORS

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FORTFRANCES

Happy Holidays & a Joyful New Year

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

*Mayor Andrew Hallikas Councillor Wendy Brunetta
Councillor Kaleb Firth Councillor John McTaggart
Councillor Mike Behan Councillor Bill Morrison Jr.
Councillor Steven Maki CAO Marcel Michaels*

*and Staff of the
Town of Fort Frances*



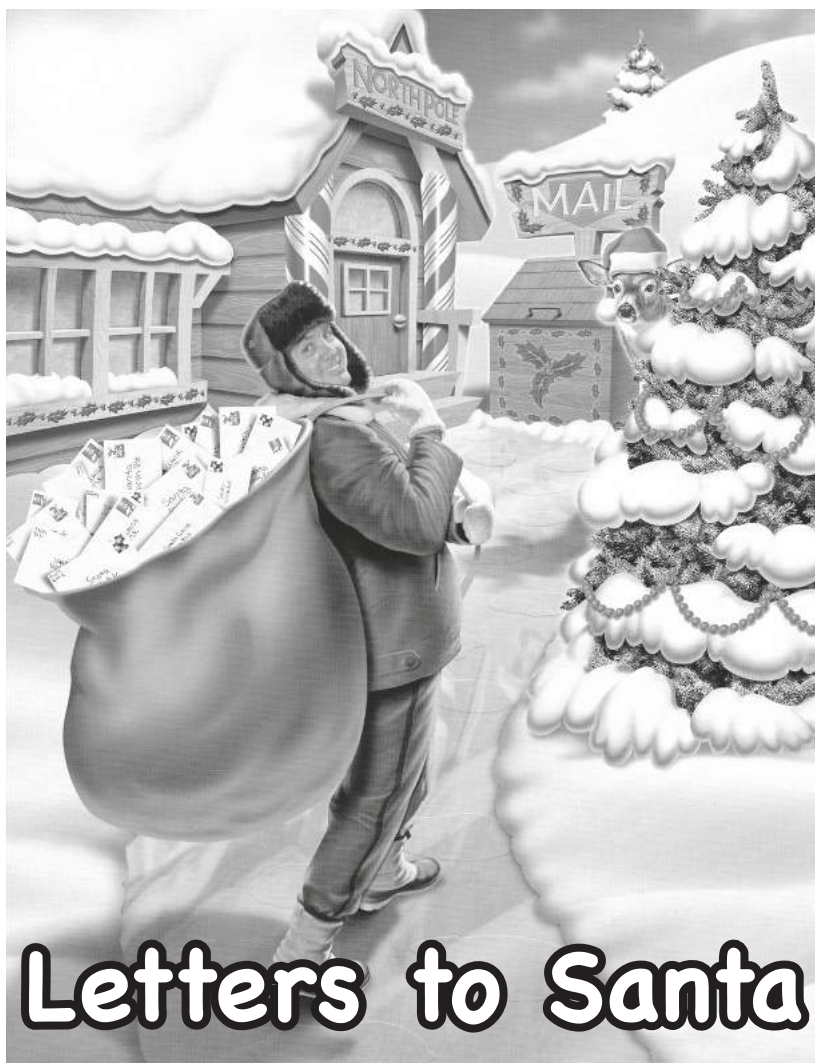
Merry Christmas

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

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ARMSTRONG CRANE



Letters to Santa

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

1. Helped my mom and dad.
2. Ate all my veggies.
3. I did what my mom said to do.

My Christmas wishes are:

1. Soldiers.
2. Zombies.
3. Craft supplies.

I hope you enjoy the milk and cookies!

Love, Saren

Dear Santa, We have been mostly good this year. For Christmas I would like an Elsa foam sled and a guitar with a music stand. My little sister would like anything Little People. Thank you, Emily age 6 and Carly age 1

Dear Santa, I've been a very good boy this year. For Christmas I would like a sled and a candy cane. I will leave

out milk and cookies for you and carrots for your reindeer. Merry Christmas! Owen

Dear Santa. I hope you had a good year. I've been a good boy this year. I would like a toy gun, a fishing tackle box, a Spider-Man toy and a Spider-Man sled. We will leave out milk and cookies for you and carrots for the reindeer. Love, Weston

Dear Santa, Can I come to your North Pole and can Lily come too? Ho ho ho! I have been good. I have been playing with my toys. This year for Christmas, I would like a popcorn maker and a surprise, please. My dog Bucky Boy has been good. Could you please bring him a bone? I will leave you milk and the cookies you love. Love, Waylon Chmilnitzky, age 3



Dear Santa, I have been decorating for Christmas with my mom, dad and brother. My doggy Buck is loved. Chippy the elf arrived, I love him. I was wondering if your hair is crazy and your beard gets curly and stuck? I have been a good girl for all year. This year for Christmas I would like baby clothes and a baby kitty please! I am going to leave you milk and cookies. Love, Lily Chmilnitzky, age 4

Dear Santa, This year I have been good. This year for Christmas I would like Christmas toys. Amora has been really good too! Love, Iris JK, Robert Moore Age 4

Dear Santa, This year I have been a good girl. This year for Christmas I would like Elsa toys. Can I take a ride with you one day? Love, Mila JK, Robert Moore Age 4

Dear Santa, This year I have been so good! This year for Christmas I would like a Lamborghini,

a real one. I love you Santa! Where do you live? Love, Zach SK, Robert Moore Age 5

Dear Santa, This year I have been good and nice. This year for Christmas I would like snacks and Pokemon toys like at school. Please bring the snacks! I love you Santa! Love, Malakai SK, Robert Moore Age 5

Dear Santa, This year I have been so nice. This year for Christmas I would like race cars and police cars. My mom wants a race car oe a nice shirt too! Love you Santa! Love Liam JK, Robert Moore Age 4

Dear Santa, This year I have been good. This year for Christmas I would like a mystery mini stick. Me and my brothers love playing hockey and soccer downstairs or at the rink Love, Owen SK, Robert Moore Age 4

Dear Santa, This year I have been good. This year for Christmas I

would like Santa toys. I love you so much Santa! Love Zofia JK, Robert Moore Age 4

Dear Santa, This year I have been good and bad. This year for Christmas I would like a DJ Furby. Santa, how old are you? Love, Harper SK, Robert Moore Age 5

Dear Santa, This year I have been good. This year for Christmas I would like a Harry Potter doll and plushies. Santa, what is your favourite day ever? Love, Joey SK, Robert Moore Age 5

Dear Santa, This year I have been a good boy. This year for Christmas I would like a toy gun like Vance, a tackle box and a sled and a Spidey toy. Owen was good too. Love, Weston JK, Robert Moore Age 4

Dear Santa, This year I have been a little good and bad. This year for Christmas I would like a baby dolly and a toy puppy that you can walk. Why and how do the

reindeer fly? And does Rudolph really have a red nose? Love, Indie SK, Robert Moore Age 5

Dear Santa, This year I have been good. This year for Christmas I would like a remote control Bumble Bee and a remote control train. I love you so much Santa! Love, Clark SK, Robert Moore Age 5

Dear Santa, This year I have been good. This year for Christmas I would like a big monster truck! I love you Santa! Love, Draco SK, Robert Moore Age 5

Dear Santa, My name is Amelia. This Christmas, I am 6 years old. This year, I have been good. What I would love most for Christmas is -to go to Disneyland -To have Hello Kitty toys -for Kingsley to have Sonic toys Enjoy the milk and cookies! Love, Amelia

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

naughty
 nice!
 i tried

SUZIE Q, DON, WENDY AND BRITTANY WISH YOU AND YOURS ALL OF THE BEST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND THROUGHOUT 2026!

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

PEACE ON EARTH

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

V Rainy River District Victim Services

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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

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Holiday Hours: Closed Dec 23rd at 3pm, Closed Dec 24-28, Open Dec 29 & 30, Closed Jan 1, Open Jan 2. Emergency services still available.

Thanks for your support in 2025.

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

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JOHN DEERE

Downloading our best at Christmas!

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

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

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Dear Santa,
My name is Waylon and I am 6 years old. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a 3-D axolotl for Christmas because I want to show them to Amelia. I really need a better pair of ski pants. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies and milk for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Waylon
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Josey and I am 6 years old. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a cat bed for Christmas because I can share and cuddle with my cat. I really need a blanket with a cat. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Josey
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Duncan and I am 7 years old. Thank you for the gifts you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a golden labubu for Christmas because it is very rare and fun. I really need new pants. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies for you and the reindeer!

Have a safe trip!
Love Duncan
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Cora and I am 7 years old. Thank you for the gt sled you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a labubu for Christmas because it is a keychain I can use. I really need some mini mitts. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Cora
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Jessa and I am 7 years old. Thank you for the teddy bear you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a Santa pillow for Christmas because I can share with Jesiah. I really need a warm neck warmer. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies and milk for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Jessa
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Declan and I am 6 years old. Thank you for the bean bag you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like R.C. Dinosaur for Christmas because I really like dinosaurs. I really need more warm clothes. On Christmas Eve I'll be

sure to leave cookies for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Declan
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Mia Servello and I am 7 years old. Thank you for the present you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like clothes, pjs and a stuffy hat for Christmas to keep me warm and to sleep. I really need a better hat. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies, milk and candies for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Mia
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Vera and I am 6 years old. Thank you for the new cushions you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a new ipad for Christmas because I can call my grandparents. I really need new snow boots. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies and milk for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Vera
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Isla and I am 7 years old. Thank you for the presents you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like Christmas decorations for Christmas because I don't

have that much. I really need pants and shorts. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave carrots and cookies for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Isla
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Attisus and I am 6 years old. Thank you for the psb controller you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like gloves for Christmas because I need to protect my hands. I really need a soccer bag. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave 25 oranges for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Attisus
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Chaz. Thank you for the triple wheel tractor you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a New Holland dual tractor for Christmas because it is fun to play with. I really need new socks. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies, milk and carrots for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Chaz
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Layla and I am 7 years old. Thank you for the desk you brought me last year!

I have been good this year. I would really like a new kitten for Christmas because I really love kittens and baby needs. I really need a pair of earrings. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave cookies for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Layla
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Kaliyah and I am 7 years old. Thank you for the iphone you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like stronger nails for Christmas so my nails grow long. I really need ski pants and boots. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave my homemade cookies for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Kaliyah
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Bennet and I am 5 years old. Thank you for the gift you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a 3-D (?) for Christmas because it could make a cool picture. I really need a heated blanket. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure

to leave iced tea for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Bennet
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Xavier and I am 6 years old. Thank you for the RC car you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a RC car for Christmas because I can deliver stuff to my friends. I really need a pants. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave carrots for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Xavier
Crossroads School

Dear Santa,
My name is Harriet and I am 6 years old. Thank you for the Legos you brought me last year! I have been good this year. I would really like a drone with a camera for Christmas because I could spy on my dad and find him. I really need a new blanket. On Christmas Eve I'll be sure to leave carrots for you and the reindeer!
Have a safe trip!
Love Harriet
Crossroads School

With Wishes Merry & Bright

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

Thanks Everyone!
Marty Kreger, family & staff

Kreger Sales & Service
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Closed December 25 & 26 and January 1 & 2

VEGETABLES fresh FRUIT

We hope your holiday is filled with good stuff, happiness, friendship, peace, gratitude, goodwill and more of your favourite things!

Merry Christmas and thanks for choosing us!

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

BEAVER MILLS MARKET

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

From the Physicians and staff at

FORT FRANCES PHYSICIANS GROUP

Best Wishes

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

Mino-niibaa-anama'ewigiizhigad gaye mino-animikokdaadiwgiizhigad

Joyeuses Fêtes et Bonne Année

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

RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BELIEVING • ACHIEVING • DREAMING

Those we miss will always be in our memories.

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

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Funeral Home Ltd

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(807) 482-3788
northridgefuneralhome.com

Jason and Rhonda Lilley, Rachel Korchak, Dawn Marie Sheppard, Aime Desaulniers, Larry Beere, Ralph Fluit, Anne Mailloux, Dixie and Don Kinnear, Elaine Lilley, Mike Mosher, Bryce Kabatay, Amanda Grywachski, Gerry and Jackie Guimond

Unique Christmas traditions around the world

Christians bring unique cultural touches to their Christmas celebrations each year. Celebrations vary widely, and here's a look at some notable Christmas traditions across the globe.

Yule Goat

The Yule Goat is a Christmas tradition in Sweden. The goat is believed to be an invisible spirit that ensures that Yule preparations are done correctly. A popular theory connects the goat to the Norse god Thor, who rode a chariot pulled by two goats.

Krampus

While many people celebrate the benevolence of Santa Claus, some celebrate a much grumpier alter-ego of sort. Krampus is a man-goat, half-demon monster who punishes misbehaving children at Christmastime, says Britannica. He is the evil companion of St. Nicholas, and is believed to have originated in Germany. His name comes from the German word "krampen," which means, "claw."

Christmas chicken

Christmas Eve is a popular romantic occasion for couples and families in Japan. In addition to gift-giving and a romance, many people choose to feast on a meal of KFC fried chicken and strawberry shortcake for dessert.

Roller-skating to Mass

In the city of Caracas, Venezuela, it's customary for Christmas Eve celebrants to roller skate to early morning Mass. Known as "Misa de Aguinaldo," these special church services take place on the days leading up to Christmas,

with the most festive held on December 24. On this day, the streets of Caracas are closed to automobiles, enabling revelers to cheerfully skate to church.

Mumming

In Newfoundland, Canada, celebrants known as mummers dress in elaborate disguises featuring mismatched clothing and whimsical accessories. The mummers obscure their identities and visit neighbors' homes during the 12 days of Christmas, performing songs, skits or dances while others attempt to guess their identities.

Las Posadas

In some Hispanic regions, including Mexico, participants reenact Mary and Joseph's search for shelter in Bethlehem through vibrant processions. They travel from house to house, singing traditional songs and requesting shelter only to be turned away until they reach a final home or church that will symbolically welcome them in.

Spiderweb decorations

Individuals in Ukraine decorate their Christmas trees with artificial spider webs. This tradition is inspired by a tale of a poor widow and her children who didn't have money for tree ornaments. Upon waking up on Christmas morning, they found their tree covered in sparkling, glimmering spider webs that resembled tinsel. A spider had spun the beautiful display as thanks for finding shelter and warmth in the family's humble abode. Today's spider webs symbolize unexpected blessings and gratit



Thank you Lakers!

A huge thank you to the Fort Frances Lakers junior hockey team for their incredible support at the McTavish Winter Wonderland Trail of Lights!

These outstanding young men went above and beyond - spending time with fans, collecting non-perishable food items for our local food bank, serving up 1000 hotdogs, hot chocolates, and soups, and ensuring everyone's safety by directing parking of hundreds of vehicles in an orderly fashion. The Lakers are always there to help our family-oriented public events, and their continued dedication to our community both on and off the ice doesn't go unnoticed.

Miigwech to the Lakers for helping to make tonight's event such a success and for showing what it truly means to be community champions!

Cutline and photo: Weechi'ttewin Family Services Facebook page



Holly Daze fun at Emo Feed Service Ltd.



We hope everyone enjoyed the festivities! A big thank you to the cultural food vendors who came out to share their cultural foods with the community on Friday night. On Saturday we had story & song time in the loft with Jill Savage this year and the ambassador for the Rainy River District Agricultural fair, Alexis Latter, stopped in and helped serve hot cocoa. It was great seeing the community come out and enjoy the events!
Photos and cutline: Emo Feed Service Ltd.

WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

CUSTOM AUTO & ACCESSORIES
LEAVE THE DETAILS TO US
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807-276-1430

Season's Greetings

The Board of Directors and staff would like to wish district residents a happy, healthy and prosperous 2026.

RAINY RIVER FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
A Community Futures Development Corporation

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

Canada

RAINY RIVER FIRST NATIONS
Manitou Rapids

HAPPY HOLIDAYS & Warm Winter Wishes

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Merry Christmas

From our M&Y Family to yours.

Warmest wishes for everyone this holiday season!

PHILLIPS MILLER LAW OFFICE
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807-274-8525
406 Church Street, Fort Frances, Ontario, P9A 1E2



The town of Rainy River showed its community spirit with this year's Christmas parade, lots of floats, lots of smiling faces and lots of Christmas cheer!

Photos from Rainy River Rec

Rainy River Christmas Parade



 Tara Jerry SALES REPRESENTATIVE Direct Line: 807-276-0843 tarajerry@remax.net tarajerry.com	 Caryn Myers SALES REPRESENTATIVE Direct Line: 807-275-7282 carynmyers@remax.net carynmyers.com	 Kerry Pasloski SALES REPRESENTATIVE Direct Line: 807-271-2486 kerrypasloski@remax.net kerrypasloski.com	<p>Merry Christmas</p> <p>From our homes to your homes, have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!</p> <p>RE/MAX NorthWest Realty Ltd. BROKERAGE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED</p>
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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From the Robinson family & staff

Dennis Robinson Ltd.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

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

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

Merry Christmas
Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season.


GREG RICKFORD
MPP - Kenora-Rainy River

 1-800-465-8501 | gregrickfordmpp.ca

Fuelling Your Community





Merry CHRISTMAS

Warm wishes to all our members, customers, and friends! Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to serving you in 2026.

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