

Bulletin



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Citizens express support for Sunny Cove, FFPLTC CEO provides budget update at council meeting

By Laura Balanko-Dickson
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A request to review the decision to sell Sunny Cove, the library's budget, sewer and water billing and a report of tens of thousands of dollars raised for the local food bank were among the agenda items considered during Monday's regular meeting of the Fort Frances Town Council.

A letter from concerned citizen Terry Ogden suggested the Town has an obligation to reconsider its decisions to sell the former Sunny Cove camp and make it "better than it ever was." Although Mayor Andrew Hallikas suggested that a request to review the decision was a high bar to meet, he lauded Ogden's efforts.

"This is what citizen ad-

vocacy looks like when done well," Hallikas said. "If you want to interact with council, use Terry as your example."

Nadine Cousineau, CEO of the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre (FFPLTC), gave a report on this year's budget. Councillor Wendy Brunetta and Hallikas both praised Cousineau for her efforts in making the library more efficient with a one per cent decrease in the library's operating budget.

In response to a letter sent by citizen Riley Pollard, Town council decided to allow monthly payment of sewer and wastewater bills, but the billing will remain bi-monthly.

Lastly, Councillor Kaleb Firth said local foodbanks took home \$35,000 in donations thanks to a variety of donation campaigns across town.

Town axes old bylaw that required mandatory colours for municipal buildings

By Laura Balanko-Dickson
Staff writer
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Fort Frances will be doing away with a bylaw more than 35 years old and it's an odd one – since November of 1989 the Town has required all municipal buildings to follow a colour code.

Town buildings have been technically required to choose from a somewhat dat-

ed-sounding palette: Fusain Charcoal, Banker's Grey, Silver Lining and Shibul Black paired with bright red doors.

Council voted unanimously to repeal the bylaw, likely because the town has not kept up with its arbitrary demands. Case in point is the refreshed water tower, which is chiefly blue and white with a reimagined town mascot.

Like the times, and the town mascot, tastes have changed. Municipal buildings likely need a facelift to modernize appeal to the public and the mandatory aesthetic of bright red doors likely isn't giving the impression Fort Frances wants to give to locals and tourists alike.



Water Tower back online after rehabilitation

Mayor Andrew Hallikas, left, and Bryan Patterson of the Fort Frances Water Department officially turn on the water supply to the newly refurbished Fort Frances Water Tower last Wednesday.

The tower was emptied for repairs over the summer and recently brought back online af-

ter a once in a generation project which saw the tank resurfaced, inside and out, in addition to new graphics applied to the outside. During the ceremony, the mayor thanked Town and contractor staff for getting the project completed on time and on budget.

—Allan Bradbury photo

Amber Alert warnings should be taken seriously, OPP stresses

By Times Staff

With Jan. 13 marking Amber Alert Awareness Day, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is taking the opportunity to remind the public of the system's importance in saving lives.

When a child is abducted and believed to be at an immediate risk of physical harm or death, an Amber Alert emergency broadcast is sounded, according to an OPP press release issued this morning.

Alerts include descriptions of the child and, whenever possible, the alleged suspect and vehicle involved.

The OPP stressed that Amber Alerts are not to be taken lightly – they mean police believe a child under 18 has been abducted and is in danger of serious harm or death. If an alert is issued, it means there is enough descriptive information regarding the child, the abductor or the vehicle for law enforcement to believe a public broadcast

Please see "OPP" on P2

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General Manager
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OPP detail process of Amber Alerts, laud the program's success

More from P1

will assist in locating them. Alerts are broadcast through TV, radio and any LTE-connected wireless devices via Canada's emergency alert system, Alert Ready.

The OPP said they believe time is critical when an Amber alert is issued; any tips or sightings should be reported immediately by calling 911.

Ontario's Amber Alert system plays a crucial role in child-abduction investigations, with police issuing only a handful of alerts each year. Annual totals typically range from one to five, though some years see spikes, such as 2019 when eight alerts were issued.

Police must meet strict criteria before activating an alert, including confirming a child

under 18 has been abducted, is in imminent danger and that there is enough descriptive information for the public to help.

The system has proven highly effective. In recent years, more than 90 per cent of Amber Alerts in Ontario have resulted in the safe recovery of the child, and from 2021 to 2024 every child involved in an Ontario alert was found alive.

While rare tragedies have occurred, such as cases in 2019 and 2020 where children linked to Ontario alerts were found dead, the overall record underscores the program's value as a rapid-response tool. Police and emergency officials continue to emphasize that the brief disruption caused by an alert can be critical in locating a child quickly.

Alternative voting measures to be approved for future elections, but not by-elections

By **Laura Balanko-Dickson**
Staff writer
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Alternative voting measures, such as online and telephone voting, will officially be available for future municipal elections in Fort Frances, though balloting for by-elections will remain a paper-based system for the time being.

The use of online and telephone voting began as a measure to address the social distancing requirements of the COVID-19 lockdowns and proved to be a success.

"[In] November 2021, a by-law was passed which authorized the use of telephone and internet voting (alternative voting) in the 2022 municipal and school board elections," reads a report from Chelsea Greig, municipal clerk for the Town of Fort Frances.

"Telephone and internet were then utilized as voting for 2022. Administration would like to continue with having the option of conducting elections by telephone and internet voting for the 2026 Elections and beyond."

These alternative measures

are intended to have a host of benefits for voters, particularly those with mobility challenges or jobs that may take them out of town for long periods. Greig listed a variety of benefits for adopting this as a permanent option for future elections including better counting accuracy, immediacy and accessibility. She noted that it can also improve voter turnout and lessen or eliminate the need to count and recount ballots.

There was little discussion among town council members in Monday's meeting on the topic. The only question from council was from Councillor Wendy Brunetta, who asked if there would be an option to have a computer available on-site for voters to use and get assistance with as needed. Greig confirmed that would indeed be an option.

Aside from that minor detour, the motion was unanimously passed as presented.

In the case of byelections, Greig's report noted that they "may have lower voter turnout, likely one office, and there could be money savings by going [with a] paper ballot. Council may want to consider these case-by-case."

AROUND TOWN

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

EVENTS CALENDAR

The first 55+ movie matinee of 2026 at the Fort Frances Public Library will be on Jan. 16 at 1 p.m. featuring *The Big Chill* (1983) Rated PG. "A group of seven former college friends gather for a weekend reunion at a South Carolina vacation home after the funeral of another of their college friends." Starring Tom Berenger, Glenn Close and Jeff Goldblum.

Family Movie night featuring Inside Out hosted by the Rainy Lake campus of Seven Generations Education Institute. "Shake off those winter blues with a family movie night at our Rainy Lake Campus! Bring the family to watch Disney Pixar's *Inside Out* (rated PG). Open to the public. No registration is required. Doors open at 5:00 pm and movie starts at 5:30 pm. Tuesday Jan 20. Light snacks, popcorn and other refreshments will be provided free of charge."

Knox United Church Fort Frances will host its Soup for the Soul fundraiser on Saturday Jan. 24. Soups available are Wild Rice, Hamburger, Chicken Noodle, or Lentil. 32 oz. \$15 or 16 oz \$7.50 available. Frozen soups can be picked up on the day of the sale or delivered within Fort Frances. Preorders appreciated but not required. Call the church 807-274-4543 or email Knoxknet@gmail.com

The Fort Frances Library is hosting a Capote making workshop running Jan. 23-24 Learn the craft of traditional Capote making in this two-day workshop led by Caren Fagerdahl and Jane Trivers. Cost is \$55/participant which includes a blanket to make your coat and other supplies. Space is limited; call the library at 807-274-9879 to register.

The Legion Ladies monthly supper for January is Friday Jan. 30. Serving a pork cutlet supper for \$25 per meal. Tickets for Dine-in, Delivery or pick-up, available at the Legion Office (9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on weekdays), Senior Centre (8 a.m.-2 p.m. on Mon.-Thurs.) or by calling Dawn at 807-276-4549 Tickets for delivery must be purchased by Tuesday Jan. 27.

Monday Feb. 9 is the next free performance of Kids & Company featuring the puppet play "Somebody Loves you Mr. Hatch."

"Mr. Hatch leads a predictable and dreary life; he keeps to himself. One Valentine's Day, he unexpectedly receives a heart-shaped package with an anonymous note that whispers, "somebody loves you," and everything changes. This heartwarming puppet play examines the effect that kindness can have on a lonely existence. Join washerwomen Betsy, Edna, and Molly as they bring Mr. Hatch's story to life and help him search for his secret admirer!"

ONGOING EVENTS

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

Bingo at the Fort Frances Senior Centre resumes on January 16 running until March 13, 2026 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Contact Diane Maxey for more details 807-275-9308.

Story Time at the Fort Frances Library is held every Wednesday at 10:15 a.m. at the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre! Story Time features a new theme each week, with carefully selected stories, songs and activities that will captivate and engage your little ones. No registration required. Perfect for ages 2-6 with a caregiver.
Baby Time at the Fort Frances Public Library on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. "Join us for songs, rhymes, lap bounces, stories, free play and more."

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Men's mental health group takes place the last Friday of January, February, and March at 10:30 a.m. at the HOPE Centre at 324 Victoria Ave. Coffee and Snacks provided, everyone is welcome.

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

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

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

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

Memory Lane Cafe with the Alzheimer Society Kenora and Rainy River Districts. A welcoming space where individuals living with dementia and their care partners can connect, socialize, and enjoy engaging activities. It offers a supportive environment to share experiences, build friendships, and access community support. Meets at the Fort Frances Senior Centre, 1 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Next dates are Feb. 4, and March 4 2026. For more information call 807-468-1516.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

Rainycrest Auxiliary Membership — New members are always welcome and current members are reminded to renew their membership dues are \$10 per year starting in 2026 and can be paid at the Tuck Shop or by calling 274-6954 (Judy) or 271-4114 (Donna).

Meals on Wheels — Seeking volunteer drivers. Contact Nicole Piotrowski at 807-274-3266 ext 4818 or by email n.piotrowski@rhcf.on.ca.

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

Ontario can help small airports by helping airlines: Rickford

By **Matt Prokopchuk**
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
TBnewswatch.com

DRYDEN — The MPP for the Kenora-Rainy River riding says his government “has not ruled out” financial help for airlines that want to serve regional airports.

Speaking to reporters in Dryden, Greg Rickford said 80 to 90 thousand people each year leave the riding to fly to other destinations out of Winnipeg “so there’s a lot of value in trying to understand how to service us.”

“But it can’t be that the cost of that flight is more than the cost of the flight you’re taking from Thunder Bay to another major city centre somewhere else in the world,” he said.

“So, we want affordability and reliability.”

To that end, Rickford said some help could be on the way for carriers.

“The Ministry of Transportation and my office have not ruled out playing a more significant role in helping the cost model get off the ground — no pun intended — for our communities, for what could be a limited amount of time,” he said.

“Just to ensure that passen-

ger services is optimized, and we’re looking at that now.”

In Kenora, North Star Air recently announced return of passenger air service with the first routes between its airport and Thunder Bay scheduled to start Jan. 15. Not only does that provide a service that officials throughout the region have said is greatly needed, it also means the Kenora airport can possibly again qualify for federal airports capital assistance program dollars.

Under that program, which is designed to help offset the costs for capital improvements and equipment purchases for local and regional airports and aerodromes, a site has to have year-round scheduled commercial passenger service with a minimum of 1,000 passengers per year.

Dryden and Fort Frances, along with Kenora, have commissioned a study to explore the viability and future of air travel that services their communities. Currently, without scheduled passenger service, Dryden and Fort Frances can’t access that federal fund for their airports.

When asked whether the province would consider providing direct funding, Rickford said “it’s one of the two options,” with the other being

supporting airlines so airports they service can be eligible for federal dollars.

“The Ontario government can play a role in supporting economically the viability of commercial airline services,” he said, adding that talks with Ottawa for interim help are also an option.

“It may be that, on an interim basis, we have to sit down with the federal government,” Rickford said.

“And hopefully, come to a place where that is dealt with, until we can get the kinds of commercial services that they would qualify automatically for when you’re doing all these investments and you’re working with your government.”

The Airport Management Council of Ontario has been advocating for a dedicated \$10 million per-year funding stream from Queen’s Park for airport improvements, arguing similar provincial programs are in place in other provinces.

Shari Gentes, the council’s northwest regional director, has told Newswatch they will take part in the province’s 2026 pre-budget consultations to make their case.

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A Moment In Time...

FORT FRANCES TIMES, JANUARY 17, 1952

Kryzanowski Develops Into "Penalty-Killer" With Boston Bruins

Ed Kryzanowski, Fort Frances' contribution to the National Hockey league, is having a good season with the Boston Bruins. A Boston sportswriter hails the husky, 25-year-old defenseman as one of the two best utility men and penalty killers ever to skate for the Bruins.

Playing every position except goal and usually under terrific pressure while the opposition has a manpower advantage, Kryzanowski was first employed as a penalty-killer against the New York Rangers one night. At stalling the enemy, he was described as "elegant" and his vaunted body-check spilled Rangers all over the ice.

But then versatility is a stock-in-trade for Kryzanowski who is considered perhaps the best all-round natural athlete Fort Frances ever produced. And there probably is no man in the NHL who keeps himself in better year-round physical condition.

The Bruin's penalty-killer, reports

of his aggressive, bruising style this winter to the contrary, is well-known to his hometown citizens as a friendly and mild-mannered fellow.

Ed or "Sonny," as he is called in Fort Frances, is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Kryzanowski, 651 First St. E. Three years ago, he married the former Elaine Mallory, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Mallory of the Fort, and Mrs. Kryzanowski shares her husband's passion for sports.

"Mrs. Ed" follows the fortunes of her pro-hockey husband and his team all winter, but when summer rolls around the couple can usually be found with golf clubs, paddles or fishing rod making the most of the warm weather.

Ed is a superb swimmer who once gave lessons at the Point park beach and astounded spectators with his endurance and ability in the water. A baseball player who claims to enjoy this sport even more than hockey and has starred in professional leagues while away from home, he pitches for a Fort Frances club whenever

possible. His golfing, which he started young, is keen.

Kryzanowski's athletic achievements were noted in high school where he shone as basketball player, gymnast and football back, although he holds no great liking for the latter sport. "If you want to play hockey, leave football alone," he is quoted as urging younger boys. Swimming he describes as the best sport to develop a strong body.

As a striking example of how clean living and exercise will help build a professional athlete, Kryzanowski - a nonsmoker who never was known to take a drink stronger than lemonade - could well serve as a model for boys with ambitions of sports careers.

Not content with keeping occupied in competitive athletics Ed conscientiously takes a tough session of calisthenics every day during summer and whenever else an opportunity comes up. Another body and wind exercise he practises diligently, is long distance running.

When Ed's hockey career is concluded - and that probably won't be for a long, long time - he would make an admirable recreation director or college coach. Besides his sports background, he studied physical education at University of Toronto. While playing with the varsity squad he first caught the eye of big league hockey scouts, and finally was persuaded to sign a holding contract with the Bruins who were content to wait a year for

him to finish his education.

Kryzanowski, a Canadian Navy veteran of World War II, was sponsored, along with thousands of other young vets, in his quest for 'higher knowledge' by the government.

Not a large man, Ed still packs around 180-90 pounds on his well-wellknit frame of 5-feet-ten, and nobody knows better how to use his weight in defensive hockey. Kryzanowski has been receiving penalties this season or big league fights. He was injured recently, but not seriously, when he engaged an opposing player in a setto hat surprised the fans, for Ed has become known as one of the most gentlemanly members of the NHL. His coach, Lynn Patrick, commented after Ed had done a bangup job of penalty-killing recently: "I just thought Kriziie could do the job I wanted done. He's a fine competitor, a real battler, and what he doesn't know he offsets with his hustle. He has been coming through just the way I expected him to."

A Boston writer, penning a story in tribute to Kryzanowski, said Ed's body-checking was a lot of "wham, bam and alagazam" which was just what the Bruins needed in their star utility man. That's Edward Kryzanowski of Fort Frances, Boston's penalty killer par-excellence and a more modest, unassuming athlete you'll rarely meet.

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FORT FRANCES Times

15 new NAPS constables get their badges amid hiring blitz

By Matt Prokopchuk
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
TBnewswatch.com

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO — The Nishnawbe Aski Police Service has over a dozen new constables.

The First Nations-led police service, which operates in 34 First Nations across Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory in Ontario's far north, awarded badges to 15 new officers in a ceremony on Jan. 9. They've already been sworn in, meaning they're now ready to be deployed to their communities.

Scott Paradis, the service's media relations coordinator, said it's the end result of completing training through the Ontario Police College and separate blocks of instruction by NAPS itself.

"Now that we are a fully legislated police service, our complement number needs to be much higher," Paradis said in an interview with News-watch. "And our recruitment unit is working tremendously at getting qualified applicants to those police college intakes."

The service became fully legislated under the province's Community Safety and Policing Act in late 2024 after opting in. Since then, Paradis said, the force has been looking to effectively double the number of sworn officers it has.

He said they had just over 260 officers at the time of signing the agreement in December, 2024. The Ontario Police College has four intakes per year, Paradis added, with NAPS having 20 seats reserved for each one.

"We are working, doing everything that we can, to make sure that we have as close to as 20 recruits as we can get," he said. "We are happy to see these larger classes because there is a great need for more officers in our 34 communities."

Nishnawbe Aski police is increasing its numbers at a time of stiff competition for qualified recruits in policing. The Thunder Bay Police Service has said it is having to compete with other forces, like NAPS, for those prospective officers.

"I think it's an incredible challenge, and our recruitment unit seems to be up to the task," Paradis said. "They're doing a tremendous job at finding qualified applicants and getting these larger class sizes through the Ontario Police College."

"Our in-service training units, they also have a pretty significant task ahead of them because they have to manage these large classes and make sure that they're prepared before they go to police college," he continued. "There's a block of training, and then once they return from police college there's another block of training before they are ready to receive their badges."

"It's an incredible amount of work, and we have multiple units that are dedicated to making sure that we are getting the best and the brightest to the communities."

Friday's ceremony also celebrated the return of a canine unit to NAPS, as it had been without one since 2016.

Const. Daniel Birch and his partner Becks were deployed on Dec. 6, 2025.

Ignace mayor 'excited' over latest step in nuclear waste site process

By Matt Prokopchuk
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
TBnewswatch.com

IGNACE — The latest major step in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's push for a massive underground storage site for spent nuclear fuel is "fantastic news" to Ignace's mayor.

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada publicly posted the initial project description submitted by the NWMO for the proposed deep geological repository on Monday. That kicked off a years-long process that will determine whether the facility between Ignace and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation gets built or not.

"It's fantastic news for the NWMO to submit that (project description) and it's just one step further moving forward," Kim Baigrie said.

"It's a — I don't want to say promise — but it's, for the future moving forward, it's just another step that we've come to that will make the community feel better about this."

The project description's public posting also started a one-month public comment period.

Ignace, along with Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, were named in late 2024 as the designated host communities for the repository planned for the Revell Lake area, south of Highway 17. The facility would accept and store long-term the waste from Canada's nuclear power plants.

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization, the industry-funded and government-mandated not-for-profit, has said the estimated \$26-billion project will create hundreds of jobs during

"I sat on council ... 15 years ago now when we put our name forward, so I have been watching this process and getting involved. I'm excited. And being out at those boreholes, I felt like I was on top of the world."

—Kim Baigrie

each of the pre-construction, construction and operations phases. Officials in Ignace — a community that saw its population halved over a roughly 20-year span starting in the mid-1980s as industries dried up — have said being the anchor municipality for the NWMO's operations could reverse that crash.

"I'm excited, you know," Baigrie said. "I sat on council ... 15 years ago now when we put our name forward, so I have been watching this process and getting involved."

"I'm excited. And being out at those boreholes, I felt like I was on top of the world."

Not everyone in town says they share the mayor's optimism. Diana Schmidt, an Ignace resident and longtime opponent of the repository, said in a January interview with TBT News she will be submitting that opposition to the impact assessment agency.

"This step that they're starting, as of now, I want to make sure everybody's voices are heard, and I will be getting people to go and put their voice in as well," she

said, noting that the highly-radioactive spent fuel would be transported to the region from other places hundreds and thousands of kilometres away.

"We can't back down now at this point — I mean, we have to try and stop them from burying it up here."

Township officials have said over three quarters of the community aged 16 and older voted yes to the NWMO's project.

Baigrie said more information sessions will be held in Ignace where residents will be able to continue to get more information, ask questions and share concerns. She said everyone also now has the opportunity to submit comments during the impact assessment agency's window.

"It's always been, right from day one with me, with the staff, with the council, that the best interest for us is to look after the community, is to make sure that they're involved in this, and that we want to see this project go forward," she said.

"And it's for the best interest of this community."

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Classic Shepherd's Pie

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Ingredients

Meat Filling:

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 cup chopped yellow onion
1 lb. 90% lean ground beef -or ground lamb
2 teaspoons dried parsley leaves
1 teaspoon dried rosemary leaves
1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
2 garlic cloves -minced
2 tablespoons all purpose flour
2 tablespoons tomato paste
1 cup beef broth
1 cup frozen mixed peas & carrots*
1/2 cup frozen corn kernels

Potato Topping:

1 1/2 - 2 lb., russet potatoes -about 2 large
potatoes peeled and cut into 1 inch cubes
8 tablespoons unsalted butter -1 stick
1/3 cup half & half
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/4 cup Parmesan cheese

Instructions

Make the Meat Filling.

Add the oil to a large skillet and place it over medium-high heat for 2 minutes. Add the onions. Cook 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add the ground beef (or ground lamb) to the skillet and break it apart with a wooden spoon. Add the parsley, rosemary, thyme, salt, and pepper. Stir well. Cook for 6-8 minutes, until the meat is browned, stirring occasionally.

Add the Worcestershire sauce and garlic. Stir to combine. Cook for 1 minute.

Add the flour and tomato paste. Stir until well incorporated and no clumps of tomato paste remain.

Add the broth, frozen peas and carrots, and frozen corn. Bring the liquid to a boil then reduce to simmer. Simmer for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Set the meat mixture aside. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.

Make the potato topping.

Place the potatoes in a large pot. Cover the potatoes with water. Bring the water to a boil. Reduce to a simmer. Cook until potatoes are fork tender, 10-15 minutes.

Drain the potatoes in a colander. Return the potatoes to the hot pot. Let the potatoes rest in the hot pot for 1 minute to evaporate any remaining liquid.

Add butter, half & half, garlic powder, salt, and pepper. Mash the potatoes and stir until all the ingredients are mixed together.

Add the parmesan cheese to the potatoes. Stir until well combined.

Assemble the casserole.

Pour the meat mixture into a 9x9 (or 7x11) inch baking dish. Spread it out into an even layer. Spoon the mashed potatoes on top of the meat. Carefully spread into an even layer.

If the baking dish looks very full, place it on a rimmed baking sheet so that the filling doesn't bubble over into your oven. Bake uncovered for 25-30 minutes.** Cool for 15 minutes before serving.

Vintage-Style Beef Stroganoff

thekitchn.com



Ingredients

12 ounces baby bella, cremini, or button mushrooms
1 large yellow onion
2 cloves garlic
1 1/2 pounds top sirloin, boneless ribeye, beef tenderloin, or flank steaks
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour, divided
3/4 teaspoon hot paprika
1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more as needed
1 tablespoon neutral oil, such as canola or grapeseed
3 tablespoon unsalted butter, divided
1/4 cup dry white wine
1 (14.5-ounce) can low-sodium beef or chicken broth (about 2 cups)
2/3 cup sour cream
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1 1/2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
Freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh parsley leaves or chives (optional)

Cooked egg noodles, polenta, or mashed potatoes, for serving

Instructions

Trim and quarter 12 ounces baby bella, cremini, or button mushrooms (cut into eighths if large). Halve and thinly slice 1 large yellow onion (about 1 1/2 cups). Finely chop 2 garlic cloves.

Cut 1 1/2 pounds top sirloin, boneless ribeye, beef tenderloin, or flank steaks across the grain into 1/2-inch-thick slices. If the slices are long, cut crosswise into 1-inch-long pieces. Place in a large plastic bag. Using the flat side of a meat pounder or rolling pin, lightly pound the beef to flatten slightly and tenderize. Add 2 tablespoons of the all-purpose flour, 3/4 teaspoon hot paprika, and 1 teaspoon kosher salt. Seal the bag and shake until the beef is evenly coated.

Heat 1 tablespoon neutral oil in a large skillet over high heat until shimmering. Working in batches, add the beef slices in a single layer and sear until browned on the outside but still rare inside, 30 to 60 seconds per side, reducing heat as needed to prevent scorching. Transfer to a plate. Sprinkle the seared beef with any remaining flour mixture from the bag.

Reduce the heat to medium-high and add 1 tablespoon of the unsalted butter to the pan. Once melted, add the onions and cook, stirring occasionally, until starting to soften and turn translucent, about 4 minutes. Add the mushrooms and a pinch of kosher salt. Cook, stirring frequently, until the mushrooms and onions are deeply browned, 10 to 15 minutes.

Add the garlic, remaining 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour, and remaining 2 tablespoons unsalted butter. Stir until the butter is melted and the mixture is fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add 1/4 cup dry white wine and scrape up any browned bits from the bottom to the pan with a wooden spoon. Cook until the wine is reduced by about half. Add 1 (14.5-ounce) can low-sodium beef or chicken broth and bring to a simmer. Cook until reduced by half, about 5 minutes.

Reduce the heat to medium-low. Add 2/3 cup sour cream, 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard, and 1 1/2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce. Stir until the sour cream is fully incorporated (don't worry if it looks broken or separated at first). Return the beef and any accumulated juices on the plate to the pan. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the beef is medium-rare, about 3 minutes.

Remove the pan from the heat. Taste and season with kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper as needed. Garnish with 2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley or chives if desired. Serve over cooked egg noodles, polenta, or mashed potatoes.

Baked Rice Pudding

tastesbetterfromscratch.com



Ingredients

4 large eggs
3/4 cup granulated sugar
3 cups milk
1 cup heavy whipping cream
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
3 cups cooked rice, cooled (leftover rice works great!)
1 cup raisins

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Beat the eggs and sugar together. Slowly pour in the milk and cream and mix well.

4 large eggs, 3/4 cup granulated sugar, 3 cups milk, 1 cup heavy whipping cream

Add the vanilla and cinnamon and mix well. Add the rice and raisins and stir to combine.

2 teaspoons vanilla extract, 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon, 3 cups cooked rice, 1 cup raisins

Pour mixture into a greased, oven-safe casserole dish at least 9x9, or into individual ramekins.

Place the filled casserole dish inside a larger, oven-proof dish. Add about 1-2 inches of hot water to the larger pan (or enough to fill about halfway up the side of the rice pudding dish). This method will help the pudding to have a custard texture.

If using a 9x13 or similar size pan, bake for 40-50 minutes or until the top has set (It's okay if it jiggles just slightly). If using 9x9, you may need to add 15-20 minutes until the top has set. Serve warm.

Leftovers store well in the refrigerator for up to 5 days.

Notes

Make Ahead Instructions: Cook the rice up to several days ahead

Classic Meatloaf

thewholesomedish.com



Ingredients

1 lb. 90% lean ground beef
1 cup dried bread crumbs
1/2 cup diced yellow onion
1/2 cup milk
1 large egg beaten
2 tbsp. ketchup
1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp. dried parsley leaves
3/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 tsp. ground black pepper

For the Topping:

1/4 cup ketchup
2 tbsp. packed light brown sugar
1 tbsp. red wine vinegar

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350° Fahrenheit.

In a large bowl, add the beef, bread crumbs, onion, milk, egg, 2 tablespoons ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, parsley, salt, garlic powder, and pepper. Use your hands to mash and mix these ingredients together until well combined.*

Add the meat mixture to a loaf pan. Pat the meat down into an even layer.

In a small bowl, add 1/4 cup ketchup, the brown sugar, and vinegar. Stir to combine. Pour the sauce on top of the meatloaf and spread it into an even layer.

Bake uncovered for 55 minutes. Let the meatloaf rest for 8-10 minutes before serving (or it may fall apart).**

Lakers sweep North Stars to take top spot in SIJHL standings

By Allan Bradbury
Staff Writer
abradbury@fortfrances.com

The Fort Frances Lakers shook off the holiday rust to tackle a two-game sweep of the Thunder Bay North Stars last weekend.

On Friday night, January 9, 2026, the Lakers looked rusty out of the gate and both teams struggled until captain Pierce Gouin broke the stalemate late in the opening frame on a feed from Tie Schumacher and Gunnar Simon.

Nickolas Fagnilli scored his 11th of the season after hitting the post in the same shift just before the end of the period to send the Lakers into the intermission up 2-0.

The North Stars put up two goals on eight shots in the second period to take the game into the final period tied at two.

Nolan Barker would put the Lakers ahead for good just past the six minute mark of the third with assists from Fagnilli and Daniel Tokariwski, with Ronnie Bender adding a power play marker and Tie Schumacher scoring on an empty net to add insurance before the game ended 5-2 in the Lakers favour.

Nolan Koethler took the win in net stopping 23 of 25 North Stars shots.

A night later things went somewhat similarly in that the game was scoreless until late in the first period when Ronnie Bender poked a rebound past North Stars goalie Connor Dunham-Fox with just four seconds remaining in the period.

The North Stars would go on to get two past Lakers goalie Brady Cates in the middle frame but Gunnar Simon scored to tie it up once again sending the teams into the third period tied at two goals apiece.

Tie Schumacher put the Lakers up inside the first minute of the third period with a powerplay goal at the 19-second mark with an assist from Zak Green.

Not to be outdone, the North Stars gave the Lakers a challenge and tied the game up around the 13-minute mark.

However, late November addition Jace Van Eps, made a dazzling play when he caught a high pass at the blue line and brought it down to the ice in time to fire it past Dunham-Fox for the game winner.

Following the game, Head Coach and General Manager Luke Judson praised Van Eps for how he's played since joining the team.

"He's been dangerous since he got here," Judson said.

"You can tell he's got a nose for the net and great offensive instincts, and that's a goal scorer's goal, to beat a guy with speed and put that puck where he did. It was a late goal that we needed, and I'm glad we didn't have to go to overtime."

The Dryden Ice Dogs, who did not play over the weekend, fell to second place in the SIJHL standings with the Lakers taking a one point lead.

The team benefited from numerous blocked shots across the weekend, including several key ones from newcomer Brady Rowsell, who was named player of the game in his first match since joining the team from Red Lake in a trade after the holiday break, along with fellow defender Justin Gelderland. Both were acquired in exchange for Player Development Fees.

Judson says blocking shots is something they're trying to get more of from the team.

"It's something we've talked about all year, but they definitely took a big step this weekend with sacrificing themselves," he said.

"I think our addition Rowsell set a great example of what that means and how to throw yourself out there. I think he might have had five or six on his own. But we're really happy with that, that's what it's going to take at the end of the season to be successful."

The SIJHL trade deadline passed over the weekend without any additional trades for the Lakers but Judson says he's pleased with the group they have assembled to this point.

"We've said from the start of the year that these guys



Fort Frances Lakers forward Ronnie Bender deflects the puck past Thunder Bay North Stars goaltender Connor Dunham-Fox during for the fourth goal in Friday night's contest at Ice For Kids Arena. The Lakers have ascended to take the top spot in the league and will go head-to-head with the Kam River Walleye tonight.

— Allan Bradbury photo

wouldn't be here if the coaching staff didn't like them and want them here," Judson said.

"At times we went down to 12 forwards and six defenseman because we wanted to make sure that the guys who were here deserved to be here. There's a high bar to be a Laker now and I'm happy with the additions we've had, not just this past couple of weeks but all the way through the season. They fit in really well and the

group is gelling at the right time."

On the weekend's results, Judson said the games showed the Lakers can compete with the other good teams in the league.

"That's a good hockey team and a team we're going to compete tight with all year," Judson said.

"These are games we want to play right now that are close playoff (style) hockey. High in-

tensity. I'm happy to get both wins. It's a good character builder for us and I'm glad we came out on the right end."

The Lakers are on the road for a game against Kam River Walleye tonight and return home Thursday face Dryden at Ice For Kids Arena when they'll be hosting a "Fill the Bowls" fundraiser for Best for Kitty and Ruffcue organizations, which help animals in the Fort Frances area.



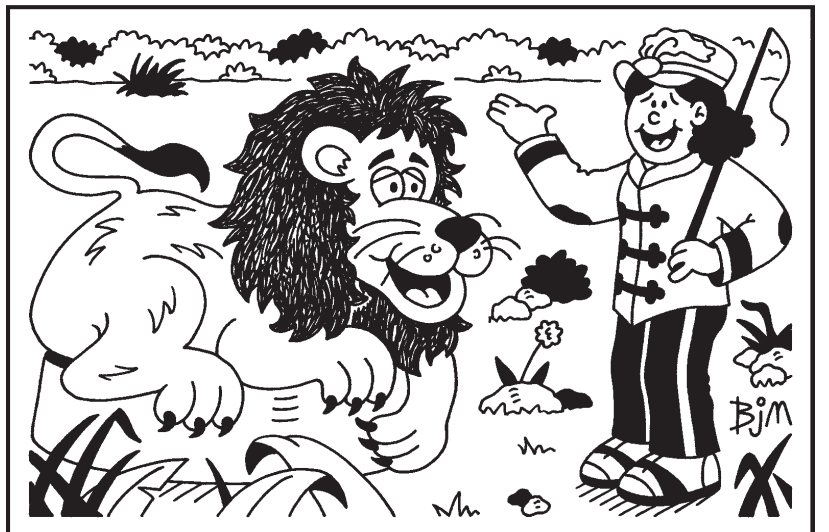
1. Name the group that released "Heart of Glass."
2. Who released "The Boys Are Back in Town"?
3. Which group released "The Boy from New York City"?
4. Who were The T-Birds and The Pink Ladies?
5. Name the 1958 cover of the song that contains this lyric: "Evening shadows make me blue when each weary day is through. How I long to be with you."

Answers

1. Blondie, in 1979. It was their first No. 1 single. The song was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2015, and Rolling Stone ranked the song as No. 138 in their list of 500 greatest songs of all time in 2021.
2. Thin Lizzy, in 1976. With the group being Irish, it's not surprising that the song topped the chart in Ireland.
3. The Ad Libs, in 1964. A year later, the Beach Boys would release an answer song, "The Girl from New York City."
4. They were the boy and girl groups at Rydell High School in "Grease."
5. "My Happiness," by Connie Francis. Her 1958 cover of the 1948 original climbed the charts but didn't quite make it to the top. It would have been her first chart-topper.

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



www.comparrotpuzzles.com © 2026 Bonnie J. Malcolm



Solution: 1. Split in leaf beside lion. 2. End of grass beside lion. 3. Emblem is different on trainer's hat. 4. Grass behind trainer is missing. 5. Back of shoe is colored in. 6. Inside of lion's ear is colored in. 7. Rock behind trainer is colored in. 8. Lion's whisker has moved. 9. Fur on lion's back has moved. 10. Tail is different. 11. Rocks by trainer are reversed. 12. Flower is different.

*Don't miss out on these
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Jan 21st - Focus on Farming Feature Page

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Emo, Ontario 807-482-2835
Everyone Welcome

Jan 18 - Guthrie/ Devlin @ 10 am
Coffee and fellowship to follow.
Social Distancing and mask wearing are voluntary.

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Pastor Ken Johnson

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1105 Scott St. 807-274-5415
Pastor Christie Manisto

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Confessions 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday Mass 9:30 a.m.

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Confessions 10:30 a.m.
Thursday Mass 9:30 a.m.

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Confessions 4:30 p.m.
Friday Mass, 9:30 a.m.

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Rev. Fr. Bohdan Statkevych
Sunday, January 25, 2026
9:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy
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720 Morrison Cres.
(behind Copper River Inn)
807-274-5569
Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Ramp Access-Wheelchair Available
Everyone welcome.

Parks Canada eyed boat-ban pros and cons

By Connor McDowell
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
Brandon Sun

A Parks Canada document shows that staff weighed pros and cons — including a legal threat from Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation — before deciding to ban motorboats from Clear Lake last May.

A briefing document was prepared for Thomas Sheldon, the acting superintendent of Riding Mountain National Park at the time, requesting his decision before May 14. The note identified the legal threat from the First Nation, as well as the risk of an outcry from boat owners and businesses, among factors to consider when deciding on the boat policy for 2025.

Sheldon signed off on May 14 in favour of the boat ban, the document shows.

The file was obtained by the Sun through an access-to-information request, along with internal emails between Parks Canada staff and other correspondence leading up to the ban.

The files show that Parks Canada factored social, environmental and legal risks ahead of the ban that blindsided business owners and cottagers when it was announced on May 16, at the start of the Victoria Day long weekend.

The options presented to Sheldon were to allow all watercraft, only non-motorized watercraft or no watercraft. The recommendation in the note was that Sheldon ban motorized boats for the season.

The rationale to ban boats contained 13 bullet points, including that it would allow “for benchmark studies on the ecological, socioeconomic and cultural dimensions of Clear Lake,” that “visitation and revenue generation were not significantly impacted by the closure in 2024,” and that “the Field Unit Superintendent has the authority under the Canada National Parks Act to decide on this option and implement it.”

Other rationales were that motorized watercraft have the ability to quickly move water through their bilge, live wells or ballast tanks, posing a risk to spread zebra mussels around the lake. A boat ban was also said to reduce the risk of spreading zebra mussels out of Clear Lake and to reduce the likelihood of introducing new invasive species to Clear Lake.

Parks Canada told the Sun that Sheldon was serving in the acting superintendent role “to cover pre-arranged leave” for then-superintendent Leanne Cooper.

Cooper told a crowd in Onanole days after the boat

ban that she was responsible for it, saying, “Ultimately, (it was) my decision.”

Parks Canada created a decision matrix to inform the boat policy decision, the briefing note shows. Strengths and weaknesses were listed of the three possible options and given to Sheldon.

The path to allow boats on Clear Lake carried seven concerns, including that allowing boats was “likely subject to judicial review and injunction” by Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation, would make “monitoring for ecological/cultural/social impacts of motorboating not feasible,” and “may infringe on section 35 rights.”

Internal documents show Keeseekoowenin had argued that if boats quickened the spread of zebra mussels, it could make Parks Canada responsible for damaging the First Nation’s fishery and ability to harvest. This was presented as a possible infringement on their Section 35 rights under Canada’s constitution.

Five strengths were listed for allowing boats on the water, including that it would be “supported by the majority of the public,” that “zebra mussels will eventually spread throughout Clear Lake and the degree to which human assisted transfer will accelerate this spread is challenging

to quantify,” and that allowing boats “limits the risk of introducing new aquatic invasive species to Riding Mountain National Park.”

Under the option to ban boats, Parks Canada listed five concerns, including that it would lead to an expected “significant negative reaction from boat owners and some businesses,” and a “likely negative reaction from provincial government.” It would also prompt “marine operation to be significantly impacted,” with the cruise ship “Martese unable to sail.”

Parks Canada outlined three strengths for banning motorized boats: the decision was “supported by” Keeseekoowenin, “allows for opportunity to monitor for ecological/cultural/social impacts of motorboats,” and “limits the risk of human aided transference of zebra mussels within Clear Lake.”

Staff at the agency had drafted an information bulletin to tell the public as late as May 6 that motorboats would be allowed on the lake. By the end of that week, the agency had pivoted to planning for a ban on boats, the correspondence shows. The files also show that Keeseekoowenin officials became aware on May 2 that boats were going to be allowed on the water and stated immediately they intended to file for a judicial

review.

Cooper was replaced as superintendent of Riding Mountain National Park in September. Sheldon took up the role following her relocation.

Visitation to the park was listed as roughly 347,000 people in 2024, compared to 339,000 the year before, 334,000 in 2022 and 359,000 in 2021.

“Parks Canada staff are cautious that this data is limited and may not persist over the long-term,” the briefing note stated.

The agency said in May that it expected visitation to increase in 2025.

Parks Canada released an information bulletin in December saying it aims to make a decision on watercraft management for Clear Lake by February 2026.

The decision about motorized watercraft use in Clear Lake will be guided by a list of items, the bulletin said. These include consideration of monitoring results from 2025 and previous years, a third-party literature review on impacts of motorized watercraft on inland lakes, feedback from consultations and engagement with others, including with section 35 rights holders.



by Ryan A. Berenz

- Which Hockey Hall of Famer and four-time Stanley Cup champion may be best known for the Canadian donut shop chain he cofounded in 1964?
- Which NFL head coach compiled a 34-46 regular-season record with the Dallas Cowboys (1998-99) and Buffalo Bills (2010-12)?
- What horse racing facility in Hallandale Beach, Florida, hosted the Breeders’ Cup in 1989, 1992 and 1999?
- What international agreement, signed in 1981, requires all member countries to protect the International Olympic Committee’s five interlocking rings logo from unauthorized commercial use?
- What university is known as “Sportscaster U.” for its many alumni — including Marv Albert, Mike Tirico, Dick Stockton, Sean McDonough and Ian Eagle — with distinguished careers in sports media?
- What two college football teams play for the Old Brass Spittoon rivalry trophy?
- Name the Basketball Hall of Famer and Portland Trail Blazers head coach who was arrested in October 2025 as part of an investigation into rigged sports gambling and poker games.

Answers

- Tim Horton.
- Chan Gailey.
- Gulfstream Park.
- The Nairobi Treaty on the Protection of the Olympic Symbol.
- Syracuse University.
- The Indiana Hoosiers and Michigan State Spartans.
- Chauncey Billups.

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

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

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Difficulty: ★★

1/13

Yesterday's solution

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

- APRES-SKI
- AVALANCHE
- BASE LAYER
- BINDINGS
- BLACK DIAMOND
- CARVING
- CHAIR
- DROP
- EDGE
- GLADE
- GONDOLA
- GROOMER
- HELMET
- JACKET
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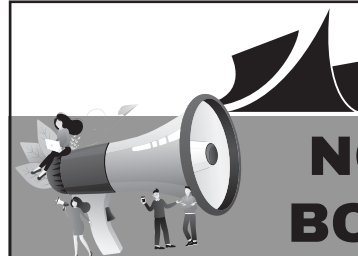
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Ontario First Nation says Ottawa still slow to act after 18 years of water issues

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

A remote Cree community on the shores of James Bay has declared a state of emergency after its water treatment plant failed this week — a crisis residents say the federal government is responding to far too slowly.

Kashechewan First Nation, home to around 2,300 people alongside the Albany River in Ontario's northern region, is now under a "do not consume" short-term water advisory.

Residents have been ordered not to drink tap water or bathe babies and young children in it. In many homes, taps are dry — no water to flush toilets or wash hands.

Kashechewan Chief Hosea Wesley said the community's broken water system has left young parents scrambling to care for their children. "I have a mother with a newborn, and we haven't washed the baby since the start of this declaration," he said.

The local emergency began in early December when pumps at the community's water treatment plant failed, stopping proper treatment of drinking water. Later that month, equipment that handles the sewage system also began to fail, causing backups that spread into parts of the community's only health clinic during an influenza outbreak.

"Imagine a family of 10 people in a crowded house with influenza and there's only one washroom, and it's not working," said Tyson Wesley, the nation's executive director.

So far, federal support has fallen far short of what the community needs, he said. As

of Wednesday, the government had arranged only one charter flight — enough to evacuate 37 people.

The nation has requested more assistance and asked the Canadian Armed Forces to step in with water deliveries and a faster evacuation. Ottawa, however, has reportedly denied the request, saying the situation doesn't meet the threshold for an emergency response.

"If one person gets sick or one person passes away, maybe that's the level of response that they need," Tyson Wesley said.

The community is accessible only by air for most of the year, which means every water delivery, evacuation or equipment replacement part depends on aircraft — and the weather.

Chief Wesley said no one knows how long the repair will take — residents are hauling untreated water from nearby rivers to flush toilets and relying on donations of bottled water for drinking and cooking.

The current crisis is part of a decades-long struggle with repeated system breakdowns. Ottawa has supported repairs, but the aging system continues to break down and replacement parts are difficult to find, Tyson Wesley said.

Chief Wesley said federal action has repeatedly stalled, with officials calling for more studies despite long-standing evidence of risk. Engineering assessments have already warned that the community's dike system built decades ago and never upgraded could fail during a major flood or spring breakup. Instead of acting on those findings or improving infrastructure, he said, decisions have continued to be delayed.

"The government has been



As of January 5, 2026, Kashechewan Public Water System in the Kashechewan First Nation has been under a do not consume water advisory.

— Photo submitted by Tyson Wesley

dragging its feet for over 18 years," Tyson Wesley said.

Kashechewan sits in a flood-prone area and has evacuated more than a dozen times in 18 years due to flooding, contaminated water and failing infrastructure.

A few years ago, the federal government even committed to relocating Kashechewan to safer ground, but that plan has not progressed, Chief Wesley said — meanwhile, uncertainty around relocation has also delayed essential investments in the current community, leaving residents dependent on old infrastructure that keeps breaking down.

He said federal officials have also blocked the First Nation from managing its

own evacuation operations, citing a "conflict of interest." The community created its own emergency management entity to coordinate flights, lodging and logistics, drawing on the experience of members who have managed many evacuations before.

The government's refusal has delayed evacuations that they could have begun within hours, which undermines their right to self-determination, said Chief Wesley.

Canada's National Observer reached out to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to clarify its response and outline what actions it plans to take, but the department did not respond to requests for comment before publication.

Internal documents obtained by Canada's National Observer through the Access to Information and Privacy Act reveal that ISC, in a July 4, 2025 letter to lawyer John P. Brown — who represented First Nations in the class-action settlement — acknowledged the importance of ensuring access to clean water. After the 2021 Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Settlement, Canada committed to working closely with First Nations to create new legislation to replace the 2013 Safe Drinking Water for First Nations Act, which was repealed in June 2022.

The government introduced Bill C-61, the First Nations Clean Water Act, on December 11, 2023. However, the bill didn't move forward and died when Parliament shut down in 2025. It has not

been reintroduced.

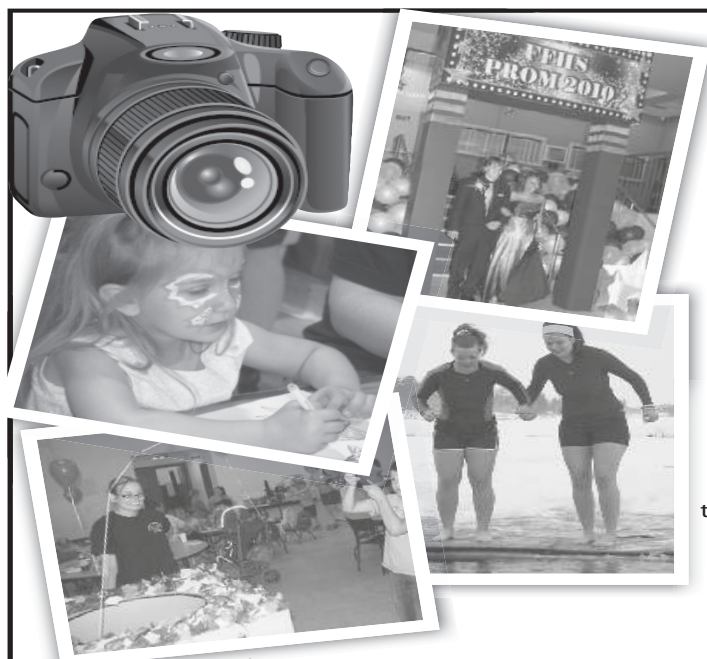
ISC says it remains committed to reconciliation and working with First Nations to improve access to safe, high-quality water.

Other internal documents dated July 15, 2025 show Ottawa continues funding major on-reserve infrastructure projects, including water and wastewater systems. By March 31, 2025, over 1,000 large projects had received targeted funds, with hundreds underway or nearly complete. Another 98 projects worth close to \$900 million are planned over the next three years.

Regional offices have identified 183 large-scale infrastructure projects requiring \$2.87 billion in funding, which could move forward should additional resources be secured.

The department previously noted that it has been working to address a shortage of trained water system operators and to strengthen day-to-day operations so advisories can be lifted sooner. It also made permanent increases to annual funding and plans to nearly quadruple support for water system operations and maintenance by the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Tyson Wesley said this evacuation is just one of many expected, with plans already underway to evacuate the most vulnerable again when the river breaks up in the spring. "We're in the constant state of emergency in my community," he said.



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U13 AA Canadians host Winter Classic Tournament

Teams were in town from across the region for the U13 AA Canadians home tournament last weekend, including teams from International Falls, Baudette, Dryden, Kenora and several from the Thunder Bay area to compete for the title of tournament champions.

The host Canadians finished first in their division with an undefeated opening round record and toppled the West End Bruins in the quarter finals before falling to the International Falls Broncos in the semi-finals. They would go on to finish fourth overall falling to the Neebing Hawks in the bronze medal game.

The Broncos would go on to win the tournament beating the Kenora Thistles in the championship game Sunday afternoon.

—Allan Bradbury photos

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