

Fort Frances Times

Rainy River Walleye Edition inside!

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INSIDE



Couchiching hosts 33rd powwow

Couchiching First Nation held their 33rd annual powwow last weekend, with hundreds of registered dancers taking to the grounds.

See photos on B1



Students, families enjoy SGEI Fun Day

New SGEI students and their families were welcomed to the campus last weekend with two days of resources and entertainment.

See photos on B6



The Walleye will run in Rainy

The Rainy River Walleye Tournament will kick off this weekend in the municipality. Check out our special section for more.

See special section

Lakers make last minute additions to roster ahead of season opener

By Allan Bradbury
abradbury@fortfrances.com

When the Fort Frances Lakers hit the ice on Friday night at Ice For Kids Arena for their season opener, the roster will have a few distinct differences with new faces added and old faces missing.

One of the most notable absences fans will notice is SIJHL MVP, Goaltender of the Year and Rookie of the Year Brady Cates, who backstopped the Lakers to game seven of the of last year's Bill Salonen Cup Finals. Cates was drafted into the North American Hockey League (NAHL) by the Springfield Jr. Blues.

The Lakers third overall point scorer Teagan Wrolstad has also taken his talents to a higher level, joining the Selkirk Steelers of the Manitoba Jr. Hockey League, while Judd Pesch has joined the Niverville Nighthawks in Manitoba. Ronnie Bender, who also scored 34 points for the Lakers last year,

is pursuing opportunities in the U.S.A.

For Judson, losing players to higher levels is part of having a successful team.

"I mean, obviously, with all those guys, with the success they had in Fort Frances last year, if there ever came an opportunity to have them back in a Lakers uniform, we'd love to do that, but at the same time, it's our job and our responsibility," he said. "If we want to keep getting good players, we have to show that we're willing to move guys on and put them in situations where they can challenge themselves to reach the highest level."

Judson hopes to hear good things back about those players who have moved on.

"I think they're all in good situations right now," he said. "I think they all enjoyed their time in Fort Frances as well. And if there was ever an opportunity to get them back here, we'd certainly take a good look at that. But I mean at the same



The Fort Frances Lakers battle it out in front of the Thunder Bay North Stars net during a pre-season game at the Ice for Kids Arena on Saturday, Sept. 5. The Lakers have added a number of promising new players ahead of the season opener this Friday, Sept. 18.

—Allan Bradbury photo

time, when you're moving guys on and putting them in good situations, I think that's that's the reputation you want, and those guys are earning everything that's being thrown their way, and we wish them all the best."

As the Times has reported over the last few weeks, the Lakers have filled out their roster with a series of additions over the summer, bringing in a handful of players from Manitoba and the Maritimes.

One of the most recent additions is 20 year-old forward Isaac Arseneault, who joins the team from the West Kent Steamers of the Maritime Hockey

League. "He's a P.E.I. boy. Obviously, we've been pretty happy with that with our connection out there now and the players we've brought in," Judson said. "He's a 20-year-old, has experience in a really good league in the Maritimes, it looks like he's gonna be a horse for us. He works really hard. He hasn't had quite the opportunity to play more of an offensive role, but I think he'll be able to contribute in that way as well and be a leader for us with how he conducts himself."

Ryder Kirk joins the Lakers from the MJHL, where he was

a member of the Waywayseecappo Wolverines and crossed paths with another recent addition to the Lakers roster.

"I think he needs to be a player that plays in an offensive role," Judson said of Kirk. "It looks like he's got some skill that we can use. He was at practice today, fits in really well with some of the guys. I know he knows one of our other players well from his time in Wayway, Lyndon Gould. That was a good connection to bring them both in together. Jumping to Lyndon, he's a player that we followed for a little bit during

Please see "Lakers" on A2

Ribs on the Rainy goes this weekend

By Allan Bradbury
abradbury@fortfrances.com

This weekend will see Fort Frances host its first ever ribfest at the Sorting Gap Marina, running from Friday, Sept. 18, to Sunday, Sept. 20, and featuring barbecue and entertainment all weekend.

Opening Friday morning at 11 a.m. Ribs on the Rainy will showcase three different rib options and each evening will feature different musical acts, as well as different activities throughout the weekend.

Catrina Cairra works at the Fort Frances Museum and Cultural Centre and is one of the organizers from the Town of Fort Frances.

"If you've never been to a ribfest before, basically we're going to have three travelling rib teams who will have their truck set up, and then in front of them, they've usually got a table with all the awards that they've won and some sauce samples," Cairra said. "You can try your samples before you figure out which ribs you're going to buy, so that's the ribs. We're also going to have some other

food trucks and stuff on site."

The three barbecue teams are Texas Ranger BBQ, Mississippi Smokehouse and Smoky Rebel BBQ. While their names refer to their barbecue styles, each is a Canadian owned and operated truck.

"Completely Canadian-owned and operated, Texas Ranger BBQ has been bringing authentic Southern-style barbecue north of the border for more than 20 years," says the team description on the Ribs on the Rainy Facebook page. "Their signature sauce has been perfected over two decades on the Ribfest circuit, earning them awards, loyal fans and a reputation as true legends of the tour. With fall-off-the-bone ribs, big flavour and years of experience behind the grill, Texas Ranger BBQ knows exactly how to bring the heat. They may be Canadian, but their BBQ is straight outta Texas!"

"Hailing from London, Ont., Mississippi Smokehouse is proudly Canadian-owned and operated — but their BBQ recipe comes straight from the Dirty South," reads their description. "Known for their sweet, tangy

and seriously sticky ribs, this award-winning team has collected hardware at Ribfests across the country. Their famous recipe has earned the nickname "The Big Sticky" — and once you've tried it, you'll understand why. Sweet. Smoky. Sticky. And ready to compete."

Finally, Smoky Rebel BBQ is a newer team on the ribfest circuit.

"One of the newer teams to hit the Ribfest circuit, Smoky Rebel BBQ didn't take long to make some noise," their description says. "Originating from Canada's East Coast, the Rebels came out firing — picking up awards and winning over communities across the country with great BBQ and an unmistakable East Coast swagger. They're bold, they're hungry, and they're quickly becoming one of the teams to watch on the Canadian Ribfest circuit."

Throughout the weekend different entertainment options will be on offer, including musical performances each evening.

Friday night will feature performances by Kenora-based Space Race followed by Sage

Please see "Ribs" on A3



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"Our reputation is your guarantee"



Lakers open 2026-27 season against Thunder Bay North Stars this Friday

More from A1

his time last year. He was on the move within the MJHL, then obviously when he came available in Niverville this year, he was someone we wanted to take a run at, and thankfully— I know he had some options. Thankfully, he came to Fort Frances. He's big, he's physical, and if you look back at what he did in U18, there's obviously a pretty significant offensive upside to what he could do."

They have also added Noah Hudson who last played in Niverville of the MJHL.

"He had a really great pre-season with them," Judson said. "Obviously, a team like Niverville with their stature in junior hockey, they're going to have a really good team, and wanted to make sure that he had an opportunity to play and develop. He brings a lot of size, he brings competitive-

ness, he defends well, and he's going to fit in with a defensive group that was pretty stingy last year. He plays the right way; that he'll fit in really well with what we do on defence."

Rounding out the defensive side of the Lakers, the team has added goaltender Brady Shields to their ranks, a player who was in camp with the Steinbach Pistons.

"Brady had, again, an excellent preseason with Steinbach, in minor hockey he carried a big load with his team there. He'll compete for games. We're going to give him every opportunity to prove himself at the junior level," Judson said. "Obviously, we're used to having more than one goalie that can carry a load from what we did last year, and we're hoping to have the same kind of rotation this year, where we can count on both guys to win us some hockey games."

They will also be looking forward to seeing if Nolan

Koethler can make a comeback from the freak tractor accident that held him out of last year's SIJHL playoffs. Koethler was doing work on his family's farm last year between the end of the regular season and the start of the second round of the playoffs when the tractor he was driving was hit by a truck.

"It looks like Nolan Koethler is going to be back in town this week," Judson said. "I don't know exactly what his timeline is for return, but we're going to take our time with him. Make sure he's physically and mentally ready to get back into game action. But to come as far as he has from his injury last year, I'm really proud of where he's at and thankful that he's able to play hockey again. If he can get back to where he was last year, obviously he'll be a great asset for us as well."

On Saturday many of the players already in town took the time to hang together

off the ice and support their teammates Willy and Anthony Yerxa, who were playing with the Broken Horn Drum at the Couchiching First Nation Powwow.

"I'd argue that that stuff is just as important as the on ice stuff. We're going to work them hard on the ice. We're going to work them hard in the gym, but at the same time, we need to provide opportunities for these guys to get to know each other and care about each other," Judson said. "I think that was a great opportunity to show Willy and Anthony Yerxa that we support them. We want to be there for them, and not only like that, but whatever else these kids are involved in, that we're all a part of it now."

Judson emphasized that the initiative to head to the powwow on Saturday was taken by the players.

"I think it should be noted

that that wasn't a coach's arrangement. It was something that the players brought to us that they wanted to be a part of for Willy and Anthony, and I thought it was a great thing for them to want to be there for them and see what their lives and Couchiching were all about. I think it's a great start to show showing their teammates that they care about them and we're gonna keep doing events and team bonding things that can help solidify that."

With the late additions, Judson says the team is rounding into form as other teams settle their rosters in higher leagues.

"As of a week ago, it was starting to get a little bit close to the season without a full roster," Judson said. "But right now, we're sitting at a full roster and a couple extras, so we're happy with where we're at. We're happy with the guys we've got, these guys

know as well, it's our job to put the best team on the ice, and if there's players out there that can help us, we're gonna bring them in. So these guys know they have to earn it every single day and earn their spot in the lineup, earn their right to play, earn their spot on special teams and the power play and the penalty kill and play in important situations. So they're competing hard. I mean, they're already showing that they want to be here. They want to contribute, and I mean that's all you can ask for as a coach. We'll try and put the best guys on the ice that we can."

The Lakers drop the puck on the 2026-27 season on Friday night at 7:15 p.m. at Ice For Kids Arena against the Thunder Bay North Stars. Tickets are available online in advance at fortfranceslakers.simplenetix.ca.

2 for 1

When you buy a classified ad in the Fort Frances Times or Daily Bulletin, it publishes online too!

top 10 movies

1. Spider-Man: Brand New Day (PG-13) Tom Holland, Zendaya

2. The Odyssey (R) Matt Damon, Tom Holland

3. Coyote vs. Acme (PG) Will Forte, Lana Condor

4. By Any Means (R) Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Mark Wahlberg

5. Insidious: Out of the Further (PG-13) Amelia Eve, Island Austin

6. Cars (G) Owen Wilson, Bonnie Hunt

7. Buddy (R) Cristin Milioti, Delaney Quinn

8. PAW Patrol: The Dino Movie (PG) Carter Young, McKenna Grace

9. The End of Oak Street (PG-13) Anne Hathaway, Ewan McGregor

10. The Dog Stars (R) Jacob Elordi, Margaret Qualley

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: What is the name of Jon Snow's dire wolf in "Game of Thrones"?

2. HISTORY: Which Civil War general literally used "scorched earth" tactics in his march from Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia?

3. MOVIES: Which 1960s movie has the tagline, "A man went looking for America, and he couldn't find it anywhere"?

4. GEOGRAPHY: Which body of water includes islands known as the Seychelles?

5. CHEMISTRY: Which element's symbol is Sn?

6. LITERATURE: What is the length of a traditional sonnet?

7. GEOLOGY: What is a common name for calcium carbonate?

8. FOOD & DRINK: Which fast-food chain goes by the name Hungry Jack in Australia?

9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president gave radio addresses that were described as "fireside chats"?

10. ASTRONOMY: What is the shape of the Milky Way?

Trivia answers

1. Ghost.

2. General William T. Sherman.

3. "Easy Rider."

4. Indian Ocean.

5. Tin (stannum).

6. 14 lines of poetry.

7. Limestone or chalk.

8. Burger King.

9. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

10. Spiral.

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Rainy River District Trappers Council

Attention all trappers!

FALL GENERAL MEETING

will be held

September 22nd, 2026 at 6pm

at the Fort Frances Public Library

Free of charge

Everyone is welcome to attend!

September Cattle Sale

Saturday, Sept 26, 2026

Stratton Sales Barn

Cull Bulls Sale Time at 8:30 a.m.

followed by Feeder Cattle

Pre-vaccinated sale at 1 p.m.

Cull Cows will sell last

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For all other inquiries:

Murray McDonald 807-276-0307

Rainy River Cattleman's Association

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Rainy River Raised

Congratulations!

GERBER-Born to Micha & Tina Gerber of Fort Frances, Ontario, a boy, Leon Noah weighing 8 lbs 5oz, on August 31, 2026 at LaVerendrye General Hospital, Fort Frances, Ontario.

JOHNSON-Born to Kristin Allan & Tyler Johnson of Fort Frances, Ontario, a girl, Kayce on September 4, 2026 at LaVerendrye General Hospital, Fort Frances, Ontario.

JORGENSEN-Born to Hailey McEvoy & Taylor Jorgenson of Fort Frances, Ontario, a boy, Jaxson David Robert weighing 7 lbs 12oz, on September 7, 2026 at LaVerendrye General Hospital, Fort Frances, Ontario.

LETANDER-Born to Kanise Oyemu - Letander of Fort Frances, Ontario, a girl, Waabinesi Ruth weighing 6 lbs 12oz, on September 9, 2026 at LaVerendrye General Hospital, Fort Frances, Ontario.

JACK-Born to Riality Jack & Dennis Copenace of Morson, Ontario, a girl, Kenzie weighing 8 lbs 3oz, on September 9, 2026 at LaVerendrye General Hospital, Fort Frances, Ontario.

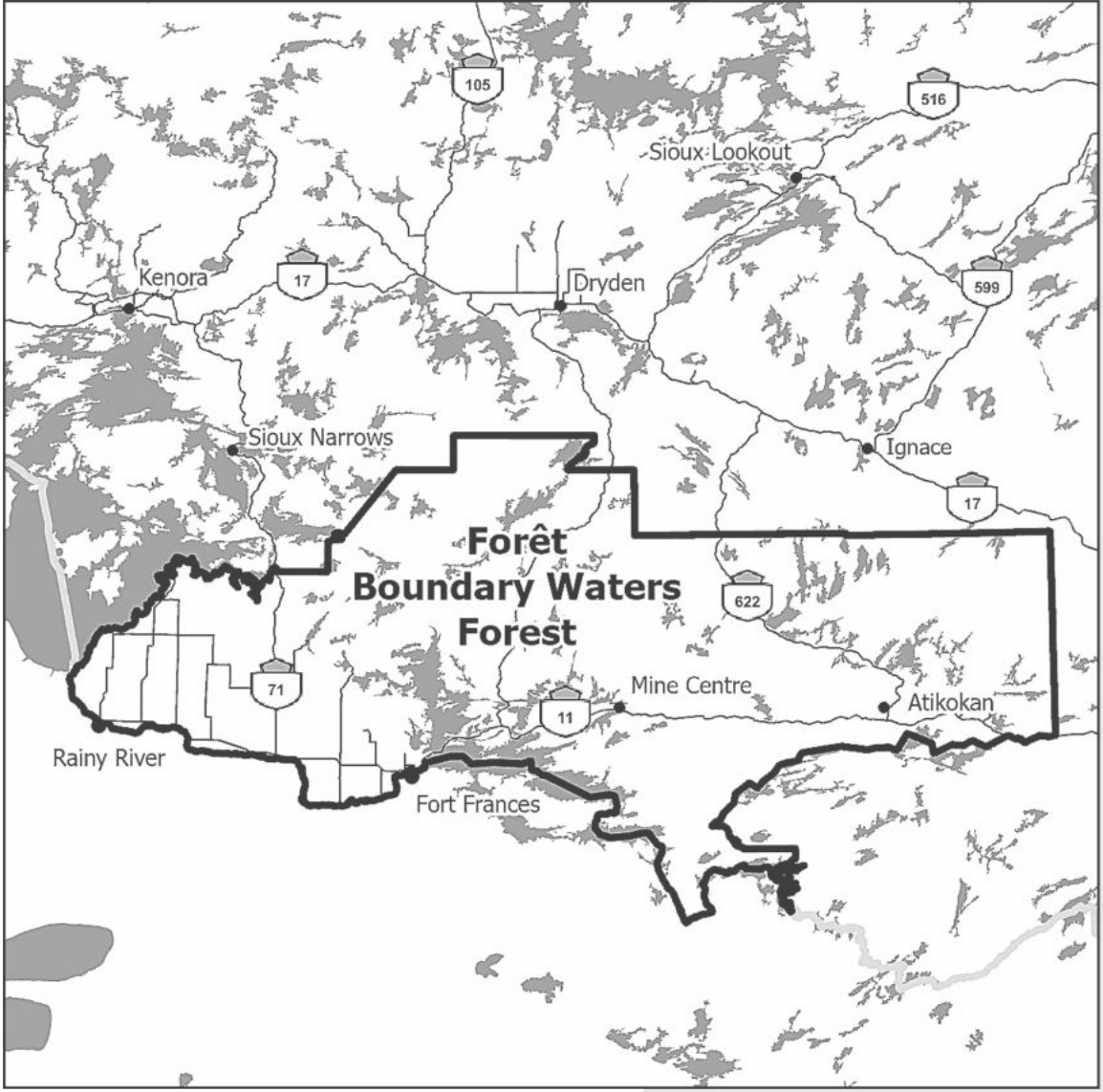
McCOOL-Born to Cody & Calie McCool of Fort Frances, Ontario, a girl, Lyla Noelle weighing 7 lbs 3oz, on September 10, 2026 at LaVerendrye General Hospital, Fort Frances, Ontario.

Welcome to the new arrival!

Inspection

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

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



As part of our ongoing efforts to regenerate and protect Ontario's forests, some recently harvested areas have been selected to be burned under the guidelines of the MNR's Prescribed Burn Manual. The prescribed burn will reduce the area covered in slash piles while increasing the area available for regeneration and reducing the fire hazard. The burn is scheduled for ignition between October 20, 2026 and February 15, 2027.

The approved prescribed burn plan for slash pile burning, including specific locations and maps, is available for inspection by contacting Boundary Waters Forest Management Corp. (BWPMC) and on the Natural Resources Information Portal at ontario.ca/ForestPlans until March 31, 2027, when the Annual Work Schedule expires. Please note, the slash pile burning will be occurring in a specific area(s) of the Boundary Waters Forest, and not the entire management unit. More detailed information on the location(s) of the activities within the Boundary Waters Forest can be viewed on the Natural Resources Information Portal at ontario.ca/06e9e.

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

Sangeetha Subhash, R.P.F. Management Forester

Ministry of Natural Resources

Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan District

922 Scott Street

Fort Frances, ON P9A 1J4

tel: 807-861-0849

e-mail: sangeetha.subhash@ontario.ca

Renee Perry, R.P.F. Management Forester

Ministry of Natural Resources

Dryden Fort Frances Atikokan District

108 Saturn Avenue

Atikokan, ON P0T 1C0

tel: 807-324-0163

e-mail: renee.perry@ontario.ca

Devon Conway Management Forester Intern

Ministry of Natural Resources

Dryden-Fort Frances-Atikokan District

108 Saturn Avenue

Atikokan, ON P0T 1C0

tel: 807-324-0115

e-mail: devon.conway@ontario.ca

Renseignements en français: Renee Perry, 807 324-0163.

Ian Armstrong, R.P.F. General Manager

Boundary Waters Forest Management Corp.

First Street East

Suite 100-240

Fort Frances, ON P9A 1K5

tel: 807-627-8214

e-mail: iarmstrong@bwfmc.ca

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Autumn Lachine, R.P.F. A/Forestry Coordinator

Domtar Ontario Woodlands

2001 Neebing Avenue

Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S3

tel: 807-473-2818

e-mail: autumn.lachine@domtar.com

Ontario

Ribs on the Rainy to feature three Canadian rib trucks, activities and live entertainment

More from A1

and Tim from the band Shred Kelly, which has played several times in the Fort Frances area. Friday night's music is sponsored by Tour de Fort. Space Race starts at 6 p.m. and Sage and Tim will follow at 7:45 p.m.

On Saturday night, local rockers Kings of None will hit the stage at 6 p.m., while Sunday afternoon will feature performances from Quest for the Best and Kids Quest for the Best performers starting at 1 p.m. and Emo-based singer-songwriter Jill Loryn will wrap up the weekend, also starting at 6 p.m.

On Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. each of the rib trucks will be judged by a panel of local judges

to see who will win best sauce and best ribs for the first ever Ribs on the Rainy rib fest.

The weekend will also feature a vendor market, Kid's Zone and a variety of other entertainment options which are listed on each day's schedule in the "Fort Frances Ribs on the Rainy" Facebook page.

Entry is free for the weekend thanks to local sponsors including Coeur Rainy River, Northstar Air, 93.1 the Border and Miller Law Office, among others. Cash donations will be accepted on behalf of the LaVerendrye General Hospital General Equipment Fund and the Canadian Legion Branch #29 Auxiliary.

They also have Mark Anthony Brands sponsoring the bar, which

includes Dillon's Cocktails, Olé Cocktail Co. and White Claw, among other beverage options.

Caira said that the ribbers and the bar will be able to accept payment through debit or credit, but some of the other food trucks or vendors in the market may not, so it is a great idea to have cash on hand. She also said that she has heard from a number of excited community members.

"Some people have really expressed quite a bit of excitement. It's not something that we normally have here, so I think it'll be a really great experience," Caira said.

"I hope that lots of people can come out and eat some ribs and give it a try. It's the first time, so we're hoping to see as many people come out as possible."

Pass Lake fire team needs more cash from residents

By Carl Cluthey
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
The Chronicle-Journal

Rising operational costs, particularly for insurance, have forced Pass Lake's fire department to substantially hike the annual fee it remits to area property owners who depend on having a department in the remote community just northeast of Thunder Bay.

"This decision was not made lightly, and we understand that some landowners may have questions or concerns about this increase," says a letter from the Pass Lake Volunteer Fire Protection Team.

"We believe," the letter added, "the adjustment is necessary to ensure that we can continue providing the level of service our

community depends on."

According to the letter, landowners are being asked for \$250 by the end of this month.

Sharon Bak, who is the chair of the fire protection team board, didn't have exact figures on Tuesday but said last year's fee was under \$200.

Bak noted that while the board has no authority to demand the fee be paid, "we usually get a good response, with some people paying more than \$250."

The board several years ago decided to request a fee to help cover some of the fire department's costs, instead of annual fundraising, which can be difficult in small communities with limited pools of volunteers.

Like most rural fire departments in unorganized areas across the province, Pass Lake receives

funds to buy major equipment like fire trucks, but must cover operating costs with their own resources.

According to the letter sent to Pass Lake landowners, the fire department's insurance premium has risen to nearly \$9,000 from just over \$7,100, in the past three years.

In the past two years, the department had to deal with a flood at its fire hall and the replacement of the hall's garage-door motor.

"The reality is that costs will continue to rise, and the department will face significant expenditures in the years ahead," the letter says.

While funding programs are available for rural fire departments, the letter adds, "they are often limited in scope, inconsistent, (and) never guaranteed."

Newcomer Legal Clinic bringing immigration support to Fort Frances

By Will Brooks
wbrooks@fortfrances.com

A legal clinic that specializes in helping newcomers across Northwestern Ontario navigate the immigration system will set up shop at the Fort Frances Public Library & Technology Centre (FFPLTC) next week, part of a tour marking its fifth anniversary.

The Newcomer Legal Clinic, based in Thunder Bay, will run an information booth at the library on Wednesday, Sept. 16, from noon to 7 p.m., and Thursday, Sept. 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Staff will hand out information about the clinic's services, run a booth activity with a prize for participants, and take general immigration questions from anyone who drops by. The visit is free and no appointment is needed.

The team won't be giving legal advice over the two days, Clinic Coordinator J. Bianca Espinoza said, though staff will do quick intakes where they have the capacity.

"Please, come and get to know the team and learn more about immigration in Northwestern Ontario," Espinoza wrote in response to questions from the Times.

The upcoming visit came together with help from the Northwest Community Legal Clinic, the Fort Frances legal aid clinic that provides free poverty-law services locally and connects residents with other organizations when their needs fall outside its own areas. It put the Thunder Bay team in touch with the library, and the timing lined up with Welcoming Week

programming already on the calendar.

"The library is a natural fit for the Newcomer Legal Clinic because we are a trusted community space," FFPLTC CEO Nadine Cousineau said. "Having the clinic here gives local newcomers an opportunity to access legal information and resources in community-based setting without any expectations."

It isn't the library's first Welcoming Week event. Cousineau noted a free barbecue in 2025 and an open house in 2024 were both very well attended affairs.

"There are many gaps in legal service access to migrants in Northwestern Ontario," Espinoza said. The clinic handles complicated cases, she said, but the work also means "the opportunity and privilege to witness and address the unique circumstances of those in the rural North and advocate for those who need a voice."

One of its main services is supporting people on closed work permits, which tie a worker to a single employer. Espinoza said the clinic helps those being abused by that employer, whether physically, emotionally, sexually or financially, to understand and exercise their rights and get

support during emergencies.

The clinic also sees newcomers caught between competing pressures, as communities in Northwestern Ontario trying to grow their populations while the Federal government is actively working to reduce the numbers of temporary and permanent residents Canada admits.

"Newcomers in Northwestern Ontario are being caught between policies," Espinoza said. "We serve many temporary residents whose status is expiring and who are not able to secure permanent residence, even though they are well established, their kids are in school, and their employers would love for them to be able to stay and keep working."

That growth is visible locally. Cousineau said Fort Frances has seen significant demographic change in recent years, and the library is working on more permanent additions rather than one-off events, including a newcomer survey to guide a planned multilingual collection and new programming. It's currently open at ffpltc.ca.

The Fort Frances Public Library & Technology Centre can be found at 601 Reid Avenue.



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OPEN BOARD MEETING

To be held at 5:30 pm
Thursday, September 24, 2026

If interested in attending, please contact Brooke Booth at: b.booth@rhcf.on.ca in advance of the meeting to make arrangements. An online option is available.



FORT FRANCES

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In order to meet Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways, Section 16.1, the Town of Fort Frances Engineering Department will be inspecting all sidewalks.

At the time of inspecting the sidewalks, all surface discontinuities exceeding two (2) centimetres will be painted "fluorescent orange" in colour.

Town of Fort Frances
Operations and Facilities Division

FREE ADMISSION

ACCEPTING DONATIONS TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

RIBS on the RAINY

FRI, SEPT. 18 11:00AM - 10:00PM

SAT, SEPT. 19 11:00AM - 10:00PM

SUN, SEPT. 20 11:00AM - 8:00PM

SORTING GAP MARINA



NOTICE

Power Interruption

The Fort Frances Power Corporation will be conducting a town wide power interruption

Sunday October 4th, 2026
between
7:00 A.M – 4:30 P.M

This interruption is necessary so that the Fort Frances Power Corporation can replace critical infrastructure at our transformer station.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

If you have any questions, please call 1 (807) 274-9291 Or E-Mail info@ffpc.ca



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gregrickfordmpp.ca





Valley Adult Learning Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

September 21st, 2026 at 10:30 am
241 C Second St. E., Fort Frances
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Notice to Our Valued Customers

We will be closed all day
Wednesday, September 23rd
to prepare for our

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Watch for details on the sale in the September 23rd edition of the Times!



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FORT FRANCES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is seeking

NOMINATIONS

for
THE 29TH ANNUAL
BUSINESS AWARDS

Categories include:
Business Women of the Year, Small Business Trainer of the Year, Customer Service Award (Business), Home Based Business, Customer Service Award (Individual), New Business Award 1-3 years, Business of the Year 1-15 employees, Business of the Year 16+ employees, Indigenous Business of the Year, Business Owner/Manager of the Year Award, Tourism & Hospitality Award, Youth Entrepreneur Award

Nomination Deadline October 16, 2026
All businesses in the Rainy River District are eligible for nomination.

 To nominate a Rainy River District business or individual visit: www.fortfranceschamber.com for the link to the nomination form

**Fort Frances Times
and Rainy Lake
Herald, Est. 1895**
For business or
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All letters must be signed and the
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1. The writer must submit his/her
letter in person and identify them-
selves or submit a telephone
number to be used to verify that
the letter was written by the person
indicated.

2. Letters will not be accepted
from outside the local coverage
area unless written on a topic of
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3. If a letter attacks another
individual or group, the Times will
allow a response in the same
edition.

4. Letters should not exceed 300
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and content.

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The Fort Frances Times
recognizes and acknowledges
Manidoo Mazina'igan
(Treaty #3), our special
relationship with one another,
our shared treaty territory, and
the contributions of all who
have made our beautiful
region their home.

General Manager

Andrew Flynn
Editor
Ken Kellar

Canada

Local Journalism Initiative
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Apooyaki'ii



WENDI WITH AN
'EYE'
WENDI STEWART

Gloria Steinem dedicated
her life to activism in the
movement to ensure equal-
ity becomes the norm rather
than the exception. To think
that before the 1970s, women
could not apply for their own
credit card in Canada. I ad-
mired her work and was sad-
dened to hear of her passing
before she could stand in wit-
ness to women experiencing
equality in all walks of life.

She died feeling "hope-
ful," she confirmed to Brad
Falchuk in her Famous Last
Words (Netflix): "I hope that
I have, however accidentally,
left behind some words or ac-
tions or stories or something
that is useful to the people
who are going to continue."

She went on to say that
"hope is a form of planning.
If you don't hope it, it is less
likely to happen." Her advice
to those listening to the doc-
umentary was: "Please tell
your own story. This is the
most important thing we can
do for each other, is to know
each other through stories."

Allow me to tell you about
Apooyaki'ii, Dr. Tiffany Prete,
whose story is an important
one. Tiffany is an Indigenous
scholar, an educator, and a
Canada Research Chair. She
experienced racism in school
and learned early on that be-
ing quiet made her feel safe.

"Keep your head down. Do
the work. Don't complain,"
was her mantra. To succeed
as a student, she taught her-
self "how" to learn and then
went on to earn a Bachelor
of Education, a Master's in
Indigenous Education and a
PhD in Indigenous Education
from the University of Alber-
ta.

That's quite a resume. In
graduate school, a professor
asked for her perspective in
class, and she was shocked

that someone was interested.
She had become used to feel-
ing invisible. Then someone
offered her a different way of
thinking about speaking out;
could it be an act of service?

She changed her perspec-
tive. If a subject is meaning-
ful, is important, and matters,
then we should be willing to
speak up about it. She be-
came a professor where she
teaches, presents, and speaks
publicly. Self-doubt is still ev-
er-present, she confesses, but
she doesn't let it stop her.

Tiffany's work focuses on
Blackfoot history, on colo-
nial education systems, on
the impact of intergenerational
trauma, and on Indigenous
resilience. She is a Niitsitapi
Scholar, someone securing
knowledge through Blackfoot
ways of knowing, combining
academic research with cul-
tural traditions, practices, lan-
guage and land-based teach-
ings while researching "with"
the Niitsitapi people, not "on"
them.

The relationship with the
community guides ethics as to
how knowledge is gathered,
interpreted, and shared; a
sharp contrast to the Western
academic process. A Niitsi-
tapi Scholar places story,
kinship, ceremony, and lived
experience as valid forms of
evidence, grounding all dis-
coveries in truth and, most
importantly, how they are
presented to the world.

Tiffany documented the
Kainai Stolen Children Era,
bringing to light how four
colonial school models were
used, not just residential
schools, to assimilate Indig-
enous peoples and remove
Blackfoot children from their
family homes. This research
is important to help fill the
gaps left by the Truth and
Reconciliation Commission,
whose focus was on residen-
tial schools.

These other systems also
caused profound harm. Day
schools and boarding schools
used the same means as res-
idential schools but were run
by different agencies. Indian
Hospitals acted as sites of

child removal, with children
being hospitalized for long
periods of time, often without
permission from parents, and
some children never returned
home.

These four systems all
worked together in assimila-
tion. Children were moved
between systems, which made
tracking them impossible. As
I read through Tiffany's re-
search, I felt my spine stiffen
to think anyone could de-
ny the effects of generational
trauma.

Tiffany's work is guided
and driven by the communi-
ties she focuses on while re-
lying on Blackfoot principles,
her purpose to help restore
balance and resilience within
Indigenous communities and
support community healing.
Her work expands public
awareness and understanding
of the many effects of col-
onialism beyond residential
schools.

This is not only an academ-
ic project; it is "a community
act of reclamation." "Walking
the Path of My Ancestors" is a
free download from the Uni-
versity of Alberta Library's
journal site: Cultural and Ped-
agogical Inquiry (Vol. 10, No.
2, 2019).

Her goal is to ensure the
historical record is complete
and accurate, examining
those institutions that were
overlooked and recording the
experiences of those who
survived those systems. She
provides a means for families
with lost histories to recon-
nect. She honours the path
of Indigenous peoples telling
their own histories.

Reconciliation is a federal
project but is also a commu-
nity-centred process. This helps
us realize that assimilation
wasn't one single act which
we can describe in one sen-
tence. Assimilation tore deep
into Indigenous communities,
to the very core and founda-
tion of who they were. Each
of us has a duty to recognize
history's truth and to play a
role in spreading awareness
and working toward change.

wendistewart@live.ca

Where do we go from here?



FROM THE
PUBLISHER
EMERITUS' PEN

JIM CUMMING



We will be casting ballots
in the next month to elect a
new mayor and council. When
you look at the candidate's
literature, it does not appear
much different than what was
presented to the public four
years ago. Much has changed
since the ending of COVID pan-
demic. Through the four years,
council has faced issues that did
not appear on the horizon four
years ago.

Today, there are minor ir-
ritants; Sunny Cove camp, the
roundabout and the Hallett.
Council has not been able to
make a final decision and are
revisiting those issues again.
The courts settled the ques-
tion of ownership of the Point
Park and today it is operated
and maintained by Agency 1
First Nation bands. The park
remains within the boundaries
of Fort Frances and continues
to be available for use by the
citizens of Fort Frances and
surrounding communities.

Three industries continue to
be fundamental to the econ-
omy of Fort Frances. Forest-
ry and sawmills continue to
create jobs. Tile drainage has
expanded the economy with
grain growing and cattle raising
employing more citizens than
ever. From 1930 onward the
town promoted itself as the
gateway to the north, attracting
fisher persons and hunters to
the district and beyond.

Much of the infrastructure of
Fort Frances now exists beyond

its life expectancy. Councils
over the past forty years have
been replacing that infrastruc-
ture block by block and every
year it become more expen-
sive. Councils now and in the
future will have to address this
less than popular item in their
budget. No one is excited about
water or sewer until their taps
run dry or they can't flush their
toilets. Similarly, most sidewalks
are over 70 years old, cracking,
weeds growing through them
and breaking up. They are part
of the infrastructure and a haz-
ard.

Fort Frances will have a great
deal of new power flowing
through its system. That solar
power is an asset that this coun-
cil and future councils can use
to attract new business to the
district. The Boundary Waters
Forest area has a huge surplus
of fibre that should be market-
ed. Perhaps that fibre can be
turned into biofuel.

One of the issues facing ev-
ery employer in the district is
attracting new employees and
finding housing for those new
employees. What can council
do to make immigrants feel
more welcomed into the com-
munity and attract more to our
community? Council has a great
deal of vacant land. Is there an
opportunity to attract outside
developers to build multi-unit
apartments and row housing in
our community to house all the
new workers?

These ideas are part of eco-
nomic development and that
should be a priority of every
councillor, as well as maintain-
ing the infrastructure and at-
tractiveness of the community.
Ask the candidates what their
priorities are and where they
see opportunities to grow the
community.

HAVE YOUR SAY – THE TIMES POLL

There's a lot happening this weekend
across the Rainy River District which
event(s) are you headed to?

Ribs on the Rainy rib fest

Rainy River Walleye tournament

Fort Frances Lakers opening weekend

Terry Fox Run

Something else (Write it in)

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

Meteorological fall began with Sept. 1
and temperatures are getting a bit cool-
er.

What is your favourite part of fall?

Cooler weather 24%

The colours 48%

Hunting season 12%

Pumpkin spice everything 5%

Hockey season 7%

Something else (write it in) 5%

84 responses

Selected write-in responses

"The ripe, crisp aromas"

"Thanksgiving, Halloween and grandkids"

"My favorite part of fall; is when the leaves fall and
dry up. I love walking through the dry leaves and
listen to the crunching sound."

HAVE A NEWS TIP OR IDEA FOR A STORY?

We want to know!



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National Concussion Awareness Week



SAFETY TIDBITS
TYLER J. MOFFITT


Did you know?
National Concussion Awareness Week in Canada will take place from Sunday, September 27 to Saturday October 3. This initiative aims to improve public awareness around concussion prevention, recognition, and proper management
In this week's column, I'll be sharing some invaluable information on concussion awareness, courtesy of Parachute Canada and the Ministry of Sport of Ontario.
Concussion = Brain injury

A concussion is a brain injury that can't be seen on X-rays, CT scans or MRIs. It can change how someone thinks, feels, acts, and remembers, leading to all sorts of symptoms.
What causes a concussion?
A concussion can happen from any direct hit to the head, face, or neck, or a heavy jolt to the body. Whether it is a sports collision, a stray ball, or a fall from an unhelmeted e-bike or bicycle, etc. any severe jarring of the head puts you at risk. As well, a concussion can happen to anyone, anywhere, including:
• At home, school or your workplace.
• Following a vehicle, bike or pedestrian collision.
• From participating in games, sports or other physical activity.
Additionally, a concussion

is a serious injury. While the effects are typically short-term, a concussion can lead to long-lasting symptoms and even long-term effects.
Signs and symptoms of a concussion
A person does not need to be knocked out (lose consciousness) to have a concussion; they might experience one or more of the following:
Cognitive (Thinking)
• Does not know the time, date, place, details about a recent activity.
• Difficulty remembering things that happened before and after the injury.
• Difficulty concentrating.
• Not thinking clearly.
• Feeling like in a fog.
Physical
• Headache or head pressure.
• Dizziness.
• Stomach ache, nausea, vomiting.
• Blank or vacant stare.
• Blurred or fuzzy vision.
• Sensitive to light or sound.
• Sees stars, flashing lights.
• Ringing in the ears.
• Problems with balance or coordination.
• Feeling tired or no energy.
• Does not feel right.
Emotional/Behavioural
• Nervousness or anxiety.
• Strange or inappropriate emotions (e.g. laughing, crying, getting mad easily).
• Slow to answer questions or follow directions.
• Easily distracted.
• Not participating well.
• Changes in sleep patterns (sleeping more or less than usual).
What to do if you suspect a concussion

In all suspected cases of someone having a concussion, they must stop all activity immediately. Early medical assessment is essential; they need to be evaluated by a medical professional as soon as possible.
Red flags: When to get emergency help
Seek immediate medical help if you notice any of these serious "RED FLAG" symptoms; they could indicate a more severe injury:
• Neck pain or tenderness.
• Double vision.
• Weakness of tingling in arms or legs.
• Severe or increasing headache.
• Seizure or convulsion.
• Loss of consciousness (knocked out).
• Deteriorating conscious state.

• Vomiting more than once.
• Increasingly restless, agitated or combative.
• Growing confusion.
Concussion prevention
• Find out what you can do to prevent concussions in your sport or activity and know what to do if a concussion does happen.
• Learn the signs and symptoms of a concussion to help recognize when someone might have a concussion.
• Not all people will show the same signs and symptoms, and they can show up hours after the injuries.
Remember, taking the time to learn and practice injury prevention costs you nothing. Failing to do so, could lead to the unthinkable... the loss of your life and the lives of those you hold dear. Safety—it starts with you.

A nip in the air



MOO'S FROM THE HERD
KIM JO BLISS



I had a touch of frost at home this morning, but it appears the Research Station missed it. That is often the case. I did take the time to cover some of my favorite flowers last night because it looks like we just have a couple of cool nights and then it is normal temperatures again. I picked a few pumpkins, but it doesn't look like I have many to pick anyway. I might have to re-think my patch. I had it weed free and then the lamb's quarter came back in full force, and I was busy haying to deal with that. I grew celery for Black Bettie, but now without Black Bettie I have to figure out what I will be doing with that. I always try to get my mom interested in dealing with my garden, but she doesn't always bite. I have some really great looking Brussels sprouts, but according to my garden expert Susan, they need a couple of frosts before I harvest them.
At the station we will have to deal with our Three Sister's produce and just from a few drive-bys; it looks as though we will have plenty of squash. I still have canola and soybeans to harvest but I would really like to get sprayed and get rid of the weeds that are doing so well since we had rain. I am still hoping that I might be able to get my canola sprayed to help with the green stems, but everyone is busy. We may have to work on getting the old combine

going because it seemed to handle the green stems much better.
Our first cattle sale is coming up quickly. September 26 is the first of our fall run. We ended the year with some issues with our RFID Reader but we went the other day and connected with the company and have things back on track again. It was a memory issue, and my techie self couldn't figure out how to deal with that on my own. Katie is once again looking after staffing and cattle numbers, so if you can please reach out to her and get your cattle booked in. She is trying to make some farm visits, but she is also 9 months pregnant, so she has a lot on her plate. Her phone number is 807-275-6273.

Friends of the Abattoir are hosting a fundraising dinner and event on Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Stratton Millennium Hall. They are planning a prime rib and chicken dinner and a bunch of fun ways to raise some money. With all that is going on in the world right now, we really need to protect our access to local food. This is a great chance to do that. I also was thinking about it this way; for me I enjoy going out with a bunch of you and having a good time and supporting the abattoir, but by doing it this way I have a chance to win or bring home something I need or want as well. I purchased a battery power saw at one of the events that directly benefited the abattoir, but I now benefit at home when using it! Mark it down and get your tickets today! You can get them from Kerry at 807-271-4316, Chantelle at 807-275-6877 or Kelsey at 289-439-9933.

Superior North EMS gets \$750K boost in provincial funding

By Mike Stimpson
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
SNnewswatch.com

THUNDER BAY — An additional \$749,551 in annual funding from the province is good news for Superior North EMS, the regional ambulance and paramedic service's chief said Thursday.
"It's an increase ... and we'll put it to good use," Shane Muir told NewsWatch.
The annual land ambulance service grant "supports paramedic staffing, ambulance operations, medical equipment, facilities and other resources to help meet growing demand across Thunder Bay and the surrounding municipalities and communities," a news release from the City of Thunder Bay said.
This year's grant is \$20.59 million, about 3.6 per cent more than last year.
The city operates Superior North EMS, which has four 24-hour-a-day stations

in Thunder Bay and stations in 13 other communities including Upsala to the west, Armstrong to the north and Longlac and Manitouwadge to the east.
Its Schreiber and Terrace Bay stations will be merged into one station with three drive-through ambulance bays and modern amenities at 1006 Highway 17 in Terrace Bay.
Thunder Bay-based RML Contracting has been chosen as the project's general contractor.
"This funding helps us maintain frontline coverage, respond to increasing demand and ensure paramedics have the vehicles, equipment and resources needed to deliver safe, high-quality patient care," Muir is quoted as saying in the city's release.
"As our communities continue to grow, strong emergency medical services remain essential to community well-being and quality of life."

Emo Legion hosts beer and burger this Friday



ROBIN MCCORMICK
DEVLIN CORRESPONDENT

The Emo Legion will host Beer and Burger this Friday, Sept. 18, and a meat draw will also take place.
Beer and Burger is from 5-7 p.m.
A reminder that cribbage is played every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. This is open to everyone, and the cost is \$5.
Bingos will take place at the Emo Legion on Oct. 20, and Nov. 15.
The Alberton Recreation Committee and Volunteer Fire Department are inviting Alberton residents to A Family

Friendly Autumn Celebration. This takes place Sept. 20, from 1-4 p.m. Burgers and corn will be served. There will be games and a Bounce House. Please bring your own chairs.

A new COFFEE BREAK season will begin with a Meet and Greet (coffee and goodies) at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the Christian Reformed Church, 18 Meadow Street in Emo. All ladies are invited to come out for a morning of fellowship with other women from our community and find out more about Coffee Break, with an introduction to the first study. "Discover James-Faith Introduction" which will begin on Sept. 30.
Coffee Break is a non-denominational small group Bible study that is open to all women in the community. Study material is provided, no previous

Bible knowledge is necessary. While moms are participating in Bible Study, children ages 2 and up are invited to participate in Little Lambs. There is also a nursery for infants and toddlers. All ladies are welcome to come and are encouraged to bring a friend. For more information, call Gertie at 276-7457 or Jeannette at 276-2928

There will be bingo played at the Dance Hall on Sept. 17 and Oct. 1.

There will be a LaVallee Seniors coffee this Sept. 22 from 1-3 p.m. at the Devlin Hall. Coffee and home baking will be served. Come out and enjoy an afternoon of visiting. This is for seniors 55 plus.

Wyatt Galusha along with parents Chad and Lyndsi Galu-

sha were honoured with a baby shower on Sunday, Sept. 13. A lovely outside shower, beautifully decorated and delicious food was served. Family at friends enjoyed the afternoon celebrating Wyatt.

Congratulations to Rylan McQuaker and Sierra (Happy) on their marriage. The couple were wed Saturday, Sept. 12 at a beautiful outside ceremony. Happy parents are Jason Happy and Carrie Kellar and Shane and Rachel McQuaker. The community sends you wishes for many years of happiness.
* * *

Robin's 2 Cents:
Wife: "Do you still love me?"
Husband: "Of course."
Wife: "How much?"
Husband: "Enough to admit you're right... even when you're wrong."
Wife: "Aww, that's so sweet."

Thunder Bay council to vote on Central Avenue subdivision plan

By Clint Fleury
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
TBnewswatch.com

THUNDER BAY — City staff are presenting their recommendations for a new Central Avenue subdivision on Tuesday.
The draft plan proposes to make the land available to build at least 1,260 new housing units, commercial space, parks and trails and run new sewer and water infrastructure on the 60 acres of city-owned land.
"We've included some additional transitions from lower-density housing to mid-rise housing, so that's a change that has happened through the past consultation — as well as extending some of the future rights-of-ways to ensure that the back lands of some of the existing residents have some opportunities to develop their lands in the future," Jillian Fazio, senior planner, explained in an interview with NewsWatch Friday.
"Also, we have reduced the amount of neighbourhood commercial in the area and focused it primarily near Amber Drive. That way, we are focusing the neighbourhood commercial node, where the most density is proposed."

City staff are proposing the amendments to the city's official plan to adjust the boundaries of the residential and community lands to establish two neighbourhood commercial areas in the eastern part of the project lands.
"One is privately owned and, at the entrance on Central Avenue, that's a neighbourhood commercial zone. That was something that the owners of those properties were interested in, and it is a bit of the entrance into this area. So, it creates a nice transition between the employment lands on Central Avenue into this residential area. The other node that is proposed is entirely city-owned land and allows us to create a node on four corners, which will create a very nice walkable space that transitions between the employment lands on Amber Drive into this new residential neighbourhood," Fazio said.
Proposed zoning bylaw amendments would allow for residential and non-residential uses. Designated as a future development zone, this affects most of the project area and maintains its current state by restricting development, according to the staff report.
"Through the city's most recent zoning bylaw, this was designated as a special policy

area and was changed to zoning for future development, as in we recognize this area had a lot of development potential, and we really needed to come up with a fulsome development plan for how to develop these lands," Aaron Ward, senior project manager, told NewsWatch.
"So that's why, in addition to being zoned future, it's also a special policy area which requires a development plan to be brought forward rather than just small portions of land," he added. "We want the entire neighbourhood to be looked at from one lens."
The draft subdivision plan divides the land to create the future blocks, street allowances, stormwater management infrastructure, parkland, and active transportation and pedestrian connections.
"The Central Avenue project presents a unique opportunity to plan and create a new neighbourhood almost from scratch. So that's where that's part of the framework for why this was made a special policy area, because we're not just dealing with one acre or five acres of land. This is over 100 acres of land we're looking to bring forward for a new development concept and to create a new neighbourhood in the city," Ward said.

The city has secured approximately \$28 million in provincial and federal funding to advance this project.
The infrastructure construction staging plan is still being finalized, with work on Central Avenue scheduled to begin this year and all associated infrastructure works to be completed by March 31, 2029, in accordance with funding requirements.
Ward said they are not going to develop all the city-owned land at once. The city will take a phased approach to the project, bringing in each batch of land incrementally over the next five to 10 years. Over the next two to three years, he said, the area will be an active construction zone if council approves the project.
"Once the infrastructure is in place along the roads, existing roads and new roads, this also presents development opportunities for the private lands along Central Avenue. We're looking to bring the sewer down Central Avenue starting the next few weeks. Those properties that front onto Central Avenue have the opportunity to redevelop. There are some vacant lands that could be developed that can happen as soon as that sewer is in place, essentially," he said.

Do you have a news tip?
A story idea?
A great photo to share?

Email us at tips@fortfrances.com
or call the Times office at 274-5373



FORT FRANCES
Times

Obituaries

CAROL EDNA GLADYS ANGUS (NEE SMITH)
March 17, 1957 – September 4, 2026

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Carol Edna Gladys Angus. She passed away peacefully at La Verendrye Hospital in Fort Frances, Ontario, on September 4, 2026, at the age of 69.

Carol was born in Emo, Ontario, on March 17, 1957, the youngest child of Bill and Gladys Smith.

Carol was the beloved wife of Bob Angus, and a loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. Bob and Carol celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 29, 2025. It was probably the first time in our lives that we were successfully able to keep a secret from her.

She is lovingly remembered by her husband Bob; and by her children Darren (Jodi) and Stacey; and her most cherished grandchildren Tucker, Gavin, Callen, Charlie and Easton.

She took her role as Grammy most seriously. She loved every minute she got to spend with her grandkids, especially all her years as a very dedicated hockey Grandma. She spent her winters in arenas and summers at the ball diamond, and would not have changed a second of it.

In earlier years, Carol could often be found at the cabin on Perch Lake with Auntie Phyllis and Auntie Anne, reading books, playing boardgames, enjoying a little wine, and gig-



gling their heads off. Or she could be found in Blackhawk, over at the M's, visiting, laughing and waiting for a potluck to break out.

Carol worked as a book-keeper for most of her life, working with so many amazing people that became her life-long friends. Kelly, Pete, Nadia, Amos, Heidi, Timo, Jurgen and Shona were more like family than co-workers or bosses. She still had not retired from MNP as she loved the crew there and her clients.

Carol was especially close with her sister Louise, and loved living closer to her these last few years. They spent so much time at Tour de Fort and going to country music festivals. The stories they brought home from their many (mis) adventures still bring smiles and giggles.

Carol will be dearly missed by her sister Louise, and family (Kim Jo, Shane, Char, Maddy and Marlee). Her huge Angus family will miss her insistence of making every celebration into a potluck and the need to take pictures of everyone there. Her extended family on both sides will miss her quick wit and ability to welcome everyone into thoughtful conversation.

She was predeceased by her parents and many special people in her large extended family.

A celebration of life for Carol was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Northridge Funeral Home in Emo. A luncheon followed at the Emo Legion Hall in Emo.

As per her wishes, cremation has taken place and a private family ceremony will be held at a later date for interment.

In lieu of flowers, in memorial donations may be made to the Emo Food Bank, or a charity of your choice c/o Northridge Funeral Home, PO Box 89, Emo, ON, POW1E0.

Forever loved, deeply missed, and never forgotten.

And remember, Life is Short, eat dessert first!

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

Trial begins for man charged in fatal hit-and-run on Hwy 11

By Carrie Ivardi
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
TBnewswatch.com

THUNDER BAY — The trial for a man who was charged in relation to a fatal hit-and-run incident near Highway 11 in Long Lake #58 First Nation began on Friday.

Gurmeet Singh Brar, of Edmonton, appeared in court for his trial before Justice Robin Lepere in a Thunder Bay courtroom and pleaded not guilty to failing to stop at a collision causing death.

According to the agreed statement of facts, Brar told police following his arrest in May 2024 that he “didn’t see anyone.”

The court heard that the body of Kathleen Desmoulin, 41, of Long Lake 58 First Nation, was discovered in the afternoon of Nov. 18, 2023.

Greenstone OPP arrived on the scene and found a red running shoe, a Boston Red Sox baseball cap and a backpack.

Through the statement of facts, the court heard that Desmoulin was found lying in the ditch near the items.

The Crown said that Superior EMS arrived and CPR

was performed, but no vital signs were detected.

The court heard that on the day previous, on Nov. 17, 2023, a white 2019 Freightliner Cascadia tractor-trailer driven by the defendant was pulled over by a constable because the right front passenger headlight and marker light was burnt out.

When questioned, Brar said there was an issue with the plug for the light.

Brar was asked to provide his logbook to the constable, who discovered errors. The start mileage was missing from the logbook, there was no name or home addresses printed in it, nor were there on or off duty hours listed.

On Nov. 19, 2023, a zone alert was sent out through the RCMP with photos from video surveillance cameras of the Freightliner Cascadia tractor-trailer. A symbol on the side of the truck was recognized, it was seized at a location in Alberta, and Brar was identified as the driver.

On Nov. 27, 2023, a warrant was secured by law enforcement officials to search the Freightliner Cascadia.

The Crown stated that a strong white light was used to discover blood, samples

of which were taken from the front corner panel of the vehicle and were analyzed on Dec. 29, 2023. The conclusion of an analysis was that blood from the victim could not be excluded as a source of the female blood found on the truck.

Further evidence, the Crown said, included a broken piece of hood mirror found at the scene, also found to be missing from the hood mirror of the truck Brar had been driving.

An arrest warrant was issued for Brar on April 16, 2024.

The court heard that on May 20, 2024, Brar attempted to enter the U.S. from Saskatchewan. U.S. Border Services escorted him back to Canada Border Services Agency, where he was arrested.

In a statement to police following his arrest, Brar said he was sorry and that he “didn’t see anyone.”

The Crown said the statement Brar made to police was recorded and will be shared in court when the trial continues next week.

None of the allegations against the accused have been proven in court.

Big decisions lie ahead for lithium proponent

By Sandi Krasowski
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
The Chronicle-Journal

The Central Canada Resource Expo brought together leading mining and resource companies on Thursday to share insights into upcoming and active projects shaping the future of the industry.

Frontier Lithium’s PAK Project is the first project designated under Ontario’s One Project, One Process (1P1P) framework, an initiative that aims to expedite mine approvals while cutting through government review time.

Trevor Walker, president and chief executive officer of Frontier Lithium, was on hand at the Elk’s Lodge in Thunder Bay and spoke about the company’s first year with the 1P1P framework, which he says they’re making good progress on.

“We hope to see permitting by the end of this year for critical infrastructure needed for the Treaty Five region, where the asset is located,” he said, during the expo’s Projects in the Pipeline Conference.

Walker spoke about phased execution strategies and the company’s main focus on the

future mine and mill to create the feedstock required to be transformed into lithium salts, which he called the “essential pixie dust” for the best batteries in the world.

He said they have had much support from the Thunder Bay municipality, and provincial and federal ministers for its downstream potential to build the conversion facility in Thunder Bay.

“We’re advancing feasibility work, and are working closely with Fluor Canada on that,” he said. “We’re working through the planning, design and economics, so that ultimately we can get to an investment decision at the mine and a final investment decision that’s positive for the downstream refinery. So again, it’s a phased execution approach, but we’re advancing both projects in parallel right now.”

Walker says Mission Island provides a wonderful opportunity to be competitive on the global stage with this integrated opportunity from mine to mill to refinery.

“There could be nothing better as a northerner to see lithium salts get put on a boat in the Port of Thunder Bay and sent to southern Ontario to be used in production,” he

said.

Walker says the key is road infrastructure into Treaty Five, which they see as three sections.

“The first one is the Berens River Bridge. We’re really fortunate that the local community and both levels of government were able to come together, and that bridge is actually under construction,” he said, adding there’s a two-year timeline on that. “A section of roads through the Whitefeather Forest, a traditional territory of Pikangikum First Nation, is fully permitted and awaits funding, and then we’re leading a final 55 kilometres that would bring a primary road into the heart of Treaty Five.”

He added that they are working closely with the local communities that are proximate to the mining project.

“Under 1P1P, we’re working on permitting, and we see that we have a strong potential by the end of this calendar year to see those permits in place, which are absolutely key,” he said. “We see the potential of having mine site permitting in place by the end of 2027. So that would be infrastructure and mine within the 24 months, which is the ambition of Ontario’s 1P1P process.”

Mould, moisture upend back-to-class at two Winnipeg schools

By Maggie Macintosh
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
Winnipeg Free Press

The start of the school year has been delayed for hundreds of students in Winnipeg thanks to mould and moisture-related damage.

Two school divisions announced disruptions to their scheduled programming this week owing to building safety.

“It’s not the start of the school year that anybody hopes for,” said Jackie Connell, superintendent of the Louis Riel School Division.

Nordale School is anticipated to be closed for four months as crews clean up “substantial” destruction from a storm on the long weekend, Connell said.

Roughly 200 students have been displaced from their kindergarten-to-Grade 8 classrooms in Norwood Flats as a result.

Their first day, which will take place at different nearby sites, has been pushed back until Monday.

Staff at Nordale, built in 1949, have reported minor moisture problems in the past.

Nordale is grappling with the fallout of a sewage backup related to last weekend’s storm, Connell said.

The Louis Riel superintendent observed water “in almost all places” when she toured the school on Labour Day.

The gymnasium floor, wooden book shelves and teaching material are among the things that need to be replaced, she said, adding she’s grateful for both staff and families’ patience and flexibility as everything gets sorted.

For the time being, Grade 7 and 8 students are relocating to Nelson McIntyre Collegiate, which is within walking distance to their home school.

Younger students are being bused to Shamrock School indefinitely.

In the Winnipeg School Division, nearly 700 students have been invited back to their building after a brief closure.

Ecole Stanley Knowles School in Tyndall Park postponed its opening after mould was discovered by teachers setting up their classrooms at the end of August.

Superintendent Matt Hen-

derson penned a letter to families on Sept. 3 to inform them classes would begin a day later than scheduled because of an HVAC malfunction.

Three teachers contacted the Free Press to report staff were misled about the extent of cleaning and air testing done, and white and green fuzz, as well as significant dust, was found Thursday.

“Multiple teachers were complaining about headaches and feeling stuffed up,” said one of the teachers who spent Tuesday and Wednesday preparing with colleagues offsite.

Senior administration confirmed there were reports of “surface mould” Thursday so two classes were relocated but no children were exposed to the spaces.

Henderson said the division has followed the advice of third-party environmental consultants and its internal workplace health and safety team.

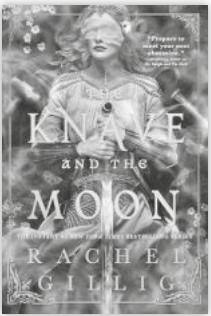
Air-quality testing deemed the building safe on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, he said, adding that one room had “slightly elevated results” on Friday so it was re-cleaned and retested.

New York Times
BESTSELLERS

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

FICTION

1. The Knave And The Moon — Rachel Gillig
2. The Calamity Club — Kathryn Stockett
- 3.The Most Dangerous Games — MrBeast and James Patterson
4. Yesteryear — Caro Claire Burke
5. The Disappears — Marlon James
6. Whistler — Ann Patchett
7. Big Little Truths — Liane Moriarty
8. The Dungeon Anarchist's Cookbook — Matt Dinniman
9. Scion — James Islington
- 10.Dungeon Crawler Carl — Matt Dinniman



NON-FICTION

1. This Is Me — Hayden Panettiere
2. American Scoundrel — Kai Bird with Susan Goldmark
3. Regime Change — Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan
4. Going Further — Ted Cruz
5. Let Us Do Good — Frank Siller
6. The Final Solution To The Jewish Question — Dara Horn
7. Star Of The Show — Dolly Parton with Tom Roland
8. Strangers — Belle Burden
9. London Falling — Patrick Radden Keefe
10. The Nerd Reich — Gil Durán



HOROSCOPES

Aries March 21/April 20

Aries, this week calls for a break from your usual fast pace. If you've been burning the candle at both ends, your energy reserves will be depleted. Focus on fortifying yourself and your space.

Taurus April 21/May 21

Miscommunication is likely if you rush your words, Taurus. Take an extra breath before responding when someone asks you a question or when addressing emails.

Gemini May 22/June 21

It's time to audit where your money is going, Gemini. If you've been overspending as a balm to stress, hit the brakes. Look for areas where you can plug any financial leaks.

Cancer June 22/July 22

The spotlight is firmly on you right now, Cancer. You might feel a sudden urge to change your style, update your resume or shed an old identity that no longer fits. Trust this instinct.

Leo July 23/August 23

The universe is asking you to clear out some psychic debris this week. It is a great time for journaling and heavy solo time. If secrets or old resentments bubble up, just let them go.

Virgo Aug 24/Sept 22

Your social life is getting a bit of a reality check, Virgo. You might realize that certain friendships have felt a bit one-sided. Seek people who inspire you.

Libra Sept 23/Oct 23

The spotlight shines brightly on your professional zone this week, Libra. Instead of waiting for recognition, create your own. Update your portfolio or pitch an idea you have been sitting on.

Scorpio Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you may be craving a breakdown of boredom. If you can't physically travel right now, satisfy this urge by stretching your mind another way.

Sagittarius Nov 23/Dec 21

This week drags you into deeper psychological waters than you might care to swim in, Sagittarius. It's a powerful time for intimacy or understanding behaviors.

Capricorn Dec 22/Jan 20

Relationships take center stage, Capricorn. If there is an imbalance of power, it will need to be corrected. Approach conversations this week with diplomacy.

Aquarius Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, your daily habits are catching up to you. If you've been eating poorly or skipping sleep, your body will demand a reset. Focus on micro-habits to get back on track.

Pisces Feb 19/March 20

Your playful side is begging for attention, Pisces. Make time for hobbies, art or romance that serve no purpose but to bring you joy.

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

9/16

Yesterday's
solution

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

Difficulty: ★★

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By Pam Fedack
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
Kenora Miner & News

A Kenora Park employee who pulled a struggling toddler from Lake of the Woods has been formally recognized for her actions.

Camryn Dewar received a Lifesaving Society Rescue Award of Merit following the July 1, 2025, rescue near the Anicinabe Park boat launch.

Dewar was leaving to go fishing with her father when she saw the toddler struggling in water over her head. No adult was immediately beside the child.

Dewar first threw a life jacket toward the toddler and called for her to grab it.

When the child could not grab on, Dewar jumped into the water and swam her to safety.

“I didn’t really think about it – I just reacted,” Dewar said. “I saw her struggling and ran as fast as I could, and actually cut my foot open on a rock during the rescue. I’m just glad my dad and I happened to be right there to help her.”

Dewar works in guest services at Kenora’s Anicinabe Park & Campground. She is also a former member of 301 Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets, a ski patroller and an international opera singer and musician.

The Rescue Award of Merit recognizes people who show resourcefulness and courage while helping someone in dis-

tress.

“It happened in a matter of seconds – that’s how quickly a situation like this can turn,” said Heather Campbell-Dewar, park manager and operations lead at Anicinabe Park.

“Camryn didn’t hesitate, and her actions saved someone’s life. We are incredibly proud of her.”

The rescue has also prompted the park to remind families how quickly emergencies can develop around water.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to keep young children within arm’s reach and designate an attentive “water spotter” who is free from phones and other distractions.



Camryn Dewar holds the Lifesaving Society Rescue Award of Merit she received after rescuing a toddler from the water at Anicinabe Park on July 1, 2025.

– Anicinabe Park & Campground photo

Workshops give First Nation students the DFC Experience

By Maya Ekman
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
NWOneswatch.com

THUNDER BAY – Students from remote First Nations in the region are settling into the school routine at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School, and the DFC Experience has become a welcoming tradition.

Principal Sharon Angeconeb said they try to provide a lot more for students than just academics.

“We want to see personal growth, and that means going out, making new friends, getting to know your teachers (and staff,” said Angeconeb.

Students of DFC come to Thunder Bay from their First Nation, often by themselves, and stay in billet or boarding homes.

The DFC Experience includes a series of workshops led by people who come to share their experiences, skills, and traditional knowledge.

One of those workshop leaders was Chef Hayden Johnston, a

Thunder-Bay born former contestant of Top Chef Canada.

“He shows the students how to cook with fresh produce, fresh everything, whereas in the communities where (the students) come from, a lot of times (food is) canned or it’s not the best vegetables or food,” said Angeconeb.

Johnston and some students made gnocchi and blistered tomato during one of the workshops.

Sharing her journey and experiences at another workshop was singer and songwriter Tia Wood, who will be performing at Wake the Giant this weekend.

The annual music festival and cultural event welcomes the students to both the community and the school.

“It’s a celebration, the students – they go through a lot in their personal lives in their home communities, things like that, so we want to celebrate them when they’re here,” said Angeconeb.

“The fact that they made it to Grade 9 or 10, or 11 or 12, the

fact that they came out here to Thunder Bay on their own, we need to celebrate that bravery.”

Some other workshops going on throughout the school were hair braiding, beadwork and magnet-making, and down in the gym, students could learn some basketball skills with Lakehead University Thunderwolves.

Beginning his senior year at the high school was Malachi Fiddler from Sandy Lake First Nation, who reflected back on his first year, calling it an “amazing” experience because of all the opportunities he could explore.

Fiddler said coming to Thunder Bay for school was a “whole new world,” and wants new students to know that “most people here are really friendly, most people are approachable at this school, and some people are approachable outside of the school as well in Thunder Bay.”

Fiddler plans to come back for college and university, ultimately aiming for a career in physics.

Now in Grade 11 and starting her second year at Dennis



Chef Hayden Johnston teaching students how to make gnocchi with blistered tomato.

– Maya Ekman photo

Franklin is Kerri Leonard from Deer Lake First Nation, who is planning to one day earn a degree in social work at Lakehead University.

Leonard wants new students to know not to be afraid to reach out for help.

“(DFC is) a very welcoming, good community, and (has) loving people,” she said.

Angeconeb said they are short on boarding homes this year, and encourages community members to open their doors to host a student.

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2026 Couchiching First Nation Powwow



Couchiching First Nation saw hundreds of visitors over the weekend as they celebrated their 33rd annual powwow from Friday, Sept. 11 through Sunday, Sept. 13. The powwow had been rescheduled from earlier in June, but the later date didn't stop dancers, drums and visitors from turning out to take in some of the ceremony. The weekend featured several drums, including Broken Horn, Red Cloud and Whitefish Bay Singers, along with a number of different prizes to be won by attending dancers. According to a Facebook post, roughly 350 registered dancers took part in the powwow's Saturday proceedings.

— Allan Bradbury photos



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THE VIEW FROM HERE

BETH CALDWELL

I've been doing some more head laundry lately about those good old life lessons, and I suppose that shouldn't surprise me because I've accumulated enough thoughts, memories, mistakes and lessons to keep the washing machine going for quite some time.

Relationships: the complicated, wonderful, occasionally maddening business of allowing another human being close enough to see who we really are.

For a long time I had very definite ideas about what love was supposed to look like, including the excitement, the chemistry, the grand gestures and the certainty that this person is different from everyone who came before.

Then life happened. People got real. They disappointed us and we disappointed them.

I discovered that two people can love each other and still misunderstand each other, that good intentions don't always produce good outcomes, and that being right isn't nearly as satisfying as I once thought it would be.

I am becoming less interested in what someone says and more interested in how they behave – less interested in being adored (although I am pretty darn adorable) and more interested in being respected. I'm less interested in keeping score and more interested in whether both people are actually showing up, because a relationship is not built in the extraordinary moments. It's built in the mid-week evenings and in the little things nobody else sees. The cup of coffee, the check-in, the remembered detail and the willingness to listen to a story you've probably heard before.

It's in the way someone speaks to you when they're tired. It's in what happens after an argument and whether an apology is followed by a change. Big. Huge.

I know that love isn't supposed to require us to become smaller but I'm also learning that it isn't supposed to require another person to be perfect.

We all bring our history with us. (Heaven knows I have a sack of things on my back heavy enough to make a sailboat list).

The things we learned from our parents, the things we learned from previous relationships, the things we learned from getting our hearts broken and the things we learned from breaking someone else's heart. I am among those humans who have brought my fears, habits and assumptions into a relationship. I have hauled in all the wounded places where I am still tender.

Sometimes we expect the person standing beside us to

somehow know what to do with all of it and it's an unreasonable expectation for sure.

I believe relationships work better when we stop expecting someone else to be responsible for all of our healing.

That doesn't mean we shouldn't need each other. We do need each other. A lot. However, there's a difference between needing someone and making them responsible for our happiness.

There is a difference between being loved and being validated, between compromise and self-abandonment, and between forgiveness and pretending something didn't happen.

Somehow, those realizations are finally coming out of the fog. Is it my age?

I am more interested now in understanding another person's point of view and less interested in proving my own. I'm learning that "I'm sorry" doesn't make me smaller, that listening doesn't mean I agree, and that kindness is not a weakness – and honestly that sometimes the most loving thing two people can do is give each other enough room to remain themselves.

I think self-worth allows us to love more honestly. We can say what we need and we can hear what someone else needs.

We can recognize when something isn't right without immediately deciding that everything is wrong – and this is a huge realization for me. I can appreciate what is good without pretending that nothing is difficult.

A relationship isn't a test we pass or fail. It is something two people continue to make day after day, choice after choice. Sometimes we do it beautifully and sometimes we do it imperfectly and from where I stand, always with the opportunity to do a little better tomorrow.

I used to think that knowing my worth would make my life simpler. No. It has made some things clearer.

I know now that I don't want to spend the rest of my life proving that I am worthy of love (because after all I am the best girl out there) but I also don't want to spend it building walls so high that nothing can get in.

I want room for mistakes – and heaven knows I have a trunk full. I want room for laughter, for growth and for the possibility that people can still surprise us.

And maybe that is the part I am still learning. I didn't mean any less of what I wrote in my last column about the importance of realizing my self-worth. Knowing myself doesn't mean I have everything figured out. It simply means I am finally paying attention.

And perhaps after all these years that is enough to keep the head laundry going.

There are still things I am sorting through.

But I'm getting better at knowing what belongs in the wash, what needs to be aired out—and what is worth keeping.

By Liz Adam
Life Coach's Corner

“It takes two flints to make a fire.” – Louisa May Alcott

Last month we took a look at the partnership between John Newton and William Wilberforce working together to overcome slavery. This month's column tells the story of a small but mighty team working together to overcome unfair, oppressive working conditions.

In the late 1800's there were dozens of match making factories operating in England. A company named Bryant and May, operating in the poverty-stricken East End of London, was the largest of these.

Most of the workers in this factory were young girls who worked long and hard 12 hours a day, six days a week. They made only starvation wages. They were fined for things such as accidentally dropping a match. Worst of

Team match

all, the girls had to work directly with white phosphorus, a dangerous substance which caused a form of cancer referred to as “phossy jaw.”

As the companies were making 20% dividends yet still underpaying their workers unrest was mounting but the girls were financially powerless and dependent. On June 15, 1888, a man aptly named Henry Champion reported these conditions and proposed a boycott which was passed unanimously.

This triggered a prominent social reformer named Annie Besant to meet with some of the girls outside the factory. This led to her article titled White Slavery in London being published in a June 1888 newspaper publication.

Of course, the match factory owners were furious and tried to force their workers to sign false statements to negate the allegations. Thankfully, they had the courage

to refuse to do so, despite risking losing the only income they had. After a girl was dismissed, 1,400 girls walked out of the factory in what became known as the history-changing Match Girls' Strike on July 5, 1888.

One of the girls who was able to read and write wrote to Annie Besant on behalf of the oppressed match girls saying, “My Dear Lady, We thank you very much for the kind interest you have taken in us poor girls, and hope that you will succeed in your undertakings... I might have put my or our names, but we are frightened. Do keep that as a secret. We know you will do that dear lady.”

The match girls formed a committee of eight women who, backed by Besant and Champion, were able to bring about improved working conditions and abolish unfair fines. After the committee was able to secure the support of the London Trades

Council, they met with the owners of Bryant and May, who agreed to new and improved terms. The news was met with wild cheering. Their former wages could only buy enough low-quality food to stay alive and perhaps one piece of coal.

In 1891, William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, opened a competing factory which produced “Lights in Darkest England” matches made of safe red phosphorus. This factory paid even better wages, which forced competitors to improve their standards as well.

In 1893, the British government introduced strict health rules to 22 “Lucifer” (friction match) factories. The brave young women, a journalist, and an activist courageously lit the sparks that burned oppression against all odds.

“We are the ones we have been waiting for.” – Alice Walker



A Moment of Record

TAKEN FROM THE PAGES OF THE RAINY RIVER RECORD SEPTEMBER 13, 1962

476 Enroll in High And Public Schools

The September meeting of the Rainy River Board of Education brought a report from High School Principal Paul McRae that enrolment in the school had reached a new high with two hundred and eighty-eight students present on opening day and anticipated additions to bring the enrolment to possibly three hundred and two.

Notable features of the figures were ninety-eight and ninety-seven in grades nine and ten respectively, which indicated a greatly expanded student body in a few years time if succeeding years brought an equal number of beginners. The grade thirteen class of seventeen students was the largest in the school's history.

Principal Withers reported public school enrolment of one hundred and eighty-eight. The staff of high school teachers was reported completed since the previous meeting. There was still some minor work to be done in connection with the high school building and grounds but generally preparations for the fall term were completed.

A report was still awaited from the architects concerning proposals to renovate Alexandra Public School. Further temporary repairs to the roof were authorized and the installation of additional

shelving requested in certain classrooms was approved.

Authority was given for payment of Architect's Certificate No. 6, the final payment on the high school construction account. The final cost of construction of the building was less than three hundred and fifty dollars in excess of the original contract figure.

It was decided to continue with music in certain grade ten classes as an additional option and in one grade nine class only.

The secretary was instructed to forward to the fall convention of the Northwestern Ontario School Trustees and Ratepayers Association a resolution requesting the setting up of a permanent committee of adjustment composed of representatives of the Department of Education, the Teachers Federations and the Ontario School Trustees Council to control salary arrangements. The proposed Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System was brought to the members attention.

Authority was given to member of the board, Alex Warnuk, to be absent from meetings for more than three months in view of the requirements of his employment.

Accounts approved for the high school were \$3,474.14 and for the public school \$900.51.

Legion Donates \$2,000 To Arena Fund

At the regular meeting of the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion last night a motion was passed to give \$2,000.00 towards the new arena. When added to the previous donations by the Legion and the Auxiliary this brings their total donations to over \$3,050.00. This does not count the many personnel donations made by Legion members.

Legion members have been regularly showing up to help in construction. Only the committee in charge knows how much this support really means, and they are very grateful to the Legion. With so much cement pouring recently, the committee has been too busy to prepare an up-to-date list of donations. This will be prepared for next week's paper.

SPECIALS PRICED TO PLEASE

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Has Ottawa’s Ring of Fire road decision set the stage for a Highway of Tears 2.0?

By Anushka Yadav
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
The Pointer

Content warning: This story discusses missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

“the bread far from the hunger, the apology the confusion, the broken road these things we gather in this blanket bone and sand and sage we wash the world, between us hold this blanket, fill it with our tears and when we have cried from one dawn to the next then we will rise, and we will dance until they’re home, until they all are home”

In Anna Marie Sewell’s ‘Washing the World’, grief is not left to be carried alone. Fragments of loss are gathered one by one into a shared blanket woven from sorrow, memory and the enduring hope that those who are missing will one day return home.

But where does that preventable grief germinate from?

In 2025, 33,584 people were reported missing across Canada—Indigenous people accounted for 13 percent of missing adults and 21 percent of missing children while Indigenous women and girls made up 58 percent and 69 percent of those cases respectively, according to the latest government records.

For generations, many Indigenous families have lived with the onerous weight of grief, close to their heart, of women and children who never made it home — as they continued to demand answers, accountability and safety for those still here.

As major development projects move deeper into Indigenous territories, advocates are now wondering if the lessons of the past are being carried into the future or left behind.

On June 19, as the final Impact Assessment Report for the first road to Ring of Fire identified “positive effects on employment and the economy as well as community well-being, economic reconciliation”, it also warned the project may “increase physical and sexual violence towards Indigenous women and girls, and raise the risk of human trafficking” due to the influx of workers, “increased risk of illegal or prohibited substances entering the community, concerns regarding public and road safety”.

Six days later, the 107-kilometre all-season Webequie Supply Road proposal for mineral exploration and potential future mining development in the Ring of Fire was greenlit by federal environment minister Julie Dabrusin. She determined the project’s “public interest” benefits outweighed its “potential adverse effects”, after considering the statutory factors and mitigation conditions.

“The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring proposals like this move forward in a way that is sustainable and protects the environment and Indigenous rights,” a statement by the minister noted.

“[It] is committed to working with Indigenous communities in a manner that advances reconcil-

iation, respects the rights and cultures of Indigenous Peoples, and ensures the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in assessments.”

While the decision has since prompted critics to question who gets to define “public interest” and sparked a Federal Court challenge seeking to overturn Dabrusin’s approval, an uncomfortable question haunts: is Ontario at risk of building a Highway of Tears 2.0?

Nearly three decades after Highway 16 was completed, its 719-kilometre stretch between Prince George and Prince Rupert, British Columbia had become a landscape marked by the disappearances and killings of women and girls—earning the name “Highway of Tears” during a 1998 vigil in Terrace, when a Wet’suwet’en matriarch and Indigenous advocate, Florence Naziel, coined the term as she witnessed the tears of families who had lost their loved ones.

Seven years later, Naziel would lose someone she was related to, Tamara Chipman, a young mother who disappeared along the highway on September 21, 2005—leading her to organize the first official walk from Prince Rupert to Smithers in 2006 and support the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) movement while calling for the nation inquiry.

It would take Ottawa a decade to launch a Canada-wide inquiry despite the numbers speaking louder than ever.

A 2004 Amnesty International report documented more than 500 missing or murdered Indigenous women, exposing a pattern of systemic violence that disproportionately affected young and impoverished women. It brought to light that Canadian authorities could—and should—have done more to protect them and address the social and economic conditions that placed them in harm’s way.

Between 1980 and 2012, 1,181 police-recorded cases involving Indigenous women and girls were documented in the RCMP’s Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: National Operational Overview—1,017 homicide victims and 164 missing persons with 225 cases still unsolved at the time.

In 2005, the RCMP launched provincially funded Project E-Pana to investigate unsolved murders and disappearances of women and girls along the Highway of Tears. The investigation expanded over the years, growing from three cases in its first year to 18 by 2007 and eventually spanning highways across much of the province. But its resources declined sharply, with the task force shrinking from 70 officers in 2010 to just 12 by 2014 despite a 2006 Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendations Report urging RCMP to be “provided the resources to increase their highway patrols during the hitchhiking season, more specifically increase these patrols along the sections of Highway 16 near First Nation communities, towns and cities”.

Among the 33 recommendations that the report made, the last one called on the RCMP to “continue its official investigation or inquiry into the aboriginal community’s assertions on the actual number of missing women”.

“Each individual number from

nine to possibly 32 missing victims is in fact a valued family member’s life that deserves the same respect and attention presented at the Highway of Tears symposium”.

Critics and Indigenous advocates have long argued that systemic racism and unequal media attention have contributed to the lack of progress in solving cases along the Highway of Tears.

“If it weren’t for [Nicole] Hoar, the police would have invested less effort in investigating cases, and the media would have done little, if anything, to inform the public about the tragedies along the road,” Tamara Chapman’s aunt Gladys Radek said at the time.

In 2015, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) condemned Canada’s failure to protect Indigenous women and girls, calling it a “grave human rights violation”: “the Canadian police and justice system have failed to effectively protect Aboriginal women, hold offenders to account, and ensure that victims get redress”.

“The violence inflicted on Aboriginal women is often rooted in the deep socio-economic inequalities and discrimination their communities face and which can be traced back to the period of colonisation,” CEDAW members Niklas Bruun and Barbara Bailey noted.

“During the inquiry, NGOs indicated to us that young Aboriginal women are five times more likely than other Canadian women of the same age to die of violence. Aboriginal women and girls also experience high levels of sexual abuse and violence in their own families and communities, as well as within wider society.”

The following year, the federal government launched the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

When the inquiry released its final report in June 2019, decades of disappearances along the Highway of Tears were found to be rooted in systemic racism, poverty and a lack of safe transportation — and industrial activity compounding those existing vulnerabilities.

First person accounts pointed to a clear connection between major resource-extraction, infrastructure and construction projects and the temporary worker camps (also called man camps) who have “high salaries and little to no stake in the host Indigenous community” that accompany them and heightened risks of violence against Indigenous women and girls.

“The industrial system of resource extraction in Canada is predicated on systems of power and domination. This system is based on the raping and pillaging of Mother Earth as well as violence against women. The two are inextricably linked,” Melina Laboucan-Massimo, a woman from the Lubicon Cree First Nation, said.

“With the expansion of extractive industries, not only do we see desecration of the land,

we see an increase in violence against women. Rampant sexual violence against women and a variety of social ills result from the influx of transient workers in and around workers’ camps.”

T. J. Lightfoot, a Two-Spirit Mi’kmaw person from Elsipogtog First Nation, told the inquiry there are two types of man-camps associated with resource extraction: camps operated by industry, typically made up of portable housing units brought in to accommodate workers, and informal camps including privately rented homes, trailers or mobile homes where workers live outside the company-run sites.

In both cases, the influx of predominantly male workers into small Indigenous communities can place additional pressure on local services and increase risks of sexual assault, harassment, sexually transmitted infections and women entering the “sex trade” while rampant drug and alcohol abuse increases not only in the community but also among workers.

The Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) President Josie Nepinak, explained in a community of 200 or 300 people, the arrival of a camp housing 500 predominantly male workers can stretch policing, health care, social services and family support considerably, possibly beyond their limits.

“Indigenous women and girls experience poverty, lower educational attainment and addictions are particularly vulnerable in the communities, so this raises a good question about whether or not there’ll be enough,” Nepinak told The Pointer.

Former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples James Anaya’s work also revealed Indigenous women living near oil, gas and mining operations had reported increased sexual harassment and violence including rape and assault following the arrival of extractive workers.

“There is substantial evidence of a serious problem that requires focused attention on the relationship between resource extraction projects and violence against Indigenous women,” the final report reiterated.

Five months after the inquiry, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) decided that an impact assessment was required for the Webequie Supply Road, officially commencing shortly after on February 24, 2020.

In the recent report, IAAC recorded concerns raised by at least five First Nation communities regarding “concern for health and safety, and potential human trafficking of Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ2+ populations”. The First Nations called for the project’s conditions and the Community Readiness Plan to include stronger measures to address the risks of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls associated with worker camps and the cumulative effects of development.

The agency said it had considered the potential impact of an influx of workers on Indigenous

women and girls, including the possibility of increased violence.

“IAAC understands that the proponent made commitments to provide training programs that focus on the safety of Indigenous women and girls, and that as part of the Community Readiness Plan, there would be mechanisms for local women and girls to bring forward grievances, including issues related to sexism and gender-based violence,” the report noted.

“[The Plan] would track and monitor the safety and security of vulnerable community members as part of community well-being monitoring.”

But for advocates, the question is whether those measures are enough.

NWAC’s Nepinak is “very concerned” about the safety to Indigenous women since the IAAC’s findings. She argues the risks associated with temporary worker camps need to be considered long before a woman has to make a complaint.

“Major projects like the Ring of Fire roads must be more than economic opportunity,” Nepinak said.

“Any project in any community should only proceed where governments and proponents can demonstrate that Indigenous women’s rights, their community safety, environmental stewardship and equitable economic participation will be protected throughout the life of any project.”

Advocates have stressed that the mechanism to make complaints will need to be efficient given past failures of the system.

Indigenous women working around resource projects have often been reluctant to report harassment or violence because they feared losing their jobs, damaging their reputations or having their complaints ignored.

“One woman said that she did not report harassment to her supervisors because she was new to her job and did not want to jeopardize her reputation and future employment prospects. Of her male colleagues who witnessed her harassment, she said, “nobody stood up for me,” the 2019 inquiry noted.

Advocates say for a grievance system to work women must be able to trust that their concerns will be heard, understood and acted on without putting their safety or livelihoods at risk because systemic challenges have left them untrusting of police forces.

Based on interviews with Indigenous Peoples and Elders living along Highway 16, a 2024 study by University of Alberta’s researchers found that cases involving Indigenous women were not pursued with the same urgency as those involving white women while they were often blamed for their own disappearances.

“I feel like there’s a blame that goes on... ‘she shouldn’t have

been there’ and you know, ‘it was her lifestyle.’,” one woman told researchers.

The Missing Women Commission of Inquiry also reported the “initiation and conduct of the missing and murdered women investigations were a blatant failure,” citing poor report-taking and follow-up, failures to pursue investigative strategies and inadequate accountability.

“We truly believe that economic prosperity should be for everyone, absolutely. But what we don’t agree with is whether or not major extracting industries have provided the safety and the necessary resources that will impact Indigenous women,” Nepinak said.

She believes protecting communities, particularly those along the Ring of Fire, from such vulnerabilities must be the first priority of any major project and “Indigenous leaders must be involved from the outset” to identify the services needed to ensure community safety.

Communities may need more emergency housing, victim services, sexual health care, mental health and addictions support, child and family services, culturally appropriate trauma care and transportation for women seeking help—recommendations that were also made in the 2006 Highway of Tears Symposium Recommendations Report and are yet to be applied in its entirety.

A recent NWAC annual score card found the federal implementation of the MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan remains “fragmented”, “delayed” and largely reliant on existing or short-term programs rather than transformative, sustained action.

While Ottawa has continued funding initiatives such as the Red Dress Alert, survivor and family supports, Indigenous housing, policing and community safety programs, NWAC found major gaps in long-term funding, independent accountability, Indigenous-led data systems and systemic reforms.

The federal government has yet to establish the Indigenous Human Rights Ombudsperson and Tribunal or an oversight body for the National Action Plan while a national Indigenous data system grounded in data sovereignty remains unrealized and promised Indigenous health legislation has stalled.

“Economic development and community safety must advance together, not behind,” Nepinak added.

“And Indigenous women must have a meaningful role in project design, decision-making, and ongoing monitoring of major projects.”

If you are affected by the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people and need immediate emotional assistance, the national helpline is 1-844-413-6649.

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Thursday, October 1 — 6:00 p.m.

Fort Frances Memorial Centre Auditorium

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• Moderators: Fort Frances Times General Manager Andrew Flynn and Editor Ken Kellar

• Introductory remarks: Mayor Andrew Hallikas

• **Format:**

– Mayoral candidates: 5-minute statements

– Councillor candidates: 3-minute statements

– Audience questions permitted; responses limited to 1 minute

• **Rules:**

– No interruptions; moderators may reject inappropriate or disruptive questions

– No campaign materials inside the auditorium

– Event may be livestreamed and recorded

• Accessibility: Fully accessible venue

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10. Scarf is longer.

9. Girl's hat is wider.

8. Musical note beside girl has moved.

7. Snow beside man's coat has moved.

6. Button on man's coat has moved.

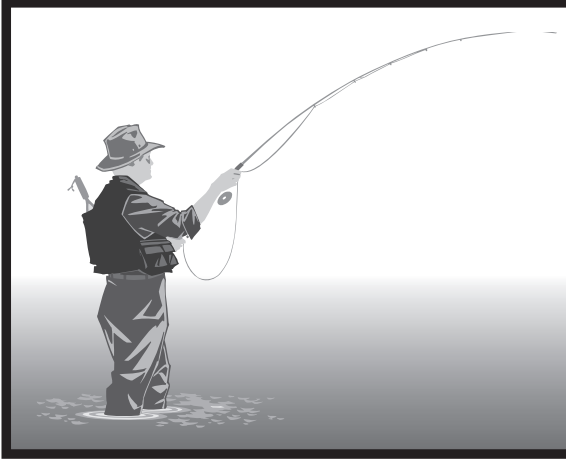
5. Pattern on cape is missing.

4. Inside of cape is colored in.

3. Laces on man's shoe are missing.

2. Flame in lantern is missing.

1. Laces on man's shoe are missing.



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Announcements

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Legal/Public Notices

NOTICE
DISTRICT #5 Schedule of A.A. Meetings
FORT FRANCES

Wednesday (C) 7:00pm
- Couchiching Treatment and Support Building (Beside The Duke Arena)

Thursday (C) 8:00pm
- 710 Church Avenue

Sunday (C) 10:30am - Couchiching Treatment and Support Building (Beside The Duke Arena)
(C) 8:00pm - 710 Church Avenue

EMO
Wednesday (C) 7:00 pm
- Knox United Church, River Road & Roy Street-Emo, Ont.

SABASKONG, NESTOR FALLS
Monday, Thursday, and Saturday, 7:00pm
- Onigaming Health Centre meeting room
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ATIKOKAN
Sunday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30pm
Community Fellowship Church

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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
530 6th St. Int'l Falls, MN

NOTICE
GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS:

Mondays 6:00 p.m.
Riverside
Community Health Services Building,
206 Victoria Ave., Fort Frances.
For more info call 807-275-6445.

NOTICE
SCHEDULE OF N.A. MEETINGS
FORT FRANCES

Tuesday 7:00pm
- Couchiching Treatment and Support Building (Beside the Duke Arena)

Friday 8:00pm & Saturday 8:00pm
- Knox United Church

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS
All persons having claims against the Estate of **KENNETH EINAR LARSON**, late of the Town of Rainy River, in the District of Rainy River, who died on or about the **17th day of May 2026**, are hereby notified to file same, duly verified, with the undersigned Solicitor for the Estate Trustees, on or before the 30th day of September 2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regards only to claims of which notice has been received.

LINDA JEAN KREGER, CAROL ANN MCCLAIN and DARREL EINAR LARSON
Estate Trustees With a Will by their Solicitor,
Amy Lee Ruff
Barrister and Solicitor
306 Fourth Street
P.O. Box 834
Rainy River, ON
POW 1L0

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS
All persons having claims against the Estate of **THOMAS ALAN GUTPELL**, late of the Town of Rainy River, in the District of Rainy River, who died on or about the **17th day of June 2026**, are hereby notified to file same, duly verified, with the undersigned Solicitor for the Estate Trustees, on or before the 23rd day of September 2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regards only to claims of which notice has been received.

MATTHEW WYATT GUTPELL and BRITTANY ELISE GUTPELL
Estate Trustees With a Will by their Solicitor,
Amy Lee Ruff
Barrister and Solicitor
306 Fourth Street
P.O. Box 834
Rainy River, ON
POW 1L0

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS
All persons having claims against the Estate of **IRENE ELIZABETH HANSON**, late of the Town of Rainy River, in the District of Rainy River, who died on or about the **25th day of October 2025**, are hereby notified to file same, duly verified, with the undersigned Solicitor for the Estate Trustees, on or before the 18th day of September 2026, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regards only to claims of which notice has been received.

RANDY SHELTON HANSON and TIMOTHY ANDREW HANSON
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2:00pm Local Fort Frances Time (CST)
Tuesday, September 29, 2026

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Beyond Canada’s big cities: How to make smaller communities more attractive to newcomers

By Dayo Ojerinde
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
New Canadian Media

Zeel Shah moved to the neighbourhood of Windermere in Edmonton from Toronto and quickly found that the quieter life she and her husband wanted came with an immediate challenge: Getting around without a car.

On weekends, when buses ran less frequently, Shah sometimes walked for half an hour in -20 C temperatures to catch the bus to work. Missing it meant waiting another hour.

She does not remember those early experiences in 2019 with bitterness.

“I wouldn’t necessarily consider that a negative experience,” Shah said. “For me, it was simply part of the initial struggle of settling into a new city.”

Seven years later, she has little desire to return to the big-city lifestyle she left behind.

Shah’s experience is an illustration of the challenges facing Canada’s immigration strategy: Attracting newcomers to communities outside of the country’s biggest metropolitan centers — and convincing them to stay.

Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver remained the leading destinations for recent immigrants in the 2021 census, but their combined share fell from 56 per cent in 2016 to 53.4 per cent in 2021.

Statistics Canada also found that 4.4 per cent of recent immigrants were living in small urban centres and 3.2 per cent had settled in rural areas.

The federal government has sought to encourage the redistribution of immigrants. Its current Rural Community Immigration Pilot offers permanent residence to skilled workers who want to work and settle in 14 rural and more remote communities.

Whether newcomers stay in these smaller communities depends on much more than their immigration status. A job can bring someone in, but is it enough to keep them?

Suneet Kukreja, who came to Canada in 2015, sees that distinction every day. She manages the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce’s Immigrant Services in Ontario, which is funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). The program helps permanent residents settle across communities in southwestern Ontario’s Grey and Bruce counties.

Kukreja said employment is key to whether families remain, but having one employed member of a household may not be enough.

“If there is something for both the partners, then there is retention,” she said.

The YMCA program has worked with families where one partner had a job they loved while the other could not find work in their field. Some eventually moved to Manitoba or British Columbia because both partners had better employment opportunities there.

For Chioma Ibeh, employment was an important consideration when she and her family chose a small waterfront community in northern Ontario.

Ibeh, who was born in Nigeria, trained as a nurse in the U.K. before immigrating to Canada in August 2024. Her family was looking for employment opportunities, a healthier work-life balance and a safe environment in which to raise their children.

The local hospital helped ease their transition by providing a list of available rental properties and employment opportunities for both Ibeh and her partner. Ibeh said working in a smaller hospital gives her greater professional autonomy than she would have in a larger metropolitan hospital.

Shah’s experience was different; she came to Canada as an international student in 2015 and lived in Toron-



Newcomers joined the YMCA’s Immigrant Services Team in Owen Sound Grey Bruce for a recent community trail walk. — YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce photo

to. After she married, the couple moved to the suburb of Windermere in Edmonton after.

She and her husband wanted a quieter and less crowded place to settle, but employment opportunities were also part of their decision. It took a couple of months for Shah to find a job in her field — food quality assurance.

The experiences of these three women illustrate the intersection between employment and belonging.

Kukreja said sustainable employment that matches newcomers’s skills remains one of the biggest challenges in her job. Professionals can spend years trying to re-enter occupations for which they trained before coming to Canada because their credentials aren’t accepted, she said.

“To sustain themselves for those two to three years, folks pick up any kind of entry-level jobs that they can land their hands on,” Kukreja said. For some professionals, that means working at grocery store checkouts and as security guards or other jobs that require fewer skills.

For people supporting young families, the choice is particularly difficult, she said. Do they return to school to upgrade their credentials or take a lower paying job to earn enough to support the household?

And finding jobs isn’t the only consideration when newcomers choose where to settle. They also need transportation, childcare, healthcare and housing, and these can be more challenging to find outside Canada’s major urban centres.

Kukreja said transportation is one of the biggest barriers in the Grey Bruce counties her YMCA program serves.

“There is no inter-municipal transit system in most of the counties,” she said, adding that employment even 30 minutes from home can be difficult to reach without a vehicle.

Shah’s early experience in Edmonton was similar, despite the vastly different size of the communities. Shah eventually became comfortable in Edmonton, but health care and child care are still challenging. She had a positive experience with the healthcare system when she gave birth to her son, but she doesn’t have a family doctor and relies on walk-in clinics for medical needs.

When her son was six months old, the family registered him at several daycares; they waited more than a year for a space to open up.

Ibeh has encountered different issues in her northern Ontario community.

Her family found housing, although it was not as affordable as they had expected. Public transportation is limited, and residents seeking a wider range of shopping options travel more than an hour to a larger centre.

Ibeh’s children attend a French-language school, but she said families have fewer educational options than they would in a larger city.

These concerns are important because Canada’s rural immigration strategy isn’t based solely on finding places with labour shortages. When communities applied for funding under the federal immigration pilot project, which was launched in January 2025, IRCC also assessed whether they had the infrastructure and services required to accommodate newcomers, including healthcare services, housing, educational facilities and settlement organizations.

Another issue is trickier to quantify.

“To be honest, it can be difficult to make friends when you move to a different city or province, especially when you don’t have family or an existing social circle there,” Shah said.

She believes activities bringing newcomers and established residents together could help people develop stronger community connections.

Kukreja said social isolation is a significant settlement issue.

“No matter how good a job you have, no matter how well settled you are, you still need to have that community connection,” she said.

Her YMCA program organizes community activities designed to create those connections. At a recent beach outing, Kukreja recalled watching two newcomers, one French-speaking and the other Arabic-speaking — both with limited English — spend hours chatting despite their different backgrounds. They subsequently became friends.

“These are those social connections that go a long way,” Kukreja said.

Ibeh has found some of those connections through activities organized by her hospital, union, religious community and the growing community of Nigerians who are settling in her northern Ontario community. She said local residents have been welcoming, and she has not experienced isolation or discrimination.

IRCC’s 2023 Settlement Outcomes Report found that newcomers who participated in a previous pilot program reported a strong sense of belonging to their local communities, with stronger belonging among those who accessed settlement services or community-level supports.

The 2021 program offers an early indication of whether Canada’s attempts to distribute immigration more widely will be successful.

The 2023 report draws on a survey of 276 newcomers conducted in 2022, found that 93 per cent were still living in the rural community they first settled in, and 88 per cent had no plans to leave.

Among the top reasons respondents gave for staying were that they liked living in a smaller or rural community, liked their job and felt welcomed in the community.

For those who had left or planned to leave, the leading reason was access to services unavailable locally, such as specialized doctors or higher education.

For Ibeh, living in a smaller community is still her choice, but she is uncertain whether the family will be there long term. There is no university, and that might be a consideration in the near future. Career advancement may also be a factor.

But for Shah, however, the decision is clear.

“We have become comfortable with this lifestyle, and we still value having a quieter and more peaceful environment,” she said.

She does not want to return to the big-city lifestyle she left.

“Ultimately, I believe if you give someone a reason to stay, they will stay. If they have a good job, opportunities to grow in their career, affordable housing, and a clear path toward building a future, they are much more likely to put down roots.”

Canada’s current pilot project is intended to help rural communities attract and retain immigrants who want to live there long-term. Employers participating in the program must also agree to support the settlement of newcomers and their families.

Kukreja said governments could do more before newcomers even arrive in the country. Canada could provide realistic information about opportunities outside the metropolitan areas, increase awareness of rural settlement services and improve pathways for internationally-trained professionals to have their qualifications recognized.

Kukreja arrived in Canada as a biochemist, but she needed another two years of medical laboratory technology education before she would be considered qualified to work in her field here.

After years of helping newcomers establish themselves in Grey Bruce counties, she believes retention ultimately involves something less tangible than immigration programs or economic incentives.

“I think one of the biggest lessons that we learned from our past, and we still continue to work on it, is how you make people feel,” Kukreja said.

“If they feel welcomed and they feel that they belong to the space, then they will ask you for all the wraparound services, and their success in the community depends on that.”



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Description of Lands:

1. Roll No. 59 42 000 000 35401 0000; 320 FIRST ST., RAINY RIVER; PIN 56056-0063 (LT); File No.25-01; Assessed value of land is \$5,800

Minimum Tender Amount: \$54,676.92

2. Roll No. 59 42 000 000 52100 0000; 601 PARK ST., RAINY RIVER; PIN 56055-0880 (LT); File 25-02; Assessed value of land is \$12,800

Minimum Tender Amount: \$19,531.32

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, crown interests, or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Any interests of the Federal or Provincial Crown encumbering the lands at the time of the tax sale will continue to encumber the land after the registration of the tax deed. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. A full copy of the tax sale advertisement and further information about this matter is available online at www.OntarioTaxSales.ca or Insert Town website if applicable or you may contact

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— Allan Bradbury photos



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Rainy River Walleye Tournament September 17 - 19



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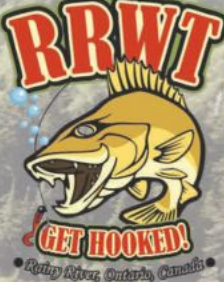
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Sport fishing can seem like a man's game, but district women won't let that sink their spirits



By Liam Oliver Neilson
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
lnilson@fortfrances.com

When it comes to getting out on the water for a competition, long-time Rainy River Walleye duo Candy Greengrass and Julie Tiboni don't let the challenges for women in a male-dominated sport stop them from giving it their all.

Despite it being cemented as an annual event that brings good-natured contest to the river and all kinds of entertainment for everyone on the shore, the tournament—and fishing in general—come with a stigma of being a "men's sport." Although many women in the district find ways to make it work and get out on the water, it's not without hurdles that many people aren't privy to, the district-local women explained.

"It's not an easy task being a woman and going in the tournament when you have babies and need to be a mom," Greengrass said. "It's easier for men to just go and do what

they've got to do. For women, there's a whole bunch of planning that goes into it. Even getting a boat, it's not like Julie and I have boats sitting in our yards. We struggled with that through quite a few years of borrowing and renting."

"Growing up on the river, I fished from the dock all the time," Tiboni said. "I love fishing and if I could fish seven days of the week, I would. But now, it's just about finding the time."

"You're working, you're volunteering and you're involved with other stuff. For us, it's making sure everything is taken care of at home, too. So, a day of fishing is a day of relaxing."

Regardless the extra hoops they've had to go through to make it possible, both women consistently make the tournament, viewing it as their "mini vacation" at the end of the season, where they spend a weekend relaxing, laughing and fishing.

"Sometimes we don't catch fish, but we still have two days of awesomeness," Tiboni said.

"You're there so everything else is out of your control. If it happens, it happens. There's nothing you can do because you're gone out fishing. I guess I could say it's kind of like a mini vacation."

Although they go into the tournament with jovial spirits, that doesn't mean they don't take it seriously. Greengrass and Tiboni know that when it comes down to it, their chances of hooking that competition-winning fish are just as good as everyone else's.

"It's one big fish that can literally change everything," Greengrass said.

"We've seen all sorts of boats going through the tent. A little skiff with some dents on it going through after a ginormous bass boat. Anybody can win this tournament at any given time."

They're happy enough to just find some time to get out on the water, but neither Greengrass or Tiboni will shy away from the opportunity to reel in something big and take their boat through the tent after weigh-ins.





**Best of Luck
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Thursday, Sept 17, 2026

4:00 pm.....Boat Parade

5:00 pm.....Fisherman's Dinner
Hosted by the RR Curling Club

6:30 pm.....Official Tournament Rules
(Mandatory for Anglers)

7:00 pm.....Beer Gardens - Open to Public
2 pieces of of Government issued ID required
for bar service (1 must be photo ID)

9:00 pm.....Mix & Mingle while listening to
Top Music Productions

Friday, Sept 18, 2026

7:00 am, 7:30 am, 8:00 am.....Angler's Flights Leave

11:00 pm – 5:00 pm.....RRWT Silent Auction
West Rainy River District Lions Club
Penny Table, Vendors & Raffles

11:00 am – 1:00 pm.....Mix and Mingle Music

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.....RR Hospital Aux. H.E.L.P.P.
Break Open Tickets (Pull Tabs) with
proceeds to Hospital Projects

1:00 pm – 1:00am.....Beer Gardens Open

4:00 pm.....Weigh-ins

5:00 pm.....Pulled pork on homemade buns with
coleslaw pasta salad and potato salad
with homemade beans and dessert.
\$25.00/person
Hosted By Michele Abraham

9:00 pm – 1:00 am.....Dance To Red Right Return
(19&over) \$15 at the door
2 pieces of government issued ID required for bar
service and dance admission (1 must be photo ID)

Saturday, Sept 20, 2026

7:00 am, 7:30 am, 8:00 am.....Angler's Flights Leave

10:00 am.....RRWT Silent Auction – Bids close at 2 pm

9:00 am - 3:00 pm.....West Rainy River District Lions Club
Penny Table, Vendors & Raffles

10:00 am - 10:30 am.....Registration for Kids Mini Tournament at dock

10:45 am - 12:15 pm.....Kids Mini Tournament
Hosted by Rainy River Rec. Board
(Two Flights)

10:45 am -11:15 am.....Flight 1: Age 7 & under

11:30 am -12:15 am.....Flight 2: Age 8 & over

10:00 am - 12:30 pm.....RR EarlyOn Kids Crafts under the big tent

1:00 pm - 1:00 am.....Beer Gardens Open

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm.....RR Hospital Aux. H.E.L.P.P.
Break Open Tickets(Pull Tabs) with
proceeds to Hospital Projects

3:00 pm.....Weigh-ins

5:00 pm.....West Rainy River District Lions Club Supper
Sweet & Sour Meatballs and
ham supper and dessert. \$25

5:30 pm.....RRWT Awards Presentation

7:00 pm.....West Rainy River District Lions Club Early
Bird Fishing Trip

9:00 pm - 1:00 am.....Thinking Of Pinky
(19&over) \$20 at the door
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Thinking Of Pinky
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Know before you go: A spectator's guide to the Rainy River Walleye Tournament

By Will Brooks
wbrooks@fortfrances.com

Plenty of people watching boats come off the water in Rainy River this weekend will have never fished the tournament themselves. From the shore, the idea can appear deceptively simple: catch walleye, come back and put them on the scale. On the water, however, teams must follow a detailed rule book covering where they can fish, what they can carry and when they have to be back.

The 27th annual Rainy River Walleye Tournament runs Friday and Saturday, with a mandatory rules and registration meeting Thursday evening. At least one member of every team must attend.

Here are some of the main rules competitors will be following:

Flights and deadlines

Boats leave in three flights, at 7 a.m., 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m.

Friday's starting order is based on the previous year's finish. On Saturday, the teams with the heaviest weights from Friday leave first.

Friday's three flights must return by 4 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday's deadlines are an hour earlier.

Late teams lose one pound for every minute they are overdue, up to five minutes. After that, they do not weigh in at all.

Every boat must report back to the dock, whether or not it has fish. After weighing in, teams have five minutes to clear the docking area.

Where they can fish

Tournament boundaries stretch from the DNR marker at Wheelers Point, at the mouth of the Rainy River, east to the markers at Long Sault Rapids, east of Stratton.

Fishing is restricted to the Canadian side of the border.

A marked slow zone is also in place. Fishing is not allowed inside it, and the slow-zone penalty doubles while the Kids' Fishing Tournament is taking place on Saturday morning.

What is in the boat

Each boat carries two anglers, and the same two who



start must finish unless exceptional circumstances are approved by the tournament committee.

Competitors aged 18 to 64 must hold a valid Ontario fishing licence, and provincial regulations take precedence over tournament rules.

Live bait, frozen bait and artificial lures are allowed. Underwater cameras are not, and cell phones may only be used for emergencies.

Boats cannot make contact with one another or pass objects between teams. Towing is only permitted in

dangerous conditions and with committee approval.

What counts as a fish

Each angler may contribute two walleye, giving a team a maximum of four fish per day.

No fish under 12 inches counts, and each team may weigh only one fish measuring 18.1 inches or longer per day.

Once four fish are in the live well, the smallest must be released before a larger replacement is added.

A dead fish brings a one-pound penalty, while returning a dead tournament fish to the river results in disqualification.

The weigh master's decision is final, and there are no reweighs.

If something goes wrong

Tournament boats may be inspected at any time, and competitors can be required to pass a polygraph examination.

Alcohol, marijuana and drugs are prohibited during tournament hours, except for medication prescribed by a licensed physician.

Teams can also protest another competitor by paying a \$100 fee, which is refunded if the protest is upheld.

Where a situation is not specifically covered by the written rules, officials apply what the tournament calls the "spirit of the rule," with the committee's decision final.

The final rules are issued at Thursday's mandatory meeting, and organizers reserve the right to make changes.

In conclusion...

Whether a team walks away with a trophy or an empty live well by Saturday afternoon, every boat on the water this weekend will have followed the same rule book to get there. As the old proverb goes: "some catch fish; others merely feed them."

This weekend we will find out who is who.

Rainy River Walleye Tournament

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Thursday Sept 17th - 9pm



Friday Sept. 18



RED RIGHT RETURN
In the big tent 9pm-1am
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Age 19 & over - must have two pieces of Gov't issued ID for bar service and admission (1 must be photo ID)

Saturday Sept. 19



THINKING OF PINKY
In the big tent 9pm-1am
\$20 at the door
Age 19 & over - must have two pieces of Gov't issued ID for bar service and admission (1 must be photo ID)

On behalf of the citizens, volunteers and sponsors, we would like to extend a

WARM WELCOME

to all contestants and visitors to our community's 27th Annual Rainy River Walleye Tournament (RRWT).

It is our hope that everyone will enjoy not just the tournament but also our warm and friendly hospitality. This is our 26th year of the tournament and we are excited about the great live entertainment we have in store for everyone this year.

Thursday night mix & mingle with the music of Top Music!

Friday night is Red Right Return at 9:00 pm

Saturday night is Thinking of Pinky at 9:00 pm

On behalf of the RRWT committee, we would like to encourage you to come out and enjoy all the fun this annual event brings to our community! The success of the RRWT is due largely to the support of the many area businesses. Your support of these businesses this weekend and throughout the year is greatly appreciated. We hope you will have a safe and enjoyable stay with us.

Good Luck Anglers!
2026 Rainy River Walleye Tournament Committee





A special welcome to anglers and visitors to the 27th Annual Rainy River Walleye Tournament!

Congratulations to the Rainy River Walleye Tournament organizers on celebrating 27 years! Good luck to all the anglers in this year's tournament September 17-19.





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A Night with Thinking of Pinky: District favorites headline Saturday night



By Allan Bradbury
abradbury@fortfrances.com

For 25 years, Thinking of Pinky has been entertaining Rainy River District Residents with their rocking musical stylings, from the Emo Fair to Rainy Lake Square. They'll be back in Rainy River under the big tent on Saturday night to help celebrate the end of the Rainy River Walleye

Tournament.

The most common question the band gets is: ‘Where the heck does your weird name come from?’

While it really means nothing, it gets the band a lot of attention for its weirdness, according to founding member, vocalist and rhythm guitarist Cliff Pidlubny.

And that’s the point.

“It was 2001, New Year’s Eve, and we just started riffing band names,” Pidlubny said. “And out of nowhere came Thinking of Pinky, and everybody went, ‘What’s that mean?’ It means nothing; it means whatever you want it to mean.”

“For about probably three or four years after our band started in 2001, we were playing the Rainy Lake Hotel and other areas, people would come up to me on the street and say, ‘hey we were talking about it at work, what does your band name mean?’ and yeah, that’s exactly it—you were talking about it at work. Basically, it was just a marketing thing.”

In its current formation, the band consists of Pidlubny, John McEvoy on drums and vocals, Chris Denby on lead guitar and vocals and Craig Wood on Bass.

Each member shares vocal duties with Pidlubny,

with McEvoy and Denby all sharing songs as lead vocalist and Wood mostly as a backup vocalist.

McEvoy said he started singing because they were working on an AC/DC song and his voice fit the bill, and for him it’s not too hard to sing and play drums at the same time.

“Most of the time, no,” he said. “It usually keeps you in the pocket; there’s the odd one that’s off time, but there’s not that many of those.”

While in the band’s earlier days they recorded some originals, Pidlubny says they’re a cover band at heart.

“Earlier members of the band were songwriters, and they wrote songs, we recorded probably two or three,” Pidlubny said. “But, in the long run, we’re a cover band.”

McEvoy says the band plays a wide array of music, from classic rock to pop.

“It’s classic rock, a little bit of country, some pop, I guess,” he said. “Older pop music, I think that covers it.”

McEvoy says the band likes to see people enjoying the music.

“We like to see people enjoy the music, having fun,” he said. “We strive to make people have fun, make sure they have a chance to dance.”

RRWT Score Card

WEIGH-INS at 5:00 p.m. Friday & 4:00 p.m. Saturday

Team	Captain/Deck Hand
1	Cory Larocque/John Desaulniers
2	Danny Usiski/Bill Haskell
3	Doug McBride/Steve Ballan
4	Shane Aikenhead/Scott Aikenhead
5	Brandon Ignaszewski/Mike Vacura
6	Brett Schram/Ryan Redford
7	Russel Platz/Ben Duick
8	Allan Wolanicki/Parker Wolanicki Forster
9	Cory Ney/Alec Dahl
10	Braydon Kreger/Katie Hay
11	Zack McBride/Brian Hughes
12	Callum McCormick/Zander McCormick
13	Cathy Seguin/Claude Seguin
14	Brian Ney/Jim Ney
15	Zac Tolen/Kyle Olson
16	Christian Armstrong/Dave Armstrong
17	Chris Dillon/Nicole Dillon
18	Lyle Kvarnlov/Greg Muirhead
19	Joe Dobransky/Brian Larson
20	Bill Godin/Greg Swire
21	Jay Williams/Aaron Gubbles
22	Jim Steele/Jessica Steele
23	Carter St Pierre/Cam Belanger
24	Scott Asselin/John Ricci
25	Joe Bonhomme/Brayden Bonhomme
26	Dan Hanson/Trevor Day
27	Steve Molodowich/Jennifer Molodowich
28	Nick Stoskopf/Greg Brown
29	Keith Wilson/Brian Wayash
30	Josh Hamm/Samuel Spires
31	Maria Vandenbrand/Kelsey Tesarsky
32	Cliff Westover/Mark Jodoin
33	Vance Allan/Vince Allan
34	Jon Barker/Riley Caul
35	Oliver Gibbins/Jason Gibbins
36	Justin Buegler/Lindsey Buegler
37	Asher Chorney/Morgan Chorney
38	Nibs Kreger/Jeff Kreger
39	Aaron Bisson/Tony Bisson
40	Bert Seguin/Guy Arpin
41	Raymond King/Steve Omdahl
42	Jesse Hasiuk/Doug Kreger
43	Leroy Wilson/Mike Anderson
44	Jerry Messer/Mark Thompson
45	Steve Carlson/Whitnie Reasy
46	Rick Thompson/Kyle Thompson
47	Michael McQuaker/Brayden Holmes
48	Clarence Gibbins Jr./Jeff Morrison Jr
49	Leslie Morrison/Jesse Bakken
50	Ed Carlson/Jason McQuaker

Team	Captain/Partner
51	Jamie Hartnell/ Hunter Leininger
52	Ted Heyens/Leo Heyens
53	Brenda Jodoin/Dave Seguin
54	Scott Olson/Ronan Ivall
55	Terry Allan/Dennis Smith
56	Jason Ellman/Brett Peterson
57	Mark Chapman/Kent Christianson
58	Allan Stone/Johnny Stone
59	Ernie Seguin/Dave Buttons
60	Dean St Pierre/Brian St Pierre
61	Van Hapka/Amy Hapka
62	Allison Forster/Sean Forster
63	Joe Tiboni/Jack Wood
64	Dwayne Lundgren/Clarence Gibbins Sr.
65	Chris Stone/Shannon Stone
66	Karsyn Anderson/Tim Nordin
67	Troy Dalseg/Chuck McNally
68	Irwin Hughes/Lew Kempf
69	Tyler Seguin/Randy Seguin
70	Kirk Wood/Randy Wood
71	Fred Foulger/Dickie Byrnes
72	Evan Dahl/Jerrett Hoscheid
73	Fred Jack/Darren Prince
74	Greg Bombay Sr./Tricia Bombay
75	Mel Loveday/Bill Martin
76	Ryan Witherspoon/Ross Steele
77	Ken Vogan/Nick Vogan
78	Shawn Brown/Payne Hunter
79	Sharilyn Wood/Colin Wood
80	Leana Gibbins/Jeff Morrison
81	Danny Armstrong/Gord Armstrong
82	Stewart McNally/Steve McNally
83	Rudy Sinninghe/Nicole Sinninghe
84	Candy Greengrass/Julie Tiboni
85	Ryan Bodnar/Nick Teeple
86	Andy Jespersen/Ben Jespersen
87	Donna Heyens/Brett McMahon
88	Mark Marchuck/Heather Marchuck
89	Jack Drennen/Cody Drennen
90	Chad Jackson/Chase Jackson
91	Whitney speaker/Bill Arnould
92	Shawn bruyere/Devon bruyere
93	Dillon Govier/Parker Tweedie
94	Ken Trembath/Dave Eichmann
95	Matt Rooyakkers/Joe Rooyakkers
96	Al Thompson/Brock Dahl
97	Ryan Brading/Roy Long
98	Ken Gardner/Alex Finlayson
99	Hayley Kimball/Chris Stone
100	Branden Brigham/Jordan Jenson

The most recent edition of the RRWT Rules is now available for anglers!

Check it out now @ rrwalleye.com/rules/

Boat Parade 4:00PM Thursday, Sept. 17, 2026

Flights leave at 7:30 am, 7:45 am, 8:00am & 8:15am

Friday & Saturday, Sept 18 & 19, 2026

Weigh-ins at 4:00pm

2025 Rainy River Walleye champs ready to cast their lines again

By Liam Oliver Neilson
Local Journalism Initiative
Reporter
lnilson@fortfrances.com

Cory Larocque and John Desaulniers, the winners of the 2025 Rainy River Walleye Tournament, are looking forward to partnering up on the water again with hopes of reeling in some prize-worthy fish.

The tournament is one of the larger events held in the small town on district's west end, attracting anglers from all over and promising fun times for everyone in town. Whether they're taking up a pole as a challenger in the contest, or a local looking for an entertainment filled weekend with the family, there's no shortage of activities.

However, for folks like Larocque and Desaulniers, what counts is getting out on the water and meeting up again with some fellow fishing enthusiasts.

"If you're any kind of a die-hard fisherman, it's a fun tournament to get into," Larocque said. "There always seems to be a waiting list to get into it but get your name down if you're interested in having a little bit of fun, it's a good time. The volunteers do an excellent job putting it together. They put a lot of hours and dedication into it, and if it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be where we are today, 26 years into it."

Larocque and Desaulniers took last year's tournament with a grand total weight of 20.83 pounds, taking the top spot over second place finishers Danny Usiski and Bill Haskell, who

landed an impressive 19.31 pounds. Regional fishing fixtures Doug McBride and Steve Ballan finished third overall with 18.98 pounds. The champs also took home the big fish prize for day one of fishing, with an 8.34 pound walleye.

Although it may feel intimidating for new contestants to go toe to toe with seasoned anglers, many who have spent their whole lives fishing, Desaulniers reminds that they just need to keep a cool head and let the fish swim over on their own during the tournament days.

"The tournament itself is great, but as for the fishing and how to go about it, it's all about patience," Desaulniers said. "Jumping around will not help. You can't bounce around from spot to spot, you need to be patient. Sometimes it's not fun, but that's the way the river is."

For this year, Desaulniers says he's just keeping his fingers crossed for good fishing weather.

"It could really screw things up if we get lots of rain. It muddies up the water, and they'll scatter around to other spots. It's just harder to find them, makes things more difficult and it's just not as fun."

With a roster of 100 confirmed teams, both of last year's champions said they're eager to mingle with some familiar faces, along with see some new challengers as the event kicks off.

The 2026 Rainy River Walleye officially starts when the first flight of boats launches at 7 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 18.



Above, 2025 Rainy River Walleye Champs Cory Larocque, left, and John Desaulniers hoist the trophy following two days of intense fishing on the Rainy River, which saw them top the leaderboard with a combined total of 20.83 lbs. Second place finishers Danny Usiski and Bill Haskell were close behind with a total of 19.31 lbs. Below, district fishing fixtures Steve Ballan, left, and Doug McBride finished third overall with 18.98 lbs. – Allan Bradbury photo



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Best of luck to all the anglers in this years Rainy River Walleye Tournament!



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Celebrating the 27th Rainy River Walleye Tournament



Thanks to the organizing committee for your all your hard work.

Wishing all the anglers a safe and successful weekend on the water!



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Congratulations to all participants, volunteers and organizers of the 27th Annual Rainy River Walleye Tournament!

We wish you a safe and successful weekend.



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Good Luck to all the participants in the 27th Annual Rainy River Walleye Tournament!

Thank you to the Organizers & Volunteers for making this event such a success.

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to all the anglers, organizers and volunteers at the 27th Annual Rainy River Walleye Tournament!

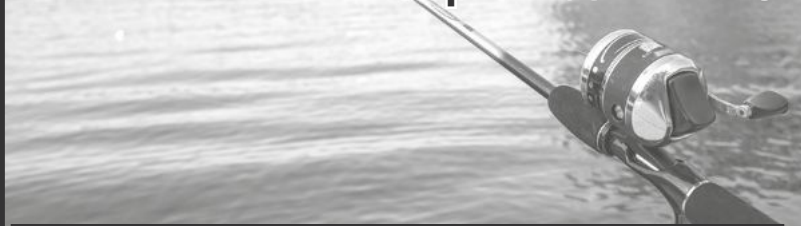
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Best of luck to all the Rainy River Walleye Tournament anglers!

September 17 - 19



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Friday night to feature Rainy River District's newest band



By Allan Bradbury
abraddbury@fortfrances.com

One of the newest bands in the borderland will take to the stage at the Rainy River Walleye Tournament on Friday night. The band features two of Fort Frances' top vocalists leading the way, a talented bass player and a drummer who is a member of the Ontario Bar.

Red Right Return features vocalist Brittany Hayes, Ken Kellar on guitar and vocals, Ben Sletmoen on the bass and Don Taylor on the drums.

The genesis of the band dates to the period when Hayes first started working for Taylor as a legal assistant.

"When I first applied here, I put on my resume my experience with the band Distant Legacy, and so sitting right here at this very table, my second interview, which was with Mr. Taylor, we started talking about music, so I learned that he was a drummer," Hayes said.

"Then Kenneth—it's always been my dream to get to play in a band with Ken Kellar. And Ben Sletmoen, what a rock star. So, when Ben and Ken had decided that they kind of wanted to put something together and we were going to try to give it a go, I harassed Don for a couple of years."

Taylor first went for a jam session and played on a set of bongos and a cajon, a small box drum. Eventually he gave in and purchased a full drum kit, and the band started rehearsing in the back room of his law offices.

"So, between the credit card and Amazon..." Taylor said, seated a few feet from the new drum kit he bought when the band started.

Then the band needed a name; some of the more nautically inclined around the area might understand the meaning, but here's how they explain it.

"Well, we were tossing around names, and that was a struggle," Taylor said. "We had struggled for several weeks to come up with a name, and then bounced several things around, and weren't getting anywhere. And I just mumbled something, and I think I said 'red right returned.' I was thinking I'm coming back

from the lake. Okay, so it's a nautical term, but you can take whatever meaning you want from it."

Fitting for a fishing tournament, the band's name refers to the navigational convention that when returning from open water into a harbour, river or channel, you keep the red markers on your right (starboard) side.

The band played their first gig at the Fort Frances Legion in February and have played there a few times since, as well they have played other events including at a UNFC trunk sale as well and most recently popped up at the Summer Sounds in the Square series.

They bring an eclectic sound to whichever venue's stage they take.

"We cover anything from very classic country like 'Tennessee Waltz' and 'Walking After Midnight' all the way up to Ella Langley, in terms of contemporary music," Taylor said. "We've got some classic folk like Gordon Lightfoot. We've got some focus on Canadiana, and my leaning is sort of classic rock, prog rock, we do a bit of rock like 'Seven Nation Army,' 'Space Oddity,' and 'Wish You Were Here,' and more contemporary stuff (at least I consider it contemporary, it's probably considered a classic) but Goo Goo Dolls and a little bit of everything."

Providing the low end of the band's sound, Hayes says Sletmoen is a strong bass player who brings the rest of the band up a level.

"His technical abilities, not to mention his musicality on the bass guitar, are absolute insanity, and he doesn't even seem to realize that," she said.

"He's the most humble musician you've ever met in your entire life. What he can do is absolutely incredible. It's next level, and I think he absolutely forces all of us to come up a level, and I think we're all still kind of striving to get there."

"And, oh, also he brings the funk. Let me just say, Ben brings the funk to the band. I really enjoy that."

For his part, Kellar praised what Hayes brings to the band, including understanding an audience and what they might want to hear.

"All of us have performance experience of one kind or another, but Brittany has, by far, the most stage experience as part of her previous band Distant Legacy," said Kellar, who is also the editor of the Fort Frances Times.

"So not only does she have a good understanding about what songs go over well, which ones don't, which have

been played to death by other bands in the area, she's also had a lot of practice when it comes to owning the stage. I see a lot of performers, myself included, who tend to stick to one spot and hide behind our instruments, but Brittany makes every stage her own and knows how to engage with the audience."

Red Right Return is hoping to see everyone on their feet dancing the night away under the big tent in Rainy River on Friday night.

Celebrating the 2026 Rainy River Walleye Tournament



Congratulations to the Directors and the many volunteers for your dedication to the annual Rainy River Walleye Tournament.

We're a proud supporter, and look forward to another successful tournament.



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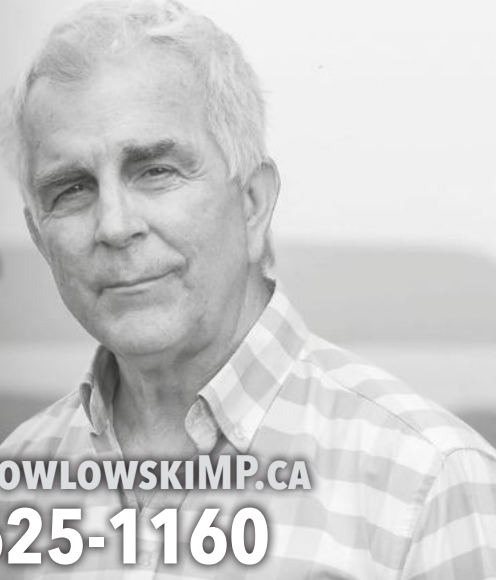
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Good luck to all
in the Rainy River
Walleye Tournament.*



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Celebrating the 2026 Rainy River Walleye Tournament!

Congratulations to the board, volunteers, and participants for your enthusiasm and dedication.

Hope to see you under the big tent.



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