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January 2024

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2024 Here We Go!



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is Changing



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Thunder Bay Business Celebrating 39 Years!

Confederation College Aviation Flight Management Program Very Popular

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
Thunder Bay BUSINESS

Aviation has always been very interesting to me and it was fun to get a tour of the Confederation College Aviation Centre.

Isabella Downton, is a First Year Instructor at Confederation College. She began the position in August after graduated in the class of spring 2023.

“ Right now I have over 300 flying hours on the Cessna 172 which are brand new planes we got in November 2022. They were specifically built for us and ferried up from Kansas. The planes have advanced avionics and cost about \$500,000 each.”

Each instructor at the Confederation College Aviation Flight Management program has six students in the program. The program is two years and usually the intake is 50 to 60 students.

“ As the program progresses some students find they don’t like it or are unsuccessful so the graduating class is between 20 and 40 people. The graduating students obtain a Commercial Pilots License (CPL) which means you can fly for money. After that you can get upgrading which are add ons to



Isabella Downton, First Year Aviation Instructor at Confederation College

your license such as an instructor rating, which I got at a different flight school. Some get a multiple engine rating or IFR instrument ratings so you can fly into clouds. You could also get a float rating, all adding to your basic

CPL.”

“The ultimate goal is to get flight


flying for say Air Canada.”

The Confederation College Aviation




hours and eventually the ATPL - Airline Transport License. You need 1500 flight hours total time in different conditions. It can take up to five years to get. Eventually you could end up to

Flight Management program is in high demand and competitive to get in with students coming here from across Canada.




Marcus Powlowski
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
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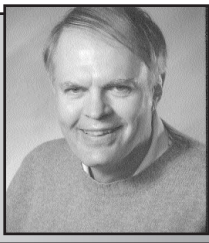

MP Patty Hajdu
Thunder Bay-Superior North

Wishing you a happy New Year!

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**Publisher's
Note
Scott
Sumner**



It's a new year, 2024! Are you ready? What can we expect?

This issue I have asked our elected officials in the provincial and federal governments for their thoughts on what they hope for in 2024. They provide an important role as they represent all of us and manage huge budgets that affect our economy.

To me even a drive around Thunder Bay, shows some contrasts. On the one hand there are new buildings going up from large apartment buildings to car dealerships and single family home-housing developments under construction. There are signs at cleared lots with plans for new projects on the horizon. On the other hand there are tent cities I see in different locations with homeless people finding it hard to cope in this economy or city.

2024 Here We Go!

I do believe we are lucky to live in Canada which is the second largest country by land mass on the planet yet has a relatively small population of

have a privileged position here compared to most in the world and also live in a beautiful area!

in sight it seems and is terrible. We see and hear less about Ukraine in mainstream media now with more attention to the Israel Hamas war.



40.5 million in a world of 8 billion people! We are 1/2 of 1% of the world population but live in a large land mass. If you go further Thunder Bay is a population of 125,000 out of 40.5 million which is .31% of Canada. We

Quite often I hear commentary from experts we see on TV say the world is on fire right now. The Israel Hamas conflict is really heartbreaking as it unfolds daily in media. Also the Russia Ukraine war continues on with no end

The climate situation is a concern as well. Today as I write this column in late December there is green grass out my window with 0 snow on the ground. The forecast is for virtually no snow in the next 14 days so that is extremely unusual for Thunder Bay.

South of the border we have a political year ahead with a new presidential election. This could result in some challenging times based on the last election cycle there as well.

Yes, there are challenges out there, but I remain positive in what we will encounter in 2024. Remember we live in a great county, Canada, with so much to offer. We really are privileged here and have the opportunity always to succeed, grow and create an excellent life!

As the Calendar Turns

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2024.

2023 is done, but we still have time and space to practice kindness and generosity.

Simplistically, it is just one more day, yet the transition from one year to the next has always been a symbolic marker, a moment when we pause to reflect on the past and embrace the possibilities of the future. The coming year, 2024, carries with it a sense of hope and the potential, for optimism.

One aspect that fuels my anticipation for 2024 is the prospect of technological advancements and innovations. The rapid pace of technological evolution has become a defining characteristic of our era, and each new year brings with it the promise of breakthroughs that can reshape the way we live,

step into the unknown of 2024, the collective anticipation becomes a driving force that propels us forward into a year filled with potential and possibilities.

thoughts about the law, and some of these transitions.

Happy 2024 from me and my colleagues at Weilers LLP, who help make all this possible.



Legal Matters

work, and connect. From advancements in artificial intelligence to developments in renewable energy, the tech landscape is a dynamic canvas upon which the future is painted. As we look forward to 2024, the anticipation of witnessing and experiencing these innovations is a source of both excitement and curiosity.

Whether it's pursuing educational goals, embarking on a career change, fostering stronger relationships, or committing to a healthier lifestyle, the turning of the calendar symbolizes a fresh start and an opportunity for individuals to chart their course toward personal fulfillment and well-being.

Creative expressions, performances, and achievements in various fields are poised to captivate our imaginations and inspire a sense of shared cultural identity. What is the next Barbenheimer?

Looking forward to 2024 is an acknowledgment of the human capacity for hope and resilience. It's an acknowledgment that, despite the challenges of the past, the future holds the promise of new opportunities, growth, and meaningful experiences. As we

This is just as true for the legal system as elsewhere. We will see new tools based on AI; progress towards revised civil procedure rules that will improve access to justice; and improvements to client service. After all, the legal system is not here to serve judges or lawyers, it exists to serve you. I will continue to write this column to share with you some of my ongoing

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**PRESIDENT
Scott A. Sumner**

**AD DESIGNER
Miranda van den Berg**

**ADVERTISING
INFORMATION
Sylvia Gomez:
(807) 629-7599**

**Office:
(807) 623-2348**

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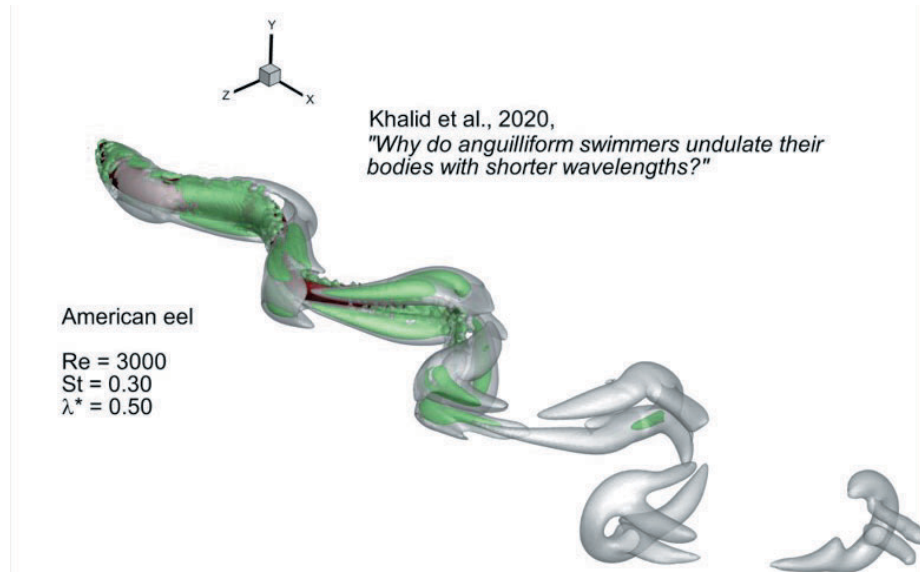
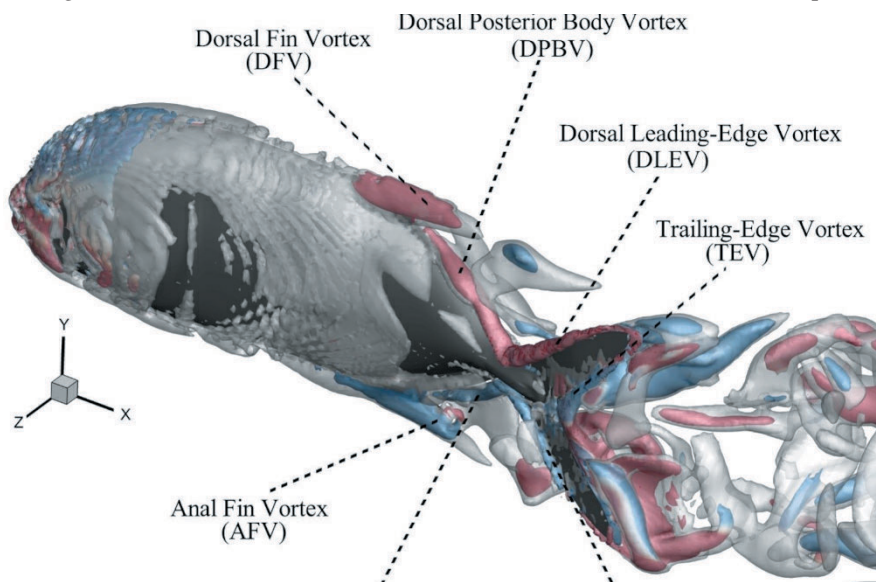
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Sylvia
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Professors from Lakehead and Villanova universities are studying fish to create underwater robots

A Lakehead University professor and a professor from Villanova University are studying how fish use navigation and propulsion to help them create underwater robots, thanks to funding from NSERC.

Dr. Muhammad Khalid, Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering, received a \$25,000 Alliance International Catalyst Grant from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada for his project to build an international research partnership



with Dr. Chengyu Li from Villanova University, and jointly investigate fluid-structure-chemical interactions in marine environments.

Over one year, they will study the “mysteri-

ous but very effective techniques adopted by fish in natural aquatic conditions,” Dr. Khalid said.

“These fish will provide us with lessons to design and develop efficient, agile, stealth, and highly maneuverable underwater robots.”

“We will study how fish sense the presence of predators, prey, food, and mating partners through fluctuations in velocity and pressure in the surrounding water. We want to learn how odour signatures and chemical cues help fish navigate in complex underwater environments,” he said.

The researchers will study how different fish, for example carangiform (Jack Fish, Tuna, Salmon), and anguilliform (eels), effectively control fluid dynamics through their kinematics to send and receive chemical cues.

They will investigate how natural aquatic swimmers use chemical odours for their navigation and propulsion.

Fish use these elements as important natural sensing and detection methods, but they are still relatively misunderstood by the scientific community.

Using the basics of natural swimming to design fish-like underwater robotic platforms form the main goals of this project. The researchers will develop mathematical models and perform computational simulations to investigate and understand odour-guided propulsion of fish-like bodies.

“The findings of this project will reveal important leads for developing bio-inspired techniques and equipment for sensing, detection, navigation, and propulsion of highly interdisciplinary underwater robots,” Dr. Khalid said.

The success of this project is expected to bring the Canadian scientific community and marine engineering industry at the forefront of environment-friendly underwater engineering technologies for a variety of purposes.

These include securing the borders, subsea explorations for natural resources, rescue and search operations, and several other opportunities.

In 2022/23, Lakehead University received more than \$2 million in assistance from the Research Support Fund to support the indirect costs of research, which includes costs for supporting the management of intellectual property, research and administration, ethics and regulatory compliance, research resources, research facilities, and research security.



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Low back pain? Pilates has your back!

Low back pain? Pilates has your back!

If you've ever suffered from Chronic Back Pain you're not alone. According to the Canadian Chiropractic Association, one out of eight people suffer from chronic back pain and almost one third indicate they have activity limitations due to back pain.

The good news is studies have shown



that Pilates exercises are effective in decreasing pain as well as improving flexibility and function in people with chronic lower back pain. Pilates, (when done regularly), can offer significant relief from pain, improved functional abilities and an enhanced quality of life.

The Pilates Method was developed by Joseph Pilates in the 1920s and has stood the test of time because it works. Pilates builds strength, core stability, improves muscle tone, and enhances flexibility while improving posture and alignment. Joseph Pilates famously said, "If your spine is inflexibly stiff at 30, you are old. If it is completely flexible at 60, you are young."

Many people don't think of the back as part of their core, but the core actually includes the muscles around the entire torso. These muscles work in concert to create spinal stability. Therefore improving core strength and stability can have a dramatic effect on reducing low back pain.

Therapeutic Pilates can help to reduce pain, stiffness and discomfort by addressing any instabilities, muscular imbalances and postural issues in your body that if left unchecked could lead to further pain and discomfort. It uses whole body movement to re-educate movement patterns and rebalance underlying muscular and structural systems.

Dr. Bryan MacLeod, a client at Ross Pilates and Conditioning for many years says, "As a chronic pain physician, I wish all of my patients with back pain had access to Pilates. As a patient, having had five back surgeries,

I credit Ross Pilates and Conditioning with why I am upright, in less pain and able to live and work. Skilled, knowledgeable and above all kind, their staff is the sunshine in my life."

For clients with chronic pain, it is important to work one on one with a certified instructor who has additional training and experience working with those with injuries and special conditions.

At Ross Pilates and Conditioning we specialize in Therapeutic Pilates and Corrective Exercise so that our clients can reduce pain, stiffness and discomfort and get back to doing what they love again.

We've helped hundreds of clients over the years reduce and even eliminate chronic back, neck, shoulder, hip, knee and neck pain as well as those with Joint Replacements, Fibromialgia, Arthritis, Osteoporosis, Parkinsons and

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Deborah Ross Bisignano is a certified Therapeutic Pilates Instructor, Medical Exercise Specialist, Level 3 Franklin Method Educator and owner of Ross Pilates and Conditioning.

Happy New Year!
from the team
at
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Kevin Holland, MPP Thunder Bay- Atikokan Year End Comments

by Kevin Holland, MPP

2023 has been an exceptional year for Thunder Bay-Atikokan, marked by significant community achievements and progress. I am proud to share that we have secured an impressive \$300 million in investments for our riding this year alone. Of this total, \$10 million has been allocated to support 72 diverse projects through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC).

One of our notable accomplishments this year was hosting a record-breaking 33 Ministers in our riding. The importance of bringing decision-makers directly into our community to witness firsthand the unique challenges and opportunities we face in Northwestern Ontario cannot be overstated. Not only do these engagements enable effective and appropriate advocacy in my role, moreover, our sector experts and leadership are afforded face-to-face time



dots on the care continuum.

Looking ahead to 2024, my commitment to serving our community remains steadfast and I am certainly inspired by what we have already accomplished together. We are already preparing to announce several new funding initiatives, and I am eager for our community to launch pilot programs that will benefit our constituents.

I am profoundly grateful for the trust you have placed in me as your MPP, and assure you that I will continue to work tirelessly to safeguard the voice, contributions, and potential of our residents in Northwestern Ontario. Queen's Park will know us well. As we welcome the New Year, I extend my warmest wishes to everyone for a safe and healthy year ahead. Happy New Year, MPP Kevin Holland

with the ministers so they can directly present tailored solutions to address our region's specific needs. A particular highlight of these visits would be hosting the first ever Health and Mental Health and Addictions Roundtables in Thunder Bay. These forums provided a crucial platform for leaders in these fields to convene and further collaborate on strategies to increase our capacity in connecting the

KEVIN HOLLAND
MPP – Thunder Bay-Atikokan

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Happy New Year*

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Lise Vaugeois, MPP Thunder Bay- Superior North Year End Comments

by Lise Vaugeois, MPP

I have had a busy year at Queen’s Park advocating for services and supports for the people of Northwestern Ontario. As a member of the Official Opposition, it is my responsibility to raise concerns with the government that might not otherwise be addressed. From working to protect and enhance our public health and public education, I have been lobbying for the equitable treatment of workers, including health care and education workers, wildland firefighters, and conservation officers.

I am also responsible for three critic roles: Seniors, Accessibility, and WSIB/Injured Workers –portfolios that address systemic barriers to health, safety, and a good quality of life.

I want to focus today, however, on the work I have been doing, together with my Northern NDP caucus colleagues, on highway safety.

Each time there is a delay because of accidents on our highways there is a negative impact on business, whether

businesses are waiting for goods which are coming to our region or trying to move local goods to other markets.



In addition, people can’t get to their medical appointments; parents can’t get their kids to hockey tournaments; and, in many of our smaller communities, kids can’t get home from school and people can’t even get to local gro-

cery stores.

The other aspect of road safety is, of course, the risk to life. Together with Truckers for Safer Highways and my Northern MPP colleagues (Guy Bourgoin, Jamie West, France Gelinas and Sol Mamakwa), we are advocating for more frequent snow removal (cleared within 8 hours, like Class A highways); the 24/7 staffing of weigh scales/inspection stations across the province; bringing Ontario into line with all other provinces by making it illegal to pass on a double yellow line (introduced by my colleague Guy Bourgoin), and, the monitoring and enforcement of training and licensing standards for new commercial drivers.

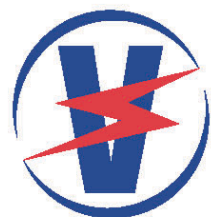
The lack of training is not the fault of new drivers but is the result of certain carriers pushing people through the licensing process without providing the full scope of training. In addition, it is not currently compulsory for drivers to be trained to drive on ice and snow, something that needs to be added to mandatory training.

New drivers are also demanding to be properly trained. Their lives are at

risk as are the lives of other highway users. And, to be clear, speed, distracted driving, and bad weather can cause accidents, no matter the type of vehicle or the experience of the driver – one of the reasons a higher standard of snow clearing is so important.

The recent Auditor General’s report on Driver Training and Licensing echoes the Report by Northern Transportation Task Force Report written by northern municipal and First Nations’ leaders: the Ministry of Transportation needs to enforce training and vehicle safety standards, staff inspection stations, monitor and improve snow clearing, and enforce safe driving standards.

If you want to lend your support to our campaign to make our highways safer, please get in touch with my office. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy a safe and happy holiday season!



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Patty Hajdu, MP Thunder Bay-Superior North Year End Comments

by Patty Hajdu, MP

Reflecting on the many conversations I've had with constituents, I understand that it has not been an easy year for so many. Between the recovery from the pandemic, to the struggle of international conflict, to the ongoing many ways that climate change is affecting our region and world, it's a difficult time and an uncertain one as well.

As a government, we are taking action to help with the cost of living, through targeted supports like 10 dollar a day daycare and the Canada Dental Care program, and policies designed to alleviate pressures such as housing, labour shortages, and climate change. These all have a direct impact on this region's day-to-day life, and future prosperity.



FedNor continued to invest in projects to drive economic growth and support strategic planning for revitalization efforts tailored by each community. Funding support through programs like New Horizons,

Enabling Accessibility, and Canada Summer Jobs programs gave organizations throughout the region an opportunity to support the seniors, people living with disabilities and youth. Investments in programs to build safer communities and for organizations who address substance use on the ground, are important supports as our communities combat a complex issue that directly affects so many people.

Our region is ready to take advantage of the shift to clean energy and the demand for critical minerals. Transformational investments through FedNor and other government programs will support business and industry to provide future jobs and economic opportunity for small businesses.

For me personally, I am very proud to

have led the settlement of the class action litigation on the systemic discrimination in the First Nations Child and Family services program. I was also so pleased to table new legislation as this session ended to protect clean water on First Nations for generations to come. This new law was developed with extensive participation by First Nations experts and leaders and I look forward to supporting its passage in the House of Commons when the house resumes.

Looking toward 2024, as a region we will continue to face challenges and we will continue to seize opportunities. This government will keep looking for ways to support vulnerable people, invest in economic development, address threats to our fiscal and social safety, and listen to the needs of the communities we serve.

Marcus Powlowski, MP Thunder Bay-Rainy River Year End Comments

I asked Marcus Powlowski for his comments on the past year and what to expect in 2024.

1. How do you feel things have gone in 2023 in Thunder Bay and area? Are there any accomplishments you would like to highlight. What were some challenges encountered?

"I think it's a promising time, especially in the mining industry. Particularly with respect to the possibility of lithium mining and refining taking place locally. There is also possibilities of increased work in building ships and subway cars (although this remains to be seen.) The last few years have also seen an increase in immigration. This has brought a much needed influx of young people to Thunder Bay. Many of



these people are also very entrepreneurial which bodes well for our future."

"As for challenges, high interest rates and an increased cost of living were definitely

a barrier to economic growth. Inflation can, for the most part, be attributed to the war in Ukraine which resulted in a global fuel shortage (and accompanying increase in fuel costs), along with interrupted supply chains and insufficient labour to meet the market changes. But again the future looks brighter as inflation has been decreasing these past few months and hopefully the interest rates will also fall in the coming months."

2. 2024 is a brand new year for everyone and will offer new opportunities. What do you see on the horizon for our part of Canada and do you have priorities or goals you specifically are working on in your important position?

"A few things: I'm hoping for a good year for existing industries that have traditionally been important in Thunder Bay such as ship building, subway and streetcar manufacturing, forestry and pulp and paper continuing to prosper. It is also important that Thunder Bay benefit from the green economic transition. The sector that seems best positioned to benefit from this is the mining sector, particularly lithium mining and refining."

"I would also add that the Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP) Program has been a big success in attracting labour needed in the local labour force. I'm hoping in the coming years that immigration will continue to increase."

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Tbaytel's CEO Dan Topatigh to retire in the fall of 2024

Dan Topatigh, President and CEO of Tbaytel has announced that he is retiring in the fall of 2024. Mr. Topatigh joined Tbaytel's senior executive team in 2007 as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and transitioned to the role of President and CEO in 2013.

During his tenure, Mr. Topatigh led the organization through a period of sustained growth and expansion. He demonstrated a commitment to the deployment of fibre throughout Thunder Bay and surrounding area, expansion of services into regional markets, and the evolution of Tbaytel's mobility network. He is responsible for the development of strong industry part-

nerships and building an exceptional culture of cooperation and achievement.

"I am grateful to have led a tremendous team of employees who are dedicated to ensuring that the residents of Thunder Bay and northwestern Ontario benefit from exceptional telecommunications services and the many other contributions that Tbaytel provides to our neighbourhood. It is on the strength of our employees that Tbaytel has successfully competed against some of Canada's largest companies," said Dan Topatigh.

As a Chartered Professional Accountant, Mr. Topatigh has enjoyed a professional career spanning more than 35 years. In

addition to his time at Tbaytel, he worked in public accounting and for international forest product companies. He has also been a national industry leader as an eight-year board member for the Canadian Telecommunications Association. As a lifetime resident of Thunder Bay, Mr. Topatigh significantly contributed to the community through his work on various boards and committees such as the Executive Cabinet of the Our Hearts at Home Campaign for the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation and the Audit Committee for Confederation College. He has previously served on the Board of Governors for Confederation College and Thunder Bay Boys and Girls Club.

"Dan is a trusted and well respected leader who has managed Tbaytel's growth strategy for more than a decade and delivered exceptional results for the organization," said Scott Potts, Chair of Tbaytel's Board of Directors. "We wish Dan all the very best in his future and look forward to working with him in the months leading up to his retirement."

Tbaytel's Board of Directors is actively engaged in leading the search for Tbaytel's next CEO. The Board of Directors and the management team are committed to working together to ensure a successful transition in leadership in the next year.

Largest Amount in Foundation's History Granted to Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre and Its Regional Programs

The Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation is proud to announce that it has approved over \$7.275-million of funding for the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre in 2023/24.

This is the Foundation's largest amount ever – and brings its total grants funding to the Hospital in the past four years to over \$21-million. The ongoing generosity of donors and success of the Thunder Bay 50/50 mean more dollars coming in so that more grants can be approved for vital equipment and improvements needed at our Hospital.

Departments throughout the Hospital applied for grants to buy new equipment and replace or upgrade essential equipment so they can improve on the exceptional care provided to patients. The grants will improve care locally and in some regional communities.

"Equipment that would have taken years to fundraise for is being funded now, allowing us to Do More, Faster for the patients in Thunder Bay and the Northwest region", says Parker Jones, Chair of the Foundation Board. "Normally it would take years to fundraise for the \$2-million replacement of our oldest Cardiac Cath Lab, but thanks to our amazing community support, it will be open and fully operational in early January. Likewise the phase one \$3-million redevelopment of our Emergency Department will be able to happen sooner."

In total, 35 grants ranging from \$3,000 to over \$2.8-million were approved to be funded by the Foundation. They will benefit all areas of the Hospital. Some of the grants include:

- The remaining \$1,018,900 to fund the replacement of a Cardiac Catheterization (Cath) Lab which consists of a C-arm, patient table, and control station. This replacement/ upgrade will offer the latest technology including integrated systems for more streamlined procedures.
- \$2.8-million towards phase 1 of the Emergency Department redevelopment project.
- \$268,925 for production of Prostate Cancer Specific Drug by the Cyclotron & Radiopharmacy Facility
- \$250,000 towards the new PET/CT project renovations
- \$191,040 for various instruments for the operating rooms for cataract, orthopaedic, and urology surgeries. The grants benefit both our local community and regional communities where our programs extend to other hospitals in

Northwestern Ontario. Grants have been approved for cancer program equipment and enhancements in Marathon, Terrace Bay and Sioux Lookout.

"We are grateful to our donors and the work of the Health Sciences Foundation in establishing these grants," says Dr. Rhonda

Crocker Ellacott, President & CEO of Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre and CEO of Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute. "The use of these contributions will allow us to purchase state-of-the-art medical equipment that is vital to providing safe, quality care. The funds will also allow us to upgrade our care

areas and provide a better care experience that is patient and family centred. We thank you for furthering our vision and our commitment to providing world-class acute care that is exceptional for every patient, every time."

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2024 DEADLINE / PRINTING / DISTRIBUTION DATES				
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March	February 20	February 23	March 1	Forestry/Mining
April	March 25	March 29	April 1	Transport
May	April 23	April 26	May 2	Construction
June	May 27	May 31	June 1	Report On Thunder Bay
July	June 23	June 26	July 2	Manufacturing
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Scott A. Sumner, Publisher and Editor
Miranda Bolt, Ad Designer

Advertising Information
Sylvia Gomez, Marketing / Sales Manager - 807-629-7599
sylvia@northsuperiorpublishing.com

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NORTH SUPERIOR PUBLISHING

NORTH SUPERIOR PUBLISHING INC.
Thunder Bay, ON P7A 0E7 tel: (807) 623-2348 fax: (807) 623-7515 email: nspinc@tbaytel.net

KAANAPALI, MAUI OFFERS PARADISE VACATION

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
Great Outdoors

When you are a Canadian living in Thunder Bay, Ontario and you are invited to attend a golf event several years ago in mid January in Hawaii you suddenly get a big smile on your face. The opportunity to travel to such as beautiful area in the heart of the winter and meet the golf idol that you had growing up, Jack Nicklaus; was a dream come true.

The first think I notice about going to Hawaii is the excellent value in airfare to get there. Whether you are in central or eastern Canada, you can travel to the island of Maui for quite a good price depending on many factors of course. Your trip to Maui will involve a 5 hour flight to the west coast; Vancouver or Los Angeles and another 5 to 6 hours to Maui. Today's aircraft allows you to sit back, watch some movies and before you know it you are at the Maui airport picking up your rental car. You will have a 40 minute drive on a newly paved highway to Kaanapali where your adventures will begin!

Melissa Ludwig is the Sales and Marketing Manager of the Kaanapali Golf Resort where the Wendy's Champion Skins Game used to take place. She grew up in Boston area and now loves Maui having been a resident for almost 8 years. "I think what draws me to Maui is the fabulous weather for golf, hiking and swimming. There is so much to do out-



doors and you can do it all year round. I also like the diversity of the people here. Hawaii is a blend of people

from all over the world. People come here from all over Asia, Japan, China, the Philippines and we get a lot of snow birds from Canada. Many call it their second home in the winter season. You get such a blend of people and their culture." said Melissa.

There are 11 different hotels at Kaanapali right adjacent to the two

Kaanapali courses, the Kai and the Royal. You can choose from high end luxury resorts to condos which are great for families and an extended stay complete with washer, dryer and barbecues. Depending on what you are looking for there is a property at Kaanapali Beach for you. The resort is the first planned resort destination in the state of Hawaii. "It was built in 1952 starting with 1 course and 1 hotel. Now we have the 36 holes and 11 different properties. The golf courses are unique because of the way the designers built the layout into the land. They use the surrounding water and ravines throughout the mountains that are woven into the holes. The elevation change creates some unbelievable views and great holes," said Ludwig. "Today we had some great views on the upper holes where you can see the neighboring islands. Both courses are resort friendly so whether you are a 2 handicap or have a 35 handicap, with four sets of tees you can enjoy the course with your game. A newer golfer or junior can still play and not feel exhausted at the end of the day."

During my stay in Maui, I am able to experience the Royal Lahaina Resort with some 550 rooms. It has a spectacular setting right on Kaanapali beach and adjacent to the golf course. My room is on the top floor right on the ocean complete with balcony. You could hear the ocean waves just like you were right on the beach. I also stayed at the Westin Maui Resort & Spa which has over 750 rooms. This 5 star property has a beautiful outdoor water area and is right on beautiful Kaanapali beach. I am a huge fan of Westin properties and especially like their "Heavenly Beds".

green rate. Kaanapali also has multi round packages so those that are staying, 7 days or 2 weeks can have a great value package. "We have a 7 day unlimited package, called the Royal package that includes cart, green fees, rental clubs and your shoes. Just show up and we will get you out golfing. You can leave your clubs at home," smiles Ludwig. "You can also find some great stay and play packages especially during the off season times. We will offer a mid day rate for golf plus spa or with a dining credit to one of the resort restaurants. In the last couple of years, people really make sure the value is there for their guests. They want to make sure the guest leaves feeling they have a great experience with multiple activities with good value."

"There is some phenomenal hiking and exploring in Maui. You have grass lands, lava fields and rain forests - so many different terrains within one island. In a day, you can pretty much drive all through the island. This is what makes Maui so unique. In a 7 or 8 hour drive, you can see the landscape. I recommend exploring the lava fields on south Maui which are quite unbelievable and also the tropical rain forest. We are really spoiled with the weather," said Melissa. "The hotels here are all owned separately but is amazing how well we work together as a family. If we help each other we can work better. The guests have a better experience when we all work together."

Beautiful Setting at Kapalua

The Royal course at Kaanapali was built to play with a little bit of trade wind approximately at 5 to 10 miles. This land used to be the vacation spot for Hawaiian royalty. One hundred years ago, you had to take a canoe from Lahaina to go up north. Hawaii is very special with a lots culture and history. The staff at the Kaanapali Golf Resort named each hole of the Royal course a name that tells the story of Hawaii.

The weather is very special at Maui. The scenery is picture perfect. From the time your plane lands on this island to the time you leave you will experience paradise!

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January 2024

The Sport of Snowmobiling is Changing

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
Great Outdoors

The sport of snowmobiling is evolving in many ways with technology advances including turbo charging engines for increased horsepower, better suspensions including being electronically controlled, large screen displays with interactive maps and the use of light weight material. We now even have electric

ing. It is almost becoming the new norm for snowmobiling. Even snowmobilers who are ice fishing enthusiasts with fan cooled lower horsepower snowmobiles might have 155 inch tracks to get to their favourites fishing spots.

The sport is evolving which I enjoy. To see it come from humble beginning to today is very impressive. You can check it out yourself at a local dealer which have inventory in stock now a



snowmobiles with new manufacturers in the sport like Taiga from Quebec.

days after recent Covid years of limited supply.

I think one of the biggest shifts has been to much longer track snowmobiles. When I first started in the sport the track length might be 121 inch long. Now you can get 165 inch sleds which are really specifically made for mountain riding with deep snow conditions.

I have been following a You Tuber, named Muskoka Freerider, who documents mountain riding well. He is from Muskoka but makes the trip to Revelstoke, BC for several months each year and posts almost daily videos of his adventures. His videos get upwards of 100,000 views very quickly which shows me the interest in this kind of off trail riding.

If you live in our area of NW Ontario many local riders make the trip out west each year to ride. You can also find areas around here to ride these off trail speciality sleds.

In my case I ride a 146 inch track snowmobile with a 1.6 inch lug which is perfect for both on and off trail rid-




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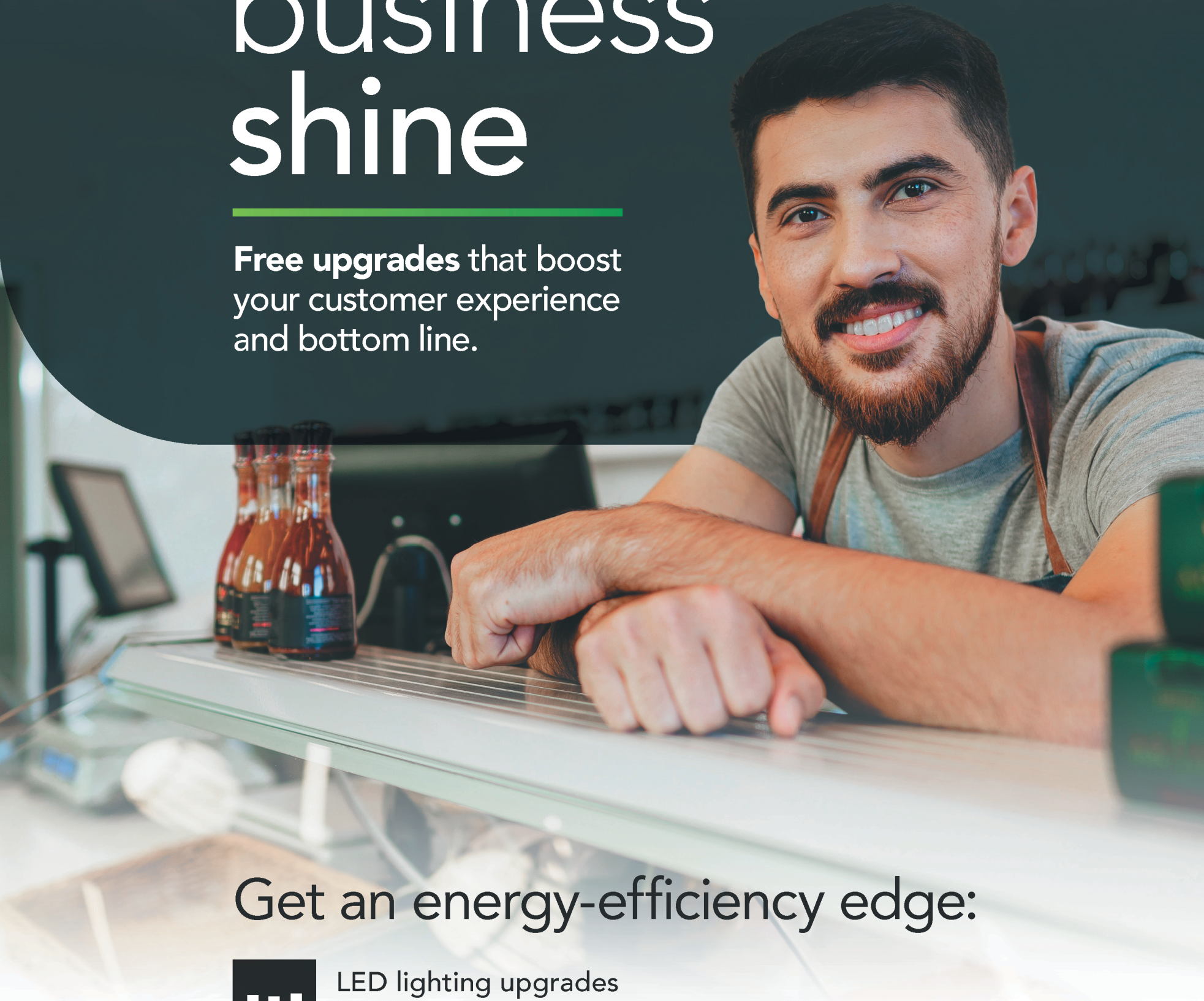
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