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April 2024

## Port of Thunder Bay Outlook for the 2024 Shipping Season



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Prime Minister Justin Trudeau  
Visits Thunder Bay



Confederation College  
Hosts Aviation Day

## Port of Thunder Bay Outlook for the 2024 Shipping Season!

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April Feature - A special feature highlighting the upcoming shipping season for our area with a focus on the Port of Thunder Bay.

# Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Visits Thunder Bay

Right now, in communities across the country, building affordable housing is too hard. That's why the federal government is working with municipalities to break down barriers and build more homes, faster so Canadians – whether they are just starting out, growing their families, or aging in security – can find a place to call home, at a price they can afford.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced that the federal government has reached an agreement with the City of Thunder Bay, Ontario, to fast-track over 600 new housing units over the next three years. This work will help spur the construction of more than 6,500 homes over the next decade and help meet the demand in Thunder Bay.



Indigenous communities – including helping us co-develop and implement Canada's Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.

Under the Housing Accelerator Fund, this agreement will provide \$20.7 million to build more homes that Canadians can afford. It will create more housing options in the city, including more multi-unit and affordable housing projects – with up to four homes per lot. The City will turn vacant and underused property downtown into new housing. That means more homes near transit, schools, parks, and opportunity. The City will re-zone commercial areas, fast-track development approvals, and put incentives and grants in place to get more housing projects off the ground. The City will also create a dedicated team to recommend systemic changes and work with non-profit organizations, community organizations, advocacy groups, and home builders to reduce construction costs. Together, these initiatives are going to significantly improve the way affordable housing is built and delivered in Thunder Bay.

The Housing Accelerator Fund is helping cut red tape and fast-track the construction of over 650,000 new homes for people in towns, cities, and Indigenous communities across Canada over the next decade. It asks for innovative action plans from local governments, and once approved, provides upfront funding to ensure the timely building of new homes, as well as additional funds upon delivering results. Local governments are encouraged to think big and be bold in their approaches, which could include accelerating project timelines, allowing increased housing density, and encouraging affordable housing units.

The Government of Canada is supporting the middle class – and housing is key to that work. Our plan to double the rate of housing construction over the next decade will help build the housing supply we need. We are working with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, as well as Indigenous partners, to build more homes for Canadians, faster, and make life better for everyone.

### Quotes

“The status quo on home-building in this country isn't working. We need to build more homes and make sure they're affordable – and we need to do it faster. That's what today's announcement in Thunder Bay is all about. Let's get more homes built at prices Canadians can afford.”  
The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

“The City of Thunder Bay is all in on new housing and is working hard to set the stage for new housing development. Our focus is in line with the federal government's goal of building as many homes as possible, as quickly as possible. We have adopted most of the top 10 Housing Accelerator Fund best practices, incentivizing a broad range of housing development. Thunder Bay welcomes this partnership with the federal government and is prepared for the growth which aligns with our strategic plan enacted by Council.”  
His Worship Ken Boshcoff, Mayor of Thunder Bay

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Stable, reliable, and affordable housing is also a fundamental part of our commitment to advancing reconciliation. As part of the agreement, Thunder Bay will explore ways to better support the housing needs of

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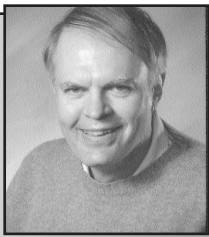
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**Publisher's  
Note  
Scott  
Sumner**



# TELL ME ON A SUNDAY

Magnus Theatre's production of TELL ME ON A SUNDAY, was a captivating musical journey of love, ambition, and self-discovery.

Originally conceived as a one-woman show by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black, TELL ME ON A SUNDAY tells the story of a young English woman's adventures in America as she seeks success and romance. Set to a beautiful score, the musical takes audiences on a heartfelt and relatable journey through the highs and lows of relationships, career aspirations, and personal growth.

The protagonist, known only as "The Girl," navigates the complexities of modern life while reflecting on her experiences through intimate letters to her mother. From the excitement of new beginnings to the heartbreak of shattered dreams, TELL ME ON A SUNDAY offers a poignant exploration of love, loss, and resilience.

Directed by Thom Currie, musical direction by Paul Rodermand and featuring the talented Gabi Epstein as "The Girl," this production promises to captivate audiences with its powerful storytelling and unforgettable melodies.

"I'm so unbelievably excited to be THE GIRL in Don Black and Andrew Lloyd Webber's one-woman show TELL ME ON A SUNDAY!" states Epstein, who was last seen in 2017 as the Killer Queen in WE WILL ROCK YOU here at Magnus Theatre. Hailed "Canada's Queen of Cabaret" by CTV, Gabi is a DORA award winner and one of Canada's leading stage/cabaret performers best known for playing Audrey in "Little Shop of Horrors" at the Stratford Festival and Fanny Brice in "Funny Girl" at the Segal Centre and in concert for the Harold Green Jewish Theatre.

"We are thrilled to bring TELL ME ON A SUNDAY to our stage," says Currie. "This musical resonates deeply with audiences because it speaks to the universal themes

of love, longing, and the search for fulfillment. We can't wait to share this emotional journey with our community."

Don't miss your chance to experience the magic of TELL ME ON A SUNDAY. Whether you're a longtime fan of musical theater or experiencing it for the first time, this production promises to touch hearts and inspire audiences of all ages.

**Gabi Epstein**

"It has been going really great. This is a challenging but exciting role because it is a one women musical. I am a cabaret performer where I do concerts, sing and tell stories myself, so it is not unfamiliar for me to be upon a stage sort of doing an entire performance all by myself. This is unique in that it is not my story but someone else's story."

"It feels great to back at Magnus after 2017 with We Will Rock You where I played the Killer Queen in that show."

"When you have a song through musical the music is absolutely the most important thing so it feels really great to have not only such a fabulous band of local performers, but also that they are literally on stage with me so I sort of feel a little less alone. It is great to have the support of the music and physically on stage."

**Thom Currie, Musical Director**

"The play was written in the late 70's and rewritten since then about 5 times over the last 40 years. I've been working on this play since 2011 trying to bring it to the stage. This is the newest version. They say it is his best score- Andrew Lloyd Webber with incredible songs. We are so lucky to have Gabi doing the show. This is a challenge for her herself and the band. She is so good."

"Our construction is ongoing until the end of August. We are building a new studio theatre, a second theatre, new rehearsal spaces, offices, new bar area and washrooms, finished the basement, added a new production shop and bathrooms. The Magnus board and myself have been work-



ing on this since 2017- to freshen up the space and add more performance spaces for the whole community. We did one less show this year even with the construction.

In November and December we did our regional school tour of 30 or 40 schools."

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# Province opening commercial vehicle inspection station near Thunder Bay

The Ontario government is marking the opening of a new commercial vehicle inspection station on Highway 11/17 near Thunder Bay. Located in Shuniah, the \$30 million state-of-the-art facility is part of the province's plan to improve road safety and deliver faster and better transit infrastructure in the North.

"Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is working to ensure Ontario's highways are among the safest in North America," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "The new Shuniah commercial vehicle inspection station will help reduce the risk of accidents, protect everyone on the road and

ensure the safe movement of goods across Northern Ontario."

Commercial motor vehicles travelling on Ontario highways are subject to mandatory roadside safety inspections. The new inspection station in Shuniah will be equipped with cutting-edge technology to identify potential problems with commercial motor vehicles, such as underinflated tires and malfunctioning brakes.

"This inspection station will play a critical role in addressing road safety in our community," said Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay—Atikokan. "Our government is investing in northern transportation with infrastructure projects that will make



Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation

**KEVIN HOLLAND**  
MPP – Thunder Bay-Atikokan

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a real difference to families and businesses."



In Ontario, there are 34 inspection stations across the province where highly trained enforcement officers inspect the condition of commercial vehicles and monitor the behaviour and qualifications of drivers. In 2023, the government increased its

enforcement presence on Highways 11, 17, 144, and 101, with officers conducting over 4,000 inspections and laying 3,200 charges, including 700 for speeding. More than 1,000 vehicles were placed out of service.

Expanding commercial vehicle inspection facilities is among the more than 60 actions identified in

the government's Connecting the North: A Draft Transportation Plan for Northern Ontario. This plan will help keep more people and goods moving safely, improve travel options for people in remote communities, and support economic growth in the North.

Continued on page 13

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## Port of Thunder Bay Outlook for the 2024 Shipping Season

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER

Thunder Bay BUSINESS

I had the opportunity to meet with Chris Heikkinen, Chief Executive Office of Port of Thunder Bay and ask him some questions about the Port.

**Chris you recently started a new position at the Port. How has everything gone so far?**

“ I have been in the CEO position for 5 months now, but at the Port for 14 years beginning a year after graduating from Lakehead University with a business degree. During my time working at the Port I was able to earn my CPA accounting designation as well. This was an unique opportunity that was born out of the fact that this is a small organization, so our job responsibilities allowed me to get the appropriate work experience that was required for the designation. I’m proud of that as it was tough work doing the job and getting the designation at the same time.”

“ The first five months have gone well as CEO here at the Port although with anything there has been ups and downs. We



Chris Heikkinen, Chief Executive Officer of Port of Thunder Bay

started the tenure with the first strike on the Seaway in decades- that was an interesting challenge. It has been a great start, we had a great season in 2023 so I was coming in at the tail end of a really good shipping season- that was nice.”

**The 2023 season was good for the Port then?**

“ In 2023 the biggest story for us was another year of really good potash ship-

ments through Thunder Bay, increasing for the third year in a row.”

Continued



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## Port of Thunder Bay Outlook for the 2024 Shipping Season

Continued

“ In 2023 it was about 4 times what you would normally see coming through the Port. We couldn’t have predicted it would grow so fast or as much but it did. It demonstrates the capabilities of the terminals here in Thunder Bay with Mobilex and Thunder Bay Terminals which handle that product. Also the agility of the Seaway system to ramp up and handle that much cargo in a quick turn around.”

“ There were a variety of factors that

caused this, starting with some supply chain issues in Western Canada, some natural disasters that caused problems on the rail side and of course the primary factor, the war in Ukraine. Russia and Belarus are world leaders in potash production, other that Canada of course. So their product is embargoed by a lot of the world which tightened the supply and made Canada’s product more in demand. The Seaway was sort of a relieve valve to get the product to market. Also last year there were more supply chain issues on the west coast. We’ll see this year, but Thunder Bay has

made it’s mark in this industry.”

“ Grain was good and bounced back from the previous year which had drought and heat problems a few years back. That has worked its way out and we had good shipments in 2023. There is also a decent carry over to start off the 2024 season but it is always a bit of gamble with grain each year. I know that there is snow covering the prairies at this time which is a good thing.”

**How do you anticipate the 2024 season to look for the Port?**

“ The 2024 season looks good as we know there is some grain in the system and still the demand for potash. On the general



cargo side of things we are looking at our first shipment of phosphate fertilizer, which is an import product from Morocco going to the farms in western Canada, during the first few days of April. We also have the regular shipments of the steel products. There will be some interesting cargo shipments of heavy equipment for the mining sector as well.”

**The Port of Thunder Bay seems to be getting more in demand each year?**

“ It has been an interesting time with the number of inquires related to both marine cargo and other types of business development being up. There is a lot of interest in our region for development related to various sectors including mining. The Port can play a role depending on how things go. We are looping in on a lot of interesting conversations right now.”

**There is interest in the lands at the Port as well?**

“ We have to be really strategic with our land. There are many Ports that have a lot of land holdings so they act more as landlords. Here in Thunder Bay the industry creates the Port Authority. We have less land holding relatively speaking compared to other Ports, so we try to be strategic to how those properties get developed. We have a brown field waterfront site which we are holding on to for the right opportunity, because it has that marine shipping capability and that can be hard to come by. We do have other properties available for say a freight company or others in the transportation industry.”

Continued

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Continued

**The Port is a major economic entity in Thunder Bay and beyond.**

**Our weather has been unusually warm this winter. How will that affect the upcoming shipping season?**

“ This bizarre warm weather bodes mostly positive for shipping. We just got word the

“ Yes the Port operates as part of a national transportation system. As an organization we utilize that role and the assets that we have to inject money and activity into the economy. At Keefer in the last ten years we have more that tripled the labour hours in



Soo locks are opening on March 22nd. Typically they open on the 25th. The Seaway locks are also opening on the March 22nd so will likely have our first ship before the 25th which is a little bit unusual. The lack of ice means means we will be able to start the season with likely very few hiccups.”

“We may not even see an ice breaker to date this year which is very unusual, if not unheard of. Ice coverage on Lake Superior is 5% or less where some years it would have completely frozen over. March is usually where it reaches it’s peak so we are usually looking at thick ice and this year there is virtually none.”

**There have been some staff changes at the Port recently?**

“ We have new people here and transitions including mine to the CEO position. We have a really solid energetic team and nice culture, and work well together as a team. I am very fortunate to have this team.”

terms of marine cargo handling in our terminal. We see more people working on a regular basis which is what we are here for. A ten year old study said we created 1000 direct jobs and 1800 indirect or induced jobs. It has to be more than that now.”

**Are there any new projects happening at the Port this year?**

“ This year we have really exciting capital projects. This could be our biggest year ever for investing in capital. We will have shovels in the ground on a big rail project and have been kinda ramping up to get to this point. Also we are redeveloping a lot of new cargo laydown areas which is necessary. In 2025 to 2026 there is a huge influx of wind turbine projects in Western Canada and we need to expand our laydown areas to accommodate these massive turbine

blades. Our current area won’t accommodate them. This involves developing vast swathes of reinforced land to stage the cargo.”

“ We are also doing some safety and security upgrades as the Port is a very busy place now. We need to make sure everyone working here is safe and the cargo secure.”

“ Keefer Terminal which as an organization, we operate and focus on deriving as much economic impact from that as we can. The goal is to get as much marine cargo through the Port as we can and last year was our best year we have had in that endeavour. We have regular shipments of steel pipe and steel rail, repeat customers that have committed to our Port. It was an exceptional year for wind turbines including towers and blades that come from Europe with 7 or 8 shiploads headed to Saskatchewan and the west.”

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**Congratulations to Chris Heikkinen on your appointment to CEO of the Port.**

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## Transport Canada announces funding to increase capacity at the Port of Thunder Bay

Goods by Canadian producers travel long distances to reach global markets and consumers. That's why stronger and more resilient supply chains increase economic security for all Canadians.

Today, the Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay-Rainy River, Ontario, Marcus Powlowski, on behalf of the Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez, announced an investment of up to \$6.7 million for two projects at the Port of Thunder Bay through the National Trade Corridors Fund. This commitment aims to enhance reliable trade flows with global markets, foster increased exports and optimize the efficiency of Canada's national transportation system.

The Government of Canada will contribute:

- Up to \$3 million to the Port of Thunder Bay to redevelop the existing marshalling yard at the Ports Keefer Terminal. Adding new heavyweight rail track and switches will increase the Port's cargo handling capabilities and will provide opportunities to attract new markets and improve supply chain fluidity.
- Up to \$3.7 million to the Port of Thunder Bay to enhance the Port's capacity by:



"We're investing in the Port of Thunder Bay to redevelop the marshalling yard and increase cargo handling capabilities, to boost Canada's competitiveness. Canadian

not just for Northwestern Ontario, but also for the Prairies and our entire country." Marcus Powlowski Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay – Rainy River

work is key to Canada's economic growth. The Government of Canada, through the National Trade Corridors Fund, is making investments that will support the flow of goods across Canada's supply chains.



"Port of Thunder Bay is grateful for these contributions from the National Trade Corridors Fund that support both expansion and efficiency improvements at Keefer Terminal. Strategically located at the furthest inland port in Canada, this premiere intermodal facility is a vital supply chain link for international imports of breakbulk, project cargo, and bulk, serving the Prairies and Northern Ontario." Chris Heikkinen Chief Executive Officer Port of Thunder Bay

The National Trade Corridors Fund is a competitive, merit-based program designed to help infrastructure owners and users invest in the critical transportation assets that support economic activity in Canada. Over \$4.1 billion in funding has been committed under the program.

Through the National Trade Corridors Fund, Transport Canada is supporting improvements to Canada's roads, rail, air, and marine shipping routes to foster domestic and international trade.

Quick facts  
An efficient and reliable transportation net-

- \* upgrading the wharf at Keefer Terminal;
- \* expanding the terminal's cargo laydown area;
- \* developing the electrical infrastructure for the new laydown area; and
- \* improving the rail crossing infrastructure between Keefer Terminal and the marshalling yard.

businesses will benefit from better access to international markets, and Canadian consumers will keep being able to access affordable goods, when they need them." The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez Minister of Transport

"Today's investment will upgrade the Port and Keefer Terminal's ability to handle goods. The terminal is a gateway to Canada. It handles a variety of items ranging from important components needed for tar sand and mining projects, to gigantic components for wind turbines, to fertilizer needed for prairie farmers. Given the importance of the terminal to our country's economy, this funding is welcome news

These projects will grow the Northern Ontario economy by supporting various important industries including grain, potash, steel, wind turbine components, transformers, and phosphate fertilizers.

Quotes

Congratulations Port of Thunder Bay!

Proud of our Government's recent investment of over 6 million dollars in funding from the National Trade Corridors Fund.

MARCUS POWLOWSKI

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, THUNDER BAY - RAINY RIVER

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## MV HARVEST SPIRIT REPEATS AS SEASON-OPENING VESSEL IN PORT OF THUNDER BAY

M.V. Harvest Spirit has officially opened the Port of Thunder Bay shipping season for the second consecutive year. In a gathering of familiar faces, the Port of Thunder Bay on Sunday recognized the crew of the Harvest Spirit in a Top Hat Ceremony held at Richardson International's Main Elevator. Captain Adam Hagen and Chief Engineer Gavin Pink were bestowed the traditional Top Hat by Port Board Chair Pat Bushby, along with a heaping of welcoming words and tokens of appreciation from local dignitaries and leaders:

- The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services
  - Marcus Powlowski, M.P. Thunder Bay – Rainy River
  - Lise Vaugeois, M.P.P. Thunder Bay – Superior North
  - Mayor Ken Boshcoff, City of Thunder Bay
  - Charla Robinson, President, Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce
- The Harvest Spirit arrived in Thunder Bay on Saturday, March 23, crossing the breakwall at 17:40. This marks the first time since 2008 the port has opened this early, tying the record for the earliest opening on record. The McKeil-owned

vessel became only the second to receive the Top Hat honour after also being the final vessel to depart port and close the prior shipping season in January. The Top Hat Ceremony draws attention to both the importance of marine shipping and the impact of the port on the local economy. Globally, an overwhelming majority of goods are transported by ship, with volumes rising annually. The Port provides significant employment and contributes hundreds of millions of dollars annually to the local economy.

**Chris Heikkinen, CEO**

“In a port city like Thunder Bay, with a rich history of shipping, the Top Hat ceremony is nice to show the community shipping is underway for another season. Marine shipping is vital to the global supply chain with over 80% of all goods shipped by marine vessel. The port is a huge driver of the economy here. We have a strong start expected this year with more ships scheduled compared to other seasons.”

“This opening ties the record for the Port- March 23rd. The weather cooperated with us. We are expecting our first salt weather ship this week as well.”



**Captain Adam Hagen, MV Harvest Spirit- McKeil**

“Thunder Bay is definitely our most important port of call and one of the

the return. We do have an extremely good sea boat and our crew are excellent with 16 people. This time of year can always be a little bit tricky but we can handle it. It is always an honour to be the first



most important in Canada. Putting grain through the Great Lakes not only adds to the tradition of 100 years of shipping, but is a great economic engine. This is the most economical and environmental way to ship anything.”

ship.”

“This May will be 25 years for me out on the vessel. The trip up from Windsor was relatively uneventful but we are looking at some inclement weather for

“We have about 40 trips this year with the vessel and 26 of them will be to Thunder Bay. We will take about 14,500 metric tons of grain to Windsor on this trip where it will be processed into canola or soybean oil.”



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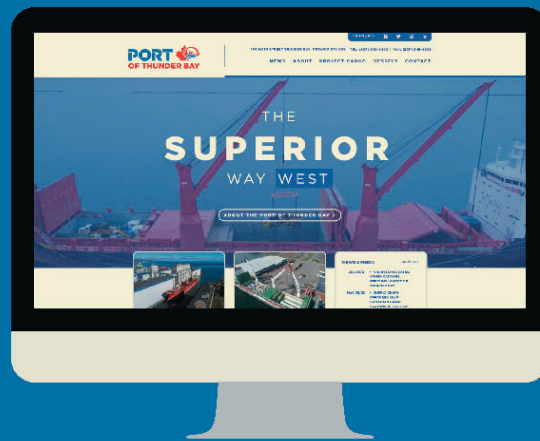
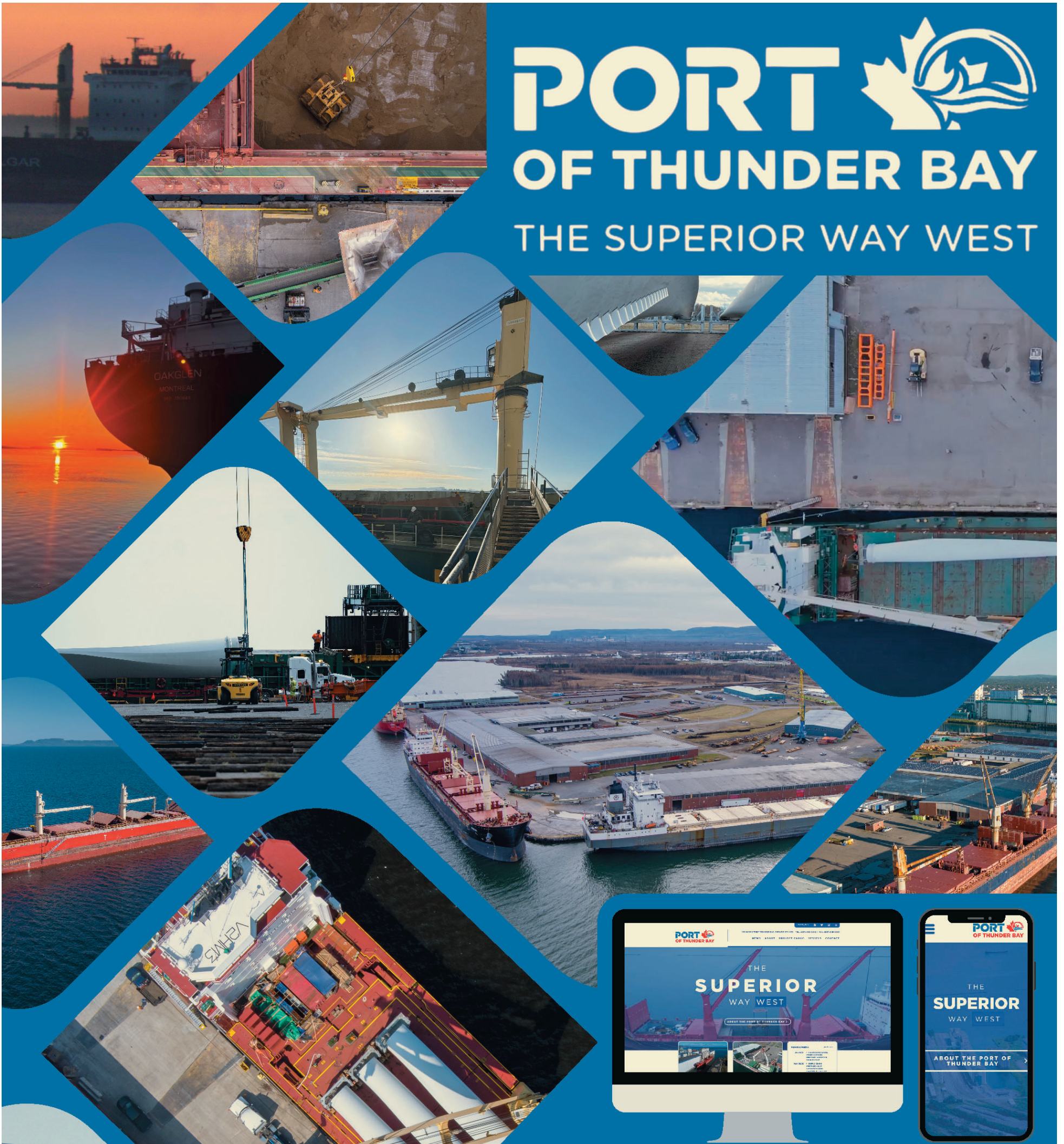
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# Province opening commercial vehicle inspection station near Thunder Bay



BY SCOTT A. SUMNER  
**Thunder Bay BUSINESS**

Continued from page 4

"The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association has been a long-time advocate for highway safety. The investment of \$30 million to open a new commercial vehicle inspection station near Thunder Bay is a welcomed and necessary step to address highway safety concerns and accidents on Highway 11/17. It will ensure vehicles are inspected to guarantee their safety and slow drivers down to take a rest while their vehicle is being examined. We greatly appreciate this investment and anticipate it will improve highway safety near Thunder Bay and across the North."

- Wendy Landry  
President, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association & Mayor of the Municipality of Shuniah

"The Township of Conmee appreciates the Ontario government's investment in the new vehicle inspection facility outside of Thunder Bay. This state-of-the-art facility will help increase highway safety for truck drivers – and all vehicles – travelling through Thunder Bay and Northern Ontario."

- Sheila Maxwell  
Mayor, Township of Conmee

"The Ontario Provincial Police's collaboration with the Ontario government on commercial

vehicle safety and enforcement is a critical component of keeping roads safe. This new facility is an excellent example of our partner's commitment to ensuring commercial vehicles meet all safety requirements, and our joint efforts to reduce the number of commercial vehicle-related collisions and save lives on our roads."

- Rohan Thompson  
Ontario Provincial Police Deputy Commissioner and Provincial Commander, Traffic Safety and Operational Support

**Minister Prabmeet Sarkaria**

**Why did you complete this new truck station in Shuniah?**

"This facility is about new technology being incorporated into truck safety, making sure that we have our vehicles safe. We have to keep up with the technology to ensure our vehicles are safe and help our enforcement officers that are on the roads every single day to support not only the

trucking industry which is so important, but the well being of our province."

**Will a divided highway happen soon west of Thunder Bay?**

"Our government is always looking at ways to investing in new roads. Every year we are putting about \$3 billion into new roads in the province and the North region will receive close to \$500 million in the next year alone, whether it be expansion, rebuilding, resurfacing or safety measures. We are very excited about that and always looking for opportunities not only for commercial but for leisure travel."

**How do you enjoy being in the North?**

"I have had the opportunity to travel here to the north and I can say the more I come to travel here you appreciate the unique challenges with the different weather conditions. I have been stuck with weather here before. That is why it is so important to have ministers visit here. This is the 57 visit here by ministers in the last two years to announce or just listen to people here. I have to give Kevin Holland, MPP a shout out because he has done a great job supporting the north and helping us to understand the challenges here. We need more investment here and are committed to do so"

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# Confederation College Hosts Aviation Day

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER  
*Thunder Bay BUSINESS*

Nearly two dozen vendors were on hand to meet with students and graduates from the college's Flight Management and Aircraft Maintenance programs, as well as prospective students of the college programs, and job seekers. Employers were looking to hire graduates of the two programs, as well as for positions such as dock hands, ramp staff, flight attendants, and customer service agents.

Vendors included: AAR Airframe

Maintenance – Windsor, Air Tindi Ltd, Calm Air International LP, Department of National Defence Royal Canadian Air Force, IMP Aerospace & Defence, JAZZ Aviation LP, JD Aero Technical Inc., Lakehead Public Schools, Ledcor, Levaero Aviation, MAG Aerospace Canada Corp., Ministry of Natural Resources Aviation Services, North Star Air, Northwestern Ontario Aviation Heritage Center, Ornge, Perimeter, Rise Air (Transwest Air LLP), Snap on Industrial, StandardAero, Transport Canada (TC), Wasaya Airways, WestJet, Wisk Air.



**Justin Mirabelli, Paramedic Ornge**  
“We are getting a whole new fleet of PC12's which is great. We service all of the

I love my job, I get to help people, see cool things and meet lots of people. It is a very rewarding job.”



**Tyler Costa, Operations Manager for Air Bravo**

“We have 13 Pilatus PC12's and do medivac as well as charters, corporate, passenger and freight services anywhere in Canada and as far as Mexico and Yellowknife and the west and east coasts. We also lease space to other companies like Summit Air.”

“Last June we started construction on a new hangar and moved in the end of April. The building is 160 by 150 feet in size and the offices on the outside are 20 by 100 feet- two stories. We do work for Hydro One, NAPS and government. We have 70 staff on the flight side plus maintenance and support staff.

north and take patients to Southern Ontario and even Winnipeg. I work on all our assets, planes, trucks and helicopters depending on the need.”



“If you look at land paramedics they are similar to what you see in ER's. In a flight transport environment we provide ICU level care and sometimes a little higher. We can start those therapies in the community and then transport. We have a set scope of practice we can start and also have access to the physician standing by.

“Our owner started out of Elliot Lake with one small plane and it grew from there since 2001. We have bases in Sudbury and Barrie, with a new hangar there as well. We do private medivacs to the US as well and are a 24/7 operation.”

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April 2024

## MY DAY AT THE MASTER'S, AUGUSTA GEORGIA

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER  
*Great Outdoors*

Each April, the televising of the famed Master's on CBS would signal the beginning of golf season. One year recently would be my first time to attend the tournament and see the beauty and prestige of this event. My journey was possible this year because of my membership in the Golf Writer's of America Association. This organization holds their annual meeting each year in the media centre at Augusta on the Wednesday of the tournament which afforded me the opportunity to see this great event.

My journey began with a flight to Atlanta and then a 2 hour drive to Augusta. The temperature outside my car was 92 degrees on the drive and I was looking forward to seeing the famed Augusta course. Our meeting was at 9am the next day so after a good night's rest it was off to the course when it opened at 8am. The traffic to the course from my hotel, some 2 miles away, was intense even quite early and people were in long lines making their way to the gates. I noticed the 45 foot John Daly motorhome right across from the entrance and could even see John Daly himself signing merchandise. Daly has gone from Grip It and Rip It to Sign It and Sell Items!

Once parked in the press parking lot it was a short walk to the entrance, where you were scanned in, had your camera bag searched and whisked off in a cart to the media centre. Here the guards with metal detectors scanned you and then you were



escorted to the large media centre. Augusta has some 500 media that cover the event and it seemed each one had a desk location in a bowl like setting, facing big screen TV's and scoreboards. Also there was a large food area with some of the Master's favourite food selections.

After our meeting and a group photo of the GWAA members on the course, we were free to check out the course for the day and see some of the players during this practice round. Tiger Woods was out on the course at 8am but I didn't see him until later in the day at the practice area. For me it was fun to go right to Amen Corner and see the famous holes we watch each year during the broadcast. I also liked seeing the famed 16th hole where the players performed the traditional skipping of their balls over the pond to land on the green. It is a tradition. Out on the course I enjoyed

lunch with the famous pimento cheese sandwich for \$1.50 and drink for \$ 1.50. That was a good deal. People were talking about how difficult it was to get a weekly badge for the Masters which has a waiting list of over 30 years.

It was fun to sit back and watch the groups of golfers come through hitting multiple practice shots. The mood was upbeat. People (or the patrons as they are called) who were lucky enough to get even a practice round ticket were happy to be there, in awe almost it seemed.

My day was coming to an end as I had to make the drive to Chattanooga, TN that evening. As you left the grounds your pass was scanned showing your exit. I had at least 5 people come up to me to buy my practice round ticket which of course you can't sell. The Master's is certainly a hot commodity.

Overall I was very impressed with Augusta National. The place was pristine and brimming with tradition. Everyone should experience it at least once. Be sure to enter their practice round lottery system and give it a try. Maybe next year you'll see this golf tradition up close and personal!

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