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THUNDER BAY BUSINESS

Westfort Wonderland Returns: An Evening of Pure Christmas Magic – Westfort Village!

INSIDE

Changing Times for
Canada!

PARO Centre for
Women's Enterprise
Celebrates 30 Years of
Empowering Women
Entrepreneurs at Gala
Summit

 NorthSuperiorPublishing

 @tbay25  @Scott Sumner

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Thunder Bay Indigenous Entrepreneur Hosts National First Nations Investment Conference

Co-presented by Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation, the Vancouver-based forum features a powerhouse lineup of speakers and ten First Nation investment opportunities.

A Thunder Bay entrepreneur is leading one of the most anticipated new national events advancing Indigenous economic ownership in Canada. The First Nations Investment Forum (FNIF), co-presented by Thunder Bay-based Horizon Seven and Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation, has unveiled its final program—confirming an exceptional lineup of Indigenous and industry leaders, investors, and policy experts shaping the future of Indigenous investment and partnership.

The three-day conference, taking place December 8–10, 2025 at the JW Marriott Parq Vancouver, was conceived by Thunder Bay's own Anthony Maunula, Principal of Horizon Seven and a proud member of Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation.

"I noticed a gap in the conference circuit," says Maunula. "There are plenty of Indigenous business events and forums to discuss major projects, but there wasn't a space designed to truly connect these two worlds. The First Nations Investment Forum brings together First Nation governments,

investors, and industry partners from across Canada to advance Indigenous ownership in major projects."

What began as a local idea rooted in Northwestern Ontario has grown into a national platform connecting communities, capital, and opportunity. The Forum will feature keynote presentations, investment showcases, and ten First Nation-led project pitches across energy, mining, infrastructure, and housing.

This year's program will also spotlight local and regional leadership, bringing speakers, business leaders, and investment-ready projects from Thunder Bay and surrounding First Nations and municipalities to a national stage. Communities and companies from Northwestern Ontario will have the opportunity to showcase their projects, attract investment, and form new partnerships with investors, developers, and government leaders.

To encourage strong regional participation, Maunula is offering First Nations and organizations from Northwestern Ontario a special discounted delegate pass for \$500. This initiative is aimed at helping local communities and organizations showcase their projects

while connecting directly with national investors and industry leaders who are seeking new partnership opportunities.

"It's important that Northwestern Ontario is represented at a national level," Maunula adds. "There are incredible examples of partnership, innovation, and Indigenous leadership right here in our region—and this event gives us a platform to share that success story with the rest of Canada."

The Forum's keynote lineup includes prominent voices advancing Indigenous ownership and economic participation:

- JP Gladu, President, Mokwateh and Advisor, Major Projects Office (MPO)
- Carol Anne Hilton, CEO and Founder, Indigenomics Institute
- Andrew Hungerford, Founder & Partner, Seven Generations Capital
- Stephen Lidington, Vice-President, Colliers Project Leaders
- Robert Brant, Partner, Indigenous Projects & Transactions Group, McCarthy Tétrault LLP
- Monika Bear Robe, Partner, Indigenous Equity Opportunities, MNP
- Carl Marcotte, Senior Vice-President, CANDU
- Matthew Jackson, Vice-President, Indigenous Relations, Hydro One Networks Inc.

Investment-ready projects in energy, infrastructure, real estate, gaming, AI, data storage, and critical minerals will spotlight new opportunities for First Nations investment and ownership in Ontario, British Columbia, and across Canada. Presentations include:

- Ontario Transmission System Infrastructure – Hydro One, Wabun Tribal Council, and Mattagami First Nation
- Ontario & Nova Scotia Gold Mines – NexGold Mining Corp.
- Port of Marathon – The Peninsula Harbour Port Authority Corporation and Biigtigong Nishnaabeg First Nation
- Real Estate Investment & Development Partnerships – Seven

Generations Capital & Hungerford Properties

- Casino Gaming Acquisitions & Partnerships – Sonco Gaming Inc.

Expert panels will bring valuable insights into Indigenous investment, partnership, and capital access:

- Access to Capital for Indigenous-Led Projects – Jody Anderson (First Nations Finance Authority), Booker Cornea (First Nations Bank of Canada), and Frank Richter (Indigenous Growth Fund)
- Indigenous Investment & Ownership in Major Projects – Chief Joe Miskokomon (Chippewas of the Thames), Ken Thomas (Pisim Power), and Tristan Jackson (Nikutik LP, North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council)

• The Role of Loan Guarantees in Transformative Infrastructure Projects – Alena Thouin (Build Ontario Fund), Mark Podlasly (First Nations Major Projects Coalition), and Steven Kroeker (Alberta Indigenous Opportunities Corporation)

• Projects of National Interest & Opportunities for Indigenous Leadership – Mark Selby (Canada Nickel Company), Sussex Strategy, and Taykwa Tagamou Nation

• Implementing Co-Ownership on Major Energy Projects – Patrick Tomlinson (BC Hydro) and Cole Sayers (Clean Energy BC)

• Corporate Advantage Through Indigenization – Scott Patles-Richardson (Indigenous Financial Solutions), Devon Krainer (Raven Indigenous Capital Partners), and Alex Bishop (Concierge Group)

"This event is about building bridges between Indigenous communities, industry, and the investment world—fostering economic sovereignty and advancing First Nations leadership in major projects," says Maunula. "We're proud to present a powerful final program that reflects the strength, innovation, and leadership of First Nations in Canada's economic future."

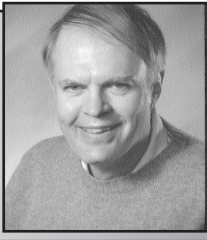
For the full program and registration details, visit firstnationsinvestmentforum.ca.

Wishing you a
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

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

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**Publisher's
Note
Scott
Sumner**



In 2025 we have experienced quite a lot of uncertainty and change in Canada. The main source of that change comes from our neighbour to the South, the United States of America and their new leadership. There are other factors to our change as well such as the quickly advancing technology lead by AI but perhaps the biggest factor is the new trade patterns we have now and can expect in the future it seems.

Canada is a trading country with great natural resources that are needed by most in the world. Our minerals, oil and gas, lumber, agricultural resources, water, electricity and large land mass- the second largest in the world, are all important assets that have made Canada strong.

Changing Times for Canada!

We have done much of our trading with the US- probably for many reasons including their close proximity to us, their huge GDP- the number one in the world, and historically stable environment. This made it an easy path to



choose over many decades. We do trade with others in the world but it has been dwarfed by the trade we have done with the US.

Unfortunately the US has become an unreliable trade partner. They have placed high tariffs on Canada in many key sectors and would like to carry forward with them to the detriment of Canada's economy and really their own in reality. They seem to be trying to force jobs located in Canada to the US, say in the auto manufacturing field or the softwood lumber area for example. This isn't a good thing for our economy and means we have to pivot our focus and pivot quickly.

It has been good to see the direction of our new government under Prime Minister Mark Carney. I recently saw his instagram post which was a quite succinct description of where he wants Canada to go.

* Building new partnerships abroad in Europe, Asia for example

* Adjusting Government spending which has grown significantly especially during COVID, down to reflect

tives. This will in a way transform Canada to a more resilient economy that is ready to compete with the world and offer our tremendous resources and strengths to others. It really is an all hands on deck approach that is needed and I hope we can focus on this as a united country.

The end result will be a higher standard of living for every Canadian, by achieving more of our potential and creating the ability to grow Canada to compete in the world!

the new circumstances Canada faces.

* make massive investments in the things that grow Canada's economy- homes, new ports, electricity grids, major infrastructure to unlock our potential.

-an example from the past of this was in the 1950's The St Lawrence Seaway System which would have cost about \$4 billion in today's dollars but has shipped over \$1trillion worth of cargo to the world.

* use Canadian steel, aluminum, lumber and technology and Canadian workers to be our own best customer and sell to the world to double what we export beyond the US.

* make investments to protect our borders with the military.

I think now is the time for a strong plan to move forward on these objec-

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PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise Celebrates 30 Years of Empowering Women Entrepreneurs at Gala Summit

PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise is proud to announce its 30th Anniversary Gala, a landmark celebration recognizing three decades of impact, innovation, and community-building for women entrepreneurs across Canada. This hybrid (in-person and online) event will take place on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at the Superior Inn in Thunder Bay, Ontario. The evening will open with a welcoming reception at 5pm, and close after the Award ceremony around 10pm.

Founded in 1995, PARO has grown from its Northern Ontario roots to become North America's largest women's peer-lending network and one of Canada's most recognized organizations supporting women in business. With a legacy of empowering thousands of entrepreneurs, PARO continues to lead the way in fostering women-centered community economic development.

A Night to Remember

The "Eras of PARO" Anniversary Gala will highlight the organization's incredible journey through three distinct decades of growth: - 1995–2005: Beginnings – Women building community - 2005–2015: Regional Growth – Women building networks - 2015–2025: PARO Canada – Women building the nation. The evening will feature: - Networking Reception & Trade Show showcasing local

entrepreneurs. - Opening Remarks by founder and CEO Rosalind Lockyer, alongside community leaders and dignitaries.

- Eras Summit Panel Discussion reflecting on PARO's transformative journey. - Keynote Address by The Honourable Myriam Monsef, speaking on women's enterprise and community impact. - Awards Ceremony recognizing outstanding women entrepreneurs across the three eras.

Distinguished Guests

The gala will welcome entrepreneurs, alumni, funders, community partners, and leaders from across Canada. Special invited dignitaries include federal and provincial representatives, local officials, and long-standing partners who have supported PARO's vision of inclusive economic growth.

A Legacy of Impact

"For 30 years, PARO has championed women's entrepreneurship by creating spaces where women support women," said Rosalind Lockyer, Founder & CEO of PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise. "This gala is more than a celebration of our history—it's a moment to honor the remarkable women who have shaped our communities and to look forward to the next 30 years of building

together."

Event Details

?? Date: Thursday, December 4, 2025 ??

Venue: Superior Inn, Thunder Bay, ON

PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise



Celebrates 30 Years of Empowering Women Entrepreneurs at Gala Summit
Thunder Bay, ON – December 4, 2025 – PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise is proud to announce its 30th Anniversary Gala, a landmark celebration recognizing three decades of impact, innovation, and commu-

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Happy Holidays

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Ontario Investing Over \$800k to Expand Nursing Enrollment in Thunder Bay - Atikokan

Investment in the nursing program at Lakehead University will train up to 80 more nurses to connect people to care in Thunder Bay - Atikokan

Research Excellence and Security. "Through this investment, our government is growing our critical health care workforce and protecting Ontario's access to

we can train more nurses with the skills and compassion needed to serve Northern Ontario, Simcoe County, and communities across the province." Dr. Gillian Siddall, President and Vice Chancellor, Lakehead University

This support strengthens our ability to prepare graduates who are ready to make an immediate impact in Ontario's health-care system."

As a critical step in connecting everyone in Ontario to excellent care, our government continues to make decisive investments

into college and university programs that strengthen our workforce of tomorrow and protect Ontario for generations to come. "Our government is improving long-term care by training, hiring and retaining thousands of health-care workers," said Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Minister of Long-Term Care. "As a Registered Nurse, I know how impactful these investments will be to ensure we have the staff to deliver high quality care to Ontario's long-term care residents."



**Michelle Salo, President of Confederation College
Dr. Gillian Siddall, President and Vice Chancellor, Lakehead University,
Kevin Holland MPP**

The Ontario government is continuing to deliver on its plan to protect the province's health-care system by investing \$800,320 to expand enrolment in nursing programs at Lakehead University. This investment will help build the pipeline of highly skilled nurse practitioners, registered nurses and registered practical nurses that are needed to meet the growing need for more nurses in Thunder Bay - Atikokan hospitals, long-term care homes, community health centres and primary care clinics.

"I'm pleased to see this investment in nursing education in Thunder Bay," said the Hon. Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay-Atikokan. "By expanding enrolment at Lakehead University, we're helping more students gain the skills they need to build meaningful careers in health care while strengthening the delivery of care in our hospitals, long-term care homes, and clinics. This investment ensures that people across Northwestern Ontario can access the quality care they deserve."

"Nurses are an integral part of Ontario's health care system, providing life-saving and compassionate care when patients need it the most," said Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges, Universities,

excellent care, close to home, now and into the future."

This funding is part of a larger \$56.8 million investment to expand enrolment in nursing programs across the province, adding 2,200 nursing professionals to Ontario's health care workforce by 2029 to meet the growing need for more nurses in Ontario hospitals, long-term care homes, community health centres and primary care clinics.

2 "Our government is continuing to take bold action to protect Ontario's health-care system," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "By ensuring more people can become nurses in Ontario, we are building on our progress to strengthen the province's world-class nursing workforce for years to come."

As part of this investment, Ontario is expanding registration in online nursing pathways. These programs will enable personal support workers and registered practical nurses to advance their education and continue serving their communities.

"We are grateful to the Government of Ontario for this investment in nursing education. By adding new seats at Lakehead,

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Ontario Investing \$2.2M to Train More Students at Confederation College for In-demand Jobs in Construction

Investment will train up to 267 more students in skilled trades and urban planning to build a strong workforce in the face of U.S. tariffs

As part of its plan to protect Ontario and deliver on an ambitious infrastructure plan, the Ontario government is investing \$2,238,925 to train up to 267 additional students in construction programs at Confederation College. This investment will strengthen the province's pipeline of highly skilled construction workers that are needed to fulfill the government's ambitious plan to

build more homes, highways, hospitals and other critical infrastructure, no matter what comes our way.

"Our government has bold plans to build the Ontario of tomorrow, and it is critical that we have the homegrown, highly skilled workers to get it done," said Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security. "From designing roadways to building homes, this investment will ensure our students have the training they need to launch rewarding, in-demand careers that protect and strengthen

Ontario's future in the face of economic uncertainty caused by U.S. tariffs." "I'm happy to see our government investing in construction programming at Confederation College. We need more skilled tradesmen and women to build the critical infrastructure and housing our communities need to grow and thrive." said The

• Ontario has a ten-year, \$190 billion infrastructure plan to build homes, highways, hospitals and community infrastructure that is needed to support the province's growth. I asked some questions about current conditions to the three community leaders at the event!

Kevin Holland MPP

"We seen some really good investments in NW Ontario and have more on the horizon but the whole the world has been affected by some of the activities happening south of the border. We have to navigate through them. It is unfortunate because we are at the cusp of realizing a lot of opportunities. That is not to say we aren't going to see them happen but as in life you have to adjust to realities you weren't expecting. I'm fully confident we will be able to put the plans in place to stabilize our communities and business in these turbulent times and to position us for the growth once the tide turns and I believe it will turn."

Michelle Salo, President of Confederation College

"Our international students enrollment is down significantly- 75% compared to 2023. Domestic student enrollment is up a little and our indigenous student enrollment is up which makes us very happy."

"This enrollment situation drives us into a deficit position this year and going forward so we have taken a number of measure to reduce costs with program suspensions. There is some work we are doing across the province with the Minister to maybe support some funding changes so we are very hopeful."

Gillian Siddell President and Vice Chancellor of Lakehead University

"We are down a little on international students with our enrollment but we are holding our own and things are going well."

"If you drive along Oliver Road you will see our new Animal Education building is under construction. We are also repurposing some existing space in building for labs, students spaces and offices. I am super excited to see construction under way as it been a long time coming. We should have a completed building next summer."



Hon. Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay – Atikokan. "This investment will help strengthen construction jobs across the region, support local industry, and ensure that students have the training and opportunities they need to succeed right here in Northwestern Ontario."

This investment is part of the Ontario government's \$75M investment to train up to 7,500 students in construction programs such as welding, carpentry and renovation techniques at colleges and Indigenous Institutes and up to 300 new seats for graduate students at universities to train vital urban and land use planners across the province by 2028.

"Confederation College is proud to be part of Ontario's efforts to expand access to education and training in the skilled trades and construction sectors," said Michelle Salo, Confederation College President. "This investment will strengthen our ability to prepare students with the hands-on skills and real-world experience they need to succeed in these high-demand careers. We are grateful for the province's continued support in helping us build a stronger workforce for Northwestern Ontario and beyond."

Quick Facts

- There are approximately 240 construction-related techniques and technician programs offered at Ontario postsecondary institutions.
- Ontario is home to six universities that offer accredited graduate-level planning programs.

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Christmas in WESTFORT

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Westfort Wonderland Returns — An Evening of Pure Christmas Magic - Westfort Village!

On December 4th, the heart of Westfort Village will once again sparkle with holiday cheer as Westfort Wonderland celebrates its fifth festive year!

From 4–8pm, the neighborhood transforms into a glowing, bustling Christmas experience filled with music, lights, treats, your

offer completely free activities for families, friends, and anyone who loves the magic of the holidays.

This beloved tradition brings the entire community together. Whether you're a loyal local or visiting Westfort for the first time, the event offers something for every-

beautifully festive experience that always draws a crowd.

Continued



favourite Christmas characters, and community spirit. For half a decade, the small businesses of Westfort have proudly donated their time, creativity, and energy to

one. As you wander down the street, you'll discover:

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Westfort Wonderland Returns — An Evening of Pure Christmas Magic -Westfort Village!

Continued

Holiday Characters – From the sassy Grinch to the cuddly Freddie the Yeti to the one-and-only Santa Claus, you'll find plenty of personalities to snap photos with.

Fire Pit + Complimentary S'mores – Thanks to Westfort Foods, families can warm up by the fire and enjoy free s'mores in the crisp winter air.

Treats & In-Store Surprises – Many shops will be offering samples, sweets, or specials, making the entire street

feel like a giant holiday open house.

One of the highlights of the evening is the Holiday Tree Competition, where local businesses decorate their own festive trees. Grab a picture with your favourite and tag @westfortvillage to share in the fun—and help spread the cheer!

Special Experiences You Won't Want to Miss

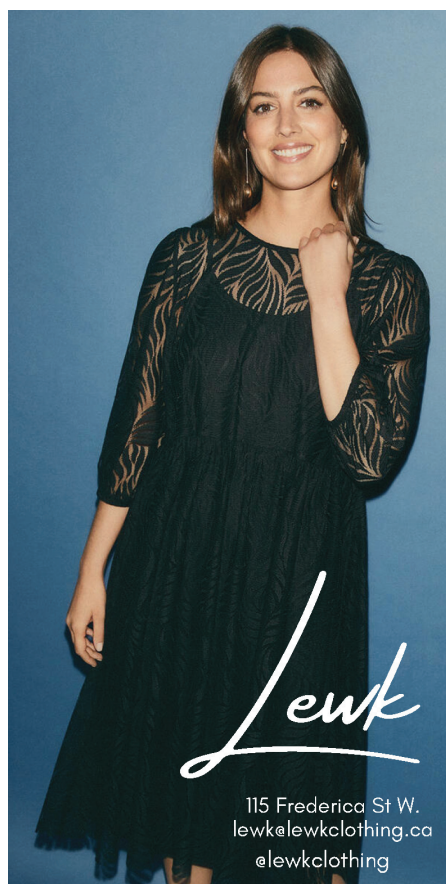
The Elves Workshop at The Landing - Gathering Hall in partnership with Dough Bagel)

Kids and families are invited to get creative with holiday crafts and cookie decorating at the Elves Workshop. All



donations will support Our Kids Count, ensuring the holiday magic extends beyond Westfort and into the

community at large.
Continued



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Westfort Wonderland Returns — An Evening of Pure Christmas Magic- Westfort Village!

Continued

Lewk Clothing's German-Style Christmas Market

Lewk Clothing is adding a European twist to Westfort Wonderland this year! Step into their cozy German-inspired Christmas market and enjoy:

- Free cookies
- Hot chocolate for all ages
- A warm “adult beverage” to keep spirits—and hands—nice and toasty

Plus, the boutique is welcoming beloved characters from Frozen: Elsa, Anna, Olaf, and Sven will be available for magical meet-and-greets and photos.

A Mischievously Fun Visit From Krampus — 6pm to 8pm

For those who love a little edge with their holiday cheer, Lewk is introducing a one-of-a-kind experience: a Krampus photo opportunity!

From 6–8pm, Krampus will be ready for mischievous, cheeky, and unforgettable photos—perfect for anyone who's been just a little bit naughty this year. It's playful, it's fun, and it adds an extra touch of European folklore to the night.

With glowing lights, warm treats, community pride, and endless holiday



wonder, Westfort Wonderland is the perfect way to kick off the festive season and celebrate the heart of the Westfort Village.

Bundle up, bring your loved ones, and join us December 4th for a night brimming with Christmas spirit, community magic, a little mischief, and new memories!

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Christmas in WESTFORT

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Local Christmas Shopping at Westfort Village!

A bit of history about Westfort.

Westfort Village is a self-contained

shopping district and in fact, many Thunder Bay residents will travel across the city to shop in the unique

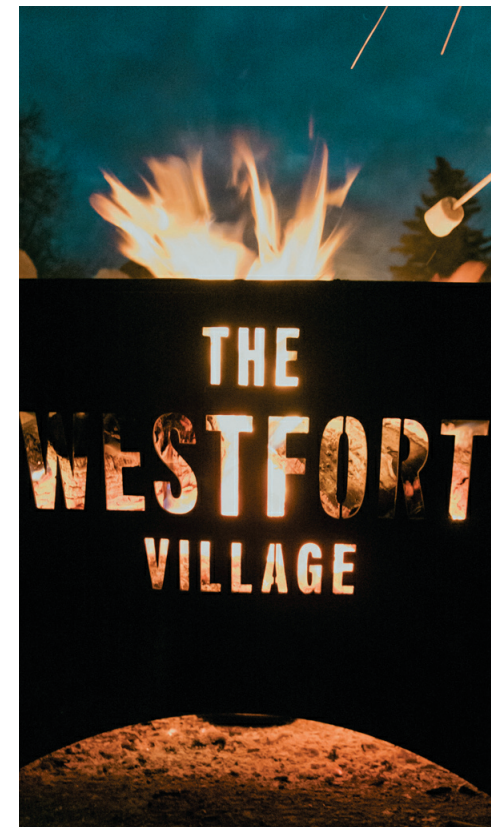
stores and shops. It is one of the oldest and most famous corners of Thunder Bay.

The community of Westfort, grew up around river traffic and the railway, home for working families. Early business owners established their own busy downtown area, complete with clothing stores, banks, restaurants, hotels, professional offices, pharmacy and food store.

Historic Westfort Village...

This historic village in Thunder Bay was once the focal point of a community that worked at the local grain elevators, factories and in the rail yard. Its proximity to the Kaministiquia River made it an ideal location for the docking of the smaller ships of the time.

There is still extensive evidence of the areas past. Now a unique antique and collectible shopping opportunity, this community of specialty shops makes



an enjoyable destination for Thunder Bay visitors.

Continued

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Local Christmas Shopping at Westfort Village!



Continued

By 1883-84 it was clear to all but the residents of Port Arthur that the Montreal-based Canadian Pacific Railway syndicate, in collaboration with the Hudson's Bay Company, preferred the low lying lands along the lower Kaministiquia River to the rocky shores of Port Arthur, and the Company subsequently consolidated all its operations there, erecting rail yards, coal handling facilities, grain elevators and a machine shop. Library services for Fort William began in 1885 when CPR employees opened a bath, smoking and literary room, with a library attached in the Round House,

West Fort William. Fees were \$1.25 per year for CPR employees; outsiders were required to pay \$1.25 for use of the tub.

The Mary J. L. Black Library, 151 West Brock Street, opened in 1938. Mary J. L. Black was the librarian of the Fort William Library from 1909-1937.

She was one of Canada's leading librarians in her day and was the first woman president of the Ontario Library Association. It seems appropriate that the Westfort Branch was named in Miss Black's honour.

Proud to be part of the Westfort community!



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City seeking feedback on proposed 2026-2027 capital budget

The City of Thunder Bay has released its proposed 2026-2027 Capital Budget and is inviting residents to share their feedback. This marks the first time the City has presented a two-year capital budget, giving the community a clearer view of planned investments and upcoming infrastructure priorities.

“This new two-year approach helps provide greater stability and certainty for planning, and supports more effective investment decisions,” said Keri Greaves, Commissioner of Corporate Services and City Treasurer. “We are encouraging residents to take a close look at the proposed budget and share their thoughts.”

Key initiatives in the proposed 2026 Capital Budget include:

- Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI): a system that

supports automated meter reading and earlier identification of leaks.

- Organics and auto cart programs: continued work to support waste diversion and improve collection services.

- Transit electrification: supported by \$6.9 million in grant funding to advance the transition to a lower-emission transit fleet.

- Roads and infrastructure: more than \$34.1 million in roadway improvements planned for 2026, with \$26.5 million proposed for 2027.

Residents can review the proposed Capital Budget and provide input through the public survey available at thunderbay.ca/getinvolved. Hard-copy surveys are also available at Thunder Bay Public Library locations and in the lobby of City Hall.

New this year, residents can also submit questions or comments directly by emailing your.budget@thunderbay.ca, a pilot initiative aimed at making participation easier and more accessible.

The feedback being collected will help the City continue improving the budget process, ensuring information is clear, transparent, and aligned with community priorities.



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GREAT SNOWMOBILING AT CHARLEVOIX, QUEBEC

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
Great Outdoors

The people of Quebec have a certain positive outlook on life it seems to me, and

snowmobiling is one of their favourite winter activities. The region of Charlevoix is a group of smaller towns to the east of historic Quebec City and is a very special setting. For the avid snowmobiler it certainly is a paradise.

There are easy air connections to Quebec City with Porter, West jet and Air Canada. When you arrive at the pretty new Quebec City airport you will experience a very modern and well laid out facility that is one of the nicest you will find. Quebec City is an historic city in North America and offers much to see and explore.

Your snowmobile trip to the Charlevoix region could begin with a special train ride on Le Massif de Charlevoix, along the St Lawrence River where you can enjoy a beautiful breakfast, catered by Fairmont Hotels. Le Massif is a ski area and accessible by the train. The former manager of the Cirque du Soleil, who was born in the town of Baie - Saint Paul, decided to come back and develop a ski resort with the train and a new hotel. It will be become a major ski destination.

“We are like a gem, not well known, and have mountains, the St. Lawrence River and pretty forests. Snowmobiling is not well known here yet but you will discover a different type of country with varied terrain and a nice view. There are some very nice outfitters here to welcome you as well,” said Sylvie Marquois Dandurand General Manager of Tourism Charlevoix. “They have excellent cuisine and can be off in the middle of nowhere with their electricity generated by the water. It is very different from other parts of Quebec. Everything is small, charming and very secret. There are snowmobile rentals here more and more and we are at the beginning of something. We want the people to discover Charlevoix by snowmobile because it is very different.”

Your snowmobile trip could begin at the famous 405 room Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu that has everything you need to begin your adventure.

“We are 112 years old and located right

resort. We have great rates all season long. There are rental snowmobiles on site with all the clothing as well and a guide if you need one. We have a spa here and a casino for the evening. We are right on the trails



adjacent to the St Lawrence River. The resort was founded by a boat company that was traveling on the St Lawrence Seaway bringing rich Americans and Canadians to the hotel in the summer time only. They tried in the winter but in 1986 opened 4 seasons after the hotel was insulated,” said Eric Quesnel, Director of Sales & Marketing for the Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu. “We have beautiful winters here so want the people to come and enjoy. The property became a Fairmont 12 years ago after it was shut down for 6 months to renovate the entire building as well as adding a banquet room, indoor parking lot, outdoor sports facilities including swimming pool, fitness centre and kids play area with a \$140 million renovation. The casino on property was expanded then as well.”

“This weekend we were able to fit 113 snowmobiles with inside parking and had over 250 sleds outside for the snowmobile events. The snowmobilers are welcome at the Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu, a 5 star

and you can access the hotel and underground snowmobile parking. We are a luxurious snowmobile hub and welcome snowmobilers here to do their favourite sport.”

Also at the Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu there is great skiing nearby, dog sled riding, snowshoeing and they have their own horses at the hotel where you can have a carriage ride for free.

In the summer the Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu have a 27-hole golf course with all the holes facing the St Lawrence River. They also have whale watching which is very popular in the region along with tennis courts, volleyball and two adjacent national parks with walking trails. There is a large kids play area and baby sitting available.

Continued

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GREAT SNOWMOBILING AT CHARLEVOIX, QUEBEC

Continued

After suiting up at the Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu you are on the trails immediately and off to your next destination. The trails are very pretty to ride with great scenery and snow conditions. The area offers elevations of up to 3000 feet and some great snow conditions you might find in more western locations like BC.

Another popular resort destination might be the L'Auberge du Ravage, which is a very unique, large log cabin that features 12-second storey rooms complete with their own bathrooms. The main floor is a very luxurious setting with fireplaces and a fantastic dining area. The 5 star resort reminded me of watching an episode of the TV series "Northern Exposure" set in Alaska where Dr Fleischman and Maggie stumble on a luxurious oasis in the middle of nowhere on their search for the lost city. You can have blizzard conditions outside but be enjoying some fantastic wine and food in this special place.

It is always fun to have a guide on a trip like this, who are very familiar with the area, and can take you off trail to experience some beautiful country sites. The 47 Nord Expeditions company owned by Christoff and Paul will provide an excellent experience for you. These riders are absolutely avid snowmobilers themselves. Christoff and Paul run sleds both decked out with GPS, left gas controls, extra light-



ing, many decals etc, etc. They love their sport!

The Charlevoix region is one of the most beautiful you will encounter on a snowmobile. It offers great-varied trails with good elevations and views. The snow conditions are excellent and make for a great snowmobile experience you should try.

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Ontario Completes Widening of Highway 11/17

Province opens new lanes from Coughlin Road to Highway 582 and from Highway 587 to Pearl Lake

The Ontario government has completed major construction to widen two sections of the Trans-Canada Highway between Thunder Bay and Nipigon, marking a significant milestone in its plan to twin more than 100 kilometres of the corridor. The project is part of the government's work to protect

Ontario by making record investments in infrastructure that will help support economic growth, keep workers on the job and keep northern communities safe.

"Under the leadership of Premier Ford, our government is investing nearly \$6.5 billion to build, repair and expand highways, roads and bridges in northern Ontario," said Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation. "Expanding the Trans-Canada Highway has never been more important, as we work to

protect Ontario by dismantling inter-provincial trade barriers to unlock our full economic potential."

Crews have widened Highway 11/17 from Coughlin Road to Highway 582 and from Highway 587 to Pearl Lake. Both sections feature two lanes in each direction, separated by a concrete median, doubling the highway's capacity and improving road safety for thousands of drivers who rely on the Trans-Canada Highway every year.

"The expansion of Highway 11/17 is important for northwestern Ontario," said Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay-Atikokan. "By improving safety, increasing capacity and strengthening this vital trade corridor, we're ensuring that people and goods can move efficiently across our region and the country. This investment supports our northern communities, drives economic growth and builds a stronger, more connected Ontario and Canada."



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