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Westfort Wonderland brings Christmas Magic!



INSIDE

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NorthSuperiorPublishing
@tbay25 @Scott Sumner

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Ontario Investing over $1 Million to support Manufacturing Industries in Thunder Bay

Provincial funding will help Miller Precast and Pay-Ford Steel expand production, improve operations and create good jobs



The Ontario government is investing $1,046,154 through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) to support Miller Precast and Pay-Ford Steel's operations in Thunder Bay. This investment delivers on the government's plan to protect Ontario by bolstering the province's domestic manufacturing supply chain and building a stronger, more competitive and self-reliant economy in the face of U.S. Tariffs.

"Helping local manufacturers grow means more good-paying jobs and more of the products we need being made right here in Northwestern Ontario," said Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay–Atikokan. "This investment will help Miller Precast and Pay-Ford Steel take on more work and support housing and infrastructure projects across our region. Thank you to both companies for continuing to invest in Thunder Bay and the people who work here."

Through the NOHFC's support, this funding will help the two companies expand their manufacturing capabilities, create five new full-time positions and retain one existing full-time position:

- Miller Precast is receiving $1 million to expand its product offerings and serve more construction projects across the region, creating four full-time positions. The project is expected to provide a local source of hollow core slabs for housing and infrastructure projects in Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario, helping reduce shipping charges and lower construction costs.
- Pay-Ford Steel is receiving $46,154 to increase production capacity, reduce its backlog and enable the company to bid on more complex and specialized projects. The project will create one full-time position and retain one existing full-time position.

This funding is part of a larger $3.4 million investment the Ontario government announced to support 12 projects at manufacturing companies across the North, helping to create approximately 80 jobs

"Northern Ontario's manufacturing sector is robust, resilient and a vital part of the province's economy," said George Pirie, Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth. "In the face of economic uncertainty, our government is taking action to protect manufacturing businesses and support the production of Ontario-made products. This funding will help businesses grow and bring great opportunities to the region, including new jobs."

The Ontario government is prioritizing investments through the NOHFC that protect northern industries and jobs, mitigate the impacts of U.S. tariffs and trade disruptions and secure new opportunities for the long-term prosperity of northern Ontario. The renewed focus is boosting competitiveness and ensuring the North remains a leader in Ontario's economy. This new direction is in addition to the province's increased investment, bringing the NOHFC's annual budget to a total of $110 million. Together, these initiatives will benefit communities of all sizes, both rural and urban, including Indigenous communities.

Quick Facts

- Through its funding programs, the NOHFC offers support to public and private sector economic development projects across northern Ontario.
- Since June 2018, the NOHFC has invested more than $1.1 billion in over 8,900 projects in northern Ontario, leveraging more than $3.4 billion in investment and creating or sustaining over 13,850 jobs.

Additional Resources

- The NOHFC, Northern Development Offices and Small Business Enterprise Centres support northern communities, businesses and other stakeholders in identifying economic development opportunities and government funding programs.

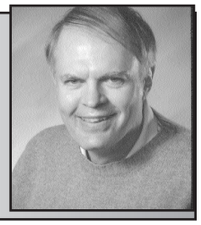
Devan Miller, Plant Manager Miller Precast

" The NOHFC funds we received were used to purchase equipment, set up the equipment and train our staff on the operation of the equipment to produce hollow core slabs for building and infrastruture projects. Previously these products would come from Winnipeg or Southern Ontario. They would have to be trucked here with a significant extra cost and logistical challenges getting the trucks here on time in the right order and so on."

" This is our second season of producing these products, so about 1 and 1/2 years, and we have seen stronger demand than we expected. We are dealing mostly with Thunder Bay projects but also projects in Sioux Lookout, Fort Frances, bascially from Manitoba to Wawa. We haven't explored the US market yet but there could be opportunity there."



Publisher's Note
Scott Sumner



You Can Create an Exceptional Life!

"Create An Exceptional Life: Mind, Body, Money"

I wanted to share a key takeaway. The book emphasizes the importance of balancing mental well-being, physical health, and financial stability to create a fulfilling life. It suggests:

1 Mind: Cultivate a positive mindset and visualize your goals.

2 Body: Follow a balanced diet, engage in regular exercise, and ensure proper rest.

3 Money: Plan and organize your finances to achieve long-term security.

"Create An Exceptional Life: Mind, Body, Money" is a comprehensive guide aimed at helping individuals improve various aspects of their lives, including mental well-being, physical health, and financial stability. The book provides practical advice, personal anecdotes, and structured plans to help readers achieve their goals and create a fulfilling life. It emphasizes the power of the mind, the importance of physical health, and the necessity of financial planning.

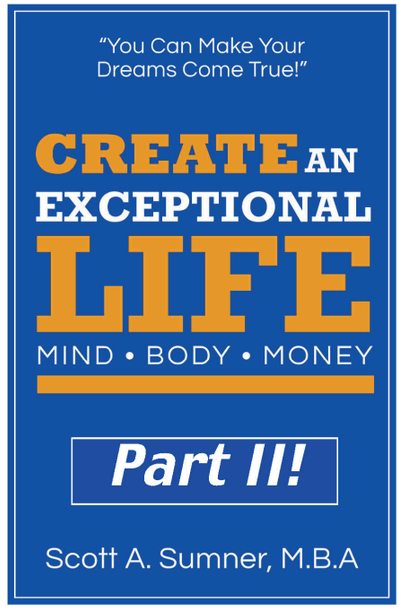
The book is well-organized, covering topics such as mindset, diet, exercise, financial planning, and goal setting. It also includes examples, charts, and forms to help readers track their progress and apply the concepts discussed.

Overall, if you are looking for a self-help book that addresses multiple facets of life improvement in a practical and accessible manner, this book seems to be a good choice.

"Create An Exceptional Life: Mind, Body, Money" suggests several ways to improve physical health, focusing on three main factors: diet, exercise, and rest. Here are the key points:

1 Diet:
Follow a well-researched food plan like Canada's Food Guide, which recommends:
5-12 servings of grain products per day (bread, cereal, pasta, rice, etc.)
5-10 servings of vegetables and fruits per day
2-4 servings of milk products per day (milk, cheese, yogurt)
2-3 servings of meat or alternatives per day (meat, poultry, fish, eggs, beans, tofu, peanut butter)
Drink 8-10 glasses of water daily to keep the body hydrated and functioning well.
Monitor portion sizes and calorie intake with the help of a dietician.
Keep a daily record of food intake to understand and adjust eating patterns.

2 Exercise:
Engage in regular cardiovascular exercise to improve heart and lung health. Aim for at least 20-30 minutes of activity, 3-4 times per week.
Include strength training exercises to develop major muscle groups (back, chest, legs, shoulders, arms).
Work with a personal trainer or physiotherapist to design a personalized fitness program.
Ensure exercises are done in the "training zone" by monitoring heart rate to achieve optimal cardiovascular benefits.



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3 Rest:
Establish a consistent sleep routine by going to bed at the same time each night. Create a relaxing pre-sleep routine, such as taking a hot bath, reading, or listening to music.
Avoid stimulants like caffeine, alcohol, and heavy meals before bedtime. Ensure the sleep environment is quiet and dark to promote better sleep quality.

By focusing on these three areas, the book aims to help readers improve their physical health, which in turn can enhance their overall quality of life.

Mindset plays a crucial role in influencing personal success, as emphasized in "Create An Exceptional Life: Mind, Body, Money." Here are key points on how mindset can impact your success:

1 Positive Thinking: A positive mindset helps you approach challenges with optimism and resilience, making it easier to overcome obstacles.

2 Self-Belief: Believing in your abilities boosts confidence and encourages you to take on new opportunities and risks.

3 Focus and Clarity: A focused mindset helps you stay clear on your goals and the steps needed to achieve them.

4 Adaptability: A growth mindset allows you to learn from failures and adapt to changing circumstances, leading to continuous improvement.

5 Motivation: A strong, positive mindset keeps you motivated and driven to pursue your goals, even when faced with setbacks.

6 Stress Management: A healthy mindset helps manage stress and maintain mental well-being, which is essential for sustained success. In summary, cultivating a positive and growth-oriented mindset is fundamental to achieving personal success and creating an exceptional life.

It's a great read for anyone looking to improve their overall quality of life!

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Twelve Cars, One Lucky Winner: United Way of Thunder Bay Launches 12 Cars of Christmas Raffle

United Way of Thunder Bay officially kicked off its inaugural 12 Cars of Christmas Winner's Choice Raffle with a special media launch event at Intercity Shopping Centre, bringing together participating dealerships to unveil all vehicles featured in this year's exciting prize lineup.



Through this first-of-its-kind community partnership, twelve local dealerships have joined forces with United Way to offer ticket purchasers the chance to win their choice of one of twelve – well, technically, thirteen – vehicles, while helping make a difference for people across Thunder Bay.

Participating dealerships and vehicles include:

- Balmoral Park Acura – 2026 Acura MDX A-SPEC
- Dominion Motors – 2026 GMC Acadia AT4
- Downtown Volkswagen – 2027 Volkswagen Atlas
- Gore Motors – 2027 Honda Passport
- Half-Way Motors Mazda – 2026 Mazda CX-90
- Half-Way Motors Nissan – 2026 Nissan Pathfinder
- Lakehead Motors – 2027 RAM 1500 Big Horn
- Performance Kia – 2027 Kia Seltos LX AND 2027 Kia EV3 Wind

Continued





Twelve Cars, One Lucky Winner: United Way of Thunder Bay Launches 12 Cars of Christmas Raffle

Continued

- Pinewood Ford – 2026 Ford F-150
- Superior Hyundai – 2026 Hyundai Palisade
- Thunder Bay Mitsubishi – 2026 Mitsubishi Outlander
- Wayne Toyota – 2026 Toyota Tacoma

Each dealership is offering up one vehicle valued at approximately $80,000 apart from Performance Kia who is offering two vehicles equating to the same value.



"We're incredibly excited to bring this new initiative to Thunder Bay and see twelve local dealerships come together in support of our community," says Albert Brulé, CEO of United Way of Thunder Bay. "The opportunity to win an incredible vehicle makes this a fun and exciting campaign, but what matters most is the impact we'll be able to make together. Every ticket purchased helps drive our community forward and supports the programs and services that people across our community rely on. We're grateful to our dealership partners for giving us the green light and helping us turn a great idea into something that can make a real difference."

The grand prize draw will take place on December 31, 2026, at 2:00 pm. In addition to the grand prize draw, the campaign will feature an early bird draw, giving ticket purchasers another chance to win. The early bird draw will take place on December 27, 2026, at 2:00 pm, offering the winner a festive cash prize of $10,000 to make the holiday season even brighter.

Every ticket purchased supports United Way of Thunder Bay's work to improve lives and strengthen the community. Funds raised help children succeed, support people facing hardship, strengthen mental health, and create opportunities for everyone to thrive.

Tickets for the 12 Cars of Christmas Winner's Choice Raffle are available online at winnerschoice.ca.





Confederation College introduces young women to careers in skilled trades at Jill of All Trades

Confederation College welcomed nearly 170 female high school students to its Tec Hub on Wednesday for Jill of All Trades, a hands-on event designed to introduce young women to skilled-trades career opportunities.

Students in Grades 9 to 12 from local school boards participated in interactive workshops exploring a range of skilled trades and technology fields, including carpentry, welding, heavy equipment maintenance, electrical engineering, and civil engineering. The event let participants work with industry equipment, build practical skills, and connect with women who have built successful careers in these fields.

"Events like Jill of All Trades give young women the opportunity to discover career paths they may not have considered before," said Shane Strickland, Associate Vice-President Academic at Confederation College. "By giving students the chance to get hands-on experience and connect with women working in the trades, we're helping them see the opportunities available and build confidence in pursuing their interests."

Female industry professionals and mentors played an important role, sharing their experiences, discussing career pathways, and offering firsthand perspectives on working in traditionally male-dominated fields.

Representatives from numerous industries, including mining, forestry, power, and aviation, supported the event, giving students valuable opportunities to learn from professionals across the skilled trades. This year's Jill of All Trades was sponsored by



"Strong relationships with industry are essential to preparing the next generation of skilled trades professionals," said Andrew Phillips, Associate Dean, Trades and Technology at Confederation College. "Our sponsors, partners and mentors play an important role in making events like this possible. Their involvement helps students understand what these careers look like and demonstrates that there is a place for women in the skilled trades."

Jill of All Trades was founded by Conestoga College and has expanded through partnerships with postsecondary institutions to encourage more young women to explore careers in the skilled trades. Confederation College's participation brings this experience to Northwestern Ontario, connecting local students with training opportunities and industry professionals.

The event also highlighted Confederation College's commitment to hands-on education and strengthening pathways into skilled trades careers. Through its trades, technology and apprenticeship programs, the College works closely with industry to help students develop practical skills that meet regional workforce needs.

Students and families interested in learning more about Confederation College's programs are invited to attend the College's Open House on Thursday, November 12, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Thunder Bay Campus. For more information, visit confederationcollege.ca/events/open-house.



Christmas in WESTFORT

THE WESTFORT VILLAGE

Westfort Wonderland brings Christmas magic to Frederica Street!

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

Aaron Gillingham is the owner of The Sal Restaurant and East Coast Lobster and involved in the business association. I asked him some questions about Westfort Wonderland!

"The Sixth Year of Westfort Wonderland is coming up this December 3rd from 4 to 8pm right on the main block of downtown Westfort. We shut the street down and create what we like to say the ultimate Christmas Hallmark movie where all things Christmas can be found. There will be a fire pit with s'mores for kids. We are handing out apple cider and candy canes. There will be a Christmas horse and carriage and characters of all kind from Christmas from the Frozen movie, the Grinch, Elf. Last year we had up to 10 characters but it was little chillier then."

" We will have a Christmas tree lighting, live music, carolers, food, some vendors, a European Christmas market, an indoor Christmas market at the Landing and we have a few other ideas to finalize. It is the ultimate Christmas Day in Westfort."

" This will be a family friendly event and you will never see more strollers in Westfort than at Westfort Wonderland. We want the kids to come out and experience all of Christmas. We had so many strollers out for the Westfort Street Fair, even though it was a rainy day. It is very cool to see the next generation and having their kids come so young to Westfort. It is the perfect type of event with family first to feel welcome. It is very cool on our end as business owners get to see families make it a priority to come out."

" Lewk Clothing will expand on their European Market this year I have been told."

" This is going to be a cool event this year with a few more features that have yet to be finalized, a little different. It is going to fun and we are looking forward to a big crowd again this year. This year we made the event a little earlier in hopes of good weather."

Aaron is a family person himself with two young boys and they took part in Westfort Wonderland last year. They are pumped to visit Santa, Mrs Claus and the rest of the characters.



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Christmas in WESTFORT

THE WESTFORT VILLAGE

Westfort Wonderland brings Christmas magic to Frederica Street!

by Melissa McClement

For one December evening, Frederica Street will look like a scene from a Hallmark Christmas movie. Horse-drawn carriages will roll past decorated storefronts, families will roast marshmallows around a bonfire, and Santa will stop to hear what's on children's Christmas lists. Somewhere along the way, the Grinch will be making his rounds. It's all part of Westfort Wonderland, returning to the heart of Thunder Bay's Westfort Village on Thursday, December 3, 2026, from 4 to 8 p.m., presented by PDR Contracting and Concrete Walls.

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Christmas in WESTFORT

THE WESTFORT VILLAGE

Westfort Wonderland brings Christmas magic to Frederica Street!



Continued

Westfort Wonderland has grown each year as more businesses along Frederica find ways to join in. For this year's celebration, participating businesses will open their doors to families, offering festive treats and holiday activities that give visitors a reason to stop in as they make their way down the street. Between the bonfire, the carriage rides, the children's area and a European Market, there's plenty to discover in four hours.

A bonfire and a carriage ride

The Westfort Village Association will welcome visitors to its bonfire area with complimentary s'mores and hot chocolate. It is a good place to start the evening, warm up partway through or meet up with friends who arrived before you.

The horse-and-carriage rides are what make the Hallmark comparison hard to resist. With Frederica dressed up for Christmas, the sound of hooves coming down the street is enough to make people pause mid-conversation and turn to look. From the carriage, there's time to take in the decorations and wave to the people you pass.

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Christmas in WESTFORT

THE WESTFORT VILLAGE

Westfort Wonderland brings Christmas magic to Frederica Street!

Continued

Santa, the Grinch and a stop at The Landing

Santa Claus will be on hand to talk with children, so anyone who's been working on a Christmas list will have a chance to share it. Some children will know exactly what to say the moment they see him. Families should also keep an eye out for the Grinch, who will be travelling along Frederica Street.

The Landing will host the Tbaytel-sponsored children's area, giving families a dedicated stop for kids as they explore the event. It will also welcome a variety of artisans, so there will be something for grown-ups to browse while they're there. If you're looking for a gift, it's a chance to meet the people behind the work and ask them about what they make.

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Christmas in WESTFORT

THE WESTFORT VILLAGE

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

Continued

You might walk in because the kids want to see what's happening and leave with an idea for someone who's especially hard to buy for.

A European Market at Lewk

Lewk, a women's clothing boutique on Frederica Street, is bringing back its European Market, building on the market it introduced last year. Vendors will be part of the evening, giving shoppers another place to browse for gifts and see what different makers and small businesses have brought out for the holidays. It's a stop worth making time for, especially if your favourite part of a Christmas market is wandering from vendor to vendor and seeing what catches your eye.

The market will also feature a special appearance by Lake Superior Krampus. In Alpine Christmas folklore, Krampus is the horned figure who accompanies St. Nicholas, and he brings a slightly spooky twist to the festivities. His visit makes for a particularly fun stretch of holiday character spotting. In one evening, you could tell Santa what's on your wish list, catch sight of the Grinch on Frederica and meet Krampus at Lewk. It's quite a lineup for a Thursday night in Westfort.

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A Christmas tradition built by the neighbourhood

Walk along Frederica during Westfort Wonderland and you can see how much of the evening comes down to people pitching in. The Westfort Village Association puts on the bonfire gathering. Businesses make room for treats, activities, vendors and visitors.

Continued



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Continued

The Landing gives children and artisans a place of their own in the celebration, and sponsors help bring the event together. Each year, as more businesses take part and more features are added, families have another reason to come back and see what's new. If you're coming with young children, you might start at The Landing, look for Santa and finish with a s'more by the fire. If you're meeting friends, you could browse the artisans and the European Market, then step back onto Frederica to watch the carriages go by. Either way, keep one eye open for the Grinch.

Westfort Wonderland runs from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 3, in the heart of Westfort Village. Put on your warm boots, bring someone who loves Christmas as much as you do, and come spend an evening on Frederica Street.

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 Kaministiqua 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.

The fort was first settled in 1860. The Fort William Town Plot were surveyed in 1859-60 by the Province of Canada's Department of Crown Lands and opened to settlement. Once the Fort William Town Plot (later known as West Fort) was selected as the eastern terminus for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and construction of the railway began in June 1875, Fort William began to grow, but very slowly. It would take the federal Department of Public Works, and later the Department of Railways and Canals, seven years 1875-1882 to build the Thunder Bay Branch from Fort William to Winnipeg.

Continued

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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.

Many families enjoy taking their children out to this well, established, annual event. This an annual family event and never fails to provide a great time. If you haven't seen certain people in a very long time, maybe it is time for you to venture out to the 2026 Westfort Wonderland.

Thank you for coming out.





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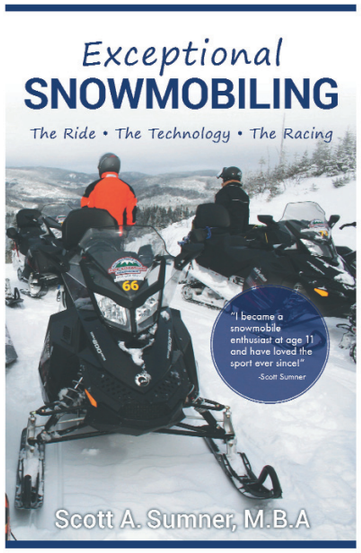
BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
Great Outdoors

In our lives there are certain activities that we get involved with and enjoy so much they become part of our lifestyle forever. For me one of those at the forefront has been snowmobiling. It all started as a young 11 year old



boy growing up in a small mining town in Northwestern Ontario, Canada. My father and I were out on an ice fishing trip in the winter of 1969 and all of a sudden a bright yellow machine came towards us as we made our way into the lake. The man on the snow machine, as they were called in those days, was someone my dad knew from the mine where he worked as a mining engineer. His name was Carson Hoy and he was a trapper out on his line with his brand new 1968 Ski Doo Olympic 16 HP. Carson looked at my wide open eyes and asked me if I wanted a ride. I hopped on the sled as fast as I could and that was the beginning of my lifetime interest in the sport of snowmobiling!

Now over 50 years later I am still riding sleds in all parts of North America, visiting snowmobile factories and seeing races with today's best snocross pilots on the planet. It has been a fun journey and one I don't see ending anytime soon. My interest in the sport has lead me to become a snowmobile magazine publisher, snowmobile web site developer and producer of snowmobile trade shows. My next project has been writing this book, Exceptional Snowmobiling: Riding, Technology & Racing.

You will read about snowmobiling around North America including, NW Ontario, Minnesota, West Yellowstone Park, Montana, Lake Chelan, Washington, Revelstoke, British Columbia, Whitecourt, Alberta and Lac St Jean, Quebec as well as many other Quebec destinations. You will find out about my visits to the Arctic Cat Factory, Thief River Falls, MN the Polaris Factory in Roseau, MN as well as the Ski Doo Factory in Valcourt, Quebec. You will meet some of the sports leading race figures like Captain Kirk Hibbert an icon in the sport, his son Tucker Hibbert the leading racer, Blair Morgan the sports most winning rider of all times, leaping Levi LaVallee who first tried a double back flip at the Winter X Games and many others.

My goal is to give you an interesting insight into the sport from someone who has enjoyed all that is has to offer. I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as I did writing Exceptional Snowmobiling: Riding, Technology & Racing.
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Cumberland Street Reopens Following Major Renewal Project

The Cumberland Street Renewal project has wrapped up for the 2026 season with the reopening of Cumberland Street to traffic.

The project has delivered significant improvements to both the streetscape and underground infrastructure in the city's north core. Upgrades include enhanced pedestrian bumpouts at intersections, additional patio space for local businesses, new line painting, and the replacement of aging underground infrastructure.

As part of the project, the traffic signals at the intersection of Cumberland Street and Park Avenue were removed and replaced with a four-way stop to improve traffic flow and long-term operational efficiencies.

"This project represents a significant investment in both in our infrastructure and the vitality of our downtown north core," said Brian Newman, Manager of Engineering. "Revitalizing our downtown creates better opportunities for businesses and a more enjoyable experience for visitors to the area."

The City thanks residents, visitors, and especially neighbouring businesses for their patience and cooperation throughout construction.

The final phases of the Cumberland Street Renewal Project (from Red River Road to Tupper Street) are scheduled for the 2027 construction season, as well as finishing work that includes top-lift paving, landscaping, and other beautification efforts to further enhance the area.

In alignment with Action A3 of the City's Smart Growth Action Plan to revitalize the north core, the North Core Street Scape Renewal replaces aging underground infrastructure and road surfaces, beautifies our downtown, and enhances the pedestrian experience, where pedestrian safety is prioritized.



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