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Centennial Botanical Conservatory Undergoes Renovation and Expansion!

INSIDE

Nearly \$ 3 Billion Investment in
New Subway Cars Supports
Skilled Trades Jobs in
Thunder Bay

Good Time to Do a Financial
Review!

THUNDER BAY RALLIES IN
SUPPORT OF KIDS WITH
PHYSICAL DISABILITIES AT
51S ANNUAL SNOWARAMA
FORECASTER SEALS KIDS

 NorthSuperiorPublishing

 @tbay25  @Scott Sumner

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MSM Lotion – All-Natural Pain Relief in Minutes

What is MSM Lotion? MSM (methylsulfonylmethane) lotion is a 100% natural solution designed for targeted, deep-penetrating, and efficient chronic pain relief without any adverse side effects. It effectively addresses pain in muscles, tendons, ligaments, and joints, enhancing mobility and reducing discomfort.

Who can benefit from MSM Lotion? Ideal for adults, teens, and children aged 2 and above. MSM Lotion provides relief from various conditions including arthritis, tendonitis, bursitis, sports injuries, restless leg, backache, strains, sprains, muscle spasms, headaches, carpal tunnel syndrome, trigger finger, growing pains, and

rotor cuff injuries, etc.

How to Apply? For external use only. Apply a small amount evenly to the affected area without the need to massage it in. Avoid contact with eyes, mouth, and mucus membranes. Do not apply to wounds or damaged skin. Do not tightly bandage. For children (2-12), application should be supervised by an adult.

How Much to Apply? A little goes a long way. For instance, a small adult with an arthritic knee might use an amount the size of a dime, while a large adult might use the amount of a quarter.

How Often to Apply? Apply as often as needed. Consult your healthcare provider for usage beyond 7 days.

Speed of Action? Most users experience relief from muscle, ligament, tendon, and joint pain in less than 5 minutes. Deep-seated inflammation may require more time. Other users may require several applications.

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Compatibility with Medications? MSM has



not shown any interactions with medications.

Manufactured by: MSM Lotion and Bath Soaks are produced in Red Deer, Alberta, by CHRONIC PAIN RELIEF. Trish MacDonald, the company's owner, retired from her career as a surgical assistant because of arthritic knees. She then went on to develop MSM lotion as a safe and effective alternative to traditional pain relief products.

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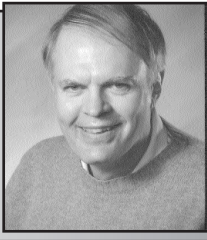
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**Publisher's
Note
Scott
Sumner**



Recent times have proven to be pretty good economically for many people in Canada, although finances continue to be a test. This requires an aggressive approach to the management of your own resources. Unfortunately, most people do not spend enough time at all thinking about their financial future. However, I feel that it's a very important factor to ensure that you will have the financial security you need to live a positive lifestyle.

The first step you should understand is no one will do it for you. You are the only person that can improve your financial situation. This requires effort along with the right direction. Create An Exceptional Life: MIND, BODY, MONEY can assist you with discovering the right direction in an unbiased, professional manner.

Money has always been a very important commodity, and there is no

Good Time to Do a Financial Review!

doubt that it can improve the quality of your life. I'm not saying money will buy happiness, because it definitely won't. However, money can improve life by providing security, and by helping us succeed in areas of endeavor that we choose, whether it be playing a sport, enrolling in a course, or achieving goals. Money can also help in times of medical problems, in providing our children with the best education, or in furnishing our home with some of the comforts of life.

How much time do you spend on really reviewing money with the view to accumulating wealth over your lifetime? We have all thought about money and wished we could have something like a new car, a larger house, or a trip, but how much time do we really spend on thinking about our current financial position? How we can improve it or make it grow over the upcoming years? Very few people take time to really think about it, and unfortunately, it does affect the quality of one's life, especially in retirement years.

Not giving attention to personal finances could lead to having a bank account with little or no available cash, rather than developing the strength that you need to provide independence. In addition to retiring, there are goals and financial requirements that we need right now. Most young people dream of getting married, raising a family, owning a home and providing their children with a good education. All of these goals have financial implications and require proper planning in order to accumulate the capital to accomplish them.

It's my belief that we all have the ability to improve our financial affairs. The question is, how do we apply ourselves? With this approach to financial planning, I am certain we can.

The first step in a financial planning program is to analyze exactly where you are at this moment in time and do a review of current position. Your financial advisor, bank or maybe even a family member can help. There are also

many sources of information to get you going available!

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Nearly \$ 3 Billion Investment in New Subway Cars Supports Skilled Trades Jobs in Thunder Bay

As part of its plan to protect Ontario's economic security and build a province that is more competitive, more resilient and more self-reliant, the Ontario government is working with the federal government to increase the Canadian content in the 55 new subway trains for Toronto's Line 2 to 55 per cent. This represents a nearly 30 per cent increase over the initial Canadian content in the subway cars, supporting more than 900 good-paying Canadian jobs and ensuring Ontario tax dollars support Ontario companies and industries in tariff-hit sectors such as steel and aluminum. This decision furthers the government's ongoing work to support a strong, viable manufacturing sector in Ontario that will help the province withstand growing global geopolitical and economic uncertainty.

"Today's announcement delivers on our government's commitment to protect Ontario, both by ensuring Ontario tax dollars support Ontario workers and by strengthening and supporting the province's manufacturing sector," said the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Ontario's Minister of Transportation. "The manufac-



turing of new subway trains at Alstom's Ontario facilities will keep skilled workers on the job and ensure Ontario and Canada have the domestic manufacturing capacity that is critical to our economic prosperity and national security."

In November 2023, Ontario committed more than \$758 million for new trains on

the condition that the federal government match the investment to contribute to the City of Toronto's purchase. The federal government subsequently did so in November 2024. The increase in Canadian content to 55 per cent has led to an increased total provincial investment of nearly \$1 billion, up from \$758 million, which will be matched by the Government of Canada.

"This investment is critical for Thunder Bay and for the skilled workers at Alstom who help build and maintain Ontario's transit system. It helps sustain good-paying jobs and ensures public dollars are invested in Ontario workers and manufacturing. The economic benefits extend well beyond the plant, as wages and local spending are reinvested in our community, supporting small businesses, families, and long-term economic stability across the Thunder Bay region," said the Honourable, Kevin Holland MPP for Thunder Bay – Atikokan. "This work strengthens both Ontario's economy and Thunder Bay's economy, while reinforcing our ability to build and maintain critical transit infrastructure at home. Thank you to the provincial, federal, municipal, and Alstom leadership whose collaboration helped bring this important investment to Thunder Bay."

Funding for this project will support 946 good-paying Canadian jobs, including 285 at Alstom's Ontario facilities, with 240 in Thunder Bay, 30 in Kingston and 15 in Toronto. The current 30-year-old Line 2 trains are nearing the end of their expected life, which would significantly increase costs to maintain safety if they continue in operation.

"Buying Canadian unlocks the full potential of our communities. By being our own best customer, we are ensuring that Canadians receive the maximum benefit from every tax dollar spent," said the Honourable Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for Pacific Economic Development Canada. "Our investment is helping to create good-paying jobs and encouraging economic activity across Canada, while delivering modernized public transit vehicles for our nation's largest city."

Line 2 is a 26-kilometre subway line that connects residents from Etobicoke to Scarborough. The new high-capacity trains will be able to carry up to 1,100 passengers each, supporting growing demand on the line, where daily ridership is expected to reach 661,000 by 2041.

Continued

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Nearly \$ 3 Billion Investment in New Subway Cars Supports Skilled Trades Jobs in Thunder Bay

Continued

“Line 2 is getting a major boost for the people who ride it every day,” said Olivia Chow, Mayor of Toronto. “We applaud the provincial and federal governments for helping keep transit reliable for Torontonians. These new trains mean shorter waits, more reliable trips, and better connections across the city. We are working to deliver a more affordable, safe and caring city for Torontonians.”

Quick Facts

- This investment will



directly create 285 good-paying jobs at Alstom's Ontario facility in manufacturing, engineering, testing and program integration. These jobs are part of the more than 900 jobs across Canada in manufacturing and supplier industries.

- This investment leverages the province's Buy Ontario Act by maximizing Canadian content in the new subway trains and ensuring Ontario tax dollars support Ontario workers and manufacturing.

- The TTC estimates that by 2041 ridership on Line 2 will increase to 661,000 daily boardings and on Line 1 daily boardings are projected to increase to more than 1.3 million.

- Last year, the province invested nearly \$500 million to refurbish 181 GO Transit rail cars at the Alstom plant in Thunder Bay and more than \$350 million to refurbish 121 GO rail cars at Ontario Northland's facility in North Bay.

- The province is supporting northern industries and the resource sector by bringing back the Northlander, which will connect Toronto to Timmins with a rail extension to Cochrane, improving access to housing, jobs and essential services.

- Ontario is investing \$70 billion in the largest transit expansion in North America, including carrying out the largest subway expansion in Canadian history by building the Ontario Line subway, the Yonge North Subway Extension, the

Scarborough Subway Extension and the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension.

Quotes

“Ontario is a stable, reliable and competitive partner for manufacturing investment, equipped with both the skilled workforce and resources needed to advance projects of economic importance. Prioritizing the use of Canadian-made content in Toronto's subway trains is one more way our government is delivering on its commitment to protect Ontario workers, strengthening domestic supply chains and reinforcing the industrial capacity that underpins our provincial and national security interests.”

– the Honourable, Vic Fedeli
Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

“This investment demonstrates how strategic infrastructure spending can deliver lasting economic benefits at home as we navigate a new economic reality. By prioritizing Canadian content and leveraging

Ontario's manufacturing capacity – from steel and aluminum production to final assembly – this project strengthens domestic supply chains, supports high-quality jobs across the province and helps insulate our economy from global uncertainty. Building and maintaining transit vehicles here in Ontario ensures long-term resilience, skills development and value

for taxpayers.”

– Giles Gherson

President & CEO, Toronto Region Board of Trade (TRBOT)

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Nearly \$ 3 Billion Investment in New Subway Cars Supports Skilled Trades Jobs in Thunder Bay

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“The Canadian Urban Transit Association would like to extend our thanks to the Government of Ontario for funding new subway trains for the TTC’s Line 2. Thousands of Ontarians from across the GTHA use the Line 2 subway each day, and this investment will help with providing them with reliable, consistent service.”

– Marco D’Angelo
President & CEO, Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA)

“This announcement demonstrates how strategic, Ontario-made investments can strengthen the entire province. The work being done in Thunder Bay is a powerful



reminder that Northern Ontario is a key contributor to building and maintaining the infrastructure that keeps our cities moving and our economy strong. When Ontario invests in home-grown manufacturing and skilled workers across multiple regions,

everyone benefits.”

– Rick Dumas

President of Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and Mayor of Marathon

“This investment is a major win for

Thunder Bay, securing good local jobs and strengthening our manufacturing sector. We’re proud to see all levels of government recognize the vital role our community plays in building Ontario’s transit future.”

– Charla Robinson

President, Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce

“This contract is great news for our members, great news for our facility, and great news for our whole community. We are excited and ready to get this project started as soon as possible. Amazing things can happen when all three levels of government come together with a common goal that supports great Canadian manufacturing jobs!”

– Justin Roberts

President of Unifor Local 1075

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Centennial Botanical Conservatory Undergoes Revitalization - February Feature



Centennial Botanical Conservatory Undergoes Renovation and Expansion!

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER
Thunder Bay BUSINESS

Guy Walter is the City of Thunder Bay Landscape Architect and Supervisor of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture. He has been involved in saving the Centennial Botanical Conservatory from demolition. I asked him some questions about how the project is progressing.



How did you get involved in the Centennial Botanical Conservatory?

“ Since I took this position at the end of 2020, this was the first project on my desk- to see how we could save it. It was going to be demolished, but the community saved it from demolition and it was going to be patched up. We came up with a different strategy. Not just patching and

replacing greenhouses, but turning it into more of a community hub for production, research development and supply operation for all the city.

“ This includes all the needs for the city parks, but also the needs for storm water management and native natural plants. We brought in many other partnerships like the LRCA, Lakehead University, Fort William First Nation- partnering to restore a lot of landscapes around the region.”

How was the scope of the project changed?

“ We have a dual purpose which allowed us to build out a facility that could support this work. We expanded the original strategy to just replace and patch up, to building proper facilities for production, a work shop and space for the public to host classes. We now have a stand alone facility that is connected to our tropical green house. The overall footprint was expanded by 2000 square feet and the green houses are larger than the old ones we demolished. The tropical wing gained some height.”

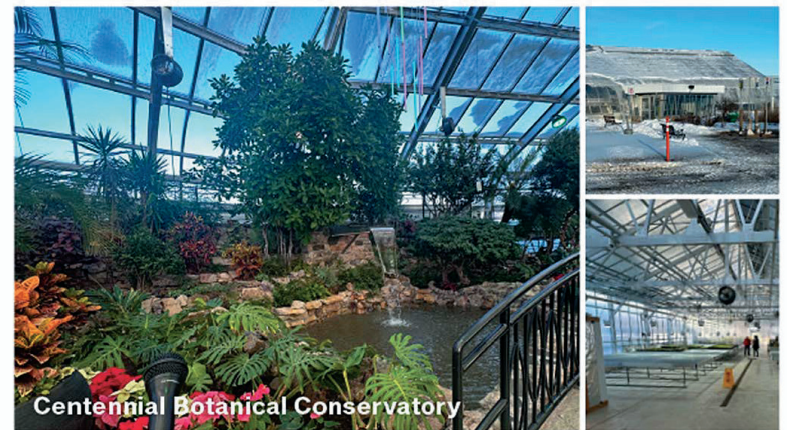
“ We had a drop off area added, some parking and a few trees. We needed to rebuild that area with outdoor venues to host events, community gardens, a dementia garden and working with the LCRA on our aquatic garden. The Horticulture Society, master gardeners are working with us as well. The community outreach has expanded with the Faculty of Education at Lakehead University and the school boards growing their curriculum.”

Continued



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Through strong collaboration with the City of Thunder Bay project team and the Parks Department, M Builds delivered a project that reflects quality, precision, and community pride. Their input, knowledge and commitment to excellence were essential to its success.

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Centennial Botanical Conservatory Undergoes Revitalization - February Feature



Centennial Botanical Conservatory Undergoes Renovation and Expansion!

Continued

What was the cost of this project?

“ In the actual project, the budget came in a little higher, but things in Phase 1 came in under at \$4.2 million. We also rebuilt infrastructure both power for further expansion and our water supply and kept them within the budget although it wasn't originally planned.”

“ Phase 2 was \$7.2 million and we are on budget and on schedule. We added some of the phase 3 work into Phase 2 so that is why we have an arrival area with rough grading so we could have this opening today. The remaining work in Phase 3 will be done in 2026 with funding secured somewhere around \$1.2 million.”



How did the project affect existing plants at the Centennial Botanical Conservatory?

“ We had good luck in saving some of the plants that have been around for a long time. They were hoarded and heated. The contractor and sub trades did a great job,

not many people have done any sort of work like this, not just here in Thunder Bay- but anywhere. It was a big learning curve for everyone, but we all worked together and protected the majority of the large specimens. Also we grew a number of species in case we did lose some, but had smaller versions to replace them.”

How do you feel about the project and results so far?

“ I think the project is great. I love the facility, everyone is very proud of it. Everybody that works here is very proud of it as well. I think the community wanted us to get the doors open, which has happened, and you can see everything. We are keeping the place free because it is City Park. You can come and hang out in the tropics!”

Are you working on any other City of Thunder Bay projects?

“ The Waterfront Festival area is a major project. It will start construction early 2026, that's Phase 1-the Camelot parking area next to the Tai Chi Gardens with new parking lot and playground. In the early part of the summer we will tender Phase 2 and 3 to do the whole grounds in 26 to the end of 28.”

“ I worked with the Red River Road development with Engineering with planter installation. Also the streetscapes bringing in more substantial, we call it green infrastructure, into our urban street.”

“ The roundabout in North wood was the first I worked on and we produced the plants for the medicine wheel as well as the new roundabout at Cumberland.”

“ The new Pool 6 waterfront trail with a wetland park is in partnership with LRCA and RAP with property at the site for the cruise ships coming.”

“ Also there are the Victoriaville and Simpson Street areas and the Chippewa Park Carousel which we designed. Its very busy for us at the city.”



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Centennial Botanical Conservatory Undergoes Revitalization - February Feature



City Announces 2026 Hours of Operation for the Centennial Botanical Conservatory

thunderbay.ca/conservatory

The City of Thunder Bay is pleased to announce the hours of operation for the Centennial Botanical Conservatory, beginning Thursday, January 8, 2026.

The December soft launch drew an enthusiastic crowd, showcasing the community's excitement to explore the revitalized Conservatory and its lush indoor gardens.



During regular hours, visitors will have access to the Tropical Main House, Desert Wing, and any activities or exhibits featured in the Multi-Purpose Wing. Back-of-House areas will remain closed to the public as staff resume full production operations.

Bookings for photography sessions and private events will open in early February 2026, with the first available booking dates starting February 17, 2026.

"The response we saw during the December soft launch was incredibly encouraging," said Guy Walter, Supervisor, Landscape Architecture and Horticulture Section. "It's exciting to welcome people back into the Conservatory and to see the gardens being enjoyed by the community. As we move back into full production, our focus is on maintaining vibrant displays while preparing for expanded programming and events."

Hours of Operation (effective January 8, 2026):

Date: Tuesday through Sunday (closed on Mondays)

Time: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Location: Centennial Botanical Conservatory, 1601 Dease Street

The Centennial Botanical Conservatory remains a cherished community destination, providing year-round access to stunning plant collections, enriching educational experiences, and versatile event spaces. Stay tuned for exciting updates on upcoming programs and future enhancements as they unfold.

For more information and updates, visit

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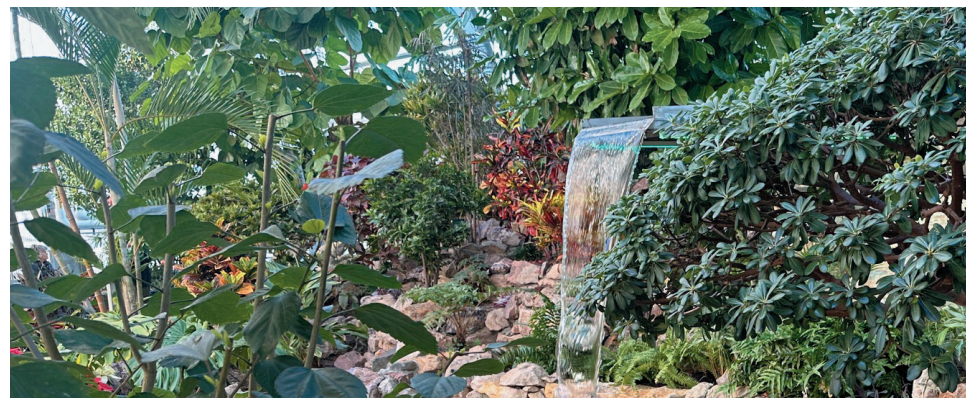
Centennial Botanical Conservatory-Complex Construction!

I asked Peter Belluz and his team at M Builds who were the general contractor some questions about the Conservatory project!

This is a very unique project with I am sure had some complexity to the work. How did your work begin and what were the steps in the process?

“Work began with the demolition of the

existing East and West greenhouse wings, including the removal of their glazing and steel structures. This initial phase, carried out in the spring and summer of 2024, required meticulous sequencing to ensure the surrounding plant life remained unharmed. Once these structures were removed, new foundations, steel framing, and acrylic glazing systems were constructed throughout the summer and fall. Due to supply shortages and sourcing of



the specialized glazing system for the new exterior of the Conservatory, deliveries and scheduling were critical and had to be managed with entire construction team. M Builds was able to expedite completion of the new east wing prior to freeze up.”

“Interior finishing and mechanical work were scheduled through late 2024 into spring 2025, at which point attention shifted to the Main Tropical greenhouse.

Because this central space housed some of the most sensitive and mature plant specimens, the removal of its existing glazing could only occur during the warmer summer months of 2025. New acrylic glazing and its associated structural supports were completed during that same season, followed by intricate overhead interior work in late summer and fall.”

Continued

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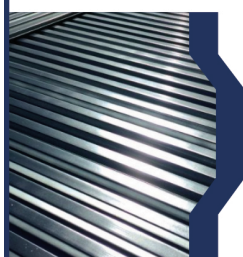


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Centennial Botanical Conservatory-Complex Construction!

Continued

I was told your team had to do some special work to maintain some plants through the winter season with heating, etc?

“The Conservatory Phase 2 project presented a rare combination of construction complexity, environmental sensitivity, and seasonal constraints that demanded careful planning and exceptional coordination. From the outset, the central challenge revolved



around completing major demolition and reconstruction work while protecting the Conservatory's extensive collection of mature tropical and desert plant species—living elements highly vulnerable to thermal shock, physical disturbance, and environmental fluctuations. M Builds and their team of subcontractors worked together with the City of Thunder Bay Parks Department representatives in a truly collaborative fashion, developing the strategy for the execution of the project early in the project.

“I want to say right off how great the folks at the Parks Department of the City of Thunder Bay have been to work with” said Peter Belluz, President of M Builds in Northwestern Ontario. “Undertaking this type of project in an operational facility, over a 20 month time frame, with freezing winter conditions and excessively hot summer conditions, all the while protecting the high value plants and trees in the facility, was truly a remarkable task. Everyone pulled together to ensure that all decisions were made in the best interest of the facility, and this resulted

in a very successful project”.

“Throughout the process, the team implemented innovative protection strategies to safeguard the plant collection. In the West wing, desert species—including cacti and arid climate plants—were enclosed in an insulated hoarding system equipped with temporary heating to maintain a stable microclimate during demolition and construction activity. Similar thermal-protection measures were deployed in the Main Tropical greenhouse in fall 2024, ensuring plant health until a new

boiler and hydronic heating system could be installed and brought online. Accessing work areas within the densely planted Main Tropical greenhouse also presented unique logistical challenges. Limited maneuvering space and the height of the interior volume required a combination of narrow, highly agile lifts and strategically placed scaffolding.”

Continued



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Centennial Botanical Conservatory-Complex Construction!

Continued

“These systems were arranged to avoid contact with large trees, dense planting beds, and other vegetation while still allowing crews to safely reach overhead work zones.”

How did the sub trades perform on this project which may have had some unique aspects to it?

“The project’s success was strengthened by highly collaborative sub-trades who brought deep experience and adaptability to a site where conventional construction methods were often

impractical. Many members of the team had previously worked together during Phase 1—the New Production Greenhouse project—which provided a shared foundation of knowledge. Even so, Phase 2 introduced new complexities related to protecting established mature plant life while navigating the regional constraints of a short construction season. Each sub-trade contributed to real time problem solving as conditions changed, making the project a uniquely engaging experience for all involved. “From the very outset of the project, all of the subcontractors we worked with were enthusiastic to ensure the project progressed in the best possible manner, and were eager to provide their expertise” said Anthony Yozipovic, Project Manager for M Builds. “Many of the construction methodologies we used were planned pre-construction, and we based our tender on the ideas developed very early in the project. Once on-site, the actual site conditions became clear and modifications to the general plan were required, and our subcontractors were instrumental in working with us and the other trades on site to ensure the overall success of the project. We want to thank all of our subtrades for their valued input”.



Above: Kelvin Jankowski, Manager Capital Facilities Construction and Guy Walter, is the City of Thunder Bay Landscape Architect and Supervisor of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture.

There is another stage left to go on this project Phase 3. What will those steps involve?

“Looking ahead, Phase 3 will focus on exterior site improvements, including grading, stormwater retention, land-

scaping, and upgrades to vehicular access and parking areas, scheduled to commence in spring 2026. Reflecting on the progress to date, the project team is extremely proud of the outcomes achieved through the combined efforts of dedicated subcontractors, suppliers, consultants, and City staff. The project’s success is a testament to the coordinated commitment of all partners working together to deliver a highly complex and environmentally sensitive redevelopment.”

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**Congratulations, M Builds and the
Centennial Botanical Conservatory,
on the revitalization of the facility!**

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Centennial Botanical Conservatory Undergoes Revitalization - February Feature



Re-Envisioning the Centennial Botanical Conservatory

The Centennial Botanical Conservatory was opened in 1967 by the Fort William Parks Board as a Centennial celebration project, and it is a legacy to the citizens of Thunder Bay.

An important part of our City for over half a century, the Conservatory is currently undergoing a renewal project designed to repair and replace aging infrastructure and to expand the facility to increase the versatility of the space and the programming it can support.

Amenities

- * Beehives
- * Community and children's gardens
- * Flowering plants, exotic trees and shrubs from around the world
- * Horticultural Society's perennial garden
- * Park benches (inside and outside)
- * Picnic tables
- * Pollinator garden
- * Shade trees
- * Waterfall and wishing pond

Plenty of parking is available, including motor-coach parking.

Guided Tours of the Conservatory are available by request. To book a tour, call 807-625-2941.

Reservations are required. To book the Conservatory, call 807-625-2941.

Bookings will be available in February 2026 - with the first dates available starting February 17.



Congratulations to M Builds & the Centennial Botanical Conservatory!

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About

The City of Thunder Bay's Centennial Botanical Conservatory is a multi-functional facility - a community gathering space that is home to a large variety of flowers, trees, tropical plants and cacti, and also a production facility where the plants that fill city-owned flower pots and

gardens throughout the summer are grown over the winter and spring.

Accessible to all and a great place to visit year round, the Conservatory was opened in 1967 by the Fort William Parks Board as a Centennial project, and it is a legacy to the citizens of Thunder Bay.

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Price:

- Schools & not-for-profit organizations: free

- Wedding Ceremonies/Photos: half hour session \$71.19 (HST included), one hour session \$142.38 (HST included)

Please note that new rates and services will be pending budget approval in January - February 2026.

GGS Structures Inc. 3559 N Service Rd, Vineland Station, ON • Ph. (905) 562-7341

With more than 40 years of industry experience, GGS has established a reputation for designing and delivering customizable, high-quality greenhouse structures built to withstand demanding environments. GGS's business development manager Brandon Greco "GGS greenhouse systems support a wide range of architectural and research applications, including botanical gardens, butterfly conservatories, zoos, as well as government and university research facilities across North America. This project was a great opportunity for us to showcase what we do best". Over decades of experience in greenhouse construction, repair, and restoration, GGS Structures Inc. has successfully completed hundreds of projects, maintaining a long-standing commitment to craftsmanship and reliability, within the greenhouse industry.

One notable example is **the Centennial Botanical Conservatory in Thunder Bay, Ontario**. This project required extensive upgrades to critical environmental control systems, including the removal and replacement of ridge vents, motors, bearing assemblies, rack pinions, and vent shafts across all greenhouse compartments. Additional work included reglazing the entire structure and installing accordion vent screens and flat screens to ensure proper airflow. The historic Lord & Burnham greenhouse consists of a

7,000-square-foot main tropical display house and two 1,500-square-foot endcap zones, all of which required careful coordination to preserve their function and integrity.

Throughout the project, GGS implemented custom solutions to overcome structural limitations while safeguarding a diverse and delicate collection of tropical plants. GGS president Nathan Obeid "It was imperative extra measures were taken to protect the plants. Work was completed in close proximity to environmentally sensitive species, including an extensive cactus collection that required precise temperature and humidity throughout the constructions process." From complex structural components to small custom-fabricated brackets, GGS provided adaptable solutions to retrofit obsolete systems without disrupting the plant environment.

Project manager for GGS, Kirk Unyi commented on the unique challenges for the project "Every component was fabricated to exact measurements, ensuring a precise fit and seamless integration into the existing structure." This level of detail and care reflects GGS's dedication to protecting plant life while extending the lifespan and performance of vital greenhouse facilities making the Centennial Botanical Conservatory another project GGS is proud to support.



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February 2026

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THUNDER BAY RALLIES IN SUPPORT OF KIDS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES AT 51ST ANNUAL SNOWARAMA FOR EASTER SEALS KIDS

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER

Great Outdoors

Snowmobilers will hit the trails on February 7, 2026 for the Grand Portage Lodge and Casino Snowarama in support of Easter Seals Ontario, raising funds to support and expand access to programs, services, and inclusive opportunities for children, youth, and young adults with physical disabilities. Continuing its 51-year tradition, the Thunder Bay Snowarama for Easter Seals Kids will take riders south of the border to Grand



Portage, just 45 minutes from Thunder Bay, bringing together snowmobilers from across northwestern Ontario and Minnesota to experience northern Minnesota's premier groomed trails.

"For over five decades, the caring individuals behind our Snowarama events have made a meaningful difference in the lives of countless young people with physical disabilities," says Kevin Collins, President and CEO at Easter Seals Ontario. "As we enter the 51st year of this tradition, we do so with profound gratitude for the impact of our partnerships with local sponsors and riders, and for the generosity, dedication, and spirit that bring this event to life year after year. Snowarama is a powerful reminder of what communities can achieve when they come together with a shared



purpose to make a real difference in the lives of young people with physical disabilities."

All Snowarama participants will be treated to a complimentary dinner and Saturday

night entertainment, making the event a true weekend celebration for the whole family. Riders can enjoy the trails, gather around a cozy bonfire, and compete for prizes throughout the weekend. The event is generously supported by Grand Portage

Lodge and Casino, the Grand Portage Trail Riders, and the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. To mark the 21st year at Grand Portage Lodge and Casino, participants will receive a ballot for every \$100 they raise, giving them the chance to win exciting Snowarama prize packages—all while supporting programs and services for children, youth, and young adults with physical disabilities.

Over the past 20 years, the Grand Portage Lodge and Casino Snowarama has raised over \$650,000 for children and youth with physical disabilities. Snowarama for Easter Seals Kids would not be a success without the support of the local snowmobiling community. Together, we are helping kids BE KIDS. To find more information, register or donate, visit Snowarama.org.

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City Improves Traffic Flow on Key Corridors

The City of Thunder Bay is pleased to announce major progress on its traffic signal upgrade project, aimed at improving traffic flow, reducing travel times, and creating a more efficient road network. Initial implementation is focused on major routes to deliver the greatest impact for drivers.

Traffic signals across the city have been upgraded with new vehicle detection systems, enhanced communication networks, and advanced signal controllers. These improvements enable real-time traffic monitoring and reduce unnecessary signal cycles. New traffic management software offers advanced monitoring, optimized signal timing, corridor coordination,

and better maintenance scheduling for improved reliability and performance.

As part of this project, traffic signal coordination has been introduced on three key east-west corridors:

- Arthur Street between Mountdale Avenue and May Street
- Red River Road between Junot Avenue and High Street
- Harbour Expressway between Golf Links Road and Memorial Avenue

On Red River Road, Arthur Street, and Harbour Expressway, signal timing will adapt

to peak traffic flow. Eastbound drivers will see coordinated green lights in the mornings, while westbound traffic benefits from afternoon synchronization. Some corridors also feature overnight off-peak timing plans.

Important Notes for Drivers:

- To take advantage of the coordination, vehicles must travel at the posted speed limit.
- While synchronization improves flow, drivers may still encounter red lights due to various factors.
- Side street traffic may experience longer wait times as priority is given to major routes.

"This project is an important step toward improving traffic efficiency and reducing congestion on our busiest routes," said David Binch, Traffic Technologist. "We appreciate the public's patience as we continue to upgrade and fine-tune these systems and look forward to expanding this work to other corridors."

The City will continue monitoring these corridors and adjust as needed to optimize traffic flow. Work will also continue with completing the remaining traffic signal upgrades throughout the city and implementing more coordinated traffic signal corridors.



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