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f NorthSuperiorPublishing





y @tbay25 in @Scott Sumner

Publication Mail Reg. # 40050324

Westfort Wonderland Showcases Community!













Publisher's Note Scott Sumner



The Thunder Bay Community Auditorium is celebrating their 40th season and announced recently a brand new event, Blues at the Ballpark to be held August 21 and 22, 2026 at the Port Arthur Stadium.

Blues In The Ballpark!

I asked Andrew Edwards, Acting General Manager TBCA some questions about the event.

What caused you to create the Blues in the Ballpark festival?

"We were part of the Blues Festival from 2002 to 2019 and felt as part of our 40th sea-

something new".

"We know in Thunder Bay it is important to be outdoors in the precious summer months so lets bring the music to where people want to be."

How many tickets will be available?

"We are only selling 3000 tickets at \$154.00 all in and expect to sell out quickly. We want to make the environment comfortable and a scalable event to allow us to grow. We encourage for people to come, dance and enjoy."





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Contents of this publication are protected by copyright. Reproduction of this in any form is strictly prohibited. While due care and diligence is used in proofreading advertising copy for accuracy, the publisher and advertiser are not responsible for misprints, mistakes or typographical errors. son at the TBCA it was the right time to bring back the event that was embraced for so long. Our artist line up is stacked and we have heard from so many in the community to bring back a Blues event. We booked some acts that have played here before and some new acts as well."

Why did the TBCA choose Port Arthur Stadium as the venue?

"There are many logistically advantages to using Port Arthur Stadium across the street from us. It allows us to make the festival more affordable for the community. We can house the artists and volunteers here at the TBCA. We will have hospitality, showers, lounge rooms- everything you need rather than bringing in RV's. We have our production staff here so we can get easy access to our equipment. Also there is good parking and bathrooms, as well as concessions at the stadium with a lot of space to roam around. The city is redeveloping the waterfront festival area soon so we felt it was time to try

Paro Centre for Women's Enterprise Celebrate 30 Years!

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER *Thunder Bay* BUSINESS

The recent 30th Anniversary celebration of Paro Centre for Women's Enterprise was fun to attend. I talked to some award winners who have been long time supporters of Paro as well as founder Ros Lockyer and keynote speaker Maryam Monsef of Onward!

Rebecca Johnson

"I first met Ros when I would go to get chicken from her at Mary Brown's. We would talk about how women were not where they needed to be, they still aren't, but we are getting better. At that time I was the Chamber president and Ros wanted to set up Paro at that time for entrepreneurs. We decided it would work and I have always been a supporter. When I became a politician at the municipal level it was what could I do to make things happen."

"I still am a supporter of Paro and believe in what they are doing. The Women in Politics organization began and Paro and I worked together on it. It has lead to more women considering to run for politics."



Maryam Monsef, keynote speaker Founder and Ceo of Onward, Rebecca Johnson, Levina Collins, Levina Collins Economic Development Consulting, Ros Lockyer, Founder and CEO, Sheila Fortes Office Works., Linda Bruins Evergreen A United Neighbourhood., Donna Nordstrom North Stream Safety and Rehab

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Linda Bruins Evergreen A United Neighbourhood

"In 2002 I quit my job and was in a bad marriage so started getting rid of stuff. I met with Paro, there was a provincial program available and I began working on my business plan. I ran that business for quite a long time until I created Evergreen.

"We work with children and do feeding programs with 125 meals provided a day, as well as hygiene and counselling so it very busy. I am very proud to be a Paro women where I gained lots of skills to help kids."

Levina Collins, Levina Collins Economic Development Consulting

"We learn in Paro that you have to keep positive all the time. It is really important. I learned so much from Paro and got really good jobs with their help. I also volunteered as well and learned so much from Ros and she is the reason I got these jobs. I

have been with Paro on their boards for about 22 years."

Donna Nordstrom North Stream Safety and Rehab

"In 2019 I went on the first ever Paro trade mission to Baltimore with 4000 other women. One of their speakers talked about the power of the right partnership. I went to speak with her and got some very good advice. Just that alone really gave me the power to go home, change my attitude and realize what could be done. We have grown substantially in business today. That is where it started, knowing of what we are capable."

"Ros said you should go to a mining show in Newfoundland with Paro and now we have an office in Newfoundland with an employee. It about people and connections in business."

Continued

Paro Centre for Women's Enterprise Celebrate 30 Years!

Continued

Sheila Fortes Office Works

" I was in the first training class offered by Paro called Building a Dream. It was a program funded by the Unemployment Insurance people to prepare a business plan in 3 or 4 months. A few months after that I going under."

"Paro is everywhere in Canada helping 37053 women and their families so far, who have been affected, as well as the multiplier effect over their history."

Ros Lockver, Founder and CEO

fident Paro will continue on. Really what I am now is a mentor. I hope Paro is and will continue to be in the new economy. Recently during covid we had no idea what would happen but we had each other to pivot. It was time of growth of Paro when we grew across Canada."

"We just came back from the EU on a trade mission for the women and we made it work because the US is not a good time at the moment. The women from the EU are really interested in doing business in Canada and we want to make sure we have the opportunity to stay connected."



was self employed. I volunteered my services to Paro as an accountant as well."

Maryam Monsef, keynote speaker Founder and Ceo of Onward

"I am here to celebrate the Paro 30th Anniversary who support tens of thousands of businesses a cross the country. This is deeply important for me and also for local and the Canadian economies. When times are tough women are often hit hardest, that is what the pandemic has taught us. So having the support of organizations like Paro when times are tough is essential for their resiliency and the economies success."

- " To be invited here is an honour to be able to connect with the founders. Many people can have great ideas but there is something to be said for those people that turn those ideas into action, so that they can provide for their families, create jobs and enhance their communities."
- "Paro stepped up and answered the call for leadership while I was in government. The appetite across the country is there for women to come together and share resources and pivot whenever there is a need to pivot. Sometimes being well connected is the difference to succeeding and

- "Paro started January 2,1995 so this is our 30th year. At the first there was me and I did sort of everything except the books where I had a volunteer- Sheila Fortis. I did training, outreach, marketing and everything else but didn't feel comfortable doing the books. Later on we had a board of directors and incorporated but Sheila was treasurer for years."
- "We have the largest peer lending network in North America with 355 peer lending circles. We started in NW Ontario and now are all across Canada. A big part of that was to do with wage support. The grass roots women from our circles are on the board."
- "I couldn't have even imagined the ripple effect of Paro and can see it around me with the women doing the work. It is women supporting women and asking for help. The mission of Paro is you have a group of women and support them. We expect the women to help others as well. It is not just about yourself and making money. It is about supporting your sisters, community and family. That is the secret of success and happiness."
- "I have worked really hard for sustainability on the board and in the team, so feel con-





PARO SUMMIT GALA 30TH ANNIVERSARY

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ERA 2 WINNERS



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Thank you to everyone who joined us for this very special celebration. Your présence, energy, and support helped make the evening a meaningful reflection on PARO's journey and the collective impact of women entrepreneurs over the past 30 years. It was truly inspiring to gather together to honour the stories, achievements, and resilience that continue to shape our community.



























Modern Medical Expands Access to Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy in Northwestern Ontario

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER *Thunder Bay* BUSINESS

Modern Medical Hyperbaric Medicine Clinic has officially opened its doors, expanding access to hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) across Northwestern Ontario.

Although the clinic has been serving clients since September 2025, it recently marked its formal grand opening, celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by staff, dignitaries, local medical professionals, and clients.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is a medical treatment in which patients breathe 100% oxygen inside a specialized chamber pressurized to two to three times normal atmospheric levels. Under these conditions, the lungs absorb substantially more oxygen, increasing oxygen concentration and delivery throughout the body. This height-

ened oxygen concentration stimulates natural healing processes, benefitting both individuals with specific medical conditions and those seeking enhanced recovery and wellness.

Designed with patient care, innovation and community collaboration at its core, Modern Medical aims to support clients with high-quality clinical services while working closely with healthcare professionals across the region to deliver advanced healing. The clinic's mission is to improve access to HBOT for communities throughout Northwestern Ontario, where specialized treatment options can be limited.

"We're thrilled to officially open our doors and expand access to this vital therapy," says Dr. Meaghan Labine, CEO and Medical Director of Modern Medical. "Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is an incredibly powerful tool for healing. Chronic



Dr. Meaghan Labine, CEO and Medical Director of Modern Medical.

wounds and diabetes-related complications are rising across Northwestern Ontario, and many of these cases respond incredibly well to HBOT. We are also thrilled to offer new therapeutic options for patients suffering from radiation injury and hearing loss.

Our goal is to ensure that people in region have access to exceptional medical care that combines innovation and healing in a comfortable environment, close to home."

Continued



Thank you Modern Medical for choosing
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Modern Medical Expands Access to Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy in Northwestern Ontario

Continued

During today's event, dignitaries and guests congratulated the clinic on its opening and its contribution to regional healthcare. Clients are already experiencing the benefits of the new facility.

Clinic representatives emphasized HBOT's



potential to support wound healing, reduce complications, and help address the disproportionate rates of chronic wounds and amputations in northern and remote communities, including Indigenous communities, where barriers to care and higher rates of diabetes contribute to significantly increased risk.

OHIP funds 14 indications for hyperbaric oxygen therapy, including non-healing wounds, sudden hearing loss and delayed radiation injury from cancer therapy. Those with non-healing diabetic wounds also benefit, as HBOT helps prevent lower limb amputation and other diabetic related complications. Through the combination of pressure and 100% oxygen, HBOT accelerates the body's innate healing potential to facilitate functional tissue regeneration and speed recovery.



For more information about Modern Medical Hyperbaric Oxygen Clinic or to learn more about the benefits of HBOT.

visit: modernmedicalclinic.ca



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Modern Medical Expands Access to Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy in Northwestern Ontario

I asked Dr. Meaghan Labine, CEO Medical Director some questions about this exciting new facility.

When did you first begin working on this project?

and now it is finally come true!"

"The building was purchased in September 2023 and by September 2025 we opened the doors." medicine itself, what it takes to offer it and why it is important for the region."

"Building it from the ground up, cultivated the idea and vision for it was the most difficult."

What can a person expect to do when coming to Modern Medical?

"Every patient when they come in are with us for 2 to 3 months- so in treatment 2 hours a day, 5 days a week. It is quite a commitment but we are finding patients start to feel better, they sleep better, their mood improves and the indication they were referred to us for starts to improve over time. It takes time to appreciate the healing but their general well being usually travels along with their healing process. We also get some time with the patients to help better dial in to their health care needs because we talk with them daily, give the attention

and collaborate with their other health care providers and specialists."

How does the hyperbaric medical process work?

"It uses the bodies natural physiology. You are in a clear tube which we fill to 100% oxygen and pressurize it to 2 atmospheres. We are at one atmosphere now and that combination of pressure and oxygen super hyper ozygenates to the body so you get the plasma and lymphatic fluid as well as the cerebral fluid. This triggers the natural healing ability so the body heals 10 to 20 times faster that it's rate with out hyperbaric. One this is achieved it helps grow new blood cell and cell formulations such as stem cell production and help control infection."

Continued



"I started this process in 2015 during second year medical school after I wrote the business plan for it. It has taken me 10 years with the collaboration of my executive team to bring this to fruition, so it is a dream come true. I saw the potential of this therapy for NW Ontario

807-345-2543

How has it been along the way to opening?

"It was a difficult journey but difficulty breeds resiliency. It was import to go through that and the clinic is stronger as a consequence. It also taught me a lot more about the practice of hyperbaric

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Modern Medical Expands Access to Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy in Northwestern Ontario

Continued

"You have to do the treatments consis-

tently for the period of time. To give an example for with one treatment it



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can increase your stem cell production by 2 fold, and after 20 treatments it increases by 8 fold. You can only reach that with consistently high oxygen and

the push-pull tension for the body to regenerate so you get noticeable benefit."

Continued



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on the successful completion of the project, and to **the Modern Medical team** for bringing this facility to our community.

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Modern Medical Expands Access to Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy in Northwestern Ontario

Continued

Is this service supported by OHIP coverage?

"There are the OHIP funded problems- One example is say anything that is a non healing wound- in particular with our diabetic patients that are prone, which can lead led to amputation. We can speed up the healing process with hyperbaric. There is also delayed radiation injury, sensory hearing loss and helping return peoples hearing among other conditions covered by OHIP."

How are you enjoying the work at Modern Medical?

- "It is very rewarding. I am a family medicine and emergency physician by trade and training and have an additional specialty- Hyperbaric Medicine. It is rewarding to offer a treatment that not only has huge benefits but the healing is tangible with very minimal side effects with global impacts on the body."
- "Prior to this there are clinics in the Toronto area and people would have to travel there for anywhere from 2 to 3 months for therapy. This is hugely important to getting treatment at home."



Congratulations, Modern Medical & Ritson & Sons Contracting, on the building expansion! Happy to be part of the project.



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Lakehead University recognized as one of Canada's top undergraduate research universities

Total Research Income Continues to Grow Year-over-Year

Lakehead University has climbed to one of the highest positions among Canada's undergraduate research universities, according to new rankings released today by Research Infosource Inc. Lakehead shines in Research Infosource's list of the Top 50 Research Universities of 2025, moving up one spot to secure its place as the #2 undergraduate research university in Canada. Lakehead continues to rank 35th overall among all Canadian research-intensive universities.

"Our continued success reflects the excep-

tional talent, capacity, and research leadership at Lakehead University," said President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Gillian Siddall. "This recognition validates the university's commitment to advancing discovery that matters, connecting knowledge to community, and preparing students to shape the future as we drive social and economic progress in our regions and beyond."

Over the past decade, Lakehead has emerged as a national research leader, with significant growth in research funding and infrastructure investment. The university's total research income continues to grow year-over-year, increasing 4.1 per cent to

\$28 million from 2023 to 2024. Once again, Lakehead holds the top spot among Canada's undergraduate universities for not-for-profit research income, attracting \$7.2 million in funding.

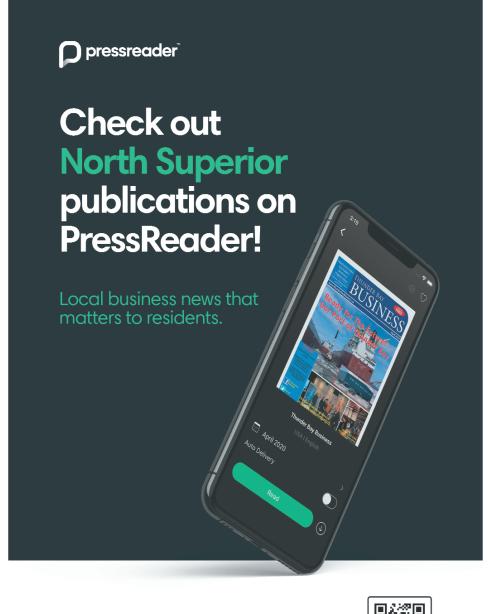
"Lakehead University is a valued and trusted research partner," stated Dr. Langis Roy, Vice-President of Research and Innovation. "Working with collaborators in Indigenous communities, social service organizations, hospitals, and other post-secondary institutions, our researchers are making a difference in the communities and regions we serve and driving tangible societal change."

Lakehead continues to outperform in cross-sector Artificial Intelligence (AI) research collaborations, with nearly 150 international publications on the topic, showing that university researchers are at the forefront of real-world innovation and transformation.

"Lakehead is leading the nation in AI publication growth, demonstrating our commitment to merging our deep expertise in areas such as health, environmental science, mining, and natural resources management, with new cutting-edge technologies," said Dr. Roy. "We have an interdisciplinary, community-connected approach to advancing the innovation economy."

"The launch of the Barrie STEM Hub in fall 2026 will broaden our capacity to provide high-tech, hands-on environments for students to participate in groundbreaking research and develop the future-focused skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow," he added.

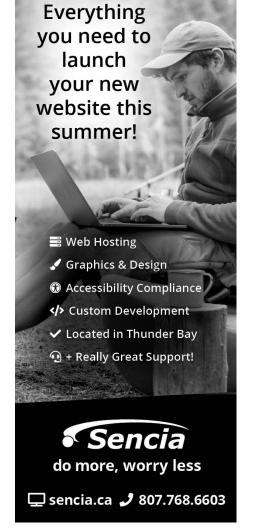
For more information about Canada's Top 50 Research Universities 2025, visit: https://researchinfosource.com/cil/2025/top -50-research-universities



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Confederation College Launches Canerector Foundation Scholars Program to Support Skilled Trades Students

In partnership with the Canerector Foundation, through their \$500,000 investment, Confederation College has launched the Canerector Foundation Scholars

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Program, an initiative that will support 200 students entering skilled trades programs over the next five years.

The funding will provide financial awards

to 20 students annually enrolled in eligible two-year skilled trades programs, including a dedicated stream of five scholarships per year for Indigenous students. Each student will receive \$1,000 per semester and a \$1,000 completion award, with the inaugural 2025 cohort receiving an additional \$1,000 to acknowledge their September 2024 start date.

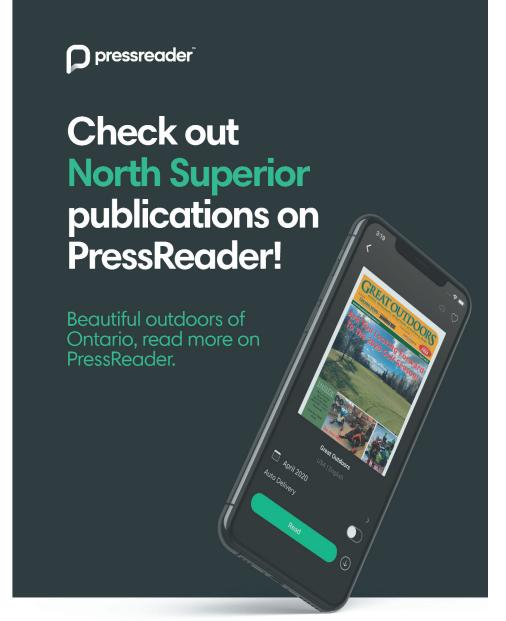
"This investment from the Canerector Foundation is a significant step forward in supporting students pursuing skilled trades," said Michelle Salo, President of Confederation College. "It allows us to provide meaningful financial support, mentorship, and recognition to students who will go on to shape the future of our workforce."

Eligible programs include Aviation
Technician – Aircraft Maintenance, Civil
Engineering Technician, Forestry
Technician: Ecosystem Management,
Environmental Technician: Water
Resource Management, Electrical
Engineering Technician Program and
Mechanical Engineering Technician.

In addition to financial support, the program includes a mentorship component. Canerector Scholars will take part in networking events with industry professionals, develop leadership skills through peer mentorship, and participate in outreach activities designed to encourage future skilled trades professionals. Yesterday, scholars visited Alumni-owned business, Automation Now, where they met with employees to learn about career pathways in advanced manufacturing and received a guided tour of the operation.

"Helping students gain the skills and experience they need to launch successful futures in the skilled trades is important to us," said Amanda Hawkins, Director of the Canerector Foundation. "We're excited to see the impact this program will have in the Thunder Bay region."

Students interested in applying for the Canerector Foundation Scholars Program can visit [insert link] for eligibility criteria and application details.







Ontario Investing to Upgrade Geraldton District Hospital

Redevelopment will connect more people in northern Ontario to quality care close to home

The Ontario government is investing up to \$500,000 to support Geraldton District Hospital's early planning work to redevelop and renovate its first floor, connecting more families in Greenstone and the surrounding communities to convenient, high-quality care close to home. The project is part of the government's plan to protect the provincial health-care system by investing nearly \$60 billion in more than 50 major hospital projects across the province over the next 10 years.

"Our government is making historic investments to protect Ontario's health-care system and connect more people in Greenstone and communities across Northwestern Ontario to the care they need, where and when they need it," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "By investing in the redevelopment of Geraldton District Hospital, we are making it faster and easier for more people and their families to access world-class hospital care in their community, for generations to come." The government's investment will support planning to redevelop and renovate approximately 9,300 square feet of existing hospital space, allowing the hospital to expand its programs and services and meet the needs of the community for years to come.

As part of the early planning process, the hospital is considering the following upgrades:

• Improved access to outpatient services for patients and families with a new dedicated entrance for outpatient services

- A new CT diagnostic program, improving timely access in the region for patients who currently travel to Thunder Bay to access CT services
- A new telemedicine suite to remotely support patients not requiring care at the hospital
- Improved infection prevention and control measures, through the separation of acute and ambulatory programs Geraldton District Hospital is located in the gateway to the Ring of Fire and the hospital's redevelopment is part of Ontario's broader strategy to unlock the economic potential of the region while ensuring First Nation and Northern communities reap the benefits of critical mineral development through community and economic partnerships that offer economic opportunities for generations.

As a next step, the Ministry of Health is working with Geraldton District Hospital to complete planning for this project, including determining programming, operational and space requirements. Once detailed planning is complete and the project is tendered and awarded, a construction schedule will be confirmed.

"Geraldton District Hospital plays a vital role in supporting families across Greenstone and our Northern communities. This investment strengthens that foundation by helping the hospital plan for the services people rely on every day," said Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay—Atikokan. "I am grateful for the dedicated staff and local partners who continue working to ensure residents have dependable, high-quality care close to home." Through Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care, the Ontario government continues to take bold and decisive action to expand and

modernize Ontario's hospitals, making it faster and easier for people of all ages to connect to the high-quality care they need, where and when they need it.

OUICK FACTS

- Geraldton District Hospital provides a wide range of health-care programs and services to approximately 5,700 residents living in the five communities and four First Nations it proudly serves.
- Over the next 10 years, Ontario is investing nearly \$60 billion on major health infrastructure. This is part of the government's plan to get shovels in the ground on more than 50 major hospital projects across the province, which will deliver approximately 3,000 new hospital beds and build a connected, people-first health-care system.
- The Ontario government is investing \$257 million in 2025-26 to support critical infrastructure upgrades and repairs at 126 hospitals and 66 community health-care facilities across the province, a 12.3 per cent increase from the previous year.
- In 2025-26, Geraldton District Hospital will receive \$519,000 through the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund, including \$250,000 in one-time funding as an Exceptional Circumstance Project Grant, to support the critical infrastructure needs of the hospital.

QUOTES

"On behalf of the Municipality of Greenstone, I want to thank the Ontario government for this important investment in the future of health care in our region. The redevelopment of Geraldton District Hospital's first floor is a vital step toward ensuring that families across Greenstone and our Northern communities have access to high-quality, modern care close to home. We are deeply grateful for the province's partnership as we work together to build a stronger, healthier Greenstone for generations to come."

- Jamie McPherson Mayor of Greenstone

"We are thrilled to receive this significant investment from the Ontario government, which will enable us to enhance our facilities and services at Geraldton District Hospital. This redevelopment is not just about bricks and mortar; it's about ensuring the communities that we serve have access to high-quality, timely health care right here at home. We look forward to working closely with our partners to realize this vision for our families and future generations."

- Darryl Galusha CEO, Geraldton District Hospital

"The redevelopment of Geraldton District Hospital is crucial for addressing the health-care needs of our community. This funding will allow us to expand essential programs and services, making health care more accessible and efficient. We appreciate the support from the government and are dedicated to collaborating with all stakeholders to create a healthier future for our community."

- Eric Pietsch Chair of the Board of Directors, Geraldton District Hospital

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Kisselgoff Motorcycle Museum Grand Opening!

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER

Great Outdoors

Thunder Bay has a new, unique attraction with the Kisselgoff Motorcycle Museum!

I asked David Kisselgoff, Founder and **Director Kisselgoff Motorcycle Museum** some questions about this new endeavour.

When did you begin the work on the **Kisselgoff Motorcycle Museum?**

"We started the museum reconstruction about 1 1/2 years ago after buying this



8000 square foot building in the downtown Southward that can hold many bikes and people at one time. We want to make it easy for people to access and easy to preserve the motorcycles. There are 58 on display now as well as memorabilia and art





pieces build from parts. We have military, police, British and race bikes. All the motorcycles have historical importance to the motorcycle world. There are few muse-

ums like this in Canada with the closest in Vancouver and Toronto.

You work as a radiologist at the **Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences** Centre. Why did you decide to do this project?

" At one point of your life you decide to do something which you don't have to and that is exactly the point. I don't have to do it but I like it - motorcycle is my passion. I started to collect and felt it would be really nice to share my passion with other people, to showcase these very interesting machines from an engineering point as well as the history of motorcycling. We can educate our youth which may allow them to come, see, touch and learn. I want to contribute to my community, that's why I did it. The opening of the motorcycle museum allowed me to make my family reunion here and share the happiness with friends and family. It is incredible."



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HSS1332CTD

City Opens Applications for Growth Community Improvement Plan Grants

The City of Thunder Bay has begun accepting applications for the new Growth Community Improvement Plan (GCIP), representing a major step forward in supporting business expansion, job creation, and investment across the city.

Designed to encourage high-impact employment projects in the commercial and industrial sectors, the GCIP offers a suite of financial incentives aimed at boosting capital investment, increasing employment, and strengthening Thunder Bay's tax base.

"The Growth CIP reflects our commitment to working with businesses, developers, and the community to build a stronger Thunder Bay. It is a clear signal to investors and entrepreneurs that Thunder Bay is open for business," said Joel DePeuter, Director of Development Services "With the Growth CIP and our new One-Stop Development Shop, we're ready to help projects move from idea to construction faster than ever before."

Adopted by City Council in June 2025, the Growth CIP is a key action of the Smart Growth Action Plan, the City's proposed 10-year roadmap for sustainable growth. The Plan focuses on expanding the tax base, strengthening the local workforce, and attracting new residents by making Thunder Bay more competitive, resilient, and ready

for growth.

"This sends a strong message to the business community that Thunder Bay is investing in its own success," said Jamie Taylor, CEO of the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC). "The Growth CIP is a powerful tool to attract new business and investment to our community. Thunder Bay needs more projects that create jobs and drive long-term prosperity, and this program helps ensure we remain competitive when companies are deciding where to locate and grow."

The Growth CIP provides grants that complement existing incentive programs, helping

to make building and investing in Thunder Bay more appealing than ever. Eligible projects may include new construction, major expansions, or redevelopment that create jobs and contribute to a more balanced, sustainable local economy.

With the opening of the grants and the launch of the One-Stop Development Shop, Thunder Bay is transforming the way it supports growth, investment, and innovation.

Residents, investors, and business owners can find detailed program information and application forms at www.thunderbay.ca/gcip.



Our work with Indigenous communities goes beyond building infrastructure - we are committed to creating lasting relationships based on respect, trust, and shared success.

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