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NEWS

LACK OF HOUSING MAKES FOR STARK LIVING CONDITIONS

WOMAN FACED HOMELESSNESS BEFORE LUCKING INTO A HOTEL ROOM

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Taeia Montgomery was on the brink of calling her car home when she secured a hotel room. Ariel-Rose Emerson and her family of four called a camper home this summer and now share a one-bedroom apartment with a relative because they can't find an apartment of their own.

What few available rental units there are in the area are expensive, the women said, forcing them into less-than-ideal living accommodations.

"I'm renting a room at (a local hotel) it's not much and it's stupidly expensive," said Montgomery who works as a personal service worker (PSW). "There's

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Ariel-Rose Emerson, her partner and their two young children lived in this small trailer without water or kitchen, in her grandparent's backyard in the summer after they had to return to Parry Sound due to COVID-19. With the cold weather coming, the family will share a one-room apartment with her grandfather.

IMPACTING YOUR COMMUNITY

Sarah Bissonette/TorStar

COMMUNITY

PARRY SOUND HIGH SCHOOL WALKS FOR CHANIE WENJACK

'THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR WHERE KIDS WOULD TRY AND RUN AWAY FROM RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS.'

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Chanie Wenjack was a 12-year-old Anishinaabe child who died of hunger and exposure in 1966 when he ran away from a residential school in Kenora.

The school was 600 kilometres from his home, Ogoki Post on the Marten Falls First Nation.

Staff and students at Parry Sound High School (PSHS) walked 275 kilometres last week to participate and learn from a Walk for Wenjack.

Johna Hupfield, an Indige-



Parry Sound High School students walk for Chanie Wenjack to raise awareness and show compassion for residential school survivors.

Johna Hupfield photo

nous studies and Ojibwe language teacher at the high school, organized the event.

"With the pandemic, the walk seemed so obvious to help educate our school," said Hupfield.

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"Typically, PSHS would do an orange-shirt day talk. The Indigenous studies classes would visit each classroom and do a presentation — not very long but whatever was comfortable... this year, we couldn't do that."

Hupfield said her class was brainstorming ideas and thought it would be cool if everyone took some time to walk for Wenjack and take a moment to think about him.

"Right now, we're walking outside to take a break," said Hupfield. "But let's take time think about all the things we've learned as a school and to think about a 12-year-old trying to make it home."

Chanie Wenjack's story became widely known through the advocacy work of the late Tragically Hip vocalist Gord Downie.

"This is the time of year where kids would try and run away and leave the residential schools," Hupfield said. "Although Chanie had no idea that he was going for 600 kilometres. He thought he was going for as much as he could. So that was what we wanted to leave our classmates and our teachers with."

Staff and students also wore purple for Gord Downie, who died

CRIME

FAILURE TO QUARANTINE LEADS TO \$1,200 FINE

On Nov. 3 members of the Nipissing West Detachment of the OPP responded to a complain of a possible breach of the Quarantine Act in the Municipality of French River (Alban).

In their investigation police learned that a person had returned to Canada on Nov. 1 from Jamaica and the individual was allegedly not abiding by the mandatory two-week quarantine upon returning to the country.

With assistance of the Public Health Agency Canada and Canada Border Services a 67-year-old from Alban was charged with failing to comply with conditions upon entering Canada and was fined \$1,255.

When individuals enter Canada from another country, they are ordered to quarantine for 14 days. A plan outlining the quarantine is first established with Canada Border Services. The OPP will support this process by conducting compliance checks. Individuals are reminded that while under quarantine order, there is no exception to leave the quarantine residence until the 14 days are complete.



NEWS

PARRY SOUND MAN JAILED OVER THREATS TO POLICE AND FAMILY

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For threatening the lives of two Parry Sound police officers and a family tasked with caring for his child, a Parry Sound man was jailed.

The man was found guilty on Oct. 21 of being at large on his recognition and three counts of threatening and sentenced Oct. 28.

In June, the man was found living with his partner despite

both of them having been ordered by the courts to stay apart and he was reported to have threatened the lives of a family he learned would be caring for his child.

Then, in July, while speaking to others, he threatened the lives of two police officers.

In June the child's mother reported to the local Children's Aid Society, the court heard, that the man threatened that if the child was placed with another family that he would "kill everybody ... and take (the child) and run."

Later, the court heard, while

speaking with others, the man threatened to kill the "two police who charged me" for breaching and spoke of committing suicide by forcing police to shoot him.

The Crown asked the court to impose a 14-month jail term, with credit for pre-sentence custody.

"The man's defence argued to the court that a global jail sentence of eight to 12 months was appropriate. The man, defence said, has sought treatment for mental health and alcohol abuse before and wants to continue treatment.

"He holds no ill will against the officers in question," defence said. "In the other half of day he recognizes the officers were just doing their job."

The man said he was ashamed and that he doesn't "wish harm on anyone" and explained that after he found himself homeless in the spring he fell back into his old ways.

In the end, the man was sentenced to 365 days in jail, and given credit for 170 days pre-sentence custody, followed by a two-year probation term.

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