

# Fort Frances Times

SERVING THE RAINY RIVER DISTRICT



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## INSIDE



### 'Felons' wanted for fundraiser

Ever want to put someone you know behind bars and raise money for a good cause at the same time?

The Fort Frances Voyageur Lions are giving you that chance with its annual "Bail or Jail" fundraiser on Saturday, April 28

See story on A6



### Gallery has new member

Kelly Big George is the newest artist at the Fine Line Art Gallery.

While she's always had an interest in drawing, the Barwick resident only really started working with paint and other media recently but quickly has grown into an accomplished artist.

See story on A12



### Tough season for Lakers

It was a tough season for the Fort Frances Lakers—and made even harder with a tough series loss to the Dryden GM Ice Dogs in the SIJHL semi-finals.

See story on B2

## Plans in works for 'Pride Week' here

By Duane Hicks  
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Fort Frances will join other communities in the region, and across Canada, in having its own "Pride Week" this summer.

Borderland Pride has asked council to formally declare the week of July 9-15 as "Pride Week" in the Town of Fort Frances.

Since last summer, Borderland Pride has been engaging with the community through roundtables, networking events, and social media to identify specific needs for Fort Frances and the surrounding area, co-chair Doug Judson wrote in a letter to council.

"We have received significant support and encouragement from area residents, businesses, and public-sector organizations

to hold a 'Pride Week' celebration in the Fort Frances area, with a view to installing it as a new annual celebration for the region," he noted.

"This has been a task that we have been proud to take on, and we will soon be in a position to unveil the programming for Borderland's first-ever 'Pride Week,'" Judson added.

"The event line-up we are preparing will be inclusive, suit-

able for all ages, and open to all members of the community," he pledged.

Celebration plans on July 14 include a flag-raising at the Civic Centre, a pedestrian "Pride" parade, and events at the new Rainy Lake Square here, which already has been reserved for this occasion.

Judson said the primary goal of "Pride Week" is to showcase the community as a welcom-

ing, inclusive environment for LGBTQ2 young people, diverse families, and other individuals from equity-seeking groups.

"This is an important objective for any small community undergoing demographic and economic transition like we are seeing in Fort Frances and the Rainy River District," he stressed.

Please see  
"Plans," A7

## Kenora resident seeking NDP nod

By Duane Hicks  
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Kenora correctional officer Glen Archer put his name forward to vie for the NDP nomination in Kenora-Rainy River riding.

Archer, who filed his nomination papers in mid-February, was approved last week by the party's executive to run.

Now he's making his name known across the riding.

"I've always had an interest in politics and the last several years, I was an executive board member for [the] Ontario Public Sector Employees Union and travelling all throughout our region and working very closely with [current NDP MPP] Sarah Campbell on some issues here," Archer told the Times.

"Our union and the NDP are very closely allied on things like Ontario Hydro, keeping our roads safe, and the lack of [road] servicing we're getting with the private contractor," he added.

"It's a very good fit that way. I would never, ever had thought to step up against Sarah or, before that, Howard Hampton," Archer added. "But with Sarah announcing back in the fall that she would not be seeking re-election, I thought, 'Well, this is perfect. It's not going to be an infighting thing, it's not going to be setting up camps politically or anything like that.'

"I just thought the timing was perfect," he reiterated.

Archer also received a call from an NDP organizer asking him if he would run.

"I thought, 'You know what? If you've got the party asking for you, as well, the timing is right,'" he reasoned.

It's not known if any other candidates are seeking the NDP nomination in Kenora-Rainy River for the upcoming provincial election in June.

Local resident Matt Soprovich had announced his intention to seek the nod several weeks ago but revealed yesterday he was disqualified by the party brass in Toronto, citing "historical content on [his] personal social media feeds."

Please see  
"Kenora," A7



### 'Magic of Motown'

Angelina Spuzak, left, Cara Eluik, and Paige Happy were among the students who performed the Jackson Five's "I Want You Back" last Thursday evening during the "Magic of Motown," Dancemakers School of

Dance's annual spring dance recital. Friends and families packed the theatre for the roughly 90-minute show that featured 26 numbers in all. See more photos on page A5.

—Duane Hicks photo



### 'A Netflix Night'

Mackinnley McCormick, Marley Wroldstad, Mya McFarling, Emma Rea Pattison, and Bria McFarling were all birds of a feather while holding hands in performing to the "Rio" movie theme during the Border

Skating Club's annual ice show, this year entitled "A Netflix Night," held Saturday night and again Sunday afternoon at the Ice For Kids Arena. See more photos on page B1.

—Jamie Mountain photo

## Railway taxes up

By Duane Hicks  
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The town will be getting more money from railway right-of-way property taxation this year—and will be asking the province to get an even higher rate if possible.

In a report from town treasurer Laurie Lindberg that council received at its regular meeting Monday night, she said the province announced March 28 that it will further reduce rate inequities by increasing the lowest property tax rates on mainline railway rights-of-way to a minimum of \$110 per acre for 2018.

This will equal about \$11,300 in railway taxes for the town.

In 2016, the municipal rate was \$35 per acre (equal to \$3,600 in railway taxes) but it was increased to \$80 per acre for 2017, which bumped up the amount to more than \$8,200.

Please see  
"Railway," A7

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