

THE SHUNIAH NEWS

Shuniah, Ontario



A Superior Living Experience

Volume Thirteen, Issue Two

March 2023



The Screen for Life Coach is Visiting You Soon!

Mobile Screening for Breast, Cervical and Colorectal Cancer

- Breast cancer screening for women 50 to 74 years of age.
- Cervical cancer screening for women 21 to 69 years of age.
- Colon cancer screening for men and women 50 to 74 years of age.

MacGregor Recreation Centre

(800 Lakeshore Drive)

March 5, 2023

Call to book your appointment

(807) 684-7777

www.tbrhsc.net/screenforlife



Screen for Life



Caretaker

and

Summer Camp Counsellors

See page 2 for Employment Ads!

We Are
HIRING!



The rink has been well used this season!



Val Wesselius working on her cow collage in Jeanne Marler's art class, February 1st.



The girl guides ready to serve their guests at the Girl Guide Tea Party Story and pictures on page 7!



Mustangs Snowshoe!
See more McKenzie fun on page 6!



SHUNIAH DAY CAMP WE ARE HIRING CAMP COUNSELLORS SUMMER OF 2023

EMAIL RESUME TO
DAYCAMP@SHUNIAH.ORG

A camp counsellor at Shuniah Day Camp will be responsible for the well-being and safety of children ages 6-13 while supervising and facilitating activities under the direction of the Camp Director. This is a full-time position running from June 26 - August 23.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Supervise, participate and encourage campers of various ages in camp programming
- Work cooperatively with other Camp Counsellors to provide a safe and welcoming environment for campers
- Monitor camper behaviour to ensure their safety and that camp regulations are followed
- Model good behaviour for campers as it relates to sportsmanship, manners and respectfulness
- Assist in craft preparation, cleaning and other tasks needed
- Cleaning, maintaining and ensuring proper use of camp facilities and equipment

QUALIFICATIONS

- Post-secondary education in a related field
- Experience or education in working with children ages 6-13
- Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sectors Search
- Minimum Standard First Aid/CPR-C (asset)
- Lifeguard certification**
- Energetic and engaging personality
- Able to work individually and collaboratively
- Strong communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills

**Lifeguard certification is highly desired but not mandatory



Email DAYCAMP@SHUNIAH.ORG
Deadline to submit resumes: May 5, 2023

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Mayor Wendy Landry
807 626-6686
wlandry@shuniah.org

Councillor Donna Blunt
807 983-2129
dblunt@shuniah.org

Councillor Ron Giardetti
807 983-2051
807 627-7115
rgiardetti@shuniah.org

Councillor Don Smith
807 621-1904
dsmith@shuniah.org

Councillor Meghan Chomut
807 983-3399
mchomut@shuniah.org

REMINDER

Invoices received at the Shuniah Landfill sites must be paid at the Municipal office within 15 days of receiving invoice.

The Municipal office is located at 420 Leslie Ave.

Landfill Winter Hours - Effective November 1

MacGregor Landfill
Wednesdays 8:30am-
4:30pm
Sat/Sun 9:00am-5:00pm



McTavish Landfill
Wednesdays 10:00am – 6:00pm
Sat/Sun 9:00am – 5:00pm



Municipality of Shuniah EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Caretaker Employee (part-time: 21hrs/week)

The Municipality of Shuniah is seeking applications for a Caretaker Employee. The successful applicant will provide basic maintenance and general upkeep of the MacGregor Recreation Centre.

Duties will include:

- Cleaning of buildings including washrooms and kitchen area.
- Ensure washrooms are adequately stocked with supplies.
- Setting up/taking down tables and chairs for events.
- Opening and closing of the facility, as required.
- Perform minor repairs and routine maintenance when necessary.
- Snow removal from all entry ways and skating rink including salt/sand application.
- Emptying of garbage cans and other waste containers.
- Both weekday, weekend work and occasional evenings, based on hall booking schedule.
- Perform additional duties as directed by the Manager of Operations.

This position requires the associated strength and mobility to complete the maintenance duties noted.

We appreciate the interest of all applicants; however only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Interested persons may submit their resumes by mail or in person to the address identified below indicating the position being applied for by **2:00 p.m. March 17, 2023, to:**

Craig Baumann Manager of Operations Municipality of Shuniah 420 Leslie Avenue Thunder Bay, ON. P7A 1X8

The foregoing represents a reasonable statement of the requirements of this position. Information collected will be used in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the purpose of job selection. The Municipality of Shuniah is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodations are available for all parts of the recruitment process in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

2023 Interim Property Tax Notice

Shuniah's 2023 interim property tax bill will be mailed out the end of January. You should have received it in the mail the first week of February 2023. Payments were due Friday, February 24, 2023, as well as Friday, April 28, 2023.

Payments can be made online or at the Municipal Office.

Shuniah Dog Tags 2023 Dog Tags are required. Available for purchase at the Municipal Office.



SHUNIAH NUMBERS

EMERGENCY911
Non Emergency Administration983-2021
Public Works and Roads983-2550
Municipal Office683-4545
Toll-free: 1-855-683-4545
OPP1 888 310-1122
MNR.....1 888 310-(Fire) 3473
CBO.....620-3709

MUNICIPAL OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATION

Located at 420 Leslie Avenue, Thunder Bay
Monday to Friday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
May long weekend to September long weekend
– Friday Hours 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

2023 Budget and Property Taxes

Submitted by Paul Greenwood, CAO

The Council of the Municipality of Shuniah has ratified the municipal budget for 2023 which sets out the new tax rates and provides the approval to move forward with operating services and capital projects for the coming year. In these times of significant inflation and rising interest rates, our goal was to minimize the impact of property tax increases while ensuring that Municipal services are properly funded. The Municipality also needs to forecast for future commitments by preparing a multi-year budget that focuses on sustainability and includes reserves for infrastructure and potential fluctuations in operating expenditures. Administration published the Draft Budget on the Shuniah website on December 22nd that included a detailed line-by-line budget, draft budget memo, a 10-year summary of revenues, expenses and reserves, 10-year capital budgets for both Fire and Roads and a memo from Public Works on 2023 projects for roads, bridges, recreation centre and waste disposal sites. All of these reports are still accessible by visiting our website at shuniah.org, select 'Agendas and Minutes' and select the Jan 10th Special Budget meeting in the calendar. Council passed by-law 3281-23 on January 31st to adopt the 2023 budget and rates of taxation.

The 2023 Shuniah Budget includes a 3.41% tax levy increase.

While the total 2023 levy increase is 3.41%, we attribute approximately 0.5% to growth in new property assessment (new construction) within Shuniah. **The net increase to the Municipal Levy (after growth) if comparing to other Municipalities is approximately 2.91%.**

Overall, the 2023 municipal tax levy of \$5.4 million represents an increase of \$178,000 over 2022. The tax levy is the total amount needed from property taxpayers to fund municipal services and contribute to capital programs. It is important to note that the levy increase of \$178,000 for the year 2023 is independent of the increase in property values. If the property values, assessed and provided from MPAC, in-

crease by 1% or 15%, Council will only set a tax rate to collect the needed \$178,000.

The property taxes on every \$100,000 of assessment will be \$803 in 2023 compared to \$790 in 2022. Example, the property taxes on a property in Shuniah with a MPAC assessed value of \$370,000 will be \$2,971 in 2023 compared to \$2,923 in 2022 (this includes both municipal and education taxes).

Municipal council meetings are accessible to the public both virtually and in-person. Budget documents and presentations are available on our website and during the year administration submits reports to Council on variances in expenditures and revenues from budget. **RE-MINDER:** It's easy to subscribe and receive email notifications of upcoming Council meeting agendas and minutes, Special Meetings, Police Service Board Meetings, Committee of Adjustment meetings and bi-monthly publications of your Shuniah News.

Impact of changes to property assessment values:

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is responsible for determining the assessed values of all properties in the Province of Ontario with a province-wide assessment update every four years. The last province-wide assessment update took place in 2016, based on a January 1, 2016, valuation date. Property values were then increased (phased-in) over a 4-year period from 2017 to 2020. Due to COVID, MPAC has postponed the 2020 Assessment Update. Property assessments for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 taxation years will be at a comparable value for 2020 unless there is new construction, renovations or reassessments on individual properties.

For additional information on how MPAC assesses your property, view your property details, compare properties in your neighbourhood and file a Request for Reconsideration (including deadlines) go to www.mpac.ca and click on AboutMyProperty.

Shuniah Fire & Emergency Services Refrigerator Fire Safety

from Fire Chief Blair Arthur

Refrigerators are an essential appliance in most homes and businesses. However, they can also be a potential fire hazard if they are not properly maintained. Here are some fire safety messages regarding refrigerator maintenance to prevent fires:

1. Regularly clean the coils: The coils at the back of your refrigerator collect dust and debris over time, which can cause the compressor to overheat and potentially start a fire. Clean the coils at least once every six months to keep them clear of debris.
2. Avoid overloading the refrigerator: Overloading your fridge with too many items can obstruct airflow and cause the compressor to work harder than it needs to. This can lead to overheating and a potential fire hazard. Make sure to organize your fridge and avoid overcrowding it.
3. Check the electrical cord: Check the electrical cord regularly for any signs of wear and tear, including frayed wires or damaged insulation. If you notice any issues, replace the cord immediately.
4. Keep the area around the refrigerator clear: Keep flammable items such as paper, cloth, or cleaning supplies away from the refrigerator. This will prevent any accidental ignition from a nearby heat source.
5. Hire a professional for repairs: If your refrigerator is not working properly, hire a professional to repair it. Attempting to fix it yourself could potentially damage the appliance or create a fire hazard.



By following these fire safety messages and properly maintaining your refrigerator, you can help prevent fires in your home or workplace, and working Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms will save your life.

Shuniah's First Student Councillor

submitted by Kerry Bellamy, Clerk



I am excited to announce, on January 31, 2023, Olivia Kembel was sworn in as Shuniah's first Student Councillor. Olivia's term on Council will continue until June, 2023. Council of the Municipality of Shuniah approved a policy on December 12, 2022, to offer an opportunity for one student to participate at Council meetings.

Olivia Kembel is a resident of Shuniah and has been an active member of her school and community for much of her youth. As a member of the Youth Action Council at the Thunder Bay Public Li-

brary, a Student Senate Member of the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board and a Student Activity Council Member at her High School, Olivia is looking forward to learning more about our municipality's by-laws and council procedures.

Olivia is looking forward to her role on Council to provide her a voice for the youth in the community, for the opportunity to make a difference in the community and for the chance to inspire other youth in the community to be leaders, to get involved and be the change they want to see.

We welcome Olivia to Council and are looking forward to working with her for the remainder of her term on Council.



MacGregor Rec Centre Fitness Boxfit-see page 5 for details!

What is Happening at MacGregor Recreation Centre?

800 Lakeshore Drive - More information call 344-1908 email kathmaun@tbaytel.net

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
YOGA 10AM	FAMILY MUSIC 11AM	WELLNESS WEIGHT TRAIN 10AM		BALANCE, CORE & MORE 9:15AM
FUNCTIONAL FITNESS 2:30PM	SHUFFLEBOARD 1PM	PAINTING CLASS 1:30PM	FUNCTIONAL FITNESS 2:30PM	
BOXING 5:15PM	YOGA 5:30PM		BOXING 5:15PM	
GIRL GUIDES 6:30PM	JUDO 7PM	YOUTH GROUP 6PM	JUDO 7PM	YOUTH GROUP 6PM

Follow MacGregor Rec Centre on Facebook to always know what is going on!

THE MACGREGOR REC CENTRE'S GOAL IS TO PROVIDE THE FACILITY AND SUPPORT TO PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS, ENABLING THEM TO OFFER CLASSES IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT WITH COVID PRECAUTIONS IN PLACE.



Making Ice Cream!

MORNING YOGA with Art

Mondays 10-11am

\$175 for 12 class punch card or \$18 single class

www.artofyoga.ca to sign up, or contact Art: 707-7374

All levels of yoga welcome! Perfect way to start your week! Varying styles of yoga, but generally a Hatha style class. Yoga is for all bodies, so come on out and find some mindfulness! Please contact Art with any questions or to sign up. Namaste.

FUNCTIONAL FITNESS with Lynda

Mondays and Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm

\$40/Month

Whether you have remained active your entire life or are just beginning to get active this class is for you! In a fun group format, you can expect a variety of exercises intended to improve your MOBILITY, boost your BALANCE, increase your STRENGTH, and improve your CARDIO! Emphasis will be on supporting all elements essential to strong, healthy, and active aging. Suitable for all levels.

Contact Lynda at tbk@tbaytel.net or text or call 632-8282 to register.



SHUNIAH DAY CAMP SUMMER OF 2023



Are you ready for an exciting fun-filled summer?

July 4 - August 18

8AM-5PM

AGES 6-13

MACGREGOR REC CENTRE & WILD GOOSE BEACH

Email daycamp@shuniah.org to receive updates on upcoming registration information!

See Youth Group Bingo Night picture on page 9!

SWEATCLUB FITNESS BOXFIT with Jacquie

Mondays and Thursdays 5:15-6:15pm

\$10 drop in

All fitness levels welcome! Personal trainer Jacquie Kennedy has been instructing Boxfit classes for over 7 years and has a modification for every issue you might have. In this class you can start at low intensity and work your way up to a high intensity work out. Jacquie is a personal trainer, and body building specialist who is also available for private and semi-private sessions, alone or with a group of your friends or family.

Contact Jacquie at 807-629-1815 to register and for more information.

FIRST SHUNIAH GIRL GUIDES, EMBERS AND SPARKS

Mondays 6:30 start time

Contact Martha for details - mdowsley@lakeheadu.ca

GROWING WITH MUSIK FAMILY MUSIC

Tuesdays 11:00-11:30am

\$80 for 8-week session

Join our family based musical play class which provides an outlet for your child's creativity, expression and builds the natural connection between movement and music. Children and caregivers develop a musical bond as they sing, dance, listen, move and play rhythm instruments. Our little musicians will develop a sense of beat, coordination and the foundation for musical thought while they have fun cooperating with others. Please bring a yoga mat to sit on.

Please register at musikgarten.org/growingwithmusik or call Karen Kent BA, BEd, Musikgarten trained teacher 807-355-5520

EVENING YOGA with Lynne

Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 pm

March 7th - 28th (4 week block \$45)

April 4th - 25th (4 week block \$45)

Drop-in class \$15

Please bring your own mat and a blanket. Pre-registration is required.

Everyone is welcome, suitable for all levels. We will explore the restorative nature of yoga and the mindfulness of the practice through postures, breathing techniques and guided relaxation. Paying attention to our bodies and breath through yoga is a wonderful practice to support overall health and wellbeing. The many benefits of yoga include increased strength, mobility and balance, improved posture and body awareness, and an antidote to help mitigate stress and improve sleep. If you have any questions and to pre-register, please email roblynn@tbaytel.net or message me at (807) 633-0183 Lynn Kallies Instructor

SAKAMOTO JUDO

Tuesday and Thursday 7-8:15pm

Parents are encouraged to join their kids on the mats to help coach them (no experience necessary).

Our instructors are volunteers, but they have administrative expenses. Instructional fee to cover club expenses.

Judoka (judo players) must purchase a uniform (called a 'gi') and also register with Judo Ontario (judoontario.ca) Judo Ontario registration is required for all Judo Ontario activities (eg. Judo clinics, competitions inside and outside Canada, etc.) Come out and try an evening for free! Kids, teens and adults, men and women welcome!

Contact Martha Dowsley: mdowsley@lakeheadu.ca or come by the class to register.

SHUFFLEBOARD LEAGUE

Tuesdays 1:00-3:00pm

Beginners welcome! The disks and cues are ready! Come out and meet your neighbours by joining us for a weekly fun tournament. Coffee is always on! Please contact Ron to register at rgiardetti@shuniah.org

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY WEIGHT TRAINING with Danielle

Wednesdays 10-11am

\$12 drop in or \$75 for 8 weeks

Sore back, tight hips, limited mobility, aches, weakness, or

whatever it might be - we can help you move better and feel well & strong! This class combines mobility and strength exercises for the whole-body using resistance bands and weights. All levels welcome! Bring your own yoga mat (if you have) and a good attitude... the rest will be provided! Led by Kinesiologist and Certified Personal Trainer - Danielle Dubeau. For more info or to register, call/text 807-707-0876, or email: Danielle@strongmomcoaching.ca

SHUNIAH ART GROUP

Wednesdays 1:30-4:30 pm

\$25 registration and \$15/class attended

Painting classes: Acrylic and Oil.

One on one instruction is what makes this class special. All levels are welcome! Beginner to advanced students are tutored at their own pace. To register and receive a materials list, contact Jeanne Marler at jeanne@jeannemarler.com or 807-631-7856

BALANCE, CORE & MORE with Danielle

Fridays 9:15 - 10:15am

\$12 drop in / \$70 for 8 weeks

Neither heavy, nor fast, but you will work! If you have trouble moving to or from the floor, or if you just want to strengthen your core - this gentle group workout is for you! Each session will include stretching, core work and gentle strengthening exercises appropriate for all levels. Bring an exercise mat. No equipment needed! You are sure to walk away moving more freely and feeling great! For info or to register please call/text Danielle: 807.707.0876 or email: Danielle@strongmomcoaching.ca.

SHUNIAH YOUTH GROUP

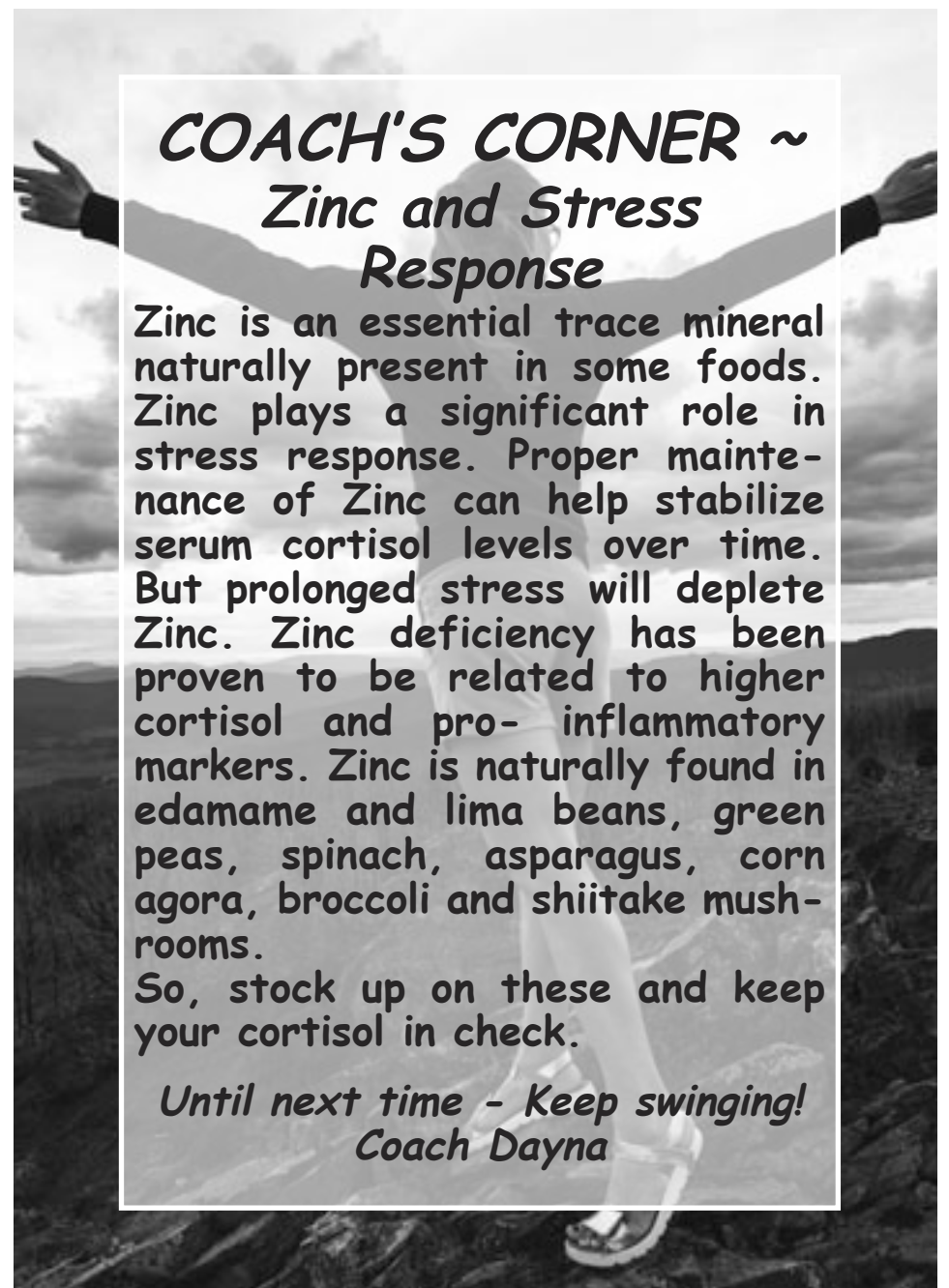
Wednesdays and Fridays @ 6pm

Drop in activities for youth grade three and up (Kids must sign in and out of centre)

Younger children welcome to participate in activities with parental supervision.

The Youth Program offers fun organized activities to participate in- including basketball nets, skating rink, sports nights, dances, bingo, ping-pong and a great place to hang out and meet friends!

Follow us on Facebook at "MacGregor Rec Centre" to find out what the nightly activities will be.



COACH'S CORNER ~ Zinc and Stress Response

Zinc is an essential trace mineral naturally present in some foods. Zinc plays a significant role in stress response. Proper maintenance of Zinc can help stabilize serum cortisol levels over time. But prolonged stress will deplete Zinc. Zinc deficiency has been proven to be related to higher cortisol and pro-inflammatory markers. Zinc is naturally found in edamame and lima beans, green peas, spinach, asparagus, corn, agora, broccoli and shiitake mushrooms.

So, stock up on these and keep your cortisol in check.

*Until next time - Keep swinging!
Coach Dayna*



News from McKenzie School

by Casey Charles,
Vice-Principal, McKenzie School

It has been a busy few months here at McKenzie school. The cold weather has not stopped our outdoor education. We have been spending time outdoors, learning, sliding and snowshoeing. Everyone is looking forward to spring, and using our outdoor learning spaces even more!

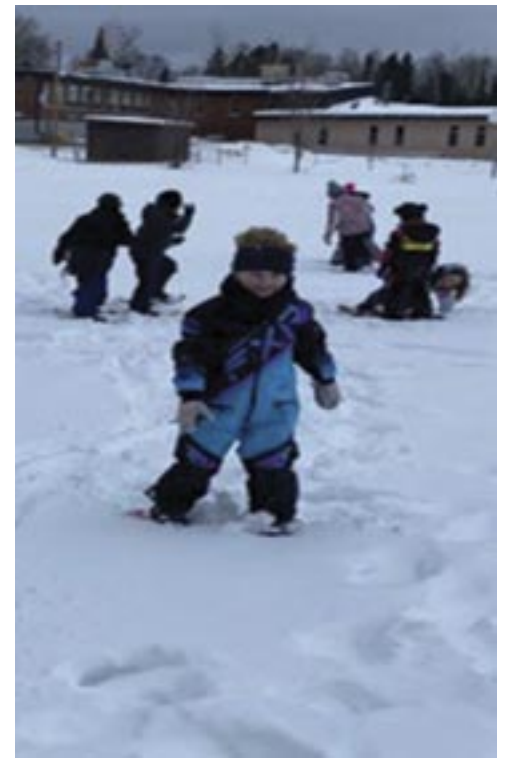
A huge thank you to both the Northern Fruits and Vegetables Program, as well as the Red Cross, for providing food for our students, in both our breakfast and snack programs. This ensures that all of our students have healthy snack options during the day, and that everyone is well fed and ready to learn.

Do you know anyone in our Shuniah area with a child turning 4 in 2023? If so, let them know the time is now to register for school! Though we have had our official registration nights, you are still able to register your child directly from the Lakehead Public Schools web-page. If you have any questions or concerns for us, please do not hesitate to call the school directly. Spread the word throughout our community – our school is growing, and we would love to see that continue.

We look forward to continually working and learning with all of our Shuniah community over the rest of the year, and thank you for your ongoing support. Go Mustangs!



Mustangs on the GO!



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Girl Guides Host Wonderful Tea for Seniors in Shuniah

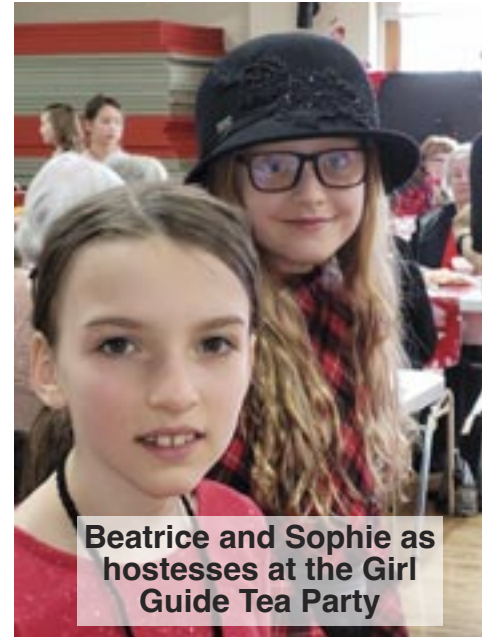
by Martha Dowsley

As part of their community service projects for the year, the First Shuniah Girl Guides hosted a Valentine's Tea for Seniors at MacGregor Rec Centre. The preparations started early in January with cookie decorating lessons and discussions of decorations and entertainment. Sandwiches and treats were created with lots of help from wonderful adult volunteers, and the girls formed committees to prepare each aspect of the party. Both guests and girls were encouraged to dress up and the girls made lovely table decorations and decorated the hall. The girls also invited some special friends, especially grandparents. In total we had about 50 guests! The girls either worked as hostesses or provided entertainment. This allowed each girl to select a task best suited to her character and skills. The entertainment in-

cluded a bingo game, prize draw, stand-up comedy, dancing and, to the surprise of many, martial arts! We had both judo and taekwondo experts amongst our girl guides and they were able to show off some moves for our guests. It was a delightful surprise for many of the seniors to see these girls in their lovely dresses suddenly start kicking targets and throwing people. Modern girl guides are certainly diverse in their talents! Entrance to the Tea Party was free, but we collected about 40 lbs of food for the Regional Food Distribution Network. All the girls (and leaders!) learned a lot from the experience. We hope the girls all practiced their manners and serving skills. We had a wonderful time with our guests and thank them all for coming to celebrate Valentine's Day with us! We hope to have another tea party in the future!



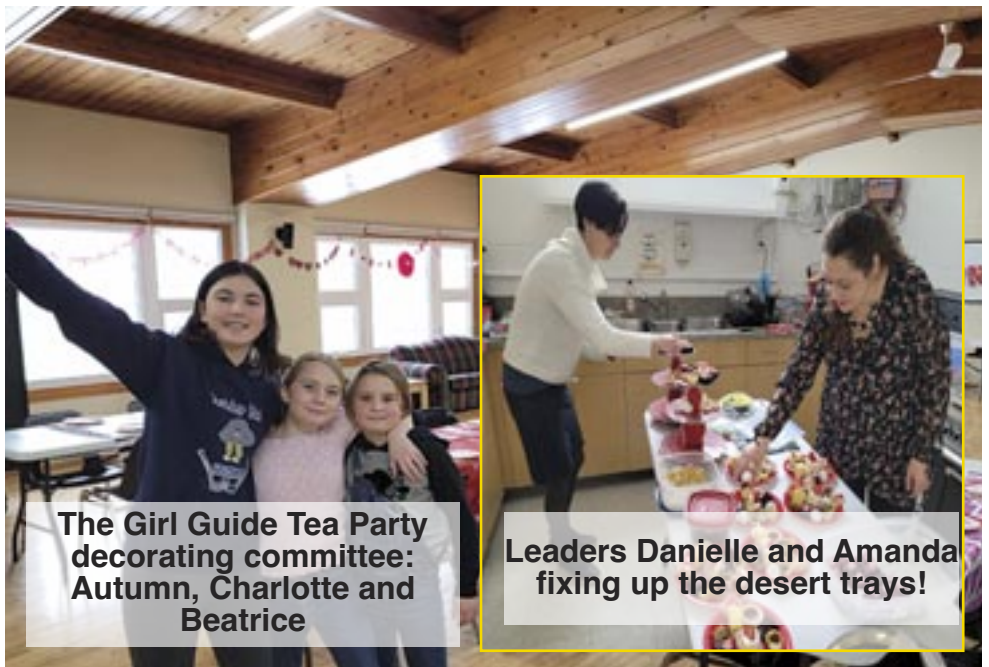
Megan teaching the art of cookie decorating to the Girl Guides



Beatrice and Sophie as hostesses at the Girl Guide Tea Party



Girl Guide Tea Party Guests enjoying the entertainment



The Girl Guide Tea Party decorating committee: Autumn, Charlotte and Beatrice

Leaders Danielle and Amanda fixing up the desert trays!



Ellia and Evelyn taking a well-deserved break from hosting to watch the entertainment!



The Girl Guides ready to host the tea party



Girl Guide Tea Party Masters of Ceremony Beatrice, Bronwyn and Autumn



Corinne and Jaxyn as hostesses at the Girl Guide Tea Party

WAKEFIELD OIL CHANGE PLUS 311 CUMBERLAND ST. N **807-345-1121** www.wakefieldoilcheck.com



Content guests at the Girl Guide Tea Party

Shuniah Judo is having a Flying Fun Time!

The Judo club started the new year with a party (postponed until January by December weather) and welcomed some new recruits and some new friends who might join in the future. All the families enjoyed pizza and treats.

This winter we are working on our yellow belt moves including foot sweeps and hip throws. The club is also working on more advanced tumbling skills including cartwheels and round-offs in combination with breakfalls. We just started doing flying front roll breakfalls over two people lying down (see pictures). We plan to develop this skill further with longer jumps over more people and over kneeling people as well.

Judo is a fun sport that improves coordination and cooperation amongst teammates. We don't try to hurt each other, because if you break your toys, you've got nothing left to play with! We have a great time with lots of games and physical training as well as technical training.

We are always open to new members, young (age 7 and up) or old who want to come and watch or participate with us on the mats. Practice is Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 8:15 at MacGregor Rec.



Charlotte doing a headstand at judo!



Shuniah Judo kids with the picture of the founder of Judo, Jigoro Kano!



Judo-inspired cake at our winter party

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CALL FOR APPOINTMENTS
(807)628 6042
Isabelle Fournier
(C.R.H.T) Nat. Health. Prac.
30yrs of experience



*Thanks to Nancy Coulter for these amazing shots of ice volcanoes!
Will the Big Lake EVER cease to amaze us!?!?*



Rail to Trail Survey



Shuniah Rail Trail Public Survey
<https://forms.gle/Yvde2roQ1pknc5>

PUBLIC PERSPECTIVE QUESTIONNAIRE

My name is Kaitlyn Stuart and I am an Honours student in the Geography program at Lakehead University. For my thesis study I am exploring 'rail to trail' ideas, both locally and in other municipalities, and would like to invite you to express your interests, concerns, and thoughts about the potential conversion of the decommissioned Kinghorn Line that runs along Lake Superior, into a recreational trail. Please scan the barcode or click the link above to access the questionnaire and study information. Thank you for your participation!
 For further information please contact Kaitlyn Stuart (Thesis Student) - ksshuart@lakeheadu.ca
 Martha Dowsley (Project Advisor) mdowsley@lakeheadu.ca

Rail to Trail Study: The Proposed Conversion of the CN Kinghorn Line, Shuniah.

Participate in a public perspective questionnaire to express your interest, concerns, and thoughts about converting the decommissioned Kinghorn line into a recreational trail.



The existing decommissioned CN Kinghorn railway line runs approximately 64km through Shuniah Municipality. The line runs parallel to Lakeshore Drive, along the Lake Superior shoreline. Currently the railbed is private property, owned and monitored by the CN. A Rail-to-Trail project highlights the potential for the purchase and conversion of the decommissioned Kinghorn railway into a multi-use, four-season, recreational trail.

Additional information about potentially converting the railbed can be found in the Municipality of Shuniah Parks, Recreation and Facilities Master Plan 2018

Current research of the potential conversion of the railway is being conducted by a thesis student from Lakehead University. The project is seeking to gain community engagement and to understand the public's perceived costs and benefits, and the desired uses of such a trail. This study is independent from the Municipality of Shuniah and is intended for academic purposes.

To participate in the study please follow the link below, or scan the barcode with your digital device:
[Shuniah Rail Trail Public Survey](https://forms.gle/Yvde2roQ1pknc5)

For additional information please contact by email Kaitlyn Stuart (Thesis Student) - ksshuart@lakeheadu.ca, Martha Dowsley (Project Advisor) - mdowsley@lakeheadu.ca.



Youth Group Bingo Night!



Some happy girl guides and guests at the Girl Guide Tea Party

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Deadline for May's Shuniah News: April 16!
Send your info to designhouse@tbaytel.net

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submitted by LRCA Staff

Since December 1974, LRCA staff have conducted snow surveys in the following three locations: McVicar Creek (Blanchard Street), Pennock Creek (Vibert Road), and Current River (Hazelwood Lake). Snow depth and equivalent water content were near/slightly above average compared to the historical averages for February 15th. Average snow depth was 4% above average (between 40 to 57 centimetres), and average equivalent water content was 24% above average (between 104 to 137 millimetres). Lake Superior's beginning of February level was 19 centimetres above its period-of-record (1918-2021) average, and 31 centimetres above the February 2022 level.

Please note that the 2023 Tree Seedling Program has been cancelled. The LRCA and Hill's Greenhouses look forward to returning in 2024.

Believe it or not, but spring is fast approaching, which means that ice conditions will start becoming more unstable. This is a reminder to exercise caution around waterways. The LRCA does not monitor ice conditions in our Conservation Areas; if you plan to go out on the ice, proceed with caution and at your own risk.

Also, be sure to wear appropriate footwear while visiting Conservation Areas. The LRCA does not maintain trails during the winter, so conditions may range from deep snow to ice-covered to muddy and wet. With nicer weather on the horizon, visitation to Conservation Areas is going to increase, so we would like to remind visitors to use caution, as natural trails may be uneven and slippery. It's always a good idea to

prepare for how the weather may affect your visit. Be sure to advise others of how long you expect to be in the area, and you should be aware of possible encounters with wildlife. Conservation Areas operate from dawn until dusk. Pets must be on-leash at all times. Alcohol is prohibited in Conservation Areas. Campfires and overnight camping is also prohibited. Trails are for recreational use only; no bicycles, motorized vehicles, etc. Harvesting of any kind is prohibited. Visitors must adhere to all Conservation Area Rules & Regulations. These regulations are in place to ensure that all visitors to Conservation Areas can enjoy them in a safe, sustainable manner. Thank you for your cooperation, and have fun exploring!

Be sure to Follow, Like and Share the LRCA on social media. Our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages endeavor to effectively communicate with residents of the Lakehead Watershed. We share flood messages, up-to-date events information, interesting facts and gorgeous photography with our followers, and we would love it if you would join in on the conversation. We will also be posting information regarding upcoming workshops and events.

The 2023 Explore Card Parking Pass is available now for \$40.00 +HST. Forgo the \$5.00 per vehicle parking fee/day use fee with an Explore Card. They are valid for one calendar year at all seasonal and year-round Conservation Areas! Visit us at 130 Conservation Road or order online at www.store.lakeheadca.com.

Get out and Explore!



McKenzie School Fun!

Ontario Growing Agri-Food Sector in the North Provincial investment will boost northern economy and food security

SUDBURY – The Ontario government is providing more than \$1.8 million through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) to 10 agri-food projects in the North. This investment will boost local food production, create jobs and stimulate expansion and diversification in the northern agri-food sector.

“The agri-food industry continues to have a crucial role in supporting the health and prosperity of our northern communities,” said Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development. “Our government is committed to expanding access to fresh, locally-produced food, and we are proud to help agri-food businesses become a cornerstone of the Northern Ontario economy.”

NOHFC funding will go to the following projects:

- \$645,400 for Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Association to install tile drainage on 1,168 acres, which will increase arable land and crop yields
- \$395,400 for Don Poulin Potatoes Inc. to boost their packing capacity, storage space and efficiency to meet the current market demand, help small farmers by providing warehouse access and supply larger markets in Sudbury
- \$200,000 for Marquee Farms to build a 3,200 sq. ft.- controlled environment agriculture facility in Sundridge and buy equipment to grow herbs and leafy greens sustainably year-round that will help address local demand and improve food safety, security and autonomy
- \$200,000 for Martin Agri Services to provide leading-edge equipment and field services currently unavailable on Manitoulin Island and improve on-farm production, efficiency and crop yield, while reducing the carbon footprint of the local agriculture sector
- \$193,638 to Borderlands Farm in Neebing to build the only wool mill of its kind in the North, construct a storage building and buy equipment to produce fresh lamb, wool products and garlic year-round
- \$131,130 to Milford Bay Trout Farm Inc. to build a new processing facility in Parry Sound, with equipment that will increase production capacity to meet high demand, supply new markets and develop unique smoked trout products
- \$30,130 for Lely Center Temiskaming – a robotic farming equipment retailer – to build their own facility and workshop for parts and repairs
- \$20,082 for Sweet North Bakery in Thunder Bay to expand production capacity by purchasing new equipment and renovating a newly leased property
- \$15,000 for Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) to support the Northern Ontario Ag Conference 2023 in Sudbury
- \$11,709 for Eat The Fish – a wild-caught fish processor in Shuniah – for new equipment and interior upgrades that will expand efficiency and processing volume through automation.

opportunities to bring agriculture back as an economic driver as well,” said Lisa Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. “Strategic investments such as these will help the agri-food sector strengthen its roots in the North. This is just one of many actions our government has taken to expand our sector's opportunities to grow, innovate and find new markets.”

The NOHFC promotes economic prosperity across Northern Ontario by providing financial assistance to projects—big and small, rural and urban—that stimulate growth, job creation and skills development. Since June 2018, the NOHFC has invested more than \$608 million in 5,070 projects in Northern Ontario, leveraging more than \$1.93 billion in investment and creating or sustaining over 8,100 jobs.

Quick Facts

- In 2021, the Ontario government launched new and improved NOHFC programs that support more projects in rural northern communities and make it easier for more people and businesses to apply. The programs target existing and emerging markets, provide more work opportunities for Indigenous people and address the skilled labour shortage in the North.

Additional Resources

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

Quotes

“With NOHFC's support, we can purchase the equipment and supplies needed to improve the viability and efficiency of our farm and launch a new wool venture that will enhance our sheep operation and provide a service to other farmers and producers in Northwestern Ontario who currently have to ship their fibre out of the region for processing,” said Bryan Barlow of Borderlands Farm. “This initiative is only possible because of NOHFC's funding, and we are grateful for their support to date.”

“NOHFC's support is helping us purchase specialized equipment that will increase fish processing efficiency, refrigeration capacity, raw material utilization and fish processing volume,” said Paul Drombolis, Owner of Eat the Fish. “The automation of filleting operations will also allow more fish to be purchased from regional harvesters, which will improve our competitiveness, create jobs in processing and improve consumer access to regionally sourced wild fish.”

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“Northern Ontario's economy has benefitted mining and forestry and we are proactively seeking out op-

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