

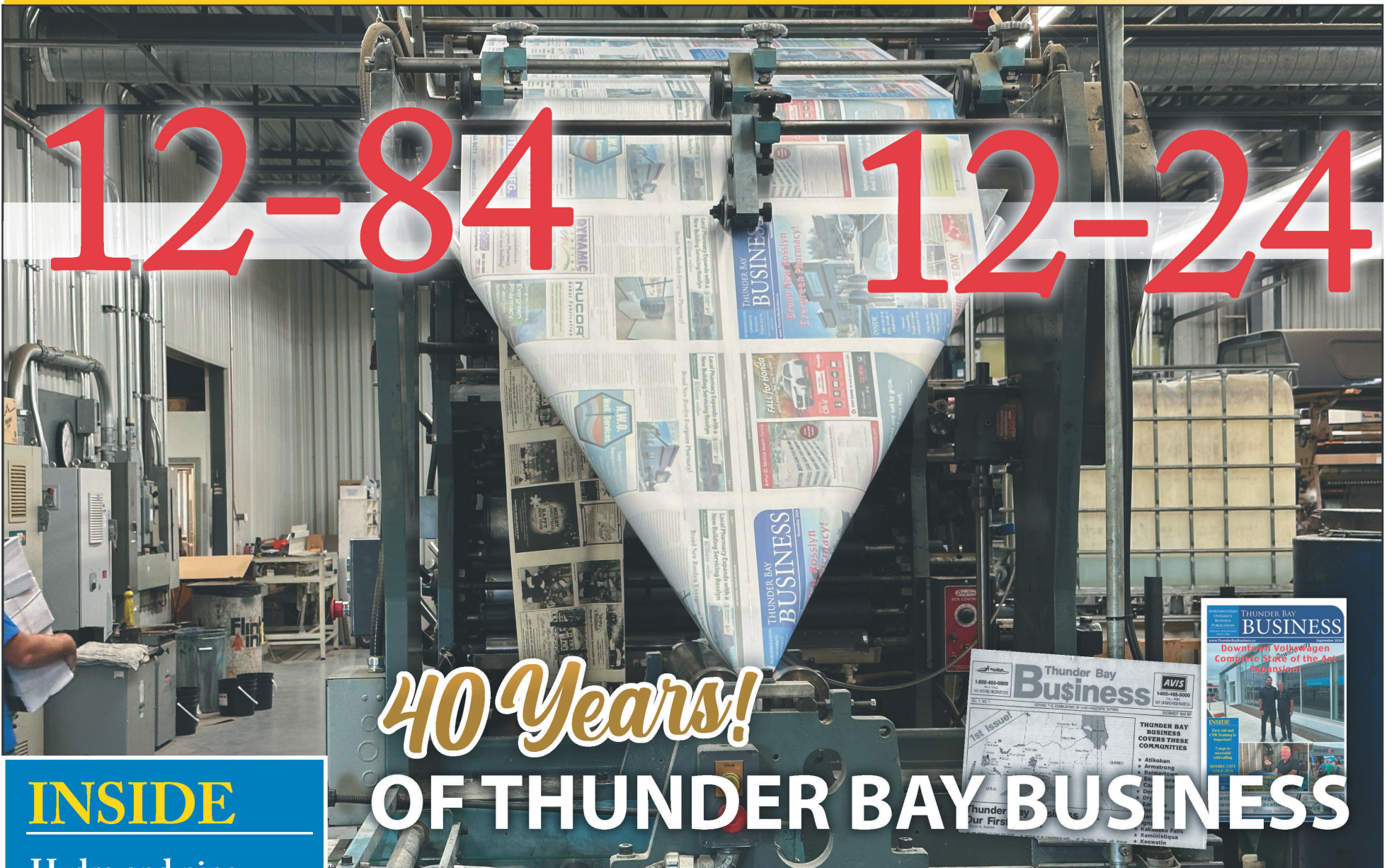
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December 2024



*40 Years!*

OF THUNDER BAY BUSINESS

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 NorthSuperiorPublishing

 @tbay25  @Scott Sumner



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## SEASON'S GREETINGS

..... *to all of our* .....  
**advertisers and readers!**



# Honouring the excellence, creativity and achievements of women entrepreneurs

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER  
*Thunder Bay BUSINESS*

The PARO Summit 2024 Women's Choice Awards celebrate women in business.

On November 12th, PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise held their annual conference, bringing together women in business to share the teachings and successes that come with navigating the business world, and celebrating the women who shape our community through entrepreneurship.

The conference, held at Superior Inn in Thunder Bay, covered a variety of topics pertaining to both emerging entrepreneurs and scaling business professionals. The PARO Summit highlights women's achievements in business, gender equality, and honours the creativity, excellence, and

contributions of women who are making a difference across Canada.

Says Rosalind Lockyer, CEO of PARO; "This event offers a unique chance to network with like-minded individuals, gain inspiration from exceptional women, and celebrate the achievements shaping our communities. Whether they're new to the world of business or have a lifetime of experience, attendees can learn so much from each other."

This year, the Summit offered a wide variety of activities throughout the event. A highlight was the Women's Choice Awards Ceremony, honouring women who are breaking boundaries, fostering inclusivity, and championing positive change. For the first time, attendees had the opportunity to digitally cast votes for this year's award winner. Each nominee shared their story and spoke to the audience highlighting why they deserved to be recognized. Votes



were counted live, and winners announced at the evening awards ceremony.

Says Lockyer; "All of our nominees exemplify diversity, creativity, and impactful change. The purpose of these awards is to celebrate women who embody these values in their businesses and lives, and this year's winners are leading the charge. I offer them congratulations and thank them for paving the way for women in business."

Summit 2024 featured keynotes from Founder and CEO of Total Mom Inc., Anna Sinclair, and CEO and Owner of ElephantAI among other notable ventures, Maria Parysz, who shared stories of resilience, entrepreneurial spirit, and success. The daytime programming offered thought-provoking discussions and a fire-side chat panel with circle members who are part of a network of over 270 circles. Attendees also had the opportunity to visit the trade show to discover innovative products and services from vendors across Ontario, tailored to empower and support women in business.

The evening's awards kicked off with a

performance by local artists, Lockyer Boys.

The Summit was offered as both an in-person and virtual event, inviting individuals from across Canada to partake in the teachings of new and seasoned business professionals.

To learn more and see this year's award winners, visit [www.paro.ca/summit\\_2024](http://www.paro.ca/summit_2024)

About PARO  
For 30 years, PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise has supported women of diverse ages, cultures and needs to start, scale and grow their businesses. The organization is a key driver in Ontario's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

**Rosalind Lockyer, founder and CEO of Paro**

"Paro is now across Canada with 276 Paro Circles which is the largest peer lending network in North America."

"Paro have moved their head office in Thunder Bay to 201- 34 Cumberland Street North after 24 years at May Street. After covid more staff worked from home for some days per week and our staff can still do that so they needed less office space."

"So many came out today and are also online from across Canada which is gratifying. We always have done our events as a hybrid event with online including Zoom as our clients are located across Canada."

"Paro will be 30 years old in January 2025 and we are very proud of our progress. It takes a village to make it work."

Paro currently have 40 staff.

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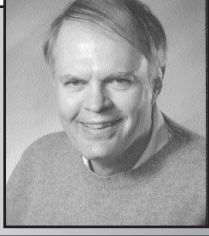
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**Publisher's  
Note  
Scott  
Sumner**



Once built, the line will provide northwest Ontario with needed clean and reliable electricity

Hydro One Inc. (Hydro One) and nine First Nation partners, joined by municipal leaders, officially broke ground on the Waasigan Transmission Line project. This important milestone is the result of several years of collaboration and engagement with Indigenous communities, government agencies, local organizations, interest groups and community residents.

“We are thrilled to celebrate this incredible milestone with our partners in northwest Ontario. Electricity is the backbone of the economy and once built, the Waasigan Transmission Line will energize life for customers, communities, businesses and industry in the region for years to come,” said David Lebeter, President and CEO, Hydro One. “Waasigan changed the way we build new large-scale transmission line projects with the launch of our industry-leading 50-50 equity partnership model. It’s an example of the progress we can achieve when we listen, build meaningful partnerships, work together and do things differently. We look forward to our continued collaboration as we get this critical line built.”

Through Hydro One’s 50-50 equity partnership model, First Nation partners have agreements in place to invest a 50 per cent equity stake in the transmission line component of the Waasigan Transmission Line project. The nine First Nation partners include Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation and eight First Nation communities represented by Gwayakochigewin Limited Partnership (GLP).

“This day marks a major achievement for Gwayakochigewin Limited Partnership. We have worked tirelessly over the past several years with our community Elders, leadership and members to ensure that this project respected our Anishinaabe teachings, protected our cultural values and would be undertaken in a way to protect and preserve our land for all future generations to come,” said Daniel Morriseau, President, GLP. “Today we stand together proudly as partnering First Nations to reflect on all we have been able to

# Hydro One and nine First Nation partners break ground on Waasigan Transmission Line project



achieve and give thanks to all of our community members who have contributed to the success of this project along the way, including those that are no longer with us. We will continue to work with our partners to develop the project in a good way and look forward to seeing our communities and people benefit as the project advances.”

The GLP First Nation communities include Eagle Lake First Nation, Fort William First Nation, Gakijwanong Anishinaabe Nation, Lac Seul First Nation, Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, Seine River First Nation and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation.

Phase one is a new double-circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line from Lakehead Transformer Station (TS) in Shuniah to Mackenzie TS in Atikokan, with a targeted in-service date as close to the end of 2025 as possible. Phase two consists of a new single-circuit 230 kilovolt transmission line from Mackenzie TS to Dryden TS in Dryden with targeted in-service in 2027.

The construction work will be performed by Engineering, Procurement and Construction partner Valard Construction LP (Valard). Valard works with Indigenous communities in procurement and employment and demonstrates excellence in execution, while maintaining the highest health, safety and environmental standards.

To learn more about the Waasigan Transmission Line, visit [hydroone.com/Waasigan](http://hydroone.com/Waasigan).

“The Waasigan Transmission Line project will bring more power to the region, when and where it’s needed,” said Kevin Holland, Member of Provincial Parliament for Thunder Bay-Atikokan. “We look forward to seeing local economies and communities grow and thrive with the increase of clean and reliable electricity.”

“The Waasigan Transmission Line is going to bring more clean, reliable energy to Shuniah and all of northwest Ontario,” said Wendy Landry, Mayor of Shuniah. “The increase in power will allow local businesses to grow and bring more economic opportunities to our community.”

“After years of working together with Hydro One to develop plans for the Waasigan Transmission Line, it’s exciting to see the project enter construction,” said Rob Ferguson, Mayor of Atikokan. “Once built, it’s going to help our residents and businesses grow and thrive.”

“Northwest Ontario is growing quickly, as are our energy needs,” said Jack Harrison, Mayor of Dryden. “The Waasigan Transmission Line will be a key asset in meeting those needs now and in the future, and I’m excited that construction has begun on this critical infrastructure.”

“Valard is proud to mark the groundbreaking of the Waasigan Transmission Line, a project that not only showcases our construction expertise in northwest Ontario but also underscores the strength of the relationships we

have built across the region,” said Carey Kostyk, President, Valard Construction LP. “Our commitment to this project remains steadfast in creating employment opportunities, driving economic growth, and contributing to the generational betterment of Indigenous communities. This project will be built as a testament to our shared vision for a sustainable and prosperous future for all.”

**David Lebeter, President and CEO, Hydro One**

“This is 365 Km long 350 watt capacity line we are building from Shuniah to Atikokan and on to Dryden. Construction will start this fall and will be complete in 2027. The cost of the project will be \$1.2 billion approved by the Ontario Energy Board earlier. The average construction workers on the project will be up to 400 depending on what phase they are on.”

“This will strengthen the background of the bulk electricity system that runs from this point west in the province. If you want to build new manufacturing, open up new mines or forestry operations or even new communities you have to have enough capacity on the transmission system. Right now it is getting full and this creates that buffer or head wind

to bring new economic activity.”

**Carey Kostyk, President, Valard Construction LP.**

“This is a very exciting day with all the hard work the teams have put in: the communities, First Nations, Hydro One and Valard teams.”

“At the start of any project you have to order material and then it comes in delivery so we started a material yard in Rosslyn in the late summer. We are waiting for a few permits but once those come in we get into the next part of construction which will be getting temporary housing constructed out and then you will see right away and access type work. The temporary housing will be a 25 minute drive east of Atikokan. We will have a constant 200 to 300 people working on the project once we get into heavy construction. At the end the numbers will be less.”

“You begin with clearing the right always by removing trees, then you build foundations for towers just like you are building a house. Next you build the towers and string wire, and then do some final clean up. There will be work to make sure the environment will be turned back to the best situation it can be. Phase one and two is adjacent to the existing Hydro One transmission line. Right now the plan is to not to use helicopters for anything except the pulling of the wires.”

“We have been successful in several large projects here in Northwestern Ontario and this has been very good for Valard. Our head offices are in Edmonton and Calgary and we have a significant office in the Toronto area as well. Valard have around 1200 employees currently and it will grow even larger doing these projects.”



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# SEASON'S GREETINGS

..... *to all of our* .....

# advertisers and readers!



## My Most Unforgettable Christmas

By Sylvia Gomez

My most unforgettable Christmas was in 1955 I was 10 years old. Let me tell you a little about how it came to be. My parents were going through difficult times. There was to be no money for Christmas. But, as always, that Christmas they pulled through and there were gifts for each one of us.

My father (John Pobihushchy) was working at inland Coal at the time and his job was very strenuous as he shoveled coal by hand in the bitter cold winters. When he came home, my mother who knew how hard he worked would come up with the most delicious dishes, even though there weren't many elaborate fixings to cook because we were barely making it.

At the time we were living in an unfinished home that my dad was in the process of building on 81 Gertrude Street. We had to carry lumber through the bush when we first moved in as there was no road. As soon as the exterior walls were up we moved in so you can imagine how much work needed to be done inside. My father would come home just black after shovel-

ing coal all day. He was coated in black dust and I would like to get him talking because the black dust made the whites of his eyes and teeth look pearly white. The first time my little brother saw him though he was scared because he didn't recognize him. Well, Dad would wash up eat and



have a short nap and then begin working on the house. I don't know how he even kept the pace up but I do know why – it was for us.

For many months before Christmas, Dad

would watch to see what people threw out and if it was repairable he would bring it home and store it in the garage. There would be nothing for Christmas without these treasures he stashed in the garage. There were broken toys, scratched skates, bicycles that needed work and dolls that

needed bathing and dressing which Mom did for Dad.

A few months before Christmas, I noticed Dad didn't seem to be working on the house and I became very curious and wondered why. I also wondered why when

Dad was at work in the garage the door was always locked. When I just couldn't stand it anymore, not knowing why Dad was spending so much time in the garage, I very carefully tip-toed to the basement entrance to the garage to take a peak. There stood my father with a paintbrush in one hand and a smile on his face, admiring his repair job on a little wooden crib that I would receive that Christmas. In his eyes I saw love, joy and peace. Love given in the tenderhearted care he put into turning that crib into the most beautiful crib I ever saw. I didn't make a sound, but I stood there with a tear in my eye admiring my special dad, then I quietly made an exit and never breathed a word of what I had seen.

On Christmas morning though, I had even greater appreciation for the wonderful gifts that were under the tree. In the following years I had more anticipation waiting to see which skates would be polished like new and what bicycles had spokes replaced and what toys had been repaired. I listened to Dad working in the garage never forgetting the smile on his face as he worked to give his children the most unforgettable Christmas.

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*Happy Holidays*

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# Celebrating 40 Years of the Thunder Bay Business publication!

- Special Feature



## 40 Years of Thunder Bay Business! 12-84 to 12-24

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER  
*Thunder Bay BUSINESS*

It seems like yesterday that I was a young person just out of university with a career ahead of me. The question I had then was what would I like to do with my life? That seems to be something you hear quite often from young people, even today!

In my case I had just completed the MBA program at York University in Toronto- the Schulich School of Business as it is now known. The temptation was to get a job at a large financial institution in Toronto. That was what many of my class mates were doing. In my case I felt the call to return to NW Ontario where I had grown up in the small mining communities. The beauty and lifestyle of the area just seemed to appeal to me the most.

So off I went almost knowing in my mind that I would probably have to create my own career path. In fact after 1 year I was on my own and have been an entrepreneur ever since!

It was in December 1984 that a new publication was launched the Thunder Bay Business publication, my second after starting the Thunder Bay Real Estate News in September 1983. This

started many different speciality publication ideas over the years from travel, to community in the Manitouwadge area, to lifestyle, to car & truck, to



snowmobiling and golf. These were areas of interest to me and fun in which to be involved. The longest running publication that our company has owned is the Thunder Bay Business, now 40 years old! Time has flown by as it really does seem not far long ago that our first issue was off the press.

Since then there has been 480 issues of Thunder Bay Business and they have been fun to work on. The publishing business has been a good one for me as I think it fits my personality. I was

always a very inquisitive person and in media you certainly get to meet many people and learn so much. It is a very creative, dynamic career and one I still

enjoy after all this time.

Publishing has changed technically in a dramatic way over the years. I can

remember when we had dark rooms, large image setters that outputted film and paste up areas where you worked with exacto knives and created large layouts that you would bring to the printers. Now you work on a small Apple computer and do electronic layouts that are made into PDF files and uploaded or emailed to your printer's FTP site. You can also take your information and upload it to your website and the Press Reader platform in a matter of seconds for the whole world to see. It really is quite amazing and the power of information lives in all forms of the media industry.

We like to highlight milestone accomplishments and 40 years is a good one especially in 2024! There probably aren't many print business publications left in the Canadian or even world markets. I still like the paper feel but also enjoy the electronic approach as well.

**Continued**

*Congratulations on 40 years in Business!*

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# Celebrating 40 Years of the Thunder Bay Business publication!

- Special Feature



## 40 Years of Thunder Bay Business! 12-84 to 12-24

### Continued

The best part of the job for me has always been meeting so many interesting people who are proud of what they do and interested in serving a grouping of customers. My goal has been to describe them to our readers and in essence get their personalities across. Our world is all about people right?

Over the years it has been my good fortune to have some excellent people working with me. I still meet them today, many of which have gone on to excellent careers. It seems there was always someone great in the marketing and design areas which are so impor-

tant. Today we have Sylvia doing marketing for the last 18 years. Her drive has helped immensely. Miranda has done graphic design for the last 10 years and is very skilled at her work. Also Sherry in editorial and Robbyn in graphic design have been excellent. The companies Web Press have been great in printing, Thunder Bay Lettershop in distribution and Sencia helping in electronic media web sites. It has been a good team.

My biggest supporters have been my parents, Alan and Barbara Sumner. While they are both in Heaven now I remember their help at the beginning and know they would be proud of the



40th Anniversary of Thunder Bay Business!

People often ask me if I am going to retire and today I always say we'll see how it goes! The job I created here in

the north is one I still enjoy. Times are a little different than at the beginning but my schedule and publications allow me to travel the world which is also very interesting. You have probably read about some of these adventures. The web is very exciting as well and the rapid change in this area is a good challenge.

Finally special thanks to advertisers and readers over the years. Without you it would never be possible!



## Downtown Volkswagen

**Congratulations to Scott and the Team at North Superior Publishing on 40 years of publication.** It has been a privilege working with you and having the ability to view all of the amazing local content over the years. We enjoy viewing the monthly

- Your Friends at Downtown Volkswagen

publications, and value the positive impacts of highlighting local business growth, succession, and successes. Wishing you many years of continued publication and success.

**Congratulations, Scott and North Superior Publishing, on 40 Years of the Thunder Bay Business publication!**

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*Congratulations on 40 years of Thunder Bay Business!*

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# Celebrating 40 Years of the Thunder Bay Business publication!

- Special Feature



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## Thunder Bay Business 12-84 to 12-24

By Sherry Hanes

You know in the world of news and accessing it, times have really changed.

At one time, radio, television and the daily newspaper were the primary sources to learn about what was going on in the world, the region and your local community. Advertising supported the platform for the availability of the information but having said all that, not much has changed as far as small business and corporations advertising on these media platforms, all trying to capture your interest, which ultimately helps them to stay in business.

But what good is advertising if one does not have a platform to present it on? As far as the news worthy interests go, it is great to learn about them but, without advertising, news would not be available so readily. In other words, one cannot survive without the other, at least not for the long haul.

For 40 years now, Scott Sumner, President of North Superior Publishing Inc. has been promoting and advocat-

ing, through his press/print platform, Thunder Bay Business, all about our



economic, industrial, entrepreneurial, and vast scenic region of our city, Thunder Bay, Ontario.

With each issue printed for the last 40 years, promotion of dynamic people that live and build businesses here can be read about. The publications are sent out monthly, throughout the entire region. I have seen it myself, traveling to different cities on aircraft for example, and I reach over to grab a magazine in the map pouch in front of me and it is one of our own, Thunder Bay Business publication, confirming that people STILL enjoy to read print, informing themselves about you and

all kinds of interesting things, that are otherwise lost in the billions of pieces

of information on the internet highway! The Internet is a wonderfully useful tool but in order for people to see an advertisement or an article, say...about you... they reader would have to be specifically looking for your business or business name. Print still has the upper gauge on that presentation.

In an interview with Scott Sumner, I learned a few things that I, and maybe

others, did not know about Mr. Sumner or how he started the business of press/print magazine.

Scott was always interested in business.

**Sherry:** “What prompted you to start a business publication about Thunder Bay?” I asked.

**Scott:** “Well, my early background was going to business schools, a commerce program and a MBA program and I always had an interest in entrepreneurs. I took Entrepreneurial Studies when I was at a university, at York in Toronto and just liked seeing people go out and make their own way, create their own product, their own ideas, their own service.”

**Continued**

## CONGRATULATIONS

to North Superior Publishing on 40 years of publications and service to our community!



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# Celebrating 40 Years of the Thunder Bay Business publication!

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## Thunder Bay Business 12-84 to 12-24

**Continued**

**Sherry:** “What can you say about your passion Scott, to promote business, especially Thunder Bay?”

**Scott:** “Let me say that, I grew up in small mining towns, in Northwestern Ontario because my father was a mining engineer. I was born in Atikokan and raised in Manitowadge. When you go to business school at York in Toronto, you would normally stay in that city, and build a corporate career. But I always just really liked the North. I felt best at home in the North so, I wanted to come home. I just think this area is a beautiful area. The busi-

ness community is so important especially being so isolated here. I thought, ‘how can we accentuate it?’ Once I got into to the publishing business, I felt the business vehicle would be great for the city and it would present some idea of what’s been happening every month, especially positive things.

Most local businesses receive the Thunder Bay Business publication every month.”

**Sherry:** “What year did you start North Superior Publishing Inc?”

**Scott:** “I started in September 1983,

with the publication the Real Estate News and then one year later we created the Thunder Bay Business publication. Since the beginning we have done ten different titles.”

**Sherry:** “What were/are the ten different titles?”

**Scott:** “Well. Real Estate News, then the Thunder Bay Business. Next we did one called Thunder Bay Car/Truck News, then Thunder Bay Destinations, which was a travel publication. And we also did a community newspaper in Manitowadge. And the we expanded that and called it Hemlo

News, to cover Marathon, White River and Manitowadge. We created Thunder Bay Families, Thunder Bay Life and one called Thunder Bay Extra, for example. In 1995 we started Snowmobile News, then Golf News and now Great Outdoors. And as of today, we are still publishing the Thunder Bay Business. We also do more things online. There is also social media which is important and immediate. I like Linked In, Instagram, Facebook, X and You Tube.”

**Continued**



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# Celebrating 40 Years of the Thunder Bay Business publication!

- Special Feature

NORTH SUPERIOR PUBLISHING



## Thunder Bay Business 12-84 to 12-24

Continued

**Sherry:** “When you first started with acquiring ad sales and article content, were you working alone or did you have staff?”

**Scott:** “Almost immediately, we had a staff. So, first of all, I had a production person, and then we got a sales person, and went from there and at one time we had twelve full time employees. We created our own 3000 square foot office building in 1987 on Barton Street and at that time, we had five people working in production alone because it was very mechanical. You had to shoot pictures in a ‘dark room’ and it was a ‘cut and paste’ process, instead of electronic, which it’s all electronic now. So that took quite a bid of work every week.

**Sherry:** “And some of the people that once worked with you, I understand are out in the world of public entertainment now?”

**Scott:** “Yes. We had Daylin James (stage name) was working for us. He was my Marketing Manager back then, Eric Gustafson.”

**Sherry:** “Despite the technological changes for publication, you have managed to stay in the game.”

**Scott:** “People still enjoy picking up a printed publication. There are still many people that like a print publication but it is definitely changing and I think the younger generation today, are less and less prone to want to read a print publication. We have the Press Reader platform as an electronic outlet for our publications.



**Sherry:** “Speaking with you a while back, of team effort, and you being the publisher Scott, it seems that pretty

much allow people to be creative on their own, developing their own clientele?”

**Scott:** “So, the way it works today, it’s much different than in the old days. In the old days you had employees that came into the office and put in their eight hours. Now everyone that helps us is an independent contractor. So, they work out of their own homes and they do specific things for us and are paid on specifically what they do. We have someone who helps us in graphic design ad layouts, a marketing person and then we have a person that writes for us...LOL!

What I’ve always wanted to do with Thunder Bay Business is accentuate the positives that are happening in the community. We enjoy helping them celebrate their success in business. We also present stories on new projects for the governments.

Continued

# Celebrating 40 Years of the Thunder Bay Business publication!

- Special Feature



## Thunder Bay Business 12-84 to 12-24

Continued

**Sherry:** "How do you see the future of print Scott?"

**Scott:** "As time goes on, things will become even more electronic with quicker access to information. When you do print, it takes longer to get print in to the readers hands. If you

have a Canada Post strike that really slows the process down! The beauty about the web as well is that you can add more sights and sounds."

**Sherry:** "Do you see print always being around?"

**Scott:** "I do, and for many, many years to come, but it is hard to say years

from now because you have to consider the environment. We don't really know what the world will look like years from now. Will we stop cutting down trees making newsprint and putting out publications- it may be less likely, just from an environmental aspect. I think it is similar to the sense of what will cars look like years from now, they may be all electric. There is tons of potential.

**Sherry:** "I think the world is really different now from the time that you

and I grew up."

**Scott:** "Yes, because just thinking about when I started this type of work, the computer that we used to produce the publication, just to do the layout, was like a 4 x 8 piece of plywood size...the printer and now you can do it on an iPad. It was very tedious and time consuming work back then."

Continued

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# Celebrating 40 Years of the Thunder Bay Business publication!

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## Thunder Bay Business 12-84 to 12-24



Continued

years now.

Scott has a deep respect for entrepreneurs and business owners who have the responsibility of watching how every dollar is spent, in order to survive, especially in today's very competitive market, which includes advertising.

"I have worked for Scott since 2006 and must say I love my job. I have done many things in life but can say I enjoy working for Scott the most. He is open to new ideas and gives anyone a chance if they want to try sales. I know Scott loves what he does and will continue on and I will do so as well."

Comments for congratulations to Scott Sumner are expressed sincerely by Sylvia Gomez, who has worked for North Superior Publishing Inc. for 18

We appreciate Scott Sumner, for creat-

ing and sustaining his publication, through good times and bad, in the interest of promoting Thunder Bay and the businesses that sustain us as a city and a region, and thank you for being one voice of positive influence for business.

**Happy 40th Anniversary!**



### Marcus Powlowski

---

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# The Nuclear Waste Management Organization selects site for Canada's deep geological repository

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) announced it has selected Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) and the Township of Ignace as the host communities for the future site for Canada's deep geological repository for used nuclear fuel.

Canadians and Indigenous peoples have been clear that it is essential to take responsibility now, in this generation, to safely manage Canada's used nuclear fuel for the long term. This announcement is an important milestone in delivering on that promise to not leave it as a burden for future generations to manage.

"This is a historic moment," said Laurie Swami, NWMO President and CEO. "This project will solve an environmental issue and supports Canada's climate change goals. And today's decision was driven by a consent-based siting process led by Canadians and Indigenous peoples. This is what making history looks like."

There is international scientific consensus that a deep geological repository is the safest way to manage used nuclear fuel over the long term, and Canada is among the leading countries on this solution.

The NWMO launched its community-driven, consent-based site selection process in 2010. It included clear commitments that Canada's plan for used nuclear fuel could only move forward in an area with a site that meets rigorous safety standards and that has informed and willing hosts. The project also needs to be implemented in a way that advances community well-being as defined by the host communities.

The people of both host communities have demonstrated their willingness to move for-

ward in this process. Earlier this month, WLON confirmed its willingness, following a decision-making process that was open to all its members. The Township of Ignace completed a decision-making process with its residents in July, which also confirmed willingness.

This important decision for Canada was possible because of the communities' leadership



and active engagement over a decade of learning, as well as considering the future of their communities. The safety of the site was also established through rigorous site assessment and technical studies.

"We have learned so much from all the communities that took part in this process over the years," said Lise Morton, NWMO Vice-President of Site Selection. "By challenging us, they helped the NWMO grow and become a better organization, and they directly shaped this project."

The project will drive a wide range of benefits for both host communities, the region and Canada as a whole over the 175-year timeline of the project. These include new jobs and investments in community well-being driven by the priorities communities

themselves defined.

As the project now advances into the regulatory decision-making process, Canada will take another step forward on this long-term management solution for its used nuclear fuel, which will protect people and the environment, including water, while supporting its goals around energy security and climate change.

The NWMO has agreed to an Indigenous-led RAAP (Regulatory Assessment and Approval Process), a sovereign regulatory process that will be developed and implemented by Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON). WLON will design the process to ensure that potential impacts of the project are assessed against WLON's Anishinaabe Values, and that conditions to mitigate any impacts are designed by WLON and complied with by the NWMO. This approach aligns with the NWMO's Reconciliation commitments, and the NWMO looks forward to working with WLON as it implements its sovereign process.

In addition to WLON's RAAP, the project will enter the rigorous regulatory decision-making process that will ensure that the NWMO's understanding of the safety of the repository is independently confirmed, by both the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and through the Government of Canada's impact assessment process.

"We acknowledge the NWMO site selection decision, and we look forward to continuing to work closely as this project enters the regulatory assessment phase. WLON views our role as the potential host for Canada's used nuclear fuel as one of the most important responsibilities of our time. We cannot ignore this challenge and allow it to become a bur-

den for future generations. Our membership spoke with a clear voice in our willingness decision that we have the bravery and courage to continue to the next phase of this project."

"The WLON Regulatory Assessment and Approval Process (WLON-RAAP) asserts our Sovereign rights while protecting our Anishinaabe Values and Laws. This project will be under intense scrutiny by our Nation's regulatory process in addition to the regulatory oversight by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the CNSC. Wabigoon will ensure that safety, environmental protection and Anishnaabe values are upheld throughout this process." Chief Clayton Wetelainen, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation

"The Township of Ignace is honoured, humbled and delighted to have been chosen as the site of a deep geological repository to store Canada's used nuclear fuel by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Today's announcement marks the beginning of the future of this community, for its residents, our youth and for generations to come. We will now begin to focus on being committed, dedicated and fully engaged in the process to establish Canada's first ever deep geological repository with a goal to build up our community, our region and the future prosperity of all of northwestern Ontario. We thank the NWMO, our neighbours at Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and most importantly the staff, volunteers and people of Ignace, for their confidence and for having so dedicatedly committed their time for over a decade towards our collective success in being selected today."


Mayor Kim Baigrie, Township of Ignace

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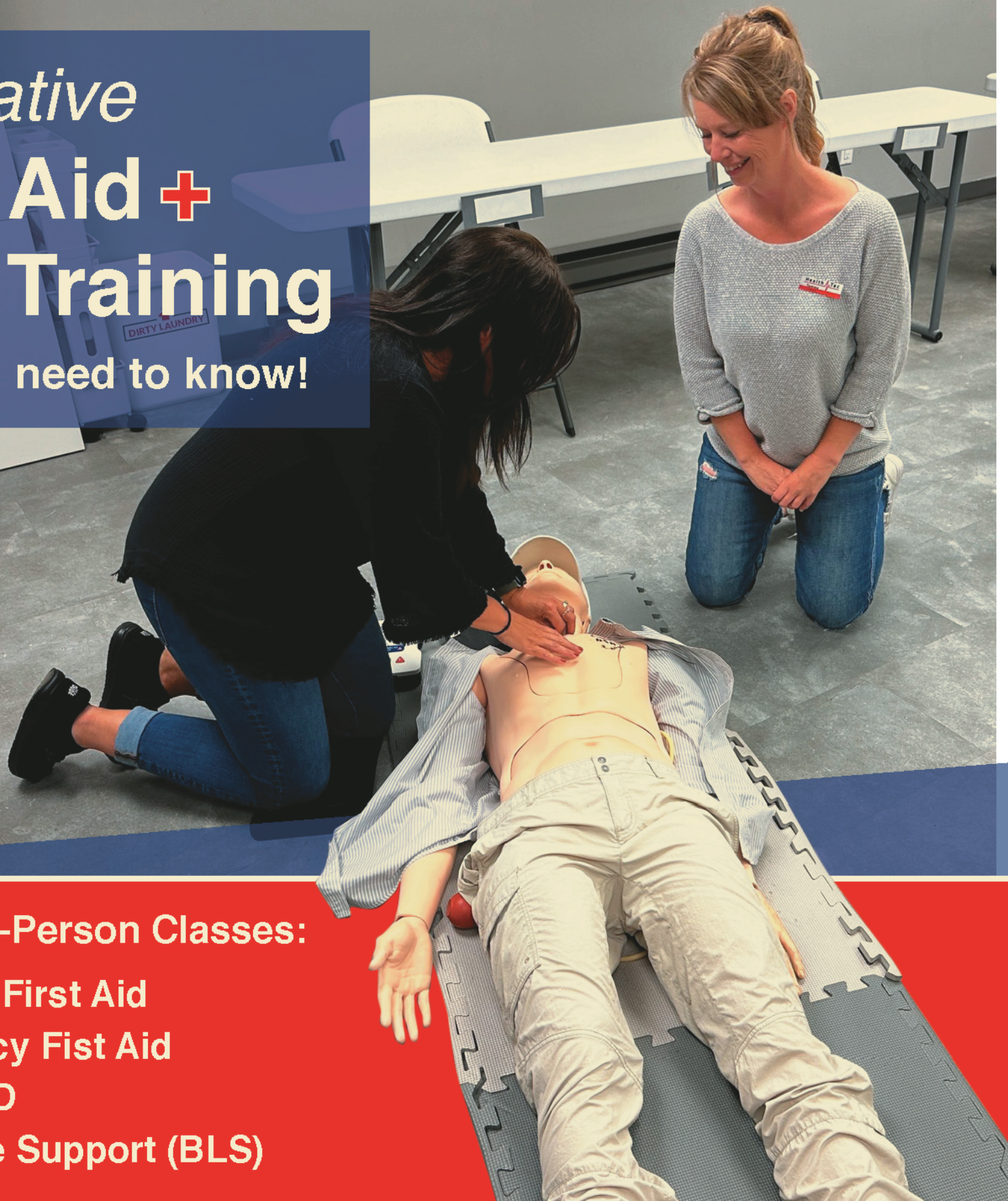
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The month of September was busy on multiple fronts and particularly at Keefer Terminal, with inbound shipments of steel rail, steel pipe, phosphate fertilizer, and project cargo. The diverse slate of cargoes makes good use of Keefer Terminal's storage solutions, including its expansive laydown

areas. Shipments during the month of October were led by very strong grain volumes, which exceeded 1 million tonnes. This represents a 33% increase over the 5-year monthly average. Potash tonnages trended well above average for both months.

Reported statistics exemplify the Port of Thunder Bay's crucial role in supporting the Western Canadian economy by providing an efficient gateway for East-West movement of goods.

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## 2025 Chevrolet Equinox EV Fun: One Pedal Driving

BY SCOTT A. SUMNER  
*Great Outdoors*

It was fun to test drive a 2025 Chevrolet Equinox EV RS with Ty Alderdice, Sales & Leasing Consultant, Badanai Motors.



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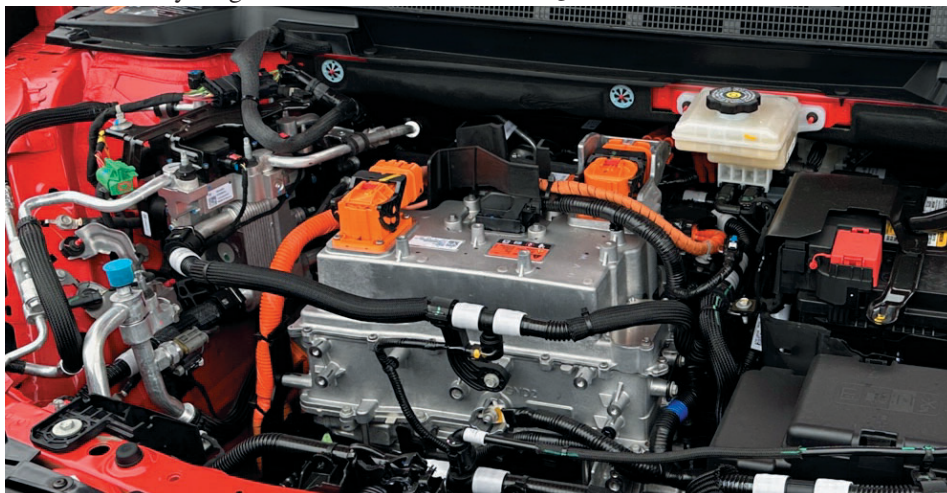
If you follow Formula One racing you know the cars are hybrids and the drivers have a way to charge up their battery during certain times of the race to generate more speed. On the 2025 Equinox you can choose one pedal driving. This means you can accelerate and then take your foot off and just coast. If you put it in normal mode and then take your foot off the accelerator, it is reversing the motors and regenerating power in to the batteries. You can also use high mode. This system can take the place of 60 to 70% of your braking. It can put kilowatts back into the bat-

tery based on the speed and normal or high settings of 60 to 70 kilowatts. One pedal driving can take away the braking needs by feathering, which is a learned skill. It can help you not use any of your battery when driving if you are doing some braking as well!

The Equinox is all wheel drive and the weight of the vehicle with batteries will help in winter driving.

At the current time GM is offering help with a level 1 charging system for home. You can get adapters which allow the Equinox to be charged, say in a Tesla charging station as well.

When you go with a gas engine vehicle your warranty is usually 5 years or 100,000 km for engine and power train. The Equinox EV has a 8 year 160,000 km for motors and batteries. You also save money on gas versus the electric



Ty Alderdice, Sales & Leasing Consultant, Badanai Motors

charge. If you drive 12,000 to 15,000 km in a year you might spend \$150 to \$200 per month. With an EV you will save over the long run say by spending \$30 per month on electricity. There are also no oil changes etc.

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# Ontario Supporting Advanced Research Opportunities at Lakehead University

## Ontario Supporting Advanced Research Opportunities at Lakehead University

Provincial funding will increase engineering department soil testing services

The Ontario government is providing \$559,910 through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) to Lakehead University to support the expansion of its soil-structure-interaction testing facility at the Thunder Bay campus. This investment will allow the university to provide advanced soil testing services to attract new research opportunities, students and industrial clients.

“The NOHFC investment in Lakehead University will support the construction and enhancement of the Dynamic Soil-Structure-Interaction Testing Facility which will provide critical research into soil-structure interactions,” said Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay – Atikokan. “It’s exciting to see advanced research happening in Northwestern Ontario that will create new opportunities for collaboration and development with a variety of industries across Canada.”

“Our government is proud to support Lakehead University as it enhances its ability to carry out learning and research in an advanced soil testing environment, while promoting partnerships and innovation in the Northwest,” said Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development. “The research conducted in this facility will help meet the growing demand among the mining, natural resource, and infrastructure sectors, and supports our government’s commitment to building a connected, stronger Northern Ontario.”

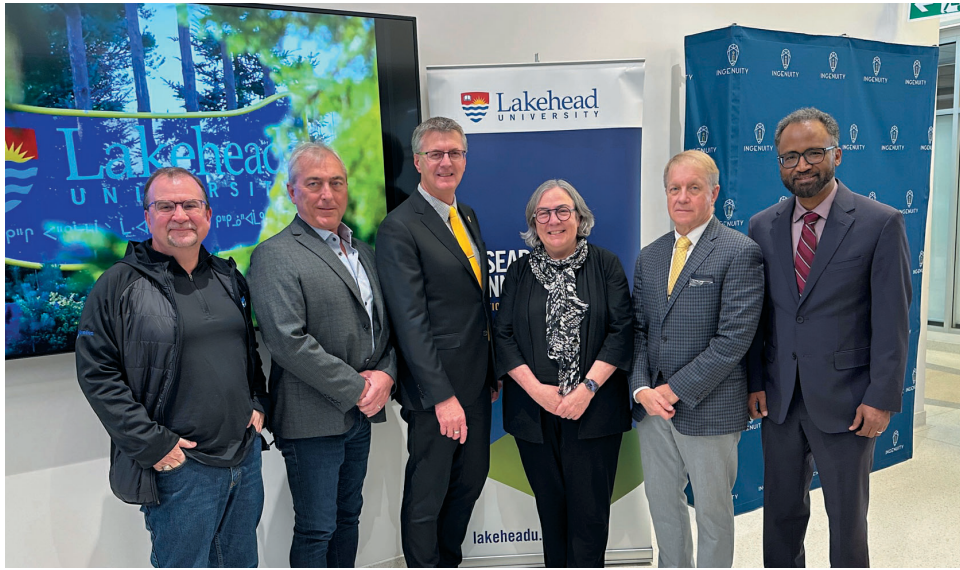
The university will use NOHFC funding to finalize the engineering designs to enhance and upgrade the facility, modify the existing soil pit, upgrade the mechanical and electrical systems and improve instrumentation. This project will create a full-scale upgraded testing environment to serve the needs of mining companies, engineering firms and infrastructure developers across the Northwest.

“Ontario’s universities and colleges are home to world-class researchers that allow our province to thrive in the global economy,” said Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges and Universities. “This project at Lakehead University will build important capacity in the engineering department to serve the needs of crucial sectors such as mining, transportation and infrastructure development. It’s yet another investment our government is making to build up the economy of Thunder Bay and Northern Ontario.”

The NOHFC fosters economic growth, job creation, and workforce development throughout the North, benefiting communities of all sizes, both rural and urban, including Indigenous communities. Since June 2018, the NOHFC has invested more than \$841 million in 6,894 projects in Northern Ontario, leveraging more than \$2.5 billion in investment and creating or sustaining over 10,560 jobs.

**Kevin Holland, MPP**

“These funds will assist some of the industries in NW Ontario moving forward. This is a great example of the partnerships that exist between our great institutions like Lakehead in cooperation with TBT Engineering and Supercom Industries here in Thunder Bay. They have been working on this project for 4 years and this



announcement is helping getting it off the ground. It is really exciting to see the work that is being done here at Lakehead and being able to support this.”

**Gillian Siddall, President Lakehead University**

“It’s wonderful to get this kind of support

from the province for our researchers who are doing this incredibly important work that has such a direct impact on our communities in the region. The safety of rail travel and of the environment is important, so we are just delighted.”

**On another topic I asked Gillian about the recent Federal Government changes to international students and the impact on Lakehead University.**

“It has had an impact on us, not as significant as at the college. Lakehead is down about 15% in terms of our international student enrollment. We are very grateful to the province which provided us with an allotment which would have allowed us to maintain our enrollment. However the hit to the reputation of Canada as a destination for excellent post secondary education has taken a serious hit and that is going to have an impact on international enrollment even at universities. One of the differences with the colleges and universities is that university students, both undergraduate and graduate level, will still have access to the post-graduate work permit but college students will not and that is going to make it difficult. Lakehead has 22% international enrollment where the college might be up to 50%.”

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