

# Visiting Manitoulin?

Travel the road westerly to **Meldrum Bay** ...on pages 3A-5A

There's a workshop for writers in Kagawong this weekend ...See page 6A

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Debaj theatre presents a pair of trickster tales ...see page 6

# The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



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Little Current, Ontario

Wednesday, July 8, 2009



The Clelia II made for an impressive addition to the town wharf as it docked in Little Current last Tuesday during its inaugural voyage on the Great Lakes.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 15

photo by Sheila Bowes

## Canada Customs costs scuttle Little Current as port of entry

*Cruise ships will clear customs elsewhere, then visit Wewebjiwang*

by Sheila Bowes

LITTLE CURRENT—The operator of the cruise ship Clelia II will be altering the ship's planned 2010 itinerary to avoid a whopping \$11,000 fee that Canada Customs was set to charge them had Little Current been the port of entry for the ship from US waters.

The impressive boat docked in Little Current last Tuesday with

her payload of 100 passengers, upbound from the Canada Soo and then to Mackinac Island. At that point, the prospect of a hefty charge—to cover the cost of the federal agency flying officers from Sault Ste. Marie—still hung

heavy over the cruise operator's plans, and local, provincial and federal leaders met in Little Current to seek a way around the extra cost.

Since then, the ship's operators

...continued on page 12

## Mushroom pickers find human remains in Spring Bay area

SPRING BAY—OPP are investigating human remains found on Friday, July 3, on Lot 9 Concession 12, off Grimesthorpe Road near Spring Bay. A couple discovered the remains that evening while out for a walk collecting mushrooms.

Although the body has not been identified, OPP are investigating the possibility that it could be linked to disappearance of Spring ...continued on page 12

*Kidney recipient told to either remove mask or leave*

by Jim Moodie

KAGAWONG—A Kagawong retiree and kidney recipient is filing a human rights complaint after being expelled from the Slots at Sudbury Downs for wearing a medical mask.

Gerry Mack, a former teacher who underwent organ-transplant surgery this spring, with his wife being the donor, said it's been his habit to pop into the Chelmsford casino during periodic trips to Sudbury for checkups or other business. On this occasion, it was doctor's orders that he don a mask while in public, as his immune sys-



Gerry Mack, in medical mask, recently underwent a kidney transplant.

## Medically masked gambler unwelcome at casino

tem was considered extremely low. "It's a temporary mask, but it's to protect me from getting germs," he explained. "I've worn it in restaurants and grocery stores, and no one's ever said a word."

Security personnel at the gaming venue certainly had something to say, however—namely, that Mr. Mack wasn't welcome to be there unless his face was fully displayed. "I explained to them that it was because of my immune system and for my own protection, but they said I had to leave," he related.

Feeling it was within his rights to remain, Mr. Mack refused to imme-

...continued on page 14

## Citizens concerned with windmill project's scope take issue to NE council

LITTLE CURRENT—A group of Little Current-area landowners met on Sunday to discuss issues regarding the proposed McLean's Mountain wind farm project and will be attending a committee meeting of Northeast Town council tomorrow (Thursday) to air these concerns with municipal representatives.

"The purpose isn't to shut down wind farms, but people should be well aware of what they're getting into," said Ray Beaudry, a resident of Morphet's Side Road and

one of the 15 people who gathered over the weekend. "We should be making informed decisions on green energy."

Among the group's concerns is the impact on the value and usability of land that is located within the range of noise created by turbines that is considered to be too high for human habitation.

As they write in a letter published in this week's paper, "Once the wind turbines are in place and the 40-decibel limit of sound

...continued on page 14

## OCF honours Marion Seabrook for her work in bridging cultures

by Jan McQuay

MINDEMOYA—On Homecoming Weekend, Mindemoya bustled with a flurry of activities with the Lions Club and the reunion of Manitoulin's original high schools. In nearby M'Chigeeng on Sunday afternoon, at one small gathering at the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation, Marion Seabrook was quietly honoured for her lifetime contributions.

The tribute was a complete surprise for Ms. Seabrook. Lewis



M'Chigeeng chief Isadora Bebamash (left) and Lewis Debassige present Marion Seabrook with a quill basket in tribute to her many years of helping to bring Native studies into the educational curriculum.

photo by Jan McQuay

Debassige of M'Chigeeng organized the event and like the trickster Nanabush, had arranged for

...continued on page 13

## Island author gains acclaim internationally

by Lindsay Kelly

M'CHIGEENG—When Kate Thompson published *It's So Hard to Love You* with her brother Bill Klatte in 2007, she hoped it would find an audience

with the English-speaking population who needed advice on dealing with troubled people in their



Kate Thompson

...continued on page 13

## ...Medically masked gambler unwelcome at Sudbury Downs casino

...cont.'d from page 1  
diately budge from his chair. "I just kept playing," he said. "I sat there and won 50 bucks."

Eventually three guards, including the head of security, had gathered around him, and a police officer was additionally summoned. Mr. Mack assumed it was a member of the Sudbury police, but would later learn that it was an OPP officer affiliated with the casino.

Under threat of arrest, Mr. Mack finally relented and, after collecting his prize money, allowed himself to be escorted out of the building. Not that he was happy about it.

On the way out, with three guards shepherding him toward the door, Mr. Mack noticed a former student among the group of casino patrons who were watching the drama unfold. "You can imagine how degrading this might feel," he said.

The incident occurred on June 25, and Mr. Mack still hasn't received a satisfactory explanation for the way he was treated, despite requests made both in person, at the time, and by letter thereafter. "I asked to see a copy of their protocol, but all I've been told is that this was the policy," he said. He's also presently banned from returning to the casino, as he was issued a document by security staff instructing him to keep his distance for 14 days until a review of the matter is complete.

Officials at the Chelmsford facility declined to speak directly to the issue when contacted by the Expositor, instead referring inquiries to the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG), the manager of all gambling operations in the province.

Don Pister, a spokesman for OLG, said the Sudbury Downs staff was acting fully within its mandate by demanding that Mr. Mack

vacate the premises. "The critical thing here is that there are regulations for activities on gaming floors that are set by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)," he said. "And they have a very strict regulation that no one can wear any sort of mask or otherwise obscure their face on a gaming floor."

Such a policy is "necessary for security reasons," said Mr. Pister. "It's for the security of both the casino's assets and the security of patrons."

Lisa Murray, a spokesperson for the AGCO, elaborated that the requirement "is not unique to Ontario, but is a standard regulation across North America," and one the province adopted "before the first casino ever opened" in the early 1990s.

The main need for the policy is so that "if police, for whatever reason, need to identify someone in the casino, they can," said Ms. Murray. "If someone decided they wanted to hold up the casino or steal someone's chips, you have to have surveillance and be able to see someone's features."

An oxygen mask might be tolerated, she said, since "it's transparent and much smaller," but a surgical mask of the type worn by Mr. Mack "goes from the eyes down, so there's no way to tell the shape of the face."

The AGCO representative conceded that germ masks are permitted on planes and subways, but argued the settings are substantially different. "You can't disappear into a crowd when you're on a plane," she pointed out. "On a very large gaming floor, you could steal someone's purse and within seconds be on the other side of the casino."

The notion that he might present a threat of any sort strikes Mr. Mack as absurd. "I'm five-foot-six and 62

years old," he remarked. He's also recovering from major surgery—on the day he was ejected from the Slots, he was still dealing with after effects of a rejected kidney, and due for an MRI in Sudbury—and far from being contagious, is vulnerable to infection from others.

"Someone else would do more harm to me than I would do to them," said Mr. Mack.

Yet many people he's encountered, including the elderly woman seated next to him at the casino that day, have actually expressed appreciation for him wearing a mask, as they assume he's sparing them germs.

Masks have become quite common on planes, buses, and in various other public settings, particularly as panic over swine flu and other potential pandemics become more acute, and most people, as a result, have adjusted to the sight of this precautionary facial wear.

Mr. Mack has encountered the odd person who has thrown a curious or alarmed glance his way, but these are the exception, in his experience, and sometimes the individual eyeing him up in that way should, in his view, take a look in the mirror. "The only person who looked at me funny the last time I was in Sudbury had pink hair and a nose ring," he remarked.

He believes anyone in his position should be allowed to don a protective mask without being dealt with as an outcast or potential criminal, and is determined to seek redress for the way he was treated at the gaming establishment on that very principle.

"I don't want anyone else to go through this," he said. "It's a push for equality."

Mr. Mack isn't actually wearing the mask anymore, as his physician has since deemed him fit enough to go without it, but he's still filing a com-

plaint through the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal in the hope that a ruling can be made that will recognize the injustice he personally experienced as well as protect others from discrimination in the future.

Based on his discussions with representatives of the human rights organization, he feels he has a strong case. "They say you can't discriminate against disabled people, and that accommodation has to be provided for people like me," he said.

Mr. Pister counters that the law concerning facial coverings in gaming facilities is clear-cut, and security staff can't pick and choose in how they enforce the regulation. "It's a rule set by the AGCO, the gaming regulators in this province," he said. "We have a regulation to follow, and the AGCO has made it clear that there's no leeway."

Mr. Mack maintains that some allowance must be made for people like himself, in the same way that wheelchair users or others with health challenges are provided with access and acceptance, and is determined to seek redress and clarification on this point through a human rights appeal.

This process involves a four-month wait, he said, after which a mediation session would occur between himself and the OLG. "If both parties come to terms, then it's settled," he said. If mediation fails,

however, then it would go to a tribunal hearing, and possibly on to provincial or even the supreme court.

Mr. Mack is prepared to fight this policy for as long as—and to whatever level—it takes in order to achieve the vindication he feels is due. "I'm not the kind to sit back," he said. "When I take something on, I want to see it through."

An apology would be a start, but not enough, he indicated. "I want the rules to change," he said. "And if there's any compensation, I want it to go to the Kidney Foundation."



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## Gore Bay theatre tweaks performance schedule

GORE BAY—The Gore Bay Summer Theatre (GBST) production of *Half Life* has been cancelled; however, the remainder of the schedule will go on as planned.

The illness of a cast member has forced the cancellation of the Quonta award-winning drama, but the theatre will continue with its productions of the funny and mov-

ing *A Bench in the Sun* and the children's show *Stuart Little*.

Additional showings of *A Bench in the Sun* will fill the slots left vacant by *Half Life*. The production will run July 9-11, 16-18, 22-25, and 29-31. Tickets are \$16 and show time is 7:30 pm.

## ...Citizens concerned with windmill project

...cont. from page 1  
encroaches on neighbouring property, this will hinder the adjacent landowners' ability to secure building permits if their proposed dwelling projects fall within that limit." It might also allow speculators to purchase the land for additional turbines at less than current market prices, they add.

As well, the group is worried about the size of the project, which "has grown from a few turbines to 43," and will necessitate the construction of a 115-kilovolt line. This high-tension line and the right of way it will require, along with the towers themselves, "will have a much larger impact on local residents and the environment than was initially thought," the wind

critics write.

The landowners joined forces following a public meeting held in late June

by Northland Power, which is in the process of finalizing its plans for the 43-turbine project.



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To submit a photo or for more information contact the Expositor editor Jim Moodie at [editor@manitoulin.ca](mailto:editor@manitoulin.ca) or call 368-2744 ext. 224



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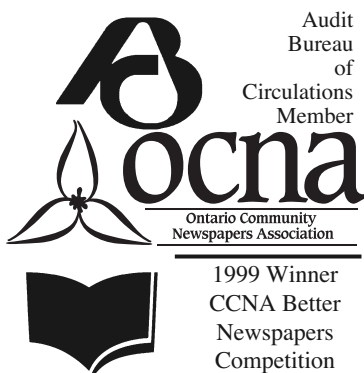
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"who dares not offend, cannot be honest"

# One Manitowaning Road

opinion

**editorial**

## Port fee makes Great Lakes cruise ship operation prohibitive

The governments of both Canada and Ontario decided more than a decade ago that the cruise ship industry should be encouraged to return to the Great Lakes.

In 1997, the Columbus paid a visit to the Port of Little Current and thus inaugurated the rebirth of cruise ships visiting the upper Great Lakes when that same ship had passed through Toronto en route to Lake Huron and Michigan a few days before, the Toronto Star's extensive coverage noted that this was the first cruise ship to visit the Ontario capital in more than a quarter-century.

Following the fanfare associated with this initial cruise ship visit, the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, in its initial planning for the rehabilitation of Little Current's downtown waterfront, was encouraged by both provincial and federal funding agencies to incorporate improved cruise ship berthing infrastructure as a key component in both its planning and design phases.

Studies were done, and an area of the downtown docks (basically the old wooden docks between the ice plant and the eastern extremity of that traditional stretch) was identified as the focus area for remediation and complete rebuilding. The study recommended that the couple of "dog leg" features peculiar to the old wooden docks be removed and that the stretch of new docks would run more or less straight, to better accommodate large cruise ships tying up downtown.

The concept was accepted, a design team set about making the plans for the reconstruction and funding was applied for. Contracts began and two years ago the work was complete.

Last week, a brand-new cruise ship, the Clelia II, made its first trip to the Port of Little Current, and the captain—who had brought other ships in to the old docks—was enthusiastic about how much friendlier the improved docks were to his ship than the old ones had been.

The only problem is that not every government department has as its objective the smooth running and continuing activity of the cruise ship industry in our part of the world.

At the present time, Canada Customs needs to send a customs officer aboard the cruise ships that dock in Little Current, should this port be the port of entry for down-bound cruise ships leaving the United States, coming from Lake Michigan.

What is really difficult to comprehend is the fee that Canada Customs has determined it needs to charge for this service: \$11,000 per

visit to Little Current (although this mind-boggling rate is waived until the 2010 season).

The support that came to the Northeast Town from both federal and provincial agencies was, at least in part, made available precisely to encourage a cruise ship stop on the North Channel of Lake Huron.

That will have been a political decision, encouraged by economic considerations.

Customs Canada could charge the \$11,000 fee to service port-of-entry cruise ship visits to Little Current because the agency does not have sufficient staff on Manitoulin and must service the cruise ships from Sault Ste. Marie.

It is clear that, should this come to pass, Little Current will become less and less attractive, on financial considerations, as a cruise ship stop and the ship is likely to seek out other ports that already have customs offices in place.

For cruise ship managers, seeking to provide an affordable product that still renders their company a profit, this decision would likely be reached fairly quickly. On the other hand, the same government that also operates Canada Customs has ploughed money into the reconstruction of the Little Current docks in an effort to place that community as a key port on cruise ships' itineraries and it makes no sense that one department of our federal government undermines the economic stimulator that another agency of the same government has gone to great pains to help initiate.

This season, the cruise ship's operator has changed its itinerary so that Little Current will not be the port of entry following the US leg of the cruise. This year, it will now be Thunder Bay, where there is a Canada Customs office in place, and so any surcharge is avoided. But what happens when Little Current is the logical port of entry for a cruise ship, for this will certainly be the case one of these days? Does the exorbitant \$11,000 fee come into play? Apparently, the answer is 'yes.'

Reestablishing a Canada Customs office in Little Current has been a suggested remedy and failing all else, then this is what should happen.

Too much thought, energy and work has been expended for this economic initiative to be threatened, or even squandered, by bureaucratic blindness.

**letters**

## Tory candidate in last election won't be on ballot this time

*Dianne Musgrove says she lacked the political bloodlust*

**To the Expositor:**

An open letter to Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing constituents:  
This is to inform you that I will not be running in any of the upcoming elections as the Conservative candidate for AMK.

The last election campaign was a huge learning curve for me. I realized I do not have the political acumen, the endless verbal rhetoric or the political bloodlust needed to run a campaign. Nor did I have a lot of learning or preparation time from the call to election and the actual campaign trail.

To those who wondered how I came to run in the first place, let me explain. No-one else had come forward to let their name stand and then when the election call did come, I put my name forward and was appointed by the prime minister to run, bypassing the nomination process because of the lack of time. The other option was to have someone parachuted in from somewhere else and there was no time or anyone available to do that, so the Conservative Party let my name stand for AMK.

My "lacklustre performance on the campaign trail" has been severely

criticized as the primary reason why I lost votes and did not win the seat. So be it, I never claimed to be the perfect person for the job; but I hoped my sincerity and honesty and calm approach would bring a different option to the campaign trail. The need to verbally assault the other parties' platforms and shortcomings, present and past, is what the public wanted to see in the public debates and I sorely lacked that ability. As a first-timer I never expected to win, given the years of experience and former campaign ventures by the other candidates, but I was willing to run the gamut anyway.

I am glad the party got in and I hope that they get the chance to complete the allotted tenure of time until another election needs to be called.

I sincerely hope that all the naysayers, rather than just criticize, will become active members of the local riding association and nominate a more qualified, politically savvy local member of AMK to run in the next election and be the voice of the Conservative Party in this riding.

**Dianne Musgrove  
Birch Island**

## Islanders need more input on proposed wind farm project

*Public has until July 24 to provide comments to registry*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** A letter has been posted to the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) registry in response to the request for comments surrounding the draft proposals for the Green Energy and Green Economy Act 2009, and specifically in regard to the McLean's Mountain wind farm proposed by Northland Power. This submission has been printed at the authors' request.

**To the Expositor:**

We feel there is one issue in particular surrounding the proposed windmill farm that would be of interest to the general public. Once the wind turbines are in place and the 40-decibel limit of sound encroaches on neighbouring property, this will hinder the adjacent landowners' ability to secure building permits, if their proposed dwelling projects fall within that limit. We believe the setback requirements for wind turbines should be such that they don't infringe on neighbouring properties, and be such that the noise generated remains within the confines of the land being leased: a buffer zone.

Our opinion is that landowners affected by these building restrictions may experience difficulty in the real estate market, allowing speculators to purchase the land for additional turbines at less than current market prices.

We also suggest that all landowners within the proposed windmill farm zone who may experience these restrictions be notified of all developments in writing, not just through public information sessions, which may or may not be convenient for them to attend.

We are also concerned that the size of this project, which has grown from a few turbines to 43, as well as the construction of the 115-KV line

and right-of-way required, will have a much larger impact on local residents and the environment than was initially thought.

Comments concerning the McLean's Mountain wind farm project can be directed to the project manager at Dillon Consulting Ltd. at dpmckinnon@dillon.ca. Any comments are to be submitted by July 10, 2009 (one of several short deadlines) by phone at (416) 229-4647, or by fax at (416) 229-4692.

The public has until July 24, 2009 to submit their comments to the EBR at www.ebr.gov.on.ca, posting number 010-6708.

Also, under Item 12, there is a new proposal for setbacks and public comment, which can be viewed under posting number 010-6708.

**Raymond Beaudry, Patti Bond-Beaudry, Susan Hart,  
Allan Ryan, Beth Ferguson, Stan Ferguson, Garry White,  
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Little Current**

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