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If fences make good neighbours, signs are often indications that all is not well in the neighbourhood. This sign is one of a number posted along the laneway into the Bayer home and farm. One of the claims levelled against the Bayers were that Mr. Bayer was blowing snow onto the trees recently planted by the neighbours in order to damage them. The trees line the length of the laneway, but do not appear to extend into the field behind. Members of the Bayer family have been farming in the area for multiple generations.

Neighbours' dispute in Green Bay area brings focus to rural 'right to farm' debate

GREEN BUSH—Disputes between neighbours are common, even in such friendly communities as those which make up Manitoulin Island, but with the growing influx of urban dwellers fleeing the big cities for idyllic rural communities, one such dispute currently appearing before the Normal Farm Practices Board may serve as a cautionary tale for farmers everywhere.

The Farm and Food Production Protection Act, 1998 hearing on March 4, 2021 between Jacqueline and Claudio Rocca, applicants, and Roy Bayer and Doris Bayer, respondents, illustrates how small things can grow into expensive litigation and tribunal hearings and morph into what might be considered fundamental "right to farm" issues.

The two properties in question are located on Indian Mountain Road in the Green Bay area of Manitoulin Island and involve properties that have been farmed there for several generations. While relations between the two owners originally began as quite amicable, with the Bayers taking hay off of the Roccas' property and the Bayers supplying manure for the Roccas' garden and the allowing the couple to hunt on their property, relationships have not remained so friendly.

Following a couple of small claims court clashes between the two property owners, the disputes continued on to a hearing before

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M'Chigeeng chief says community safety at a critical moment in terms of drug abuse, violence, mental health

by Tom Sasvari

M'CHIGEENG—With as many as 80 people suffering from opioid addiction in the community, and about 35 percent of all paramedic calls on Manitoulin related to overdoses from January until present located in M'Chigeeng, chief and council of M'Chigeeng have declared a state of social emergency as it relates to opioids, community safety, mental health and violence. The community has also passed an emergency protection bylaw to address drug dealers in the community.

"It's time," stated Art Jacko of Enaagdenjged. "We've had too many deaths in the community. We are taking action. Enough talk, it's time for action and for everyone to work together to resolve this issue."

The announcement was made at a live press conference on March 25 attended by M'Chigeeng Ogimaa-kwe Linda Debassige, health services manager Roger Beaudin, Mr. Jacko and Inspector Cori Slaughter of the UCCM Anishnaabe Police Service. Inspector Slaughter, also UAPS director of operations, represented UCCM Police Chief Faron Whiteye, who was attending a police commission meeting on the same topic.

"It's been a long road for M'Chigeeng with the COVID-19 pandemic and we have also experienced significant losses in our

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Fallout from dismantling of Laurentian federation threatens Indigenous Studies

University of Sudbury board member Dominic Beaudry resigns his post

by Michael Erskine

SUDBURY—The Laurentian University meltdown that is currently taking place in Sudbury has engendered a slew of unintended consequences. Laurentian, which entered creditor protection earlier this year when its lender, Dejardins, declined to continue to provide financing of the institution has announced it was withdrawing from the federation agreement with the three affiliated colleges: University of Sudbury, Thorneloe University and Huntington College.

It was the announcement by the University of Sudbury that it would seek to become a free-standing francophone university that set off alarm bells in the Indigenous community.

The University of Sudbury has long prided itself as being, aside from an institution that offered courses in French, the home of a long-standing and respected Indigenous studies program. Many Island residents have taken courses from the University of Sudbury over the past decades and the annual powwow hosted by the university has been well-attended. The decision to move to a francophone-only format would, in effect, abandon that tradition.

The decision by the University of Sudbury has led to the resignation of at least one Indigenous board member, Dominic Beaudry of Wiikwemkoong.

"I joined the board to advocate for Indigenous studies programs," said Mr. Beaudry when contacted by The Expositor for

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Pharmacist at Ontario's first designated COVID-19 hospital credits her Island mentorship

by Warren Schlote

VAUGHAN—An Island-trained pharmacist is working in the intensive care unit (ICU) at Ontario's first designated COVID-19 hospital and says although the growing third wave is deeply straining the health care sector, her training at Manitoulin Health Centre (MHC) has prepared her for the most challenging health crisis in a generation.

"When I had interviewed for this specific critical care position, I was told that my experience on the Island at MHC was one of the reasons why I'd be a really successful person in the ICU, because the training I got is unlike any other training program available to graduating pharmacy students," said Naushin Hooda, the clinical liaison critical care pharmacist (which is to say, the full-time ICU pharmacist) at the COVID hospital.

Dr. Hooda, who completed a placement at MHC in 2019 as part of her University of Waterloo doctor of pharmacy degree, applied to work at Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital before it transitioned into the province's designated COVID-19 care centre.

It fulfilled a lot of her goals: it is Ontario's first 'smart hospital,' filled with modern technologies that can better aid health care

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Four active COVID-19 cases on Manitoulin

As of press time Monday

MANITOULIN—On Saturday, April 3, Public Health Sudbury and Districts (PHSD) reported two new cases of COVID-19 in Manitoulin District, bringing the total active case count for the region to four.

As of press time Monday, there were 256 active cases in PHSD, 241 of which were in Greater Sudbury; 11 active cases were in Sudbury District; and four active cases for Manitoulin District.

Anyone who is exhibiting

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Spousal abuse: When men are the victims

Part I of a series

Island man shares story of family violence victimization

by Warren Schlote

MANITOULIN—An oft-overlooked part of the issue of family and intimate partner violence is that while men overwhelmingly commit the most severe physical harm against women, men are also at risk of becoming victims of family violence in the broader sense of the word, with some studies pointing to a near-equal sex distribution between victims of all types of domestic violence.

Family violence, particularly intimate partner violence, is traditionally understood as a more woman-victimized issue because female victims tend to experience more severe cases of such behaviour, including sexual assault, severe injury or femicide. Some observers also say male victimization is stigmatized and men may be reluctant to report an incident to police, which reflects in the data because many such studies rely on police statistics.

Male victimization is relatively under-studied but reports that examine anecdotal accounts of violence

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