



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Det.-Insp. Jeremy Pearson, of the Thunder Bay Police Service, shows the drugs seized as part of an ongoing investigation into drug-trafficking activity on Wednesday.

# Illicit drugs, loaded gun seized

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Two people from southern Ontario are facing drug-trafficking charges as Thunder Bay police seized more than \$660,000 in drugs and a loaded handgun on Tuesday.

Thunder Bay Police Service intelligence unit officers stopped a Jeep as part of an ongoing drug-trafficking investigation around 10 a.m. in the 500 block of Arthur Street

West.

A vehicle search led police to discover a quantity of suspected fentanyl, cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, and oxycodone tablets as well as paraphernalia consistent with drug-trafficking and a loaded handgun.

The 2019 Jeep Cherokee was also seized. Chance Jeffers, 27, of Toronto, and Hope Kinsman, 24, of Gravenhurst, Ont., are both

charged with drug and firearms related charges.

Both accused appeared in bail court on Tuesday and remain in custody with future court dates.

None of the allegations against either accused have been proven in court.

— Filed from Jodi Lundmark

# Business climate supportive in Neebing

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Kurikka says they are encouraging tourism and even light industry.

“If there’s somebody who wants to set up a small sawmill, for example, we encourage that,” he added.

Many Neebing-based businesses such as the Thunder Oak Cheese Farm, The Bakeshop on Boundary, Slate River Dairy and the many artisans take their wares to market them in Thunder Bay, with the weekly Country Market a popular spot to find them.

Some market online while others host people on their rural farms or in their restaurants. The key is letting passing motorists know they are there and open for business.

“Slate River Dairy advertises that they welcome people with their motorhomes and trailers to park in their parking lot overnight,” Kurikka said. “Then they come in and spend some money and of course that money comes back to build the economy here.”

Gwen Marsonet helps her family operate Borderlands Farm, where they raise sheep for meat and wool and grow specialty garlic and cut flowers.

“Since we first started out here, the Neebing Municipality has been very supportive, always asking what they can do to help us out to increase our profile,” Marsonet said. “The more people that can hear about what we’re doing, (the better) because we’re really passionate about sheep, and then by extension, wool and using wool, and also helping other farmers in the area use their wool. There are so many great businesses out here . . . and we really appreciate them helping us increase visibility.”

Emily Smith operates The Bakeshop on Boundary with her husband Parker and produces goods including baked pastries and breads that she sells from her bakery to supply Thunder Bay restaurants. She says when the community is supporting them, she wants to support it back.

“It makes you feel more secure and more stable, more willing to take risks and spend some more money to build on what we are doing here,” Smith said.

Among the businesses visited were the Thunder Oak Cheese Farm, The Bakeshop on Boundary, Niibing Tribal Tours, Soil School of Indigenous Learning, Sumac Hill Creations by Marcel Tardif and Borderlands Sheep Farm.



Emily Smith, who owns and operates The Bakeshop on Boundary with her husband Parker, offers fresh bread and pastries to a tour group on Tuesday.



Walter Schep, operator of Thunder Oak Cheese Farm, rotates cheese wheels in the processing room on Tuesday.



Cindy Crowe, owner of Niibing Tribal Tours, prepares a display including a sacred wolf fur near her seat lodge.

# Mayor not worried about anyone abusing powers

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Boshcoff added he’s unsure if he would proceed without council’s support.

The mayor said the funding from the \$1.2-billion Building Faster Fund is what he’s most interested in and as a democrat, he doesn’t see drawing on the strong mayor powers very often.

“With council, they have all been elected democratically and that’s going to continue,” he said. “I will respect their decisions as much as possible but I do believe this help for municipalities in a bit more stronger oomph is something that is the missing ingredient.”

The housing target funding is needed for the mining boom, Boshcoff said.

“It’s cooking here,” he said. “They are lining up and they are doing things so if we want to succeed, we have to be ready for the workers. We have to have the infrastructure in place to move the goods because there are competitors in the U.S.”

The mayor said he has faith any future mayors will be chosen wisely by the community and isn’t worried the powers will be taken advantage of, and Boshcoff also said he wouldn’t unilaterally dismiss the city manager or any other department head.

City manager Norm Gale said there has been anxiety amongst city staff with the possibility of the strong mayor powers being enacted in Thunder Bay and he hopes the mayor’s comments on Wednesday are reassuring.

“What we’re doing now is we are working to collect the information and have a series of briefings for the mayor that will support his decision-making of where he wants to go and how he wishes to exercise strong mayor powers,” Gale said.

# Future unknown for fire-damaged inspection station

BY CARL CLUTCHEY LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Officials haven’t said whether a provincial truck inspection station on the outskirts of Thunder Bay will be repaired and reopened.

The station on Highway 11-17 near the Arthur Street intersection was damaged by fire last month and is currently boarded up.

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO), which operates the station, said it was alerted to the blaze on Aug. 31.

A cause of the fire hasn’t been released, but it remains under investigation, a MTO spokeswoman said this week. No injuries were reported.

The damaged station is one of three truck inspection facilities in the Thunder Bay region.

Though no plan has been announced for its reopening, “MTO will continue enforcement activities in the area,” the ministry spokeswoman said.

She noted that a new \$30-million inspection station is set to open east of Thunder Bay this fall. That building, which is nearly complete, is located on Highway 11-17 in Shuniah Township.

Earlier this summer, MPP Lise Vaugeois (NDP-Thunder Bay-Superior North) noted there appears to be no plan to ensure MTO staffers will always be there to operate it and intercept unsafe trucks.