



*"A safe and caring place for all to learn"*

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# THOM TIMES

*"The awareness and prevention edition"*

[@thomtimesnews](https://www.instagram.com/thomtimesnews)



*All unmarked photos and art have been drawn/taken by : Hannah H., Grade 9 (She/Her)  
Photos involving Holding Hope were taken by : Hannah H. (She/Her) and Emmalea H. (She/Her)*

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# Why, hello there!

Are you a student or staff member interested in having your work in the school paper?

We'd love to get in touch with you and see your art, know your thoughts, and hear anything else you would like to share!

Send us a message through :

our Instagram : [\*@thomtimesnews\*](#)

our email : [\*thomtimesnewspaper@gmail.com\*](mailto:thomtimesnewspaper@gmail.com)

**You can also reach out to us in person!**

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## Anti-Asian Hate Crimes

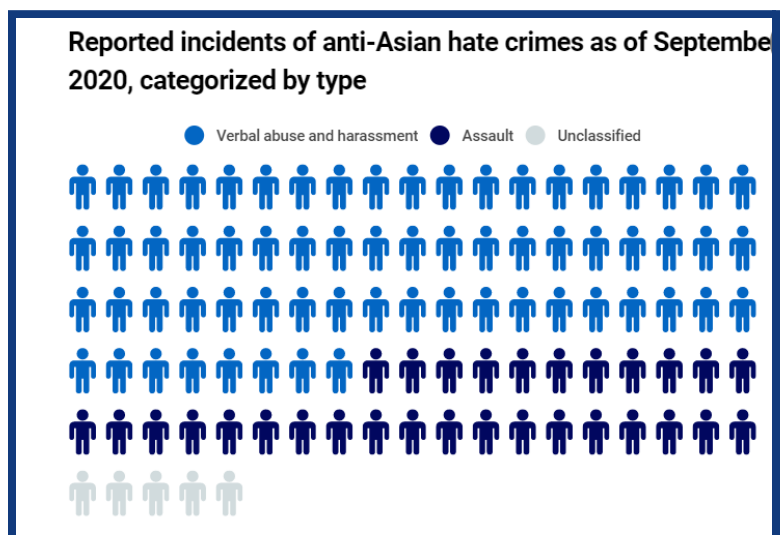
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Marjan R., Grade 12 (She/Her)

The pandemic has taken the innocent lives of many, and equally upsetting, is the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes connected to misinformation about covid-19.

Nothing - including a virus - should be used to justify people's hatred of the Asian population. Those who blame Asians for the pandemic are misguided and sometimes driven by a strong political narrative underpinning their evaluation of what is considered true. Unfortunately, Canada and America have been hotspots for increasing hate crimes against

the Asian population (South Korean, Chinese, and Southeast Asian people) which has left them much more vulnerable and frightened. Anti-Asian sentiments have formed through the (misinformed) belief that Asian people should be blamed for the spread of the corona-virus and therefore vengeance should be taken.



The data speaks loud and clear how anti-Asian hate crimes have rapidly increased: “According to live data from Fight COVID Racism, there have been 891 reported incidents of anti-Asian hate crimes across Canada as of mid-day March 17, 2021.” It has become evident that we have a lot to learn and many people to educate to prevent the growing hate crimes. Many believe this is just happening in the USA, but that is incorrect: “According to Project 1907, Canada has a higher number of reported anti-Asian hate crime incidents per Asian capita compared to the U.S. Of the reported incidents here, 65 per cent account for verbal abuse and harassment, while approximately 30 percent of reported incidents are assault.”

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We Canadians can change these growing statistics by adhering to the following rules to create a much more safe environment for each other:

1. *Report unethical and bullying behaviours in school and in public, and take proper precautions to ensure the victim is safe.*
2. *Donate some amount of money to show support for fundraisers; a little is better than nothing!*
3. *Sign credible statements online regarding Anti-Asian hate crimes to demonstrate support for families who have incurred physical or emotional loss due to the hate crimes. Online advocacy is just as important!*
4. *Educate yourselves about the history of Asian discrimination in Canada.*
5. *Let your Asian peers know they are loved and cared for.*
6. ***Educate. Advocate. Protect.***



<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/what-you-can-do-to-fight-violence-and-racism-against-asian-americans>  
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/reports-of-anti-asian-hate-crimes-are-surgin-in-canada-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-1.535148>

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## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

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Emmalea H., Grade 12 (She/Her)

I am not sure if you are aware of the ongoing problem of child abuse in Saskatchewan, Canada, or even the whole world. The statistics of how many children have experienced abuse in their life, is extremely upsetting.



With the courage of one individual, Sarah Labadie, an organization by the name of Holding Hope was created. Both Isaac M. and myself, along with over twenty others from all over Saskatchewan, have come together to be a part of Holding Hope. This organization is designed to spread awareness and help prevent other kids from being abused.

Holding Hope has made great strides this month, providing the City of Regina, as well as Saskatchewan knowledge on child abuse. We have made pamphlets, sold blue shirts, created pinwheel gardens at city hall, and just spread awareness.

Now you are probably wondering, why blue shirts? Well, April 14th is blue shirt day. A day designed so people can wear blue to raise awareness and stand up for child abuse victims past and present. So, I will be wearing blue on Wednesday April 14th, because change needs to be made and I want to support those who need my help!

Why a pinwheel, you may ask? They are the symbol of childhood innocence, and to represent the childhood kids *should* have, but often don't, because of abuse. So, Holding Hope has reached out to churches, schools, everyone possible, so we could put pinwheel gardens out and let them be seen. Our founder has actually organized a pinwheel garden at City Hall, and we have 763 pinwheels out in front of city hall.

So, not only during the month of April, but everyday, you should do your part in spreading awareness in order to help prevent other children from abuse! Make a pinwheel! Wear blue! Make a change!

**\*\*\*\*\* Don't forget to give [@holdinghopesk](#) a follow on Instagram \*\*\*\*\***



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## An interview with Sarah Labadie, a Thom alumna

Emmalea H., Grade 12 (She/Her)

1. Who is this amazing young woman I am speaking to today?

*“It's me, Sarah Labadie!”*

2. What gave you the courage to create an organization that is all about standing up for unspeakable things that you experienced?

*“Just knowing that I have the opportunity to protect another child from going through what I went through. As well as the feeling of having a purpose and knowing that my experience doesn't just have to be some dark thing I try and forget about--that instead I can use it to make a change where it matters most.”*

3. Why did you choose to title your Child Abuse Awareness Organization “Holding Hope”?

*“Child Abuse is a tough subject. It's uncomfortable, it's sad, and it's painful. I wanted the name of the organization to reflect on the future I hope for and the future I hope many others hope for. When I think about my experiences or the experiences so many other people face, I would be absolutely miserable if I didn't hold on to hope--hence ‘Holding Hope.’”*



4. Why a pinwheel garden? What does a pinwheel symbolize?

*“In 2008, Prevent Child Abuse America introduced the pinwheel as the new national symbol for child abuse prevention, through Pinwheels for Prevention®. What our research showed, and what our experiences since then have borne out, is that people respond to the pinwheel. By its very nature, the pinwheel connotes whimsy and childlike notions. In essence, it has come to serve as the physical embodiment, or reminder, of the great childhoods we want for all children’ (Prevent Child Abuse America). Our Pinwheel Garden is a little more unique. Statistics Canada reports that one-third of the Canadian population experiences abuse before their 15th birthday. I did the math, and this is 76,309 people in Regina alone. Using this number, we have put out 763 pinwheels, each one representing 100 survivors. These pinwheels create a powerful visual that demonstrates the vastness of this issue while also honouring the survivors.”*

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5. When and how did you receive support when you needed it the most? Was it easily accessible, or difficult to find?

*“My grade 11 year was when I disclosed the abuse I had experienced and that was an extremely difficult year. Until then, I had been silent about my struggles, and speaking about them was difficult to say the least. I received a lot of support from my teachers in both grade eleven and twelve, which I am forever grateful for. Speaking up about my abuse brought forth a lot of emotions and created some serious obstacles. With full honesty, I can say the community I had at École Thom Collegiate is what got me through. I was then and am still receiving professional support. Therapy isn’t as accessible as it should be, and with Covid, things have only gotten worse. Better accessibility for mental health resources is something I could talk about all day, so let’s just say it is and was more difficult to receive help than it should be, and this is yet another thing I advocate for.”*



6. What have you learned from your past experiences?

*“That if you want to see a change, you can’t take no for an answer. The fight isn’t an easy one, you can’t save everyone, but the possibility of making a difference in even one person’s life makes it all worthwhile.”*

7. How hard is it knowing that others have experienced abuse too, especially during these Covid times?

*Since I have started my advocacy work, I have actually had several people share similar stories with me -- some friends, some acquaintances and even complete strangers. Hearing other people’s stories is always bitter-sweet. It’s nice to know that I am not alone in my struggles, but it is heart wrenching at the same time because I know the pain they feel. When someone discloses current abuse, that is a whole different story. It brings me right back to my childhood and fuels my passion for prevention. It absolutely breaks my heart when current abuse is disclosed to me, but it gives me hope when I can help someone get out of an unsafe situation.*

*Because of Covid-19 and quarantine, I have no doubt that abuse rates have increased. There is actually a research team at the U of R studying the correlation between Covid-19 and increased rates of abuse. Abuse is fueled by secrecy and isolation. Sadly, quarantine creates the perfect space for abusers to abuse. That is why advocating for children is more important than ever before.*

8. How exciting was it to find out “Holding Hope” was being officialized by the City of Regina?

*When I received the call about the approval of my proclamation, I was so happy. After months of feeling like my work was pointless, this was the sign I needed. Since then, I have had the privilege to speak with so many people about abuse and have heard many pledges for change. So many people are unaware of the issue at hand, and I am so grateful for the exposure and opportunities that this proclamation has provided me.*

9. What are your future goals for this organization in the years to come?

*I would love to see the Ministry of Education’s child abuse prevention protocol revised. It currently only encourages” school divisions to provide prevention education when it should be mandated. The safety of our children shouldn’t be encouraged, it should be a top priority. I am also currently working with a K-12 school in our city to create Prevention Education lesson plans and would love to see this lesson plan used in other schools in the future. I have so many other goals, but these ones are at the top of my to-do list. Of course, as we tackle these goals and many others, we will maintain our social media presence where we are currently raising awareness and educating over 1360 people!*

10. How can we (the Thom community) and others help support this important cause or raise more awareness?

*Talk about it. Unless we acknowledge an issue, we cannot overcome it. Do your research, educate yourself and then educate others. Your voice is powerful, use it! As previously mentioned, one-third of the population experiences childhood abuse, so this is an issue we all need to be aware of and one we are all actively trying to change. I truly believe that through difficult conversations and intentional education, we can ensure that every child has the safe and nurturing childhood that they deserve.*





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## Growing up with an Abusive Father

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Isaac M., Grade 12 (He/They)

As a kid, I thought my life was pretty normal. I had two parents, I took piano lessons, and I had a dog that I played with. During school, I would get my work done, spend time with my friends and be excited for when I got home. Like a lot of other kids, life at home could get a little rough but it was never anything I couldn't handle. While my parents would argue from time to time, I was still able to spend time with my dog and play the games I wanted to play. I would often play these games in my room with my stuffed animal, Snuggle. I could always rely on Snuggle for support when I wasn't feeling the best.

As I got older, my parents argued more. Of course, this is normal too, because as you grow you become more aware of the things that happen around you. I would notice them arguing more just like how I would notice that my friend got a haircut or how I would notice that I needed to clean my room. So, I continued to play games and hang out in my room, listening to my music and waiting for it to be time for supper.



My parents never grounded me, which I was thankful for. At school, I always heard about how my friends would be grounded and they couldn't do the things they wanted. I always thought that was unfair. While my parents never grounded me, when I did something they didn't like, of course there would be consequences. For example, when I didn't want to go to bed at night, my dad would get frustrated. Because I wasn't doing what he asked me to do and I didn't want to go to bed yet, to get me to do what he wanted, he would take my ear and guide me up to my room. Of course this hurt but I'd rather this than be grounded; besides, everyone's parents did this. My oma (Dutch grandmother) did this to my dad so it only made sense he would do it to me.

There were a few times when my parent's arguments got more heated than the others. One time, my mum and I went into the bathroom and locked the door, while my dad calmed down. This was because he was trying to quit smoking, so we knew the outburst would be over soon. Another time, while my parents argued, I went up to my room like I would any other time, except this time they were yelling louder and I could hear them saying my name; the arguments always seemed to be about me. While in my room, I pushed my dresser in front of my door and took my bow and some arrows and put them on my bed. I wasn't sure what was going to happen and I was scared, so I needed a way to protect myself just in case. I also made sure there was some kind of food and drink with me in case it lasted longer than

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what I was used to. This wasn't the first time this happened, moving my dresser in front of my door and fearing what my dad would do next. Later that night, my mum came and told me we were going to a hotel for the night. We packed some things and left. That night, while at the hotel we went to go get snacks and I skipped down the hall. I remember my mum saying that she hadn't seen me that happy in a while. The next day at school, I did the same thing I did every other day - I did my work and played with my friends. I was 11 when this happened.



When my parents finally separated, things were different and seemed to be getting better. When I was with my dad, we argued less, which made me feel more comfortable, which was nice. As I began becoming more confident in who I was, trying different things, I also began noticing his judgement. I would speak to him about what I found interesting and what was important to me and he would scoff and dismiss my feelings. He was good at that. When I came out, frankly, I thought he would hate me. I thought he wasn't going to let me live at his house anymore and we'd never speak again. This didn't happen but after he found my note where I told him I was gay, he 'joked' with me about how he expected my fashion sense to get better. Other microaggressions continued to the point where being at his house felt really uncomfortable. He also didn't say "I love you" until a few days later, after I said it to him.

At the beginning of February 2020, I was invited to play with the university honour band. I was really excited to participate. The days were long but I enjoyed it, even though I wasn't getting as much sleep as I should have been. The concert at the end of the weekend was pretty good, even with a few mistakes. The plan for after was for me to go to my dad's house to help him install a printer he had bought a few days prior. I was fine with this but wanted to listen to my Wicked CD on the way there, since I was driving. He wasn't as keen and this led to a short argument.

When we got to his place (I was staying with my mum at the time), he began taking the printer out of the box. As he did this, it began to slip from his hands and he asked me to help. I went to put the cat down on the floor away from us so he wouldn't be in the way but while I did this, my dad got frustrated to the point he began yelling at me. As I started setting the printer up I became extremely aware of how tired I was; 9 hour days of playing music and little sleep on top of mental health issues and school was catching up to me and I was struggling with the next step. I told him I wasn't able to do it and I was expecting him to help me, but his frustration with me grew and I walked out of the room with him being just short of enraged.

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As he struggled to set up the printer, his anger grew. He was screaming threats and swearing at me while making me feel extremely unsafe. I messaged a friend to come pick me up and I went to my room, making sure to duck under my window so he couldn't see where I was from outside. I searched my room for something I could use to defend myself and stayed silent. After a few minutes, he called out for me. I was scared but eventually answered, trying to keep him from getting to the next level. He couldn't figure out how to connect it to the WiFi so I went in and connected it as quickly as I could. Thankfully, just after I finished, my friend arrived and I was able to leave. That was the last time I had contact with my father.

A few days after the concert, after speaking with some friends, teachers, my mum, and my psychologist, I asked my mum if I could have the car for the day so that me and another friend could go to his house and get my things. We loaded the vehicle and drove back to school. I remember standing in my empty room, saying goodbye to my cat, Ozzie. I'll never forget that moment.

Abuse isn't black and white; abuse isn't just being hit by someone every day or being subjected to sexual assault by your partner for a long time. In my case, it was subtle and most of the time hard to detect. It manifested in my dad screaming back at me when I was crying as a kid, him saying that what I was feeling wasn't possible because he was a great dad. It was me feeling the need to hide in my room, us needing to leave our home so that he could calm down, and him hitting me when I did something to him that he didn't like.



No one, especially a kid, should have to grow up in an environment where they don't feel safe, where they are constantly being told that what they're feeling isn't real and that they should be grateful that their parents are giving them food and water, paying the bills, and buying clothes for them. No child should have to endure this, yet in Canada, one in three do. It is unbelievably difficult to say something, especially when you're a kid and it's about your parent, the one who's supposed to take care of you. Though it's difficult, it is possible. I began by speaking with a friend, who was an excellent support. With time and confidence, I was able to speak with a teacher that I trusted, and my psychologist. There are people who want and will help, but unfortunately, it's up to you to take the difficult step of reaching out.

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## Statistics on Child Abuse in Saskatchewan

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Here are some surprising statistics on child abuse in Saskatchewan:

1. *“In 2019, Saskatchewan has the highest rates of domestic violence against children. The province saw the highest number of incidents per capita, with 655 victims per 100,000 people experiencing violence in the home.”*
2. *“According to the report, three out of four victims experienced physical abuse. Weapons were present one in six times, though incidents involving guns are rare. The report also shows violence against children and youth was twice as high in rural areas compared to urban communities. The study used data on police-reported family violence across the country in 2018.” Every number is a breathing child whose holistic well-being has been damaged due to the insidious actions committed on them. The victim is more often than not threatened by a close family member than a stranger. “Stranger danger” is not viable anymore!*
3. *“The province had a higher rate of such reports, despite a decline of six per cent in the number of incidents reported — 4,763 incidents, or 1,066 per 100,000 people. Saskatchewan also had the highest rate of domestic violence against children and youth — 453 incidents per 100,000 people.”*

Innocent lives are clearly being taken away far too often. Want to help? You can do your part in preventing child abuse by checking out the following links below!

## Educate. Advocate. Protect.

The infographic is titled "HOW TO REPORT A CRIME" and is divided into five columns, each with a specific reporting scenario and method:

- Is it an emergency?**  
life threatened  
crime in progress  
Call: **911**
- If it's not an emergency...**  
no urgent need for police  
crime NOT in progress  
Call: **(306) 777-6500**
- If you want to report online...**  
break and enter into building  
damage to property caused by vehicle  
lost property  
mischief/graffiti  
theft  
REGINAPOLICE.CA /ONLINE-REPORTING/
- If you wish to remain anonymous...**  
REGINA CRIME STOPPERS  
1-800-222-TIPS  
or  
REGINACRIMESTOPPERS.CA/  
or  
Download and use the **P3 APP** for your device
- Gang, drug or prostitution suspected?**  
**SCAN**  
Safer Community and Neighborhoods  
Your information is kept confidential and you will not be involved in any criminal investigation or court proceedings.  
or  
report online at **SASKATCHEWAN.CA**

Sask helplines: <https://skprevention.ca/healthy-parenting/child-abuse/> ; <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/justice-crime-and-the-law/child-protection/child-abuse-and-neglect>

Credit:

<https://saskatoon.ctvnews.ca/sask-rate-of-domestic-violence-against-children-youth-highest-in-canada-report-1.4732930#:~:text=SASKATOON%20%2D%2D%20A%20new%20Statistics,experiencing%20violence%20in%20the%20home.> ; <https://thestarphoenix.com/news/local-news/Tent-domestic-violence-strategy-update>



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## Did someone say spring cleaning?

Ben S., Grade 9 (He/Him)

It's spring now, so you know what that means? It's spring cleaning time! I don't know what about spring makes people want to clean, but it sure does make people clean.

Cleaning can be rather fun actually, or at least it is for me, because I know cleaning will increase my storage space. Spring also feels a little like setting New Years' resolutions just because of the fresh start it brings - you know, nature and all the allergies.

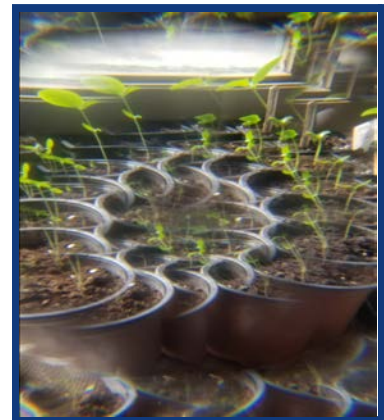


I love spring because of the pastel colours but it takes a month or two to make me want to go outside because of all the wet and muck outside. Plus, I honestly don't like seeing people I know outside, even if I know them. You know? I guess that's a plus of the pandemic! Now I am more 'normal' for doing this, as I am sure everyone else has a little social anxiety these days. Sometimes, I will even walk in puddles if there's someone else on the sidewalk, and I feel absolutely no regrets. Don't get me wrong; I love people but I definitely need to *want* to see people to not freak out when one is 100 feet away.

Wow, that was a big rant that went very far away from cleaning.

Back to spring cleaning. I love finding and laying with my old things, especially if it's something I enjoy, such as a stuffed animal of Paddington the bear (can you tell that actually happened to me). Another thing that happens when cleaning, is finding weird things you kept for memory sake, like your old baby teeth. Thankfully, these are the things you kept as a memory that are sweet and make you feel nostalgic and teary-eyed; partly because you grew up and partly because it is very dusty. And, you know, spring allergies. That's all.

I best be getting to my dusting.



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## Canada was and still is #HumboldtStrong

Emmalea H., Grade 12 (She/Her)

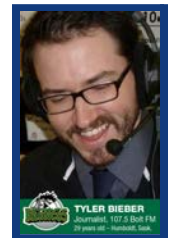
Today (April 6) marks the day where 16 lives were lost and thousands were changed forever three years ago. This day is when the Humboldt Broncos 2017-18 season roster were on their way to a playoff game when a semi truck didn't stop at the stop sign, and slammed into a bus with young, kind, genuine, spirited, and hard working hockey players and coaches. 16 members of the Humboldt Broncos family were killed that day, and 13 others were left with the reality of living life without their teammates - and many, with traumatic, long-lasting injuries.

Today, I spent the whole day reading chapter after chapter of "*Crossroads*," which was written by one of the survivors of this collision. I spent the day wearing Humboldt colours, jerseys, and shirts. I took the time to remember those who are up above and to think of those who are still living. I watched the Regina Pats game, knowing that some of these players were teammates of those who were killed in that tragedy.

I live for those up above me, who died on the road going to do something they loved. I live for the Humboldt players, and those who died while supporting this wonderful team.

### **TYLER BIEBER**, *Play-by-Play Announcer for the Humboldt Broncos*

Tyler was a voice on the radio station 107.5 Bolt FM. 2017-18 was his first season speaking for the Humboldt Broncos. Bieber had a natural gift for radio, and his voice was much appreciated on the radio.

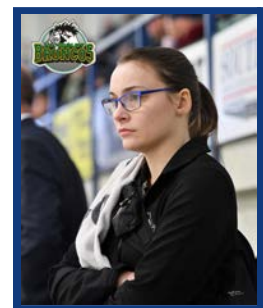


### **LOGAN BOULET**, #27

Logan signed his organ donor card at a very young age, because he wanted to help those who needed it the most. When he passed away, all of Boulet's organs were given to people who needed them. With the loss of his life, he was able to save many others.

### **DAYNA BRONS**, *Athletic therapist of the Humboldt Broncos*

Dayna was a selfless and reliable person who devoted her career to doing the same. Being in the arena is familiar territory for her, as she grew up playing hockey. Brons was living the life she wanted, doing the thing she loved.



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**MARK CROSS**, *Assistant coach for the Humboldt Broncos*

Mark was a kind-hearted, caring, generous, and overall a helpful person. He was known to be busy working with nonprofits and teaching the young ones starting off on ice skates. Cross was and still is a huge role model for all those who knew him and those who didn't.



**GLEN DOERKSON**, *Bus driver for the Humboldt Broncos*

Glen was a hockey-loving bus driver. He was a very kind man, and the whole roster and staff grew to love him and look forward to having a chat with him, especially when game days came around. Doerkson was loved by his family and teammates. Everything he did, he did with a smile.

**DARCY HAUGAN**, *Head coach for the Humboldt Broncos*

Darcy was an inspiration to his wife, kids, teammates, and the town of Humboldt. He was the type of guy that never gave up on his players; he valued them, and supported them. Players described him as the type of guy you never wanted to disappoint; you won for him, and you played for him.



**ADAM HEROLD**, #6

Adam was a new recruitment to the Humboldt Broncos, but he adapted quite well. He quickly created a good placement on the lines and racked up some points that season. Before Humboldt, Herold played for the Regina Pat Canadians, and took the role of Captain.

**BRODY HINZ**, *Statistician for the Humboldt Broncos*

Brody loved sports, and the numbers behind sports. Although this was his first year with the Broncos, he hoped to continue his work with the team, and further his love for sports and go to the University of Regina for sports management. Hinz's engagement and passion for hockey is greatly missed from the arena.



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### **LOGAN HUNTER, #18**

Logan was a past player for the St. Albert Raiders before his time with the Broncos. During his time with the Broncos, he quickly became a fan favorite and a hit with the kids, whether it be at the mini sticks hockey tournament or a potluck dinner. Hunter was passionate about hockey and the fans that filled the arena.

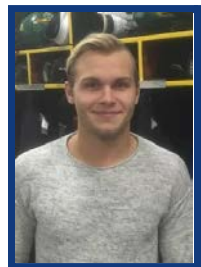


### **JAXON JOSEPH, #13**

Jaxon grew up and played hockey in the Edmonton area. He was the type of teammate that others just instantly felt comfortable around, and wanted to befriend. Joseph's friendly smile was contagious around the Elgar Peterson Rink.

### **JACOB LEICHT, #11**

Jacob was born and raised in Humboldt, so he grew up with the immense passion the town of Humboldt has for hockey and the name Broncos. Leicht was a hockey player that grew up with the goal of eventually playing for the honorary broncos. He was a hard working player who desired to continue playing hockey for the rest of his life.

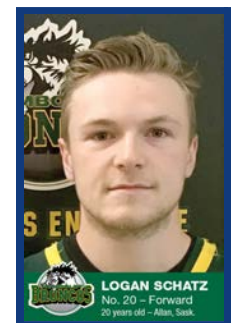


### **CONNER LUKAN, #12**

Conner played for teams all over the Alberta Junior Hockey League, before his season with the Broncos. Lukan was a dedicated player and person, overall. He was the type of person who was there for others and devoted his time to those in need.

### **LOGAN SCHATZ, #20**

Logan was a very friendly and welcoming person, player, and captain for the Broncos for over 2 ½ years. Schatz was a skilled player who filled the score sheet, but shared his expertise with rookies or anyone who asked. Not one bad word could or will ever be said about Logan.





## EVAN THOMAS, #17

Evan played right wing for the Humboldt Broncos. Thomas was an insanely smart human, whether it be in school or on the ice. He was the type of person who you were always best friends with, if you were lucky.

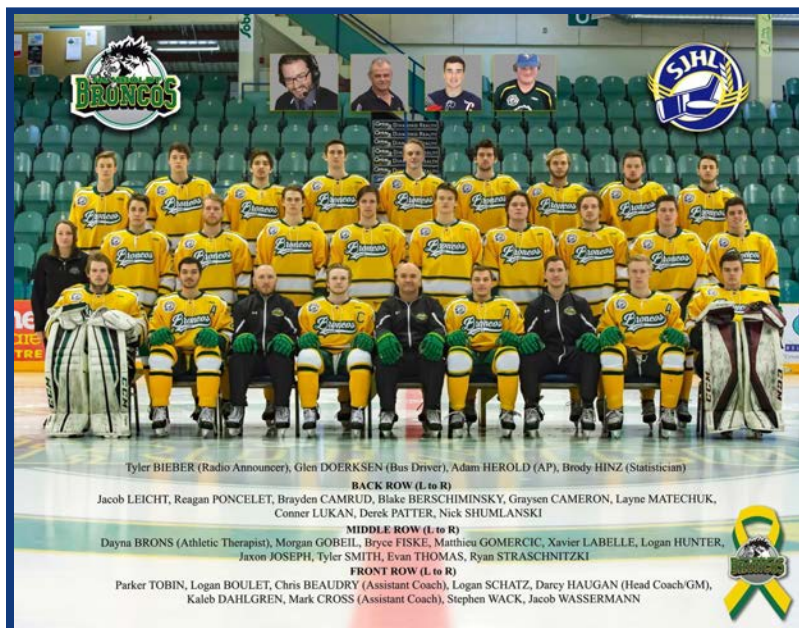


## PARKER TOBIN, #30

Parker was an extremely resilient person, playing the game or not. He was an intelligent soul with a bright future ahead. Tobin's raw brains and resilience within the net for the Broncos will be more than missed.

## STEPHEN WACK, #7

Stephen was a guy of many talents, videography being one of them, and hockey being another. He was seen by his teammates, billets, family, and the town of Humboldt as the "gentle giant." Wack's gentle, helpful, funny attitude is greatly missed.



We live. I live for those 16  
hockey-loving, kind,  
considerate, humble, and  
energetic humans.

***We are #HumboldtStrong***

Credits and sources :  
*Humboldt Journal, CBC, Hockey Gives Blood,  
Discover Humboldt, Kelowna Capital News,  
Necrocanada, and Global News*

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## Living for those 16 lives

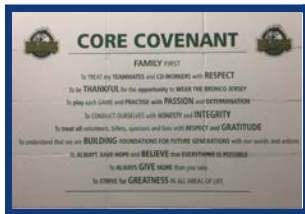
Emmalea H., Grade 12 (She/Her)

These young men are bonded together in a way they wished was not true. These young men play hockey for those 16 who can't. They live for them!



### MORGAN GOBEIL, #24

Morgan is a Humboldt born-and-raised kid. He was badly injured in the crash, so much that he was the last player to leave the hospital, almost a year after the collision. Being in the hospital did not stop Gobeil; he graduated high school, and his determined attitude is going to lead him to recovery.



### DEREK PATTER, #23

Derek is a strong individual. Two months after the crash, he returned to the ice for the first time. Patter knew that to help his healing process, he needed to return to the Broncos. Not only for himself, but for the 16 who died, so that is what he did. Patter returned to play for Humboldt for the 2018-19 season.

### BRAYDEN CAMRUD, #26

Brayden grew up and began his hockey career in Saskatoon. After the accident, Camrud suffered loss of feeling, but nothing was going to stop him from returning to Humboldt. Camrud healed on the outside mostly and returned to play for the 2018-19 season.

### XAVIER LABELLE, #3

Xavier is another boy who grew up in the Saskatoon area. Labelle suffered some serious injuries in the crash: spinal fractures, traumatic brain injuries, and deep facial lacerations. But no matter the injury, he worked hard to recover, and he is still doing physiotherapy to regain strength. Although he is yet to be cleared to play, he has been hired to coach a variety of hockey teams.



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### **TYLER SMITH, #15**

Tyler is from Alberta, but he joined the Broncos to play his favourite game. Smith dealt with broken bones all over his body after the crash. He was determined to rejoin the Broncos in November 2018, after playing a total of 10 games. Tyler came to the realization he needed to grieve and heal more. During his grieving process, he has gotten a tattoo dedicated to the team and the core beliefs of the Broncos.

### **KALEB DAHLGREN, #16**

Kaleb grew up in Saskatoon, and he was passionate to play Canada's sport from a young age. He played for many teams, before joining the Broncos that season. Dahlgren suffered some very traumatic injuries: fractured skull, a puncture wound to the head, brain injury, and six broken vertebrae. After a lot of hard work and dedication, Dahlgren has returned to the ice, attended York University, and wrote a book about his life experiences titled "*Crossroads*."



### **BRYCE FISKE, #14**

Bryce is a Saskatchewan boy, who became a defenceman for the Humboldt Broncos. The collision left Fiske with broken jaw bones and fractures of the neck, skull, and pelvic bones. After some healing time, he has recently accepted an offer to play hockey and study commerce at a university in Ontario.

### **MATTIEU GOMERIC, #19**

Matthieu is a Winnipeg born-and-raised boy, who eventually earned a spot with the Broncos. Gomerich was one of the first players to be released from the hospital, and immediately he knew he had to go to the vigil. He knew he had to continue living his life, so he accepted an offer at the same university as Fiske, but in the kinesiology program.

### **NICK SHUMLANSKI, #21**

Nick is a farm boy from the Tisdale area, his family's farm was passed by the bus just seconds before the crash. Shumlanski suffered minimal physical injury, so he was able to join the mourners at the vigil. Although he is still grieving, he has returned to play hockey for those 16 and is attending university.

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### **GRAYSEN CAMERON, #9**

Graysen is another Albertan boy, who made his way to Humboldt through hockey. Cameron suffered a fractured back, a concussion, and a cracked orbital bone. Although he may not be on a roster at the moment, Graysen is a part of the staff as an assistant coach for a Red Deer hockey team. To help him heal and grow, Cameron has adopted a service dog.



### **LAYNE MATECHUK, #28**

Layne is a Saskatchewan boy, who grew up into a defensive hockey player. Matechuk suffered extensive injuries from the crash: a brain injury, skull fractures, both lungs collapsed, and he was in a coma for a month. Layne is still doing physiotherapy to learn to walk and talk properly again. Layne continues to amaze himself and others by his hard work to grow and get better.



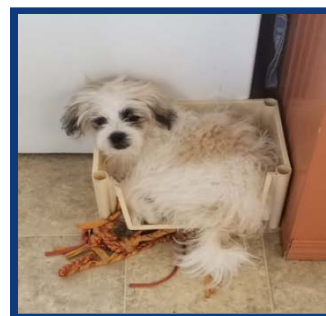
### **RYAN STRACNITZKI, #10**

Ryan is from Alberta, and has worked his way up to be a strong defenceman for Humboldt. The collision caused Stracnitski to be paralyzed from the waist down. Although he has lost feeling in his legs, that has not stopped him from playing hockey for those who are gone, but he has also set many goals for himself: one is to play sledge hockey in the 2026 Winter Olympics.



### **JACOB WASSERMAN, #31**

Jacob is a Humboldt born and raised goaltender. Wasserman suffered a brain injury, collapsed lung, and spinal injury. The spinal injury has caused him to be paralyzed from the waist down. Although he wishes everything could go back to what it was before, Jacob has accepted the struggles. He has started to drive again, and hopes to be able to walk again in the future.





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Although all of these young men are still living, they have to live with the burden of knowing they are alive but many of their teammates are not. These 13 boys are inspirations. Along with the rest of Canada following these stories, we will always be #Humboldt Strong.

Credits and sources : <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/13-survivors-humboldt-broncos-bus-crash-1.5082997> ; <https://www.thecowl.com/sports/humboldt-strong> ; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humboldt,\\_Saskatchewan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humboldt,_Saskatchewan) ; <https://www.tsn.ca/humboldt-believes-until-the-last-bronco-comes-home-1.1171616> ; <https://www.theprogress.com/news/humboldt-broncos-families-to-quietly-mark-anniversary-of-saskatchewan-bus-crash/> ; <https://www.ckom.com/2018/09/13/a-new-chapter-humboldt-moves-forward-with-first-game/>

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