



THE TEMISKAMING SPEAKER

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Forest Fire

Portions of Highway 11 closed Monday afternoon

Sue Nielsen
Speaker Reporter

LATCHFORD — Highway 11 between Temagami and Latchford was closed for more than three hours Monday afternoon after a large forest fire tore through an area located near the S-corner roughly 10 kilometers south of Latchford say the Temiskaming Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).

One eyewitness said there were fireballs rolling across the tops of the trees and the fire jumped the road at its location near the S-corner, south of Latchford.



Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) water bombers were flying over a large forest fire located approximately 10 kilometers south of Latchford that caused Highway 11 to be closed for a little over three hours Monday, May 14. No one was hurt in the blaze and the MNR are cautioning anyone entering the bush this coming long weekend to be mindful of the dry conditions and fully extinguish campfires. (Supplied photo)

The highway was closed after 2 p.m. on Monday, May 14 due to poor visibility caused by smoke from the forest fire say the OPP.

Police say both lanes of traffic were re-opened by 5:31 p.m.

that same day.

The OPP manned checkpoints on the highway as

Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) fire crews, including water bombers, battled the blaze.

Police say the MNR contacted them to request they close the highway because smoke

from the fire was so thick drivers could not see through the

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Topping the list

New school named board's top priority

Diane Johnston
Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES – “A new school in Haileybury will be the number one capital priority for the board,” says the chair of the region's English public board.

District School Board Ontario North East (ONE) chair Doug Shearer said it will be at the top of the list that the board submits to the province later this month.

The board expects to hear in late fall or early in the new year if its bid for funding has been approved.

If the new school gets the go-ahead, Temiskaming Shores has offered to swap a parcel of city-owned land for

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the existing Haileybury Public School (HPS) property.

“That's good news,” said Mr. Shearer earlier this week at the fourth and final public meeting looking into a new school.

It would avoid the difficulties and costs of building while continuing to operate the existing school at the same site, he said.

HOWEVER

But should the board's funding request be turned down, other propos-

als surfaced at the May 14 meeting.

At a recent meeting in Timmins, trustees gave the director of education, chair and vice-chair the go-ahead to meet with their counterparts in other boards to discuss opportunities to share space.

Hearst-Kapuskasing Trustee Wayne Major proposed the approach as a way to maintain English public education in remote communities with declining school enrolment.

Mr. Shearer used Haileybury as an

example.

If a new school is not approved, he said École catholique Ste-Croix sits across the street with surplus space.

But that raised concerns in the audience.

“If I were a public school supporter, to me it wouldn't be acceptable,” said Cobalt Mayor Tina Sartoretto.

“I think that's one of the things you really have to involve the parents in.”

With the closure of Cobalt-Coleman Public at the end of June, its students are slated to attend HPS.

Board officials have also raised the possibility of turning HPS into an English-only school and offering

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Wednesday



12°C
5°C

Thursday



15°C
3°C

Friday



19°C
4°C

Saturday



22°C
9°C

Rally for the train

6a – C Front

Agriculture Today

Special supplement inside