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Vol. 16 – No. 2

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2016

THE SPEAKER'S WEEKEND EDITION

Visit us on

“A tough balance”

Concerns about seniors’ ability to pay rising city costs

Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES -- The City of Temiskaming Shores will be posting information regarding some special property tax arrangements which might be possible for seniors.

The challenges facing an increasing number of Temiskaming Shores residents were acknowledged by city council at its meeting of Tuesday, December 6.

Among the points discussed were the increasing number of residents who are using food banks, and the impact on seniors of the increases in taxes and water rates.

A report from the Haileybury food bank showed that it distributed over 5,000 bags of food in 2016, and witnessed a growing number of clients.

Councillor Mike McArthur stated that the number of clients using the food bank is alarming. “I think we have to look at what is going on in Temiskaming Shores,” he said. He expressed strong concern with situations where people are having to decide between paying hydro bills or eating. He added they will now be facing costs related to the carbon tax which will be soon introduced.

INCREASES

At the council meeting, the city also adopted in principle its budget and tax and water rate increases for 2017. The city plans to increase the municipal tax levy by two per cent and the water/wastewater rates by four per cent.

Council did approve the hiring of a full-time engineering technician, and Councillor Danny Whalen commented that he had been “very torn on this issue” due to all the other costs and responsibilities that are being downloaded by the provincial government onto the municipalities.

But Mayor Carman Kidd responded that the hiring of the engineering technician will save the city money by not needing the services of the engineering firms as much.

See **“Concerns”** on **5a**



ALL ABOARD

Three-year-old Ray Labonte of New Liskeard is a Montreal Canadiens fan, but is Santa Claus? Santa adjusted Ray's toque and pointed favourably to the crest when the youngster visited with him Tuesday evening in Cobalt. The occasion was the annual ONTC Cobalt Christmas Train that pulled into town December 6 and attracted a crowd estimated at around 300 people. (Staff photo by Steven Larocque)

Space, access, stability

Discussions to begin into future of New Liskeard library

Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES -- The Temiskaming Shores Public Library board has notified Temiskaming Shores council that it accepts the recommendation of the library building committee that consideration should be given to a new location or facility for the New Liskeard branch of the library.

Temiskaming Shores council received the notice from the library board at its Tuesday, December 6 council meeting.

Librarian Rebecca Hunt later told The Speaker that the library board, building committee and city are now “looking for options regarding location, and what to do next.”

She stated that much of the concerns regarding the existing building have to do with space and the need for better access for people with mobility issues and for parents with children in strollers.

Ms. Hunt noted that the library building committee is made up by members of council and members of the library board.

This year the roof was replaced on the library building, but the exterior stonework on the building still requires repainting.

Ms. Hunt told The Speaker that the building’s parapet needs to be repaired.

Another concern is that a soil study has shown the building is sinking, she said. To stabilize the building will require drilling in the basement, backfilling, and placement of cement pillars underground, she explained.

Consideration had been given to building an addition onto the building, which would include an elevator to improve access, but the building stability must first be dealt with.

OPTIONS

Ms. Hunt said the favourite option to deal with the issues “was to try to fix up the building and put an extension with an elevator.”

She said no estimate has been obtained on the work required to upgrade the existing building, but she suggested it would probably be in the millions of dollars.

Another option would be the renovation of an already existing facility at another location.

Yet another option would be to construct a new building.

See **“Discussions to begin”** on **5a**

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Write to The City of Temiskaming Shores, P.O. Box 2050, Haileybury, ON P0J 1K0 or Visit our Website: www.temiskamingshores.ca

LDG Office Supplies opens in New Liskeard

Sue Nielsen
Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES — The retail location at 14 Armstrong Street in downtown New Liskeard has new owners and the business is pumping vibrancy and commerce into the downtown core.

LDG Office Supplies, located at the former Grand & Toy location, opened its doors the first week of August, 2016, and owners, Yan Lecompte, his father Denis and Denis’s brother Alain, are the proprietors of the business, a division of a nationally known chain called Buro Plus.

Buro Plus is the largest network of office product independent dealers in Eastern Canada with more than 14,000 products available either for in-person shopping at the store or online shopping.

The owners officially cut a ribbon during their grand opening ceremony on Tuesday, December 6 supported by the Temiskaming Shores & Area Chamber of Commerce and the Business Improvement Association.

With over 25 years of business background the owners said, “We have several years of business experience behind us and when this business was available we had a feeling it would work for us. When the former Grand & Toy went out of business we thought we might start a business then but when Staples closed its doors we knew this was the right time,” said Store Manager Yan Lecompte.

Temiskaming Shores Mayor Carman Kidd and Councillor Mike McArthur were on hand offering their best wishes and congratulations to Yan, Denis and their staffers.

Caisse Populaire du Témiskaming New Liskeard Branch Manager Yvon Toupin said he was pleased to partner with the new owners in the business venture that creates employment and provides goods for the region.

The business specializes in office supplies, a French-language bookstore, office furniture, school supplies service and an assortment of gift ideas.

The owners feel they have tapped into a market that suits their business style, friendly and accommodating.

“Probably what sets us apart is the extra mile we are willing to go for our customers. If we don’t have the item we will try our best to get it for you. The customer is very important to us,” said Mr. Lecompte.

LOCAL SUPPORT

The store has created several new jobs in Temiskaming Shores with four full-time employees on the payroll and one student for weekend work said the manager.



From the left during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for LDG Office Supplies this week are Business Improvement Area member Bea Demarce, TSACC President Darcy Griffith, Temiskaming Shores councillor Mike McArthur, LDG sales associate Alexa Belanger, LDG Assistant Manager Jennifer Marsden, Sales Associate Amber Lauzon, LDG owner-managers Yan Lecompte and Denis Lecompte, Caisse Populaire du Témiskaming manager Yvon Toupin and Temiskaming Shores Mayor Carman Kidd. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

The owners put the emphasis on local products and supplying quality service to local businesses in the region.

“This area needed a stationary store and we believe in job creation and buying locally. We mention our brother Alain who supplies computer products. When you buy locally you ensure everyone has jobs and this is what we were looking for,” said Denis.

The owners supplied a lun-

cheon, offered a draw for two gift certificates for \$100 each for store merchandise and handed out complimentary goody bags of merchandise during their grand opening celebration.

Just in time for the gift giving season the store offers

unique gift ideas like pajamas, umbrellas, toys, games, quality office and computer supplies and much more.

LDG Office Supplies is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday. Then on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday from 9

a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The store is closed Sunday.

For more information on the products and services offered at LDG Office Supplies check out their Facebook page or website at www.ldgofficesupplies.ca or call 705-647-4363.

IN MEMORIAM

*In Loving Memory of
Mom & Dad
Missing You At Christmas*

*There's a little place within my heart
That is with me every day.
A place where all my memories
Are softly tucked away.*

*It is the perfect place
In my grief for me to go.
For words could not explain
How very much I miss you so.*

*And now that once again
Christmastime has come around
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And thoughts of you are found.*

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Darlene Wroe
Reporter
ext. 242

Concerns about seniors’ ability to pay rising city costs

Continued from A Front

Ratepayer Ray Lafleur commented that even though everyone supports the idea that efforts must be made to keep seniors in the area, council should remember that seniors do not get two per cent increases in their pensions. He noted the increases in hydro, natural gas, and hydro, and emphasized that seniors are not seeing that increase in their incomes.

Mr. Lafleur questioned what the municipality is doing to help seniors.

He noted that some municipalities in Ontario are looking at giving seniors a tax break.

“SENIORS LEAVING HOMES”

He said that with rising taxes and related costs, Temiskaming Shores is going to see more of its seniors being forced to leave their homes.

Mayor Kidd noted that the city is seeing a decline in the provincial transfer fund which is meant to assist municipalities. He added that a cost increase is expected in the levy to the city from the District of Timiskaming Social Services Board which oversees housing, ambulance services, child care, and Ontario Works.

Mayor Kidd said the two per cent tax levy increase will allow the city to put some money into reserves for future

infrastructure projects.

Temiskaming Shores treasurer Laura Lee MacLeod noted that seniors could find some taxation relief. An application process would be required, and would include a lien on the property of the applicant against when it would be sold in a future sale, she explained.

She added that the information is already on the city’s website, along with other tax relief programs.

Councillor McArthur also suggested that the city implement a hiring freeze for the rest of this term (to the end of 2018). He noted the city has a \$5 million to \$6 million

payroll with benefits and pensions.

Councillor Jeff Laferriere acknowledged that hydro, natural gas and gasoline “are seeing some pretty big increases” but he noted those increases are also hitting the city.

He agreed that “seniors are a big part of our community.”

SCENARIOS

But he also commended staff for the “absolutely fantastic job in cutting” to reach the 2017 budget, and “so we could beat those increases.”

He continued that the city has spent “a lot of money in the last two years with the goal of upgrading its infrastructure.

Now we are trying to put some money aside.”

He said that it is “a tough balance” to be aware of ratepayers’ finances, and to meet the infrastructure needs of the city.

Mayor Kidd commented that he does hear when it is said that seniors can’t afford the increases. He acknowledged that the city is at “a threshold now where people are moving out.”

He expressed interest in the tax break scenarios that could be available to seniors, and the impact on the city.

Mr. Oslund suggested that an estimate could be calculated.

Discussions to begin into future of New Liskeard library

Continued from A Front

Another possibility would be to work with community partners, such as the District School Board Ontario North East, or the District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board (which is looking at establishing a new hub in Temiskaming Shores), or the City of Temiskaming Shores recreation department to partner with them in another building in which the library “would be a good fit,” said Ms. Hunt.

DIGITAL CREATOR NORTH

She noted that meanwhile an opportunity has also arisen for the establishment of a Maker Space at the library through the Near North Media Lab’s Digital Creator North project.

The Digital Creator North

project will provide digital media for youths and emerging artists to experiment with video production, audio recording, 3D printing, graphic design, coding and programming.

The project is to run for three years.

A large Trillium Ontario grant is being made available through the Near North Mobile Media Lab to provide digital learning centres at six locations across Northern Ontario. The Temiskaming Shores Public Library has been chosen as one of them. But due to lack of space, the centre will be split between the New Liskeard and Haileybury branches, and the technician who is being hired to monitor the Maker Space will have an office at the

Haileybury branch.

Ms. Hunt said she is excited about the new program in which youths “can go in and explore new technology.”

She said funding has been secured through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund for a technician to monitor the program.

“It would have been nice to have it all located in New Liskeard because that’s our busier branch,” said Ms. Hunt. She pointed out that Timiskaming District Secondary School is located in New Liskeard, and high school students would be most likely to use the Maker Space.

But she said the project will still go ahead, with the space as it is, and will be split between the two branches.

Airport plans unfolding

Reviewing incorporation and property purchase agreement

**Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter**

ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP -- The date for the incorporation of the new airport authority has now been pushed back to February 1, 2017.

The Temiskaming Rod and Custom Club (TRACC) has also been given approval to use the airport grounds again for its annual Drag ‘N’ Fly drag races.

These two decisions were reached at an in-camera meeting held by the Earlton-Timiskaming Regional Airport Joint Municipal Services Board (MSB) meeting in Earlton re-

cently.

Representatives of the MSB and the Township of Armstrong met with lawyers to begin discussions about the purchase of the airport by a new airport authority from Armstrong Township.

Temiskaming Shores Mayor Carman Kidd has been heading the MSB committee as plans are pulled together to form the airport authority and purchase the airport. The airport authority will be made up by 13 area municipalities, including Armstrong Township.

At the public portion of the November 17 meeting of the

MSB, which has been operating the airport while Armstrong Township owned it, Mayor Kidd told municipal representatives there that partnering municipalities will have an opportunity to read over the proposed agreement and determine whether any changes need to be made. There will also be an opportunity for any questions to be answered, he added.

At Englehart council’s regular meeting Wednesday, November 23, Councillor Doug Metson, who is a member of the MSB, told council that an offer to purchase has been drawn up.



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OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, December 12th, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Note: The Regular Meeting of Council on Monday, December 26, 2016 has been **cancelled**. The regular meeting schedule will resume on Monday, January 9, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Holiday Schedule

The Municipal Office and Public Works Department will be closed from Monday, December 26th, 2016, and will reopen with regular hours on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017.

The Municipal Waste Site will be closed on Tuesday, December 27, 2016 and open on Saturday, December 31st, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Garbage & Recycling Collection

The garbage and recycling collection schedule will remain unchanged. The next recycling collection date is on **Tuesday, December 20th, 2016**.

Please Note: pick-up times may vary during the holiday season; please ensure your garbage is out for collection by 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 27th, 2016. No return trips will be made.

In the event of a storm, the Coleman Public Works Department puts public safety first. Main roads will be cleared before attending to routine duties such as garbage collection and private plowing services.

Coleman Fire Department: In Case of Fire Emergency - Please Call 911

Winter Fire Safety Tips – Decorations

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or non-leaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked down.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.
- Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass “angel hair.” Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays. - Collected From: Winter Fire Safety Tips. Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs. Web - 23 November 2016. <http://www.oafc.on.ca/winter-fire-safety-tips#sthash.ehZyC3zw.dpuf>



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Seeking new Medical Officer of Health

DISTRICT (Staff) -- Dr. Marlene Spruyt, the Medical Officer of Health for the Timiskaming Health Unit, announced to the Timiskaming Health Unit board of directors “a few weeks ago, that she had accepted a new position with the Algoma Public Health Unit, beginning January 2, 2017,” the Timiskaming Health Unit board chair Carman Kidd (mayor of Temiskaming Shores) told The Speaker through an email recently.

The Algoma Public Health Unit “is a much larger health unit, with more challenges, with a larger urban catchment area,” he continued.

“Dr. Spruyt has done an amazing job since coming to this area, and although we hate to see her leave, we have wished her good luck on her new position.”

Mayor Kidd stated that “we have posted the position of (Medical Officer of Health/chief executive officer), on many sites, and will soon be receiving resumes from interested parties.

“In the meantime, Dr. Spruyt, and other (medical officers of health) from North Bay, Sudbury and Timmins, have offered to cover (the Timiskaming Health Unit) if issues arise before we find a replacement.

The Timiskaming Health Unit human resources and finance director Randy Winters will be temporarily taking the role of chief executive officer until a new Medical Officer of Health can be found for the Timiskaming Health Unit, Mayor Kidd stated.

“All operators at the health unit will carry on as we have in the past,” he concluded.



YEAR-END TRIP

From the left are New Liskeard English Catholic Central School (ECCS) Grade 7-8 students, Mackenzie Shillinglaw, Kiara Wong, Paige Stevens and Jenna Popkie at the school’s recent Spaghetti Supper/Silent Auction fundraiser with proceeds going to support the Grade 7-8 year-end trip. ECCS principal Matt Turner thanks the sponsors of the event and the volunteers who ensured the success of this recent event. (Supplied photo)

Cobalt wants better communication from health unit

Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter

COBALT -- Cobalt council members have expressed the wish that the Timiskaming Health Unit would have advised the municipality regarding its plans with the transition of the Medical Officer of Health, Marlene Spruyt, to another health unit.

At Cobalt’s meeting of coun-

cil on Tuesday, November 22, Mayor Tina Sartoretto commented that the town is “basically getting all our information through social media.”

She said that she has been advised that Dr. Spruyt will be relocated to another health unit as of January 2, 2017.

Dr. Spruyt will continue to cover the Timiskaming Health Unit until her replacement can be found, Mayor Sartoretto

continued.

Mayor Sartoretto stated that she has also been told that “Randy Winters is temporarily taking the role of chief executive officer.” Dr. Spruyt had been holding this position.

Mayor Sartoretto added that she has been told that if assistance is needed and Dr. Spruyt is not available, the district can call on other health units.

“That’s the assurance we received from the chair of the Timiskaming Health Unit.”

POOR COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor Sue Nielsen commented, “This is big news. When were they going to tell us?” She continued that the municipality should have been notified. “These are major changes.”

Mayor Sartoretto stated that she has indicated to the health unit that “it would be worthwhile to notify the communities” about this type of change.

Councillor Nielsen commented that “a qualified Medical Officer of Health is very hard to get.”

Mayor Sartoretto agreed, saying that it is very difficult to get people in Northern Ontario who have the necessary qualifications. “It’s a challenge and we will wish them luck in their endeavours” in finding a new Medical Officer of Health.

Temagami Family Health Team

Submitted by Ellen Ibey

Urban Pole Walking Group

Nordic pole walking is a great activity for those with arthritic or chronic pain since it lessens the stress to hips, knees and ankles. It’s a simple, fun and convenient way to increase the health benefits of walking. Just ask Ollie Page (pictured below) who won a set of her very own walking poles.

Get a Total Body Workout

Walking poles work your arms, shoulders, chest and upper back muscles through a full range of motion as you walk – using 90% of the body’s muscles. The effort you use swinging the poles transforms your daily walk into a total body workout.

Build Your Balance

Walking poles force you to move with good posture in an upright position, training your body and properly aligning your spine while in motion. This will improve your balance over time.

Sneak in Some Core Strengthening

Walking with poles also strengthens your core abdominal muscles, which are the muscles you use to lift, bend over and support yourself as you walk.

Boost Your Calories Burned


Walking with poles significantly increases the amount of oxygen you use and the number of calories you burn, giving you a more efficient workout for your time. If losing weight is one of your goals, walking with poles may help you reach your goal weight more quickly.

Nordic pole walking takes place:

- Starting from the Temagami Medical Centre, 17 O’Connor Drive (Temagami) Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.
- If you are interested in giving this fun activity a try, please give us a call at (705) 569-3244 to register. Sets of poles are available for you to use.

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committed to keeping you as healthy as possible!





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Dr. Matt Kutalowski is happy to announce he has transitioned into and purchased Dr. Rick Caldwell’s dental practice at 61 Paget Street in New Liskeard.

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Temagami

Family Health Team

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Tel: 705.569.3244 Fax: 705.569.2610

Wild Temiskaming 2017 calendar feeds the need

DISTRICT (Special) — For the second year in a row, Cobalt resident Sue Nielsen, is offering a calendar of her photographs taken of the Temiskaming region in a calendar called “Wild Temiskaming 2017”, with proceeds being donated to the Cobalt/Coleman/Latchford and Area Food Bank.

Last year Ms. Nielsen donated \$2,100 to the Cobalt and Area Food Bank from the calendar sales and she is hoping to equal or exceed that amount this year.

She is concerned about poverty and hunger in our communities and feels a society is often judged by how it treats its most vulnerable.

She said, “The issue of hunger is real in this region and in our opulent province. Costs for daily living expenses are rising and often individuals and families put food on the backburner in an effort to pay the rent, hydro bill and buy clothing.”

She appreciates the good work being done by the many food bank volunteers who do the heavy lifting in terms of helping those less fortunate access food.

Many of those people being children, adults and seniors who through no fault of their own find themselves at the doors of a food bank.

“Aren’t we all just a couple of paycheques away from the doors of a food bank? We are all in this together and we need to help each other whenever we have the opportunity. I wish to thank everyone who supports this project,” Ms. Nielsen said.

PURCHASE

The Wild Temiskaming 2017 calendar can be purchased for \$20 at The Temiskaming Speaker office, Laura’s Art Shoppe, The Silver Café, Coleman Township municipal office, JJ’s Corner Store and Armstrong on Whitewood and from Ms. Nielsen herself.

She will gladly mail them anywhere in the world.

To contact Ms. Nielsen call 705-679-8930 (leave a message) or mail your Wild Temiskaming 2017 Calendar cheque to Sue Nielsen, 29 Galena Street, Cobalt, Ontario, Box 455, P0J 1C0.

PLANNING A PARTY

Cobalt and Coleman discussing Canada celebration

*Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter*

COBALT/COLEMAN TOWNSHIP -- Cobalt and Coleman Township representatives have already met to discuss plans for a bigger than usual Canada Day celebration in 2017 to celebrate Canada’s 150th birthday.

Cobalt Councillor Sue Nielsen reported to Cobalt council that she and chief administrative officer Michelle Larose met with Coleman Township Mayor Dan Cleroux and Coleman Township chief administrative officer Logan Belanger recently and talked about expanding the Canada Day event.

Councillor Nielsen told council that discussions were to have the event at the Cobalt Lake park. Ms. Anderson noted that Coleman Township would also

like to have some of the activities at Bass Lake Park.

Council also heard that Mayor Cleroux has suggested holding the SMC Kiddies’ Day event at the Cobalt Lake park, rather than holding it on the Civic Holiday long weekend in early August.

Coleman Township also wants to add a portable drive-in at the Coleman Township hall with two movies.

Fireworks are also in the plans.

The two municipalities are applying for Celebrate Canada funding for the Canada Day event.

Councillor Nielsen noted that because there will be no Bikers Reunion in 2017, always held around the Canada Day weekend in New Liskeard, “people are going to be looking for things to do.”



ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF ENBRIDGE GAS DISTRIBUTION INC., UNION GAS LIMITED AND NATURAL RESOURCE GAS LIMITED

Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc., Union Gas Limited and Natural Resource Gas Limited have each applied for approval to recover the costs associated with their cap and trade compliance plans. The costs of the proposed plans would raise natural gas rates by \$6 to \$7 on average per month starting January 1, 2017 for residential customers. The exact amount of the increase will depend on the amount of gas you use and on your gas utility. Other customers, including businesses, may also be affected.

Learn more. Have your say.

Under the Government of Ontario’s new greenhouse gas emissions regulation each of Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc., Union Gas Limited and Natural Resource Gas Limited are required to develop plans to meet their cap and trade compliance obligations. New costs will be incurred by each of the natural gas utilities to comply with the regulations. The Ontario Energy Board will assess the cost-effectiveness of each of the cap and trade compliance plans filed by the natural gas utilities to determine whether the gas utilities can recover those costs in the rates they charge customers.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a combined public hearing to consider Enbridge Gas, Union Gas and Natural Resource Gas’ requests. We will question each of the gas utilities on their cap and trade compliance plans and on each of their cases for a rate change to implement those plans. We will also hear questions and arguments from individual customers and from groups that represent Enbridge Gas, Union Gas and Natural Resource Gas’ customers. The OEB will assess whether the compliance plans are cost-effective to determine whether the recovery of the cap and trade costs from customers is reasonable.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review each of **Enbridge Gas, Union Gas and Natural Resource Gas’** applications on the OEB’s website now.
- You can file a letter with your comments at any time before the end of the OEB’s hearing, which will be considered during the hearing.
- You can become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply by **January 9, 2017** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB’s decision and its reasons on our website.

LEARN MORE

Our file numbers for this case is **EB-2016-0300 (Enbridge Gas), EB-2016-0296 (Union Gas) and EB-2016-0330 (Natural Resource Gas)**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please enter one of the three file numbers **EB-2016-0300 (Enbridge Gas), EB-2016-0296 (Union Gas) and EB-2016-0330 (Natural Resource Gas)** on the OEB website: www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice. You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. The OEB will determine at a later date whether to proceed by way of a written or oral hearing. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **January 9, 2017**.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and email address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This hearing will be combined pursuant to section 21(5) and held under section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B).



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A BUSHEL AND A PECK

The Temagami Country Christmas was rich with a variety of activities and things to see December 2 and December 3. The Temagami Lions club, Peacock Woodcraft, and many area artisans gathered to bring plenty of festive fun to all who visited. Ashley Fehr of Ingram Township, who knits, crochets, and sews, and also teaches these crafts, was among those present. Ms. Fehr also brought her light Brahma hen (named Lipgloss) for people to meet and pet. (Staff photo by Darlene Wroe)



FISHING FOR CHRISTMAS

The Temagami Country Christmas took place Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3, thanks to the Temagami Lions Club and Peacock Woodcraft. Children and their families from far and wide made the drive to the Temagami Industrial Park to experience the Christmas wonderland, and to visit with Santa. Among the many participants was Karson Charette, 5, of North Bay, who enjoyed the many activities including “ice fishing” for a gift. (Staff photo by Darlene Wroe)



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Des soins près de chez soi

Lots to consider

Englehart considering possible residential development

Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter

ENGLEHART -- Investigations will be taking place into costs and objectives in a possible residential development of an area in Englehart north of King Street in the northwest corner of the town.

At Englehart council’s meeting recently, council was presented with a detailed map of the area showing the original plan for the area between Tenth Street and Sixth Street.

Englehart public works superintendent Ryan Vickery stated that a plan for the area was laid out when the town was originally laid out, but development in that area never occurred.

Clerk-treasurer Shawn LaCarte stated that he would bring the plan to the attention of the economic development committee, which recently questioned about further development in the town. “There are a lot of things to look at,” he said of the investigation into whether the area can be developed.

Mr. Vickery stated that there are water and sewer mains in the lane north of King Street and south of the street that would have to be constructed if the lots were developed. “It is an older line we would be looking at upgrading and putting our connections to it” if new lots were opened to the north of the lane, he outlined.

Councillor Doug Metson stated it would be ideal if 90 per cent funding could be acquired for the funding, but he added that type of funding is “gone for now anyway.”

Mr. LaCarte said the town could begin to look into the cost and what it would want do to with the area. “It is probably something the economic development committee could look at,” he said.



THE TRADITION OF THE TREE

The tradition of the Christmas tree started prior to Christianity with the bringing in of the tree at the winter solstice to remind people of the new spring to come. With Christianity, the tree came to symbolize everlasting life. The Kenabeek Community Hall was the scene of a Christmas Bazaar Day Sunday, December 4. Chase Borgford, 8, got to help with decorating the Christmas tree for the event. (Staff photo by Darlene Wroe)

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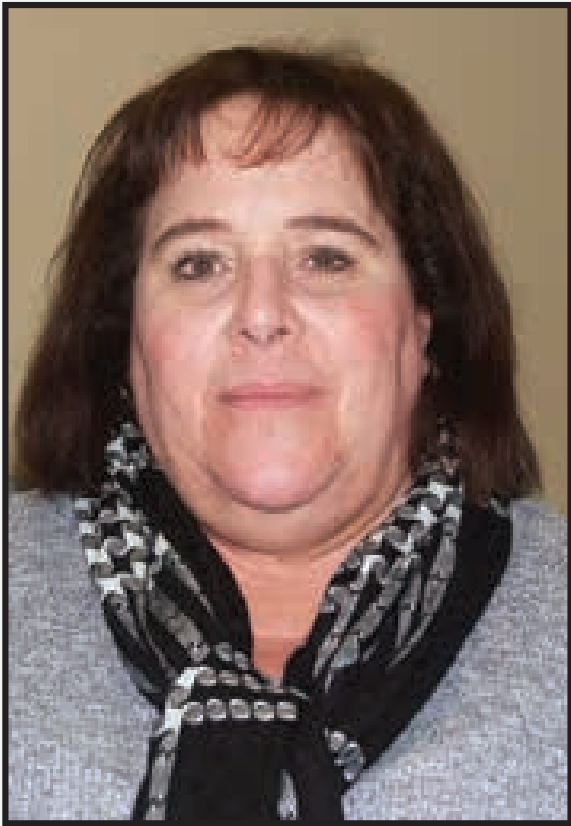
Settling into new position

COBALT (Staff) -- Cobalt's new chief administrative officer Michelle Larose has been familiarizing herself with the boards and committees in the town, the files, and getting settled into a new community.

With 20 years of experience in the municipal field in communities such as Iroquois Falls and Black River-Matheson, she is now settling into her routine after a "soft start" at the municipality on October 20. After a couple of days in the office, she left to return again in early November to fully pick up the tasks associated with her position.

Ms. Larose says the town's 2017 budget will be "kick-started" in early December, with an objective of presenting a preliminary budget early in 2017.

She said she is now working on "getting to know all the different boards and committees." She added that she will also be on the Temiskaming Transit Committee.



Michelle Larose is the new chief administrative officer of the Town of Cobalt. (Staff photo)



FOOD BANK HELP

Through the Northeastern Unit of the English Catholic Teachers Association, who support the Englehart Holy Family School Social Justice Club, teacher Todd Bosak (right) presented a cheque for \$200 to Englehart Food Bank representative Vic Roach on Friday, November 25. Three schools came together to complete the food drive that saw donations of cash and 2,000 items of food donated from people in Englehart and area. The schools were Holy Family, Englehart Public School and Englehart High School. (Supplied photo)

MNRF Christmas Food Drive helps the needy

TEMISKAMING SHORES (Staff) — The workers of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) are once again hosting their annual Christmas Food Drive and they are asking people to support them in their efforts to assist local food banks in the South Temiskaming region.

The MNRF Christmas Food Drive takes place Saturday, December 17 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at Chartrand's Independent Grocer and Walmart.

The MNRF staff will be in attendance accepting non-perishable food items and cash donations.

Smokey the Bear will also pass out treats such as candy canes to young and old.

All donations received on the day will be divided evenly amongst the region's food banks located in Temagami, Cobalt/Coleman and Latchford, Haileybury, New Liskeard and Englehart.

This food drive nets an incredible amount of food and cash for area food banks and it is hoped that with the community's generosity, it will be another successful event helping people in this region who struggle with hunger.

For more information on the food drive call 705-648-3750.



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National Child Day celebrated in Temiskaming

Sue Nielsen
Speaker Reporter

EARLTON — Over the last 50 or so years in our culture, we have witnessed a gradual decline in children’s opportunities to play freely, without adult control, and especially in their opportunities to play in risky ways, says Red River College’s Early Childhood Education instructor Marc Battle. He was the guest speaker at Ecole catholique Assomption in Earlton on Saturday, November 19 as part of a National Child Day event.

The District of Temiskaming Social Services Quality Assurance Program, working on professional development for early childhood educators, organized the National Child Day event focused on emergent learning.

They invited Mr. Battle to be their guest speaker with representatives from the Timiskaming Health Unit, Brighter Futures, area libraries, Native Women’s Support Group, Healthy Kids Community Challenge, Centre du santé communautaire du Temiskaming, Community Living Timiskaming South and Timiskaming Child Care in attendance.

QUOTES

Mr. Battle said, “In an age where we are inundated with research of how to build better brains and create smarter children, we may be forgetting that a child is much more than a cognitive system. They are a whole human being.”

He used a variety of quotes in his power-point presentation including the Marcel Proust quote, “We don’t receive wisdom, and we must discover it for ourselves after a journey no one can take for us or spare us.”

He encouraged the early childcare educators to go back to their childhoods and remember their most favourite play activity.

Play and learning are naturally linked and that wisdom or learning as a child comes from direct experience of play, says Mr. Battle.

RISKY PLAY

Mr. Battle said children must be allowed to experience risky play to develop their character and a set of values that will guide them into adulthood.

He spoke about the playgrounds he saw in the Temiskaming region, noting he didn’t see many children playing in them.

He advises the best playgrounds are the ones that are made of natural ingredients like rocks, trees and sand versus rubberized surfaces and metal configurations.

“Look around at your community, what represents your community? It is wood. This is a region of wood, and rocks and sand, which should also be represented in your playgrounds. A community’s values are reflected in playgrounds,” he said.

He mentioned he enjoyed reading a column in The Temiskaming Speaker’s Weekender paper called “Daredevils” because it talked about risky play and its benefits to children.

He says adults face a conundrum when they deprive children of risky play while setting children up for mental health issues.

“Play is a footnote to who children are going to be as adults,” he said. “I pretended to be a member of the rock group KISS as a child. I wore the makeup and had the tall boots and I sewed my own clothes. My father gave me the freedom to play and pretend I was a rock star. This made all the difference. I don’t advocate children get hurt, but we learn from every scar and bruise. We learn who we are and how resilient we can be. Children need to be allowed to develop resiliency.”

He says adults need to allow kids to take risks because the more children experience the more enriched they are as human beings.

“Kids nowadays deserve the kind of play you had as children,” he said to the adults in attendance.

He noted when children play freely and unstructured, they learn about themselves, they learn how to play with other children and to work together.



From the left at the National Child Day event at Ecole Assomption in Earlton are five- year-old Rayna Charlton, Red River College Early Childhood Education instructor/guest speaker Marc Battle and eight-year-old Karly Charlton. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

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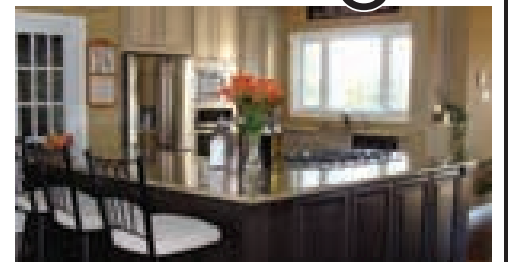
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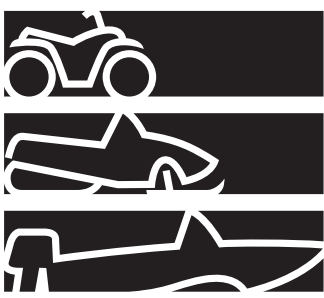
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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Unclose, in verse
4. Galena or ferrite
7. Serpents
11. Bowsprit site
15. Digger
16. Confidant
17. Latin farewell
18. Improve
19. Auto efficiency figure
21. Of a historic time
22. Sign
23. Beautify
25. Cereal ingredient
26. Treasure
29. Salutation word
30. Bitterly pungent
33. Emulate Picasso
35. Singer Sumac
38. Spuds
41. Coat of mail
42. Strain
44. Hand-to-hand fight
45. Asian clog
47. Signet
49. Give out
50. Certain do
53. Weekend bargains
56. Shelter
57. Hot stuff
59. Graceful creature
60. Place
62. Noteworthy occurrence
64. Dawdle
66. Historical record
70. More mysterious
72. Word to Birdie
73. Malice
74. Cheerless
76. Period

79. Support
80. Have the flu
82. Close to the speed of sound
86. Sow chow
88. Maui tuber
89. Ridiculing
93. New Zealand bird
94. Desk light
95. Increase
96. Flightless bird
97. Did some karaoke
98. Ultimatum word
99. Eliminate
100. Look inquisitively

DOWN

1. Unit of electrical resistance
2. Hawaiian fare
3. Moray, e.g.
4. October's birthstone
5. Sitarists' music
6. Varnish material
7. State firmly
8. Calcutta dress
9. «____ Suite»
10. Exclusive
11. Hardly a beginner
12. Modernized
13. Ancient Greek theaters
14. «____ You Be My Honey»
20. Yuletide drink
24. Large African antelope
26. Ems, e.g.
27. Conflict
28. Intent
31. Bighorn
32. Scoop

34. Deuce follower
36. Untidy manner
37. Province
39. Neural network
40. Envisioned
42. Dog-____ (shabby)
43. Total number
46. Knock
48. Maui necklace
50. Bolt
51. Be wildly enthusiastic
52. Excessive
54. Dowdy
55. Black and Yellow, e.g.
58. Indigo
61. Empty a grip
63. Golf-ball peg
65. Grazing grounds
67. Bird bill
68. Corroded
69. Type of serve
71. Clank
75. African village
77. ____ Pyle
78. Japanese mushroom
80. Solicits
81. Hip bones
83. Appendages
84. Negative response
85. Decorated
87. Ham on the hoof
90. Urchin
91. Neither's counterpart
92. The ____ Nineties

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AQUARIUS

You might be tempted to purchase something expensive. Be prepared to go over your budget while shopping for Christmas gifts. You'll also need a little extra energy to get through the week.



PISCES

You'll be lost in deep contemplation. Your convictions force you to develop your spirituality. A pilgrimage is a project you might start planning.



ARIES

Take good care of your immune system. If you're seeing a lot of people, take the necessary precautions to avoid catching their germs. Make sure to get plenty of rest.



TAURUS

Time is a factor, and you'll need to decide between different obligations and certain activities. Focus on balancing the different spheres of your life.



GEMINI

A trip is on the horizon. Even if it's only in a few months, you need to start preparing now. Look into getting your vaccinations or renewing your passport, for example.



CANCER

Expect some minor conflicts this week. You'll no longer be able to ignore what you've been putting off. You'll be able to relax only when everything gets done.



LEO

You close a contract that changes your life. Your perseverance enables you to reach new heights, even on a personal level. Your audacity and your warrior spirit are in full swing.



VIRGO

A great deal of work and a lot of details require most of your time. Try letting go and taking the time to appreciate the now. You'll adopt a good outlook on life.



LIBRA

You're going to be the centre of attention. You'll be the only person to accomplish a particular task at work, and this will earn you some well-deserved recognition from management.



SCORPIO

Breaking your routine benefits both you and your relationship. Don't turn down invitations from your friends — they're going to surprise you, especially if you're single.



SAGITTARIUS

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