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WEEKENDER

THE SPEAKER'S WEEKEND EDITION



Vol. 18 – No. 47

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019

Visit us on 

Exploration continues on geothermal energy project

Darlene Wroe
 Speaker Reporter

COBALT - The possibility of drawing energy from old silver mine shafts is still being explored.

Temiskaming Rift Valley Aspiring Geopark representative Graham Gambles met with Cobalt council at its committee-of-the-whole meeting to report on the progress to date in examining whether it is possible.

Evaluation of underdeveloped geological resources is part of the Geopark's activities that will help the organization achieve full recognition in the UNESCO Global Geopark initiative, Gambles explained October 1.

To determine the potential for a geothermal energy project in the Cobalt and Coleman Township area, Gambles arranged a site visit by University of Guelph geothermal researcher Professor Mostafa Elsharqawy, Gambles told council, adding that the university is linked to Temiskaming through its management of the New Liskeard Agricultural Research Station.

Continued on 3a



MADD ABOUT THE CAUSE

Supporters of the campaign against impaired driving stepped behind bars and “earned” their release by soliciting donations for MADD – Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Pictured above at the October 19 jail-a-thon were, from left, Dan Dawson, chair of the Temiskaming area Crime Stoppers group; Gina Lawrence of Walmart, where the fundraiser was staged; and Caitlin Johnston of the Temiskaming Shores Fire Department. Funds will support MADD Canada awareness initiatives in Temiskaming. MADD itself turns 30 this year. (Staff photo by Diane Johnston)

DID YOU GET The Speaker THIS WEEK?

Here are some of the stories in our October 23 edition...

- Anthony Rota returns as MP in the October 21 federal election joining Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in a minority government.
- Area officials are backing a call for the provincial government to appoint a local representative to the

- Ontario Northland Transportation Commission.
- Temiskaming Shores and Temagami are preparing to share building inspection services.
- NDP's Charlie Angus wins a sixth term as Timmins-James Bay MP.

- Cobalt council has stated its support for the Temiskaming Shores and Area Physician Recruitment and Retention program.
- Joseph Dube is elected as Cobalt's new councillor.
- The New Liskeard Cubs are out of last place in the Great North Midget League and are now tied for fourth.
- The city welcomes the new recreation director, Mathew Bahm.
- The New Liskeard Lions rally for silver at the Porcupine tourney.
- The City library is moving into the former New Liskeard medical clinic in 2020.
- People joined the fifth and final fun run/walk of the Get Active in Temiskaming series in a new theme, Hunt and Harvest.







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HUNTERS AND GATHERERS

Leaves were still on the trees along the route for the fifth and final event of this year's Get Active in Temiskaming series October 20. The season-ender was moved up almost a month from previous years, when snow was sometimes on the ground for the so-called Chilly Run. One constant remained – at the end of the walks and runs, participants could warm up with a bowl of chili. (Staff photo by Diane Johnston)

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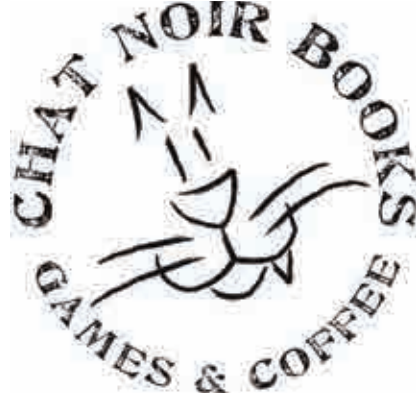
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ALARMING INFO
If a fire breaks out at your home in the middle of the night, do you have a plan for a safe, quick exit? Planning was a focus of the Fire Prevention Week display by Temiskaming Shores Fire Department in New Liskeard October 9. Dropping by the display in the RONA parking lot were the Knott family – Harley Township firefighter Kyle holding future firefighter Walker, 2, and seven-month-old Lincoln with mom Jessica. (Staff photo by Diane Johnston)

Exploration continues on geothermal energy project

Continued from A Front

Elsharqawy made a tour of former mine sites, in company with Gambles, and retired mining instructor Don Hillier.

“The associated tunnels and stopes of mined veins today hold huge reserves of water with geothermal potential, to a depth of 100 metres (on average) below the community,” Gambles outlined.

“The professor noted that the presence of Cobalt Lake, contaminated though it may be, is in the middle of the community and the waters also hold great potential for energy reserves.”

He continued that evaluations of both underground and surface waters would have to be undertaken to identify any limits to energy exploitation.

Gambles noted in his presentation that there are buildings in the downtown core which have stopes under them that are filled with water.

The deeper Menago Shaft in Coleman Township (near the Colonial Adit site which is used for public tours in the summer) was visited.

There are also deeper shafts in the Brady section of Coleman Township, the group noted.

Gambles told council members that Cobalt appears to have all features needed to create a successful geothermal heating/cooling system for most of the community’s public and private buildings. It was estimated a geothermal energy system would save 50 per cent on the combined costs of heating and air conditioning compared to a fossil fuel system.

Because the potential project would be in a hard rock setting rather than a coal mining operation, it would be unique and could be considered for funding from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada because it would mean the development of new management practices in the design of the project, making it possible to use the system in other hard rock mining communities.

Partners are needed, and Temiskaming Geopark would be the not-for-profit partner. Other potential partners have also been identified, and Cobalt has been identified as a potential municipal partner. The town would not be expected to provide funding, said Gambles.

An envisioned one-year pilot project that could extend to five years would range in cost from \$20,000 for one year to \$5 million for five years.



Celebration
Of Life for

**Joan
Sutton**

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Baptist Church
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at 11 a.m. on
November
1st. Luncheon
will be served.
Committal to
follow at Valley
View Cemetery.

**NOTICE FROM THE
COBALT SILVERLAND
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All persons having solar
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ornaments on gravesites
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that date will be removed
by the caretaker and
all broken items will be
disposed of.

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DSBONE lands Canadian astronaut

DISTRICT (Staff) - Canadian astronaut Dr. Dave Williams touches down with area students, families and the public on Thursday, November 7.

Williams will be at the Timmins High and Vocational School auditorium at 6:30 p.m. that day and his presentation will be broadcast out to area schools under the jurisdiction of District School Board Ontario North East (DSBONE).

Local schools where students and the public can gather to hear the presentation include Timiskaming District Secondary School, Englehart High School, and Kerns Public School.

Students and adults who attend the presentation will hear from Williams about what is involved in achieving peak personal performance. These qualities include endurance, persistence and the ability to overcome obstacles.

Williams will draw on his own experiences from which he has concluded that success is built on using effective judgment, skill and knowledge. He will also share with audiences methods to manage emotional energy for yourself and with others.

Along with his approach to achieving peak performance, he also addresses environmental stewardship, leadership, the future, and risk management.

As well as being an astronaut who has had three space walks and has participated in two shuttle missions, Williams is a former healthcare chief executive officer. He has shown leadership through developing a culture of innovation, best practices, fiscal responsibility, and patient-centred care.

Williams also has authored books which outline his insights.

Temagami Family Health Team
Submitted by Ellen Ibey

Health Literacy.....Why it should be important to you!

Have you ever been confused by what your healthcare provider is saying? Have you ever asked a question and not understood the answer? Have you ever not asked a question because you were anxious or embarrassed? **YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

What is Health Literacy?

Health literacy means using many different skills to get, understand, communicate and use information to make informed decisions about your health and find your way through the health care system.

For example, you are using health literacy skills when you:

- Follow instructions for taking your medications
- Prepare before a test or surgery
- Act on medical advice and filling out medical forms
- Understand treatments and medical terms
- Find and use health information
- Know where to go to get health services from home or in the community
- Ask questions and advocating for yourself or your family member

Tips to Improve your health literacy:


- Bring your questions so you can remember everything. Write down what your provider tells you
- Bring all of your medications, including vitamins and any over-the-counter or herbal remedies
- If you can, bring a family member or trusted friend along to help you remember what your health care provider says
- Ask questions if you do not understand. If you are still not sure about the message, ask your health care provider to repeat using everyday language
- Repeat the information you hear in your own words

Stress or how you're feeling can affect your ability to understand and act on health information.

Health literacy applies to everyone! The better your understanding of health information, the better you will be able to manage your health and move through the health care system more easily.

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GET ACTIVE AT ANY AGE

Bev Foley accompanied her two-year-old granddaughter Josephine Haberer on the 100-metre toddler dash at Get Active on October 20. The New Liskeard event was the final one for this year’s series. (Staff photo by Diane Johnston)

Spooky dental lowdown

DISTRICT (Special) - Halloween used to offer the prospect of so much illicit fun – a few scares, a little minor vandalism, and the excuse to eat a lot of candy, guilt-free. But it’s now 2019. The association representing some 9,000 Ontario dentists is offering its own list of tricks to avoid dental damage as the annual treat-fest approaches. The Ontario Dental Association (ODA) is doing so with all ages in mind. In a pre-Halloween press release, it acknowledges that adults have already begun indulging in the bite-sized treats at home or the office. Here’s what the ODA calls “the frightening truth about your favourite treats, and how to prevent horrifying damage to your mouth when you eat them.” Potato chips stick to teeth and break down into sugar, which can cause cavities. As for hard candy, slow sucking “soaks your teeth in cavity-causing sugar,” the ODA advises. Biting down is also risky, because teeth may chip or crack. Chewy candy – like caramels, gummy bears, licorice or raisins – can lodge in the crevices of teeth and cause decay.

“Sour candies are even more dangerous because the acid that makes them tart can also erode enamel.” It offered some “good news” for chocolate lovers. “Plain chocolate dissolves quickly in the mouth which lessens the chance of causing cavities. But it’s still sugary, so try to eat it in moderation.” So what’s a candy lover to do? The ODA offers the following suggestions:

- Swish with water after eating treats to wash away the sugar and acid.
- Hold off on the Halloween

loot until after a meal to limit chances of overdoing the candy.

- Eating cheese before your treats provides “a protective, vitamin-rich coating on your teeth.”
- Nuts are a healthy, more tooth-friendly snack.
- Chewing sugar-free gum is also great “for your teeth and your breath.”
- And don’t forget to floss. “Floss is boss, so use it every day to get any leftover debris from in between your teeth.”
- Wait 30 minutes before brushing to prevent damage to tooth enamel.



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COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, October 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
COMMUNITY NEWS

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 28, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Municipal Waste Site: Hours of Operation
Tuesday and Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed: Statutory Holidays
All garbage deposited at the Municipal Waste Site is subject to applicable tipping fees.

November Recycling Dates: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 and November 19, 2019
Autumn Fire Safety - Heating your Home

Most Important

- Check all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they work, and change the batteries. It is the law for all Ontario homes to have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. This covers single family, semi-detached and town homes, whether owner-occupied or rented.
- Have a useable fire extinguisher available.

Central Heating

Get your central heating system cleaned, inspected and serviced by a certified HVAC (heating, venting and air conditioning) contractor every year before using it. If you have a gas heater, make sure that you have a sufficient quantity of fully functioning carbon monoxide detectors installed in your home. Keep all flammable materials away from your furnace. This includes clothing, paint products, toxic materials, cardboard and more.

Fireplaces and Woodstoves

- Have heating appliances serviced and chimney flues examined for defects.
- Have fireplaces and fireplace dampers checked.
- Fireplaces should be equipped with an appropriate screen or glass enclosure to prevent sparks from flying out.
- Wood burning stoves should be examined and the flue and chimney checked for creosote buildup. Creosote is a deposit from smoke that can build up in a chimney and can start a fire.
- Use only seasoned woods, and avoid soft woods like Pine, etc.
- Never use a flammable liquid to start a fireplace.
- Never overload the hearth with wood or artificial logs, the resulting fire may be too large for the unit.
- Put all ashes outdoors and away from the house in a metal container.

Information Collected from: Autumn Fire Safety. Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs. Web – September 25, 2019. <http://www.oafc.on.ca/autumn-fire-safety>.

REMINDER: Burning Permits are required from April 1st to June 30th, and from September 1st until October 31st each year. During this time, burning is only permitted between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
Coleman Fire Department: In Case of Fire Emergency - Please Call 911.

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 - 51%** of breast cancers will be diagnosed in women aged 50 to 69.
 - Since 1987 the mortality rate of breast cancer has decreased by **44%**.
- Source: <http://www.cbcbf.org/ontario/AboutBreastCancerMain/FactsStats>



Celebrating the official opening of English Catholic Central's new playground. Deacon Larry Duke, Northeastern Catholic trustee Martin Drainville, trustee Matt Turner, Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP John Vanthof, Russell Shelton, Francis Murray Council 10809, and teacher Eileen Aitchison; in front of the school are students: Vandermeer, Symphony Stoneman, Vanessa Cloutier and Erica Lee. (Staff photo)

Upgrading to serious

Diane Johnston
Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES – Supporters have put the “fun” into “fundraising” as they celebrated the official opening of English Catholic Central’s new playground at the New Liskeard school October 10.

“It’s been in good use since the start of school,” said principal Matt Turner. “There’s really no such thing as ‘I’m bored’ at ECCS recesses anymore.”

The push to upgrade the school yard began about three years ago when the school board made it a priority.

“Then Mrs. A. stepped in,” he said.

Mrs. A. – teacher and project coordinator Eileen Aitchison – said the playground was a range of support in cash, supplies and labour from teachers, students and parents, as well as groups and service clubs.

“We couldn’t have done it without the help of our school community,” she said.

And the result?

A paved basketball court equipped with four baskets; a mini log cabin; a new baseball backstop; an outdoor “mud kitchen” ready for mud pie manufacture; and new trees along the path.

Aitchison said more additions are planned, with Grades 4 and up in mind.

They include playground equipment designed for older children, a new baseball backstop, and full walking trail.

At last week’s short opening ceremony, Deacon Larry Duke of Our Mother of Perpetual Help offered prayers.

A large cross of poplar was presented by Russell Shelton, treasurer of Knights of Columbus Fr. Francis Murray Council 10809.

During the logging era, Shelton said that lumbermen “believed it was a sin to cut down a poplar.”

There’s a belief that the cross used in Christ’s crucifixion was made of poplar.

In the Temiskaming area, he said poplar – “the whitest wood there is” – was left after white pine had been harvested.

The cross will be erected along the walkway under construction.



Vincent Pokpie, at left, entertained the crowd with an inspired choreography.



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Is the Perspective biased?

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ground were, standing from left, the ECCS school mascot, principal of the Knights of Columbus Fr. were students Vincent Popkie, Gracie (Staff photo by Diane Johnston)

fun at ECCS

ing” at English Catholic Central School. barbecue and a tour of the refurbished er.


he Catholic school council designated it

ground improvements attracted a wide d individuals, local businesses, church e said.

mud kitchen; a play area made of tires; at the rear of the yard and the start of a l.



t, and Elijah Duncan were among the ned visitors with a little basketball- y. (Staff photo by Diane Johnston)



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MOCHA - You're fun, creative, and probably don't really like the taste of coffee.

ICED COFFEE - Assertive, outspoken, and refreshing, you also have a temper.

BLACK COFFEE - You're a 'straight to the source' type and usually fearless, though easily disappointed.

AMERICANO - You're calm, happy and go with the flow.

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Camp shares moose hunting and traditional knowledge

By Xavier Kataquapit

MATACHEWAN - A traditional moose hunt camp was run by The Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group (TNWSG) near Matachewan First Nation October 4 to 6.

The event brought together First Nation (FN) hunters, elders and families from the First Nations of Matachewan, Beaverhouse, members of the Metis Nation and invited guests.

They came together for the event with community members and their families as part of a three-day hunt camp dedicated to sharing the teachings of elders involving traditional moose harvesting on the land.

Community volunteers including Matachewan FN Chief Jason Batisse, local First Nation councillors and hunters gathered at a central camp dotted with canvas tents to bring together people in cooking, harvesting and socializing environments.

"This was the first time ever that we have run the ... camp and it has been such a success that already we are looking at partnering with Matachewan First Nation and other possible sponsors to make this an annual event," said Anne Batisse, executive director of the native women's group.

"My thanks to all of our members of the TNWSG that worked so hard to make this happen. We are also grateful to Chief Batisse, his son Anthony and wife Samantha for all of their help and for harvesting a moose."

Melissa Gill of the TNWSG assisted with the organizing of the event with help from many volunteers and the Chief and council of Matachewan FN.

"I want to thank our leadership and elders for having the vision to establish our first ever traditional moose hunt camp," said Gill.

"It takes a lot of expertise, skill and knowledge to set up and run a hunt camp like this, that is based on respect for the land and sharing the tradition and culture related to moose harvesting."

The event featured teachings and demonstrations in respect for the hunt, setting up camp, preparing for the hunt, tracking the



Teaching the traditional methods of skinning and butchering a moose was provided by elders and hunters at the recent traditional moose hunt camp near Matachewan FN held October 4 to 6. From the left are elder Gertie Nolan, Chief Jason Batisse, Matachewan FN, Loretta Doupe, Brittany Batisse and elder Mario Batisse. (Photo by Xavier Kataquapit)

moose, moose calling, harvesting a moose and skinning and butchering the animal.

Elder Mario Batisse of Matachewan FN, who is also a traditional hunter, with help from Chief Jason Batisse and William Edwards, a traditional Cree elder and hunter originally from Fort Albany, led everyone in hands-on participation in skinning the moose and butchering it to be shared.

"I feel so good to be here today and surrounded by several generations participating in the traditional moose hunt on our lands," said Mario Batisse.

"I thank all of the elders, the families and in particular the children who came to join us for this hunt camp so that they can learn about our connection to the land and respect for all of the animals

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A musical reunion with the Batisse brothers occurred during campfire teachings at the moose hunting camp held near Matachewan FN earlier this month. This was the first time the trio had performed together in about 25 years. From the left are past Chief Alex “Sonny” Batisse, David Batisse and past Chief Mario Batisse. (Photo by Xavier Kataquapit)

Camp shares moose hunting and traditional knowledge

Continued from 11a

as well as the harvesting and preparation skills needed to provide for a good hunt,” explained Batisse, who is also a past Chief of Matachewan FN.

Elders Vina Hendrix, Jeanette Gilbert and Gertie Nolan were on hand to assist with the teachings and to share their knowledge of the land, the ceremony and language. James Bay Cree elders Margaret Chookomolin and Marie Sackaney assisted with food preparation and teachings.

“I grew up on the land and our family lived in tents and small buildings on the land much the same as our ancestors did,” said Hendrix.

“Our survival as a people depended on our relationship to the land, the animals and the fish and we always had respect and made offerings when we harvested any of these for food.”

Nolan added that it made her feel very nostalgic to be part of this gathering as she remembered the people meeting up on the land to hunt many years ago.

“I think we need to see this event run every year because it brings us all together in a good way to give thanks to the Creator, the land and the animals for our survival. Everyone has been so helpful to the elders and it is great to be out here with the hunters and the children as culture and tradition is shared,” said Nolan.

Gilbert, an elder on campus with Northern College in Kirkland Lake, pointed out that Indigenous people have always had a culture and tradition based on gatherings many times over the year.

“We need to do more work to make sure our traditions and culture are passed on to future generations and I know that gatherings such as this moose hunt camp will ensure that our young people do not lose the skills and knowledge of our ancestors. These gatherings and teachings serve to ground our youth to assist them on their journeys,” explained Gilbert.

Much of the event was centred around the fire where stories were told and a reunion of the Batisse brothers music group took place with performances by David, Mario and Sonny Batisse.

“I think it is been more than 20 or 25 years since we played guitar and sang together. I feel very blessed tonight as I sit here playing the tunes we loved so many years ago. I thank my brothers Mario and Sonny for joining me here at the campfire to make everyone feel welcome and to entertain our people,” commented David Batisse.

Sonny Batisse has played with an award winning native band in Nashville and continues to perform locally.

“This night was a good time and a lot of fun. I can’t believe the three of us managed to get together here at this camp to play our tunes here around the fire and I know how important music is to all of us as it is healing and uplifting,” explained Sonny Batisse, also a former Chief of Matachewan FN.

A feast was hosted by Matachewan FN at the Ann Batisse Community Complex and featured a moose supper with all the trimmings by Adam Gilbert of Matachewan FN.

(Xavier Kataquapit is a First Nation Writer/Columnist based in Northern Ontario)



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Moose skinning and butchering were some of the teachings provided by elders and hunters at the moose hunt camp which was held near Matachewan FN from October 4 to 6. Clockwise around the table from the left are William Edwards, Erin Baker (in back), Ann Batisse, Anthony Batisse, Brittany Batisse, Paris Burns-Judd, Mario Batisse, Amanda Julien (holding baby Parker), Chief Jason Batisse (in back), Chelsea Daley, Katlyn Julien, Gavin Gill and Melissa Gill. (Photo by Xavier Kataquapit)



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