

# WEEKENDER

THE  
SPEAKER'S  
WEEKEND  
EDITION



Vol. 19 - No. 14

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020

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## Floor plans Armstrong looking to get gym in shape

**Darlene Wroe**  
Speaker Reporter

ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP - Armstrong Township council wants to have an ad hoc committee set up to oversee the installation of new flooring in the municipal gym, located at the Earlington arena.

The concept was discussed at the township's regular council meeting Wednesday, February 26, and draft terms of reference for the committee have been prepared. They are expected to be adopted at the Wednesday, March 11, meeting.

Township clerk-treasurer Amy Vickery-Menard said the draft terms of reference have now been reviewed and outline the duties of the proposed committee.

While the main focus will be on the replacement of the flooring in the main part of the gym area, the committee will also be asked to determine what other necessary improvements are needed and also to outline a long-term plan, explained Vickery-Menard.

Money for the new flooring has already been set aside.

The committee will be asked to engage all the gym members in the discussions.

The committee is needed because the township does not have dedicated recreation staff.

The needs of the gym have been a topic for council over the past few years. A survey of gym members has also been conducted, but the responses were too varied, said Vickery-Menard.

*Continued on 3a*



### TIME MANAGEMENT

New Liskeard Cubs captain Jackson Buffam holds a hockey-themed clock at Findlay's Drug Store to remind hockey fans, and everyone else, to set the clocks ahead one hour for the Sunday, March 8, Daylight Savings Time change. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

## DID YOU GET The Speaker THIS WEEK?

Here are some of the stories in our March 4 edition...

- Two hours, over 200 people in two meetings have raised \$22,000 for local charities through the 100 Women Who Care Temiskaming Shores and More efforts.
- The City of Temiskaming Shores will raise its overall tax levy by two per cent for 2020.
- A motion to remove \$20,000 from the Earlington Airport budget from the City of Temiskaming Shores' coffers crashed.
- The District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board's municipal apportionment will see a slight increase.
- Enterprise Temiskaming will celebrate International Women's Day on March 12.
- CJTT FM has recognized people who have gone above and beyond for others through their annual recognition awards.
- The New Liskeard Cubs won two weekend games to boost their confidence heading into their final league games.
- The Ecole secondaire catholique Sainte-Marie boys curling team will hurry hard to their provincial championship in Uxbridge.
- The Temiskaming Shores Minor Hockey Association is hosting two NOHA Pee Wee championships this weekend featuring the Pedersen and Rotary Puckhounds.
- Our C Front this week features a story and photos on the annual Casey Township Recreation Committee Fishing Derby held on the Blanche River.



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**NORTHERN SPOTLIGHT**

More than 100 small and medium-sized businesses – including more than a dozen from Temiskaming – were part of this year’s Northern Ontario Mining Showcase at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada’s convention in Toronto. The Northern pavilion is coordinated by the City of Temiskaming Shores. Pictured above at its official opening earlier this week were, from left, Yukon MP Larry Bagnell, Parliamentary Secretary to Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages (Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency); PDAC president Felix Lee; Sudbury Mayor Brian Bigger; Sudbury MP Paul Lefebvre, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources; Minister Joly, also minister responsible for FedNor; Temiskaming Shores Mayor Carman Kidd; Sault Ste. Marie MP Terry Sheehan, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister Joly; Nipissing-Timiskaming MP Anthony Rota. (Supplied Photo)



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**Gillies Lake fishing day**

**March 7**

COLEMAN TOWNSHIP

(Staff) – Anglers can take their fishing skills and drop a line to help some children and, at the same time, support Zack’s Crib.

The Jeffrey Martineau Fishing Day is taking place Saturday, March 7, on Gillies Lake in Coleman Township.

Martineau was 32 when he died in 2019 and his family wants to establish a trust fund to help his young children.

They’re also using the occasion to hold a barbecue where funds raised will be donated to Zack’s Crib, a local initiative to help area men battling mental health issues.

It takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Gillies Depot Road in Coleman.

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 on site, children 12 and under can participate for free.

Tickets are available at John’s Tackle Box, Clean Scene and Yves’ Prime Cut Meats.

Tackle and bait will be supplied.

There’s a chance to win one of five \$50 John’s Tackle Box gift cards with the purchase of a ticket and other raffle prizes available.

For more information, contact Kerri Connelly at 705-648-4781.

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THE TEMISKAMING SPEAKER



# Englehart Winter Carnival offers games and more

ENGLEHART (Staff) - Englehart will once again be putting its heart into the season.

The annual Englehart Winter Carnival runs Friday, March 6, to Sunday, March 8.

The three-day event includes a snow sculpture contest and residential and business window-decorating contests.

There will be plenty of opportunities for community residents and friends to get together to meet, catch up, and enjoy the many activities that are planned.

## FRIDAY

A spaghetti supper and silent auction takes place Friday evening at the Englehart and Area Community Arena Complex.

There will also be a skating party with DJ Dan.

The Englehart Legion will be hosting an Old Tyme Bar as well.

The younger set can enjoy a dance at Englehart Public School on Friday evening, with dancing from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for kids from junior kindergarten to Grade 6, and dancing for teens from Grades 7 to 12 from 9 p.m. to midnight.

## SATURDAY

There are many activities lined up for Saturday, with hot chocolate and hot food available at different venues in and around the community complex.

Activities for children upstairs in the hall get started at 10 a.m. Adults bringing children for the activities are reminded to pick up a \$5 food voucher for kids at the door.

Children's activities will continue until 3 p.m. with a donut-eating challenge, cookie decorating, bouncy houses, a craft table, a fish pond, face-painting, a tattoo parlour, a popcorn relay race, a bean bag toss, a balloon stomp, a gummy worm hunt, a gum ball contest, a bowling and tossing game, and colouring.

The 355 Polaris Squadron Englehart Cadets will be serving food from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ray Seguin will be in attendance from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. in front of the arena with beaver tails, beaver dogs, fries and poutine for sale.

Over at the Legion hall, there will be a dart tournament-taking place, starting up at 10 a.m. for those who enjoy a game with a

point to it.

Outdoor activities begin at the baseball field's parking lot, with horse-drawn wagon rides from noon to 2 p.m. There will also be a firepit where S'mores can be cooked up. There will be snowshoe races, three-legged races, and a snowman-building contest. The fun continues until 3 p.m.

There will be a human bowling competition near the sliding hill from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and throughout the day hot chocolate and maple taffy will be served near the sliding hill.

Saturday evening will see the annual Yuk Yuk's Comedy Show return with three stand-up comedy performances. The show will be followed by a dance featuring DJ Bethany.

## SUNDAY

Sunday morning will start off with a breakfast served by the Rotary Club from 8 a.m. until noon.

Carnival-goers are then invited out to the Englehart Nordic Ski Club at Kap-Kig-Iwan Park from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Activities include a fun ski rally, a children's snowball race, and a treasure hunt.

# Armstrong looking to get gym in shape

Continued from A Front

"We needed to really narrow it down," she said in a telephone interview.

The idea to create an ad hoc committee was put forward by Councillor Matthew Golcic.

"Matthew thought it would

be best to create a committee," said Vickery-Menard.

About five to eight members are being envisioned.

The notice for applications to the committee is expected to be posted shortly after the March 11 meeting.

## Temagami Family Health Team

Submitted by Ellen Ibeay

### What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a chronic progressive eye disease characterized by a degeneration of the optic nerve. This can lead to serious vision loss if not detected and treated early. Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of blindness in Canada.

#### Who Gets Glaucoma?

Glaucoma most often occurs in people over the age of 40. There is also a greater risk of developing glaucoma when you have diabetes, high blood pressure or a history of eye injuries.

#### Will You Go Blind from Glaucoma?

If diagnosed at an early stage, eyedrops and laser treatment can control glaucoma and little or no further vision loss should occur. If eyedrops are prescribed, they must be used always to control the eye pressure. If left untreated, peripheral vision is affected first, followed by central vision loss during late stages of the disease. Complete blindness may occur.

#### How is Glaucoma Detected?

A thorough eye examination is the first step to detecting glaucoma. Your optometrist will do a simple and painless procedure called tonometry during your routine eye exam, which measures the internal pressure of your eye.

#### How is Glaucoma Treated?

Treatment will depend on the type, severity and progress of the disease. It cannot be cured, but it can be controlled with daily eyedrops. Laser surgery is also an effective way to control glaucoma and maintain your remaining vision.

In more complicated cases, surgery may be needed to completely bypass the eye's natural drainage system. Once vision is lost due to glaucoma, it cannot be restored. This is why regular preventive eye exams with your optometrist are important.

#### How Often Should You Have an Eye Exam?

Most eye care professionals recommend a comprehensive eye exam every one to two years, depending on your age, risk factors and whether you currently wear eyeglasses or contact lenses. Children need regular eye exams to detect vision problems that may interfere with learning.

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## Crown Land patient rescue cost still being discussed

Darlene Wroe  
Speaker Reporter

JAMES TOWNSHIP - James Township and DTSSAB, which administers ambulance services, are still working on a resolution regarding financial responsibility for rescue response on Crown Land.

The matter reaches back to the summer of 2018 when the Elk Lake Fire Department responded to an emergency call for help from within the neighbouring forested area. The fire department is

funded by the municipality, which then turned around and billed the District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board (DTSSAB) for the cost.

DTSSAB declined to pay the invoice, stating it does not have financial responsibility for rescue services on Crown Land. Instead, the administration argued at the time that the cost should be that of the province.

After being advised that DTSSAB would not pay the \$6,300 invoice, James Township withheld

the equivalent amount from its annual levy to DTSSAB. The board is funded in part by the municipalities.

The issue has grown to be a debate about who is responsible for the cost of Crown Land rescues.

At the February 19 meeting of DTSSAB, chief administrative officer Kelly Black told the board she is hopeful that a resolution will be reached on the issue.

It is now working with James Township on the question of fi-

Continued on 5a

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# SPEAKER WEEKENDER



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# Her story

When my mother served my father and two brothers at the dinner table first before my sister and I, just like her mother had done with her family, this sent a clear message to us.



Sue Nielsen

The message: we were not valued as much as the boys, we mattered less and, to be honest, it was a direct form of humiliation.

And as we got older, my sister and I realized that the voices of men were put first over ours time and time again.

It's part of our daily lives isn't it? Most women have grown accustomed to being talked over, ignored, interrupted or silenced.

We go wrong when we let others define who we are. With the #METOO movement we are telling our stories because they matter.

This is our time.

I never believed that tired old line about being less-than because of my gender.

It's up to all of us to break those biased generational curses.

My daughter knows she is not less than anyone else and she can be anything she wants to be in this life.

As we celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, I share these poignant words from author Ursula K. Le Guin: "If you deny affinity with another person or kind of person, if you declare it to be wholly different from yourself - as men have done to women, and class has done to class, and nation has done to nation - you may hate it or deify it; but in either case you have denied its

spiritual equality and its human reality. You have made it into a thing, to which the only possible relationship is a power relationship. And thus you have fatally impoverished your own reality."

We are seeing the old order of male domination and entitlement now at deep risk.

Poor Harvey Weinstein, the disgraced Hollywood movie mogul, seen going into a courthouse bent over with pain using a walker.

Does he think for one minute his pain is more important than the pain of the 90-plus women who came forward with sexual assault allegations against him?

Why does it take the voices of 90 women before someone is believed and held accountable?

I fist pumped when I heard Weinstein, the lecher, the bully and now the criminal, had been convicted of rape.

For women everywhere this is a very good day.

There are those who gather in silence, there are those who raise their voices and there are those who continue to nevertheless persist.

When writing the story of our lives, it is important that we hold the pen.

I see women across this region and country writing some incredible stories.



## SEE INTO THE FUTURE

Gazing into a crystal ball, it looks like a great time to be out on area lakes ice fishing or enjoying the fresh air. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

# EDITORIAL

## Keep calm

The spread of fear surrounding the COVID-19 coronavirus is probably more dangerous than the disease itself.

The old saying - there's nothing to fear but fear itself - might apply to this outbreak.

We might all take a moment to think calmly in light of the frenzied consumer rush to purchase products like toilet paper, pasta, canned foods, hand sanitizer and facemasks in light of a possible quarantine from the virus.

Panicked shopping is, well, just that.

Health experts around the world have stated facemasks are unnecessary unless you are unwell or working with someone who is unwell.

Fear seems to be more contagious and can feed on itself in these situations as incorrect health information is being digested from social media platforms and other sources.

According to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, over 60,000 people die from flu or flu-like illnesses every year.

Of course those people with pre-existing medical conditions, weakened immune systems and the elderly are prone to illness in general.

Compared to the SARS outbreak, the COVID-19 is showing far less of a fatality rate and in terms of the number of overall deaths, the H1N1 pandemic remains the worst health hazard that was faced globally in quite some time.

The risk for the average person to contract the virus is low.

If we are going to be afraid of risking our health, there are dangers associated with the stress we put on our hearts from the fear surrounding the virus.

Let's not work ourselves up into a heightened sense of anxiety that will indeed compromise our immune systems.

The Timiskaming Health Unit says there are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our region and the risk here remains low.

Let's continue to do the one thing that most helps to prevent the spread of infectious disease, which is thorough, frequent hand washing.

Let's listen to our local health experts and continue to live our daily lives with our overall health in mind in a calm, thoughtful fashion.

Our hearts will thank us.

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# Crown Land patient rescue cost still being discussed

Continued from 3a

Financial responsibility for costs of future Crown Land rescues, she said.

"We will stick with them to help them figure it out," she said.

She expressed hope that information will be gathered this month that can be brought back to the board meeting in March, at which time the board can discuss it further.

She said a meeting has already been held in which Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP John Vanthof and James Township Reeve Terry Fiset were present.

The 2018 incident occurred when Emergency Medical Services received a call from North Bay 911 dispatch that there was a young woman by Anvil Lake, near Lady Evelyn Lake, who needed assistance.

Because ambulances could only get as far as the roads were safe, a search and rescue effort was required. The task was picked up by the Elk Lake Fire Department. The Emergency Medical Service sent an ambulance to Elk Lake to stand by as the fire department went to bring the patient out of the forest.



## SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 44 in Cobalt handed out \$2,500 in donations to five community groups from the annual sale of Nevada tickets. Receiving \$500 each were the Paul Penna Library, The Cobalt Mining Museum, The Bunker Military Museum, St. Patrick School and The Cobalt Historical Society. From the left is Cobalt Legion vice president Lawrence Audette, Legion treasurer Angela Adshead, Bunker Military Museum board member Pat Anderson, Legion secretary Suzanne Othmer, Cobalt Mining Museum vice president Reg Holdsworth, Paul Penna Library librarian Kendra Lacarte and Legion president Rene Lafleur. "Come on up and have a beer with us and buy some tickets," said Audette about the donations. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

# Cobalt library outlines needs and changes

Darlene Wroe  
Speaker Reporter

COBALT - The Paul Penna Library in Cobalt is carefully controlling its budget, while keeping an eye on future needs for the building, and possible future changes in patron traffic.

Library board president Liz Cooper and treasurer Georgette Saxton were at the Cobalt town council meeting Tuesday, February 18, to outline their 2020 budget, and discuss the library's ongoing activities and services to the community.

While there are several capital projects the library can identify, including a roof that "is starting

to show wear and tear," other smaller needs were also noted.

The Town of Cobalt, the Temiskaming Foundation Cobalt Legacy Fund's Agnico Eagle portion, and the provincial government are the main funders of the library, which is projecting a \$71,450 budget. Coleman Township also provides a small amount, allowing its residents to use the library resources.

In an effort to show the use of the library among area residents, library staff are going to be "trying to get everyone coming into the building to register," commented Saxton.

But the board also expects to see a change in the users who come into the library in the latter half of 2020.

After the Haileybury branch of the Temiskaming Shores Public Library closes later this year, it is expected that more users from North Cobalt will be coming to the library, commented Cooper.

The Paul Penna Library is a public library funded in part by the provincial government, which means that anyone can come into the library to browse through and use its resources.

However, only residents of contributing municipalities, or

outside residents who have purchased a membership, can withdraw materials from a library.

The library board is keeping a tight grip on its costs and this year's budget will see an increase of 0.43 per cent.

Saxton commented that "expenses keep going up."

Saxton said the library board has "had to defer a lot of (capital needs costs) because we didn't have the funding."

The library also has suffered with the loss of the website maintenance service that formerly was provided by Ontario Library Services North, noted Saxton.

The library provides a range of services to the community including special activities, hosting book readings, providing a location for tutorials, providing an outreach program to seniors in the community, providing space for Early Learning and Brighter Futures programming, hosting Santa visits, inviting children in for an Easter Egg hunt, and holding bake sales.



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# DIFFERENT STROKES



The New Liskeard Skating Club ended the Winter Season program with their ice show "End of Year Celebration" celebrating our coaches, skaters, parents, board of directors and our amazing sponsor Jada Miller of Miller Realty Group.

Coach Wendy Christo Dupuis and her CanSkaters demonstrated the different levels with the help of the club's very valuable program assistants and Tanner and Alie St. Louis. Coach Wendy demonstrated the power skating session.

We were very fortunate to have guest skater Allyson Roy, one of our past skaters, now with the Ville Marie Skating Club, a double-gold medallist perform her Competition Solo and everyone enjoyed refreshments after the show.

Well done everyone.

Now on to our Spring Session.

With playoffs for hockey we have our power skating session starting Tuesday, March 10. There's a break for March Break and the week after it's on Tuesday, March 31; Friday, April 3; Tuesday, April 7; and April 14, all at 7 a.m.

Our Learn to Skate for any age CanSkate Program starts March 26 for four weeks and runs 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Forms are available in the magazine rack at the Don Shepherdson Memorial Arena.

See you next time.



It was a sister act when three-year-old Danica (left) and big sister Kara Barker, 5 took part in the New Liskeard Skating Club's End of year Celebration on February 28 at the Don Shepherdson Memorial Arena. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)



In the Pre-CanSkate division of the New Liskeard Figure Skating Club's End of year Celebration, Sophia Plante skated around the ice surface to the delight of family and friends. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)



The New Liskeard Figure Skating Club hosted an End of Year Celebration on Friday, February 28, at the Don Shepherdson Memorial Arena. Guest skater, and double gold medallist, Allyson Roy performed a solo routine during the event. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)



It was a generational skate as Jessica Thompson skated with her granddaughter Aurora Thompson at the New Liskeard Skating Club's End of year Celebration on February 28. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

# Casey Township derby drills deep for winter fun



Some of the scenes at the annual Casey Recreation Committee Fishing Derby held on Saturday, February 29, on the Blanche River were, from the left, Samuel Côté having fun on his GT sled while the adults fished; Carole Fortin hoping for a bite; and Amelia Côté licking snow off her face. (Staff photos by Sue Nielsen)

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## ZACK'S CRIB DANCE

Committee members for the Friends of Temiskaming Shores held a New Year's Eve benefit dance called Zack's Crib Happy New Year Celebration at the New Liskeard Community Hall, raising \$7,437.93 for Zack's Crib. From the left are Zack's Crib board members Stephanie Lamothe, Yves Paillé, Lianne Paillé and Friends of Temiskaming Shores member Kelly Howard. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)



## Water management plan implementation closer

**Darlene Wroe**  
Speaker Reporter

LATCHFORD - Work is under way to finalize the Montreal River Water Management Plan, but public notification and consultations with Indigenous representatives still have to be carried out.

The plan is being led by Ontario Power Generation (OPG), in cooperation with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and dam operators existing along the Montreal River.

The goal is to have the plan finalized in 2020, according to OPG director of media, issues, information management and corporate affairs Neal Kelly.

OPG and MNRF also will be conducting consultations with Indigenous representatives, he

added.

Notifications will be sent to key stakeholders, he said, and a public inspection and notification period will also be provided through the Environmental Registry and via newspaper advertisements.

Kelly outlined the history of the process.

"Beginning in 2002, a comprehensive water management planning process was conducted for the Montreal River but the plan was not approved due to some unresolved issues in several areas. In absence of an approved plan, dam operators on the Montreal River System have been following the Water Management Plan in draft format since 2004. In 2015/2016, an agreement was reached and this cleared the way for OPG and the MNRF to proceed with this aspect of the finalization and approval of the Water Management Plan.

"The initial water management planning process was largely collaborative and consultative with a great amount of public input and First Nation consultation. The implementation of the plan at this time will likely not see a great variance in how the water is managed on the Montreal River; however, it will allow for additional aspects of the plan to be implemented, such as a public standing advisory committee for ease of information sharing with elected officials and stakeholders."

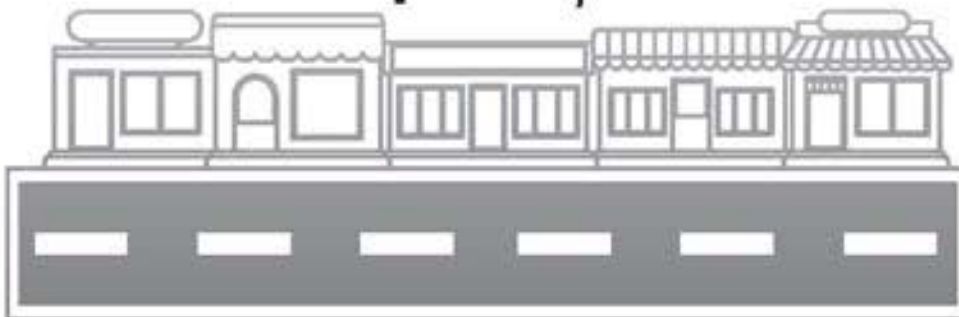
Kelly emphasized that implementation is in its early stages.

"Public notice and First Nation consultation has not yet been completed."

## CANLIT FAVOURITES

Among the guests sharing some Canadian literature standouts at the New Liskeard library branch recently was Doug Jelly, president of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 33. Listening were Penelope and Lucian Walford, seated comfortably in a beanbag chair, and Alex and Hannah Wight, at back. Visitors to the first I Read Canadian Day February 15 heard a little from the works of Robert Munsch and Robert Service, Stuart McLean and Stompin' Tom Connors, and local author Jennifer Jeffery. (Staff photo by Diane Johnston)

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