



Spending and saving

Armstrong assesses operations during COVID-19

Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter

ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP - There is money in and money out in the day-to-day business of operating a municipality, but in these unprecedented times, administrators are observing a different flow of numbers than before.

Now entering the spring under the shutdowns caused by COVID-19, Armstrong Township is looking at lost revenue opportunities, and also at reduced costs.

Clerk-treasurer Amy Menard presented a summary of what she has observed to date of a different flow of money in and out of the township.

"We are probably going to be in the same situation right up to June," she told council in a teleconference Wednesday, April 22.

While there has already been some lost revenue for the municipality, as compared to this time last year, it is probable that there will be a cost saving if the municipality is not running a service, she suggested.

A discussion took place about whether it would be a good time to wash the pool and paint it, but if the pool is not opened this year, or possibly even next year (in the worst case scenario) the value of that work would be lost, because it has the greatest im-

Continued on 3a



VERDA'S BIRTHDAY

With social distancing in mind, Pat Willard-Inglis (left) decorated a large bright cardboard birthday cake and placed it outside the home of her aunt, Verda Peckover, on May Street in New Liskeard April 24. Peckover, 85, worked for Northern Telephone for 41 years, retiring in 1995. Her niece says she is a beehive of activity volunteering for Rising Stars, Grumbling Grannies and the Hudson Township Library. "She takes full enjoyment out of life and is known to liven up parties," said Willard-Inglis. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

DID YOU GET The Speaker THIS WEEK?



Here are some of the stories in our April 29 edition...

- A Temiskaming Shores COVID-19 Business Impact Survey has some surprising results.
- Accessing reliable, affordable internet access continues to be a challenge in the north.
- When the chips are down, the cream rises to the top. The cream being the over 300 people involved with the Caremongering-Temiskaming Shores group.
- The Englehart Fall Fair is still in the planning process.
- Temiskaming Shores residents can take advantage of a two-week free amnesty to dispose of trash around their homes and yards.
- The City of Temiskaming Shores will defer penalties for late tax payments as the May 15 payment deadline looms.
- The City of Temiskaming Shores is organizing a virtual town hall meeting for businesses struggling with COVID-19 challenges.
- E-learning has its ups and downs as parents and children stay socially isolated during COVID-19.

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Flea Market Finished.

Temiskaming Hospital COVID-19 Update



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Thank you to all the businesses and community members who have donated to Temiskaming Hospital. During these challenging times, we are thankful for each and every one of you who have shown your support. You have truly demonstrated that we are all in this together.

The most important way in which you can support Temiskaming Hospital in our fight against COVID-19 is to: **stay home, self-monitor your health, social distance during essential outings, wash your hands and avoid touching your face.**

If you have a new or worsening cough, sore throat or fever, **stay home** and call Telehealth at 1-866-797-0000 or the Temiskaming Health Unit at 705-647-4305 who will provide you with information as to what your next steps should be.

COVID-19, Not In Our House!



Englehart installing rapid alert system

Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter

ENGLEHART - In a time of change, the importance of improved technology has become even more obvious.

Meeting in a teleconference setting using the Zoom app Wednesday, April 8, Englehart council approved plans to move ahead with its modernization plan for office computer systems.

The council also heard about, and gave their approval to, making use of a website researched by deputy clerk Malorie Robinson to facilitate better and more rapid communications with residents and other service users in the Englehart area.

The website, called *Connect*, would enable the town to send

out instant alerts to residents when there is a change in one of the services that they should be aware of. The website service would make it even possible to notify the specific area of the community where the change would be experienced.

Chief administrative officer Shawn LaCarte advised council that town staff is looking to go ahead with the modernization plan, and funds will be drawn from reserves.

He noted that a small portion of the reserve money allocated for the modernization plan was used last year to create a back-up system for the town's computerized files.

The continuing project will include upgrading of the computers in the town office.

"A lot of the computers are

very slow," he commented.

The town has also been improving its website, and the *Connect* program would be integrated into the town's website, explained Robinson.

The names and information for landlines or other communication devices residents use could be inputted so that residents could receive immediate notices from the town when necessary, she told council.

Through *Connect*, "We would be able to send information to people in minutes," she said.

Councillor Jerry Mikovitch inquired about the cost and was advised by Robinson that the price is about \$4,000.

Mayor Nina Wallace voiced approval for obtaining the *Connect* program for use by the town, and expressed hope that it will help to "slow down some of the phone calls that come into the office" when questions arise from residents regarding a service. She expects the program will pay for itself by improving the ability to quickly communicate with the residents when needed.

Robinson suggested that the surrounding municipalities could also supply the contact information for their residents to enable rapid communication to area residents when there is a matter that concerns them. She noted that the contact information can be categorized into areas, so that if a matter only concerns one area, those are the only residents who would receive the alert.

She also noted the service would ensure the residents receive precise information, and "stop the spread of misinformation, because people are not necessarily getting the facts."

Wallace suggested that residents could call the town office themselves as the program is getting set up, to provide their house number and contact information so they can get on the list for alerts.

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Spending and saving

Armstrong assesses operations during COVID-19

Continued from A Front

pact when it has been freshly done.

The council agreed that the time is correct to paint the interior at the gym facility at the Earlton arena, and to install the new flooring.

The council has agreed not to have an ad hoc committee for the gym at this time, and to go directly to carrying out some work.

There has been at least one request from someone interested in borrowing the gym equipment during the shutdown, but council agreed the challenge of moving the equipment would be too risky when attempting to maintain social distancing, and there is also the unknown regarding whether the township would suddenly be allowed to open the facility, with the possibility that the gym equipment was not there.

Lending out the equipment while the gym is closed is "a good idea in theory," said Councillor Kevin Leveille. "But it seems like a giant can of worms."

Public Works superintendent Don Antler commented that he will have to close the municipal park. He outlined a plan to place a snow fence at the entrances, and to remove the teeter-totters. He also plans to take the swing chains down and place two-by-fours with screws to prevent climbing on the equipment.

Signage will also be posted.

The ball-diamond will be taped off to let people know it is closed.

Antler informed council that people are now only being allowed into the landfill site one at a time to dispose of materials.

"They have been hanging out at the trench visiting," he informed council.



SPRING CLEANING

Dylan Dodge, 13, of Sudbury, was recently visiting his grandmother in New Liskeard and, while there, he was helping her with a number of tasks. (Staff photo by Darlene Wroe)

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Captivity

“You know why animals die in cages? Their soul dies.”

Joe (Neurotic) Exotic from his jail cell

I've been going over maps planning my next canoe trip in anticipation of getting back on the water this spring.

As if returning to nature's place of healing and joy was in the cards as the COVID-19 pandemic plays out.

Sometimes the restrictions of the pandemic feel like a darkness, then I remember the light.

The light filtering through an old growth forest at dawn is spectacular.

If I'm lucky I'll catch a glimpse of a beaver, moose, loon, eagle, Great Blue Heron or otter.

It's that connection to nature, animals and the land that I miss more than anything.

Isolation isn't new to me. In fact I seek it out via a canoe and the backcountry.

But isolation must be extremely difficult for those folks in urban areas who are dealing with the constant feelings of being caged in confined spaces.

By now many of you have seen the Netflix crime documentary called *Tiger King*.

No matter how many people raved on about the show, I tried not to watch it.

But boredom finally got me.

Watching it made me feel depressed and sad. Those wild animals are being used as cash cows while being abused.

Joe Exotic (I call him Neurotic), a monster in my opinion, exploited and abused tigers for his own profit along with others.

I found most of the characters



Sue Nielsen

in the show despicable and revolting.

Surely this pandemic will have lessons for us all that animals feel pain and that they have emotions.

Wild animals belong in the wild roaming freely, not in zoos or animal sanctuaries making profits for owners.

Thanks to the *Tiger King* videos, a discussion has arisen about animal cruelty.

We've all had plenty of time to evaluate what's truly important in our lives and how this pandemic will change us for the better.

Let's shut down those global wet markets where it is said the novel coronavirus originated.

There's good work being done to protect domestic animals in this region by animal rescue groups and veterinarians.

Sadly, there are more tigers in captivity now than there are in the wild.

Here's hoping humans do not forget what it feels like to be caged and live in fear. Let's show more compassion for not only each other but for all living beings.

During the last episode of *Tiger King* it was heartbreaking to see the chimpanzee reach its human-like fingers through the bars of its cage to show its love.

FOX FACE

The solitary red fox with the green eyes took a break from hunting to pose for a photo. Foxes have upwards of 40 different calls, including the scream. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

EDITORIAL

Hard days

“We're all just walking each other home.” Ram Dass

Through these difficult COVID-19 times, we are all going through some hard times.

We will recover from this terrible pandemic but in the meantime it is vitally important we stay positive.

People on various online platforms have been whining and complaining about people disobeying rules around COVID-19.

People have been reportedly walking on closed areas of the STATO trail and along the New Liskeard waterfront boardwalk.

Still others are dumping garbage on back roads because landfills are closed and others are forgetting social distancing requirements.

However, it's not our job to police each other. If the municipalities put restrictions in place it is their duty to police them.

We are all in this pandemic together and it doesn't do anyone any good to go around shouting at people about COVID-19 restrictions.

The Ram Dass quote reminds us we do not go through this life alone.

Let's all take a deep breath, step back and enjoy some music, sing,

and bake, do a puzzle or go for a long walk.

Whether we are with family, speaking to loved ones over the internet, we can rest assured it is mutual support that binds us together.

We really do get by “with a little help from our friends,” provided they are a safe distance away.

When compassion is in short supply let's remember the front line workers, people who are suffering from life threatening illnesses, the lonely residents in nursing homes and those without incomes at the present time.

Outside of the district we've got great representation at Queen's Park with MPP John Vanthof and in Ottawa with MP Anthony Rota as our elected officials looking out for our best interests.

When we look around South Temiskaming we see many examples of people walking each other home.

It's important we support each other in our time of need and that's what we do so well here in our communities.

With the world facing this pandemic, it is easier to see that our shared humanity matters.

Hard days are still with us, but better days are coming.

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Playing the waiting game due to COVID-19

Sue Nielsen
Speaker Reporter

DISTRICT— There have already been several large-scale events put on hold or cancelled due to safety precautions around the COVID-19 pandemic, and more cancellations may be on the way for events in South Temiskaming.

In terms of the more notable events such as July's North On Tap Craft Beer Festival and the New Liskeard Agricultural Society Fall Fair, those events are being carefully considered during this timeframe.

Some notable cancellations include the Festival des Follies Franco Fun, Spring Pulse Poetry Festival, Earlton Agricultural Farm Show and more.

NORTH ON TAP

The upcoming craft beer festival, scheduled for Saturday, July 11, has been completely sold out.

North On Tap spokesperson Danielle Belanger-Corbin said in an online message to The Speaker the organizing committee met last week and "the committee decided to postpone making a definite decision at this time. The committee met earlier and we've decided to await further directives from the Ontario government before making a definitive decision on whether to postpone or cancel the 2020 edition."

Anyone who purchased a ticket will be fully reimbursed in the event of a cancellation, she said, and sponsors who have already committed financially will be given options for either a reimbursement or to carry forward their contribution.

Email northontap@gmail.com



com for more information.

Since its creation, the North On Tap Craft Beer Festival has donated \$145,000 to not-for-profit causes in Temiskaming.

The recipients of the 2020 event are the Temiskaming Nordic Ski Club, the Haileybury Curling Club, the Cobalt Mining Museum and the Haileybury Heritage Museum.

FALL FAIR

The 2020 New Liskeard Agricultural Society Fall Fair is scheduled to take place September 17, 18 and 19.

This is the largest agricultural themed fall fair held in September across Northeastern Ontario attracting upwards of 10,000 or more people from nearby Quebec and across Ontario.

The organizing committee met recently via a conference call and has decided to postpone making a decision on whether to cancel the fair in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, they cancelled the annual Easter Breakfast With the Bunnies event, which was scheduled to coincide with Easter weekend.

September is a ways off and things could look very different in terms of the restrictions

around COVID-19.

"If there's a message we can convey to the community is that the Fall Fair is not cancelled, but that we are looking at various alternatives to the event due to government restrictions surrounding COVID-19," said Fair president Meghann Packard in a telephone conversation.

She said the biggest parts of the Fair's revenue come from gate receipts and sponsors and with businesses being challenged and shut down due to the pandemic, those revenue streams may not be available.

"We met April 2 as a board and haven't made a decision as yet. We are scheduled to meet again in mid-May and will decide at that virtual meeting our next course of action," said Packard.

"We have been taking part in weekly webinars with the Ontario Agriculture Society and they are helping us and other fair boards across the province. There may be a government funding stream we could access but we don't know for sure," she said.

"We know the community is looking forward to the Fair and we may change the way we do



some things, perhaps in a virtual format."

Packard mentioned for the latest updates on what's happening with the fair go to its Facebook page, website and Instagram account.

"We are looking at a couple of different scenarios, if we go ahead what kind of restrictions would we have from government. It's hard to say at this point."

As well, the Englehart Fall Fair is in the planning stages and will likely be held in 2020.

TSACC ANNUAL DINNER

The Temiskaming Shores and Area Chamber of Commerce (TSACC) Annual Dinner,

schedule to take place on Thursday, May 7, has been cancelled, according to TSACC manager Lois Weston-Bernstein.

The event was guaranteed to attract hundreds of business leaders belonging to TSACC.

"We decided back in March to cancel the dinner. We've also revamped our Business Award nomination form to a Chamber Heroes Nomination to celebrate businesses who are making a difference in light of the COVID-19 pandemic."

For the latest TSACC information go to www.tsaac.ca and for Heroes nomination forms go to <https://form.jotform.com/200854590265255>.

Temagami Family Health Team

Submitted by Ellen Ibey

May is Bladder Cancer Awareness Month

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are more than 80,000 Canadians living with bladder cancer
- Bladder cancer is the fifth most common cancer in Canada
- 8,700 Canadians will be diagnosed with bladder cancer this year
- The biggest warning sign of bladder cancer is blood in the urine
- Smoking is a common risk factor, as is age and work related exposure to specific chemicals

SYMPTOMS:

The most common symptom of bladder cancer is blood in the urine. The colour may vary from pale yellow-red to bright or rusty red. Blood may always be in the urine, or it may come and go. Sometimes the blood can only be seen with a microscope or found with other urine tests.

Other symptoms include:

- The need to pee often (also called urinary frequency)
- An intense need to pee (also called urinary urgency)
- Trouble peeing
- A burning sensation or pain when you pee
- Back, pelvic or groin pain

Because the disease may have progressed unnoticed, it is critical to see a health care provider once you begin to experience symptoms. Since many symptoms are similar to other medical conditions, bladder cancer is often misdiagnosed as, for example, a urinary tract infection. If you are concerned, ask your health care provider for a referral to a urologist to rule out bladder cancer.

If you are a patient of the Temagami FHT and are having symptoms, please call to schedule an appointment with your primary care provider—(705) 569-3244. It may very well not be bladder cancer, but these symptoms could be the result of a urinary tract infection which also needs to be diagnosed and treated accordingly.

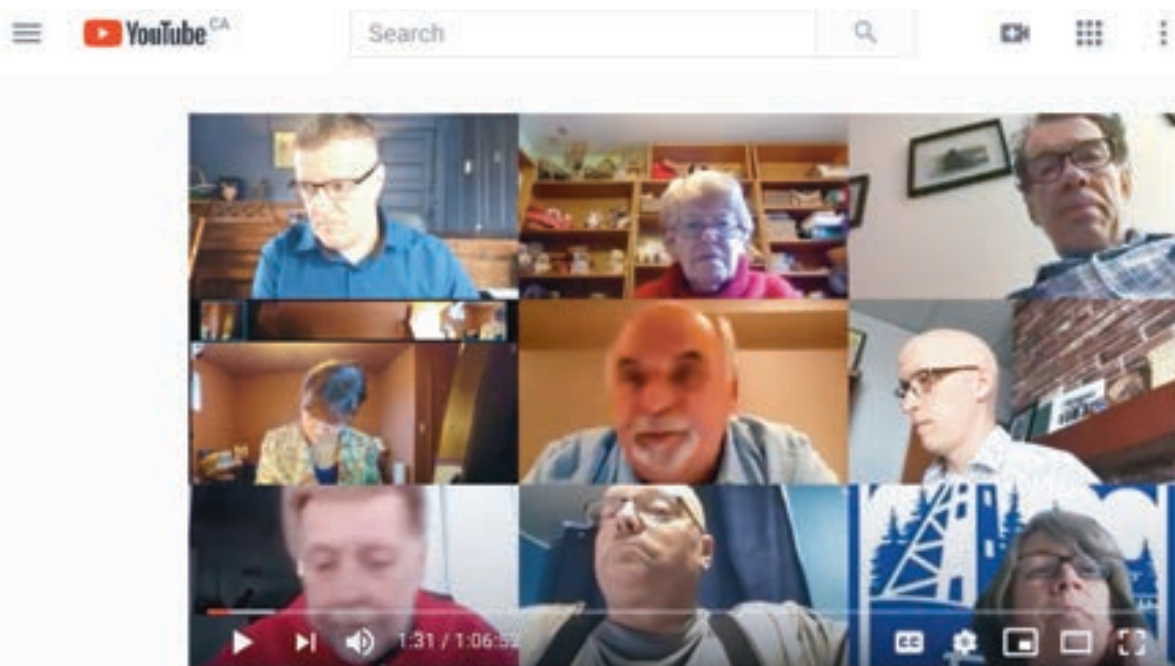
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Cobalt approves electronic meetings

Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter

COBALT - Cobalt council has approved a bylaw which allows

it to hold meetings electronically.

However, there were some concerns expressed about whether the town should first

declare a state of emergency before taking the step.

The discussion was held during a special meeting of council

Continued on 6a



HONOURING VICTIMS

The Town of Latchford, along with communities and organizations across Canada, lowered its flags to half-mast to honour those who lost their lives in the mass shooting which occurred in Nova Scotia April 18 and 19. Latchford public works foreman Roger Clark is pictured here at the cenotaph flags in the community. (Staff photo by Darlene Wroe)



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Rail passenger service still being explored under MTO

Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter

TORONTO - The transfer of the ONTC to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and away from the Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines took place April 1.

The move had been under discussion for some time, and area leaders have expressed hope that the change will be beneficial for the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission (ONTC) and its transportation services including inter-community buses and rail passenger service.

The goal of returning rail passenger service between Toronto and Cochrane has not been forgotten.

“Our government knows that in Northern Ontario, vast distances separate communities and key market areas – that is why we are looking at ways to enhance inter-community bus and rail services across the North,” said MTO communications coordinator Kristine Bunker in an email interview.

With specific reference to rail passenger service, Bunker stated, “MTO and ENDM (Energy, Northern Development and Mines) are exploring the feasibility of returning passenger rail to Northeastern Ontario.”

The Owen Sound Transportation Company has also recently

been transferred to the MTO.

“Transferring the ONTC to MTO centralizes oversight for all transportation-related agencies and is consistent with the recent transfer of oversight of the Owen Sound Transportation Company from (Northern Development) to MTO,” she said.

She added that “MTO is well-positioned to assume oversight of the ONTC due to its extensive expertise in transportation policy, planning, delivery, and oversight.”

Bunker continued that “the ministry will build on existing relationships and practices set by (Northern Development) to develop, implement, and manage the new MTO-ONTC relationship to ensure alignment with provincial direction.

The transfer of the Transportation Commission “will have no effect on the day-to-day operations of the ONTC,” she assured.

“The ministry and the (Commission) will continue to consult, as necessary, regarding any proposed service changes.

“This includes overseeing the ONTC’s key business lines and ensuring that the agency continues to deliver important transportation services to communities in Northern Ontario.

“Consistent with agency oversight responsibilities, MTO will work with the agency to consider their annual business plan.”

Cobalt approves electronic meetings

Continued from 5a

Tuesday, April 7, using the Zoom app that connected the council members and staff from their various locations.

(The following day, the recording was posted on YouTube which can be accessed through the town’s website and is also on Facebook.)

During the meeting, Councillor Doug Wilcox stated his understanding that “if you don’t have an emergency declared (in the municipality) you can’t cut the public out” of the council meetings.

Councillor Angela Adshead countered that position though, saying that the state of emergency has already been declared by the Province of Ontario. The municipalities are automatically under a state of emergency if the province declares one, she suggested.

Chief administrative officer Brian Walker agreed with Adshead’s interpretation, and said that under the Municipal Act, the municipality is able at this time to go ahead with approving meetings electronically.

Wilcox continued to take the position that the municipality should first declare a state of emergency and abstained from the vote to consider the bylaw. All other council members, including Mayor George Othmer, approved the decision to move forward.

Before the council approved the bylaw, Councillor Matthew Johnson reviewed the province’s direction regarding electronic meetings and noted that it reads that doing so is applicable where the municipality has declared a state of emergency for all or part of the municipality.

But Adshead maintained that the province’s declaration of a state of emergency overrides municipalities’ need to do so.

Walker reiterated, “That’s my understanding as well.”

However Wilcox also maintained, “You can’t cut the public out without declaring an emergency.”

He voted against the bylaw, although all six other council members supported it.

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- 17. Ore deposit
- 18. Aquarium denizen
- 19. Antelope
- 20. Bid first
- 21. Atop
- 23. Gin and ____
- 25. Swindle
- 28. Thickener
- 31. Goose egg
- 32. Not sweet, as wine
- 35. Atomic particle
- 36. Irish accent
- 38. Money
- 40. Cowboy contest
- 42. Growing out
- 45. Urge on
- 46. River crossing
- 49. Alumnus, for short
- 50. Load
- 51. Swindle
- 54. Suitcases
- 56. At this place
- 57. Never
- 59. Ocean bird
- 60. Touch against
- 61. Exult in victory
- 63. Care for an orphan
- 67. Coat feature
- 69. Too proper
- 72. By route of
- 73. Food tidbit
- 74. Clumsy person
- 77. All the cards
- 78. Wish
- 79. Blouse ruffle
- 81. Mature
- 83. Clog or mule
- 86. Responsible
- 89. Roundup need
- 93. Bodily radiance, to a psychic
- 94. Funds held by a third party
- 95. Elliptical
- 96. Free from dependence
- 97. Spring occurrence
- 98. Dimwitted

DOWN

- 16. Hindu queen
- 22. Rowboat paddle
- 24. Word before advised or tempered
- 25. British title
- 26. Dove's comment
- 27. Plus
- 29. 39, to Benny
- 30. Ladder feature
- 32. Skinny one
- 33. Eat away
- 34. Transfer, as property
- 36. Dolt
- 37. Certain nobleman
- 39. Higher ground
- 41. Wimpy
- 43. Tightly drawn
- 44. Move cautiously
- 47. Sounded a bell
- 48. Double
- 51. Shut out
- 52. Gush
- 53. Downturn
- 55. PT 109's color
- 56. Angel's headgear
- 58. House surroundings
- 62. Bind with string
- 64. Brutus's breakfast?
- 65. Needle's kin
- 66. Do handiwork
- 68. Mauna follower
- 70. Nail's cousin
- 71. Mountain slider
- 75. Skillful
- 76. Impose fraudulently
- 78. Zigzag
- 79. Smart of «Designing Women»
- 80. Racing gauge
- 82. Trudge
- 83. Witnessed
- 84. Shade of color
- 85. ____ pro nobis
- 87. Bikini top
- 88. Base
- 90. Child
- 91. Sib
- 92. Keats creation

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DOWN

- 1. Stetson, e.g.
- 2. Perfect shot
- 3. Wheel track
- 4. Play, as a guitar
- 5. Multitude
- 6. Turkey type
- 7. Rugged mountain
- 8. Town map
- 9. Beauty parlor
- 10. Allied nations
- 11. Clip
- 12. Lemon cooler
- 13. Egg source
- 15. Australian dog

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**Answers For
Crossword on
2b**

CAPRICORN

You'll be responsible for organizing an event that brings many people together. This may help you uncover a new side of yourself. You'll overcome your shyness and become more outgoing.



December 22 - January 19

AQUARIUS

You'll be given some interesting new responsibilities at work. These will help you develop new skills that may lead to a considerable increase in your salary.



January 20 - February 18

PISCES

You'll have the opportunity to take a surprising trip, perhaps a pilgrimage of sorts. You'll expand your horizons and use this growth to your personal and professional advantage.



February 19 - March 20

ARIES

Emotions will run high this week, but the situation will inspire you and provoke big changes. You may even decide to embark on a spontaneous trip around the world.



March 21 - April 19

TAURUS

You'll face a difficult choice. Take the time to think it through before you make a decision. Otherwise, you'll keep coming back to the same dilemma.



April 20 - May 20

GEMINI

You'll have a lot of work to do this week, but a file that was discreetly assigned to you could be very profitable. You may also start your own small business.



May 21 - June 21

CANCER

You'll meet someone who might be your soulmate, and it'll be love at first sight. You'll both know you were made for each other, but your family will encourage you to slow down.



June 22 - July 22

LEO

If you're moving soon, you'll be in and out of home decor stores to make sure your new place is perfect. Take the time to reflect on what you want to say before you express your opinions.



July 23 - August 22

VIRGO

Someone may confide in you, and you'll be left feeling confused. You might need to let a friend go, especially if they owe you money or betrayed your trust.



August 23 - September 22

LIBRA

A promotion at work will help ease your financial worries. All you have to do is knock on your boss' door and make it happen. You'll finally see a brighter future ahead.



September 23 - October 22

SCORPIO

Some rest is needed to replenish your energy and spirit. A breakthrough will open the door to a new level of spirituality that'll change your life.



October 23 - November 21

SAGITTARIUS

You may use your exceptional imagination to create a masterpiece from which you'll greatly benefit. It's time to make the effort to bring your friends together for a small party.



November 22 - December 21

Pandemic worries sink splash pad for 2020

Diane Johnston
Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES – Kids won't be playing in a new splash pad park on the New Liskeard waterfront this summer.

Temiskaming Shores council will consider a formal resolution next week to formally defer the project to 2021.

The municipality is reviewing spending plans in light of the local economic toll taken by efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19.

It was also recently informed that the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund turned down its application for a grant.

"The proposed project did not demonstrate sufficient economic benefits to support the investment," wrote Heritage Fund executive director Melanie Muncaster.

Applications had been submitted to both the Heritage Fund and FedNor for \$100,000 grants. FedNor declined the request last summer, saying it did not meet the priorities of its Northern Ontario Development Program.

At this time, all municipal recreation facilities are closed in light of concerns over the novel coronavirus, and it's unknown when they'll be given the green light to reopen.

"This isn't the time for our project," said Einas Makki, president of the Rotary Club of Temiskaming Shores and Area.

She said proponents want to see the splash pad open at a time when families will be excited to use it.

The project's committee, city council and staff are committed to seeing the project built "and enjoyed by the public for years to come," said Matt Bahm, the city's recreation director, in an email last week.

The Rotary Club approached city council in the spring of 2017 with the idea for the new family-friendly recreational showpiece.

It offered to raise \$100,000 over ten years, and the city made a matching commitment.

The total cost is estimated at \$522,000.

Donations big and small have come from individuals, local businesses, service clubs, foundations and fundraisers.

To date, fundraising stands at \$476,500.

Among the supporters is the Ontario Trillium Foundation,



Proponents had hoped that a new splash pad park would open on the New Liskeard waterfront this summer. However, it's been put on hold until next year as the city reviews spending plans in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Staff photo by Diane Johnston)

which has offered \$150,000 to the project.

But under the grant requirements, construction is to be completed by September.

"The Trillium Foundation has indicated a desire to be flexible with their funding and all indications are they will approve the funding to be deferred," said Bahm.

Council however must approve a formal resolution asking for the deferral, and that's expected to be considered at its meeting May 4, he said.

Proponents have also put on hold requests for donations from the community for the time being "to be respectful of the challenges everyone is going through," he said.

"We continue to look for and apply to grants and other fundraising opportunities."

He said the committee is looking into the purchase of some components for the park this year in hopes of avoiding potential cost increases in 2021.

He invited anyone interested in supporting the project to contact him.

Further information about the

splash pad can be found on the city's website.

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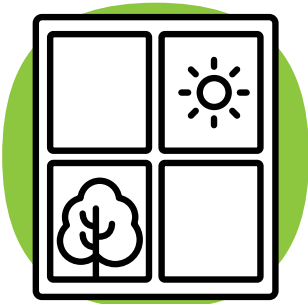
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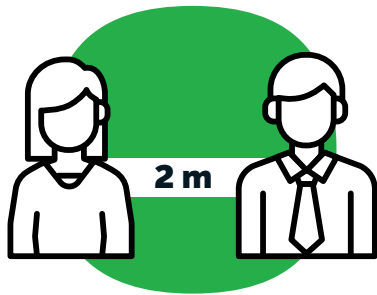
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