VEEKENDER

THE SPEAKER'S WEEKEND **EDITION**

Vol. 20 – No. 12 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021 Visit us on



Next station

Splash pad park readies for construction

Diane Johnston Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES – Skaters are currently making use of an icy path on the New Liskeard waterfront.

But in a few months' time, construction of a children's splash pad park is expected to begin at the site.

Temiskaming Shores council has approved the purchase of a \$72,500 lift station that will transport water discharged from the new facility into the municipal sewer system for treatment.

The city has been advised that the ideal time to install the new equipment is mid-spring, when the water table at the site is at its lowest, said recreation director Matt Bahm in a February 2 report to council.

The supplier will need eight to 12 weeks' lead time prior to delivery, he said.

The cost of the prefabricated lift station is included in the \$522,000 budget for the splash pad park.

The project reached its fundraising goal late last year.

The idea for the new attraction was brought to city council in the spring of 2017 by the Rotary Club of Temiskaming Shores and Area.

The club pledged to raise \$100,000 over ten years, and the city made a matching commitment.

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



The Tyke players were back on the ice at the Don Shepherdson Memorial Arena on Saturday, February 20, enjoying the best game you can name while having fun learning. The Tyke program uses a half ice surface in order to give players more puck time as demonstrated by this player. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

the waterfront north of the Spurline concession building.

It'll offer some two dozen features that spray, splash and dump water on youngsters. It will

The 2,600-square-foot park will be located on have zones suited for different age groups and will also be accessible to kids in wheelchairs.

> Construction is expected to be completed sometime this summer, Bahm told council earlier this month.

DID YOU GET The Speaker THIS WEEK?

Here are some of the stories in our February 24 edition...

- The Tri-Town Ski and Snowboard Village opened last weekend under sunny skies and warm temperatures.
- Temiskaming Shores council discussed the possibility of using photo radar for traffic moving along Lakeshore Road.

Speeding

ahead

· A new fire hall will be constructed in Haileybury.

E TEMISKAMING

The Temiskaming Hospital is easing visitor restrictions as the region

moved into the green zone in the province's COVID-19 category.

- Ida Hilson won't stop until Temiskaming Shores council abandons the idea of removing the traffic lights near the Northdale Manor.
 - Rising municipal insurance rates have

- area councils reaching out to the province for help.
- The City of Temiskaming Shores is interested in purchasing waterfront property in Haileybury.
- The Cobalt Legion has received federal funds for infrastructure upgrades.
- The best and the brightest from the first semester at Ecole secondaire catholique Sainte Marie are featured on Page 11a.
- · Latchford is applying for funding to secure highspeed internet access.
- · A New Liskeard woman is making a plea for help to offset costs of eye treatments that are not covered under OHIP.
- Take a look at the second part of Working on a dream, the story about Justin Brazeau's hockey career.







ROBERT A. NICHOLLS & ASSOCIATES Financial Peace of Mind Starts at Assante

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Address/adresse: 247 Whitewood Ave., unit 43/ 247 avenue Whitewood, unite 43

COVID-19 phone line/ligne de COVID-19: 705-647-4305, extension/ poste 7

Vaccine update:

We continue to work to immunize priority populations against COVID-19 and are in the process of planning to have the vaccine available for the following groups:

First-dose vaccination to:

- Staff and essential caregivers in long-term care homes;
- · Patients in hospitals with confirmed admission to a long-term care home, retirement home or other care home for seniors;
- High Priority health care workers (per Ministry of Health guidelines);
- Indigenous adults in northern remote or higher risk communities, including on-reserve.

Next priority for first-dose vaccination to:

- Adults 80 and older;
- Residents, staff, and caregivers in retirement homes and other care settings for seniors (for example, assisted living);
- Other prioritized health care workers (per Ministry guidelines);
- All other Indigenous adults, including Métis and Inuit;
- Adult chronic home care clients.

Dates will depend on vaccine supply and shipments. We will share more information when it is available. For more details or to find out how health care workers are prioritized, visit www.timiskaminghu. com or call us at 1-866-747-4305 ext. 7.

Variants of concern update

To-date, three different variants of concern have been identified in Ontario. These are: a strain identified in the United Kingdom (known as B.1.1.7 or 501Y.V1), a strain identified in South Africa (known as B.1.351 or 501Y.V2), and a strain identified in Brazil, (known as P.1, B.1.1.28 or E484K).

The concern with these variants is that they are highly contagious, which means they spread more easily. Higher transmission rates mean increased demands on the health care system, like more cases, more hospitalizations, more admissions to intensive care units, and more deaths.

Provincial modelling suggests that a variant may become the dominant strain of the virus in Ontario by March 2021. Cases of COVID-19 variants of concern are increasing in Ontario, and it's important that everyone continue to follow public health measures to slow the spread.

A COVID-19 variant of concern was announced in Timiskaming district on February 6, when a COVID-19 swab tested positive for a variant during the initial screen. Timiskaming Health Unit is awaiting confirmation from the genomic sequencing test to determine which variant strain was in our district.

For more information, visit www.timiskaminghu.com.



Mise à jour du vaccin :

Nous continuons à travailler pour vacciner les groupes prioritaires contre la COVID-19. Nous sommes présentement à la planification pour l'immunisation des groupes suivants :

Vaccination de la première dose à :

- Personnel et fournisseurs de soins essentiels des foyers de soins de longue durée;
- Patients hospitalisés dont l'admission a été confirmée à un foyer de soins de longue durée, une maison de retraite, ou un autre foyer de soins pour les personnes âgées;
- Professionnels de la santé prioritaires (selon la priorisation du Ministère de la Santé);
- Adultes des Premières Nations qui habitent dans les communautés éloignées du nord ou dans les communautés à risque élevés, y compris les réserves.



Prochaine liste de priorités à recevoir la première dose :

- Adultes âgés de 80 ans et plus;
- Résidents, personnel, et fournisseurs de soins

essentiels aux maisons de retraite et aux autres soins primaires pour les aînés (par exemple, vie assistée);

- Autres professionnels de la santé prioritaires (selon la priorisation du Ministère de la Santé);
- Adultes des populations des Premières Nations, y compris Métis
- Adultes bénéficiaires de soins de santé chroniques à domicile.

Les dates dépendront de la disponibilité et de la livraison du vaccin. Nous partagerons plus d'informations dès qu'elles seront disponibles. Pour plus de détails sur la priorisation des travailleurs de la santé, visitez www.timiskaminghu.com ou appelez-nous aux 1-866-747-4305 poste 7.

Mise à jour des variants préoccupants

Jusqu'à maintenant, trois variants préoccupants différents ont été identifiés en Ontario. Ils sont : une souche détectée au Royaume-Uni (qu'on appelle B 1.1.7 ou 501Y.V1), une souche détectée en Afrique du Sud (qu'on appelle B.1.351 ou 501Y.V2), et une souche détectée au Brésil (qu'on appelle P.1, B.1.1.28 ou E484K).

Le défi avec ces nouveaux variants est qu'ils sont très contagieux, ce qui signifie qu'ils se propagent plus facilement. Des taux de transmission plus élevés signifient plus de demandes sur le système de soins de santé, par exemple, plus de cas, plus d'hospitalisations, plus d'admissions aux unités de soins intensifs et plus de décès.

La modélisation provinciale suggère qu'un variant pourrait devenir la souche dominante du virus en Ontario d'ici mars 2021. Les cas de variants préoccupants de COVID-19 sont à la hausse en Ontario, et il est important que tout le monde continue de suivre les mesures de santé publique pour ralentir la propagation.

Un variant préoccupant de COVID-19 a été annoncé dans le district de Timiskaming le 6 février lorsqu'un échantillon a testé positif pendant l'analyse préliminaire. Les Services de Santé du Timiskaming attendent le séquençage du génome pour confirmer la souche du variant qui a été trouvé dans notre district. Pour plus d'informations, visitez www.timiskaminghu.com.

Latchford wants Northlander services to return

By Jamie Mountain

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

LATCHFORD - Latchford is joining other Northern Ontario municipalities in pressuring the Ontario government to reinstate the Northlander passenger train.

Northeastern Ontario Rail Network (NEORN) submitted a letter to the province at the end of January calling for money to be put into the budget for the purpose of bringing the Northlander back.

The City of North Bay has also circulated a motion to fellow municipalities that is calling on Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Transportation Caroline Mulroney to honour the 2018 pledge to bring the Northlander back, which has been out of service since 2012.

At their regular meeting on February 18, Latchford council passed a resolution calling on the Ontario government to restore the passenger rail service prior to the 2022 provincial election.

Latchford Mayor George Lefebvre said the resolution will be forwarded to the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipal-Nipissing-Timiskaming MP and the Honourable Speaker of the House Anthony Rota and also Nipissing MPP and Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Vic Fedeli for their endorsement and support.

Latchford is also asking the federal government to assist in funding the annual expenses of

In Memoriam

RALPH DEMPSEY

February 29, 2012



Our thoughts are ever with you, Though you have passed away, And those who love you dearly, Are thinking of you today.

Forever missed and always remembered by your step-son, Dean, your grandchildren, brother-in-law, sister-in-law and many nieces, nephews and cousins and friends.

the Northlander and the Polar Bear Express "as they provide a valuable connection to the James Bay coast," said Lefebvre.

"I can tell you that I find it rather amazing that they're talking about having to do a track evaluation study before they reconsider this when they already doubled the size of their freight trains in length and the power units attached to them," he noted.

"If ever you needed to do a track evaluation, it would have been prior to that rather than just a little two or three coach passenger train, but nonethe-



BIRD WAS THE WORD

The Paul Penna Library in Cobalt continues to offer curbside service to patrons. A free Valentine's Day craft package consisting of a homemade bird feeder, an instruction sheet and bag of craft materials was presented by librarian Kendra Lacarte, left, to Miriam Lillie for her four-year-old child. All COVID-19 safety protocols were abided by during the interaction. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

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Brenda Bukowski Client Coordinator



Marlee Robazza **Audiologist**



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WEEKENDER

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EDITORIAL

Honour system

On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of COVID-19 to be a public health emergency of international concern, issuing a set of temporary recommendations.

Since that fateful day, world leaders, local leaders and public health officials around the globe have issued their own specific recommendations and restrictions to halt the spread of the virus that has shockingly killed a half a million people in the United States

Here in Canada the death toll from the virus is set at around 21,000 and climbing.

We had one unfortunate death here in the Temiskaming region attributed to the virus so

The way this region has kept the virus under control and with our current infection rate of none, is largely by the honour system.

An honour system that has had to take place around the world whereby people abide by public health officials and government guidelines concerning washing hands, wearing masks, staying away from each other, getting tested if feeling ill and not travelling outside your designated regions.

We have done our honourable part here in Temiskaming to keep the infection rates

But the same can't be said for others, especially those who decided to travel to this region from outside our area last weekend to take part in snowmobiling activities.

Many people commented on social media about the number of snowmachine trailers parked at the New Liskeard waterfront from out-of-towners.

Certainly, we can't control what others are doing, but we can control the honourable things we do here in Temiskaming to keep us all safe and alive.

Because whether some realize it or not, we are all in this together.

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Small blessings in a time of COVID

February is the month we celebrate love in all its glory and think about the health of our hearts.

With the pandemic now entering its second year and lockdowns continuing in some form or another, we have all had to do our best to manage our stress levels.

How heartbreaking it was to learn about the situation that developed recently when a teenager threatened to jump off the Wabi River Bridge.

To the credit of the police officers on duty that day, disaster was averted. Thank you.

Can we view this desperate action as something hastened by the pandemic?

I think possibly so.

I hope this young person is receiving professional help during this very sensitive time

I'd like to mention The Kids Help Phone line is 1-800-6686868 or text CONNECT to 686868, available 24/7.

Youth depression, anxiety and suicide attempts have been on the rise during the pandemic according to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention.

We know the longer the pandemic goes on the more lonely people are feeling with increased risks of certain mental health issues.

The impacts on long-term loneliness can be devastating for children.

We often associate loneliness with seniors, but that would be misguided, especially during the pandemic.

Adults can change their circumstances, children cannot and they are often powerless in difficult times.

Children are too often on the receiving end of every sorrow, rage and dread that is happening around them.

Whatever can take a child beyond such difficulties is

indeed a blessing, be it a book, a hockey stick, a snowboard or set of skis.

Speaking of blessings, I was at the Tri-Town Ski and Snowboard Village last weekend. It was evident to me that being together and taking part in a shared outdoor activity was incredibly beneficial to all in attendance.

But none more so than the kids who have somewhere to express all that pent up energy in the great outdoors.

I felt the vibe and it was good. Kids were also happy to be back on the ice enjoying the best game you can name at the Don Shepherdson Memorial

I pass on a thank you to all the parents, coaches and instructors who are organizing youth sports in our region.

Remember parents, whether you know it or not, you are likely the most influential mentors a child will ever have.



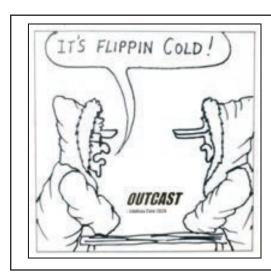
I miss the days when I coached my daughter's sport teams. It was such fun.

Kids need free time away from screens to think, to dream, to dawdle, to wonder and to

It's always a good idea to put down the phone and listen to your child, speaking kindly to them about what's bugging them and then reassure them everything's going to work out.

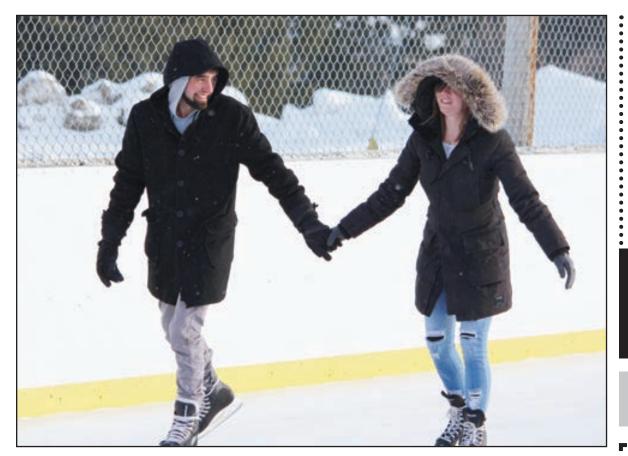
And when it comes to the pandemic, tell them the truth. use the facts and make sure they know how to protect themselves against the virus.

No moment of play is a waste of time for a child's development.









HAPPY SKATERS

Dan Gauvreau and Amber Rutherford were enjoying a spin around the ice surface of the outdoor rink in Dymond Township February 6. Outdoor rinks have been a popular spot locally amid the pandemic. (Staff photo by Jamie Mountain, LJI reporter)

More information sought on fire college closure

Darlene Wroe

Speaker Reporter

CHARLTON-DACK - The Municipality of Charlton and Dack wants some more information about what is being planned to replace the Ontario Fire College.

Fire departments and municipalities across Ontario have been advised the school is being closed and firefighters will be trained under a new regionally-based system.

At Charlton-Dack's regular meeting February 3, Councillor Jim Huff expressed the need for more details and to "get some responses about what they are going to do and how they're going to do it."

He noted that firefighters encounter different situations in different locations when fighting fires. For example, a volunteer fire brigade might find itself fighting a fire in an unorganized township, or in a small community where there are no fire hydrants, he pointed out.

Firefighters need to be exposed to the different situations to get a wide range of experience, he said.

The discussion was in response

to a motion that is being circulated among the municipalities from the Town of Englehart which is opposed to the closure.

But Huff said it is not clear whether the new training system will be better or worse.

shorter course locally," he mused. "I'm not sure we have the information" that would help them

"They may be able to do a

know how to react to the proposal.

The municipality has agreed

to send a letter to Premier Doug
Ford, the Fire Marshal's office,
and Timiskaming-Cochrane
MPP John Vanthof asking that
the fire college be kept open
until the province has made it
clear to municipalities and fire
departments how their proposal is
a better alternative for small rural
municipalities.

The college is based in Gravenhurst and is slated to close March 31.



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM

Temiskaming Shores CVITP will be providing **FREE TAX SERVICE** to area residents who have a modest income and simple return. Income thresholds are: \$35000 for single, \$45000 for a couple, additional \$2500 per dependant.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will be providing service by phone, email, or video conferencing (Skype, Zoom, etc.) at the times below:

March 1 to April 29, 2021, Monday – Thursday 1 PM – 4 PM. Messages can be left and/or texts sent. A volunteer will contact you within 48 hours. Please have all your tax slips available. To help with confirming identity, please let us know if you have used our service in the past and at which location. New clients welcome!

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Bilingual 705-650-2583

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Council Meeting: The next Regular Council meeting is scheduled for
 Monday, March 1, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. There is a public meeting at 6 pm to
 receive comments on a proposed increase of water rates. This meeting is scheduled to take place in person however, we ask that residents contact the Municipal Office to register as space is limited due to physical distancing requirements and Complex hall capacity. Prior to attending
 any meetings, please screen yourself in accordance with public health
 guidelines and if you feel unwell, please stay home. Mandatory screening questionnaire and masking in effect.

Changes to gathering restrictions due to COVID-19 may impact how meetings are conducted so if you wish to attend, please contact the Municipal Office in advance to find out how the meeting will be conducted and to register as a guest.

Municipal Office: The Municipal Office has re-opened to in-person transactions. Physical distancing and mandatory face covering is in effect so upon arrival, review the signs and then ring the door bell for service.
Before coming into the office, please screen yourself in accordance with public health guidelines. Minimize non-essential in-person visits to the office and if you feel unwell, stay home. The Township continues to encourage the use of internet payments through your financial institution, or by mailing cheques to the Municipal office. Residents can call the office at 705-679-8833 for assistance.

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.

Garbage: A maximum of three (3) regular sized garbage bags of household garbage will be picked-up weekly. Please ensure your garbage is out by 7 am.

Recycling: Next collection date is Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Reminder to residents – All recyclable material must be bagged in clear bags (30"X 32"), with the exception of cardboard. All cardboard must be flattened for pick up. Please have recycling out before 9 am to ensure pick up.

Administration: Interim Tax Bills will be going out with due dates of March 23 and April 23, 2021. A public meeting is scheduled to increase water rates on March 1, 2021. Notices went out to affected residents and was posted on the Township's website and front of Complex.

Building Permits are required for all construction in the Township of Coleman. Please allow sufficient processing time for your application.

By-law Enforcement: To report a property standards issue or if you want to report some illegal dumping or other by-law infraction, please contact the municipal office or Pete Gilboe directly at 705-648-3750.

Animal Control: For emergency animal control services, please contact the Animal Control Service Provider at 705-648-4583.

Employment Opportunity: The Township is seeking someone to fill the position of Administrative Assistant. Details can be found on the Township's website at www.colemantownship.ca/municipal-office/employment-opportunities/.



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STONE FIREPLACE!



12 Algonquin Blvd., Kirkland Lake • 3 bedroom • main floor laundry • gas fireplace • main floor family room • backs onto greenspace, • attached garage **\$118,500** MLS# TM210327

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Lot 4 Con 5 Pt. 1 Marquis Twp. Unorganized twp. • 5 acres • 1 bedroom cottage built in 2020. • Waterfront on the Blanche River with access to Round Lake. \$250,000.

CALLING ALL HANDYMEN!



3 First Street, Englehart 4 bedroom
 1 1/2 bath
 Attached garage
 Main floor family room. • Lots of room for a growing family! **\$135,000** TM202075

LOADS OF IMPROVEMENTS!



129 Fourth Avenue, Englehart

- 3 bedroom
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 Open concept. All the expensive improvements have been done! \$259,900 MLS# 202378,

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22 Agnes Street, Charlton-Dack • 3 + 1 bedroom • 1 1/2 bath • Impressive room sizes • Extra large lot • Overlooking Long Lake. Comes with pool! **\$280,000** TM 202069

CLEAN AND CHARMING!



16 Third Avenue, Larder Lake • 3 bedroom • 1 bath • Detached garage • Fenced yard. Well maintained and ready to enjoy! TM 202373 **\$99,500**

FULLY RENTED!



87 Fourth Street, Kirkland Lake • 2-2 bedroom apartments • Corner lot

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1320 FEET OF SHORELINE!



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FONOM releases new business profile in YouTube series

TEMISKAMING SHORES (Staff/Special) – A pharmacy in St. Charles is profiled in the latest instalment of a series focused on business opportunities in Northeastern Ontario.

Pharmacist Hazem Sharaf opened Pharmacie St. Charles Pharmacy, located about 60 kilometres east of Sudbury, in 2017.

"People were super welcoming. They appreciated that we came this far to offer our services," said Sharaf in the 4.5-minute video.

The business is the fourth showcased in a series of YouTube videos produced by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) as part of a GoNorth campaign.

Three H Furniture Systems in Temiskaming Shores was the subject of the first, which was released in October.

Subsequent videos have profiled Board's Honey Farm, located in Restoule in the District of Parry Sound, and Northern Truss Manufacturing in Moonbeam in the District of Cochrane.

A total of eight videos are planned.

The campaign received funding from FedNor.

The business leads it generates will be shepherded by the Trade, Investment and Marketing Unit of the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mining, said FONOM executive director Mac Bain in an email.

In the latest video, Sharaf shares his story of moving to Canada from Egypt in 2012, and going on to become a licensed pharmacist.

After researching communities in need of a pharmacy, he settled on St. Charles. The business has since opened another pharmacy in North Bay and further expansion is contemplated.

He said he's encouraging friends in British Columbia to relocate to Ontario, and urged other entrepreneurs to look northward.

He himself commutes to St. Charles each week from Ancaster, near Hamilton.

FONOM's message?

"You can own a business in northern Ontario, where opportunity thrives, and still live elsewhere."

To see the latest video, go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLV-SUC1J9c.

Rotary Fish Derby winds down this weekend

Sue Nielsen

Speaker Reporter

DISTRICT — If you haven't caught your prize pickerel yet, you only have until Sunday, February 28, to catch the big one and cash in on the grand prize with the Rotary Club of Temiskaming Shores and Area Virtual Derby.

The derby began on February 12 and will wrap up this coming weekend, open to all anglers in the Temiskaming district.

The top prize is 50 per cent of the revenues generated from the derby, along with other donated prizes by merchants in the region. A participant need only download the FishDonkey app, scroll

down to Rotary Anglers and download.

All fish caught during the derby are to be measured, photo-

graphed and video recorded using the FishDonkey app.

Participants are encouraged to keep COVID-19 safety protocols in place at all times and abide by the Ontario Recreational Fishing

Regulations Summary concerning limits and size of catch.

The proceeds from the derby will be used to round out costs of the Rotary Club Splash Pad proposed for New Liskeard and other community work done by Rotary.

For more information on the derby check out the Rotary Club Facebook page.



TRAIL SUPPORT

Sue Cavanagh of New Liskeard was recently out to enjoy the long cross-country ski trails of the Temiskaming Nordic Ski Club. She commented that it is very important to use and support the ski club and trails at this time. The trails are still being maintained and are "a great place to be able to come and stay active while social-distancing," particularly for the children, she commented. (Staff photo by Darlene Wroe)

Calling small business owners

COVID-19 support could be available to you.

- Grants of up to \$20,000 through the Ontario Small Business Support Grant
- Up to \$1,000 in support for purchasing PPE through Ontario's Main Street Relief Grant
- Rebates for property tax and energy costs



We're working to ensure small businesses can keep employing people and serving their communities now and when COVID-19 is behind us.

Visit ontario.ca/COVIDsupport to apply

Paid for by the Government of Ontario



Temagami boy making progress on health journey

By Jamie Mountain

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

TEMAGAMI - A young Temagami boy is on his way to living a life without an abundance of limitations.

Elliot Lacroix Belanger, seven, underwent tendon lengthening surgery on February 16 at Health Sciences North in Sud-

"Elliot had to quarantine from the sixth of February until the 16th of February, he needed to do a five-hour pre-op and then a COVID swab, which he didn't enjoy too much," said Elliot's parents, Dan and Miranda Lacroix Belanger, in an email message to The Speaker.

They noted that prior to his surgery, Elliot was "very nervous and scared" and that he needed medication to calm himself down.

"It was even harder that only one parent was allowed in the hospital with him," the parents

"We had to spend two nights at the hotel, because he was the first surgery of the day, and we have a family history of Malignant hyperthermia (where your blood boils under anaesthetic), so they wanted us to stay close by to make sure. We are 17 kilometres short for the Northern Health Travel Grant, so it does not cover the hotel room."

The couple noted that Elliot's surgery was conducted by a surgeon from the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa who came to Health Sciences North in Sudbury to do the surgery because of COVID-19 precautions.

early on as he suffered a stroke at birth, causing Cerebral Palsy and a right Hemiplegia (limited use of his right side.)

He had been undergoing Botox injections for the last four years, but unfortunately they were no longer working.

Elliot's foot brace also wouldn't fit anymore because it was so tight around the leg.

The orthopaedic and paediatric teams believed Elliot would benefit from serial casting to help stretch the muscles.

FINANCIAL CONCERNS

The Lacroix Belangers said that for seven years the family has been steadily going back and forth to medical appointments and making it work financially.

However, the orthopaedic team mentioned to them that

Elliot's health issues began the serial casting procedure wouldn't be covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan, but recommended that the family reach out to local organizations to see if they would help with covering the costs.

> The family was looking at three casts at \$275 apiece for Elliott, along with the cost of travelling back and forth to North Bay to get the casts put on and taken off, which is a total of four

> In order for all of the casting procedures to happen, a 50/50 draw fundraiser was set up on the Jamie's Army Facebook page, raising a total of \$1,050 for the family.

> "We weren't expecting it to blow up as much as it did, but we are forever thankful," the family said of the Jamie's Army efforts.

> "We also got many people sending us donations privately, as far (away) as Ohio. There was so much generosity from the people in our community and abroad, we can't thank everyone enough. When they say it takes a village to raise a child, we truly know what it means."

> On January 20 the family travelled to North Bay to the Nipissing Orthopaedic Lab, where Elliot was supposed to be serial casted. Instead, they say he was fitted for a new ridged brace that he will need after the tendon lengthening surgery.

> "Karen of the Orthopaedic team decided it would be of our best interest not to do the serial casting, for a few reasons," said Dan and Miranda.

"If they were going to do the surgery, they didn't want him casted beforehand, it'll be too much on him. Secondly, if he needs to self-isolate, the dates wouldn't work out, so they will be post-surgery."

MOVING FORWARD

After undergoing the tendon lengthening surgery on February 16, the Lacroix Belanger family



Elliot Lacroix Belanger of Temagami, 7, is on the road to recovery after undergoing tendon-lengthening surgery in his right leg on February 16. (Supplied photo)

says Elliot will continue to have many follow-up appointments and they have "great hope" that he will be able to fit back into his brace, skates and boots, and be able to be a child without so many limitations.

They also say the support keeps rolling in for the family from Jamie's Army, the purchasing of the 50/50 tickets, various donations, sharing of posts and getting their story out there, offering to bring them coffee or whatever they need, offers of places to stay, simply reaching out, sending thoughts and prayers, bringing get-well gifts, and so much more.

"We can't begin to tell you how much it means," stressed the parents.

"There are so many people to thank and you are all amazing."

They also noted that even CBC Canada reached out to the family about Elliot's health journey.

Elliot now is scheduled to have a follow-up appointment on March 29 in hopes that he can take the cast off, see how the surgery went, and then he will be required to wear a ridged AFO brace.

"Elliot is sore and it hurts to put pressure on his foot," noted Dan and Miranda.

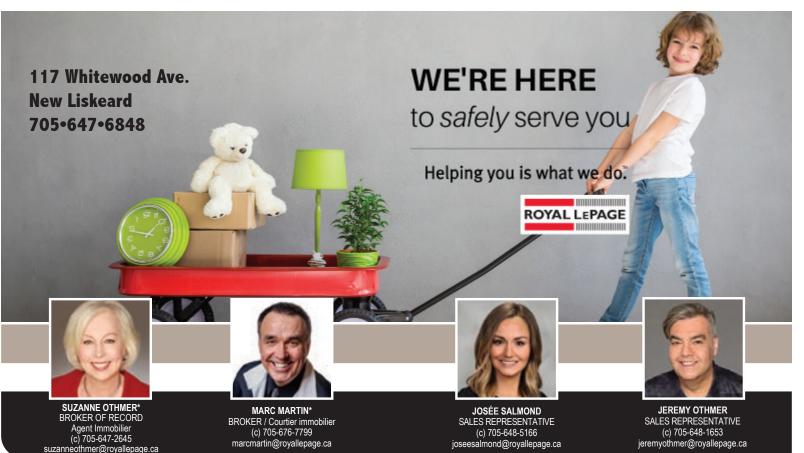
"He's finding it hard not being able to play outside, have a normal shower, go to hockey, or walk properly."

Along with follow-up appointments, the family says they also have out-of-town orthopaedic appointments and brace fittings, Botox injection appointments for Elliot's right wrist, and an upcoming trip to Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto where they're looking at five trips or more in the month of March alone.

"As always, any and all appointments and updates get posted under #strengthforelliot on Facebook, so make sure to follow that to follow Elliot's journey."



Your ticket purchases help support quality, patient-centered Care Close to Home



HOG LINE REPORT

With Angus McStone

It's on!

Happy to have the region in the Green zone with the health unit, which allows a variety of recreational events to restart. One week under our belt at the Haileybury Curling Club (HCC), and it feels good.

Nationally, today (February 24) is the halfway mark in the Scotties. The next couple of days are the traditional moving days as teams begin to look toward playoff berths.

Whoever you are cheering for, enjoy the return of live action.

AFTERNOON OPEN **CURLING**

The afternoon open curlers will add a third draw to their week on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. to make up for some lost time during the lockdown.

Tuesday, February 16, results: Out of lockdown, into Green, and on the sheets. Life is great! L. Olsen hasn't changed much and fell to an amazing last rock performance by M. Bonney, while C. Camsell had an open

draw to the four foot to bury the ladies coming home tied. Based on the big shot, C. Camsell is Curler of the Day.

Thursday, February 18, results featured some lop-sided scores. C. Camsell pretty much ran L. Olsen off his scoreboard, while I. Horncastle nearly did the same with M. Bonney, who managed to at least score a couple. Olsen was skunked. It was not pretty. Curler of the Day: D. Robitaille.

MEN'S DRAW

After an eight-week delay, the first Men's Draw has come to a

Results from February 17: Several games went the distance tonight. P. Gordon thwarted B. Culp, D. Willett smacked T. Eckensviller, B. Terris nipped S. McLean, and S. Hearn tripped B. McMullan.

Final Draw 1 Standings: B. Terris at 6-0-1, T. Eckensviller, P. Gordon, S. Hearn, D. Willett at 4-3, S. McLean at 3-4, B. McMullan 2-4-1, and B. Culp rounds this out.

The next draw has been distributed. Extra copies are available from the bartenders.



MIXED DRAW

The Mixed Draw picked up from the last games played on the pre-lockdown schedule.

February 18 results: Out of Lockdown return to Thursday Night mixed, and some barnburners tonight.

S. Hearn outfoxed P. Gordon, C. Martin kowtowed to B. Culp, A. MacLeod boar down on F. Menard-Dalley, and S. MacLean bulled through S. Taylor. C. Camsell and R. Hearn sheepishly put off to a later date.

Updated standings feature S. McLean (7-0), S. Hearn (5-2), T. Eckensviller (4-2), S. Taylor (4-3), a logiam of F. Menard-Dalley, A. MacLeod, and B. Culp at 3-4, C. Camsell (2-4), P. Gordon (2-5), and C. Martin (1-6). Two nights left in this draw, which ends March 4.

HORNE GRANITE REPORT

Club De Curling

Recent league winners from the Horne Granite Club:

After-Tuesday noon, February 16: Neil Loach over Peter Bowman, Peter Muraska over Eugène Ménard, John Reinhardt over Donald Touzin.

Tuesday Open, Feb. 16: winning skips were Wadge, Paquette, Sayer.

Thursday Men's Night, Feb. 18: Dana Loach over Gary Wadge, Allan Mathieu over Ryan Sayer, Algonquin Variety over Dan Little, Ron Campsall over Gerry Paquette, Olivier Bonin-Ducharme over Ray Gravline, Mario Léveillé over Ryan Ménard.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ladies Night of Curling at the Horne Granite: yes, we will be having Ladies Nights at the Horne Granite again this year!

Dates and sponsors to be announced soon - keep an eye out in The Speaker and on our Facebook page.

Sign up at the club or text Patti McKnight at 705-648-5385 or message her on Facebook. Dinner catered by 28 On The Lake and prizes to follow. Get a foursome togeth-

er - friends, family, work colleagues for a fun night out. You can also sign up individually, in pairs or a threesome and we will do our best to form teams.

Bring clean shoes, and arrive at the club pre-dressed in warm, stretchy clothing since change rooms are unavailable. Brooms and sliders are available.

FOR RENT

Anyone interested in renting the Horne Granite Centre lounge, curling surface or the arena surface in the off season is welcome to contact the Horne Granite Curling Club at: 705-647-4422 or email coordinator@hornegranite.com for more information.

Temagami Family Health Team Submitted by Ellen Ibey

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 eve care professionals recommend a comprehensive eve 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.

The Temagami Medical Centre and Family Health Team... committed to keeping you as healthy as possible



Family Health Team

17 O'Connor Drive, P.O. Box 98, Temagami, ON P0H 2H0 Tel: 705.569.3244 Fax: 705.569.2610





CITY BULLETIN]

Temiskaming Shores Public Library

The library will continue to be open for Contactless Pickup service only for the month of February, with a planned Open to the Public date of March 1, 2021. Please call the library at 705-647-4215 or check our Facebook page or website at www.temisklibrary.com for more information.

Library Hours for Contactless Pickup Service Mondays: 10-4—By appointment Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays: 12-6—By appointment Fridays and Saturdays: 10-4—By appointment

Contactless Pickup Service

Our Contactless Pickup Service continues to be available throughout the month of February. Call the library at 705-647-4215, email us at info@temisklibrary.com or use our online catalogue at www.temisklibrary.com to order your items, and arrange come by to pick them up while you are out for your essential shopping. A staff member will call to book an appointment when your items are ready. Not sure what you want? Call us for help! All returned items will be quarantined before being put back on the shelf. Remember that it is still mandatory to wear a face mask when picking up your books, and you must have your library card for

Pre-Overdue Email Notification

The Library has subscribed to the Pre-Overdue Email Notification service through our library system. If you have an email on file with us, you will receive an email reminding you that your items are due, one day before they are due. If you would like to be signed up for this service, simply contact the library at 705-647-4215 and ensure your email address is up to date in our files.

Book Return Drop Box

Don't forget to continue returning your items to the library when you are out and about doing your essential shopping! It is really important to receive our items back in the library so they can be quarantined and go out to the next person on the list. The library's drop box is located on the parking lot side of the building. If an item is too large for the Drop Box, please call or email to arrange a drop off

Snowshoes, walking poles, backpacks and games and puzzles

The library has a wide variety of materials other than books and movies to help keep everyone occupied while staying at home. Snowshoes, walking poles and backpacks are great for winter outdoors activities. The backpacks come equipped with information about outdoor activities to do in the area, trail maps, a bird guide and a compass. The snowshoes are very popular right now, so be sure to call well in advance to reserve a pair! We also have a wide variety of games and puzzles to entertain while indoors. All of our items are quarantined for 72 hours before being made available for checkout again.

Ontario Provincial Parks Day Pass Lending Program

Ontario Parks has provided three free vehicle day-use permits for members of the Temiskaming Shores Public Library so they can enjoy using its network of provincial parks. The pass is for day use entry for all occupants of a vehicle (excludes buses). Be sure to check the Ontario Parks website for up-to-date information on their COVID-19 protocols. The Library also has backpacks, snowshoes, walking poles and books on hiking and camping to complete your

Here's what you need to know

- You are advised to consult the Ontario Parks website at http://www. ontarioparks.com/ for important information about park locations, visits, hours of operation, and closures so you can plan your visit accordingly.
- Provincial Park Passes can be checked out for 7 days.
- There is a limit of one pass per library card.
- You may place a hold to reserve your pass in order to plan for trips.
- The pass entitles one vehicle to enter any provincial park subject to park
- Overdue fees for late returns and replacement fees for lost passes will apply

The program is part of the Healthy Parks Healthy People initiative, which aims to make it more affordable for people to enjoy provincial parks. For more information on the program, visit http://www.ontarioparks.com/hphp

Relax with an eBook or Audiobook!

With your library card, access thousands of ebooks and audiobooks on Overdrive. Download titles to borrow for 14 days. Items are automatically returned so there are no late fees! Go to the library website at www.temisklibrary. com and click on the OverDrive button.

Interactive Fun for Children on the Eresources page of our website! Designed for children K-3, PebbleGo Animals, Science and Dinosaurs has fun information, videos, and pictures for children. The easy to navigate site allows children to learn about a variety of topics. Login with your library card.

If your children want to read, TumbleBookLibrary Online is a great place to go! The online collection of ebooks are suited for children in grades K-6 and both English and French books are available. Existing children's books are animated and have audio narration. The collection includes favorites such as The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch, Diary of a Worm, How I Became a Pirate, Miss Malarkey Doesn't Live in Room 10, One Duck Stuck, as well as fairy tales such as Jack and the Beanstalk and Old Mother Hubbard. Use your library card to log

Learn Something New!

The Hobbies and Crafts Reference Centre offers detailed "how-to" instructions and creative ideas to meet the interests of virtually every hobby enthusiast with articles, videos, and more! Subjects Include: Arts and crafts, Collecting, Home and garden, Indoor recreation, and Kids' crafts. Have your 14 digit library card number ready to log in and start crafting!

Want to brush up on a language or learn a new one? Mango Languages Online teaches actual conversation skills for over 50 languages. With helpful feedback, you can learn at your pace, wherever you are. Create an account with your

Find these resources and more at www.temisklibrary.com.

ATTENTION RESIDENTS OF TEMISKAMING SHORES

The City of Temiskaming Shores has received reports of frozen water services within our distribution system due to the recent cold temperatures. If you have had a frozen water service issue in the past there is a potential risk for freezing at this time. As a result, the Public Works Dept. is requesting that you run your cold water, until further notice, with the flow being the approximate diameter of a pencil.

We thank you for your cooperation. Should you have any questions contact the Public Works Department at 705-647-6220.

Council and Committee MEETINGS

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, March 8, 2021 – 12:00 noon (To be determined - Virtual or In-Person at 325 Farr Drive) **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Monday, March 8, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. (To be determined - Virtual or In-Person at 325 Farr Drive)

For further information contact Kelly Conlin 705-672-3363 Ext. 4116 or kconlin@temiskamingshores.ca REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. - 325 Farr Drive REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. - 325 Farr Drive Due to physical distancing measures during COVID-19, individuals wishing to attend Council meetings to observe the proceedings, must pre-register with the Clerk's Office at 705-672-3363 ext. 4136, as seating is limited. Only those individuals registered to attend the Council meeting will be permitted, and face coverings/ masks and COVID-19 screening are required.

Residents are encouraged to watch the live-streamed meeting on the City's Facebook page. In addition, the open portion of the meetings, will be recorded and available for public viewing on the City's webpage following the meeting.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD PROCEDURE

In consideration of the current COVID-19 pandemic and prevailing public health orders limiting large public gatherings of people within indoor public spaces, and requirements for physical distancing between persons, in-person attendance at Council meetings may be limited and/or restricted from time-to-time.

Question and Answer Periods during a regular meeting of Council are an opportunity for members of the Public to submit questions pertaining to an item on the Agenda, or the business of Council.

Members of the public who wish to submit questions to Council at a Regular Council Meeting during a Declared Emergency, may submit in writing or via email to questions@temiskamingshores.ca. The questions received will be read aloud and responded to during the Question and Answer Periods.

Emailed guestions will be received until the second Question and Answer Period. Questions received after this time, will not be read aloud at the Meeting. Note: Correspondence sent to the Mayor and Council may be included in a Council agenda/package, and become part of the public record.

Comments or questions submitted via the City of Temiskaming Shores Facebook page, will not be considered, and the moderator of the livestreamed Meeting may remove any and all comments.

For further information, contact Logan Belanger 705-672-3363 Ext. 4136 or lbelanger@temiskamingshores.ca

AGE FRIENDLY/GET ACTIVE PROGRAMS (all programs are free) Monday - Beginner Line Dancing (registration required) 10:30am,

Riverside Place NL Ladies Pickleball 12:30pm, New Liskeard Community Hall Tuesday - Women's Exercise Group (registration required) 9:00am,

Shelley Herbert-Shea Memorial Arena, Haileybury (Feb. 23) Coffee Hour (presentation from Temiskaming Art Gallery) 2:00pm, Open Studio Libre, Haileybury

Wednesday - (Feb. 24) Coffee Hour (presentation from Temiskaming Art Gallery) 10:30am, Riverside Place, NL

Public Skating 12:30pm, Don Shepherdson Memorial Arena, NL Pickleball 6:30pm, New Liskeard Community Hall

Thursday - Women's Exercise Group (registration required) 8:45am, Shelley Herbert-Shea Memorial Arena, Haileybury

Intermediate Line Dancing (registration required) 10:45am, Shelley Hertbert-Shea Memorial Arena, Haileybury

Pickleball 12:30pm, New Liskeard Community Hall Friday - Ladies Pickleball 8:45am, New Liskeard Community Hall Public Skating 12:30pm, Don Shepherdson Memorial Arena, NL

CITY INVOICE ALTERNATE PAYMENT OPTIONS

For your convenience, the City website has a Payment Portal located on the home page providing you with an online payment option. www.temiskamingshores.ca

Click on the Payment Portal located in the bottom right corner of the home page

and follow the instruction NOTE: Payment Portals cannot be utilized to make Tax Payments.

Tax Payments made in the Payment Portals will be refunded to the taxpayer and a \$25 service fee will be applied to the tax account.

For inquiries regarding these matters, please contact the Corporate Services Department at 672-3363 or email to finance@temiskamingshores.ca

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

2021 Interim Tax Bills have been mailed out. The installments for the 2021 interim tax bill are due: Monday, March 15th and Monday, May 17th, 2021 Your 2021 interim bill is based on 50% of the 2020 taxes.

Taxes can be paid in person at: 325 Farr Drive in Hailevbury or mailed to:

P.O. Box 2050 Haileybury ON P0J 1K0 Drop Boxes are located at: 325 Farr Drive, Haileybury (City Hall)

77 Wellington, New Liskeard (Pool Fitness Centre) Please contact the Taxation Department for alternative payment options

(online banking, pre-authorized plans) For inquiries regarding your tax bill, please contact City Hall at 672-3363 or email to finance@temiskamingshores.ca

For further information contact the By-law Officer at (705) 672-3363. **NOTICE TO PUBLIC**

NOTICE - OVERNIGHT PARKING

Effective November 1st, 2020 to March 31st, 2021

By-law No. 2008-069 prohibits the parking of vehicles on municipal streets or City-owned parking lots between the hours of 12:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. Thank you for your cooperation.

Provincial Offences Office is closed to the public.

Note: In person courts remain cancelled until further notice. You will be advised of your next court date in writing. Please do not attend City Hall or Northern College in Kirkland Lake for your court dates.

We now offer online payments at www.temiskamingshores.ca/poa. Payments will also continue to be accepted by telephone at 705-672-3221, email at poa@temiskamingshores.ca or by fax to 705-672-3200 or can be left in the drop box at the front entrance of City Hall, 325 Farr

If you currently have a suspended driver's license, your fine can be paid at Service Ontario located at 280 Armstrong Street, New Liskeard, Ontario or 10 Government Road East, Kirkland Lake, Ontario or pay online at serviceontario.ca

An Order made by the Chief Justice pursuant to s. 85 extending timelines for applying for reopenings (s.11), when a fine is due (s. 66) and when a fine goes into default (s. 69) is in effect until February 26th, 2021. If you do not respond by February 26th, 2021 you may be deemed not to dispute the charge and a justice may enter a conviction for the

You may verify the status of your ticket at: https://www.justiceservices. jus.gov.on.ca/POA/screens/poa/POASC001.xhtml

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES 2021

The Corporation of the City of Temiskaming Shores offers a variety of summer employment opportunities for both secondary and post secondary students.

> Lifeguard/Swim Instructors Parks Labourers Marina Attendant Cemetery Labourers Building/Property Maintenance Labourer Public Works General Labourers

Applications can be found on our website: www.temiskamingshores.ca

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND RESUMES ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO:

Shelly Zubyck, Director of Corporate Services City of Temiskaming Shores Box 2050 Haileybury, ON P0J 1K0 Email: szubyck@temiskamingshores.ca

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

March 12, 2021 at 4:30pm

PLEASE NOTE: In order to apply for a summer student position, you must currently be enrolled in full-time studies and returning to fulltime studies in the fall of 2021. All applicants must also complete an application form and submit said application by the above noted date.

The City of Temiskaming Shores appreciates the interest of all applicants however, only those selected for interviews will be contacted. The City of Temiskaming Shores is an equal opportunity employer that provides equality of opportunity for employment without discrimination, consistent with The Ontario Human Rights Code. The City of Temiskaming Shores is committed to providing accommodations in all parts of the hiring process. If you require accommodations, we will work with you to meet your needs.

RECREATION UPDATE

Facilities

- All City of Temiskaming Shores recreation facilities including arenas, halls and the PFC are open to the public.
- · All PFC memberships have been reactivated. All users will need to pre-book their workout and pool time when the PFC reopens. Pre-book by contacting the PFC at 647-5709 or by emailing pfc@ temiskamingshores.ca
- Outdoor rinks and the skating path at the Waterfront Pool and Fitness Centre are open, weather dependent. City of Temiskaming Shores Facility Screening

Starting February 16th, everyone who enters a city facility is required to fill out the electronic Covid-19 screening and contact tracing form. Simply use your phone to scan the QR code at the front door and answer a few simple questions. You can also fill out the form by going to www.temiskamingshores.ca/covid19form/

Memorial Bench and Tree Program

Applications for the City of Temiskaming Shores' Memorial Bench and Tree program are now being accepted. Leave a lasting memory of a loved one by having a bench installed or tree planted in their name. This is a great way to make a low-cost, lasting impact to our community. Applications are being accepted until April 15th and the application form with instructions is available at www.temiskamingshores.ca/recreation/

EVERYONE MUST CHECK-IN BEFORE ENTERING FACILITY



- 1. Scan QR Code with your camera (form is also available at temiskamingshores.ca/ covid19form) Complete entire form
- If you answer yes to any screening questions you may NOT enter



For more information go to www.temiskamingshores. ca/covid19/

For More Information Call 705 672-3363 Write to The City of Temiskaming Shores, P.O. Box 2050, Haileybury, ON P0J 1K0 or Visit our Website: www.temiskamingshores.ca



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Jaime



Dan Patrick Myra Zi-Guy Goudreault Corneil Gauvreau Gauvreau

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2020 was record breaking year for

• Number of Sales • Average price per sale.

We expect 2021 to exceed all levels attained in 2020. We currently have buyers looking for residential, recreational, income properties & farms in our area.

If you are considering selling, call one of our dedicated professional Realtors and get us working for you. We are committed to getting you the best price possible by exposing your property to all potential Buyers.





















































MAKING IGLOOS

What to do during a winter pandemic? Make a brightly coloured igloo is what Alicia Farrow (left) and her mother Susan Farrow did along with extended family members at their Harley Township home. Farrow moved home during the pandemic with her husband and kids and the highlight over the winter for them was the building of the igloo. "It was a great way to bring joy during these challenging times," said Susan Farrow in an online message to The Speaker. (Supplied photo)

Expansion tapped for Whiskeyjack

TEMISKAMING SHORES (Special/Staff) - A Temiskaming Shores beer maker is expanding, with help from FedNor.

The federal funding agency for Northern Ontario has made a repayable investment of \$143,537 in Whiskeyjack Beer Co.

It's helping the fledgling enterprise scale up and establish a microbrewery and agri-tourism destination in downtown Haileybury.

Funding was announced by Terry Sheehan, Liberal MP for Sault Ste. Marie and the parliamentary secretary to the minister responsible for FedNor, at a virtual press conference February 11.

Sheehan said the funding is assisting with the purchase and installation of specialty equipment and the completion of indoor renovations to the brewery and taproom.

The new facility will allow the company to do small-batch brewing on-site to supply its new tasting room, entertainment venue and existing licensees.

Sheehan said the expansion is expected to help create three new full-time positions and up to five part-time jobs.



