



EGG-CITED FOR EASTER

The Easter Egg Hunt at Farr Park on Saturday, March 27, sponsored by Early On Haileybury was postponed due to the region going into the COVID-19 red zone. But they decided to hand out eggs with crafts, games and tiny treasures inside. Alexi Hermiston, 9, stopped by to pick up her brightly coloured eggs. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

Missed opportunities

Ontario budget provides some relief, says MPP

Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter

DISTRICT – MPP John Vanthof sees some missed opportunities, but also some much needed relief, in the Ontario budget presented March 24.

The Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP, who is also the deputy-leader for the New Democratic Party, says one area of concern was for more support to assist those working in long term care institutions.

COVID-19 brought long term care issues to the public's attention.

"The tragedy that happened in long term care was a problem waiting to happen," said Vanthof in a telephone interview.

"A lot of the problems were pre-existing. They were well known by many levels of government."

While long-term promises are being made by the government, action is needed now, said Vanthof. By not acting immediately, "the danger is that the public



**JOHN
VANTHOF**

attention may once again face away from the long term care once the pandemic is over."

Adequate payment for Personal Support Workers (PSWs) is needed, he said, "if you really want to make sure we have adequate people working in the system to deliver the four hours of hands-on care" that has been sought for long term

care residents.

In a press release he said "although the government has committed to invest in additional beds and to train more ... PSWs it has not pushed forward with a wage increase for PSWs working in long term care facilities (and) has not reinstated regular inspections of long term care homes."

HELPING PEOPLE

Vanthof worries not enough was done in the budget to help people. Paid sick days, for example, could have assisted.

"This is going to cost not only the people. It is going to cost the economy in the long run," he said.

Continued on 3a

DID YOU GET The Speaker THIS WEEK?

Here are some of the stories in our March 31 edition...

- Caution is needed, say public health officials, as the region was recently pushed into the red zone.
- It will be canine heaven when the city opens its off-leash dog park at the Murray Daniels Park in North Cobalt.
- Ontario Northland has restricted access to two iconic headframes located within the Town of Cobalt's boundaries.
- A \$2.5 million road rehabilitation program will pave the way for improved roadways in the City of Temiskaming Shores.
- The stage is set for the demolition of an historic former theatre building in Englehart.
- Things will be just ducky in Latchford this summer when the volunteer fire department launches their annual Duck Race.
- The Township of Armstrong will make a healthy donation to two area hospitals.
- Shop local was on the minds of some city councillors concerning a tender for a new truck purchase.
- A bursary paying tribute to the late Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP, David Ramsay, has Northern College students reaping the benefits.
- The Temiskaming Shores Minor Hockey Association season has ended due to the COVID-19 red zone restrictions.
- A daughter's love for her father will turn a tragedy into a triumph during a cross-Canada bike ride.



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Red zone melts Haileybury arena ice

Sue Nielsen
Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES — The City of Temiskaming Shores is seeing red over the latest COVID-19 restrictions.

Under the provincial government’s red zone guidelines, put in place by the Temiskaming Health Unit, Temiskaming Shores has removed the ice surfaces from both its arenas.

City recreation director Mathew Bahm noted the ice would be leaving the Don Shepherdson Memorial Arena earlier than planned due to the arena being turned into a vaccination clinic site.

But because of the recent red zone restrictions enacted on March 26, the restrictions placed on ice users at the Shelley Herbert-Shea Memorial Arena prompted the city to remove the ice there as well.

“Only the Don Shepherdson Memorial Arena will be used as a vaccination site, in Haileybury, the Temiskaming Health Unit will be using Northern College as a vaccination clinic,” noted Bahm in an email interview with The Speaker.

He said the red zone restric-

tions limited user groups at The Shea and the city to a specific capacity number and increased distancing was also a factor in the shutdown.

“Restrictions for indoor recreation in the red control zone included lowered capacity limits, required pre-booking, increased distancing between exercise equipment and restrictions on playing and practicing team sports, among other things.”

Removing the ice from The Shea has effectively ended the Temiskaming Shores Minor Hockey Association season, about a month earlier than expected.

Bahm noted the red zone changes were already in place at the Waterfront Pool and Fitness Centre in New Liskeard so changes at that location are minimal at best.

“The biggest change is in the fitness centre where we now have a capacity of 10 people. We have set up our bookings in one hour time slots with a maximum of ten people per hour,” he said.

People attending the P/F Centre will be required to exit the facility as soon as their workout is completed, so additional people can enter the facility.



SPAGHETTI TO GO
Club Lions d’Earlton held a spaghetti supper fundraiser on Sunday, March 28, in which 200 prepared meals were sold as pick-up-and-go items. “We had an excellent turnout,” said president Sylvie Boileau in an email message to The Speaker. Holding out a spaghetti meal in a bag is Lions member Ginette Ducharme (left) and Francois Gauthier in the back. A total of \$4,500 was raised to help three families who lost their home in a fire. (Supplied photo)

Stop the surge, Northern health units urge

DISTRICT (Special) — As Easter holidays and the postponed school break approach, Northern Ontario’s seven public health units are expressing a single message:

This spring break, do your part – stop the surge.

In a joint press release earlier this week, the seven Northern medical officers of health note that many parts of the region are experiencing their highest COVID-19 infection rates since the pandemic began.

“COVID-19 activity is rising again across the province, and the rapid spread of variants of concern (VOCs) is causing aggressive outbreaks, and in some cases, more severe illness, even in younger people.

“We know that everyone has

made tremendous sacrifices for over a year. And there is ongoing hope, as more vaccine becomes available, week by week.

“At this very moment in time, however, the vast majority of our community members are not yet immunized. This means risky activities like gatherings and travel must still be avoided by all.”

ACTION

They’re offering the following top three actions for all families and households:

- Stay two metres apart from anyone you don’t live with – even when outdoors.

Connect by phone or online instead.

Closed, indoor spaces are risky, so limit time indoors and stay masked and distanced.

Avoid gatherings, shared meals or carpools outside your household. A person infected with the COVID-19 virus can spread the virus to others 48 hours before they even feel sick.

- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, even mild ones, get tested. Until you get the results, you and your household must stay home.

- Avoid non-essential travel or receiving visitors, especially between different colour zones – green through red and grey – of pandemic presence and restrictions.

If a student is returning from college or university, plan ahead. Avoid risky close-contact exposures 14 days before travel, and postpone travel plans if sick.

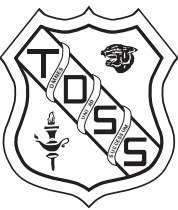
If someone must isolate because of illness or potential exposure, arrange a safe space, ideally with a separate bedroom and bathroom.

The medical officers of health also offered a top-three list for local businesses to prevent outbreaks:

- Follow the regulations in your colour-coded zone and stay as contactless as possible. Use personal protective equipment and work from home when possible.

- Keep your guard up, and stay distanced and masked in break rooms, staff areas and carpools.

- Screen everyone every day. As much as you can, have supportive workplace policies that allow people to take sick time.




The Grade 9 Business Class of TDSS will be holding a charity auction on the TDSS Friends & Family Facebook Page beginning on **April 6th at 12 noon and ending on April 8th at 12 noon.** All proceeds will be donated to

ZACK'S CRIB

(for more information on the Zack's Crib Charity visit zackscrib.org).

There will be multiple handcrafted items along with the **BIG TICKET/SHOW STOPPING** Welded Firewood Holder donated by the Grade 11 Welding Class!

Anyone who would like to bid will need to join the TDSS Friends & Family page to participate in the auction, you can find the page by scanning the barcode.



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TDSS holding online auction for Zack’s Crib

Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES - A new on-line fundraiser for Zack’s Crib will be hosted by students of Timiskaming District Secondary School.

An auction is scheduled to take place from April 6 at 12 p.m. to April 8 at 12 p.m. organized by the students of Ms. Pollock’s business class and the students of Mr. Code’s welding class.

There will be skilfully crafted welded and wood products in the auction. The big-ticket item is a welded firewood holder donated by the Grade 11 welding class. There will also be generous offerings donated from the business community.

The auction site can be found by visiting the TDSS Friends and Family Facebook page.

All funds raised from the auction will be donated to Zack’s Crib, which is an organization working to establish a shelter for the homeless in New Liskeard.

A building has already been purchased through a provincial government grant under the umbrella of the District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board (DTSSAB) and is located on

Broadwood Avenue near Lakeshore Road in New Liskeard, although Zack’s Crib has not yet officially announced it because of government funding protocols.

Zack’s Crib has set up a Question and Answer section on its Facebook page for more information.

Zack’s Crib chair Yves Paillé commented of the project, “We’re trying to make something good out of something bad that is happening.”

The funding for the building came more quickly than anticipated, he noted, so there is now intensified work taking place to prepare for the opening of the building before the end of 2021. Environmental assessments of the property, renovations and furnishings are all tasks that need to be completed.

The committee has also welcomed Wanda Crawford as its new treasurer, noted Paillé.

Initially, Zack’s Crib will be a shelter for the homeless only, he said, but as time goes on, it is anticipated it may be able to add services and activities such as programs and outreach.

Paillé said Zack’s Crib is being modelled after the Timmins Living Space which has had a successful outcome.

Temagami looking to secure police grant funding

By Jamie Mountain
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

TEMAGAMI – Temagami council has passed a motion to direct municipal staff to work with the Temagami Police Services Board to apply for funding under the Ontario CCTV Grant in the amount of \$30,000.

The motion, which was passed at council’s regular meeting on March 25, further directs that the municipal share of the grant program, if successful, would be funded through a transfer from reserves.

At its March 4 meeting, the Temagami Police Services Board passed a resolution that stated the board wants Temagami to apply for the funding “and obtain municipal council support to increase their capital budget for the 2021 year so that they can contribute 50 per cent of the grant in the amount of \$15,000.”

Temagami council could then agree to put the application forward and, if successful, fund its share of the project through the use of current re-

serves rather than increasing its tax levy.

Temagami Mayor Dan O’Mara, who sits on the police board, told council at its March 25 meeting that the board had previously applied for two other police grants and “we do have some of the (camera) system working there now.

“This would just be an enhancement of the system that is down at the landing now,” he said.

“So I think it would be good to provide some additional security because it always seems to be, if we’re having issues lately, that they seem to be in that particular area.”

The CCTV Grant program is an investment of \$6 million over three years from the Ontario government. It’s a new program that is designed to further support police services in their efforts to enhance public safety and hold offenders accountable as part of Ontario’s Guns, Gangs and Violence Reduction Strategy.

Missed opportunities

Ontario budget provides some relief, says MPP

Continued from A Front

In a press release he added, “With (COVID) case numbers remaining above 1,500 cases per day in the month of March, the end does not appear to be on the horizon. Much of the current spread is caused by people who cannot work from home and cannot afford to take time off work.”

He added that, “Medical experts and business leaders agree that paid sick days would be beneficial in slowing the transmission of the virus.”

EDUCATION

Education is also an area of concern. Vanthof said implementation of smaller classrooms would have been beneficial. There has been a cut in the overall education budget, he said.

“Before the pandemic the government was on a mission to cut the funding for education, and it seems the pandemic hasn’t really changed that long-term goal.”

BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY

Broadband connectivity was also addressed in the budget.

“The Ford Government has announced significant investments in funding to increase broadband availability, including a promise that every Ontarian will have access to broadband connectivity by 2025. While that is welcome news, the devil is always in the details. In 2019 the Ford government budgeted \$31 million to broadband infrastructure but did not allocate any of the

funding to projects. They have now allocated billions to this sector and we must ensure those dollars are used to enhance connectivity to meet the targeted goal for 2025.”

SMALL BUSINESSES

He expressed the need to “zero in on the parts of the economy that are going to need help in rebounding (from the pandemic),” noting some businesses had a banner year because of changes in consumer spending, “while other businesses have been decimated.”

The Ontario Small Business Support has been doubled, al-

though eligibility should have been increased, he said.

TOURISM

Tourism businesses will see assistance in this budget.

Vanthof said that sector has been hit hard in Timiskaming-Cochrane.

“The small Mom and Pop tourism outfitters have been hit harder than anyone,” he said, as independent tourism camps and fishing/hunting outfitters have been most affected. He expressed disappointment the provincial government did not respond to their plight sooner.

“We’ve lost quite a few” in

the sector.

While the provincial government has put a program in place for tourism “for many it’s too late,” he said.

He commented that the fund now in place is hoped to assist those “who are still viable to survive, regroup and revitalize an industry so important to our economy here in Northern Ontario.”

PASSENGER RAIL

One election promise made by Premier Doug Ford was to bring passenger rail back to the North.

Those fighting for the passenger train wanted to see

steps to make it a reality before the next provincial election in 2022.

The province has allocated \$5 million toward the goal and Vanthof commented he is “not discounting the \$5 million. Any funding put forward for the return of passenger rail is a good sign.”

But he noted other projects have included price tags and commitments, while passenger rail has not received that.


“If there’s not funding announced to actually bring the service back, that’s a sign that it will not be until after the next election,” he said.

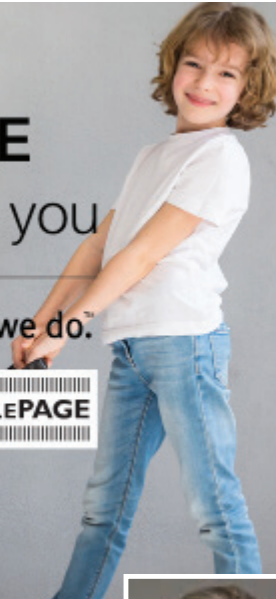
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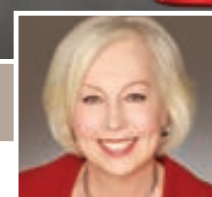


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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Freedom of speech goes both ways

Dear editor,

As I read a piece in a local paper about a demonstration of 150 people at a rally and a so-called expert it reminded me of the Judas goat in the bible.

To get animals to go to slaughter a goat was trained to lead them into thinking they were escaping. Following them along the walkway the goat turned to one side and the animals continued to their death. Goats are capricious, they are impulsive, unpredictable, devious and contrary.

I'll say that in hindsight a lot of things could have been handled better but if we don't follow the rules laid down by the health team what rules do we follow?

At that rally it was said we are not facing a pandemic, if this was a pandemic there would be a spike in deaths. It was said that the global rate is in line with what it has been over the years.

How can that person explain a half million deaths and climbing in the USA alone? The speaker had so-called information that masks don't help but rather support the spread of the virus and the person doesn't believe in vaccines.

One-hundred and fifty people without masks or spacing and if only one has the virus how many more will get the now more deadly virus? We saw what happened in the USA when Trump ignored the situation with his rallies. We have a generation of people who have been pampered and never went without. As long as we allow people to flaunt the law it will spread like gangrene.

The story had quotes that said masks are of no use and putting them on is like putting up a chain link fence to keep away mosquitoes. The speaker believes in the right to freedom of speech so I believe I have the right to challenge the people not to listen to such outrageous protocol.

Just remember all those who gave their lives to help people in need. Those who are giving so others have food, etc.

We will get through this eventually but remember, Rome wasn't built in a day and we won't get back to normal till the whole world has been vaccinated.

Doug Edwards
Englehart

Big canoe project will be finished at arena

By Jamie Mountain

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

TEMAGAMI – Temagami's 50-foot canoe project has been given the green light by council to be completed at the arena.

Working group member Dave Wilfong approached council at its regular meeting March 4 and asked council for permission to use the arena from April 1 to October 1.

The purpose of the project is to give the town a landmark that would also be the world's largest cedar canvas canoe.

Deputy Mayor Cathy Dwyer gave notice at the meeting of the intent to bring a motion forward that was designed to provide use of the arena from April 1 to October 1.

The arena is also being used as a temporary vaccination delivery location by the Timiskaming Health Unit, which held a clinic there on March 31.

Wilfong gave council the understanding during his update March 4 that the canoe can be easily moved out of the way on vaccination days, although there would be no work on the canoe project at that time.

Another concern was raised about the amount of dust that may be created with the project, but council could request that dust suppression and containment measures be taken when necessary during the project.

Normally a \$500 rental fee is in place for using the arena floor when the ice is gone, but it will be waived for the canoe group because it's a volunteer-run community project.

Council approved a motion at their March 25 meeting to allow the project to use the arena from April 1 to September 30 and that the normal rental fees be waived.

"I'm looking forward to getting our canoe built," commented Mayor Dan O'Mara.

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Wabi forging ahead with FedNor support

Diane Johnston
Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES – Wabi Iron and Steel is upgrading with help from a repayable investment from FedNor of \$410,250.

The “strategic investment” will enable the company to “improve efficiencies, increase exports and expand product offerings,” said Terry Sheehan, Sault Ste. Marie MP and parliamentary secretary to the minister responsible for FedNor, in a virtual funding announcement March 10.

It’s expected to create eight jobs immediately, and set the stage for future expansions and up to 20 more jobs.

Sheehan said the upgrades will enable Wabi to capitalize on growth opportunities in key sectors such as mining, forestry and mineral processing.

The New Liskeard manufacturer is “proud and grateful” for the FedNor support, said Wabi CEO Jeremy Birnie.

The funding “will be leveraged to complete 22 upgrade projects between now and the end of the year,” Birnie said.

“These projects span the full spectrum of our operations and will increase efficiency and capacity internally while enhancing quality and on-time delivery for our customers.”

The funding will help Wabi purchase and install a variety of speciality equipment,

including milling, lathe and molding machines.

It will also help the company complete structural and environmental improvements, such as roof enhancements and lighting upgrades.

“Wabi has been in business here in Temiskaming Shores since 1907 and we are proud to be a continuing force for economic progress in our community,” Birnie said.

He commended Wabi’s staff for its work “to take the company to the next level.” “Wabi has come a long way in the last few years and all of the credit for that progress goes to that team.”

He thanked Sheehan and Nipissing-Timiskaming MP Anthony Rota for their continuing commitment to economic development in the North.

“Projects like this make our company and by extension our community more sustainable for the years ahead.”

“Northern Ontario has been hit hard by COVID-19,” said Sheehan.

Manufacturers like Wabi Iron and Steel “are helping to fuel our recovery efforts, grow the economy and create high-quality jobs” that support families across the region, he said.

Wabi was also an exhibitor in the Northern Ontario Mining Showcase at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada international convention.

The convention went online this year, with Temiskaming Shores returning as the coordinator of the regional showcase with the assistance of \$500,000 from FedNor.

April is DAFFODIL MONTH

*Where there's awareness
there's hope*

Join the fight against cancer

Cancer is the leading cause of death in this country, with some 30 per cent of Canadians dying from one type of cancer or another. In April, Daffodil Month, the Canadian Cancer Society asks the public to spare a thought for all those who are affected by this disease and to do something concrete in the fight against cancer.



Despite progress — the survival rate is now at 63 per cent — more Canadians die of cancer than any other disease. That’s why funding activities are organized throughout the month of April to help prevent cancer and fund research; it’s so that one day we can win the battle against this disease that kills 210 Canadians every day.

You can contribute to the fight against cancer by purchasing a bouquet of daffodils, which are a symbol of renewal, hope and courage. You can also wear a daffodil pin as a sign of solidarity with those who are fighting for their lives; you’ll be doing so along with all their families, and with the families of those who have lost their battle. You can also donate time or money or help raise funds.

Lastly, you can fight against cancer by taking care of your health and minimizing your risk of developing this disease. Even though you have no control over your age and your genes, you can control other risk factors, such as smoking, alcohol use, physical inactivity, chronic stress and sun exposure.

To learn more about cancer visit www.cancer.ca.



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*"This April, we honour the resiliency of those fighting back against cancer. We'd like to take a moment to recognize all our community partners working to support individuals and their families during their fight. Please support cancer research by purchasing daffodils." **Mike Baker, President & CEO***



Pictured above are members of the Blanche River Health team in the Kirkland Lake Gold CT Suite, which went into operation a year ago – from left, Pam Gregoire, Natalie Perrault, Jen Boudreault, Angele Lamarche, Andrew Brown, Sean Conroy, Joan Brazeau, Lydia Deschenes, Mason Givens, Natalie Brissette and Leanza Dumas. Not present for the photo was Jessica Bracher. (Supplied Photo)

Blanche River Health CT scanner turns one

KIRKLAND LAKE (Special/Staff) – It’s been a busy first year for the CT unit at Blanche River Health.

The Kirkland Lake Gold CT Suite has performed more than 2,700 scans since it began operating at the Kirkland Lake hos-

pital site in early 2020. “The new CT unit has allowed Blanche River Health (BRH) to improve its quality of care by reducing travel and wait times, as well as providing more timely diagnoses for patients,” said BRH CEO Sean Conroy in a news release.

A CT (computed tomography) scanner combines specialized X-rays and computer

technology to create cross-sectional views of bones, blood vessels and soft tissues.

It can for example, scan the head and brain for intracranial bleeding and trauma, check the chest for signs of respiratory diseases and cancer, and examine the abdomen for bowel disease, kidney stones, and cancer.

BRH, which oversees hospitals in Kirkland Lake and

Englehart, repeated its thanks to Kirkland Lake Gold for its financial support of the CT unit’s acquisition.

“The equipment has significantly enhanced the diagnostic capabilities of our hospital,” Conroy said.

“We look forward to the continuing benefits of providing CT services to our local communities into the future.”

AstraZeneca vaccines slated for pharmacies

Diane Johnston
Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES – The most recently approved COVID-19 vaccine is expected to be offered in some pharmacies in Temiskaming in April.

The province has said that the AstraZeneca vaccine will be in pharmacies in all Ontario’s 34 public health unit jurisdictions this month, said Dr. Glenn Corneil, the district’s acting medical officer of health.

“But we don’t know exactly where and when yet,” said Corneil in a phone interview earlier this week.

AstraZeneca has to date been the most questioned of the vaccines to be made available to Canadians.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommended earlier this week that it not be administered to people under the age of 55 until the risk of developing a rare condition of serious blood clots linked to the vaccine has been further investigated.

Following that advisory, Ontario paused the use of the As-

traZeneca product in anyone under 55. To date, it has only been widely available to people aged 60 and up in some Ontario jurisdictions.

“Special attention” is being paid to the AstraZeneca vaccine, Corneil said.

Original reports pegged adverse reactions at one per one million people vaccinated. That’s since been revised to one in 100,000.

But adverse reactions remain “extremely rare,” Corneil said.

“It’s still felt to be an extremely safe vaccine, but it’s also an indication of how closely Canada is watching, that one in 100,000 reactions is causing a brake to be applied to a sub-population of 55 and under.”

He said health officials are taking “a little more time” to analyze worldwide data on its use.

As for the over-55 population, he said the risk of contracting COVID-19 and becoming very sick is much higher than that of any risk posed by the AstraZeneca vaccine.

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Larose Bridge has main infrastruc

Sue Nielsen
Speaker Reporter

COLEMAN TOWNSHIP — The old bridge is gone and a new one is gradually taking shape.

The Larose Bridge, linking Coleman Township and the Town of Cobalt, dates back to the silver boom of the early 1900s.

Construction began in January on a replacement double-lane bridge structure.

Coleman council received an update on the bridge project from the engineering firm exp Services Inc. at a recent council meeting.

Miller Paving Northern Ltd. is handling the actual construction.

The new bridge is expected to improve safety and reliability for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, noted Coleman Mayor Dan Cleroux at the bridge site last

week.

“The bridge is an important link between the two communities, greatly enhancing our tourism and day-to-day activities in a safe manner,” he noted.

“The new bridge will provide better traffic flow, improve emergency response times and reduce service interruptions.”

The councils of both communities had discussed the bridge replacement over the years and it was Coleman that eventually took the lead on having it replaced. They were successful in receiving Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan (Rural and Northern Ontario) funding of \$4.9 million, with Coleman’s share of the project’s costs pegged at just over \$300,000.

The former Larose Bridge had a capacity to handle a five-ton load while the new bridge will greatly exceed that limit.



At the Larose Bridge replacement project site recently were, from the left, exp Services Inc. bridge project manager Frank Vandenburg and Coleman Township Mayor Dan Cleroux. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)



READY SET SHOOT!

HURRY SEND BEFORE APRIL 12/21

OUR PHOTO CONTEST RETURNS

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS OF OUR AREA

Be the next featured Photographer on the cover or throughout our annual edition of the Visitor’s Guide, or throughout the Speaker’s 2022 calendar



THIS YEAR’S CHALLENGE: FRIENDS & FAMILY

We still want the photos to showcase our beautiful northern community, but let’s display the landscape while including some local faces!

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Earth Day

April 21st

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Salad Kit

100 FOR **\$3.95** EACH
Full colour imprint on seed packet



The kit includes 4 colourful die-cut seed paper shapes (tomato, carrot, chili and lettuce) that will grow into a beautiful salad garden.

Sprout Pencil

100 FOR **\$5.85** EACH



Includes full colour imprint on backer card and engraved logo on pencil

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Structure installed



coordinator Mike Boyce, Miller Paving Northern Ltd. bridge project

MORE WEIGHT

“The new bridge is designed to permit the passage of a vehicle weighing approximately 60 tons in accordance with the Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code,” said exp manager Nolan Dombroski in an email interview.

Cleroux noted nothing could be salvaged from the old materials.

“The wooden structure including the timbers were soaked with creosote, a chemical which is not endorsed by the Ministry of the Environment for building materials,” he said.

So far people observing the bridge build will notice two large columns have been installed, which are the main loadbearing units called concrete placement piers.

“The project is currently in construction with removal complete and work on the substructure

is underway. The pier columns and pier footing are complete, and the next steps will be the placement of the pier hammer head as well as the abutment footings,” noted Dombroski.

Piers are the internal supports of a bridge while abutments are the end supports of the bridge. Piers are constructed between the abutments.

The pier hammerhead is also termed a solid shaft pier, with a single load concrete cap. Everything has gone smoothly concerning the construction so far as they work around the Ontario Northland Transportation and Communication train schedule. Freight trains travel past the bridge construction project every two days.

By the end of 2021 the improved two-lane bridge will have a four-foot pedestrian walkway on the south side of the structure.

A harmless coffee break can do more harm than you think.

Wear a mask, wash your hands and physically distance to stop the spread of COVID-19.
Learn more at ontario.ca/covid-19

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Hospital Room 724 Englehart Family Health Team
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Temagami Family Health Team

Submitted by Ellen Ibey

How to Still Have Easter Fun Safely During the Pandemic

Easter is a fun holiday for everyone and a perfect opportunity to bring cheer and distract us from the ongoing pandemic. Whether or not you participate in the religious aspect, Easter is bright and joyful and a great time to (virtually) get together with family and friends.

Decorate the House
Creating simple Easter-themed decorations is a fun activity and placing them all around the house will instantly brighten the mood.

Send Easter cards to family and friends
It's always fun to get cards or letters. So why not make simple Easter cards to send to friends and family! You could make them by hand or print some out. They don't have to be fancy, it's the thought that matters most.

Have a virtual family gathering on Easter Sunday
Holidays are a great reason to get together with family and friends. This year, move your celebrations online and have a virtual gathering instead. You could free one-on-one video calls or group video calls. If video doesn't work, set up a free conference call line. Research what options are available to you.


Play Easter Games
Games are fun and festive whether you have 2 or 20 people. You could even play these over video or audio group calls – just email printables and instructions ahead of time. Easter picture bingo is always a hit no matter what age!

<https://www.diyncrafts.com/50275/holidays/easter/printable-easter-bingo-game>
<https://cdn.diyncrafts.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Easter-Bingo-1901.pdf>

Have a virtual Easter Parade
Ask family and friends to dress up in their Easter outfits (or bunny costumes) and take photos. Then, send the photos via email or text message to share the fun with each other.

However you choose to celebrate Easter this weekend, please follow public health recommendations to stay safe, happy and healthy!!

The Temagami Medical Centre and Family Health Team...
committed to keeping you as healthy as possible!
Source: <https://dailycaring.com/7-festive-and-safe-ways-to-celebrate-easter-during-coronavirus>



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RED MEANS STOP
Beverly Gordon, a longtime curler and champion curler in her own right, keeps her eye on a stone during a Thursday afternoon session of curling at the Haileybury Curling Club. The 2020-21 season is now over at the Haileybury and New Liskeard clubs thanks to the latest red zone pandemic precautions. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

Cobalt council meetings going live online

Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter

COBALT - Cobalt council has agreed to allow live streaming of their meetings through the Zoom platform.

Live streaming will allow the public to watch the meetings online as they are occurring.

There will be a third-party monitor for the process so that the public can interact with the council under the agenda guidelines. The monitor will also have the task of ensuring the technical aspect of the meeting will proceed smoothly.

Councillor Pat Anderson pointed out at the regular meeting of council March 16 that the public will have to be told how to access the online broad-

cast “so that they will be able to watch our meeting.”

Clerk-treasurer John Hodgson agreed that information will be advertised to the public.

During the pandemic, some council members are opting to participate from their homes. Others have been attending in person upstairs at the Cobalt Community Hall.

While meetings are being recorded and posted on the town’s Facebook page the following day, the process has eliminated the ability of the public to interact with council as they meet and ask questions during the answer and question period, unless they attend in person.

In recognition of that problem, council is moving to the

new process that will begin on Tuesday, April 6. Council meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. as usual. A new schedule for council meetings will mean that the following meeting will take place April 27 and every three weeks thereafter.

Members of the public who do not have access to a computer can still attend the council meetings in person.

Hodgson said efforts are also underway to ensure that members of the public attending the meeting can also hear the comments made by the council members participating from their homes.

He said council meetings will be streamed live on an ongoing basis for the future.

Easter Colouring Contest



Send or drop off your coloured picture in By
Monday April 5th, 2021 at noon to
18 Wellington St. S
Box 580
New Liskeard, ON
P0J 1P0

**Entries can also be dropped off at
Austin's Valu-mart in Englehart**

There will be a winner for
the following age groups:
2 - 4 years,
5 - 7 years,
& 8 - 10 years

NAME:

AGE:

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COVID UPDATE



Services de santé du
TIMISKAMING
Health Unit



This Spring Break, Do Your Part: Stop the Surge

As we approach the Easter holiday and spring break, the northern Medical Officers of Health are asking all community members in northern Ontario to work together to prevent another surge in COVID-19.

In many parts of northern Ontario, COVID-19 infection rates have been at some of the highest levels since the pandemic began. COVID-19 activity is rising again across the province, and the rapid spread of variants of concern (VOCs) is causing aggressive outbreaks, and in some cases, more severe illness, even in younger people.

We know that everyone has made tremendous sacrifices for over a year. And there is ongoing hope, as more vaccine becomes available, week by week. At this very moment in time, however, the vast majority of our community members are not yet immunized. This means risky activities like gatherings and travel must still be avoided by all.

To protect the most vulnerable in our communities, and to stop the surge from overwhelming our local hospitals and frontline health care workers, we are calling on all northern Ontarians to each do our part to keep our families and communities safe. And we ask everyone to do this with the spirit of kindness and perseverance that has been such a tremendous and vital part of our northern communities' response to the pandemic.

Top 3 Actions for All Families and Households

1. Stay 2 metres apart from anyone you don't live with.
2. Have symptoms? Get tested straight away, and until you have results, you and everyone else you live with must stay home.
3. Avoid non-essential travel or receiving visitors, especially between different colour zones.

Timiskaming COVID-19 Vaccine Update

The COVID-19 vaccine: five things you need to know

No steps were skipped in developing these vaccines. While the COVID-19 vaccines were made available quickly, they were developed using mRNA research and technology used by scientists since the early 1990s. This research is well developed and the technology has been used effectively and is proven safe and reliable.

COVID-19 vaccines will not give you COVID-19. Unlike other vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines don't contain the virus itself. Instead, these types of vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein that will trigger an immune response and create antibodies. The vaccines have been reviewed and approved by Health Canada. In order to be used in Canada, all drugs, including vaccines, must meet the regulatory requirements for safety, efficacy and quality. Usually this review process can take a long time because new drugs and vaccines get added to the bottom of the list, and must wait their turn for review. However, these vaccines are so important they went right to the front of the line, allowing the process to be much quicker than usual.

Two doses deliver stronger immunity. It is important to receive both doses of the vaccine to complete the vaccine series. Protection offered by the first dose helps your body build immunity and the second dose boosts your immunity. For example, the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are 94-95% effective after two doses.

When a large percentage of the population becomes immune to COVID-19, the spread of the virus will slow down or stop. You can protect yourself, your loved ones and your community by getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

Check ontario.ca/covidvaccine regularly for up-to-date information on the vaccine and Ontario's distribution plan.

We are delighted to share 75% of our population aged 80+ have now received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Hats off to the collective effort of numerous health agencies, health professionals, and municipal partners as we have nearly completed the Phase One vaccine rollout here in Timiskaming! It's been wonderful seeing the happy smiles of the vaccine recipients.

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

Timiskaming's zone is:
Zone du Timiskaming est :



Red - CONTROL
Rouge – CONTRÔLER



Pendant la semaine de relâche, apportez votre contribution : arrêtez l'augmentation

Alors que la fête de Pâque et la semaine de relâche approchent, les médecins-hygiénistes du Nord demandent à tous les résidents de la région de prévenir une autre augmentation du nombre de cas de COVID-19.

Dans bien des parties du Nord de l'Ontario, les taux d'infection au virus de la COVID-19 ont été parmi les plus élevés qui ont été enregistrés depuis le début de la pandémie. L'activité relative à la COVID-19 augmente encore à l'échelle provinciale, et la propagation rapide des variants préoccupants du virus entraîne des éclosions agressives et parfois, une maladie plus grave, même chez les plus jeunes.

Nous savons que depuis plus d'un an, tout le monde a fait d'énormes sacrifices. Mais il y a de l'espoir, à mesure que d'autres doses deviennent accessibles, de semaine en semaine. En ce moment même, cependant, la grande majorité de nos citoyens n'a pas encore été vaccinée. Autrement dit, nous devons tous encore éviter les activités risquées comme les rassemblements et les voyages.

Afin de protéger les plus vulnérables d'entre nous, et d'empêcher l'augmentation des cas de surcharger nos hôpitaux et nos travailleurs de la santé en première ligne, nous demandons à chaque habitant du Nord de l'Ontario d'apporter sa contribution pour que nos familles et nos communautés demeurent en sécurité. De plus, nous demandons à tout le monde de le faire dans l'esprit de gentillesse et de persévérance qui a joué un rôle si formidable et essentiel dans l'intervention de nos communautés nordiques contre la pandémie.

Les trois principales mesures pour les familles et les ménages

1. Restez à deux mètres de distance des personnes qui ne vivent pas avec vous.
2. Vous présentez des symptômes? Allez immédiatement passer un test de dépistage, et jusqu'à ce que vous ayez obtenu le résultat, vous et les personnes avec qui vous vivez devez rester à votre domicile.
3. Évitez de vous déplacer pour des raisons non essentielles ou de recevoir des visiteurs, en particulier en provenance de zones de couleur différente.

Mise à jour du vaccin de Timiskaming Le vaccin contre la COVID-19: cinq choses à savoir

Aucune étape n'a été négligée dans le développement de ces vaccins. Bien que les vaccins contre la COVID-19 aient été rendus disponibles rapidement, ils ont été conçus au moyen d'une recherche et d'une technologie utilisée par les scientifiques depuis le début des années 1990. Cette recherche est bien développée et la technologie a été utilisée efficacement et s'est avérée sûre et fiable.

Les vaccins contre la COVID-19 ne vous donneront pas la COVID 19. Contrairement à d'autres vaccins, les vaccins contre la COVID-19 ne contiennent pas le virus lui-même. Ce type de vaccin « enseigne » plutôt à nos cellules comment fabriquer une protéine qui déclenchera une réponse immunitaire et créera des anticorps.

Les vaccins ont été examinés et approuvés par Santé Canada. Pour être utilisés au Canada, tous les médicaments, y compris les vaccins, doivent satisfaire aux exigences réglementaires en matière d'innocuité, d'efficacité et de qualité. Habituellement, ce processus d'examen peut prendre beaucoup de temps parce que les nouveaux médicaments et vaccins sont ajoutés au bas de la liste et doivent attendre leur tour pour être examinés. Toutefois, ces vaccins sont si importants qu'ils ont été examinés en priorité, ce qui a permis au processus d'être beaucoup plus rapide que d'habitude.

Deux doses procurent une immunité plus forte. Il est important de recevoir les deux doses du vaccin pour compléter la série de vaccins. La protection offerte par la première dose aide votre organisme à renforcer son immunité et la deuxième dose renforce votre immunité. Par exemple, les vaccins de Pfizer-BioNTech et de Moderna sont efficaces à 94-95 % après deux doses.

Quand un pourcentage important de la population est immunisé contre la COVID-19, la propagation du virus ralentit ou cesse. Vous pouvez vous protéger, protéger vos proches et votre communauté en vous faisant vacciner contre la COVID 19.

Consultez régulièrement le site ontario.ca/vaccinocovid pour obtenir des renseignements à jour sur le vaccin et le plan de mise en œuvre de la distribution de vaccins de l'Ontario.

Nous sommes excités de partager que 75% de notre population âgée de 80 ans et plus ont maintenant reçu leur première dose du vaccin COVID-19.

C'est grâce aux efforts communautaires de nombreuses agences de santé, professionnels de la santé et partenaires municipaux que le déploiement du vaccin de la phase un, ici au Timiskaming, s'achève! C'était merveilleux de voir de beaux sourires des personnes vaccinées.

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- ☒ Wishing we had a seniors' centre to drop by, make friends and learn new things?

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scww@homesupportservices.ca

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1. Pouch, in physiology
- 4. Seven-card _____
- 8. Ratite birds
- 12. Ballet step
- 15. Graduate deg.
- 16. Field mouse
- 17. Elbow
- 18. Home boy?
- 19. Auditory organ
- 20. Bald eagle’s kin
- 21. Newspaper article
- 22. Lobster eggs
- 23. Bikini, e.g.
- 25. Cheer
- 27. Send forth
- 29. Storyteller
- 31. Jot down
- 33. Advance, as money
- 34. New Zealand parrot
- 35. Remark further
- 36. Baseball or soccer
- 38. Cathedral part
- 41. Number in a trio
- 43. Christmas drink
- 44. Lash
- 45. Band of singers
- 46. Jellylike dessert
- 50. “Madama Butterfly,” e.g.
- 52. Hanging loosely
- 54. “Mack the _____”
- 55. Keepsake
- 57. Cuban music
- 59. Sprinted
- 60. Sticky stuff
- 61. Mario Van Peebles film
- 62. Gala
- 63. Hornet’s revenge
- 65. Crude shelter
- 66. Healthy place
- 68. From _____ to stern
- 69. Andersen’s ugly duckling
- 71. Never-ending
- 75. Skulk
- 77. Catalog
- 79. Grin
- 80. Mouse’s cousin
- 81. Enthralled
- 83. Santa checks his twice

- 85. Silent greeting
- 86. Had a knish
- 87. Bogus butter
- 88. Calmer direction, nautically
- 89. Wine holder
- 90. Snead’s score
- 91. Salon treatment
- 92. Alongside
- 93. Fruit refresher

DOWN

- 1. Besmirch
- 2. Decline
- 3. Noel
- 4. Lithe
- 5. Rocky summit
- 6. Of an arm bone
- 7. Consider
- 8. Serial portion
- 9. Choral work
- 10. Small stringed instrument
- 11. Eighteen-wheeler
- 12. Ship’s officer
- 13. Quantity
- 14. Race
- 24. Huron or Ontario
- 26. Not openly
- 28. Motto
- 30. Solemn promise
- 32. Medieval slave
- 35. Elaborate melody
- 37. _____ dot
- 38. Energy source
- 39. Old King Cole’s request
- 40. Give the impression
- 42. Migratory worker
- 45. Liturgical law
- 46. Bodybuilders’ rooms
- 47. Car spare
- 48. “_____ first you don’t succeed . . .”: 2 wds.
- 49. Hawaiian goose
- 51. Government
- 53. Blast of wind
- 56. Clothing
- 58. Defeat
- 61. Specter
- 62. Cultivate
- 63. Levels
- 64. Sway
- 67. Torment
- 68. Remnant
- 70. Windshield cleaner
- 71. Outcast
- 72. Japanese fighter
- 73. Above a whisper
- 74. Shelflike projection
- 76. Actor’s tool
- 78. Dash
- 82. London libation
- 84. Sargasso or Caspian

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Answers For Crossword on 5b

Horoscopes

CAPRICORN

You might take the initiative to broaden your experiences, which could take you to the other side of the world. At work, a position you’ve long had your eye on will finally open up.



December 22 - January 19

AQUARIUS

You’ll constantly be on the move. You’ll improve your mental well-being by expanding your spiritual practice You might also invest in a cause that brings you answers.



January 20 - February 18

PISCES

You’ll be overwhelmed by a variety of unique ideas. You’ll work to create a masterpiece or do something incredibly generous for someone else.



February 19 - March 20

ARIES

You’ll face a lot of pressure at work, and you’ll need to spend time with friends to get your mind off the stress. Much to your delight, you’ll be in charge of planning an event with your loved ones.



March 21 - April 19

TAURUS

You’ll come to a realization that guides you toward a new career path that’s more in line with your ambitions. A training course will help you achieve, or at least identity, a new goal.



Anril 20 - May 20

GEMINI

You’ll start considering summer vacation options with your partner or family. It’s important to plan ahead if you want to have a wonderful experience with your loved ones.



May 21 - June 21

CANCER

You’ll feel extra sensitive, so be sure to rest before you start taking things personally. You might want to consider going on vacation so you can take a load off.



June 22 - July 22

LEO

It’s always easier to negotiate with people when you don’t have an emotional connection. You’ll get along well with anyone you meet, but you’ll bicker with your children, for example.



July 23 - August 22

VIRGO

There’s plenty of room to grow in your professional life, so take full advantage of these opportunities. Use your instincts and organizational skills to carve a place for yourself at the top of your field.



August 23 - September 22

LIBRA

You’ll be warmly applauded for an achievement, even if you see it as trivial. Your actions will be considered heroic, even if all you did was listen to someone who needed help



September 23 - October 22

SCORPIO

Your focus will be on family and anything that concerns your day-to-day life. In terms of your career, you may start a family business from home.



October 23 - November 21

SAGITTARIUS

You’ll be feeling excited about the various trips you have planned for the summer. Your curiosity is in overdrive, and there’s no stopping you from quenching your thirst for knowledge.



November 22 - December 21

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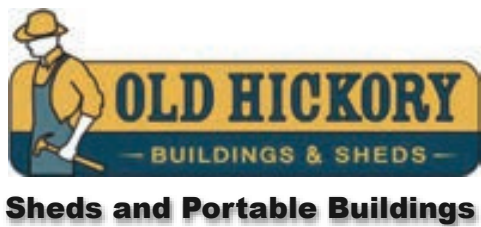
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