



## MUCH NEEDED OUTING

A nice brisk walk on the boardwalk was just what they needed for Dixie Desrosiers and her dog, Raven, as they enjoyed a crisp and sunny spring day on Sunday, May 2. Desrosiers says she brings her dog to the New Liskeard waterfront for walks as it allows the pooch more space to get her exercise in. (Staff photo by Jamie Mountain, LJI reporter)

## OW error Englehart wants different approach to overcharge

ENGLEHART (Staff) - Englehart council wants DTSSAB to take a different approach to resolving the matter of overcharges by the board to Englehart since 2019.

In March, the town advised the District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board (DTSSAB) that they believed the board had overcharged Englehart \$11,040 for Ontario Works (OW) clients who had Englehart addresses.

Englehart treasurer/deputy clerk Malorie Robinson pointed out the error, which developed because some Ontario Works recipients had the name of Englehart in their addresses but had physical dwellings outside the town's boundaries.

DTSSAB rechecked its information and agreed with Englehart's conclusion and offered to compensate them with funds drawn from its reserves.

Englehart staff and council pointed out that the reserves are accumulated through payments submitted by area municipalities,

so the municipalities would, in effect, end up paying for the error.

At the Wednesday, April 28, meeting of Englehart council, a resolution was sent back to DTSSAB asking them to review all Ontario Works files for all municipalities and to calculate any overpayments accumulated to date into the 2022 levies required from the municipalities.

"The council of the Town of Englehart request the board to revise their decision and conduct an internal audit on all Ontario Works cases from 2019 onward," Englehart's resolution states. When the audit is completed, the town is asking DTSSAB to "make the appropriate adjustments to each municipality without drawing from the DTSSAB reserve account."

The town plans to also send the resolution out to all other municipalities that contribute to DTSSAB to make sure they are aware of what happened and to ask for their support.

## DID YOU GET The Speaker THIS WEEK?

Here are some of the stories in our May 5 edition...

- Clusters of COVID-19 infections have popped up in the Temiskaming district, with the Temiskaming Health Unit tracking all infections.
- Reduced banking hours at the Northern Credit Union in Englehart are causing concern for area municipalities.
- Englehart council will be meeting on a monthly basis as the COVID-19 pandemic plays out.
- The Canadian Mental Health Association is marking the week of May 3 to May 9 as Mental Health Week.
- There's a buzz in the air in downtown New Liskeard as the T Cannabis outlet has

- recently opened for business.
- The Temiskaming Shores and Area Chamber of Commerce is offering three \$1,000 bursaries for graduating students heading to post-secondary studies.
- The Town of Cobalt is considering updating its official plan.
- The 2021 Census is now being circulated through the mail to Canadians.
- Lesley Simms is bringing her vast array of professional skills to help Latchford residents cope with end-of-life care.



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# OPP urges residents to Be Bear Wise

**TEMISKAMING SHORES (Special)** - The Temiskaming Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding the public to take precautions in preventing black bears from visiting your neighbourhood.

With the early spring, it means black bears are coming out looking for food, and interactions between humans and bears are likely to happen.

Here are some ways the OPP recommends to reduce the possibility of being visited by bears on or around your property:

- Place garbage in waste containers, with tight fitting, locking lids
- Put your garbage out only on the morning of collection, not the night before
- Wash garbage containers and dumpsters frequently and use disinfectant to reduce odours
- Fill bird feeders during the winter months only, when bears are hibernating
- Keep your barbecue grills and picnic tables clean and remove grease catchers after each use

- Keep pet food indoors
  - If you encounter a bear:
    - Allow the bear an escape route, do not try and trap it or play with it. They are wild animals
    - If you are close to a bear, walk back slowly and hold your hands or jacket over your head to look as big as possible
    - If you find a treed bear, let it be
- Not every bear sighting is an emergency situation. In non-emergency encounters, call the toll free Bear Wise reporting line at 1-866-514-2327, if the bear is:
- Roaming around, checking garbage cans
  - Breaking into a shed where garbage or food is stored
  - Pulling down a bird feeder or knocking over a barbecue
  - Moving through a back yard or field but is not lingering
- Remember, a bear that enters a populated area isn't necessarily a threat, however, call 911 or your local police department, if a bear starts posing an immediate threat to public safety by exhibiting threatening or aggressive behaviour, and lingers on-site.



## OPENING SOON?

Elk Lake BMX biker Will Leyland, 10, enjoyed an active, fun day at the Carter Antila Memorial Skatepark in late March. Area skateboarders and BMX riders are hoping the provincial lockdown regulations are lifted and they can do their thing just before the upcoming long weekend. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)



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# Ontario Northland adds to barricades at Right-of-Way

**Darlene Wroe**  
Speaker Reporter

COBALT - Ontario Northland Transportation Commission has erected additional barriers to prevent people coming onto the Right-of-Way property at the north end of Prospect Park.

Two buildings, including an iconic headframe, and mining artifacts sit on the site and have been a regular attraction for local residents who walk in the area, as well as tourists when they visit the town.

Cement barricades were set up nearly two months ago and most recently Ontario Northland (ON) has put heavy boards over the doors and windows of the buildings at the site to prevent forced entry, as had occurred in late April.

An additional cement barricade has now been set up at the northwest corner of a small footbridge that links Nipissing Road with a wooded trail along the north end of Cobalt Lake. The trail leads toward the Right-of-Way property.

Ontario Northland has been in communication with the town after the town wrote to ON asking to be kept apprised of their steps.

Ontario Northland, which owns the property, has asked the Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (MENDM) to have an environmental and structural assessment completed on the Right-of-Way property as well as the Townsite mine property at the southwest of town. The iconic Townsite headframe and the nearby Glory Hole are also regularly frequented by local residents as well as tourists. A barricade has been set up over the drive of the Townsite property, but visitors are regularly walking over the property in the area beyond the barricade.

At Cobalt's regular council meeting Tuesday, April 27, Councillor Pat Anderson, who sits on the Cobalt Historical Society, advised council that "a door that was opened at the Right-of-Way was quickly sealed shut by ONR contractors. We appreciate ONR's immediate response.

"Visitors continue to use the Townsite property. The signage is not effective. Of greater concern is that MENDM are unable to meet their targeted deadline of posting a request for bids for the assessment work.

"The tentative date is May 12, nearly two months after the barriers were erected."

In a text message, Cobalt Historical Society chair Maggie Wilson, whose organization



*Forced entry into one of the buildings at the Right-of-Way mine site in Cobalt in late April received quick response by property owner Ontario Northland which has now boarded up access points to both buildings on the property. (Staff photo by Darlene Wroe)*

oversees the upkeep of the Cobalt Silver Heritage Trail where the two sites are located, commented that "we are grateful that steps have been taken to secure access to the site, though people have told us they have simply walked over them, rather than turn around."

The Cobalt Historical Society supports the need for a study to determine if there are hazards at the two sites. The organization also hopes to be able to obtain a lease for the Right-of-Way headframe so that the Historical Society can secure funding for the construction of a new roof on the building to ensure the structure's ongoing integrity.



*Regular users of Prospect Park and the Keevil Walking Trail were disappointed to discover that Ontario Northland has erected a barrier at the footbridge leading in to the Keevil Walking Trail from the Nipissing Road on the east side of the park. This section of the trail leads to the Right-of-Way mine site which Ontario Northland owns and has set No Trespassing signs around. (Staff photo by Darlene Wroe)*

# Latchford to apply for economic development intern

**By Jamie Mountain**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

LATCHFORD – The Town of Latchford will be applying through FedNor's Economic Development Initiative (EDI) for an economic development intern for a 20-month term.

The motion was approved at council's regular meeting April 15.

Mayor George Lefebvre noted that, if approved, the contract would pay the intern \$35,000 of which \$3,500 a year would be Latchford's share to pay. The intern would be responsible for the economic development of Latchford's business industrial park and also any other projects that the town came up with that the intern could work on.

"There's other things we could come up with, projects that maybe (clerk-treasurer) Jamie (Allen) and (deputy treasurer/deputy clerk) Laurel (Gadoury) has that this individual could pursue," he said.

"It's \$3,500 a year well spent and it would help to get the business industrial park moving forward."

Lefebvre also noted that the successful individual for the intern position would have to be younger than 30 years of age. They also have to be a college or university graduate.

"This gives them an opportunity to get real world experience in a workplace," he reasoned.

FedNor's EDI program provides funding for projects that encourage economic growth in the region's Francophone communities and that also capitalize on economic opportunities made possible through the use of both official languages.

The EDI is supported through the Government of Canada's *Action Plan for Official Languages – 2018-2023: Investing in Our Future*.



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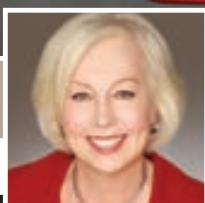
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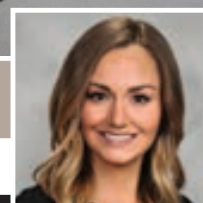
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# EDITORIAL

## Mother's Day

The Temiskaming Speaker and The Weekender newspapers wish each and every mother and caregiver in our coverage region

a very happy, healthy Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9.

In 2021, given the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us may be

thinking about how to give extra recognition to moms.

Whether you are apart from you mother because of distance or worried

about her in terms of being in a high-risk age category, take a little time to speak with her or find a special way to show her how much you care.

## We are not okay

This week as the pandemic hits its third wave, we turn our attention to mental health.

It is Mental Health Week in Ontario (May 3-9).

There is no health without mental health and we know the pandemic is putting pressure on people of all ages and socio eco-

nomic backgrounds.

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) says everything is not okay in the province as 74 per cent of Ontarians are experiencing increased mental health and substance abuse challenges.

Mental health professionals say before the pandem-

ic there was a crisis in the availability of mental health treatment options and the shortages in available care have only increased of late.

It's long overdue that the government of Ontario creates a mental health strategy that provides easier and more access to care and more consistent care.

It should not matter if you live in Northern Ontario or downtown Toronto, all On-

tarians should be able to access the same levels of care.

And let's all be much more kind and compassionate to each other during this pandemic.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, call CMHA-Cochrane-Timiskaming Crisis Line toll free at 1-888-665-8888 anytime, day or night.

## A beautiful person

Over the years I have come to realize what a beautiful person my mother was.

It wasn't always the case that I appreciated my mother, especially in my younger days when I didn't listen to her as much as I should have.

But when I returned home to care for my mother after my father died, I began to see her more as a person, outside of her role as my mother.

It is important that we see people for who they really are.

When my mother and I cohabitated in her house it was like we were roommates rather than mother and daughter.

I was able to get to know her personality, to find out what she loved and what she didn't love.

Often times it is hard to appre-

ciate someone when you are so close to them.

My mother loved watching TVO, and she was a financial contributor to the television program over the years.

She enjoyed watching the British sitcom Heartbeat, but also documentaries and the latest TVO news programs.

She loved cooking and cleaning our home and doing laundry but she also loved to read and to walk around our town and chat with people.

My mother was a social butterfly and when she was well enough I would take her grocery shopping.

She loved going shopping because she could pick out all the items to cook with, but more importantly, she loved to meet people she knew in the store and chat with them.

I often got annoyed at her lengthy conversations with people and I would try to get her attention by standing at the end of the aisle pointing at my watch.

As if time was more important than her socializing opportunities.

My mother loved to walk around Cobalt Lake and she did this on a regular basis until her failing health became an issue.

I recall when she used to come and visit me when I lived in Espanola. She would ask me about walking routes and I would point them out.

Sure enough, each and every day she would walk down the main streets of the town smiling and waving at people.

People in Espanola got to know my mother from her walks and they would often say, "I see your mom is visiting again."



Sue Nielsen

I was incredibly proud of her. As she aged her memory faded, her eyesight became duller, but her kindness never diminished.

This is something we are all needing, folks to be kinder, to offer kind words, to offer a hand, a shoulder to cry on or to share comfort and ease in these troubled times.

This is what mother's do best.

If you have your mother with you this Mother's Day, see her for who she really is and show her the love and appreciation she deserves.

Happy Mother's Day to all moms and caregivers!



# COVID study seeks input from educators

DISTRICT (Special) - As Ontario experiences a third wave of COVID-19, teachers and education workers are, once again, at the front lines of this pandemic.

The Government of Canada, through the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force, is supporting a study to explore how Ontario's teachers and education workers are being impacted by COVID-19.

This study is being led by researchers from Sinai Health System and the University of Toronto. It will help inform decision-making around prevention strategies in elementary and secondary schools across Canada and the world. The study will also help evaluate the effectiveness of vaccines in this group of essential workers who will continue to be exposed to unvaccinated children. Finally, the study will evaluate the effects of the pandemic on education workers' stress levels.

The Ontario study aims to enroll 7,000 education workers and will follow participants for 12 months. Participants will complete questionnaires about the risks they have faced and the protective measures they have taken. They will also be asked to give finger-prick blood samples to establish whether they have had COVID-19 and how well they respond to vaccines. They will be told their test results. Participation is anonymous and no personal information will be shared outside the study.

"Finger prick blood tests are easy to do and an important part of our study," explains Dr. Brenda Coleman, PhD, researcher at Sinai Health System and assistant professor at the University of Toronto.

"They allow us to determine how many participants have already been exposed to the virus, how many become exposed during the study, and how well

and for how long antibodies last after vaccination."

"The pandemic has also imposed enormous stress on school personnel. Examples include feeling anxiety about the potential risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection, being responsible for ensuring compliance with infection control measures, and experiencing the disruption that the pandemic has had on their work and their workplace," explains Dr. Robert Maunder, Head of Psychiatric Research at Sinai Health and professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto.

"To provide a full picture of the impact of COVID-19 on our education workers we need participants from across the province, including those working in small rural schools as well as large urban ones," says Dr. Allison McGeer, senior scientist at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, infectious disease physician at Sinai Health

System, and professor at the University of Toronto.

"We have over 2,000 people taking part in the study now and hope to have the other 5,000 by the end of May so we can provide preliminary results before schools open again in September," she adds.

Everyone working in Ontario's public and private elemen-

tary and secondary schools, including both teachers and all other education workers (e.g., consultants, teaching assistants, administrative staff, early childhood education workers, bus drivers, janitors, and principals) are welcome to join the study.

To find out more, visit <http://www.tibdn.ca/covid-19/education>.



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OFFICE HOURS  
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COMMUNITY NEWS

**Council Meeting:** The next Regular Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will take place electronically. Details of the meeting will be posted in advance of the meeting. Anyone interested in listening in on the meeting can call the Office for details.

**Municipal Office:** The Office is closed to the public until further notice. This is to minimize non-essential travel and in-person visits to the office to help keep staff and the public safe and to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. 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 as the office is staffed during this time.

**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.

**Spring Clean Up Week:** In the interest of health and safety, please maintain physical distancing practices, including from Township employees.

**Landfill Site:** The amnesty program (no tipping fees) at the Coleman Landfill site will occur from **Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.** Vehicle access within the landfill site will be restricted to support physical distancing. Names and addresses from those depositing material will be required.

**Curbside Collection:** Collection of bulky items will occur from **Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021.** Please have waste set out for collection no later than 7:00 a.m. on May 26<sup>th</sup>; no return trips will be made.

- All small or loose materials must be securely bagged or bundled/tied appropriately to facilitate efficient collection.
- No brush or construction material will be collected.
- As outlined in the Clean Yards By-law, No. 12-06, no Freon containing appliances will be collected, unless the Freon Gas was removed by a qualified technician and the appliance has been tagged.

**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 scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

**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.

**Burning Permits - are required effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**  
The permit is **NOT** valid between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on any day except with special permission - **Daytime burning is prohibited.**

**Streetlights:** Anyone who notices a street light out is asked to please report the pole number of the light to the office.

## Seasonal half-load bylaw recommended for Latchford

By **Jamie Mountain**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

LATCHFORD – A seasonal half-load bylaw is needed for the Town of Latchford, says public works foreman Roger Clark.

Clark informed Latchford council in his report at their regular meeting April 15 that there are a lot of fully-loaded dump trucks working around the town and he said "the roads won't hold up to that kind of traffic when the frost is just coming out of the ground."

He noted that most municipalities have such seasonal bylaws in place to protect the roads and he feels that Latchford needs to do the same.

### HOUSE OF MEMORIES DAMAGED

Later in his report to council, Clark also noted that the roof of the Latchford Museum House of Memories suffered some damage in having some shingles blown off during the last windstorm.

"Something needs to be done to fix the damage," he said.

Clark said he would like to get a quote for repairs and assess the remaining shingles' condition.

He noted that the condition of the remaining shingles is something that council would have to discuss in order to determine the best course of action.



## Is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

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Find out when, where and how to get vaccinated at [ontario.ca/covidvaccineplan](https://ontario.ca/covidvaccineplan) or call 1-888-999-6488 for assistance in more than 300 languages.

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# Hospital Radiothon exceeds expectations

TEMISKAMING SHORES (Special) - The Temiskaming Hospital Foundation's 7th Annual Radiothon had a new format this year, but the usual great results.

It was held April 22 over CJTT 104.5 FM and in the first two hours of the six-hour event, the foundation reached its goal of raising \$35,000 for an infant/pediatric ventilator for Temiskaming Hospital's Emergency Department.

At the end of the day \$38,397.74 was raised and additional funds have since brought the total to \$41,885.

With the additional funds the foundation was able to select a second piece of patient equipment, a high-strength LED phototherapy unit for the hospital's Obstetrical Department which costs \$8,000. The Temiskaming Hospital Foundation Board of Directors voted in support of using proceeds from their 50/50 fundraiser to cover the \$1,100 extra needed to acquire this critical piece of equipment.

"We want to thank the entire community and our event sponsors for their generosity during this year's event," said Temiskaming Hospital Foundation president Jim Rowe.

"We acknowledge the struggles that many of our community members and businesses are facing right now, so to not only reach but exceed our goal this year is a true testament to our community and them recognizing the importance of our Care Close to Home campaign."

### SPONSORS

The 7th Annual Radiothon saw three event sponsors come on board including One Foot Forward, the event's Superhero Sponsor which donated \$16,000; Wilson Chevrolet Buick GMC and Ebert Welding Ltd., the event's Champion Sponsors which both donated \$5,000; and CJTT FM, the event's Supporter Sponsor with their in-kind support valued at \$2,500. The event saw a total of 95 donations made.

"One Foot Forward is extremely proud to be supporting the Temiskaming Hospital Foundation through the Care Close to Home campaign. Being recognized as the Superhero Sponsor with a donation of \$16,000 towards the purchase of a new infant/pediatric ventilator is both so humbling and fitting. As Greyson's parents, Shelly and John Zubyck know far too well how important access to such a specialized piece of equipment is. We are grateful for this opportunity to assist the Temiskaming Hospital and our community in loving memory of Greyson."

To date, the Radiothon has brought in over \$200,000 allowing for the purchase of three ECG machines, infant care beds, pulmonary function testing machine, mechanical ventilator and ultrasound machine.

"I'd like to congratulate the foundation on such a successful 7th Annual Radiothon," said Temiskaming Hospital president and CEO Mike Baker.

"This is the first year we've funded two separate pieces of equipment for Temiskaming Hospital and are so grateful as both of these items are needed to continue to provide Care Close to Home."

The Temiskaming Hospital Foundation would like to acknowledge all those who made the event possible including the staff and community members who provided testimonials, Janet MacDowall who joined the board in giving live on-air updates throughout the day and those who helped behind the scenes leading up to the event.

The foundation thanked CJTT FM as well for adapting the normal format of the event in order for it to take place again this year.

The Temiskaming Hospital Foundation's mission is to raise funds and manage donor gifts for the purpose of supporting outstanding clinical care for the communities served by the Temiskaming Hospital.

For more information or to donate to the Radiothon, visit [www.temiskaminghospitalfoundation.org](http://www.temiskaminghospitalfoundation.org).





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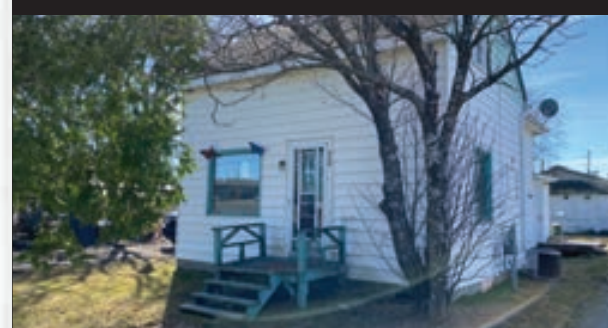
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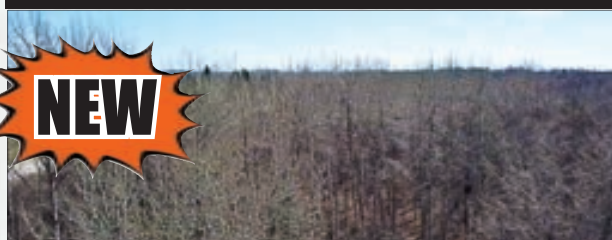
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# Firm chosen to prepare district well being plan

**Darlene Wroe**  
Speaker Reporter

**DISTRICT**—The District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board (DTSSAB) has chosen LBCG Consulting of Toronto to prepare a Community Safety and Well Being Plan for the district.

The consulting firm expects to have the plan completed by January of 2022, said DTSSAB chair Doug Jelly at the board's Wednesday, April 28, meeting.

The plan will be aimed at developing partnerships among agencies and other community organizations to have policies and programs that can work together to more effectively care for vulnerable people in the region.

LBCG was one of three firms that expressed interest in undertaking the project, but was the only one of the three that presented a bid to do the work,

Black outlined.

DTSSAB established a committee including council members, OPP, community partners and Black to evaluate the submission. Additional questions for clarification were also submitted to the firm.

"We wanted to make sure it met all the criteria," she said.

"They will be able to pull together a plan that will meet our needs," she said, adding that the firm has experience working in Northern Ontario.

The base cost of the project will be \$43,618 plus HST, but the committee working with the firm on the project may decide additional consultation may be needed, she explained. For that reason, there may be an additional cost, she noted.

Due to the pandemic, the work will be done virtually.



## OUT FOR A STROLL

The Little family took full advantage of some beautiful springtime weather as they headed out for a good walk along the trails at Kap-Kig-Iwan Provincial Park in Enghart on April 10. From the left are daughter Hannah, mother Julie, father Jarrett and son Cohen, with their dog Crystal down in front. (Staff photo by Jamie Mountain, LJI reporter)

### Temagami Family Health Team

Submitted by Ellen Ibey

#### Healthy Blood Pressure — Know Your Number!

##### WHAT IS HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE?

High blood pressure, also known as hypertension, is a medical condition that exists when the force (or pressure) of the blood against blood vessel walls is too strong. Uncontrolled high blood pressure can lead to stroke, heart attack, congestive heart failure and kidney failure.

##### WHAT CAUSES HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE?

Many things can contribute to the development of high blood pressure — often it isn't just one thing, but a combination. The risk of high blood pressure increases as we get older and is most common among people over 40 years of age. Smoking, genetics and certain health conditions such as obesity, diabetes or kidney disease may also increase the risk.

##### KNOW YOUR NUMBER

According to Hypertension Canada, one in five Canadian adults has high blood pressure and 20% don't even know it because it has no symptoms. This is why it's also called the *silent killer*. Knowing and monitoring your blood pressure, especially if it's high, is important for staying healthy.

Your blood pressure should be less than 140/90 mmHg.

Low Risk	Moderate Risk	Elevated Risk
Less than 120/80 mmHg	121/80 to 139/89 mmHg	More than 140/90 mmHg

##### WHAT CAN YOU DO IF YOU HAVE HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE (HYPERTENSION)?

Diet and lifestyle changes are powerful tools in helping to lower high blood pressure:

- If you smoke, get help to quit
- Reduce the amount of sodium (salt) in your diet
- Limit alcohol to 1-2 standard drinks a day, or less
- Be active at least 2.5 hours a week, with each period of exercise lasting 10 minutes or more
- Eat a healthy diet
- Manage your weight wisely by adopting a healthy lifestyle

If you have high blood pressure and are a patient of the Temagami FHT, give us a call at (705) 569-3244 to schedule an appointment to discuss what you can do to bring your blood pressure down and stay healthy. You can also call to schedule an appointment to have your blood pressure checked if this is something you'd like to have done.

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



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Family Health Team

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Temiskaming Hospital Foundation 50/50

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**Draw will take place on Tuesday,  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your mother's name is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Darlene Wroe**  
Speaker Reporter

# Municipalities facing steadily rising insurance costs

ENGLEHART - Englehart's municipal insurance quote came in with an 11 per cent increase, and the town is accepting that.

At Englehart's regular council meeting Wednesday, April 28, council agreed to continue with its insurance provider for another year.

The price increase for municipal insurance is relatively low compared with other municipalities across Ontario.

Chief administrative officer Shawn LaCarte noted other municipalities are seeing an average municipal insurance increase this year of 23 per cent, and only a few received quotes with increases less than ten per cent.

Although last year council discussed looking for any other quotes for municipal insurance this year, LaCarte commented to council, "I'm recommending not going out for quotes this year."

He said he has spoken to some other municipalities that were looking for other quotes for municipal insurance and "many of them couldn't even get the insurance companies to even look at their books."

Municipal insurance provides coverage for all buildings and properties owned by the town.

Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities president Danny Whalen, who is also a Temiskaming Shores councillor, commented in a later telephone interview the matter has long been an issue to municipal organizations across Ontario and it has been discussed with the previous Liberal provincial government and is being discussed with the present Conservative provincial government.

He acknowledged the insurance companies face many claims for flooding and similar events, and these events are often being caused by climate change.

What is not considered fair by municipalities is joint and several liabilities.

Whalen suggested a scenario in which an individual had 80 per cent of the responsibility for an occurrence which caused damage for another individual. In this fictitious scenario, the municipality

had 20 per cent of the responsibility for the event.

However, because the municipality had the greater ability to pay damages, the municipality could be required by the justice system to pay the greater amount of the damages.

The issue has been a matter of concern for many years, he said.

"Joint and several liability is unfair and it has to be changed," said Whalen.

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