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COMMUNITY

HIGHWAY CARDIAC ARREST INSPIRES HOSPITAL FUNDRAISER

EVENT RUNS THROUGH
UNTIL AUG. 31

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It's hard to fathom that feeling in the best shape of his life, John Offutt's life nearly ended on the side of the road.

It was just two years ago, in August 2018, that Offutt, a Lake Joseph cottager, and his young friend, Connor Mangan, were cycling along Highway 124 in Seguin Township, pushing hard to beat their new personal bests.

As the duo climbed the second of the Three Sisters Hills John yelled, "Oh s—t!"

Connor turned around just in time to see John stumble from his bike and pass out in the ditch on the side of the highway.

John's heart had been pushed to its limit, lost its rhythm and stopped pumping.

"If my friend Connor had not



IMPACTING YOUR
COMMUNITY

John Offutt photo
Lake Joe cottager John Offutt gives a thumbs up from his hospital bed following an health scare during a ride on Highway 124 in August 2018.

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**WHAT
DANGERS
LURK IN
YOUR
BACKYARD?**

**CHECK OUT
OUR GUIDES
TO ONTARIO'S
DANGEROUS
PLANTS AND
ANIMALS AT**

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NEWS

COVID TESTING CENTRE RUNNING AT CAPACITY

CENTRE RECEIVES ABOUT
50 CALLS A DAY,
COMPLETES UP TO 35
TESTS DAILY

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The COVID-19 assessment centre in Parry Sound continues to operate at its maximum capacity of 25 to 35 tests done a day.

Most of the centre's testing capacity is taken up with ongoing bi-weekly surveillance of long-term care staff and pre-clearing visitors to care centres or patients before a procedure at the hospital.

Due to the Parry Sound Centre's testing limit, those who call in for an appointment are triaged for symptoms or known contact.

"(A test) is a snapshot ... it's more important for people to monitor for symptoms and of course get tested if have symptoms or confirmed known exposure, as in someone in the home,"



Staff at the ready outside the Parry Sound COVID-19 testing centre, at the back of the Parry Sound Mall.

said nurse-practitioner and director of primary care, Katie Hogue.

A test is not recommended for those who have had limited to expose someone who may be sick, or those who have no symptoms but are merely curious.

"People are pretty understanding with the education our staff are providing," said Hogue. "It's status quo for now but we are anticipating when schools and business reopened an uptick (in calls)."

While the North Bay Parry

Sound District Health Unit reports no current COVID-19 cases, the number of people with the virus in Ontario increases daily.

People are moving around the province with retail businesses, cottage rentals and restaurants welcoming customers back inside, so it's not time to stop taking precautions such as wearing masks, keeping two metres apart and washing hands frequently, Hogue said.

The province also remains in a state of emergency with requirements to quarantine, self-isolate and limit social circles.

Since opening in March, the assessment centre has done 1,975 tests. Everyone who had a positive test is now clear of the virus.

Within the Parry Sound District, which covers an area from Parry Sound east to Powassan, the North Bay Parry Sound District has reported 13 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic began.

There have also been four other cases in Parry Sound reported by the health unit connected with a person's home address.

CRIME

MAN CHARGED WITH MAKING CHILD PORN

On July 30, police executed a search warrant at a residence in Parry Sound, seizing multiple electronic exhibits for further examination.

As a result of this investigation, Jeffrey Luke Dilmirick, 35, was arrested and charged with Possession of Child Pornography, Making Available Child Pornography, Making Child Pornography, Luring a Child and Incest Exposure to a person under 16 years of age.

The accused is scheduled to appear for a bail hearing on July 31, at the Ontario Court of Justice in Parry Sound, Ontario.

Members of the Ontario Provincial Police Child Sexual Exploitation Unit, assisted by Digital Forensics, along with members of the West Parry Sound OPP Detachment conducted the online child sexual exploitation investigation.

In the press release, police noted anyone wanting to make a difference is encouraged to go to protectchildren.ca to download the "Child Sexual Abuse-It Is Your Business" brochure from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

"This is an important first step that can save a child," stated the

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EDUCATION

SCHOOLS TO REOPEN

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Schools in Parry Sound and Almaguin will reopen in September.

On July 30, the Ministry of Education announced its plans for getting students back into classrooms in September for the first time since March break. Caregivers can choose to continue at-home learning.

The plan is for full day, everyday learning, but with safety measures includes masks and cleaning. Students in Grades 4 to 12 must wear a mask while inside, while they are suggested for kindergarten to Grade 3 students. Teachers must wear medical-grade masks.

The Near North District School Board was looking at three reopening options to submit for provincial approval by Aug. 4 to reopen: regular school

"As of about 10 a.m. we've had about 2,700 response and we know somewhere in the neighbourhood of 20 per cent of our students, so far, say they will choose to stay home with e-learning delivered."

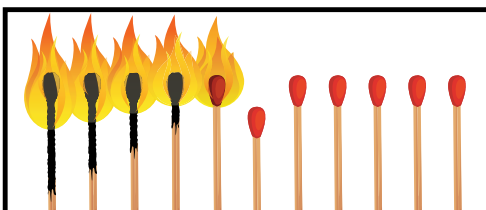
- Superintendent of Schools and Programs Timothy Graves

days, a mix of in-school and at home, and at home.

"What the minister has announced today, in my view, is a hybrid of the first and the sec-

ond," said Superintendent of Schools and Programs Timothy Graves at a July 30 board meet-

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PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Maintain a distance of 2 metres (6 feet)
between you and other people.

Stop the Spread. Flatten the Curve.