



THE TEMISKAMING SPEAKER



Blanche River Health announces first monthly winner of new 50/50 draw Page 7a



www.northernontario.ca

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2021

\$1.75 per single copy (H.S.T. included)



AN EXTRA LIFE

They say cats have nine lives and some might even have ten. The cat in this photo receiving oxygen from Cobalt firefighter Brian Mercier was rescued from a multi residential structure fire in Cobalt on June 29. Mercier found the cat in distress inside an apartment. He was able to rescue, hydrate and provide first aid to the family pet before being whisked away by its owners to the veterinarian. No humans were injured in the Cobalt Street fire. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

Two-shot protection

Health unit shifting vaccinations up

Diane Johnston
Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES – As of noon July 6, Temiskaming's last active COVID-19 case – number 208 – was deemed resolved almost one month ago.

While there's virus activity to the north in the Porcupine Health Unit and to the south in the North Bay area, "we're still at zero cases," said Temiskaming's acting medical officer of health earlier this week.

But given the presence of the more infectious Delta variant in Ontario, "we need dual vaccination to give best protection," said Dr. Glenn Corneil in a phone interview July 5.

There has been progress on the vaccination front, and some changes coming as to when

and where local residents can get their shots.

SECOND DOSE

As of July 5, anyone aged 12 and up can book a second dose 28 days after their first.

And because of that timing, ample supplies of vaccine and the Delta variant, the health unit has cancelled its previously scheduled second-dose clinics beginning the week of July 19.

It is instead encouraging people to book new appointments now.

The original bookings were made when vaccine supply was limited.

But that's no longer the case, said Corneil.

Residents can book new appointments online – at <https://>

covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/ – or by calling the health unit, at 1-866-747-4305 ext. 6 if online service is not an option.

"There's robust vaccine supply and openings right now," he said.

Beginning next week, he said it's moving to the walk-in clinic model "to make it as flexible as possible for people."

The mass immunization clinics themselves will be coming to an end.

When precisely they'll be shut down has not yet been determined, he said.

But he said the arenas will be needed when hockey and figure skating resume. It's also a challenge to staff them as client numbers drop, he said.

First and second doses are

also available at local pharmacies.

Corneil said there's a misconception that pharmacies offer only the AstraZeneca vaccine. In fact, he said mRNA vaccines – Pfizer and/or Moderna – are available.

NUMBERS

As of late last week, almost 78 per cent of Temiskaming adults aged 18 and up had received a first dose, and 56 per cent a second.

Corneil was pleased to see that the uptake among young-

er population groups, beginning at 30, has been increasing.

But uptake remains lower among the youngest members of the eligible population – 56 per cent of the 12-to-17 age group have received a first dose, and almost 59 per cent of the 18-29 population.

When it comes to the 12-to-17 group, the health unit is encouraging them to be fully vaccinated with two doses by August 22. That means they should receive their first dose

Continued on 2a

Coming Together

Hundreds drawn to July 1 pow wow

Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES - The Anishnabekwe's Coming Together 2021 Healing Ceremony/Pow Wow on Canada Day in New Liskeard attracted

approximately 600 people from throughout Northeastern Ontario, Northwestern Quebec, and beyond.

The event was in the planning stages well before the discoveries of the remains of hun-

dreds of Indigenous children at residential school grounds in Canada. The news and resulting sadness added an extra depth to the event.

Maria Wabie of Temiskaming First Nation, and Darlene Skani of New Liskeard, worked together to organize the July 1 event and bring it into being.

Skani explained that there is a wish to bring back the old traditions in celebrating important days.

Wabie added there was also a desire "just to have some kind of ceremony in New Liskeard." It had been noticed that there are not many traditional ceremonies held in New Liskeard, she said.

When the decision was finalized on the place and the day,

Continued on 6a

CHAMBERLAIN (Staff) – An Englehart resident is dead and a Sesekinika resident has been charged following a fatal collision north of Englehart last week.

Christopher Martel, 49, was pronounced dead at the scene of a two-vehicle crash on Highway 11 in Chamberlain Township June 30.

Temiskaming OPP, the OPP canine unit and emergency response team, the Englehart fire department, and paramedics responded shortly after 7 a.m.

Temiskaming OPP say Martel had been driving the northbound vehicle.

Police say the driver of the southbound vehicle fled the scene on foot immediately after the collision. An individual was located a short time later in a wooded area by the canine unit and emergency response team and arrested.

A 42-year-old resident of Sesekinika has been charged with dangerous operation causing death; failure to stop after accident; and failure to comply with a probation order.

The OPP's technical traffic collision investigators and the Office of the Chief Coroner-Ontario Forensic Pathology Service are assisting with the investigation.

Highway 11 was closed for about nine hours.

Detours were established along highways 560, 65 and 66.

The highway reopened shortly before 4 p.m.

Police say the investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information may contact the Temiskaming OPP at 705-6478400 or 1-888-310-1122. Information can also be passed on anonymously through Crime Stoppers, at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), and callers may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

New look

Readers will notice a new look for The Temiskaming Speaker and The Weekender starting this week.

Some technical issues in the printing plant have led to this solution for the time being.

The Speaker is back to a broadsheet format which will provide all the space needed to continue to offer readers the comprehensive local coverage you've come to expect.

The Weekender will be in a slightly different sized tabloid format but will also continue to feature news and photos from around the region, plus the weekly collection of flyers from local stores.