



SWIM-A-THON SWIM A LOT

It must have been a good omen as three loons appeared on the waters of Lake Temiskaming last week just prior to the Temiskaming Northern Loons annual Swim-a-thon, held on April 26 at the New Liskeard Waterfront Pool Fitness Centre. Griffin Juurlink was one of the Junior swimmers who completed 2,000 metres (m) (non-competitive) and 3,000m (competitive group) for a combined total of 5,000m in just two hours. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

Anderson looking to ace OFSAA badminton

Sue Nielsen
Speaker Reporter

ENGLEHART – Spartan Nina Anderson has smashed her way to an OFSAA badminton opportunity.

The Englehart High School (EHS) Senior Girls Singles player will compete at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) Badminton Championships being held May 11-13 in Port Hope.

"I am very excited to be able to compete and represent the north at OFSAA badminton," said Anderson in an email interview.

"I just missed out last year, so I am excited that I will get this experience. There will be some amazing players there and I am looking forward to playing them and picking up some of their tricks."

Anderson, a 17-year-old Grade 12 student, shuttled her way to the top of the South North-eastern Ontario Athletic Association (NEOAA) standings on April 19 at Timiskaming District Secondary School.

From there it was a first place finish at NEOAA on April 26 in Kapuskasing.

To qualify for OFSAA, players have to finish in the top three at South NEOAA and the top two at NEOAA.

She felt overall that she had prepared well for the Northern playdowns.

"I felt that I was prepared going into NEOAA. At practice my coach (Bill Nuhn) and I worked on certain strategies and shots that I could use during gameplay. The girls that I faced at NEOAA I hadn't played before so I was just trying to be



Spartan Nina Anderson serves during a match at SNEOAA on April 19. She won that title and went on to win the NEOAA regional title in Kapuskasing on April 26, thus qualifying for OFSAA in Port Hope May 11-13. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

ready for anything and it worked out for me," she explained.

Anderson is a multi-sport athlete with a high fitness level due to her cross-country running and playing basketball and hockey.

She enjoys the fitness aspect of badminton and that it is an individual sport, but also relishes the mental side of the game.

"Another thing I enjoy is learning all the strategies I need to improve my game."

She will now share the courts with some of the best high school badminton players in the province.

And she is already preparing for that competition.

"I have practiced hard," said Anderson.

"I have learned a lot of new skills from my coach last year, since it was my first year playing high school badminton."

She said she continued to build her game on her work ethic in practices and hone her skills through the two tournaments she won.

Anderson believes her badminton success is a result of having a balanced skillset, knowing how to read the court and knowing what shots to choose.

"I really like moving my opponent around on their court to tire them out, then when they give me the opportunity, I smash the birdie down."

She is grateful to her coach "who has spent countless hours helping me train during this season and preparing me for SNEOAA and NEOAA. I would also like to thank my competitors who have challenged me and helped me to become a better player."

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Recycle your bicycle this summer

Sue Nielsen
Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES — Do you have a bike in your garage collecting dust that you have outgrown or don't ride anymore?

Then why not donate it to the Bike Exchange program to be given out for free at the 2023 Bike Festival, being held in Temiskaming Shores on Saturday, June 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the large barn beside the Ontario Provincial Police station on Armstrong Street North.

It's also an occasion to lend a hand.

"We are looking for more volunteers. The main ongoing task for us is repairing and cleaning the donated bikes, which range in condition from excellent to heavily used," said Timiskaming Health Unit Bike

Festival coordinator Erica Aelterman in an email interview.

If you have a gently used bicycle to donate you can drop it off at Re/Max Pursuit Realty at 63 Whitewood Avenue in New Liskeard Monday to Friday between 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Or drop-off used bikes at the City of Temiskaming Shores city hall at 325 Farr Drive in Haileybury from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

So far the Bike Festival has been a complete success giving away 225 bicycles to children and adults in the South Temiskaming region over three previous exchanges.

She said experience in repairing bikes is welcomed, but not necessary to volunteer.

"Anyone can participate in a learn-as-you-go approach. If bike repair isn't your thing we also need volunteers to help on the day of the Bike Festival!"

The volunteer tasks would be helping with registration, cleaning bikes, giving away helmets or helping to match bikes with attendees.

All bikes are free.

The festival will include a bike decorating station, a smoothie bike and other fun activities.

She said while the COVID-19 pandemic risk is lower, the Bike Festival will be a mask-friendly event and hand sanitizer will be available.

This is a great opportunity for students to collect community volunteer hours.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the Bike Festival can email aeitermane@timiskaminghu.com

Anyone interested in fixing bikes can contact Linda St. Cyr at linda@stcyr.ca or call 705-648-5666.

Englehart considers wading into pool improvements

Darlene Wroe
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

ENGLEHART - Englehart staff are now looking into whether there would be a better solution for heating the municipal pool.

"Our pool heaters are in desperate need of repair," said town chief administrative officer Malorie Robinson at the town's regular meeting of council April 26.

"Right now we have one giant heater," she explained.

Town public works superintendent Ryan Vickery said that Englehart is very limited when a repair person is needed to come in to fix the heater.

He is proposing that a better option for the town,

in order to avoid these situations, would be to have a number of smaller heaters.

Vickery said he is looking at different options to heat the pool.

At this time, the existing heater is working, "but it faulted quite a bit last year," he told council.

In a later email, Robinson stated that the town is "looking at purchasing a new heater system before the pool season begins in June."

At the council meeting Mayor Jerry Mikovitch commented that the town is now starting to see more serious repairs needed in the maintenance of the pool, and is now facing "the big stuff, but this will last hopefully."