



www.northernontario.ca

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024

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



# THE TEMISKAMING SPEAKER



Kristen Siermachesky talks Olympics  
Speaker Sports



## THRILLS AND SPILLS

One of most dangerous sports in the world is bull riding and the most thrilling for the crowds gathered at the New Liskeard Dodge Ram Rodeo on August 18. This cowboy, who gripped one hand on a braided rope and the other in the air, barely got out of the gates before the bull bucked him off. Rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of the cowboys and cowgirls who entertained the large crowds both Saturday and Sunday at the New Liskeard Fall Fair grounds. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)

## Municipal support sought to attract doctors

**Darlene Wroe**  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP - Armstrong Township has been asked for its support for the Blanche River Health physician recruitment committee in attracting doctors to serve the hospitals in Englehart and Kirkland Lake.

Blanche River Health chief executive officer Jorge VanSlyke met with the council August 14 to answer questions, warn of possible temporary closures at either of the hospitals, and ask for council's support in recruiting physicians.

"Physician shortage is one of our main challenges," she said.

Because of that the hospitals are "always so close to closing" when there are no physicians available. If the nearest hospital is closed, people seeking care must go to another hospital that is open, she said.

She said there have been times

when doctors have been working when they are sick, and she pointed out that "you can't force people to work when they are not able."

There is a committee in place for physician recruitment, she said, but "we can't do it on our own."

Hiring agency support has a high price tag for Blanche River Health, but if agency staffing is not brought in, staff complain about burnout, she said. Agency support has a high cost because people who are brought in do not have a pension or benefits, she explained.

"Financially it is not the best time for hospitals," said VanSlyke.

"We're going to need to talk about support from different municipalities."

She asked Armstrong Township council to ask itself what it could offer to help the physician recruitment committee.

"Any support we could generate would be great."

## Temiskaming Shores city manager job draws 29 applicants

**Sue Nielsen**  
Speaker Reporter

TEMISKAMING SHORES — The City of Temiskaming Shores is searching for its next City manager and is buoyed by the number of applications they have received for the position.

At the regularly scheduled August 13 council meeting, Mayor Jeff Laferriere noted the City had received 29 applications for the position and many of those applications indicated those seeking the job were coming with the proper experience and

qualifications.

The search for a city manager began when former manager Amy Vickery provided notice she was vacating her position as of June 19.

She is now the new chief administrative officer/clerk in Englehart as of July 22.

"We did receive quite a few applications that are qualified in the city manager position," noted Laferriere in a telephone interview.

"We are looking forward to the interview process and shortlisting



**Temiskaming Shores Mayor Jeff Laferriere**

it down to an area that we will then do some face-to-face interviews."

Up next, the city will narrow down the list of candidates to a group of finalists from which the hiring committee will then select the city manager.

The mayor said the City hopes to be in a position to announce the newly hired manger by the middle of September.

"We are hoping to offer someone the position of the new city manager role soon and we are

very excited."

The City has been working with a recruiting partner, a human resources firm helping them to navigate the hiring process.

The mayor said the successful applicant will have good communication skills, "both internally and externally. They are dealing with a number of organizations. And folks that have worked in a team environment. We don't need dictatorship, but we need someone who can communicate to the team and to work with team decisions."

He noted the City is in the middle of a strategic planning

session and the new city manager will have input into that process.

"We are hoping they will be able to take our framework and put together a plan that will work for us for the next five years. It is going to take some vision and some leadership. Those are the skill sets we are looking for."

The mayor said it was exciting to see the level of interest in the position and they are looking forward to working with the new city manager to move the community forward in the coming years.

## Things were humming at annual Garden Party

**Sue Nielsen**  
Speaker Reporter

HILLIARD TOWNSHIP — Despite cloudy skies, things were humming along quite nicely at the Hilliardton Marsh Research and Education Centre's annual Hummingbird Garden Party on August 17.

The Garden Party is the Marsh's biggest fundraiser and membership drive of the year.

On Saturday the 150 visitors could catch aquatic creatures,

enjoy tea and baked goods, learn about bees and honey production, see birds banded and released and watch a mural being created inside the Visitor Centre.

A total of 154 birds of 28 different species were banded, including six hummingbirds, the stars of the party and a recapture from a previous year.

The birders can tell if the bird is a recapture because it would already have been banded.

Warblers, hummingbirds, rose breasted grosbeak, sparrows,

cedar waxwings and other birds were captured in the fine mist nets set up around the Marsh, brought to the outdoor banding table for the public to observe and learn about the bird banding process.

Visitors were informed of the sex of birds, whether they are first year hatchlings or older birds.

Interesting facts about various bird species were also part of the banding process. For instance, visitors were told that as

**Continued on 2a**



The little hummingbird was the big hit of the Garden Party at the Hilliardton Marsh August 17. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)