



Canada Day... sweet!

THE TEMISKAMING SPEAKER



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Checking it out Earlton grocery co-operative at the idea stage

Sue Nielsen
Speaker Reporter

EARLTON — In the breadbasket of South Temiskaming, 175 people attended a special council meeting concerning the formation of a grocery store co-operative in Earlton.

The meeting, held June 27 at the Earlton Recreation Centre, was a direct response from area stakeholders on the heels of the announcement of the closure of the Earlton Grocery King on June 15.

The purpose of the meeting was to exchange ideas and raise awareness among local residents about the possibility of forming a co-operative model owned by the community.

"Welcome everyone to this special meeting of council," said Earlton Mayor Robert Ethier.

"It is nice to see people here from Harley, Hilliard and beyond. There is only one item on the agenda tonight and it is the formation of a co-operative grocery store."

PRESENTATIONS

Three spokesmen were included on the council meeting agenda: Alexi Breton, regional manager for Northern Ontario for Le Conseil de la coopération de l'Ontario (CCO), made a Power Point presentation called *Save Our Grocery with a Cooperative Model*; Moonbeam Cooperative treasurer André Filion talked of his town's experience and the third to address the crowd was Earlton Grocery King owner Michel Maurice.

"Food is important. I will cover the basics of the co-operative movement, what we require of you and how it works," said Breton.

He said he could not provide costs to establish the co-operative because it would vary from the amount raised to the number of people as members.

He said the first place to start the movement is with the formation of an action committee.

He represents 75 co-operatives in the province involving 3,000 people.

"The co-operative is owned by the people and follows a democratic process."

He said a successful co-operative must establish an action committee, a business plan, raise start-up capital and tap into the passion of its members.

He said the closing of the town's only grocery store is not a sign of a vibrant community and property values could be affected as a result.

"I understand people shop in Englehart and at Walmart but your money is leaving the community and you want to keep money in your own community."

He said the community could become united over the issue of a co-operative.

Filion, from Moonbeam, said the sales of that town's co-operative had steadily climbed over the years since they opened

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A REALLY HAPPY CANADA DAY

Tatum Maurice of Earlton, 3, didn't let a little bit of hot weather keep him down on July 1. The youngster found a way to beat the oppressive heat blanketing the area through the long weekend, thanks to a sprinkler at the Algonquin Memorial Beach Park in New Liskeard. (Staff photo by Steven Larocque)

Budget standoff

Opposition to public works director position

Darlene Wroe
Speaker Reporter

COBALT - Cobalt council will be meeting this evening, Wednesday, July 4, in the upstairs hall with the hope of resolving their standoff on the 2018 budget.

Council had met on June 27 with an agenda based on passing the 2018 budget.

However, two councillors were absent from that meeting, leaving the remaining council weighted in their opposition to an inclusion in the 2018 budget to hire a public works director.

Councillors Perry Wuest, Rochelle Schwartz and George Othmer all voted against the budget because it included the intention to hire a director.

Councillor Mike Harrison and Mayor Tina Sartoretto voted for the budget.

Councillors Gary Bigelow and Sue Nielsen were absent.

PUBLIC WORKS POSITION

At the June 13 budget meeting, the decision to hire a public works director was approved with a four-to-three vote along the same lines

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