

WEB POLL

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The Temiskaming Shores Public Library will be consolidated into one branch in New Liskeard. Are you in favour of this move?



The results of this poll are in no way considered to be valid or infallible.

NEXT WEEK'S QUESTION

The Toronto Raptors have been all the rage with their run for the franchise's first NBA title. What's been your level of interest?

1. I'm on the bandwagon and enjoying the ride.
2. Wishing them well, but it's of little interest.
3. I could not care less.

LETTERS POLICY

- The editor reserves the right to shorten and edit letters for clarity. Unsigned letters and libelous letters will not be published.
- Our email address for letters is editorial@northernontario.ca or speaker.steve@northernontario.ca. Letters to the editor via Canada Post or dropped off at our office must be typewritten or clearly handwritten. They must be signed and include the author's street, town and a day-time phone number.
- The telephone number and street address will not be published, but are necessary in case the editor has to contact the writer during the day to confirm any details before the letter is published.
- Opinions in the letters are those of the letter writers and not those of The Temiskaming Speaker.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Age-friendly programming requires partners

Dear editor,

Several years ago, Temiskaming Shores received funding from the Ontario government to support the community in becoming more age-friendly – more accessible to and inclusive of the aging population. This process included conducting a needs assessment to identify local older adults' needs and forming a steering committee to assess and implement key recommendations.

This community-level implementation process has, however, been shown to have challenges with sustainability, not becoming permanent or institutionalized within a host organization.

Based out of Trent University in Peterborough, our project aims to document the expert perspectives of rural and small-town age-friendly leaders about the barriers that may prevent, and factors that may support, sustainable age-friendly programming.

Between September 2018 and April 2019, we travelled over 6,000-kilometres to five rural Ontario communities implementing age-friendly programming and spoke with nearly 60 age-friendly leaders. With multiple visits ... participants told us stories about the on-the-ground challenges of developing age-friendly, but also the successes, both major and minor, to achieving a more inclusive community.

We found that there is an implementation gap between short and long-term sustainability, however, the involvement of community champions, partnerships (e.g., local businesses, non-profits, faith groups, and health and community-based services) and active municipal involvement are critical pathways towards sustainability. Involving these important factors at the community level will help ensure age-friendly programming will continue to support local residents as they grow older.

Since receiving the funding, Temiskaming Shores' age-friendly initiative has completed a robust needs assessment, created an active committee with diverse membership, implemented ongoing programming with strong involvement from older residents, including a coffee hour, physical activity opportunities, coordinated transportation options based on feedback from older adults, and developed a Community Services for Older Adults Guide. They have also received funding from the municipality to hire a full-time "all age-friendly coordinator" position.

Based on our research, continuing on this path while also continuing to integrate our key findings of champions, partnerships, and active municipal involvement, is likely to lead to a sustainable age-friendly program in Temiskaming Shores.

Thank you for welcoming us to Temiskaming Shores and showing us the momentum that exists within your community. We value the time and contributions of everyone involved with the study.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Russell, Ph.D.
Mark Skinner, Ph.D.
Amber Colibaba, M.A.

A huge tribute to Mamma Mia

Dear editor,

(Re: Joint Venture Theatre production of the musical play Mamma Mia at Englehart High School)

Wow! What a performance!

Linda Henry certainly deserves a lot of praise for the work and time she and her performers put into each evening. Each of the cast members were spot on, the props and costumes, the singers, the actors to background music, it was so professional. Wow, four nights totally sold out, fabulous.

To Englehart and surrounding area you did us proud again. Keep up the good work.

Clint and Molly Edwards,
Hudson Township

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