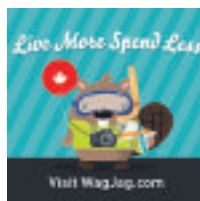


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Brendan Kyle Jure/Metroland

Lori Beck of the Kwik Mart in Burk's Falls hands an ice cream cone to a young customer. The Kwik Mart is just one of the local businesses that will be affected by the closure of the Royal Bank of Canada branch on Ontario Street. The branch has announced it will close its doors on March 23, 2018 after serving the community since 1908. For more see page 3.

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## BUSINESS

# New faces behind operation at local Tim Hortons

BRENDAN KYLE JURE

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**BURK'S FALLS** - A young, married couple has taken over the helm of the local Tim Hortons.

Jasmine and Stephane Lacoste, originally from the Greater Sudbury Area, took over on Aug. 27. They worked at Tim Hortons for 10 years before deciding to try out ownership.

"We worked as management there so we just figured, let's go to the ownership," said Jasmine. "We love the Tim Hortons brand and everything so that's why we decided to get ownership."

When they heard the location was up for grabs they jumped in right away.

"Really what happened was that we got the call saying 'we have a location for you guys. Are you interested?'" So it wasn't per



Brendan Kyle Jure/Metroland

Jasmine and Stephane Lacoste are the new owners of the Tim Hortons in Burk's Falls.

say us looking for a location," said Jasmine, who got the call in May.

The two came to Burk's Falls to tour the village as well as the

location, and were impressed. "The store is amazing and does really good and the staff is super nice so we're like, let's do this," she said.

The two are enjoying the area. They have made their home in Huntsville but commute to Burk's Falls every day where they have a hands-on approach to their work ethic.

Owning a business, especially when it's your first, does have some challenges as they soon found out.

"Like any company, staffing can be an issue, trying to find the right people," said Stephane.

"That's one of the reasons we're happy with the staff here; we like their attitude. It's helped to make the transition that much easier."

Another challenge was their first weekend on the job, the Labour Day holiday.

"We've never seen anything like that before," said Stephane, while Jasmine said it was "crazy, crazy busy."

The two also have plans on becoming more involved with the

Burk's Falls community. "I think Dale (the previous owner) was pretty involved as well," said Lacoste.

Dale was involved with the Timbits Hockey and local small cookie donations.

"We'd like to continue on and try to improve on that," said Stephane. "I mean, if we don't help the community what good are we to be here, you know what I mean. We need to give back."

So far, the community has been very receptive of the change, coming in and saying hello and asking questions as well as offering compliments.

"We've been pretty quiet honestly, just kind of smoothing it out because we're new and it was kind of a secret transition in and now they are starting to realize we're here," said Lacoste. "It's been super, super nice and just positive so far."

## SPORTS



AHSS/Photo

Bob Hildebrandt (middle), is the award recipient of the prestigious Marr Ross Award for dedication to coaching at Almaguin Highlands Secondary School. Hildebrandt is joined by Trevor Hingley, teacher, and Sue Fawcett, vice-principal.

# Prestigious award given to coach at Almaguin High School

BRENDAN KYLE JURE

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**SOUTH RIVER** - One of Almaguin Highlands Secondary School's longest serving teachers has been given a prestigious award.

Robert Hildebrandt has been teaching at the high school for 30 years and involved with many of its sporting programs. For his contribution to the school and many lives of the student athletes he has improved, he received the Marr Ross Award.

"I think it's a great representation of what Bob has

brought to the school and student athletes for over 30 years and his dedication to Almaguin and to sport," said Sue Fawcett, vice-principal of Almaguin Highlands Secondary School. "It really speaks to how dedicated he is."

The Marr Ross Award is presented annually to a dedicated teacher and coach in the Georgian Bay Secondary School Association. The candidate must be a dedicated teacher; demonstrate a love for coaching student athletes and display leadership in school sport as an official, Georgian Bay Secondary School Association executive member or as a convener.

Hildebrandt started coaching at the school in 1988 and became the head coach of the Track and Field team as well as coaching the

● See AWARD, page 3



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