

# THE TEMISKAMING SPEAKER



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## Changing direction

### Hwy. 11 campaign shifts to passing lanes

**Diane Johnston**  
Speaker Reporter

**TEMISKAMING SHORES** – A campaign to four-lane Highway 11 north of North Bay is changing direction.

The focus is shifting to the addition of more passing lanes, said Helene Culhane, membership and events coordinator at the Temiskaming Shores and Area Chamber of Commerce and chair of the highway committee.

Traffic volumes appear to be too low for the Ministry of Transportation to consider a four-lane divided highway, she said earlier this week.

But highway advocates “want more that allows us to get to where we’re going, and safely,” she said.

The proposal has surfaced at various times over the years, most recently in 2014 by Jay Aspin, then Nipissing-Timiskaming’s MP.

At that time, the chamber of commerce was identified as the lead organization.

A formal committee was established earlier this year.

Ms. Culhane said it now has a name – GEMS, meaning “Going the Extra Mile Safely.”

The committee met with ministry officials earlier this month, said Temiskaming Shores Mayor Carman Kidd, a member of the GEMS committee.

At that time, Mayor Kidd said the local group was told that traffic falls short of the 10,000-vehicles-per-day threshold for the ministry to consider a four-lane divided highway.

“We’re a long ways from that yet,” said Mayor Kidd after city council met June 21.

See “Hwy. 11” on 11a



The school year is now over. But the final days of June were particularly poignant at Haileybury Public School (HPS), which has now closed its doors permanently. In the fall, graduating students head to the elementary wing at Timiskaming District Secondary School while younger students relocate to New Liskeard Public School. But June 23 was set aside for celebrations to make the final memories of HPS happy ones. In the afternoon, students, parents and staff gathered in the schoolyard for a mass balloon release. (Staff photo by Diane Johnston)

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