

# Commemorating the Great Fire by taking a dip

**TEMISKAMING SHORES (Staff)** – On October 4, 1922, families fleeing the fire that destroyed much of Haileybury sought protection in Lake Temiskaming.

The public is invited to recreate the scene next week by accepting a challenge to “take a dip” in the lake.

Proceeds from Haileybury’s Great Fire Challenge will go to the Haileybury Heritage Museum to help reprint *The Great Fire of 1922*, which tells the story of the fire and its survivors.

The October 4 event is organized by the President’s Suites, which wants to raise \$8,000 to cover the cost of reproducing the out-of-print history book.

Participants can take part in the challenge itself.

At 5:45 p.m., they’ll gather at the waterfront – preferably dressed in clothing from the 1922 era and with blankets, which were donned by fire victims almost a century ago to protect themselves from the flying ashes.

Participants will then spend five minutes in the water.

At 6 p.m., they can warm up at the Harbour Front Pavilion, where the public is invited to an evening of storytelling and music.

Haileybury singer-songwriter Robyn Dewar will perform and the audience is invited to share stories and music.

## FUNDS

Funds will be raised through challenge registration fees and donations, made that evening or on-line.

The event itself resonates with Nicole Guertin, co-owner of the President’s Suites.

In 1922, her grandmother was attending the convent on Haileybury, and spent five hours in the lake to flee the flames.

For further information or to register for Haileybury’s Great Fire Challenge, see [www.presidentssuites.com](http://www.presidentssuites.com).

