



Pickle Lake

By Graeme Mackechnie

DEC 15 - Senior Dinner - 55yr+ - 6 p.m. at the Hall
Dec 16 - Santa Parade - 1 p.m. - Starts at Central Pat. Followed by Gifts for the kids at the Hall.

The Lions are a great group of volunteers! They need local support both financial and physical. Contact Debbie Hill. Help!

Parvo has hit Pickle

Lake. It's an intestinal virus most prevalent in puppies. Make sure your puppy has received all of its shots.

Welcome to Pickle Ken and Marla, and welcome back Sylvia. Leslie Rantala is coming back too. I guess it's just too hard staying away from God's country.

Jim Dalzell is feeding the homeless—Five stray cats are dining at Jim's. He is

now buying his cat food by the shopping cart.

Mike Van den Brock is starting wood working classes at the school for the kids, another community minded volunteer who does not believe in "idle hands."

Our OPP have been busy solving crime in Pickle. They have identified the water tower graffiti artists and the lads that vandalized our school Thursday.

Wunnumin Lake is pushing a road through to Pickle Lake, not a winter road but an all weather road. They

are close to the North Road and it's only a short distance left to go. Once Wunnumin opens this road on a full time basis, it will only be a short time before the whole north is open to year round vehicle traffic.

Laureen of Laureen's Grocery and Gas won NAN's Business Woman of the Year Award for the second time in two years.

Getwell wishes to Kathy Koper and to Jim Dalzell's mother. We always miss Jim when he's out of town. The meat counter and ambience is just not the same at the Northern.

Have you seen Miles' house at night? Hydro One will have to boost our power supply if Miles puts up any more lights. Good work Miles. You out shine Herb and Jim. Is anyone out there who can take the challenge? There are prizes for decorating.

The diamond exploration crews are back again. I understand that the Summer Beaver - Wunnumin Lake area has been targeted.

Watch for the startup of adults sports night at the school.

AA 87

S.L. Bulletin Dec 12/01

Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre looks good-to-go

Andrew Ryan Fox
STAFF WRITER

AFTER years of planning, deliberation and debate, mixed with some dissent and controversy, it appears that construction of the Sioux Lookout Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre may soon commence.

Last Friday the Ontario government's Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills met at the Edwin Switzer Memorial Legion. Seven MPPs, including Howard Hampton of Kenora-Rainy River, heard presentations from interested parties. This was the second step to Bill Pr15, a private bill introduced to the legislature in June by Hampton, becoming an act.

It will now go back to the legislature for a second reading, before the Christmas recess. After the third reading it will go to the Lieutenant-Governor for royal assent, followed by a 120-day waiting period, and then the Meno-Ya-Win Board of Directors will

be able to proceed with construction, which could begin as early as next spring.

"It is time (to proceed)," said Chris Cromarty, chair of the Meno-Ya-Win planning board, the first group to be heard at the hearings. "I first became involved in this project in 1992, which is almost 10 years ago."

The discussion to establish an amalgamated hospital in Sioux Lookout began over a decade ago, and became official in April, 1997 when a special agreement, known as the Four-Party Agreement, was entered into by the federal, provincial and Sioux Lookout governments, and the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. Of the proposed \$30 million budget for the facility, \$15 million will come from the provincial government, \$10 million from the feds, \$3.2 million from the First Nation community, and \$1.8 million from the Municipality of Sioux Lookout.

"We see the passing of this bill as an opportunity," said Cromarty,

See I SEE on page 7

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contents.

The editor reserves the right

Chief medical officer seeks funding help from residents

The Northwestern Health Unit is seeking the help of area residents.

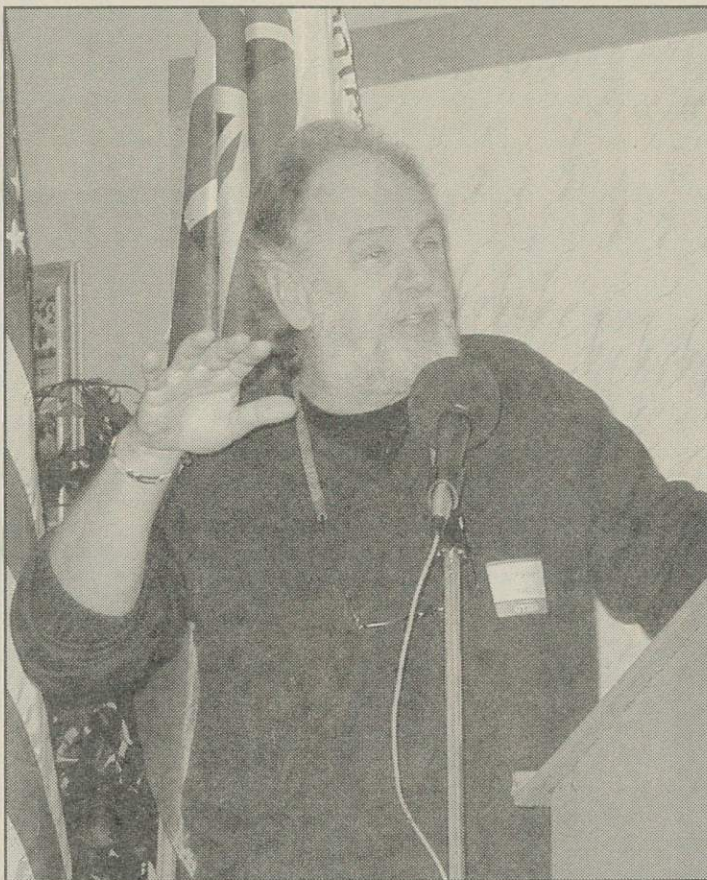
At the Dryden Rotary Club's meeting last week, Dr. Pete Sarsfield, the health district's chief medical officer, asked the club to adopt the agency to help fund its many programs.

Sarsfield noted he has given up asking the various levels of government for appropriate funding and is now going directly to the people to request money for public health concerns.

"We desperately need inspectors, nurses and health educators," Sarsfield told gathered Rotarians, adding money spent in public health means less money treating illness later in life.

Dr. Sarsfield referred to a federal Ministry of Health study in 1974 which indicated only five cents of every health care dollar went to public health for the purposes of prevention. While the study stressed more should be spent on that side of the equation, the proportion of health dollars directed to preventive measures has actually dropped to three cents per dollar in the last two decades. In northwestern Ontario the number is even lower; two cents, he stated.

Dr. Sarsfield stressed that the health unit does not receive enough money to fund all of its mandatory



Chief medical officer of health Dr. Pete Sarsfield spoke to Dryden Rotarians last week. *Staff photo*

programs.

"We do 80 per cent of them and the number is falling," he said.

The head of the NHU stressed he does not begrudge the money spent treating illness, but emphasized proper inspection programs, health education and vaccinations could lessen the demand put on

that end of the health care system.

"There's more to health than the absence of illness. Unless we switch things over, we'll keep doing treatment," he said.

The health unit is currently funded by both area municipalities and the province's Ministry of Health. ☆

I see brighter days ahead for a new hospital corporation

Continued from front

adding that the leadership of the town strongly recommends it become an act.

"I believe that now it is time," said board member Peggy Sanders. "Our hospitals here are a very important part of our community."

"The split of hospital services has been detrimental to our community," said board member and Sioux Lookout District Health Centre Chief of Staff Dr. Terry O'Driscoll, referring to the current separation of services between the District Health Centre and the Zone Hospital. "We're looking forward to a new level of service."

Board member and Sandy Lake Chief Ennis Fiddler said he believes the 10 First Nations representatives and the one Aboriginal healer on the 18-member Meno-Ya-Win Board of Directors will make sure Native peoples are properly spoken for.

"We feel quite strongly that the First Nations people in the composition of the board will have a greater

issue was adequately covered in the bill's preamble, which states that the bill is made in accordance with that agreement.

Another concern raised by IFNA was the exclusion of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwage First Nation Band Council member John Cutfeet from the list of board members in the bill. Cutfeet was the representative selected by IFNA to sit on the board of directors, but was replaced by the planning board when he refused to sign a consent form, which he felt made him more accountable to the board than to those he was representing in the First Nations communities. The committee decided that it was unnecessary for him to sign the consent form to sit on the board, and Cutfeet was re-added to the list of board members.

The maintaining of treaty rights has been a major issue in the hospital process, and the bill was amended to say that it will neither add to nor diminish those rights.

One last request brought forward by IFNA was the

prospects of providing excellent health care services and programs that will only continue to improve as time goes on," said Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority Executive Director James Morris during his presentation. He brought many of the region's health concerns, such as the TB, infant mortality and sexually transmitted disease rates, as well as the incidence of diabetes, to the attention of the committee. He also spoke of the massive Native youth suicide rate, and the need for mental health services, which the hospital will provide.

"Some of our communities have the highest suicide rate in Canada," he said. "The hospital is definitely the key to dealing with all these health issues."

Lac Seul band member and Sioux Lookout resident Garnet Angecone made a presentation to the committee, expressing his concern that no one was adequately speaking on behalf of off-reserve Aboriginal people, especially those who require much

used. "The Independent First Nations does not, in any way, speak for me on this issue." He added that the Town also doesn't speak for those such as him.

"It has been my experience that ordinary people like me are not represented," he said.

He commented that the process has been impeded by petty politics.

"I see brighter days ahead for a new hospital corporation, but I also see struggles."

"We look forward to the future post-amalgamation process," said Nishnawbe-Aski Deputy Grand Chief Dan Kooses in his presentation. "Currently, the segregation of separate hospitals evokes thoughts of apartheid where First Nations and non-Natives received health care services but in different locations. We know that hospital amalgamation can be viewed as an outward expression of unity and co-operation in the town of Sioux Lookout between First Nations people and non-Natives."

"The citizens of Sioux

by the committee. "The Sioux Lookout Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre represents a quantum leap for

health care services in our community and indeed the whole region of Northwest Ontario."

AA 87

Two plans set Machin direction

By Doug Pronger

Vermilion Bay has its first ever official plan and with it, a guide for structured development. The plan also embraces the communities of Eagle River and Minnitaki, which together make up the Municipality of Machin.

Clerk Leslee Winchester was instrumental in writing the terms of reference for the plan and shepherded the plan through the pre-consultation process with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. She says it was a big project that she's proud to have participated in, with the collaboration of Coun. Tom Doherty and the consultant Jim Diamond. (Now, after two-and-a-half years as Machin's clerk, Winchester is moving to Ear Falls to take on the clerk's position there.)

The municipality's zoning bylaw has been updated to fit into the new 20-year

official plan, which will be reviewed every five years. The plan will be passed by Machin council Nov. 12 and then go to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs for final approval.

Strategic plan

Machin is set to embark on a number of initiatives identified in the new strategic plan completed at the end of July. Council has committed itself to developing a vision, looking toward an achievable three-year plan.

"A vision is an ever-changing statement that reflects how the community feels about the future of the municipality," states the strategic plan.

Co-chairs of the strategic plan team Loretta Prosen and Sandra Walkey have

begun the process of asking the communities for volunteers to serve on committees and participate in their community's future.

The strategic planning process identified a number of main goals:

- establish a community awards night to recognize volunteerism, business achievements and sportsmanship throughout the three communities;

- beautify the municipality through projects, such as the "communities in bloom" program, seasonal decorations, and a Machin horticultural society;

- use the Woodland Arena as a community centre and organize a marketing committee;

- revive the economic development committee and survey residents on development options;



Leslee Winchester

- hire a recreation director under FedNor youth intern program.

The strategic plan for Machin will also be incorporated into a larger regional plan, including Dryden, Ignace, Sioux Lookout and Pickle Lake. ☆

Province shares the wealth

Remote hospitals and clinics split \$2 million in funding

BY BRYAN MEADOWS
NORTHWEST BUREAU

"Up in the sky my grandfather is smiling."

That's was Osnaburgh First Nation Chief Ronald Roundhead's reaction to \$25,000 in Northern Ontario Heritage Funding for new medical and dental equipment at his community's nursing station.

The grant is part of more than \$2 million in Heritage funding announced yesterday by Northern Affairs Minister Dan Newman for 38 health facilities and small hospitals in Northwestern Ontario.

"It's nice to know that there is going to be dental care for our children and their grandchildren," Roundhead told Newman.

The announcement included more than \$972,000 for 28 health facilities in Sioux Lookout and remote native communities, and \$1.12-million for 10 hospi-

tals, clinics and dental centres elsewhere. More than \$176,000 will go to the Sioux Lookout Zone Hospital for new medical equipment and electronic hospital beds.

Hospital spokeswoman Marjorie Johnson said "it is reassuring to know our hospital projects

(will go) forward.

"It makes providing (medical) services that much easier with the influx of dollars," she said.

"We're quite excited that three of the Sioux Lookout District Health Centre projects will be funded," hospital spokeswoman Terry O'Driscoll said.

The hospital will receive \$174,000 to buy new ultrasound equipment and a cardiac testing machine, and to upgrade a tele-health office.

Also receiving grants:

- Red Lake Margaret Cochenour

Memorial Hospital, \$200,000 for a state-of-the-art lab and clinical information system.

- LaVerendrye Hospital, Fort Frances, \$200,000 to buy new medical equipment including an anesthetic machine and sterilizer.

- Dryden Regional Health Centre, \$111,000 to buy an ultrasound machine.

- Atikokan General Hospital, \$193,000 for new diagnostic equipment including an ultrasound machine.

- Rainy River Health Centre, \$174,000 for cardiac monitors, a clinical analyser and an addition to the ambulance facility.

- Emo Health Centre, \$161,000 for medical equipment and to build an outdoor area for long-term care patients.

Newman said the provincial government is "committed to delivering a health system that promotes wellness and improves health through accessible, integrated, high-quality services at every stage of life and as close to home as possible."



mndm.gov.on.ca/nohfc

Small municipalities' water worries

(continued from page 1)
in the Municipality of Red Lake. Two new water treatment facilities, one in Cochenour and one in Madsen, are estimated to cost \$11 million. Red Lake's chief administrative officer Brian Anderson said they received 40 per cent of the funds for the engineer's report and that same formula appears likely for construction costs.

"We have written letters

to the environment minister and to the Minister of Agriculture's SuperBuild funding program asking for an extension to February 2004 to meet the new regulations," said Anderson. "Our engineer's report sets a 20-month construction timeframe, and if we take into account the time for tendering and consulting, we won't get started on construction until May 2002."

☆



Machin Mayor Arne Bratland at Vermilion Bay's government dock. The municipality has purchased 45 acres of waterfront property on Eagle Lake — including almost two kilometres of shoreline.

Staff photo

Dryden Observer - Oct 30/01

Costs create hardship

Small municipalities' water worries

By Doug Pronger

At an estimated cost of \$8 million, Vermilion Bay's proposed water treatment system may be beyond the community's financial capabilities.

"Council is concerned that what appears to be the provincial funding formula will create hardship for the municipality," said Machin Clerk Leslee Winchester.

"The government just released funds for 35 per

cent of the cost of the first engineer's report, detailing what we need to do to comply with new provincial regulations. If that same level of funding is applied to construction costs, we simply won't be able to afford it," Winchester said. The municipality has expressed their concern in letters to the Ministry of the Environment and other government agencies.

Recently, the municipali-

ty purchased 45 acres of waterfront property from CP Rail enabling it, as landowner, to qualify for government funding. An application was submitted in October for funding to construct a water reservoir and filtration plant to replace the existing facility located near the government dock.

A boil-water advisory, issued to Vermilion Bay residents in June 2000, is still

in effect. The water is chlorinated, but is not filtered to eliminate parasites such as cryptosporidium and giardia. The province is asking Ontario communities to be in compliance with new regulations by Dec. 31, 2002.

Red Lake

A similar situation exists
(continued on page 2)

Dorion bottler sees gushing success

SINCE the Walkerton disaster, water bottling plants are springing up to tap into a growing demand for "safe water."

Federal laws state that the words "spring water" cannot be used unless the water does come directly from an open spring or a bored hole into a spring.

Bottled water could come from a tap, provided the label indicates what the source was, thus making it possible for some consumers to be unaware that the source might be a lake that is not known for its clean water.

Regulators can show up and inspect an operation unannounced, but there are no stringent laws governing the lab testing done on the water by each independent bottler. Most plants have a government lab connected to their operations so that they can ensure consumers their product is safe.

There are some laws governing the labelling of the bottled water, such as the source, fluoride amounts, whether ozonization is used to sterilize the product and any other natural occurring nutrient or benefit to health that can be proved.

Local consumers may have seen bottled water from Ouimet Canyon Springs but there now is an even newer label from the Dorion area, Arabino Springs. Arabino Springs water boasts a new added prebiotic fibre extract from western larch trees that promotes a healthier digestive tract.

Having taken a year's leave of absence from his job with the Ministry of Natural Resources in 1999, Rusty Rustenburg and wife Nancy started a small water bottling operation from their home in rural Dorion.

The Rustenburgs had moved from Nipigon to Dorion and suddenly discovered that the small lake beside them was fed by 11 springs, producing the best drinking water they had tasted.

Soon the operation became too big for their home-based business, so they moved into a large building on the Trans-Canada



NIPIGON-RED ROCK
BUSINESS

**GLENA
CLEARWATER**

Highway once occupied by Smith's RV business.

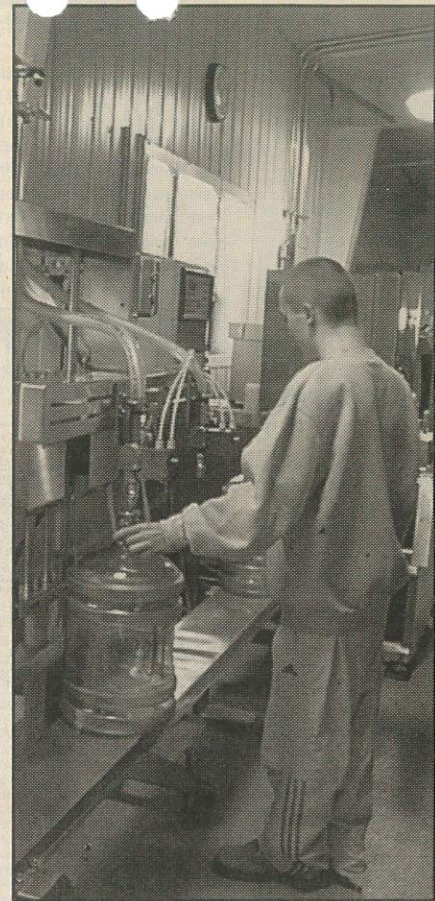
Many large orders are taken and completed in 14 hours. Smaller local orders can be done as needed so that the water is going out to the customers very fresh. Bottled water that has been sterilized by ultraviolet rays and ozonization, as theirs is, is good for up to two years.

Rusty has been to Japan for a trade show that was mind-boggling for him, showing that the Japanese are 10 years ahead of the United States and Canada with their water and food products.

He hopes his trip to Japan will lead to a contract to sell his water in that country. Tak and Kyoko Oyakawa of Nipigon set Rusty up with Japanese translators, contacted a friend to translate his brochure and gave him the information required to present himself correctly to the Japanese buyers. Just presenting your business card can make or break a deal.

Due to the growing demand and need for safe water, Rustenburg has even had calls from Egypt and Kuwait. Rustenburg ships his product to Florida and Vancouver and is looking to international spots, but his main distribution is in Northwestern Ontario, from Longlac to Marathon to Nipigon and Thunder Bay.

He had only good things to say about local businesses, as well as suppliers like Mike Strange of Wal-Mart and Don and Dave Stenzko of Quality Mart who stock his product in Thunder Bay. He has coolers in many businesses and homes, and will deliver water for coolers in two sizes.



**Ouimet Canyon Spring employee
Dennis Fortier refills one of the
cooler bottles for a customer at the
Dorion bottling plant.**

At present Ouimet Canyon Springs employs five full-time and four part-time employees.

For those of us who cannot imagine buying drinking water, consider this: At a recent trade show, a Coca Cola official was heard to remark that by 2023 that corporate giant expects its bottled water sales to be higher than its carbonated drink sales.

Chronicle - Oct 25/01

Dryden Observer - Oct 23/01

Officials discuss smoking bylaw

Coalition's letter prompts comments from Dryden councillors

By Warner Bloomfield

Let the market dictate the end of public smoking. That was Dryden city councillor Joe Delaney's argument at last week's regular council meeting.

Delaney was responding to a letter to council from Dr. Karen Mazurski, who also sits on the Coalition for a Healthy Dryden, which is pushing for a local anti-smoking bylaw.

"The market is trying to

deal with it," he said, noting a number of restaurant chains have already gone totally non-smoking and the numbers are likely to grow in the coming years.

He suggested the coalition consider finding a compromise with local restaurants, such as barring underage smokers.

Delaney also criticized the federal and provincial governments for downloading the issue on municipalities, while collecting taxes on the sale of cigarettes.

"It's a cop-out to keep throwing this down to us.

We need a long-term plan to eliminate it (smoking)," he said.

Other councillors expressed some support for the notion of an anti-smoking bylaw. Velma Silver stressed a no smoking bylaw would be a positive move in preventing young people from taking up cigarettes.

"A lot of youth are emulating their parents and other smokers," she said.

Coun. Brian Collins said that more than half of Ontario's population already reside in communi-

ties with such restrictions and suggested it is an issue that will continue to come before council.

"It's not a matter of free choice. It's a health issue. I think we will be approached again," he told council.

Dr. Mazurski noted environmental tobacco smoke is the number three cause of preventable illness and death in Ontario. Northwestern Ontario has among the highest rates of smoking and illness due to smoking in the province. ☆

Sweeping new act to give Ont. municipalities clear authority in 10 areas

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORONTO — A radical overhaul of the law that defines the relationship between Ontario and its municipalities would give local authorities new powers to shut down crack houses and implement user fees.

Under proposed changes to the Municipal Act tabled yesterday — the most sweeping revision of the legislation in 150 years — municipalities would get broad powers in 10 areas of jurisdiction.

"For the first time, it would acknowledge that municipalities are responsible, accountable governments," said Municipal Affairs Minister Chris Hodgson.

"It would formally recognize the importance of prior consultation between the province and the municipalities on matters that directly affect them."

Municipalities praised the proposed legislation as a major step forward.

"For the municipal order of government, this is truly a historic day," said Ann Mulvale, president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

"The pre-consultation is very empowering. That takes away the surprises mid-budget for us."

But critics argued the province's promise of prior consultations on mat-

tion, the issues of funding for municipalities."

The 350-page bill, three decades in the making, would replace the 1,100-page tangle of rules that have evolved over more than 100 years and would take effect Jan. 1, 2003.

It would set out areas deemed to be exclusively local in interest, and give municipalities power to act in those areas without the red tape of provincial approval.

Those areas include public utilities, transit, animal control and public highways, although prevailing provincial legislation would have to be respected.

As examples, municipalities can set rules on barbed-wire fencing or decide to lease transit vehicles without special legislation from the province.

They would also be able to shut down drug dens, biker-gang clubhouses or body-rub parlours as nuisances.

Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion praised the bill.

"Now municipalities have greater flexibility to make decisions regarding services directly relating to them with more latitude and self-determination than before," she said.

But Stu Reavie, mayor of Huron-Kinloss, was more circumspect.

"At least we've got something to read,"

"For the first time it would acknowledge that municipalities are responsible, accountable governments."

Chris Hodgson

Municipal affairs minister

Water good contrary to gov't report

Towns feel water inspection summary was misleading

BY CARL CLUTCHEY
NORTH SHORE BUREAU

Northwestern Ontario towns singled out for having faulty drinking water systems were scrambling yesterday to give some perspective to what many found to be a misleading inspection report.

"Make sure the message gets out that the water here is good to drink," Marathon town engineer Doug Brown said.

Marathon, along with Ignace, Kenora, Vermilion Bay, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout were named in the provincial report for either not meeting water quality standards, or not having enough disinfectant in their water distribution systems.

Released last Friday, the report is based on inspections of 218 Ontario water plants between April and August.

A Ministry of Environment backgrounder sets out the main reasons for failing inspections:

- Insufficient testing for bacteria and chemicals (81 failed).

fix without provincial funds.

The concern in the report about disinfectant doesn't apply to Marathon, because it has legally never added chlorine to its well water, although it will have to do so to comply with new regulations by Dec. 31, 2002.

The report also doesn't explain that Marathon nearly a year ago applied for \$1.6 million under a special provincial fund to upgrade its system to meet Ontario's new

drinking water guidelines.

Thunder Bay-Superior North MPP

Michael Gravelle says a number of municipalities have also

applied to the government's \$240-million fund, but have yet to receive word on those applications.

Gravelle says because the inspection report lacks details other than towns have failed, it makes it look like water systems are in worse shape than they really are.

"It makes it more of a scandal story, implying the towns aren't doing their jobs," Gravelle said.

In Vermilion Bay, Mayor Arno

*"Make sure the message
gets out that the water here
is good to drink."*

Doug Brown

Marathon town engineer

Chronicle - October 10/01

Health travel grant hike lacking: MPPs

BY JIM KELLY
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

A significant increase in the Northern Health Travel Grant program is a step in the right direction, but it's not enough, say local MPPs.

The province announced yesterday that medical referrals from Thunder Bay to Toronto would be compensated \$941.88 - an increase from the previous level of \$419.38.

Amounts for other Northern communities were similarly adjusted.

The increase will take effect Nov. 1, and will apply to residents living in the districts of Thunder Bay, Rainy River, Kenora, Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Muskoka, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury and Timiskaming.

"The improvements made to the Northern Health Travel Grant program exemplify our government's continued commitment to provide quality health care to every person in Ontario," Health and Long-Term Care Minister Tony Clement said yesterday.

"It's not enough," said MPP Michael Gravelle (L-Thunder

McLeod (L-Thunder Bay-Atikokan).

"This announcement is the result of one of the most effective lobbying campaigns ever waged by Northerners," she said.

McLeod said more than 40,000 residents of Northern Ontario signed a petition criticizing the travel grant.

While the improvement represents a more than 100-per-cent hike, the provincial Liberals during the last election campaign proposed only a 50-per-cent increase.

During an editorial board meeting yesterday at The Chronicle-Journal, McGuinty said his party would review the travel grant program if the

"This announcement is the result of one of the most effective lobbying campaigns ever waged by Northerners."

Lyn McLeod

Thunder Bay Atikokan MPP

Liberals form the government.

Later, during an interview at the Valhalla Inn, he said the increase by the Tories is not adequate.

He would also like to have the government pay full travel expenses for cancer patients from the North travelling to southern Ontario for treatment.

Cancer patients from southern Ontario coming to Thunder Bay for radiation treatment had all

Chronicle - Oct 12/01

Pickle Lake

By Graeme Mackechnie

Continued from page 4

communities could be invited down to participate. Perhaps when the Northern ice roads are fully open people could drive down to

Pickle Lake, cutting their communities' cost!

My condolences to Dennis Neshinapaise. Dennis' 12-year-old sister committed suicide in Summer Beaver.

On a lighter note, Linda and Kelvin are tying the knot that binds this Saturday.

Sadly again, this is Diane Murray's last week to work at our Post Office. Diane is off to work in Ignace at their Post Office leaving

behind her one and only son.

Helen Grace had a boy Benjamin Andrew on Sept. 20 - 8lbs. 11oz. Jocelyn and Donny Muckuck had a baby Tyrell Lance Sept. 20 - 8lbs. 6oz. Welcome to ex-Fort Hope residents Joyce and Charles Boyce - I understand that Charles is a budding author and is now working at Wasaya Airways as well.

Pickle Lake

By Graeme Mackenzie

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Work has started at the airport on the new MNR facility, warehouse and offices. The Township would like to acquire the downtown property. It appears that the MNR is reluctant to give up this prime location but prefers to keep it and build a housing facility for their fire crews on it.

Eleven people showed up for the beach front clean-up. That is a pretty good showing for Pickle Lake. Thanks to all contributors!

Thanks to Fred Gould and family, new Pickle residents, and an addition to the ranks of volunteer Pickle Lake workers.

Bob and Fern Beliski had a visit from their daughter and youngest grandchild two weeks ago.

Pickle Lake is in the process of selecting a new clerk/treasurer; there are another four communities in our vicinity who are or will soon be looking to fill similar positions—so if you are looking for a career and cannot afford medical school, take the AMCTO course and the municipal world will be your apple.

A suicide prevention course was put on in Pickle Lake — 26 in and out of town people attended the sessions. Bev Hickey said the course was so great he would like to see it put on in Pickle Lake again. Knowing a course date in the future, workers from the northern First Nations

Continued on page 9

ix Bulletin - Oct 10 / 01

Another key player resigns

Dryden city clerk retiring after 19 years on the job

BY BRYAN MEADOWS
NORTHWEST BUREAU

Still searching for a new city manager, Dryden faces the retirement of yet another veteran administrator.

Council yesterday accepted the resignation of city clerk Linda Lemieux.

Some councillors joked that they weren't going to vote in favour of the motion authorizing her retirement after almost 19 years of service to the city.

Coun. Brian England said the city will miss Lemieux "greatly."

"It has been a pleasure to know her and work with her," he said.

Coun. Joe Delaney said Lemieux has been "extremely patient . . . and important" in helping him prepare and carry out his duties as a new city councillor.

Lemieux is retiring on Dec. 31.

Mayor Sid Wintle said council is still reviewing candidates for city manager's job following the resignation of Jamie Umpleby in the spring.

In the interim, council has hired Art Wellington, a former manager with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

Wintle said Wellington brings "vast experience" from the ministry post.

In other council business last night:

- Council authorized the closure of the Dryden Children's Resource Centre on Oct. 22 for a staff development day, and between Dec. 24 to Jan. 4 for staff holidays.

A report reviewed by council stated that it's "cost efficient" to close the centre during the Christmas break due to low enrollment.

- The skate-sharpening service at the city-run arena will be shut down until the recreation department receives a suitable tender to operate it.

Council agreed with recreation director Darlene Perrett that the service be eliminated temporarily.

The Dryden Recreation Complex has received two tenders to operate the service, but both failed to meet certain terms and conditions, Perrett said.

She said that shutting down the service "may spark some interest by an individual or business in Dryden" to operate it.

Chronicle - Oct 2/01

Recruitment tour success

Two of Dryden's representatives at Ontario's annual health professionals recruitment tour last week in southern Ontario expressed some optimism yesterday after their return. Dr. Patty Vann, Mayor Sid Wintle and Darlene Furlong, director of patient services, touched base with medical and other health care professional students at job fairs held in Kingston, Ottawa, London, Hamilton and Toronto.

In Dr. Vann's view, the numbers of students encountered may have been down a little from previous years, but the interest was greater.

"There was more genuine interest in practising in rural communities," she said. "People are starting to hear about us."

Dr. Vann said she made good contacts with gradu-

ates who might be interested in working as locums or in the emergency department. She also renewed acquaintance with some residents who had been in Dryden on placements.

"We went out to lunch; it's important to get them in touch with each other as well," she explained.

She mentioned that Darlene Furlong also had a good response from occupational therapists, physiotherapists and others in the health care field.

The next step is to follow up, Dr. Vann said. "The tour is just a beginning. Now we have to follow up with the names we have on file."

Mayor Wintle agreed. "We need to use those names and addresses on file and establish contact again."

Wintle had high praise for Dr. Vann. "She's a great representative of Dryden

and the medical community. She even went the extra mile and took some out to lunch."

Wintle, who went on the tour for the first time, found that Dryden's recruitment efforts may be hampered in one respect.

"We are a fee-for-service community and a lot of the medical graduates especially want a salary. It's tough for us because salaries only apply to communities, for example, with seven or fewer doctors."

He added that "we have to get our act together and work together to make it go."

A total of 85 communities and organizations participated in this year's tour. ★

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