

government refused to allow an increase in large industrial taxes. The city initially proposed an across-the-board tax increase of 2.25 per cent. According to Bill 140, Dryden's tax ratios between residential and industrial are too high. They currently stand at 1:4.3628. The province insists they be no more than 1:2.63.

"We can't increase industrial taxes this year. Under current circumstances, we may not be able to for 10 years or until residential rates double," Mayor Wintle explained.

In addition, last year's property assessment reduced the value of Dryden's industrial sector, adversely affecting tax revenues.

That property assessment also affected the commercial sector, city treasurer Paul Heayn noted.

Of the more than 300 commercial properties in Dryden, 212 saw values reduced in the assessment. That means

which, overall, was not

he explained.

Also affecting rate payers' overall tax bills are education taxes. The provincial government this year cut those rates substantially. As a result, total residential and commercial tax rates are increasing by 2.1 per cent.

That means that on a \$100,000 house, the total tax bill will go up by \$24.34. On a \$150,000 home, taxes will rise by \$36.51.

On a \$400,000 commercial assessment, the increase is \$273.27. On a \$100,000 assessment, the increase is \$68.25.

Heayn added he was not as pessimistic about future budgets, as were the council members.

"I don't think we'll need any more tax increases. With this increase, we'll be able to manage next year," he said. ★

AA187

May 2/01

IE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

RED LAKE

Town eyes growth

BY BRYAN MEADOWS
NORTHWEST BUREAU

The Municipality of Red Lake is looking to expand westward.

Council has asked the Ministry of Municipal Affairs for permission to begin an environmental assessment process to annex about 900 square kilometres of land between the west end of the municipality and Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

Mayor Dunc Wilson said the land base holds promise.

"There is a lot of potential for another mine in that area and we'd like to take advantage of every opportunity," he said.

"We'd also like to abut the park and make the primary access to the park through Red lake."

Town administrator Brian Anderson said the municipality has to take advantage of every opportunity.

"With all the downloading, we have to do something" to expand the local prop-

Chronicle - May 4/01

Only the sober, literate to get welfare in Ontario

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORONTO — Starting next year, welfare recipients in Ontario must be sober and able to read and write in order to collect their cheques.

The addicted will not be helped by the government unless they agree to go to rehab. The illiterate must go to school.

And the number of people on welfare forced to work for their benefits will double.

"Sitting at home and doing nothing is no longer an option,"

Social Services Minister John Baird stressed yesterday.

"Our program will be mandatory and those who refuse treatment will cause themselves to be ineligible for welfare."

Drug and literacy testing and mandatory treatment was shot down by social and poverty activists when it was first proposed by Ontario's Conservatives last year.

It is viewed by many as an infringement of rights and punitive toward those who are poor.

But Baird says alcoholics and drug addicts cannot "answer the call of a prospective employer."

Those who cannot read and write would also have difficulty finding work, or keeping it, he says.

"If a welfare recipient can't pass a basic language and math test, they will be offered help," said Baird.

"If they refuse help, they will have made themselves ineligible for welfare in Ontario."

Chris Higgins, an addictions' specialist who runs the province's Federation of Community Mental Health and Addiction Programs, says most addicts cannot be forced to get clean.

Treatment on a voluntary basis gets much better results.

Better, he says, for the government to put the money it would spend forcing the belligerent to get sober on reducing waiting lists for those who do want help.

Just as helpful would be money to pay for job training and caretaking for the children of those on welfare.

Minister aware of municipal problems

Newman addresses NOMA delegates in Fort Frances

By Warner Bloomfield
FORT FRANCES — The provincial government is aware of the difficulties facing Northern Ontario municipalities due to Bill 153, the Municipalities Act. Minister of Northern Development and Mines

Dan Newman acknowledged the tax complications for single-industry towns, while meeting with delegates to last weekend's Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association meeting in Fort Frances.

"The reassessment is

having an effect on single-industry communities," Newman said, adding he is confident the Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is aware of local concerns.

Like Dryden, many other communities in northwestern Ontario saw their industrial assessment drop while the province imposed restrictions on the ability to increase tax rates in that sector.

The result is a greater tax burden placed on residential rate payers.

Neither Newman nor John O'Toole, Flaherty's parliamentary assistant, promised any solutions.

"After the budget there could be some measures," O'Toole said, observing cabinet received a report on the impact of reassessment last week.

Also participating in the Friday afternoon bearpit session were parliamentary assistants Toby Barrett, Ministry of Natural Resources, and Gary Stewart, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

The government members discussed such mat-

ters as the recently announced Northern Medical School, gas costs and funding for a water treatment plant in Golden.

Newman assured delegates the planned medical school will include a bricks and mortar component, as well as electronic learning.

"Let's not have a made in Southern Ontario model imposed on Northern Ontario," he said.

Later in the day, Thunder Bay MPP Michael Gravelle mentioned the significance of the announced medical school, but stressed Northern Ontario should not stop pressing the government.

"I think it's appropriate to keep asking the Ministry of Health for co-locations at Lakehead and Laurentian Universities," he said.

In regards to gas prices, both Newman and O'Toole argued the solution rests with the federal government.

Newman stated that since the GST is applied to gasoline prices, the federal government benefits from the high costs. ☆

NAN still at odds with council

Part of main street improvement plan riles area native leaders

BY BRYAN MEADOWS
NORTHWEST BUREAU

Sioux Lookout-district native leaders will meet next week in Thunder Bay to discuss a rift between Sioux Lookout council and Nishnawbe-Aski Nation.

NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy said yesterday that area chiefs will discuss comments made by some town councillors which he claims "perpetuate a negative stereotype of aboriginal people."

In a tersely-worded news release two weeks ago, Beardy criticized comments made by the mayor and a councillor about a proposal to return aboriginal street people to their home communities.

The proposal is part of the report Front Street Improvement Project. Authored by a citizens committee, it makes recommendations aimed at preventing drunkenness and loitering on the town's main street.

Beardy referred to a letter sent later by Mayor John McDonald to First Nation chiefs as "damage control . . . (that) can not erase the racist overtones of (an April 19 CBC) interview" about the report.

"(In most towns) marginalized people, street people and people with addictions or mental illness . . . are considered a community responsibility requiring so-

SIoux LOOKOUT

cial support systems. However, in Sioux Lookout they are regarded as outsiders to be gotten rid of," Beardy said.

Beardy said all meetings in Sioux Lookout scheduled by NAN, some tribal councils and Sioux Lookout-area chiefs have been suspended until First Nation leaders decide how to respond to the issue.

McDonald said Beardy has misunderstood the intent of the report's recommendation aimed at helping someone in trouble return home.

McDonald reiterated that view yesterday.

"We've always had a good relationship" with area First Nations, he said. "We still have, and want to continue to have, that relationship."

McDonald said he wants to meet with Beardy to go over his concerns.

"There's nothing personal behind this . . . the media has blown it out of proportion," he said.

Beardy said aboriginal organizations contribute about \$55 million annually to the Sioux Lookout economy.

"We need to talk about this situation. Perhaps we should be spending our money where we are sure there is a welcome mat out," Beardy said.

McDonald said a decision to help a person return home would be "a mutually agreed upon arrangement with (their respective) First Nation leaders."

"We're not about to force anyone . . . (or) give them a ticket home," he said earlier.

"But if they are out of money and/or in trouble, we want to help. . . . We have seen some awful situations."

Instead of "shipping First Nation people back home," Beardy said the focus should be on poverty, homelessness, addiction and social dislocation.

Other recommendations in the Front Street report call for:

- Town bylaws be reviewed to limit loitering.
- Bar hours to be adjusted.
- Efforts to be made to increase First Nation involvement in solving problems.
- The town to support beautification projects on Front Street.
- The OPP to step up community policing and foot patrols in the area.

Sioux Lookout provincial police have cited the "self-destructive behaviour" sometimes witnessed on Front Street for an almost 20-per-cent jump in liquor violations and disturbances officers responded to last year.



Pickle Lake

By Graeme Mackechnie

I HAVE been away and I apologize for not producing a column. I have had inquiries – “Where is your article?”

My answer, “Show me the news.” So a little will be old news.

Canterra Mining is com-

ing in to mine the Crow. They are expecting to mill 250 tons a day. The first step will be to meet in Sioux Lookout with the government bodies which will be followed by public meetings in Mishkeegogamang and Pickle Lake.

Mishkeegogamang held the grand opening of their new school on April 19. Bob Nault, our M.P., was up to officiate. Even our old mayor – I mean Jim – was there.

We have topped 63,000 bottles in our bottle return drive, an indicator which would seem to go hand in hand with empty bottles – over 1000 lock-ups since Jan. 1.

There are no winter burials in Pickle Lake. Pickle Lake is not unique in this aspect but if it is a concern to you, contact the Township Office, present your solution and your concerns.

I know spring is here in spite of the snow falling because the sea gulls are back in force. They're

hanging around the northern shore too.

Wednesday our mail truck did not make it in because of an accident outside Dryden. No mail for only the second time in 20 years. Actually the first time since I've been working for Canada Post and I won't have it happen again!

Our condolences to Pickle Lake residents Gord and Shirley Fedack on the loss of their granddaughter Lindsay.

The Pickle Lake millionaire – now an Ignace resident – was up to visit. He stayed with Abby Brazeau so I can imagine it was shovel time – must have been piled at least three feet deep. I understand Bob may finally have a buyer

for his trailer in Pickle.

Wasaya Airlines landed a couple of choice contracts and will be adding two more Pilatuses to their fleet.

Winston Koval celebrated his 34th birthday and has his house up for sale – does wisdom come with age?

Mike “Freight” Menard celebrated another as well and is still waiting for his friends to send presents – preferably something you can eat.

Now to old news. Harry Ash was our second death this year from exposure, another tragic and avoidable death.

Substance abuse will be the topic for another focus group and hopefully we can get Chief Ronald Roundhead to be in our advisory group – we need a lot of support to be recognized by the federal government.

My condolences also to the family of the late Christine Panacheese, a much respected Osnaburgh elder recently deceased.

Wasaya bids adieu to Kyle Kopey and welcomes aboard Alberto Alexander Terry Bather and Phyll Seaton.

Remember, Adult Fun Night has moved to Thursday at the community hall at 7:30 – pool, cards, ping-pong, foose ball and air hockey.

MNR is back on the job. We had two early burns – one in Oz and one near the trailer court.

I see that there was m land for sale on Lake St. Joe – tourist outfitters won't be happy. Our cottage lots on Kapikichi should be ready for sale this fall. I'd like to see some lots opened on Pickle Lake. Maybe if sales go well on Kap we can look at this for a later project.

28.8.7

News

Sioux Lookout Bulletin

Learning that a northern medical school happen is great news

front NORMS pro- road public ill result in a ne. nouncement is of the hard of people e concept of ical school. g support of orthern On- vision of a designed to cians for rural and re- nities, has tal in mak-

ing the case. I commend the government and all our supporters for making the vision attainable. Lakehead and Laurentian Universities will ensure that the Northern Ontario Rural Medical School provides high quality, innovative and meaningful education to medical students looking to focus their commitment to the underserved areas of Ontario," said Dr. Fred Gilbert, President of Lakehead University.

Lakehead University and Laurentian University came together to propose the establishment of the Northern Ontario Rural Medical School based on the McKendry Report, released in 1999. The McKendry Report included in its findings that the Ontario Government should consider creating a new medical school in rural medicine with a specific mission to attract students who are interested in working in the province's small,

rural and remote communities.

"Knowing that a northern medical school will happen is great news," said Gilbert. "Lakehead University will work with the province to ensure that the NORMS model we have developed with Laurentian University and with the involvement of Nipissing University, and which has the support of the people of both Northeastern and Northwestern Ontario, is the "made-in-Northern Ontario" solution selected. This is a wonderful opportunity to create a medical school that incorporates the values and vision of ensuring the provision of adequate and appropriate health care to the north. Lakehead and Laurentian Universities and our partners, will continue to work as hard as we have over the past year and a half to convince the Ontario government that NORMS is the best solution for the

new "made-in-Northern Ontario" medical school."

News of the approval of a northern medical school comes a few days before the First International Symposium on Northern and Rural Medical Education, which will be held in Sudbury on May 27, presented by Northern Ontario Mayor's Coalition in partnership with Lakehead and Laurentian Universities. The symposium will be broadcast to conference sites in Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, Timmins and Parry Sound. The event will feature leaders in the field of rural and remote medical education from Finland, Australia, Norway, the United States and Canada. Local and international deans of medicine and other medical experts will discuss the design and development of rural medical schools and teaching models in their respective countries.

Northern medical school gets government go ahead

Harmen Meinders.
STAFF WRITER

May 9/01
SL Bulletin

A "made-in-Northern Ontario" medical school was given the go-ahead last month in a speech from Dan Newman, the Ontario Minister of Northern Development and Mines. Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and Laurentian University in Sudbury have received the support of the Ontario government to establish a decentralized multi-campus medical school, the Northern Ontario Rural Medical School, on both campuses. The northern medical school will use the latest "e-learning" technology and will work to retain doctors in the region.

Dr. Terry O'Driscoll said she was excited to hear the announcement. "I was ecstatic when it was announced," said O'Driscoll, the Chief of Staff at the Sioux Lookout District Health Centre. "I'm

looking forward to it. I'm hoping the presence of at least a part of a medical school in Thunder Bay will promote health care in the region in general."

O'Driscoll also said between the clinic and the hospital there are 25-30 training months completed every year and that number may now go up. She added that more specialists may be attracted to the region with the opening of the new school.

The government stated that they are committed to a northern medical school, but at this time they have not provided any details of the new school. NORMS is the medical school model developed by Lakehead and Laurentian Universities with the assistance of Nipissing University, to deliver rural and northern medical education partially via e-learning technology. Lakehead University remains optimistic that the inherent

See **KNOWING** on page 6

May 12/01

Ex-Marathon mayor charged

BY CARL CLUTCHEY
NORTH SHORE BUREAU

Former Marathon mayor Don McKay has been charged with one count of breach of trust relating to the awarding of a town contract when he was still in the mayor's chair back in 1994.

As a result of an 11-month anti-rackets investigation, McKay, 46, is accused of having a personal interest in a local computer company that was on the receiving end of town business.

McKay, a former bank employee and financial planner, served two terms as mayor before deciding not to run again in 1997.

He could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Some councillors who served with McKay said they were aware of a possible conflict-of-interest situation in 1994, but said it wasn't up to them to raise the

matter.

The investigation by the OPP's anti-racket section is based on a complaint by a Marathon resident that came forward only last year.

OPP Sgt. Debora Tully-Waffler said even though the incident allegedly took place seven years ago, the OPP still had an obligation to look into it.

"We're not out on a witch-hunt," Tully-Waffler said yesterday. "Our responsibility is to act on information when we get it."

Tully-Waffler said 11 months is a typical length of time for an anti-rackets probe.

McKay is currently general manager of the federally funded Superior North Community Development Corporation, which provides loans to North Shore businesses.

He is to appear in Marathon provincial court July 11.



Don McKay

Taxes could jump as high as 12%

BY CARL CLUTCHEY
NORTH SHORE BUREAU

About 160 Marathon ratepayers could face tax increases of up to 12 per cent this year, even though the town isn't taking in more revenue than it did in 2000.

And water rates are being hiked 30 per cent to cover new costs for testing drinking water and adding chlorine.

The increases are part of an approved 2001 budget that will generate \$5.3 million from homeowners, small businesses and industries.

That's the same amount as last year's levy, but the town had to take it from a tax base that's been dramatically reduced by \$18 million.

That translated into a revenue short-

MARATHON

fall of about \$560,000.

To make up for that, town managers rejigged local tax ratios and some property owners who saw property values rise or stay the same will likely pay more this year.

Homeowners will take the hit because the province has put a cap on how much the town can tax the local pulp mill and three gold mines.

For example, a homeowner currently paying \$1,500 for a three-bedroom home could get dinged with another \$150 a year if the value of the house stayed the same under the latest provincial assessment.

Others, due to changing values of their homes, may see a decrease by the

time tax bills go out later this year.

Mayor Pat Richardson, who saw the value of her home in the older part of town drop \$5,000 in the last assessment, said she expects to pay about \$5 less in taxes in 2001.

Richardson said the town is pretty lean from an operations standpoint.

She said she can't imagine trimming the budget further to reduce the burden for those facing tax hikes in the range of 10 per cent or more.

"We offer very little (in services) as it is," Richardson said yesterday.

Further cuts, Richardson warned, would impact on recreational services, which account for 17 per cent of town expenditures

Businesswoman Iris Sullivan, who ran against Richardson in last fall's election, said she can't believe the town can't find other ways to save money.

"No one can say they can't become more efficient," said Sullivan, who was irked by the water increase and suggested politicians start by trimming their salaries.

The town has \$3 million in reserve funds but will need the money to help pay for sewer and water upgrades, expected to cost about \$400,000 annually over the next seven years.

A manager's report says the town will be debt-free by 2002, freeing up \$620,000 the following year.

Chronicle - May 14/01

AT A GLANCE

WEATHER

A2



24°/6°

Chance of showers

UPROAR

First Nation slams agent's hiring / A5

'Betrayal' in med school plan: MPP

BY JIM KELLY
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

A local MPP raised allegations of a "backroom" deal after Sudbury got a full-fledged rural medical school and Thunder Bay didn't.

"There has to have been some lobbying by someone," MPP Lyn McLeod (L-Thunder Bay-Atikokan), said yesterday.

"I don't know how else it could have happened. There had to have been some backroom stuff."

The "it" McLeod was referring to was the fact Laurentian Uni-

versity in Sudbury will have the main campus of the medical school while Lakehead University will get a satellite clinical campus.

MPP Michael Gravelle (L-Thunder Bay-Superior North) also sensed something was amiss behind the scenes.

"There was a clear co-operation between LU and Laurentian and both communities to put forward a united proposal that would have co-campuses," he said.

"Clearly something happened. There was a betrayal somewhere.

"The government either betrayed us on their own or someone acted behind the scenes to influence the government."

Sudbury Mayor Jim Gordon said he's been too busy over the past six weeks to be concerned about the medical school.

"The chamber of commerce has been fighting me tooth and nail over some local projects," Gordon said yesterday from Sudbury.

Gordon said he agreed with other Northern mayors on the format of the medical school — that it would be an equal partner-

ship between LU and Laurentian. "That was our proposal but the government still calls the shots. The government made that decision."

Gordon said he understands the disappointment of LU president Fred Gilbert, Mayor Ken Boshcoff and the other proponents that LU will get only a satellite campus.

"Things don't always turn out the way we want them to.

"You don't always get the shiny new bike you wanted. It may be the wrong colour, or it may not

even be new. But it's still a bike.

"We have to look at what does this mean to the people of the North."

"The bottom line in all this was to get better health care for the North and doctors trained in the North," Gordon said.

"It (medical school) will provide doctors trained in the North who will make a big impact on the health of our people.

"It will offer opportunities for our businesses that are connected with health care."

• Continued on page A3

Opportunity for 'a medical school we want to see'

• Continued from page A1

Gordon said the medical school would also attract aboriginal students who would remain in the North once they graduate.

Gordon said he, some other Northern mayors, the president of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities and others are coming to Thunder Bay next Wednesday to meet local proponents of the medical school.

"I see the opportunity for all of us to develop a medical school we want to see," he said.

"We should sit down (next week) and

develop a business plan and get on with it."

The school will admit 55 undergraduates in 2004 with 20 of the 55 students moving to Lakehead to complete two years of clinical training in 2006. The other 35 will stay at Laurentian for clinical training.

If LU got the full four-year medical program, the students would have the opportunity to do the clinical aspects of their studies at the new regional acute care hospital which will be completed by late next year, said Thunder Bay Regional Hospital president Ron Saddington.

med school reduced to satellite site

Dryden Observer - May 22/01

By Sylvia Veal

There was a definite feeling of betrayal among Lakehead University administrators and northwestern Ontario municipal leaders after last Thursday's announcement concerning a Northern Ontario Medical School.

The Ontario government elected to ignore the past two years of preparation and co-operation by Laurentian and Lakehead Universities, which resulted in the Northern Ontario Rural Medical School model (NORMS). This proposal of a twin campus school, which would specialize in training medical students for practice in underserved rural and remote areas, was bypassed in favour of a medical school with a main site at Sudbury and a "clinical education campus" in Thunder Bay.

While still optimistic about the province's commitment to develop a northern medical school, Dr. Fred Gilbert, Lakehead University president, said the government's decision abandoned the NORMS concept and its many supporters throughout Northern Ontario.

"Without a fully functioning medical school campus in Thunder Bay, northwestern Ontario's physician shortage may not be addressed adequately," he stated.

NORMS had the backing of both universities, the Northern Mayors Coalition, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, aboriginal organizations, physicians' groups and business leaders.

One of those very closely involved in the development of the NORMS model called it a sad day for northwestern Ontario and a cutting-edge approach to med-

ical education in the north.

Dr. John Whitfield, Lakehead vice-president of research and development, termed the clinical education campus term "non-sense", in an interview May 17, adding that a program of two years' lectures, followed by two years' clinical training isn't done in medical schools.

Some positives

Dr. Carl Eisener of Dryden, an executive member of the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, said he understands the disappointment of Thunder Bay people, who were hoping to be full, equal partners, but he sees some positives in the government plan, based on the Expert Panel report.

"There are still more positives than negatives," he said in an interview, May 18. He named these as: the extra 120 medical students to be admitted across Ontario, at least 55 of whom will be trained in the north; and the increase of post-graduate training positions by up to 25 in northern and rural communities, starting in 2002, to give family medicine trainees enhanced skills.

As for negatives, Dr. Eisener said, "Fifty-five is too small to make a dent in the doctor shortage." He hopes other medical schools in the province would incorporate some rural study as well. "I'm afraid that won't happen," he said.

Nishnawbe-Aski grand Chief Stan Beardy commented in a news release, that the prospect of more doctors who will stay in the north is positive.

He said the large aboriginal population and their needs, that will be serviced

(continued on page 2)

Med school reduced to satellite site

(continued from page 1),
by doctors, must be considered. "It is vital that the new school properly accommodates this demographic, in terms of enabling aboriginal student enrolment and servicing aboriginal patients," he stated. ☆

Council votes to increase municipal service fees and property taxes

Mac Olsen
STAFF WRITER

COUNCIL voted to increase municipal service fees and property taxes at its monthly meeting on May 16.

There will be increases for water usage for Sioux Lookout and Hudson residents and garbage bag tag fees for urban Sioux Lookout residents. Property taxes will increase by four per cent and there will also be a fee increase for the municipal daycare service.

"The tax increases are the result of a reduction in unconditional grants and increased costs, including the downloading

of costs by the province," said Treasurer Phyllis Wills. The increased costs are related to social housing, police services, the Northwestern Health Unit and the ambulance service, she said.

Council voted to increase water rates for Sioux Lookout and Hudson residents by 20 per cent effective July 1, and by another 20 per cent effective Jan. 1, 2002.

Wills explained that the water rate increases are necessary to eliminate the deficits of the Sioux Lookout and Hudson water utilities. The deficits resulted because of increased monitoring and testing requirements in 2000.

The rate increases will also help to increase the municipality's capital reserve for on-going capital projects, Wills added.

She also noted the \$3.85 surcharge residential customers pay is to service municipal debt that was generated for water pressure booster stations and new water mains for the new school and other areas of Sioux Lookout.

Council also voted to raise the cost of garbage bag tags for urban Sioux Lookout residents to \$2.00 per bag, which will become effective June 1.

Wills explained the fee increase will go towards the next phase of a 100 per cent user-

See INCREASED on page 7

Sioux Lookout Bulletin
May 23rd

Increased daycare fees

Continued from front

pay system. The new system, which will include the opening of a new landfill, is expected to be in place within a year.

Kresin Engineering is reviewing different options for garbage pickup in both urban and rural Sioux Lookout.

Property taxes have been increased by four per cent. Council also voted to decrease the industrial ratio from 3.059 to 2.63 for industrial properties. The industrial property tax dollar will be redistributed to all other tax classes with this change, Wills said. Industrial properties will also be subject to the four per cent increase.

Council also voted to increase the daily registration fees for the Norah Love and Biidaaban Daycare Centres by 50 cents in September 2001 and by another 50 cents in January 2002.

Coun. Rob McClendon commented at the May 8 Public Services Committee meeting that the fee increases bring the municipality's fees into line with the Kenora District Service Board's policies.

McClendon also commented that the municipality would like to keep the costs low, but the municipality has to offset its costs to ensure the day care centres continue to be operational.

Wills is preparing an information package that will provide a more detailed explanation of why the tax increases and municipal fee increases are necessary. The information package will also give a breakdown of how the municipality spends the money.

New paramedics program welcome

Land ambulance director sees regional training potential for staff retention

By Warner Bloomfield

A new paramedics program at Confederation College's Kenora campus is a very positive sign for the Kenora District Services Board's land ambulance service.

Peter Marshall, who became the service's director last week, said in an interview, he looks at the program in the same light as the recently announced Northern Medical School.

"I think it will be a great asset. If local kids out of high school are trained here and start working in the area, they are much more likely to stay," he said, stressing retaining paramedics is a large issue facing the service.

The Ministry of Health recently announced all paramedics require specific training and certification. While Marshall does not disagree with the regulations, he said the new rules virtually eliminate the use of volunteer ambulance attendants.

At the same time, the dis-



Peter Marshall is head of the Kenora District Services Board's land ambulance service. *Staff photo*

trict has a hard time competing with Southern Ontario for paramedics, who are very much in demand there.

Marshall is still familiarizing himself with much of his job's details. He is responsible for coordinating all the land ambulance services for the Kenora district. This means he is in charge of 84 staff, including

managers and supervisors, plus a \$5.19 million budget.

Among his initial challenges is negotiating a new deal with the Canadian Union of Public Employees, which now represents all the paramedics.

"I think it helps having one union. It will mean standardized contract language," he said.

Marshall was previously director of the Mary Berglund Community Health Centre in Ignace. He was assistant executive director of the Margaret Cochenour Hospital in Red Lake prior to that.

On top of working with Confederation College to establish the new paramedics course, Marshall is also preparing for a scheduled certification process with the Ministry of Health later this summer.

"It will make sure we are meeting all the standards set out," he said.

The district services board took over administration of the land ambulance service at the beginning of the year, after failing to reach contract agreements with regional hospitals. ☆

Municipal employee charged of fraud

Red Lake municipal employee has
been charged with fraud over \$5,000.

Local police said yesterday that
the charge stems from a six-month in-
vestigation into financial irregularities
discovered during a forensic audit.
The alleged fraud involves more than
\$5,000, police said.

Jayne, 43, of Balmertown, will
appear in Red Lake court on Aug. 30. She
is a licensing clerk in the municipi-

ty. Local officials refused comment
on her employment status when
asked yesterday.

Sioux Lookout Bulletin

May 23/01

of operations, airport manager, utilities manager and the facilities manager. This policy will reduce the number of municipal vehicles required. Chief Administrative Officer John Baird said the municipality has to pay \$800 per month for each vehicle it leases.

Municipal vehicle requirements

Council voted to offer payment of \$250 per month to senior municipal managers for the use of their personal vehicles for full-time, regular in-town business. Any out-of-town business will be compensated at the regular rate, currently 32.5 cents per kilometre. This will only be applicable to the roads manager, the director

Sudbury backs Lakehead

Continued from page A1

Under Bay Mayor Ken Boshcoff's leadership, the fundamental fact of the . . . proposal is a dual campus with an equal partnership and the entire meeting had its goal," Boshcoff said.

Sudbury Mayor Jim Gordon said he will work toward that concept. "We will work toward that concept."

Gordon said future meetings with the same will work toward that concept. "We will work toward that concept."

Gordon said future meetings with the same will work toward that concept. "We will work toward that concept."

principles of the (original) proposal," Gordon said.

Nishnawbe-Aski deputy grand chief Goyce Kakegamic said NAN endorses the proposal.

Kakegamic, who missed the meeting because there was a mixup about the starting time, said First Nations want to be included in governance of the school and want input into its curriculum.

There should also be a guaranteed number of places for First Nations students, he added.

Kakegamic said specialists teaching at the school would have the opportunity to examine aboriginal health issues such as diabetes and suicide.

A Health spokesman said the ministry

is prepared to fund a medical school with a main campus at Laurentian and a clinical campus at Lakehead.

"That's the decision of the government at this time," said Gord Haugh, press secretary to Health Minister Tony Clement.

Haugh said the province will appoint a consultant to look at the option presented by Clement last week.

"He'll take input from anywhere he can get it," Haugh said.

"If he comes back with a proposal (other than the one presented), we'll consider it."

Haugh said the consultant's deadline is the end of this year.

Lakehead still has a shot at med school

BY JIM KELLY
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Lakehead University may get an equal partnership in a Northern Ontario rural medical school.

The anger, disappointment and frustration over last week's government announcement that essentially shut Lakehead out of the proposal gave way to cautious optimism yesterday following an in-camera meeting at the Travelodge Hotel Airline.

The Northern Ontario Mayors' Coalition, representatives of Lakehead and Sudbury's Laurentian University, and municipal groups and agencies in the North discussed the announcement and development of a business plan.

The laughter and cheers heard outside the room were proof that something positive was happening.

The consensus is to develop a

business plan for the school consistent with the original proposal which includes a dual campus medical school at Lakehead and Laurentian, a statement says.

The government deviated from the plan, announcing the main campus would be at Sudbury while Lakehead would be home to a satellite clinical campus.

"We have a re-commitment to the original . . . proposal," said Lakehead president Fred Gilbert, one of the outspoken critics of the government concept.

Gilbert appeared optimistic the door is not completely shut on his school.

"There was a willingness today to develop a business plan that is consistent with what we expected," he said.

Despite the unanimous support for the original proposal, Gilbert said the final decision rests with the province.

• Continued on page A3

Chronicle - May 24/01

Medical grads rural sites

ICICLE-JOURNAL

Northwestern Ontario Family
Residency Program has pro-
duces in the class of 2001.

These doctors will practise in
rural and remote areas of
many of which are suffering
physician shortages.

Graduates were honoured this
at ceremonies and an awards
dinner for teaching physicians at
the Bay Country Club.

Training family doctors and med-
ical students were involved in medical
across Northwestern Ontario.
The program has a strong track
of preparing family physicians
for rural and remote practice.
For this, it was awarded the Keith
Award by the Society of Rural Physi-
cians in Canada for the most effective
family medicine program
in 2001.

Tracking shows that about 70
graduates enter practice in
rural communities across

Survey needs help from business

NORTHWEST BUREAU

Dryden's economic development office wants the hard data on what freight is shipped north to First Nation communities.

The office has initiated a survey to find out the amount of freight that is being shipped and how frequently, economic development officer Jim Dayman said.

"We know that a lot of businesses are shipping to remote First Nations," Dayman said, adding the freight gets there by ground transportation

from the city to Sioux Lookout or Pickle Lake.

He suggested there's probably enough volume to negotiate with an air carrier to fly freight directly out of Dryden.

"It's a question of getting the hard numbers to work with," he said.

Dayman said the last time the office tried compiling such data, it didn't get enough information to make the concept feasible.

Dryden-area businesses can participate in the survey by contacting Dayman at 224-4100.

Chronicle - June 11/01

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Ontario opens doors to foreign MDs

BY JIM KELLY
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

The Chronicle-Journal has learned the province will announce a plan today to fast track foreign-trained physicians for underserved areas.

According to the plan, 40 positions will be created to allow doctors practising outside Canada to get their licences in Ontario in as little as six months.

Foreign-trained doctors now have to pass licensing exams and then get in line for a handful of

residency positions, which can take years to get.

The doctors will be assessed over a six-month period and if they don't need further training, they will be allowed to practise in rural and underserved areas.

However, the government will stipulate the doctors must be sponsored by a community and they must go there when they get their licence.

Doctors who require additional training will get their licences once that training is completed. This may take up to a year.

Further details, such as how

long the doctors must serve in underserved areas, will be announced later.

A second part of the announcement today deals with international medical graduates.

The province has increased from 36 to 50 spots available for such graduates to receive training in Ontario.

Their education could take from two to five years before they are licensed in Ontario.

The program targets medical graduates who have not completed post-graduate training.

Most of these doctors will be

trained as specialists, but some will be family physicians of which there is an acute shortage in Ontario.

Most of the 50 doctors will go to rural and underserved areas.

A Thunder Bay specialist, whose group has been lobbying for more foreign-trained doctors, said the government move is positive, but he still has reservations.

"It's a step in the right direction, but Ontario is still behind other provinces in loosening the requirements to practise for foreign-trained graduates," said gas-

troenterologist Dr. Walter Kutcher, vice-chairman of the Thunder Bay Physicians Planning Group.

Kutcher fears some requirements may be too stringent to allow Ontario to compete with other provinces such as Alberta.

Kutcher is a victim of the local doctor shortage.

He announced earlier this year he will be moving to Etobicoke because he is on the verge of burnout.

Kutcher is one of only two full-time gastroenterologists in the city. The other is Dr. J. Frank Joanes.

watay - June 14/01

0 to the Eabametoong First Nation

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Contributed \$90,000 to the Eabametoong First Nation for a feasibility study concerning the development of a permanent road.

The Eabametoong First Nation has been cited in a study showing projections that might justify a permanent road built through the community.

The community has a well-established infrastructure and a road that would complement their needs," Robert Nault, Eabametoong River MP, said. "This project will enhance the community's ability to attract industry,

such as mining."

FedNor will cover costs associated with reviewing the impact a permanent road will have on forestry, mining, and transportation sectors. This includes aerial road mapping, consultant fees and the services of a First Nations project co-ordinator. The feasibility study will evaluate two corridors - one south to Nakina and one west to Pickle Lake.

"FedNor funding will enable us to examine the best way to go about developing a road that will result in significant and long-term benefits," Andy Yesno, Capital Projects Coordinator said.

Natures Bay is born:

Metis partners with aboriginal organization to begin business

by Joyce Hunter

Nature's Bay Bottling Company, a mineral water bottling plant in Keewatin, opened its doors for the first time June 2.

Owned and operated by Philip Thorgrimson, Mr. and Mrs. Puterbaugh, their daughter Anita Puterbaugh, and associated with Neegani Investment Management Inc., Nature's Bay (NaBay) draws it's water from an underground source, known as an artesian well, several kilometers north of Keewatin.

"If I'm not mistaken, approximately 20 per cent of the world's supply of fresh water is in Northern Ontario," said Thorgrimson refering to his inspiration for becoming a mineral water distributor. "We should be the largest bottling operators (northern-Ontario) in the world, that and the well is an extremely good water source. It is an extremely soft water, very low in dissolved minerals (26 ppm)."

Thorgrimson, a Metis and long-time resident of

the Kenora district, and his wife approached the Puterbaugh family who agreed to pool their money together to form Nabay.

In order to produce water equalling their standards, the ambitious group of potential propeiters would require state-of-the-art stainless steel bottling equipment imported from Italy, which would require a large amount of money to fund.

The group enlisted the help of Debra Krupka of DKA Marketing whose offices are based in Toronto and Thunder Bay, to help them realize their dream.

Thorgrimson, was connected to Neegani Investment Managment Inc (NIMI).

NIMI is a subsidiary of Nisnawbe Aski Development Fund.

As a Metis, Thorgrimson qualified for funding through NIMI.

NIMI's mandate is to

"It's fantastic! I think they'll be expanding in the next year," Mayor Canfield said about NaBay's potential as a company. "We're sitting on the largest deposit of spring water in North America. We're at an era when fresh water is becoming a commodity and are at a stage where it will become a colossal demand."

The artesian well maintains a year-round temperature of 44° and has an annual output of 5.5 million gallons, which flows steadily from a underground strata of water otherwise called an aquaphere.

The aquaphere was accessed by a private company for various uses, which can be likened to accessing a vein of ore mined for industrial purposes.

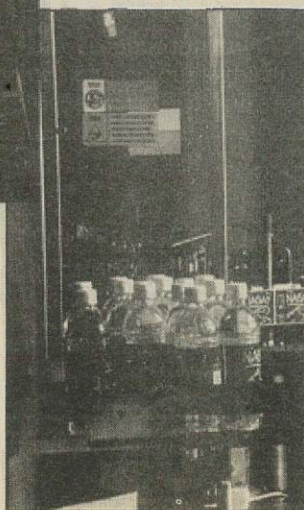
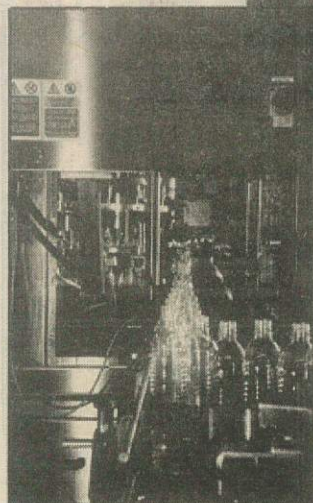
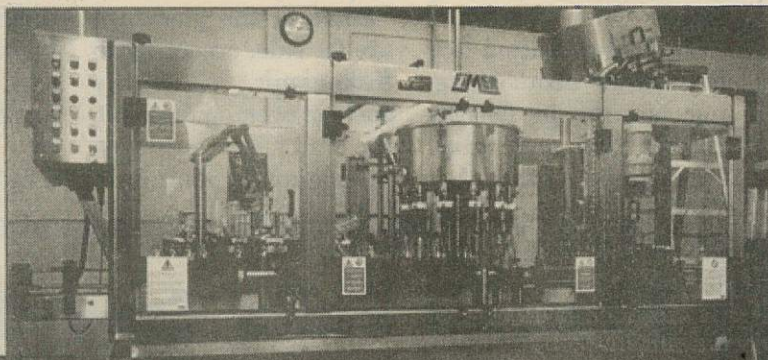
The well water is triple filtered in state-of-the-art Italian designed stainless steel bottling equipment using reverse osmosis. The water is

water to .45 microns, twice the industry standard, because their directive is to provide their customers with the purest form of water possible, which is why they also ozonate the water.

"We pump the water into an (stainless steel) ozone tank, we take electricity and turn it into a high-voltage and electronically, it creates it into an arc," said Thorgrimson of the ozonation process. "The oxygen is pumped through, (a water molecule is comprised of one hydrogen and two oxygen molecules-H₂O), so when the oxygen is pumped through it goes from O₂ to O₃. You've added another molecule on it (water molecule) and that is what kills all bacteria."

"Now remember, they've used ozone since 1905 in Europe for purifying their water," continued Thorgrimson comparing water from a

municipal source to ozonated water. "Here we are using chlorine and other chemicals. That (ozonation) is the proper way of purifying water."



provide Aboriginal and Metis funding and managerial services for their budding business operations.

Keewatin's mayor was present at the ribbon cutting and had a few enthusaistic comments about Keewatin's latest business enterprise.

then ozonated, a method invented by Europeans in 1905.

Reverse osmosis is a system of filtration using microfilters that screen out naturally occuring sediments and other solid substances in the water.

NaBay triple filters its

Thursday, June 14, 2001

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literacy test added to welfare system

CANADIAN PRESS

TORONTO — Being able to divide 225 may seem simple to most Ontarians, but for those with weak literacy skills, it could threaten their livelihood. The math problem is just one of several questions on a screening test developed by the provincial government to assess whether welfare recipients need reading and math training.

The government announced this week beginning Oct. 1, Ontario's 430,000 welfare recipients will be forced to take the test if they don't have Grade 12 or its equivalent. Those who fail must go to

school. Anyone who refuses to take the test or fails will have their monthly welfare payments cut off.

The proposed test is based on a six-minute screening form that's been used for welfare for the past year.

The province's social services minister said yesterday the test is meant to be a screening tool, and would not be

the final word on someone with a problem.

"We want a quick snapshot to say whether literacy is a problem for someone," said John Baird.

"Can they read these basic questions? Can they answer these basic questions?" The literacy questions demand things like at least three written sentences about a job the applicant likes, and a written explanation about why she likes it.

The math section contains four equations. Readers must add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers.

The questions, which the ministry says reflects a Grade 9 to 10 level of ability, will be changed constantly to prevent cheating.

But literacy experts question how a 15-minute test could possibly identify if someone has a literacy problem.

"I personally see very little relationship between this test and the (literacy) levels the province has established," said Colleen D'Souza, of the Metro-Toronto Movement for Literacy.

Dryden council briefs

City landfill fees to increase

The City of Dryden is increasing its landfill tipping fees.

Council unanimously voted in favour of a bylaw setting fees at \$47.50 per tonne on July 1, a \$2.50 increase, and \$50 per tonne on Jan. 1, 2002.

Coun. Brian England, who introduced the motion, noted the city elected not to increase garbage bag fees, believing the higher tipping fees will cover any additional expenses incurred by the landfill.

The higher fees are needed, he said, to make the city's waste management system self-sufficient.

Under the current fee schedule, city engineer Tom McConnell said, the waste management system will fall short of its revenue goal of \$702,000.

The new fee increases should allow the landfill to reach revenues of \$600,000 this year and \$650,000 a year over the next four.

McConnell noted the system will run a deficit until 2005, but should generate an accumulated surplus after that.

He added that the waste management system will require significant capital expenditures over the next two years, including a new compactor, cell construction and a retention pond.

Hydro rates go up

City hydro rates are increasing 5.74 per cent.

Council approved a wholesale rate increase pass through, at last week's meeting.

England stated the rate increase was needed to pass on rate hikes from power generators. He explained the city is seeing no profit from the action.

Without the pass through, England stressed the fee hikes would cost the city approximately \$35,000 per month.

The fee hikes are effective June 1.

Dryden Hydro is scheduled to be taken over by Hydro One on June 27.

City protests provincial stand on right of ways

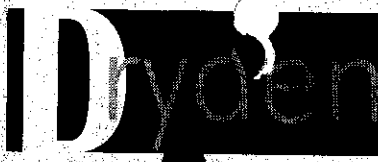
Council threw its support behind a resolution from the County of Renfrew asking the province to honour a settlement between municipalities and the natural gas industry.

The resolution notes the Ontario Energy Board had approved a settlement under which municipalities would collect permit fees covering the costs of placing natural gas utilities in public right of ways.

However, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs has overturned the Ontario Energy Board decision.

The Renfrew resolution notes the fees decision was settled using provision of the Municipal Act set out by the province to help cities and towns deal with service realignment.

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REVISED LANDFILL TIPPING FEES

HOURS

Highway 502 Landfill

Monday to Thursday: 8:00-5:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Saturday: 8:00 a.m.-12 noon

Barclay Hall Road Landfill

Friday: 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

(Closed all other days and
statutory holidays)

TIPPING FEES

Tipping fees at both landfills — \$1.50 per standard bag or as follows:

HIGHWAY 502 LANDFILL

| | |
|-------|---------------------------|
| Tires | \$2.00-per passenger tire |
| | \$75.00 per tonne |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bulk Rate (Excluding tires) | \$47.50 per tonne |
| Effective July 1/2001 | \$9.00 (minimum charge) |

Tipping fees do not apply to compostable materials deposited at the compost pile, scrap metal deposited at the scrap metal pile or recyclables, if kept separate.

RATES AT BARCLAY HALL ROAD LANDFILL SITE

BARCLAY HALL LANDFILL

| | |
|---|---------|
| Per Car Trunk Full/Standard Utility Trailer | \$10.00 |
| Large Trailer | \$18.00 |
| Per 1/2 Ton Pick Up Load (level box) | \$18.00 |
| Per 1/2 Ton Pick Up Load (heaped/side extensions) | \$25.00 |
| *THE ATTENDANT SHALL HAVE AUTHORITY TO PRO-RATE PART LOADS. OR INTERMEDIATE SIZE VEHICLES. | |
| 1 Ton stake truck (6 yards); 3 Ton stake truck, Tandem (14 yards), and packers <u>NOT</u> accepted at the Barclay Hall Road Landfill site. | |
| Tipping fees do not apply to: scrap metal deposited at the scrap metal pile, clean brush and waste wood deposited at the designated burn area or recyclables, if kept separate. | |
| Tires, contaminated soil, motor vehicles and construction material | |