



Pickle Lake

By Graeme Mackechnie

NEEDE I mention any upcoming elections or pretty faces? I think not! Do some people know how to take a compliment? I think not! And then there are others who believe my middle name should be "think not."

Maria and Scott are engaged – congratulations! Maria is back from Hostage Negotiations Training

with the OPP and Scott will be back to fly out of Pickle for Wasaya and volunteer with the Recreational Committee! Has he been taken hostage?

Graduation ceremonies were held at Crolancia School as another school year wrapped up. The pianist Dave Simpson, who played for the kindergarten graduation, did a wonderful

job. He threw in a few Christmas tunes just to see who was listening – Jim D. was.

We're losing a few teachers this year, which has resulted in a game of musical classrooms. Mrs. Koper will notice a big change going from teaching grade 1 to 9/10. She'll have to exchange her Raffi CDs for Metallica.

The Canterra group will be coming back to Pickle in July to do some preliminary work out at the Crow. In the same trip Canterra will be meeting with council to update them on what progress has been made.

Talk about people leaving Pickle Lake: Donica, Eric and family, Patti and Hughie Cummins and family, Shannon O'Donnell and ? are all moving to Thunder Bay. George Johnston is moving to Elliot Lake.

I finally made it out fishing. It was beautiful, fishing was excellent and the black flies were almost non-existent.

The hockey club is putting on its annual horse shoe tournament. At the moment

it's the talk of the town. I believe Jim Dalzell may even come out of retirement for the event.

Linda Peake's daughter Heather is coming to Pickle for a visit, as is Bob and Fern Bileski's grandson Michael.

Our summer recreation program will be starting soon. Check with the town office and get your children registered for the program. \$5.00 per child or \$10.00 per family. Angie is back as our recreation director. She

does a wonderful job and, for the younger crew there will be a kinder-camp.

In the onward and upward category, Claire and Sarah McIntyre have moved to Red Lake taking their responsibilities with them. Good move Claire. So long Don.

Kyle Koper is putting in so many hours and doing so much flying he's making his dad happy. Talk of the coffee shop – Kyle must be on salary!

K-Net's launch connects remote First Nations

AA:87

BALMERTOWN — A partnership, that will give Keewaytinook Okimakanak First Nation members, interactive, online access to information on the First Nations Governance Initiative, was announced Friday here, by Kenora-Rainy River MP Robert Nault, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

The announcement coincided with the official launch of Kuh-ke-nah Network (K-Net) of Smart First Nations, which will receive \$4.5 million in funds from Industry Canada over three years, as part of the Aboriginal Smart Community Demonstration project. This program is a federal government "Connecting Canadians" initiative.

Indian and Northern Affairs provided \$48,100 for the K-Net governance portal, which enables use of existing network and resources, such as the First Nations Governance Web site, to share information with community members in each First Nation.

Keewaytinook Okimakanak (Northern Chiefs) Council operates the network connecting Deer Lake, Fort Severn, Keewaywin, McDowell Lake, North Spirit Lake and Poplar Hill, remote

communities with a total population of 2,250.

Nault sees this Internet connection as helping community members "participate in the consultation process."

He stated that, "To do a good job of consulting First Nation people, we have to do our best to reach as many communities as possible and hear from as many members as possible. That's why the K-Net initiative is so important. It's going to help us hear the voices of people living across a wide geographic area in the north."

Geordie Kakepetum, executive director of the Northern Chiefs Council, said the chiefs "wish to get as much information as possible into the hands of our community members. We want to engage in meetings and obtain feedback from our band members about the direction they wish our communities to take" in the First Nations Governance Initiative.

He added that the information and communication technologies through K-Net "is already proving to be a very successful way to provide education and health services previously unavailable in the Keewaytinook Okimakanak First Nations." ☆

Dryden Observer - July 10/01

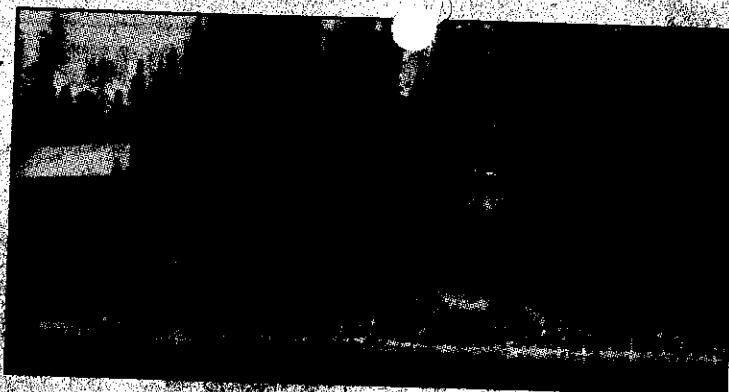
Cottage lot assessment slammed

KELLY
RONDELE JOURNAL

isers in Thunder Bay are
artificially high property
n remote cottage lots un-
uction from the Ministry
al Resources, claims a lo-

Paularinne, who leases a
the Ministry at Obongga
d appraisers are told not
own land sales as compa-
their reports when as-
her Crown lands.

Paularinne's lot, which he leas-
to annually and pays a
tax of about \$6, was val-
5,100 in 1998. Now, he
purchase the lot, but it's
raised at \$10,000 and
le him angry.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lot leased by Paul Paularinne on Obongga Lake.

Paularinne said appraisers are
comparing lots 300 kilometres
north of Thunder Bay to proper-
ties closer to the city which have
road access, hydro and other
amenities.

This, he claims, artificially
boosts the price of cottage lots in
remote areas.

• Continued on page A3

Chronicle - July 27/01

Assessment complaints focus entirely on MNR

Continued from page A1

Paularinne said the ministry is not comparing apples to apples but rather oranges to oranges.

Paularinne, who has had a two-year long battle with the MNR on the appraisals are done, said he isn't liking the appraisers. He said his complaints are focused entirely on the MNR.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is giving unacceptable and inappropriate instructions to local firms conducting property appraisals on the ministry's behalf," Paularinne said in a recent interview.

He said he believes these instructions are seriously compromising the professional integrity and independence of local appraisal firms because they are inconsistent with established appraisal principles set out by the Appraisal Institute of Canada.

When asked why he thought the MNR would issue such instructions to independent appraisal firms, Paularinne speculated the ministry was trying to influence the outcome of appraisals and the values being assigned to Crown cottage lots and other Crown lands in the Thunder Bay area.

A ministry official, in a letter to Paularinne earlier this year, said Crown lands are not used as comparables for a number of reasons.

The ministry establishes the value of Crown land based on a variety of sales that have taken place in the real estate market," said Gail Beggs, assistant deputy minister in the field services division.

"This gives a better estimate of what a willing buyer is prepared to pay to a willing seller.

"While Crown land sales can be used as a comparable, where there is little or

no other sales data available, we use other sales information to give a broader appreciation of market value," Beggs said.

She said an appraisal is an opinion of value based on factual data.

"If one were to continue to use Crown land sales as a comparable, the opinion could become skewed by using limited sales data," she said.

The ministry has professional appraisers under contract but they have their standards set by the Appraisal Institute of Canada, said Jim Paterson, co-ordinator of land services.

"We don't influence the appraiser," Paterson said from Peterborough.

"If there are few properties (in remote areas) to use as a comparison, they would go to another area where properties are similar (to the remote area)," he said.

"We often ask the appraiser to look at private sales (as a comparison for Crown cottage lots) wherever possible."

Paterson said the appraiser will make adjustments for access, services such as hydro and distance from the nearest community.

A local appraiser denies the ministry is giving "unacceptable and inappropriate instructions" to appraisers.

"We consider everything (in making appraisals of cottage lots)," said Morris Papich, a senior partner at Doggett and Kowalchuk Appraisals.

"Sometimes things sell low and sometimes they sell high."

Papich said appraisers generally use fair market value when assessing a property.

"That's the most probable price a property could bring in a competitive market under all conditions," Papich said.

City taxes going up 2 per cent

Payments on residential bills will be due in 1 instalment on Oct. 23

BY WARD HOLLAND
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Residential home owners in Thunder Bay will see a two-per-cent increase in their taxes.

City councillors debated long into the night yesterday how residents should be charged for their 2001 property taxes, but eventually decided to support a report from the city's revenue division.

The report shows, for example, that the owner of a piece of property valued at \$150,000 in 2000 would have paid \$2,271 in taxes. Based on the two-per-cent increase, that person will pay \$2,316 this year.

Coun. Trevor Giertuga was upset by

city revenue manager's Rob Colquhoun's latest report and wanted another one that reflected a better rate for residential property owners.

Councillors suggested making local multi-residential rates the same as provincial levels with the resulting impact to be made up in commercial

taxes.

That idea was shot down.



Trevor Giertuga

City manager Brian MacRae said time was of the essence to get the tax ratios in place.

He cautioned that any delay in the billing period could cost the city \$8,000 a day in interest rates. He said a decision needed to be made in the next two days, because it takes several days to generate tax ratios.

The property tax bills are to be mailed out near the end of September and will be due in one instalment on Oct. 23.

In other matters last night:

- Disgruntled residents of Forest Street, upset with the traffic in their neighbourhood, will get a no-left-turn sign and an all-way stop to address their concerns.

Councillors voted in favour of prohibiting southbound left turns from Balmoral Street on to Forest Street.

An all-way stop will be installed at the intersection of Norah Crescent and Forest Street.

Traffic at the Balmoral-Norah intersection will be monitored.

The decision still has to be ratified.

Councillors also voted to set aside \$50,000 in the 2002 capital budget to build sidewalks and trails in the area.

This spring, councillors voted to close Forest Street, but reversed that decision after a public uproar.

Local businessmen claimed that closing Forest Street would kill their businesses; residents wanted the street closed

because they felt unsafe.

Norm Saraka, who runs Saraka's Auto Service on Norah Crescent, said he was "not really" satisfied with council's decision last night, but was prepared to accept it.

"If we have to compromise, that's better than shutting (Forest Street) down," Saraka said.

The Thunder Bay Community Auditorium will continue to receive a subsidy from the city.

Councillors gave city administration the approval to negotiate a 10-year management contract.

The contract will ask for a maximum annual subsidy from the city of \$600,000 in 2002.

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CLE-JOURNAL

of Thunder Bay will be able
nances easier and send out
er if the provincial govern-
to a plan it revealed yester-

n Boshcoff was in Toronto
r the Association of Munic-
Ontario's annual conference
nce Minister James Flaher-
ut the province being more
and stable when it doles out
municipal governments.

, municipalities learn how
will get from the province in
March, Boshcoff said. Be-
ipal budgets are being com-
same time, financial plan-
illed, he said.

been a long-standing issue
alities," Boshcoff said.
said financial figures will
n the fall.

et our mill rate a lot earlier;
out our tax bills a lot earli-
f said. "For municipalities,
send."

le, Municipal Affairs and
nister Chris Hodgson an-
t a new Municipal Act will
October.

posed legislation makes a
n between local and provin-
sibilities, which has been
to downloading, Boshcoff

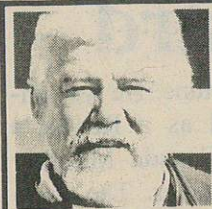
the concerns municipali-
d seem to have been includ-

Hodgson didn't say what re-
es the two levels of govern-
ive, Boshcoff said.

Chronicle - Aug 21/01

August 29/01

AA 87



Pickle Lake

By Graeme Mackechnie

SHARON Morris is moving on and getting on. As well as celebrating her birthday Sharon has left Wasaya to work for the Township. Good luck, Sharon, and remember to crack that whip.

Leanna J. has turned 19 and is practicing to develop her pool game. Gord (Winston) Fedack is turning 50. Happy birthday to all!

A beginning romance is on the horizon. Allanwater Al is in love again, however he is waiting for his kids to go back to school in Thunder Bay before beginning the chase.

Our summer students

working for the Township have done an excellent job; Patricia Hoffman on Rec, Alex Lawson, Kelly Gardner and William Mackechnie on Public Works. Thanks guys and thanks to Harold Schnurr for his patient supervision! Thanks to Angie our Summer Rec Director. We will try, as council, to work with you in fine tuning our programs. Hopefully we can keep in touch - and maybe convince you to come back next year.

Work is being done on our school roof and the weather is not co-operating. Hopefully the rain hasn't damaged the project and the new

insulation will be effective.

Congratulations to Donna and Don Hooper on the recent addition to their family. Where's the cigars, Don?

Fred Koper's garden is bursting at the seams. I recently saw him at the Pickle giving his produce away by the basket or - was that bartering.

Happy days are here again! You lucky kiddies... school starts on the 27th and parents gave a sign of relief and teachers shuddered.

But don't say holidays are over - not when Wilf Both takes three days off and Rick Macklin is still cutting grass on the Pickle-

Pat golf course.

Diane Murray is leaving us, transferring to Canada Post in Ignace, but this won't be until after her trip to England to visit her daughter Sherri.

Mike Menard spotted a white lined sphinx moth out at the Olde Poste and Village on St. Joe. They look and act just like humming birds but are a rare sight up here. No one had any idea what it was until I saw a picture in the Chronicle Journal.

Next time 'round I'll give you all a short version on A.M.O. I'll miss seeing Jim Carroll.

NOMA committee targets region's high gas prices

A Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) committee is hoping to see some action on high gas prices in this region.

The NOMA Committee on High Gas Prices released a list of its priorities last week, pointing to taxes on gases and federal responsibility for the Trans-Canada Highway as the two biggest issues.

"We know that higher gas prices increase our costs of doing business in northwestern Ontario. This puts us at a competitive disadvantage and is an additional cost to our residents," Dennis Brown, Mayor of Atikokan and chair of the committee said Friday.

Brown explained the committee will set a strategy for raising these issues at its next meeting. Possible approaches include arranging a meeting with federal

Minister of Transportation David Collenette and raising the matter at the Northwestern Ontario Liberal Caucus's next meeting.

"It's a real challenge to do anything. This is a problem all across Canada. We simply want to do our part in northwestern Ontario," Brown said.

The committee met with leaders of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Good Roads Association, the Ontario Trucking Association and the Kenora High Gas Prices Committee to discuss methods of addressing the issue.

Brown noted one key suggestion is encouraging the federal government to reduce its excise tax by 1.5 cents per litre. The committee also stressed the need for the federal government to participate in maintaining the Trans-Canada

Highway's infrastructure. That issue is related to another priority of the committee — the need to dedicate fuel taxes to the maintenance of municipal roads and highways.

The committee would also like the province to develop a five-year highway plan in consultation with municipalities. ★

Program for rural economic development

The provincial government has now implemented its proposed Rural Economic Development (RED) program.

The \$200 million five-year program is a component of the Ontario Small Town and Rural Development Initiative (OSTAR), aimed at assisting rural Ontario.

The goal of RED is to remove barriers to economic growth in rural Ontario by promoting business diversification, exploring new products and markets, creating a climate for long-term job growth, and investing in technologies that contribute to economic development.

Applicants for RED funding must form partnerships or alliances among individuals, businesses, community organizations and municipalities.

Examples of projects which would qualify for government funding includes: establishing Internet terminals at major

tourism destinations to market local or regional tourism attractions; exploring new technologies and processes for non-traditional uses of agricultural commodities or new ways of managing waste products; and supporting the development of a rural region as a telecommuting centre. ★

Young offenders facility

Merits debated at public meeting

By Warner Bloomfield

The City of Dryden is struggling with whether or not to put itself forward as a candidate for a proposed young offenders facility.

City council is expected to vote on the matter at tonight's regular meeting.

Among the factors to be considered is weighing the economic benefits with concerns for public safety.

Those were discussed at a public meeting on Aug. 28, organized by economic development officer Jim Dayman, with the goal of measuring community opinion on the proposal.

Opinion at the meeting was split.

On one side were residents who expressed con-

cern the facility would draw a criminal element to Dryden.

"We have a great community, a safe community. I don't want to see it changed," Bob Bunney told city officials during the meeting.

He added he was concerned the young offenders facility would draw a criminal element to the community.

People in attendance also voiced concern over the effects of running a private facility and if it would erode the number and quality of employees.

Justice of the Peace John Mulders stressed that, as long as staff was properly qualified, a young offenders

facility should pose no threat to local residents' way of life.

"If it is well managed, there should be no safety concerns," he said.

Those thoughts were echoed by Dryden Police Service Chief Shayne MacKinnon, who said residents should be more concerned with some of the people passing through town than those staying in a secure detention facility.

"If we don't step forward, what are we missing? What will we say when it goes somewhere else? I believe nothing ventured, nothing gained," he said.

The proposed facility will house between 50 and 100 beds and is expected to be

ready by 2004. The province has already awarded a new youth facility to the City of Thunder Bay which should be built next summer.

The government is now seeking interested communities for that second site. Cities and towns have until Sept. 14 to record their interest by completing and returning a questionnaire on the strengths of their municipalities. Returning that questionnaire commits a city or town to the process.

The facility is expected to be worth at least \$4 million per year in direct and indirect benefits to a community. It will also create 25 to 50 full-time equivalent jobs.

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Dryden Observer - Sept 4/01

De Beers, First Nation make diamond deal

BY CARL CLUTCHEY
NORTH SHORE BUREAU

Members of a remote native reserve north of Thunder Bay are laying the groundwork to benefit economically should the world's largest diamond mining company ever develop a mine on their traditional lands.

The agreement between Kasabonika First Nation and De Beers allows the company to explore for diamonds in the vicinity of the reserve as long as local labour and services, like fuel sales, are used.

De Beers' Vancouver-based spokeswoman Jocelyn Fraser said the agreement is a way of building a relationship with the band "that's based on mutual trust and respect."

Though an operating mine could be 10 years away, this "first-step" agreement could also set the stage for the band to receive royalties from the mine's production.

Kasabonika Deputy Chief Eno H. Anderson said so far the company has been complying with the agreement and there is a good working relationship with the band.

If the agreement hadn't been in place, the band would have asked the company to leave the area, Anderson added.

MINING

Agreement allows De Beers to explore for diamonds in Kasabonika area

Kasabonika is a fly-in reserve of about 800 Oji-Cree located 250 kilometres north of Pickle Lake.

Anderson admitted that not every resident on the reserve is in favour of the diamond exploration project; and

said more effort has to be made to get the word out about De Beers' plans.

De Beers is known mainly for its 20 diamond mines in Africa.

Its first Canadian mine, which will yield gem-quality stones, is located 220 kilometres northeast of Yellowknife.

When that Snap Lake project opens in 2006, it's expected to create 400 jobs and operate for 20 years.

The company plans to spend \$40 million exploring in Canada this year.

Those efforts include a project near Attawapiskat, which is considered at a more advanced exploration stage than the one in Kasabonika.

Fraser said in recent years there have been efforts by the company at its African operations to ensure front-line miners have the chance to move into more senior positions.