

# *Chronicle Times 102* Town fined \$50,000

NORTHWEST BUREAU

The town of Sioux Lookout has been fined \$50,000 for two violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

At a provincial offences hearing this week, the municipality pleaded guilty to charges of failing to notify the ministry of an accident and failure to provide information, instruction and supervision to protect a worker's health and safety.

The charges relate to a June 11, 2001 accident that resulted in serious leg injuries to a municipal employee.

Ministry of Labour spokeswoman Belinda Sutton said yesterday that a municipal worker was helping a transport truck driver unload two crates of tempered glass when one of the crates fell

and landed on his leg.

The crate fell as the truck driver attempted to lift it with a hydraulic dolly, she said, noting that the municipal worker suffered broken leg bones.

The incident occurred at the recreation centre on King Street.

Sioux Lookout Mayor John McDonald said the fine won't affect the town's budget.

"We knew it was coming, so we planned for it in the budget process," he said, noting that changes have been made in the town's health and safety system.

"I've told staff that things should be current and up-to-date so that this doesn't happen again."

## DENTAL NOTICE

Please note that Dr. Barry Walkiewicz has purchased assets of the Ignace Dental Office. All patients are welcome to continue treatment with Dr. Barry Walkiewicz at the office of Dr. Davis in Dryden. Dental treatment in Ignace on a part-time basis until the end of August.

*Ignace Driftwood*

*June 12/02*

Sincerely,

*Dr. Matthew Walkiewicz*



# Award-winning business woman brings home the store

## Mishkeegogamang First Nation

Imagine driving 35 km out of town every time you need to gas up your car, pick up basic supplies like milk, bread, and diapers or buy stamps and mail a letter. Now, imagine that you don't have a car and the taxi ride to pick up some daily necessities costs up to \$140.

That was the situation for residents in Mishkeegogamang First Nation from the time their band-operated store closed in 1995 until Laureen's Gas & Grocery opened in December 1998. Home to about 960 on-reserve residents, Mishkeegogamang is located about 260 km north of the TransCanada Highway and about 35 km from its nearest neighbouring community, Pickle Lake.

Thanks to store owner and manager Laureen Wassaykeesic, residents can now shop locally for a wide variety of basics, including fresh produce, dry and canned goods, frozen meats and even hardware supplies. They also now have a local gas bar and access to full postal services.

The idea for this business venture came at an unlikely time. Laureen was a third-year nursing student at Thunder Bay's Lakehead University when her cousin and "behind the scenes partner" Stan Shingebis approached her about starting a business in their home community. Stan needs ongoing medical treatment that requires him to live in the city. He was looking for an investment that would help provide an income for his future and first suggested that Laureen start a Mishkeegogamang-based taxi business.

"At that time, I didn't think it would be a good business because of the competition from three other cab companies in Pickle Lake," Laureen recalls. "I thought a store would be better."

She adds with a laugh that Stan's hoped-for cab company became a reality last year when she expanded the grocery and gas business to start Ojibway Taxi. The company's two full-time drivers provide service within Mishkeegogamang and to other northern destinations. With a round-trip fare to Pickle Lake priced at \$90, Ojibway Taxi offers customers a competitive alternative.

Laureen's belief that Mishkeegogamang needed a local store was shared by Chief and council, says Economic Development Officer Tom Wassaykeesic. They encouraged her to expand her original plan for a highway gas and convenience store. Many community members don't have cars and found it difficult and expensive to shop outside the community. A local store with full gas and grocery service would offer residents a very welcome, cost-saving alternative.

Backed by Chief and council's support, Laureen and Stan provided

their own equity and Laureen sought additional financial support. Loans and contributions from Nishnawbe-Aski Development Fund (NADF), the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Placer

Dome's Musselwhite Mine helped the business on its way. The First Nation also contributed, providing the store lot, a loan to purchase the operation's four trailers and other support.

"She was able to make use of the band's heavy equipment while they were clearing the store site, and they provided backfill and other

assistance," explains Tom. "They wanted to support her and found some ways to help minimize some of her costs."

The Chief and council also set a five-year moratorium on the development of any other stores or gas stations in that portion of the community. While Tom stresses that this isn't meant to discourage other potential entrepreneurs, he says it was a way to help give Laureen the best possible chance for success during the start-up phase. As to what else has gone into making this enterprise a success, Tom gives the credit to Laureen and her willingness to do what it takes to make the business thrive.



**Laureen Wassaykeesic was named Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Businesswoman of the Year twice in recognition of the important contribution her store and taxi service have made to her community.**



AA87

# Nault introduces changes to 26-year-old Indian Act

CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA — Native bands across Canada would have to abide by minimum standards when they hire officials or spend money under legislation proposed yesterday to revamp the 126-year-old Indian

Act. Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault said the legislation is an interim step toward self-government. "It represents a fundamental shift from the colonial approach of the Indian Act," Nault said in a news conference shortly after tabling the bill in the House of Commons.

The legislation will replace the roadblocks of the old Indian Act with modern tools of government to "bridge to self-government."

The bill would require native bands to develop standards to spell out how they choose their leaders, run their governments and spend their money.

Native bands would be allowed to develop their own laws and standards in three areas so long as they meet certain minimum standards set out by the federal government.

And if they don't develop their own codes within three years, the federal government could impose default rules.

The bill also makes the Indian Act subject to the Canadian Human Rights Act for the first time, and gives off-reserve band members the right to vote in federal elections. The proposed legislation is the first major overhaul of the Indian Act, which governs the more than 600 native bands across the country.

Nault said the legislation would remove the ministerial burden of dealing with day-to-day operations



**Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault speaks in the House of Commons yesterday.**

elections, he added.

"The safeguards just aren't there," said Pallister.

He said there is no aboriginal ombudsman, no independent checks on band-designed codes to see if they meet legislated standards, nor any requirement for band councils to report on the progress of federally supported programs.

Flanked by two aboriginal group leaders who supported the bill, Nault said it was "one of the most extensive consultations ever undertaken," involving over 200 aboriginal communities.

He insisted the new legislation wouldn't replace existing treaties or affect self-government and treaty negotiations.

Nault also said he would refer the bill to committee before its second reading in the Commons so aboriginal groups could seek changes to the legislation. The Fiscal Institutions Act, which will outline the fiscal relationships between native and federal governments, will also be made public this fall.

# Township CAO leaves hefty workload

BY CARL CLUTCHEY  
NORTH SHORE BUREAU

## TERRACE BAY

Whoever becomes Terrace Bay's next chief administrator will count running a hydro company and a small airport among a myriad of duties.

But the township's mayor is confident taxpayers won't have to spend an arm and a leg to recruit a manager who'll likely face a hefty workload.

"I think this is a pretty good place to work and the (proposed) salary is comparable to what other people are making in the field," Mike King said.

The search for a new CAO began unof-

ficially last month when Heather Adams announced she was resigning to take a manager's job with the City of Sarnia in southern Ontario.

Adams, who leaves at the end of this month after eight years in Terrace Bay, was highly regarded and will be missed, King said.

King, noting he thinks many public-sector managers are overpaid, said his municipality will likely offer an annual salary between \$60,000 and \$70,000 when it advertises Adams' position.

Terrace Bay's population is just over 2,000.

Some might argue Terrace Bay doesn't need a CAO, but King said the workload at town hall has increased since many services have been downloaded from the province to municipalities.

Even a small municipality can't get by with just a treasurer because there have been so many changes to Ontario tax laws, King added.

Terrace Bay also has its own hydro utility, which has been managed by the chief administrator, King said.

The Town of Marathon is also in the process of searching for a new CAO.

Chronicle - June 17/02



Chronicle Journal June 18/02

# \$500 million flows for safe water in Ontario

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORONTO — The Ontario government will spend \$500 million over two years to improve the safety of drinking water following the Walkerton E. coli tragedy, Finance Minister Janet Ecker announced in yesterday's budget.

The money will be spent to implement recommendations from an inquiry held after seven people died and thousands were sickened from E. coli poisoning in May 2000 in the southwestern Ontario town of Walkerton.

The Environment Ministry's operating budget will rise to \$244 million, up \$13 million from last year, a far cry from the \$230 million cut by former premier Mike Harris in the mid-'90s, which some people blamed for the Walkerton water disaster.

"Following the tragic events at Walkerton, the government took immediate steps to improve water safety," Ecker said.

Ecker called two reports by Justice Dennis O'Connor, who presided over the Walkerton inquiry, a "clear roadmap to finish the job.

"That is why we have accepted all of (O'Connor's) recommendations, and remain fully committed to their implementation."

The money will come from various ministries and will be spent to:

- Help municipalities upgrade their water systems to meet new government standards.
- Buy new water-monitoring equip-

Ecker also said the government was committed to passing the proposed Safe Drinking Water act, which ensures clean water for all Ontarians and provides them the legal framework to sue the government over water contamination.

Bruce Davidson, vice-president of Concerned Walkerton Citizens, was cautiously optimistic about the newly announced funding.

"It's a recognition of a problem. However there are many times government dollars are dedicated to a certain cause and never see the light of day," Davidson said from his home in Walkerton.

"We want to make sure these do."

Environmental lawyer Paul Muldoon, with the Canadian Environmental Law Association, was also cautious not to prematurely praise the water-safety funds.

"This kind of new money is welcomed and certainly we look forward to seeing it being translated to the implementation of the recommendations,"

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*"... there are many times government dollars are dedicated to a certain cause and never see the light of day."*

**Bruce Davidson**

*Concerned Walkerton Citizens*

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Muldoon said.

"Whether it's enough and whether or not the full suite of recommendations will be implemented, we still take a wait-and-see attitude."

The new water safety measures come a week after another tainted-water scare in Ontario. London, Ont.-based MDS Laboratories was found to be improperly testing water for E. coli in 67 towns and cities.

Although no one was reported to have fallen ill in the latest incident, the improper testing could have affected 100,000

# Thunder Bay will go after waterworks cash

BY WARD HOLLAND  
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

The mayor of Thunder Bay credited the provincial government for delivering its fourth balanced budget yesterday, but had concerns about money spent on water safety.

Mayor Ken Boshcoff said the City of Thunder Bay has municipal taxes in place to help pay for a new water system.

"We budgeted for a single-source water supply and were budgeting for it for many years," Boshcoff said.

"The fact the government is giving whacks of money away penalizes us, because now this money is accessible."

The government announced in its budget yesterday that it will spend \$500 million in the next two years to improve the safety of drinking water.

Part of that money, which comes from various ministries, will be spent to help municipalities upgrade drinking water systems.

Taxpayers in Thunder Bay are funding new water facilities with charges on water bills, including a sewer surcharge.

Boshcoff said the city will see what it can do to get some of that provincial waterworks money, so the previous council isn't penalized for planning ahead.

"The province should give us something for being good planners," he said.

MPP Lyn McLeod (L-Thunder Bay-Atikokan) called the additional \$18 million spent on the Environment Ministry "a start," but said it doesn't come close to allowing implementation of the recommendations made by Justice Dennis O'Connor, who presided over the Walkerton inquiry.

"It doesn't even begin to touch the cuts this government made earlier," McLeod said.

Boshcoff said he was concerned that the budget didn't offer money to boost economic activity in Northern Ontario.

"I'm not aware of any direct, special incentives for the North, which in view of the last census is clearly what we need," Boshcoff said.

He said Northern Ontario has to be viewed as a solution to southern Ontario, which has gridlock, urban sprawl and pollution.

Chronicle Journal June 18/02

A1-87



## 60 district residents relocate due to fire

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

About 60 Central Patricia residents were set to spend the night in Pickle Lake after a forest fire forced their relocation yesterday.

Central Patricia is just north of Pickle Lake. The fire that forced the move was about 540 hectares in area last night, and had damaged three sheds and several derelict vehicles in a wrecking yard.

The blaze has been the focus of MNR efforts in the region, fire information

officer Christine Rosche said yesterday. It single-handedly cancelled MNR plans to deliver 40 more firefighters to embattled Alberta yesterday.

The blaze keeps its status as the number one troublemaker despite the whopping 16 new fire starts in the region, Rosche said. It's really the only one causing any problems.

The fire also closed highways 516 and 599 into Pickle Lake on Sunday. The roads were reopened yesterday morning.

Chronicle - July 2/02



# MNR saves Central Patricia from forest fire at its edge

BY BRYAN MEADOWS  
NORTHWEST BUREAU

Ministry of Natural Resources water-bombers and fire crews have been credited with saving Central Patricia from a forest fire which clipped the community's southern edge on Sunday.

MNR fire information officer Deb MacLean said yesterday that six water-bombers helped prevent the fire from burning through the community just north of Pickle Lake.

Buffeted by brisk winds, the fire started near Pickle Lake, travelled east and north between the two communities and across Highway 599. It was about 600 hectares in size yesterday.

The 60 or so Central Patricia residents who were evacuated began returning to their homes on Monday.

"The residents are still going to be on alert" in case the fire flares up and moves west, MacLean said.

The fire damaged three sheds and several derelict vehicles in a wrecking yard, but no homes were affected. Highways 599 and 516 leading into Pickle Lake were closed for most of Sunday.

Telephone service to many Central Patricia homes was not working yesterday.

Pickle Lake Fire Chief Eric Dalzell said that seven of the department's vol-

unteer firefighters helped extinguish fires near the community.

"We've got a pumper on assignment at the airport (acting) in a support role right now," he said.

MacLean said a fire team was setting up in Pickle Lake and 30 fire crews starting laying hose lines around the fire yesterday.

Investigation into the fire's cause continues.

The Pickle Lake fire is one of seven active fires in the Northwest fire region.

Fire officials expected more fire starts in the region due to a lightning storm which passed through the region on Monday.

# Good progress made on Pickle Lake area fire

BY BRYAN MEADOWS  
NORTHWEST BUREAU

Ministry of Natural Resources fire crews continue to battle a forest fire which threatened Central Patricia on the weekend.

While crews are making "good progress on Sioux Lookout 17," MNR fire information officer Deb MacLean said yesterday that the fire remains listed as not under control.

"It's still showing some signs of life with some flare ups," she said.

The fire has so far blackened about 600 hectares of forest north and east of Pickle Lake.

On Sunday, six waterbombers helped MNR and Pickle Lake volunteer firefighters prevent the fire from burning through the hamlet of Central Patricia.

Buffeted by brisk winds, the fire started near Pickle Lake, travelled east and north between the two communities and across Highway 599.

Central Patricia residents who were evacuated Sunday have returned to their homes, but remain on alert in case the fire burns westerly.

The fire damaged three sheds and several derelict vehicles in a wrecking yard but no homes were affected. Highways

599 and 516 leading into Pickle Lake were closed for most of Sunday.

MacLean said that firefighters now have about 95 per cent of the fire's perimeter contained.

Sioux Lookout 10 is one of about 19 active fires in the Northwest fire region.

Fire officials reported about a dozen new fire starts yesterday primarily due to a lightning storm which passed through the region on Monday.

MacLean noted that most of the new fires were less than .1 hectare in size and are being handled by MNR initial attack crews.

Meanwhile, Dryden Fire 10 was declared out on Tuesday; a month after the fire started its spread across a 1,140-hectare area north of the city.

The massive fire threatened cottages and a tourist camp about 22 kilometres north of Dryden.

No structures were destroyed in the blaze due to quick action by MNR crews which set up sprinklers on a nearby lodge and cabins. Several CL-415 waterbombers were involved in the attack and helped contain the fire under difficult and windy conditions.

A total of 155 fires have blackened 12,177 hectares of forest since the start of the April 1 fire season in the Northwest.



# Forest fire near Pickle Lake being held by MNR fire crews

Paul Finelli  
STAFF WRITER

**W**HILE MANY residents were out enjoying the recent long weekend, members of the Ministry of Natural Resources Fire Management for Sioux Lookout District faced one especially pressing forest fire near Pickle Lake.

In the current fire season 12 forest fires were logged before the long weekend, which by average standards is "really good," observed Glenn Birch, MNR fire information officer. But by the Sunday before Canada Day, that number of

fires more than doubled. Though all the fires were being dealt with, Birch stressed it was the fire outside of Pickle Lake that was most dire. "That's the one that's a little bit of a challenge, at the moment. We were on this fire really fast."

Believed to have started the late afternoon of June 30, by Monday the fire had already reached about 540 hectares. While the cause of the fire as of late last week was still undetermined, it is believed high winds and hot temperatures—often culprits along with lightning—may have had a hand.

Making the fire most serious was its location. It was not far

from urban Pickle Lake and was intruding into the rural area of Central Patricia. Potentially affected too was the First Nation community of Mishkeegogamang, south of Pickle Lake. All three communities lost electrical power Sunday afternoon because of the fire, though power was restored by Hydro One late Monday afternoon. Most of the phone lines were also burned out in Central Patricia and residents were still waiting for Bell Canada to fix lines last week.

Since the fire was spreading eastward toward the Cantera Mine site, seven kilometres from

*See THE on page 7*

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SL Bulletin - July 10/02



# *The receiving community would have been Sioux Lookout*

*Continued from front*

Central Patricia, representatives of the mining company were told to monitor the situation. "It was another known value that was of concern, for protection of it, with regards to the fire," Birch said. The OPP also gave assistance to the MNR's efforts by controlling main road access into Central Patricia.

About 50 residents of Central Patricia were evacuated Sunday evening and relocated to Pickle Lake. "There was potential for loss of building structures. Our initial concern . . . was the loss of life," noted Bob Paterson, district emergency response co-ordinator. Residents were allowed to return to their homes Tuesday morning when it was considered safe to do so.

In dealing with the small evacuation in the first place, Paterson added: "There's been really good co-operation (among) the MNR, the Town of Pickle Lake, the OPP, the businesses, the residents and Hydro One in terms of dealing with all the issues of this fire." Town meetings were held every two hours to apprise residents of the situation.

To give an idea as to the seriousness of the fire at the time, MNR officials noted six of the province's nine water bombers were in use to help combat the fire. As well, about 30 fire crews of three-to-four people, members of Matt Myers Provincial Fire Team working with those of the Sioux Lookout District—meaning 120 people—were devoted to that single fire.

If the area needed to be entirely evacuated, the receiving community would have been Sioux Lookout. The Town was put on notice June 30 and Pickle Lake Mayor Roy Hoffman spoke to Mayor John McDonald at first on Sunday about the distinct possibility.

Had an evacuation been necessary, Hoffman would have had to first call Emergency Measures Ontario to declare an official emergency, but that was not necessary in this case. Of the 50 or so people who did evacuate, the Pickle Lake mayor was among them.

It was Central Patricia that had people concerned for a while, he said. "That's the area where the fire came really close to some businesses." No major loss to

building structures, aside from some old sheds, and old vehicles stored in auto garages were ultimately ravaged by the fire. He noted the OPP sent an Emergency Response Team to ensure the small evacuation he called went "as smooth as possible."

As of last week Hoffman was confident things would not take a turn for the worse. "If the fire does spread, wind is moving it away from the community. Guaranteed—the threat of community is lessened for the next day or two." He noted the only real concern was if the wind would suddenly shift.

He wished to thank especially Mayor McDonald for offering personally the hospitality of the town should a full evacuation be needed. More than 300 people would have been relocated here.

Asked what sort of provisions are in place to accommodate evacuees, Mayor McDonald noted the town has in storage sufficient sleeping bags so people would be easily accommodated in facilities like the Legion Hall, schools and churches. "The Municipality would play a lead role. We would find a spot for

them." He suggested also that the additional few hundred people would be no hardship since they would likely spend money in town. "We would benefit from it. Any community that is evacuating does."

As of late last week, the fire grew to about 590 hectares but was being contained by the fire crews surrounding its 247-kilometre perimeter. The number of crews was also reduced to 23.

Men at Work signs were posted along Highways 599, 649, 808 and Cantera Mine Road where fire personnel were still working while all speed limits were reduced as a safety precaution.

"We were very fortunate," remarked Birch. "They've established the line well so they're holding. When they say (the fire) will be held, they're very confident that it's not going to be larger." That is providing wind or heat conditions don't dramatically change, he observed, reminding campers to be extra diligent in putting out their fires.

It is estimated another week or so will be needed to fully quell the fire, including detecting hot spots, or smouldering areas, that need to be extinguished.



The Corporation of the Township  
of Pickle Lake

**PUBLIC NOTICE/SALE OF LAND**

In accordance with By-law #2006-16, the lands  
situated at Location HK-243 in the Township of Pickle  
Lake, District of Kenora, has been declared surplus, and  
is now for sale. Included are:

- ) Parcel 7489, Location H.K. 243, District of  
Kenora, Patricia Portion; Approximately 1 acre  
(42,161 square feet)
- ) One blue steel building, 60 feet wide by 100  
feet long (6,000 square feet), by 19 feet high.
- ) Oil furnace, chimney, above ground storage  
tank, lights and other building fixtures.

Offers to Purchase are available at the Municipal Offices,  
2 Anne Street S., Pickle Lake, Ontario.

A fee of \$20.00 will be charged for each package.

Offers to Purchase are to be submitted in writing to the Township Office  
by the closing date of Friday August 23, 2002 at 12:00 Noon.

Offers will be opened at the next regular scheduled Council Meeting.

Any offers are not necessarily accepted, as there is a reserve price  
attached to this sale.

**Late submissions will not be accepted.**

For further information, contact the Township Office at (807) 928-2034.

SL Bulletin - July 10/02



# Strong loonie good for travellers to U.S., bad for exporters

BY PAULA ARAB  
THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORONTO — The loonie is so volatile it drives travellers crazy.

Just ask Leean Bowman, a Toronto resident who visits Florida several times a year and ends up paying "practically double" for everything by the time she's exchanged her Canadian money.

"I have no choice but to be subject to the dollar's changes and whims," she said Thursday in an interview from Boca Raton, Fla., where she has spent the past week drumming up clients for her public relations firm, Brinsco Communications.

Bowman usually combines business with pleasure on her trips south, where she also visits her snowbird mom; they're trips she makes despite her frustration with currency fluctuations.

"I don't go less, but it makes me want to move out of Canada and earn U.S. dollars for a living," she said of the erratic dollar, adding that she got lucky and exchanged her money last week when the loonie hit its best level in a year at 66.13 cents US.

The Canadian dollar's strength was largely because of the weakening American greenback. The loonie gave back some of those gains this week, trading at around 65.25 cents US on Thursday.

One thing Bowman can do to shelter herself from these sorts of fluctuations is open up a U.S. bank account and exchange her money as the rates become more favourable.

But like any investment decision, that's a gamble, warns Reid Farrill, executive director of foreign exchange at CIBC World Markets.

"If you think that the Canadian dollar is going to continue to strengthen, then you wouldn't want to make any hasty conversions into the U.S. dollar," he said.

"You'd want to wait for the U.S. (dollar) to continue to fall. But on the other hand if you thought the Canadian dollar was going to disappoint like it always does, and you see a little bit of strength, then you'd want to be opportunistic and make a decision to convert."

That said, CIBC World Markets is predicting the U.S. dollar will continue to weaken throughout the summer and the loonie will climb to 67.5 cents US by October. Bank of Montreal is calling on a 68-cent-US dollar by mid 2003. And Royal Bank economists, by far the most optimistic, say the dollar will reach 69 U.S. cents by year-end and 71.4 U.S. cents by the end of next year.

Economists, however, are known for being overly optimistic and some have been predicting a 70-cent US dollar for many years.

A rising dollar isn't good news for everyone. It hurts the Canadian travel industry since Americans have less incentive to cross the border for a vacation in the Canadian Rockies, or cottage country in Quebec, central Ontario or Cape Breton Island.

Those in the export business also suffer. Typically as the loonie declines in value, Canadian goods become cheaper relative to U.S. goods, stimulating exports.

And the currency exchange is of serious concern to companies whose revenues are in U.S. dollars but who have major operations in Canada,

long-term profitability of aluminum giant Alcan, which reported earnings of \$86 million US for the first quarter of this year.

But for travellers, a strong loonie makes it cheaper to leave the country, says Jennifer Hillard, vice-president of the Consumers Association of Canada.

People tend to travel to countries where the Canadian currency is strong — Australia and New Zealand to name a few.

While it's not a bad idea to carry some money in U.S. dollars, commonly accepted around the world, it's always best to exchange your Canadian money directly into the local currency, said Farrill.

That's not always possible in some developing countries, where you have to use U.S. dollars because most goods are exported and priced in that currency and because a Canadian dollar gets you nothing more than a funny look.

Hillard's advice is to use your bank card to take out cash as you need it once you reach your destination. That gets you a better exchange rate, saves you fees to buy and cash traveller's cheques, and guards against theft of carrying around wads of cash.

"There are some countries that will surprise you in terms of not having card machines," said Hillard. "But on a whole, certainly most airports have cash machines."

For shorter trips, travellers can charge expenses to their credit cards, which also offer more favourable rates.

Hillard reminds consumers to record their credit card and bank card numbers on a piece of paper, along with the phone numbers to call in case the cards get lost or stolen.

She also recommends people pay for whatever part of their trip that they can ahead of time in Canadian dollars.

For those who want to change their money before leaving the country, travel agent Kim Crozier recommends shopping around for the best exchange rate.

Crozier, who sells mainly prepackaged tours — trips that were purchased in U.S. dollars six months ago when the loonie was still relatively weak — gives clients of Armstrong Tours a VIP currency coupon. That saves them an extra 10 per cent on conversions at Continental Currency Exchange, which has seven branches in Ontario.

## Consider U.S. account

THE CANADIAN PRESS

With the loonie moving up and down like a yo-yo against the U.S. dollar in recent weeks, here are some currency exchange tips to keep in mind when planning a trip:

- **Bank Machine:** Withdraw money from your bank card once you've reached your destination, when possible. That offers you a better exchange rate and allows you to carry around less cash.

- **Open up a U.S. account:** This is particularly helpful for people who make regular visits to the United States. Not only does it pay interest in U.S. dollars, but it allows greater flexibility to exchange when rates are higher. Park your greenbacks until needed.

- **Prepay what you can in Canadian dollars,** such as hotel, car rental, etc.

- **If travelling to the United States,**



# ns face problem hanging onto chief administrators

THEY  
BUREAU

municipalities having a  
ing doctors and nurses  
ust as difficult finding  
o manage the mundane,  
task of running their

problem was people who  
the designated qualifica-  
e who had trouble with  
ocation," Pickle Lake  
hartrand said Tuesday.  
council just hired a se-  
ut it took the town's hir-  
about a year to finally  
suitable candidate.

em excessively long, but  
some notable disadvan-  
to urban municipalities  
e some municipal man-  
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doesn't have a high  
it afford to pay a manag-  
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id a compensation pack-  
ge of \$80,000 a year "is  
ur league."

The North Shore towns of Marathon and Terrace Bay are also searching for chief administrators, with the latter town recently take the pricey step of advertising the position it has on offer in the Globe and Mail.

So what's the problem?

With the provincial government having slashed the number of municipalities since 1995, aren't there a lot of unemployed municipal managers out there?

The association that represents them says no, because many of its members have either taken buyout packages or are on the verge of retirement.

"I wouldn't say there's a glut of people on the market," said Andy Koopmans, executive director of the 2,200-member Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario.

Some small towns avoid the hassle and expense of trying to recruit a top manager by not having one, instead requiring department heads to report to members of council.

Koopmans, who once worked for the Town of Fort Frances in the late 1980s,

said location remains a major obstacle for northern municipalities when trying to attract experienced managers.

"For a lot of people, anything north of Orillia is just the hinterland," he said.

In the end, Pickle Lake council recruited a fellow northerner for its top management position.

But Chartrand said managers move on and it would be naive to think the

town won't be involved in yet another recruitment drive in a few years.

"I find Pickle Lake is like a training ground," Chartrand said.

# **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Dr. T. R. Davis**

is pleased to announce that

**Dr. Barry  
Walkiewicz**

has joined him in the practice  
of dentistry as of  
**July 15, 2002**

at **239 Colonization Avenue**  
**Dryden, Ontario**  
**Telephone: 223-3012**

*Dryden Observer - July 16/02*



**Employment Opportunity**  
**TOWNSHIP OF PICKLE LAKE**

**Permanent Position - Public Works**

**Duties Include:**

Construction/Carpentry Skills  
Heavy Labour  
Arena Work  
Mechanical Repairs  
Maintenance

**Requirements:**

Valid Class G Drivers License  
Shift Work is Required

Applications and/or resumes will be received by the undersigned  
until **12:00 Noon on Friday, August 9, 2002.**

Carolyn Hochstetler  
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Township of Pickle Lake  
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Pickle Lake, ON P0V 3A0  
Phone: (807) 928-2034  
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*Personal Information collected for this competition is authorized under  
Section 207 (45) of the Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, and  
will be used to determine eligibility for employment.*

*SL Bulletin - July 17/02*

# Was Dryden prepared?

"There's been chlorine dioxide leaks at the mill in the past - just ask anyone."

Many residents say they weren't the least bit surprised by the events of July 30, and several recall either seeing or smelling the gas coming from the mill prior to that evening.

"Yes, we have had some incidents in the past," says Jayne Murray, Weyerhaeuser's public affairs manager. "Because of the volatile nature of the gas, it has to be controlled with specific temperatures and pressures. There may be a release of gas when there's too much residuals from too much bleach in the process."

She recalls that there was a small chlorine dioxide release in May of this year which might have been visible to city residents. That release was caused by a power outage from a severe thunder and lightning storm.

"Also in 1998, there were a number of small releases when a new distributor control system was installed," she adds.

While these leaks were minimal in comparison to the size of the one on July 30, they were all reported to the Ministry of Environment (MOE).

While neither deputy mayor Brian England or Dryden fire chief Darryl Herbert were aware that there had been small leaks in the past, they feel the city of Dryden responded very appropriately in this particular situation.

"We have an emergency plan in place to deal with this type of thing," says England. "Obviously there's always things one could change, but overall, our people responded and responded fast."

eral things they would change or do differently in the event of another gas leak.

"One of the areas that will have to be improved on would be communications," he notes. "I was quite concerned that we just sent evacuees out to the Walmart, and didn't actually go out there and talk to them."

Many residents inside 10 Victoria also waited patiently to find out why they were being left in the zone that had been evacuated, and whether they were in any danger. Family members weren't sure if they should attempt to pick up a resident, or whether they would be turned back at a roadblock.

Another point of concern for the emergency response team was the location of their control centre. Situated right in the middle of town, it could have been inside the evacuation zone had the winds shifted to the east.

"The fire chief was trying to have the emergency control centre moved for a long time," says England. "Council has now approved relocation of both the fire department and the emergency control centre to the old hydro building on Colonization Ave. The MNR fire centre would be an alternate site, should the need arise."

He expects construction on the Colonization project to begin in early spring of next year.

Herbert says there are meetings taking place this week to discuss the gas leak and how it was handled. "I'm sure everybody learned something by this, but I think everyone was great; all the individuals and agencies worked very well together. Were we

chaos."

He explains that most residents have no idea how much more effort was being put forth behind the scenes, just in case the situation got worse. School buses were standing by to empty 10 Victoria and Patricia Court to places like the Wabigoon Hall, and Dryden Hospital patients to the Sioux Lookout hospital.

"I think we're very fortunate to have had a live exercise that wasn't too serious to learn from," says the deputy mayor.

Weyerhaeuser continues to investigate the cause of the implosion, and reduce the risk of it happening again. A general gas emergency drill scheduled for last week had to be put off, but employees had the opportunity to learn during the real thing.

"You can never be too

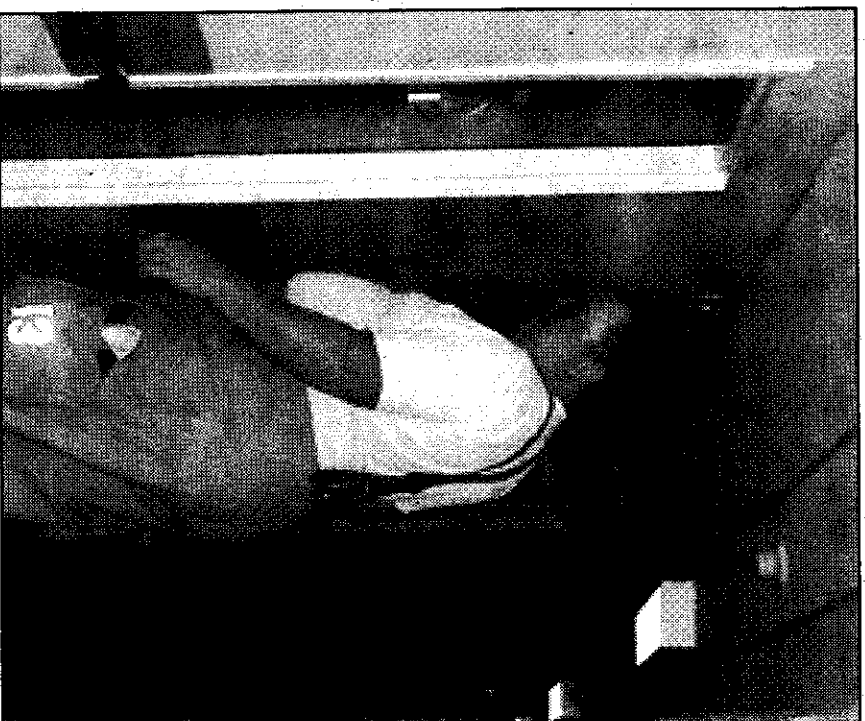
ready for something like this," admits Murray. "We feel it was handled very professionally by both the mill emergency response personnel and the town. All the training has paid off and it showed in the cooperative emergency effort."

"The firemen at my door, telling me there was a possibility of real danger would have looked a lot more ready, and convincing, if they had at least been wearing breathing apparatus," says one evacuee.

"I would have been ready if someone had sounded the sirens and I hadn't slept through the whole thing," recalls a woman.

"Sure, we were ready," says a senior citizen. "After all, it wasn't really that big of a deal, was it?"

Well, most of the experts answer that with, "It could have been." ★





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## Infrastructure projects launched

By Doug Pronger

**HUDSON** — Improvements to highways across northwestern Ontario are under way with the infusion of \$255.3 million in provincial government funding.

Jim Wilson, Northern Development and Mines Minister, announced the "road rehabilitation" projects at Hudson's Lost Lake Drop-in Centre, July 24.

"Improved highways will promote the safe and efficient movement of people and goods and encourage business growth and a better quality of life for north-erners," Wilson said.

A \$4.5 million contract for construction on Highway 664, 17 kilometres from the Sioux Lookout highway to Hudson, was awarded to Towland-Hewitson.

Former cabinet minister and Hudson resident Leo Bernier introduced Wilson and other speakers at the small gathering. They included Brad Hyslop, a member of the Hudson Advisory Committee, which advises the Sioux Lookout mayor and council on Hudson issues.

Hyslop recalled, as a six-year-old boy, riding his bicycle on the gravel road to

his hometown. It was first paved in 1970.

"At the time it was said the highway was Leo Bernier's paved driveway," Hyslop commented.

"In reality, it was the 1970s version of the high speed Internet," he continued. "It modernized transport. When environmental laws changed and restricted the transport of logs on Lac Seul, we had a paved

road already in place providing efficient access to the Hudson sawmill. It allowed growth and prosperity to continue and, in hindsight, the paving of Highway 664 improved the lives of those living in Hudson with a project that was good for all.

"Now there are over 100 large trucks carrying logs, wood chips and finished wood products each day on the highway. It would be

safe to say the traffic has increased five-fold," Hyslop added.

Sioux Lookout Mayor John McDonald said the improvement project had been a personal mission for about three years.

"Our roads are our lifelines," the mayor said.

Twelve road rehabilitation projects for the 2002-03 construction program (continued on page 2)