

vacancy in Shuniah Council

Councillor's resignation leaves 4 on board

HOLLAND
NICOLE-JOURNAL

Shuniah's four council-
resigned, raising con-
major issues won't be
because of a suggested
tern.

pal administrator
Levac told council on
that Jo-Anne Hamelin
coming from her position
gor ward councillor ef-
t day.

Maria
said
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I was
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didn't accept
resignation on July 17.
has been set for Aug. 8
h the matter:
n couldn't be reached

John Peter (JP) Fraser
he was surprised by

ficult because there would be a 2-
2 split on major issues, especially
involving the environment," he
said.

But Harding said there was no
voting pattern among Shuniah
councillors.

"It may look that way to some
people, but there isn't," she said.
"Just out of spite to vote against
something is stupid."

Harding said there are a few
options avail-
able to fill a
council vacancy.

Council can
call a byelection,
which
would cost
about \$10,000;
the seat can stay
vacant, leaving
three council-
lors and the
reeve; or coun-
cil could ap-

point a new councillor.

Harding said the best option
would be to appoint the non-elect-
ed runnerup from the 2000 elec-
tion.

Four councillors are voted into
office in Shuniah, three in Mac-
Gregor ward and one in Mc-

Chronicle - Aug 2/02

*"You need
to have a full council
to do a good job."*

Maria Harding
Shuniah reeve

Dryden to submit bid

By Sylvia Veal

The City of Dryden is planning to submit a proposal to the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) to operate the Ontario Works program for the district.

KDSB is looking at an operating deficit this year of \$300,000. Although the shortage will be absorbed through bonus funding, that fund will not be available the following year. Consequently, KDSB put out a request for proposals to district member municipalities to deliver the program, more cost-effectively and differently.

Arie Hoogenboom, Dryden city manager, confirmed Dryden's interest. "We think we can do it with perhaps a different number of remote sites, different staffing levels and possibly eliminate dupli-

cation of services," he explained in an interview, Aug. 2.

Hoogenboom pointed out that northwestern Ontario has a unique challenge in offering Ontario Works services as compared to counterparts in southern Ontario.

"In southern Ontario, a worker may handle up to 70 cases, but here, for example in Pickle Lake, the office might be handling six cases," he said. The geographic distances result in higher costs of operation, with dollars spent to cover a full-time worker, pay rent on office space and needed computer equipment.

The city manager feels Dryden can accommodate another requirement of operating the program — having good accounting and other

qualified staff in place. He mentioned the current employees at the KDSB office in Dryden (Barclay fire hall), as an example of staff experience.

"If the board is serious about saving \$300,000, we believe there are options. If the opportunity is there, we're going to look at it," he said.

Dryden is working on the proposal now. Deadline for submission of the 50-page document is Sept. 18. However, the proposal will be presented to city council first, before it goes to KDSB.

The Kenora District board of directors will make the final choice from submitted proposals. The date for delivery of services under a new system is January 2003. ★

Dryden Observer - Aug 6/02



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THE DRYDEN OBSERVER

Serving Dryden, Red Lake, Eagle River, Ear Falls, Vermilion Bay, Sioux Lookout, Ignace, Wabigoon and surrounding communities.

Year 105 No. 2 - DRYDEN, ONTARIO - TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2002

www.drydenobserver.ca

Founded in 1897

Chlorine dioxide forces residents from homes *Was Dryden prepared for a disaster?*

By Laurie Papineau

On the evening of July 30, just as residents were winding down after another hot summer day, the City of Dryden received a call from Weyerhaeuser that there had been a chlorine dioxide leak at the mill.

When both a storage tank and a line to the tank sustained damage at approximately 8:43 p.m., chlorine dioxide began to quickly vent into the air, calling for an evacuation of the mill by 9:11.

"There was some damage to a tank and a line," explains Jayne Murray, public relations manager for Weyerhaeuser. "We're still determining the cause, but there was an implosion of some sort."

Over 12,000 litres of

lowing the rupture.

"Employees in the mill heard something, realized there was a gas situation, called in the emergency and shut off the pump," says Murray. "An evacuation was begun at 9:11 p.m."

Immediately, Dryden Fire Service responded with Dryden Police Service providing traffic control. Because it was an airborne chemical with potentially harmful qualities, Dryden Fire Chief Darryl Herbert activated the Emergency Operations Control Group.

The scene in downtown Dryden and across the river from the mill remained unusually calm as volunteer firefighters went door to door along streets west of Van Horne, asking people to leave their homes and head east to the Wal-Mart park-

had been told to close windows and doors, and turn off air conditioners, but had not been given the order to leave. "Many of those people didn't have transportation," explains Herbert. "If it had become absolutely necessary, we had buses standing by to evacuate them."

With little to no wind, a fluorescent green cloud hung over the mill until the sky turned dark, and sharp fumes, which burned eyes and sinuses, remained heavy in the air.

"Everybody said it was a good thing there was no wind," says Herbert. "While it was good there wasn't a wind blowing it right over the town, it wasn't really in our favour not to have any wind at all. It took a long time for the gas to dissipate."

area, curious about what exactly was going on. Throughout the night individuals gathered on the street corner across from the mill parking lot. Most said they didn't believe the chemical could be very dangerous because the town's sirens did not sound.

Herbert explains that he and the rest of the control group made the decision not to use the sirens because the risks associated would outweigh the benefits of keeping the situation calm.

"I didn't want total chaos," says the fire chief. "There's a fine line between doing more damage than good, and at that time, only one small area needed to be evacuated."

Within an hour, most residents in the immediate vicinity of the mill had

pass or overpass and everyone entering the west end of town, including downtown, was being turned back. Initially, even rail traffic was stopped.

Some Ministry of Environment (MOE) officials were at the emergency control centre in the basement of city hall, while others remained in constant telephone contact, as did representatives of Weyerhaeuser.

"At one point in time, MOE experts in Toronto, looking at a map, suggested I evacuate 10.5 kms. south of Dryden," recalls Herbert. "How could we do that? The evacuees would have had to drive right past the source to get out. Besides, how would you get a hold of those people?"

While Herbert will not downplay the seriousness

concerned about other chemicals, some which travel through the city by rail. "At least I know what I'm dealing with here," he adds.

Throughout the night of the leak, chlorine dioxide readings were taken at test sites all over town, including in the mill and at several low-lying areas.

"We had zero readings at all of the sites," says Herbert.

Between 5 and 5:30 a.m., residents were permitted to return to their homes and employees reentered the mill.

Amid the confusion and media frenzy the following day, many people started to ask questions about the effects of chlorine dioxide, as well as questioning some of the decisions made the previous night.

Sioux Lookout northern development officer accepts new position in Kenora

Janet Gibson
STAFF WRITER

THERESA Stephens, the popular northern development officer with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, is going home to Kenora.

She will start her new job as business and industry advisor with MNDM in Kenora Aug. 12 after working in Sioux Lookout for two years.

Stephens received a round of applause from Mayor John McDonald and the audience attending MNDM Minister Jim Wilson's Hudson highway announcement July 24.

"I know people have to move on to bigger and better things but, Theresa, on behalf of every-

one here we certainly appreciate everything you've done for us," McDonald said.

"Sioux Lookout is very welcoming. Right from the start I was invited to attend Rotary and chamber of commerce meetings," Stephens said last week.

The difference between her work as northern development officer and business and industry advisor is that before she worked with municipalities, First Nations, local services boards and businesses.

"I kept municipalities informed of various government programs that our ministry administers," Stephens said.

Now she will promote export opportunities for businesses, and help manufacturers of wood,

mining and agricultural products connect with trade shows in North America.

"The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines is the most important ministry to us here in the northwest," McDonald said on July 24. "Whenever we have a problem we can always turn to them - we always have - to seek their assistance."

Stephens said one of the ministry's programs is the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund which helps municipalities develop infrastructure such as roads, water systems, community centres, and recreation centres.

"While I was here, I saw significant improvements to the recreation centre," she said.

See ALWAYS on page 8

Sioux Bulletin - Aug 7/02

— right in the wallet

d on to hydro bill charge for paying off utility's debt

grab by the federal government.

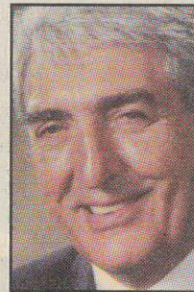
Northwestern Ontario MP Joe Comuzzi (L-Thunder Bay-Superior North) called the tax that his government is collecting "repulsive."

Comuzzi said he was writing a letter immediately to Revenue

Minister Martin Cauchon to express his displeasure.

"This obviously is an error," Comuzzi said in the letter. "There should be no GST charged on debt retirement. As an analogy, when a good or service is purchased, GST is charged.

"If that good or service was financed on a monthly payment plan, the purchaser is not obligated to pay GST on the monthly payment."



Comuzzi says it's repulsive.

Ontario Hydro, the province's former publicly-run power company, had an estimated debt of \$38 billion and Ontario electricity customers are being charged several dollars on each bill to help pay part of it off between 2010 and 2017.

The new "unbundled" bills came out this spring and show charges for electricity generation, transmission and distribution, plus a 0.7-cent-per-kilo-watt-hour charge for paying down the monstrous debt.

Ontario's Ministry of Finance, known for its tax-cutting philosophies, has no problem with the GST being applied to the debt charge, a spokeswoman said yesterday.

Sue Craig said the taxation falls under Canada Customs and Revenue Agency guidelines.

"Let's put it this way: we haven't objected and we think that it conforms to their rules," she said.

Craig added the ministry has known for "quite an amount of time" that the GST was going to be applied to the debt portion of the bill.

Ontario NDP Leader Howard Hampton (Kenora-Rainy River) said it was ironic that a government that styles itself as a tax-fighter is loading more taxes on consumers.

He said more than \$200 million

will be collected by the federal government this year by applying the GST to the debt charge.

Larry Hebert, general manager of Thunder Bay Hydro, which draws up city hydro bills, said he didn't think GST would be applied to the debt charge.

"Why would you be charging GST on a retirement charge?"

However, Hebert said all utilities across the province were instructed by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), the province's regulatory agency, to apply the GST to the debt charge.

Hebert suggested that customers were being double-billed.

"It's a tax on a tax in a sense, we believe, because really that ... debt retirement charge is nothing but a tax.

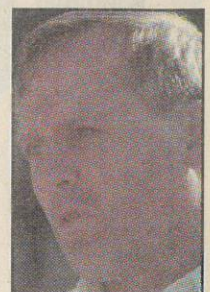
"You can call it a lot of other things, but it's basically a tax," he said.

Northwestern Ontario MPP Michael Gravelle (L-Thunder Bay-Superior North) said applying the GST to the debt charge was a "ripoff" for consumers.

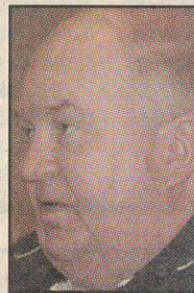
"It seems to me that it is wrong that the GST be applied to a portion of a bill that is neither a good nor a service," Gravelle said yesterday.

Gravelle compared the tax to the federal government applying GST to fuel costs, after the provincial tax and federal excise tax were calculated and included in the total.

"It sure seems wrong to me," he said.



Hampton does the math.



Hebert sees double-billing.



Gravelle calls it a ripoff.

Chronicle - Aug 9/02

Hydro GST furor continues

WARD HOLLAND
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

The province's Liberal energy minister says Ontarians have a right to be angry for being charged GST on a certain portion of their new electricity bills.

"Electricity consumers have a right to be damned mad about having to pay a goods and services tax on the accrued debt of Ontario Hydro, which we all recognize has to be paid off," said MPP Sean Conway of Simcoe-Nipissing-Pembroke.

"It's really a battle between the Ontario Ministry of Finance and the federal Department of Finance."

Ontario's new hydro rates show GST applied to power generation and transmission, as well as to a portion of retire-

ment charges. This charge is being used to pay off a portion of the estimated \$38-billion debt accumulated by the former Ontario Hydro.

Conway said he has received several telephone calls from people upset about the GST charge. He said he plans to bring the matter up at Queen's Park when the legislative session resumes this

week. However, Ron Colucci, a certified general accountant in Mississauga, said the federal government has a right to apply the tax.

TAXING

Accountant says
GST is being
applied
appropriately
on hydro bills

Chronicle - August 10/02

Introduction of high speed Internet is a very big investment

Continued from front

\$79, and a free month of service.

Then there's the monthly fee - \$59.95, or \$39.95 for customers who have basic cable television through Norcom, with a further discount for customers subscribing to Norcom's gold package.

Norcom will buy back satellite dishes and offer customers credit, Ritchie said.

Businesses will pay the same fee and have access to Norcom Lynx Business Solutions delivered through Norcom's coax

cable system.

High speed Internet is not the only service Norcom is sending this way.

The other is a Web site or "high-speed portal page" called gosioxlookout.com, which will provide community news and views, an events calendar, police briefs, and links to such sites as CBC, CTV, CNN, The Weather Network, and Tucows Network, with links to Electric Library (newspapers and magazines), Encyclopedia.com and 30,000 software titles.

The Web page is similar to Norcom's gokenora.com, Ritchie said, which gets its news reports from the company's television station, CJTV, in Kenora.

Norcom, founded by Carl Johnson 30 years ago, has installed cable TV in northwestern Ontario homes since the mid-70s, he said.

The introduction of high-speed Internet into Sioux Lookout is a very big investment for Norcom, he added. "It's not for the weak of heart."

Norcom to roll high speed Internet into Sioux

Janet Gibson

STAFF WRITER

HIGH speed Internet is coming this way.

"Yes, we are going to launch our high-speed Internet service, Norcom Lynx, into Sioux Lookout. We've been looking at it for awhile. We'll hopefully be launching in mid-September. That's our goal," Norcom Telecommunications Ltd. General Manager Warren Ritchie said last Friday.

Based on the DOCSIS cable modem technology, which he called "state of the art," Ritchie said the service will allow customers to download at speeds up to 1Mb/s.

A file that takes 30 minutes to download by dial-up, takes one minute by cable.

Other advantages, he said, are instant access, no extra phone lines and no time limits. It's always on.

Ritchie said the launch will be a "limited launch" or "roll out" be-

cause only part of the Sioux Lookout area is currently capable of carrying Internet.

He described the limited area as the downtown core and south of the tracks as far as the Forest Inn.

"From there the roll out won't be long, depending on how life treats us. The community is compact. As the months go by, we'll be fixing up the rest of town," Ritchie said.

He estimated it would take Norcom three to six months to hook everyone up.

"Sioux Lookout is our third launch," Ritchie said. "We've ironed out the bugs."

Norcom delivered high speed Internet to Kenora three years ago and Red Lake last January, he added.

The new service will have the following prices. For starters, a cable modem costs \$149 to buy or \$14.95 to rent per month. If customers buy it, they'll get free installation, which otherwise costs

See INTRODUCTION on page 7

SL Bulletin - Aug 21/02

Nault announces three northern roads projects

Special to the Bulletin

THE Honourable Robert D. Nault, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), announced last week \$100,000 in funding for three economic development projects that are designed to improve and expand the winter roads network in Northwestern Ontario. Each of the three projects has a different goal but all of the initiatives combined are aimed at strengthening the research capacity and resource development of the

Northwestern Ontario winter roads network.

"I'm pleased to say that we are taking the first positive step toward building relationships between the First Nations, the federal and provincial agencies involved with the winter road network," said Minister Nault. "I strongly believe that these initiatives are in line with the objective of bringing economic development to northern communities."

DIAND's funding announcement came when Nault visited Kasabonika Lake and Wunnumin Lake First Nations, the final day

of a three-day tour that included stops in Slate Falls, Webequie, and Cat Lake. The details for the projects are as follows:

The first of the three projects is a \$60,000 contribution to support the Ashweig Winter Roads Corporation for aerial photography. The Ashweig Corporation is owned by six First Nations, including Wawakapewin, Wunnumin Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Kingfisher Lake, Kasabonika Lake, and Wapekeka. The communities are situated north of the existing all weather

road known as the Northern Highway. Conducting aerial photography research is an important step in determining the best solutions for realigning the winter roads network. The photography is expected to play an important role in shaping the future interconnectedness of the six First Nations.

DIAND will provide \$100,000 to support the Group of Ten to create a regional planning process for roads and grid resource development in Northwestern Ontario. The Group of Ten signed a "Resource Development

Gathering Accord" in the fall of 2001 to work together to identify economic development opportunities within their area.

The ten First Nations include Kingfisher Lake, Kasabonika Lake, Wunnumin Lake, Muskrat Dam, Wawakapewin, North Caribou Lake, Sachigo Lake, Bearskin Lake, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, and Wapekeka. The First Nations will be working in partnership with both federal and provincial government representatives and agencies.

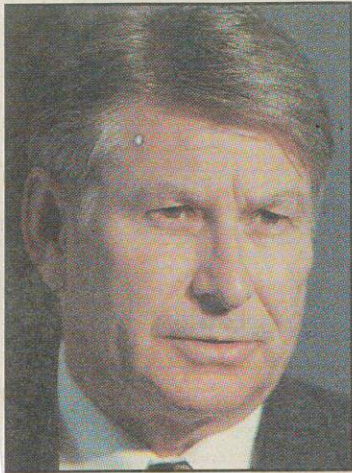
DIAND is also providing \$20,000 for the organi-

zation of a conference that will bring together representatives of 12 northern First Nations along with the Ashweig Corporation and The Group of Ten to discuss opportunities in the areas of winter road alignment, mineral exploration, and energy development.

By supporting these initiatives, DIAND is demonstrating its commitment to the efforts undertaken by the Minister's Special Representative on Northern Economic Development and Infrastructure, and the Northern Infrastructure Unit, as announced by the Minister on May 14.

He's 'president Boshcoff' now

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL



Mayor Ken Boshcoff

The province's biggest lobby group on municipal issues has selected a veteran politician from Northwestern Ontario as its new president.

Thunder Bay Mayor Ken Boshcoff was elected to a two-year term yesterday during the annual meeting of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario in Toronto.

"This is going to give us a chance to educate the south about us, to give us a bit more respect and clout," an upbeat Boshcoff, 53, said from the convention at the Royal York Hotel.

"It's a great day for the North," he added.

Northern mayors and reeves have traditionally struggled to make cabinet ministers and Queen's Park bureaucrats understand the particular challenges of living in Northern

ELECTED

Thunder Bay's mayor is new president of provincial municipalities organization

Boshcoff beat one another contender for the top seat — the chairman of a regional municipality near Toronto.

AMO doesn't disclose the number of votes each candidate receives, but Boshcoff said he won by "a wide margin."

Ontario, such as the long distances between towns and a lack of funding for road maintenance and other infrastructure projects.

The last time AMO elected a Northerner as president was in the late 1990s, when former Geraldton mayor Michael Power took the helm.

Boshcoff, who has been an AMO board member for the past four years, said he still plans to attend Thunder Bay city council meetings on a regular basis, despite the extra demands on his schedule.

He said new technology like video-conferencing should help reduce the number of times he'll have to travel to AMO's Toronto head office.

With a new Municipal Act governing Ontario cities and towns, "it's an exciting time to be leader," Boshcoff added.

Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce president Mary Long-Irwin said Boshcoff's election should be good for the entire Northwest.

"I find he has a good understanding of the whole region, and is not just an ambassador for the city," Long-Irwin said.

Chronicle - August 21/02

City doubles price for dumping tires

costs more to dispose of in Dryden now that council approved an increase in tire disposal at its landfill site during last Monday's regular meeting. Based on recommendations from the Public Works Department, council hiked disposal fees from \$2 a tire to \$4 per tire and \$75 per ton to \$250. Keith Apland stresses that fee hikes are needed to

address a growing deficit in revenues versus the cost of handling old tires.

The previous fees brought in approximately \$20,000 a year. However, the city also budgeted \$30,000 for tire removal.

Area resident Brian Wintle shrugs his shoulders when informed of the additional charges.

"I don't like it, but it won't hurt a lot. They are trying to make a few extra

dollars," he says, noting those few dollars per resident will amount to a large sum for the city.

Another Dryden resident, who chooses not to be identified, speculates the additional charges could result in more garbage being dumped in area brush.

"I'm opposed to the idea of making the landfill pay for itself," he explains, adding people are already
(continued on page 2)

Health members

re appointees to the Dryden Area Health Services Foundation Board made public last. Dryden City Manager Hoogenboom announced the members of the board at the Aug. 12 council meeting.

**HOLIDAY
DEADLINE
NOTICE**

1st die in Hwy. 17 crash

peg man and his
een identified as
ictims of a 7 a.m.
highway 17, Fri-
6.

Krzsik, 57, and
ysik, 18, of Win-
in an eastbound
Wieslaw's moth-
era Krzsik, 82,
Anna Molika, 22,
when they crossed
line and struck a

westbound transport truck.

All four occupants of the
Kyzysik vehicle died in the
accident, which occurred
just east of the Hwy. 71
junction. The truck driver, a
49-year-old Alberta man,
was taken by ambulance to
Lake of the Woods District
Hospital with non-life
threatening injuries.

The collision closed Hwy.
17, from Hwy. 71 through to

Vermilion Bay, for nearly five
hours, and reduced traffic to
one lane through the site for
another six hours.

The investigation into
the cause of the crash is
continuing. ☆

Price doubles

(continued from page 1)

dumping garbage bags
instead of paying for a \$1.50
tag.

K. K. Penner and Sons
owner Brian Groves noted
that hiking tire fees would
force him to pass that cost on
to customers. He is also
encouraging people to keep
their old tires and to handle
disposal themselves.

Apland stresses there are
few uses for used tires, and
provincial regulations dic-
tate the size of tire piles and
how close they may be kept to
one another.

The city recently buried
several tire piles under filter
cloth and six inches of gravel
to guard against fire. Howev-
er, the number of exposed
tires is once again growing
and must soon be addressed.

"They can go into the land-
fill, but we don't want to use
up space that way," Apland
explains.

To that end, administra-
tion is discussing possible
options with an outside
source.

"We're talking to an outfit
and hoping to have a solution
this year," he says.

Council also approved hik-

recast from



Environment Canada

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Satellite phone system on line

BY CARL CLUTCHEY
NORTH SHORE BUREAU

If the phones go haywire again in Terrace Bay, the town should be able to get in touch with the outside world.

That was made possible when the municipality received a free satellite-phone system to be used in emergencies from a command centre at town hall.

The unit, valued at about \$10,000, was an unexpected gift from Ontario Power Generation, which operates a nearby hydroelectric station on the Aguasabon River.

"We didn't know (the satellite phone) was coming, it was certainly a surprise," Terrace Bay Mayor Mike King said yesterday.

In previous years, Bell Canada customers have occasionally been unable to dial long distance because of a glitch in the local phone system.

Though the problem usually lasts less than a day, King said, the prospect of it happening again was unnerving because police and other emergency services are reached through out-of-town exchanges.

The problem was discussed earlier this year when OPG and the municipality were planning a mock disaster at the utility's Aguasabon facility.

King said OPG may have decided to donate the satellite system when it realized that if its dam ever blew open, it would take local telephone lines with it and knock out long-distance service.

John Coupland, a planning officer with Thunder Bay Area Emergency Measures Organization, said police have always been able to make outside contact when the phones were down.

Coupland also noted that there is cell-phone service on the North Shore.

"But this satellite system would be a good backup, should other systems fail."

Chronicle - Aug 28/02

Hampton calls on Feds to Provide Funding to Twin the Trans-Canada Highway in NWO

ward Hampton, MPP for the Huron-Rainy River and Huron-Georgian Bay area, is calling on the Federal Government to provide funding to improve the safety of the Trans-Canada Highway throughout Northwestern Ontario.

Hampton has written to the Federal Minister of Transportation, David Lam, asking the Federal Government to assist in improving the Trans-Canada Highway between Ignace and the Manitoba Border.

In light of the recent announcement by Prime Minister Jean Chretien that the Federal Government will pay half the cost of widening sections of the

Trans-Canada through New Brunswick, surely the Federal Government should

invest in improving one of the most dangerous stretches of the Trans-Canada highway in Canada," Hampton said.

"Successive Provincial Governments have made improvements to this stretch of highway over the last 15 years through repaving and rebuilding sections of the highway, widening shoulders, straightening and adding new passing lanes," Hampton said. "With ever increasing truck traffic, the highway is in need of more passing lanes and widening with the goal of four-laning

the highway through this section of Northwestern Ontario."

"The recent funding announcement by the Prime Minister in New Brunswick acknowledges that the Trans-Canada network is more than a series of Provincial Highways that just happen to connect, and the funding announcement acknowledges the Federal Government has a role to play in improving the Trans-Canada," Hampton said.

Recently, in one week, six people died in traffic accidents on this stretch of highway. Over the last three years, this stretch of highway has taken the lives of over 20 people.

Ignace Driftwood - May 28/02

DSB facing financial concerns

Kenora District Seward is facing some financial concerns regarding ambulance provision. Councillor Brian Lif told council on Tuesday that the KDSB is in negotiations with the ambulance union. At the same time, it is looking for ways to upgrade its services in Kenora, Ear Falls and possibly Sioux Lookout. Lif says the province presents a real challenge as the provincial government has downgraded its responsibility for ambulance services to municipalities. As a result, KDSB's member communities will need to find the money for any pay hikes and facility upgrades. Increased costs are being passed onto municipalities, and some are reluctant. A major concern is negotiating a contract which will form the basis of the contract since the

KDSB took over land ambulance administration one and a half years ago. Those talks may end up in front of an arbitrator who will award a hefty settlement.

"We're nowhere near that stage right now. At this point in time, we're confident we can reach a negotiated settlement," Lif says.

Perhaps more pressing is what to do with ambulance headquarters in Kenora, Ear Falls and Sioux Lookout.

"We've identified three sites that need work done or replacement over the next few years," he says.

However, based on the experience of other service providers in recent years, the KDSB should not count on provincial money for those capital projects.

That means member municipalities will have to find the money to fund those upgrades. ★

Dryden Observer - Sept 3/02

San Francisco Bay sets final tax rates

AA 87

Chronicle
Sept 4/02

HOLLAND
JOURNAL

ial taxpayers will see a 2.2-per-cent in-
is year's tax bill, after council voted last
rove the 2002 tax ratios.

all-service taxpayer who owns a piece of
praised at \$100,000, this means he will
654 in property taxes in 2002. Last year,
ve paid \$1,619.

ne taxpayers might grumble about hav-
n additional \$35 this year, residents in
y have been paying lower tax rates than
es, council was told.

s surveys of municipalities of similar
rio showed that we were slightly below
Coun. Trevor Giertuga, chairman of
ive services, told The Chronicle-Jour-

s some concern that the tax increase
her than 2.2 per cent. City administra-
ommending a hike after a variance re-
the budget was projecting a \$2.6-mil-

council pressured administration to
al dollars from reserve funds and other
ch they were able to do.

As a result, council also voted yesterday to use
the money from reserves, rather than impose an ad-
ditional tax levy.

The ratepayers who will see the biggest hike —
2.57 per cent — will be multi-residential property
owners.

Commercial, shopping centre and office building
ratepayers will see virtually no
increase compared to last year.

Industrial property ratepay-
ers will actually see a 3.7-per-
cent decrease in this year's tax-
es.

The final instalment for this
year's taxes is Oct. 23.

Late payments draw a penal-
ty.

CITY HALL

Final
tax payments
due Oct. 23

NDP Riding Association celebrates Hampton's 15th year as MPP



The Kenora-Rainy River NDP Provincial Riding Association will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of Howard Hampton's election to the Ontario Legisla-

ture.

Howard was first elected on September 10, 1987 as the MPP for the Rainy River riding after running twice before that, in 1977 and 1985. He served in cabinet as the Attorney General from 1990 to 1993, and then from 1993 to 1995 as Minister of Natural Resources. In 1996 he became leader of the Ontario NDP. He was elected for the new riding of Kenora-Rainy River in 1999.

"Howard ran for the NDP twice before being elected in 1987," said Richard

McKinnon, NDP membership secretary. "It was through his hard work and dedication that Rainy River elected an NDP member. It is because of his continual hard work and commitment that the new riding of Kenora-Rainy River re-elected Howard as our MPP."

Bill Blaikie, veteran Winnipeg MP and Federal NDP Leadership candidate will be the guest speaker at a fundraising dinner in Fort Frances September 7 in Howard's honour.

Ignace Driftwood - Sept 4/02

Water problem leaves sour taste for some

BY CARL CLUTCHEY
NORTH SHORE BUREAU

MARATHON

Marathon's drinking water will continue to be treated with chlorine until further notice, following an end yesterday to the town's second experience this year with a boil-water advisory.

Thunder Bay District Health Unit lifted the advisory around 2 p.m. yesterday after water samples came back free of bacteria.

Town council may make a decision to continue adding chlorine, or to turn it off, at its regular meeting Sept. 23.

All Ontario municipalities must add some kind of disinfectant to their drinking water by next July 1.

Marathon's boil-water advisory went into effect Aug. 28 after a water sample taken from the town's reservoir indicated the presence of total coliform — a vegetable-based bacteria.

There were no reports of anyone getting sick.

Total coliform — not as serious as E. coli — is the same bacteria that resulted in the town's first-ever boil advisory in January.

That sample was also found in the reservoir, but health officials said that's

understood that chlorine will be added to the raw water supply until further notice."

Prior to that, the only council member in favour of adding chlorine has been Coun. Kelly Tsubouchi, who said the town had no choice in the wake of the Walkerton, Ont., tainted-water tragedy.

Some Marathon restaurant owners were upset when the town turned the chlorine off after January's boil-water advisory ended because of the cost of providing trouble-free water to customers and lost business.

"This (latest advisory) has cost me between \$3,500 and \$4,000," doughnut shop owner Iris Sullivan yesterday.

"I'm going to send my bills to the town, though I know they won't pay it."

Sullivan, a nurse and a long-time member of Marathon's hospital board,

said adding chlorine is "being totally, totally pro-active."

Mackie said if the town had been chlorinating its water, it would have only been required to increase the level of chlorine and flush its distribution system when a total coliform sample was discovered.

Total coliform can occasionally show up even when the chlorine is on, Mackie added.

All Ontario municipalities will be required to treat their drinking water with a disinfectant or chemicaly-assisted filtration system by July 1, 2003.

Bay and Little Trout Bay as well as other organizations and individuals opposed the amendment for the very same reason. They expended a great deal of time and money in their effort to per Ontario's various levels of government.

Governor General has busy itinerary in

KELLY
CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

in appointing a local artist to the Order of Canada to participating in the Terry Fox Run, Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson has a busy itinerary when she comes to Thunder Bay next weekend. Clarkson's visits to Northwestern Ontario and other communities across the province commemorate the 50th anniversary of the installation of Vincent Massey as the first Canadian-born Governor General.

Besides Thunder Bay, she will visit Kenora, Dryden and Sioux

Lookout.

Clarkson will preside at an Order of Canada investiture for artist Susan Ross next Saturday at the Valhalla Inn.

Ross's career spans six decades, during which time her paintings and intaglio prints captured the essence of First Nations people and their symbiotic relationship with



**Gov. Gen.
Adrienne
Clarkson**

the land.

Ross has also provided both financial and emotional support to native artists in Northwestern Ontario to unveil their visions of the world to others.

"I'm very honoured but I feel I don't deserve it," Ross, 87, said in an interview yesterday.

Ross, who began painting as a child, said she no longer paints.

"I lost the urge to do it in the last couple of years."

The Order of Canada, established in Canada's centennial year, 1967, recognizes outstanding achievement and service in various fields of human endeavour.

Clarkson will also have a private visit to the Terry Fox Monument, make a civic call to Mayor Ken Boshcoff and attend an official dinner given by the City of Thunder Bay at the Travelodge Airline Hotel.

After breakfast at the Hoito on Sunday, Clarkson and her husband John Ralston Saul invite the community to join them in the 22nd annual Terry Fox Run.

Lunch and discussion with the Regional Multicultural Youth Council follows at the Victoriaville Centre Mall.

Before leaving Thunder Bay on Monday, Clarkson will visit the Fort William First Nation while Saul will attend at the

Negahneewin College
Studies at Confederation

From Thunder Bay to Kenora, where she attends at St. Thomas School and have a dinner with aboriginal

Short trips to Iroquois out will complete

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the Globe,

the town also put ads in the Winnipeg Free Press and all of the main Northern Ontario daily newspapers, including The Chronicle-Journal.

"It's cost us a fair buck," Taniwa said.

In the ads, the municipality said it is prepared to pay a successful candidate up to \$85,000 in annual salary — more than in previous years.

The town began looking for a CAO this summer to replace Ian McQuarrie, who died after a serious illness.

Taniwa was hired as a temporary replacement. He said his contract has been extended until the end of September to help the municipality sift through the CAO applications.

-Sept 9/02

Smoking allowed in adult premises

BY BRYAN MEADOWS
NORTHWEST BUREAU

Dryden bars and businesses which prohibit youth on their premises won't have to butt out under a smoke-free bylaw approved by city council yesterday.

By unanimous vote, council approved a motion banning smoking in any enclosed space where anyone under 18 years old is allowed to attend, whether or not a sign prohibiting smoking is posted.

The non-smoking bylaw comes into effect Jan. 1.

"I think this is a very good compromise," Mayor Sid Wintle said.

The smoke-free spaces debate has become heated at times between smokers and non-smokers in the city.

Coun. Brian England said the bylaw "will protect our youth, and give some choice for individuals to smoke or not to (in some public places)."

Dryden bar owners said earlier that they were opposed to any bylaw that would ban all smoking indoors.

"It is an issue of freedom of choice in bars," one bar owner said, explaining that businesses would suffer financially under a total smoking ban.

Besides bars, private clubs, and guest rooms in hotels, motels

DRYDEN

and inns are exempt under the smoke-free bylaw.

Violators of the bylaw face fines of up to \$5,000.

Coun. Brian Collins said he was disappointed that "the province didn't have the intestinal fortitude (to pass such a bylaw)."

"I think (municipalities approving such bylaws) will create a mish-mash of smoking bylaws across the province. . . . As far as I'm concerned we're on the side of right," he said.

In approving the bylaw, council rejected a Northwestern Health Unit recommendation calling for complete elimination of second-hand smoke from indoor public places.

Medical officer of health Dr. Pete Sarsfield has put 3,000 businesses west of Thunder Bay on notice that enforcement of smoke-free spaces is imminent.

He has not set a date for enforcement in all restaurants, bars and other businesses that allow customers and employees to light up.

Sarsfield maintains he's with his rights to declare second-hand smoke a health hazard under Ontario's little-known Health Protection and Promotion Act.

Violators of the health unit's smoking ban could face fines of up to \$25,000.

Chronicle - Sept 10/02

343-6226 or 1-800-465-3914

More patients use telehealth service

by Sylvia Veal

Twenty-eight local patients have already made use of the Dryden Regional Centre's telehealth service. Telemedicine consultants use video-conference technology, special equipment and medical procedures, such as digital endoscopes to enable specialists in other locations to examine a patient in Dry-

den. Last week, telehealth patients had consultations with doctors in such specialties as psychiatry, dermatology, speech, neurology, nephrology and pediatrics, since the hospital's telehealth service became operational.

Andrew Skene, hospital administrative officer, said the concept of telehealth has been evolving since 1982. "In the '80s, consultations were done, but were stopped because of the prohibitive costs," Skene added, with a wry smile, "The hospitals in the northwest were not able to find funds for fax machines instead."

Skene credited Dr. Ed Smith with keeping the telehealth concept alive and ensuring the project continued.

Linda Calbeck coordinates the hospital telehealth facility. NORTH (Northern Ontario Remote Telecommunications Health) Network is responsible for scheduling the appointments. Consultations are done with specialists in Thunder Bay, Winnipeg and through Sunnybrook hospital in Toronto, following referrals from the patients' family doctors in Dryden and area.

Every hospital from the Manitoba border to the eastern part of the region is hooked up to the network. The coordinator sets up the room for the appointment. Depending on the examination scheduled, a patient may be alone (for psychi-

atric consults), with their doctor or a staff person.

A small hand-held camera enables the specialist to more closely view a patient. For example, the camera can zoom in on a skin condition for the dermatologist. Documentation can be seen as well.

Tim Smith, Dryden hospital's information technologist, said the room's requirements extended beyond the necessary technological equipment.

"The colours had to be coordinated; bright colours that would cast reflections or shadows are not used," he said. The Dryden facility's walls are a soft mauve. That colour and special lights enhance the patient and

render accurate flesh tones to the examining specialist.

Although the room is primarily for patient care use, it can provide video-conference capabilities for medical staff training, said Skene.

Both he and Smith see future possibilities in telehealth services. Smith mentioned that a small camera set up in a consultant's office would be more convenient than requiring the specialist to make a trip to the nearest hospital. Skene said that, while NORTH Network is currently covering the OHIP fees for telehealth, he hopes OHIP will provide coverage directly.

Skene also sees the telehealth setup as being uti-

lized for follow-up examinations after surgery. "Most surgeons like to see their patients about six weeks following surgery. Using the

telehealth service save patients a trip," he explained, pointing out that many patients already been saved.

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to 400 metres
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rimeter of a cemetery on
the island and 500 metres
from the nearest burial plot.

The OPP transported the
skeleton to the coroner in
Kenora and later to Re-
gional Coroner Dr. Legge
in Thunder Bay, he said.

Legge delivered them in
a sealed container to Dr. El
Molto of Lakehead Uni-
versity.

"I'm the only one allowed
to open the box," said
Molto, a professor of

bioanthropology and direc-
tor of the Paleo-DNA lab.

He said he would exam-
ine the bones to determine
age, sex, race, stature and
pathology. "The teeth are
the most important part."

He might perform a
DNA test. "It depends if
the bones speak to me."

"I've worked on 45 cases
for the city since 1978," he
added. "I like forensics."

If the bones are of First
Nation heritage, Grace said

they should be returned to
Mishkeegogamang First
Nation, who would likely
bury them in the cemetery
on the island.

The Old Post and Vil-
lage camp store, he added,
is a museum containing ar-
cheological finds from the
property and nearby.

"It's one of the neater
things we've found," said
Jonathan, in Grade 13 at St.
Anne's Catholic Second-
ary School in Clinton.

As to what he did on his
birthday, he said, "It was
just another day at work."

If the bones speak to me

Janet Gibson
STAFF WRITER

Sixx Lookout Bulletin - Sept 11/02

ON HIS 18th birthday, Aug.
27, dock hand Jonathan
Grace was walking a util-
ity path taking a gas wagon to the
front beach of his family's outpost
camp when he spotted something
in the ground resembling a rock.

His discovery has since been
sent to a bioanthropologist at
Lakehead University.

"I got a spoon and dug it up,"
said the teen, whose parents, John
and Wendy Grace, own Old Post
and Village Camp 50 kilometres
south of Pickle Lake on Lake St.
Joseph. "I could see right inside
the skull."

"Jonathan alerted me by satel-
lite phone," John Grace said.
"When I got back two hours later
around five o'clock, I immediately
called the OPP."

OPP officers from Pickle Lake
and a forensic unit from Kenora
arrived early Wednesday morn-

ing and found a complete set of
human bones in a shallow grave,
according to Grace and OPP Ser-
geant Roger Woods.

"It had been raining off and
on," Woods said.

"The rain probably washed
away the sand," added camp cook
Suzanne Maynard.

The skeleton was five feet, 10
inches long, Woods said.

The island, he added, is the site
of the first Hudson's Bay Com-
pany store in Ontario, where Abo-
riginal people brought their furs to
trade with the Europeans.

It's also where Treaty 9 was
signed in 1905, Grace said.

"The bones were in a fetal po-
sition," he said. "Four or five tin-
kles were found with the bones."

The Hudson's Bay Company
opened the store July 16, 1786. One
of the products they traded was
copper cut into strips 12 inches long
and two and a half inches wide, he
said. The Aboriginal people made

See EXAMINE on page 7

Bearskin and Wasaya Airlines negotiate for northern routes

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in bear skin
vignette
Bearskin Airlines and Wasaya Airways are now in negotiations to allow the latter to take over Bearskin's Sioux Lookout northern routes and operations.

Bearskin Airlines president Harvey Friesen says that by rationalizing routes and entering into joint commercial agreements, both companies expect the travelling public would be bet-

ter served.

If an agreement is reached, changes could be in place by the end of the year.

Wasaya has been operating for 12 years in cargo and charter operations from bases in Pickle Lake, Red Lake, Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay. In recent years they have started operating a charter operation with limited passenger

services to selected Northern Ontario locations. The company employs over 170 people.

Bearskin Airlines is one of Canada's largest privately owned commuter airlines. Founded in 1963 and named after the Northern Ontario community of Bearskin Lake, the company maintains major base of operation in Thunder Bay and Sioux Lookout employs over 400 people.

Sept 11/02



OPP Report

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1999. The total amount that Carson admitted stealing was over \$10,000.

Justice Stach accepted Carson's guilty plea and sentenced her to a 14-month conditional sentence, to be followed by 12 months probation. The conditions of her sentence state Carson must keep the peace and be of good behaviour as well as observe a curfew of 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. daily, perform 500 hours of community service and make regular and reasonable monthly payments to both the Town of Sioux Lookout and the Non-Profit Housing Corporation for restitution totaling \$10,241.



Dryden Observer - Sept 17/02

Those attending the health recruitment display launch are, from left: Rita Demetzer, Sioux Lookout; Cindy Hayden, Red Lake; Darlene Furlong of Dryden Regional Health Centre, committee chair, seated; Dr. Sherry Reed-Walkiewicz, Ear Falls; Phyllis Anderson, Dryden health services foundation recruiter; Mike Furlong, consultant; Helen Pysznyj, Red Lake; Jeff McClain, Ear Falls; Brenda Brushey, DRHC, seated; Roy Hoffman, Pickle Lake; and Christine Hodges, display signer. Not pictured are Lillian Napierala and Charlene Ramage, Ignace; Ken McGeorge, Red Lake; Bruce Cunningham, Sioux Lookout; Andrew Skene, DRHC; Marilyn Bilsbarrow; Kelly Isfan and Glenda Hadley, Atikokan; Lori Zinette and Liz Clarke, Fort Frances.

Staff photo

ber 18, 2002

Chronicle - Sept 18/02

NEWS ^{AA87}
A3



BRYAN MEADOWS/NORTHWEST BUREAU

Pleased to meet you

Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson and her husband John Ralston Saul meet St. Joseph's School students and staff yesterday in Dryden prior to a civic luncheon. They also toured a tree-seedling nursery at Wabigoon First Nation and attended a dinner at the Royal Canadian Legion in

Sioux Lookout. Clarkson and Saul were in Kenora on Monday and in Thunder Bay on Sunday, all part of a tour celebrating the 50th anniversary of Governors General in Canada.

Sept 18/02

Cantera goes for the gold at Pickle Crow

Janet Gibson
STAFF WRITER

THERE'S an old Pickle Crow proverb, according to Mike Grant. "When you want to find a new ore body, you look in the shadow of the head frame."

Grant is co-ordinator of mineral development for the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines regional office in Thunder Bay. He's talking about Cantera Mining Ltd., which has come to Pickle Lake to mine Pickle Crow. The Pickle Crow mine is a past gold producer that was in production from 1935 to 1966 and was known as one of the higher grade gold mines in Ontario.

"They are going to mine

parts of the crown pillars," Grant said.

Crown pillars are pieces of rock left between the ground surface and underground workings of a previous mine, he added.

Cantera Mining Ltd., headquartered in Perth, Ontario started planning the mine in 1999, is stockpiling now, and will be milling this fall, Office Administrator Randa McTavish said.

President Bill Quesnel, Vice-President Jamie Quesnel and Vice-President John Cook opened an office in a corner of the Pickle Lake Auto building six months ago.

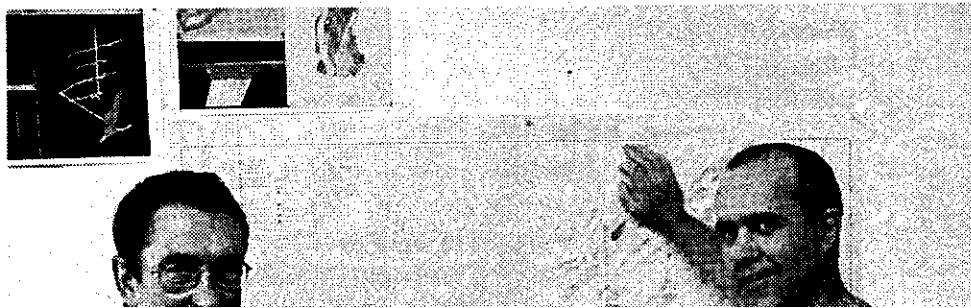
The company is unique because it's small in comparison to other mining operations in Northwestern Ontario and it's not using

cyanide to extract the gold from the rock, just pure gravity, Grant said. "It's the modern tech equivalent to gold panning — crush the rock and use sophisticated, automated gold panning to recover the gold."

Automated gold panning reduces Cantera's construction costs and is environmentally benign, he said.

The company plans to be in the area four to five years minimum, he added.

Wolfden Resources Inc., a Thunder Bay-based mineral exploration and development company, signed a letter of intent to sell Pickle Crow Gold Mines Ltd. to Cantera Mining Ltd. in December 2001, Jamie Quesnel said.



Chronicle - Sept 18/02



CP PHOTO

Culligan Water Conditioning company employee Marno Auchstaetter checks the supply of bottled water at their warehouse in North Battleford, Sask., last May.

30-year-old bottled water regulations to be updated

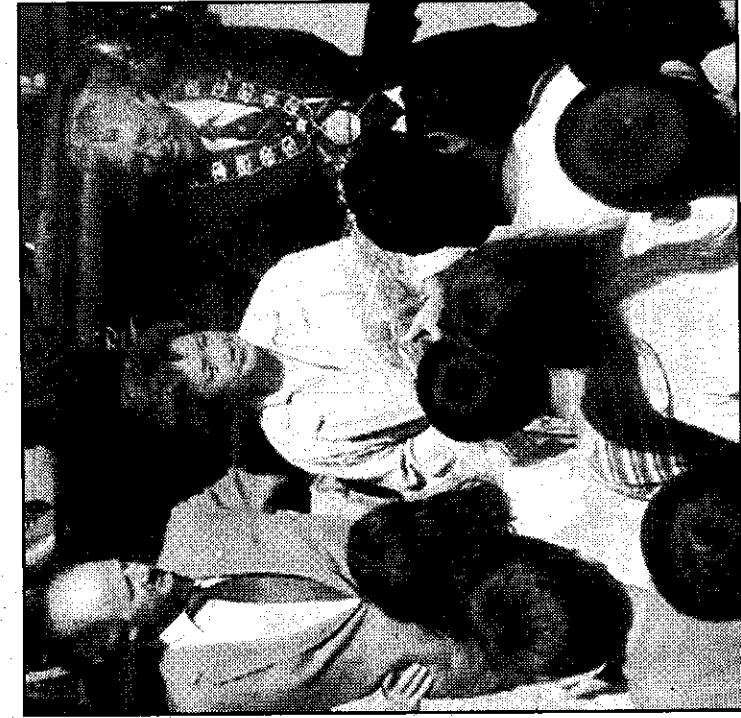
THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORONTO — You can't walk a city block these days without seeing someone taking a swig from a bottle of water.

dent Richard Nixon towards retirement.

The body of scientific knowledge has grown exponentially in that time, however, with much greater awareness of the potential risks associated with expo-

Governor General's visit targets health care



Dryden Mayor Sid Wintle joined the Governor General and her husband John Ralston Saul as they arrived at the Riverview Lodge for lunch, Sept. 17.

Health care service earned top priority on the Governor General's agenda while visiting Dryden, Sept. 17.

"One thing Canada is about is equality - not only for citizens before the law and with each other, but it's about equality of being able to live where you want and have the services that everybody else has," Clarkson said in her opening remarks to the 23 community and health care leaders she invited to lunch at the Riverview Lodge in Dryden.

After lunch, the Governor General said some of the top-ics that came up during the closed door discussion included the "dearth of doc-tors and health care special-ists", telemedicine, and the future impact of the northern medical faculty in Thunder Bay and Sudbury.

"There's a lot of complicat-ed bureaucracy for First Nations people," Clarkson said in an interview follow-ing the meeting. "They are basically under federal juris-diction and the province has health care so you'll find par-

allel systems happening where they can't do a cross-over. I think that has to be addressed and I think people here are frustrated enough that maybe something will happen."

Andrew Skene, CEO of Dryden Regional Health Centre and a participant in the lunch-time discussion, says basic health care ser-vices need to be addressed in a long-term context.

"I hope some of the mes-sages that she heard will be passed on to various levels of government," Skene com-mented. "Health care providers are in for the long term, but governments change every five years so sometimes the government's agenda doesn't meet the long-term planning that's required by the providers."

Karen Essery, acting CEO, Northwestern Health Unit, says the overall value of the meeting was drawing people together who other-wise might not have met each other.

"You will get CEO's of hos-pitals, public health and long-term care agencies at the table, but not always do you get the mix with aborig-inal leaders in health care and that was really a change," Essery says. "There are formal and informal net-works within northwestern Ontario where health care service delivery and funding issues are discussed, but I don't know that there is the

informal mix of people that she was able to draw togeth-er. The need is to be able to dialogue with one another."

After the luncheon, Mayor Sid Wintle presented Clarkson and her husband, John Ralston Saul, with a pen and ink sketch by Dry-den artist Sandy Ferguson. The couple travelled to the Wabigoon Lake First Nation to tour the tree nursery and will rice plant with Chief Tom Favell before heading to Sioux Lookout to meet with the Anti-racism Committee and attend a community reception.

In attendance

The Governor General's invitation to attend the lun-cheon was extended to people throughout the northwest region.

Dr. Stephen Arif, Atikokan Medical Associates; Lesley Brown, Assistant Executive Director, Patient care ser-vices, Lake of the Woods Dis-trict Hospital; Dr. Mark Dah-mer, Dingwall Medical Group; Doug Davis, Council-lor, Township of Sioux Nar-rows/Nestor Falls; Dr. Thomas A. Dignan, Regional Community Medicine Spe-cialist, Health Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch - ON; Lillian Napeirala, Executive Direc-tor, Mary Berglund Commu-nity Health Centre Clinic, Ignace; Councillor Brian England, Dryden; Karen

City of Kenora; Kathy Robinson, Township of Ear Falls; Andrew Skene, Chief Executive Officer, Dryden Regional Health Centre; Suzanne Smith, Mayor, Ignace; Kevin L. Queen, Administrator, Pinecrest Home for the Aged; Bob Gardner, Councillor, Eagle Lake First Nation; Ennis Fidler, Board Chair, Sioux Lookout Meno-Ya-Win Health Centre; William Wiedenhoeft, Municipali-ty of Machin; Sid Wintle, Mayor, City of Dryden. ★

Essery, Acting Chief Execu-tive Officer, Northwestern Health Unit; Chief Tom Favell, Wabigoon Lake First Nations; Roy Hoffman, Mayor, Pickle Lake; Kelly Isfan, Chief Executive Offi-cer, Atikokan General Hospi-tal; Brian Kenny, Dryden Area Health Services Foun-dation; Margaret Lambert, Northwest Metis Nation Long Term Care; Ken McGeorge, Red Lake Mar-garet Cochenour Memorial Hospital; Donna Molloy, Municipality of Red Lake; Dr. Teresa O'Driscoll, Hugh Allen Clinic, Sioux Lookout; Ingrid Parkes,



Alex Evans presented flowers while Meryl Smith and Taylor Findlay displayed a welcome sign on behalf of the Grade 5 French and English classes at St. Joseph's Catholic School.

Dryden Observer - Sept 24/02

time for town to save for the future

"It's an excellent idea," said Dumas, noting the concept has been talked about in the past but never acted upon.

Though an exact closing date hasn't been set, it's believed the Williams mine — the largest of the three Marathon-area mines — will continue operating for at least another 10 years.

After that, the town will lose millions in annual tax revenue and will need new sources of revenue to operate, Dumas said.

"After the people working in the mines move away, you still have to plow the streets."

Town council is to mark its

MARATHON

debt-free status in a ceremony tonight.

Starting in 2003, the elimination of all debentures will free up \$620,880 a year — money that used to go to paying down long-term debt.

Dumas said the situation is a far cry from a decade ago when the town was about \$10 million in the hole for various projects, including a town hall, police building and a residential subdivision the province refused to pay for.

The Township of Manitouwadge became debt-free in 1999.

Being in the black won't necessarily result in a reduction in property taxes.

A Marathon engineering report says the town will probably have to spend up to \$500,000 a year over the next seven years to fix roads and old sewers, especially around the original town site.

Businesswoman Iris Sullivan, a one-time mayoral candidate, said council should use at least a portion of its new-found wealth to launch a strategic plan for the municipality.

That's what the town will need even before the mines close, she said.

"Without it, you become a ghost town, and that shouldn't happen to a town that's right on the Trans-Canada Highway," Sullivan said.

The cost of a strategic plan — including hiring a consultant and staging public forums — has been pegged at about \$100,000.

Dumas said he's not sure if he would support spending that kind of money if in-house sources could be used.

The town's last strategic plan was completed in 1996. A major part of that document focused on Marathon's potential to attract tourists.

Chronicle - Sept 24/02

Paying full water cost ack in play

*Proposal came out of inquiry
into Walkerton water disaster*

CANADIAN PRESS

ONTARIO — The fall session of the Ontario legislature began today with the re-introduction of legislation that would require consumers to pay the full cost of the water and sewer services they use.

The bill, introduced last December by the province's Municipal Affairs minister, is essentially unchanged, but has become an environmental bill under Environment Minister Chris Stockwell.

"We all need to know the true cost of water," Stockwell told the legislature as the proposed bill was introduced.

Environmentalists have long argued that people waste water because they don't have to pay the true cost. They are also concerned the bill would force strapped municipalities to upgrade their systems.

"We want to make sure that the government does have a drinker fund to help municipalities," New Democrat Marilyn Y said.

Water and sewer rates are heavily subsidized by governments.

Under the proposed bill — the first of its type in Canada — the entire cost of operating and maintaining water and sewer systems would be passed on to the end users.

Walkerton, Ont., had one of the lowest flat rates for water in Ontario before deadly E. coli struck the rural town in May 2000.

The move to full-cost recovery was one of the recommendations of the public inquiry into the tragedy that killed seven and made 2,300 others ill.

In his report released in May, Associate Chief Justice Dennis O'Connor warned that consumers could expect to pay more for water as part of the price of ensuring its safety, but he said the cost would be modest.

"The average municipal water rate compares favourably to the cost of other household purchases such as Internet service or cable television," O'Connor wrote.

Chronicle - Sept 24/02

More nurses will fill gaps

• Continued from page A1

"If they are going to provide primary care service, then it's possible we may see a reduction in the number of emergency room patients who do not have a family doctor," she said.

Thunder Bay has between 30,000 and 40,000 people without a family doctor.

The announcement is great news, providing the government gets the money out the door, said MPP Shelley Martel (NDP-Nickel Belt).

"The government is long on rhetoric about the importance of nurse practitioners but it hasn't done anything to find a way to employ them," she said.

The government support for nurse practitioners will begin to fill primary health care gaps, said Doris Grinspun, executive director of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.

She urged underserved communities to get the government's attention.

"It's crucial that communities move in a speedy way to send letters to the premier and the minister of Health. I wouldn't waste a day."

At first glance, MPP Lyn McLeod (L-Thunder Bay-Atikokan) said it looks like the government wants to use nurse practitioners as substitutes for doctors in underserved areas.

"Nurse practitioners are not the solution to doctor shortages, but the government wants to make it look that way," she said.

Boost for health care exciting news

More nurse practitioners coming

BY JIM KELLY

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Some call it exciting news; others are skeptical.

The province announced yesterday it will add 300 new nurse practitioners to the health care system over the next two years. They will work in small, rural and underserved areas.

It's not known how many will come to Northwestern Ontario, one of 119 underserved areas in Ontario.

"I'm excited," said Donna Ree, an employee of Thunder Bay Regional Hospital and Versa Care Ltd.

"The government finally came through," Ree said yesterday.

"We have 268 under-employed or unemployed nurse practitioners (in Ontario) so this will go to great strides to find employment for them," said Ree, who is political action chairwoman for the Nurse Practitioners Association of Ontario.

Ree said some agencies in Thunder Bay are working on proposals to get more nurse practitioners here.

The government announced \$11 million this year to fund 117 positions; \$30 million more in 2003-04 for another 183 nurse practitioners; and \$40 million over current levels in 2004-05.

The exact breakdown on what areas will benefit from the announcement will be made known soon, said Paul Cantin, press secretary to Health Minister Tony Clement.

Lori Marshall said she would like to see Thunder Bay as one of the designated areas.

"I'm very hopeful some of the positions will be in Northern Ontario," said Marshall, senior vice-president of patient care services at Thunder Bay Regional Hospital.

• Continued on page A3

Chronicle - Sept 25/02

for help for research centres

popular at the Emo station and any further cuts could have an impact on the long-term viability of the forest industry in Northwestern Ontario.

Jon Christianson, with the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce, said that if the University of Guelph is unable to find the funding needed to keep the Thunder Bay centre open, there are other options worth exploring.

Maybe Confederation College or Lakehead University could carry the ball on this, he said.

In an interview at the NOACC conference, Scheifele said he was pleased by the regional business support.

"It's important that we continue to press the government on this issue."

Gordon Scheifele

Research scientist

"It's important that we continue to press the government on this issue," he said, noting that research at the Thunder Bay facility has helped increase grain and soybean yields for area farmers.

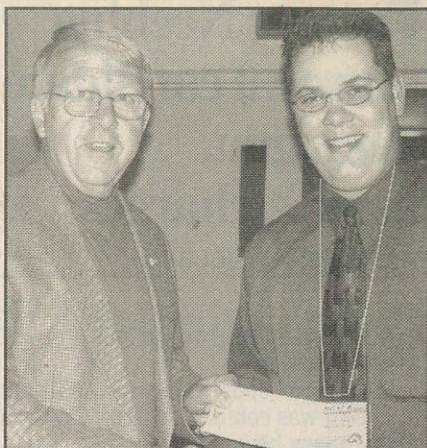
More than a dozen projects are currently underway at the centre, aimed at diversifying farm crops and evaluating the feasibility of new crop production and processing in the region.

Scheifele noted also that the idea of Confederation College or Lakehead University taking over the responsibility of the two research stations is a good one.

The motion to save the Thunder Bay research centre was one of several dealt with by about 50 NOACC delegates at the Dryden meeting yesterday.

Others resolutions approved, called on:

- The province to approve the off-sale of



THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Dryden Mayor Sid Wintle accepts a \$2,000 donation on behalf of the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association from Jason Nesbitt, NOACC vice-president of finance. Nesbitt says the donation will help cover NOMA's cost of successfully lobbying for a Northern Ontario rural medical school.

beer by hotel owners.

- The federal government to increase its financial commitment to FedNor.

- The federal government to maintain its commitment to expanding broadband Internet capability to all rural communities by 2005.

- The federal and provincial governments to provide NOACC with the resources to further analyse the facts and trends of population demographic change and population migration in Northwestern Ontario.

Dryden District Chamber of Commerce delegate Jim Dayman said business owners need more "detailed data for Northwestern Ontario" in order to make informed decisions.

- The provincial and federal governments to work together to settle the labour market development agreement as soon as possible.

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