



# Letters to the Editor



St. Bulletin -  
Apr 7/04

## *Understanding the local Liberal Party*

Mr. Bruyere needs to understand, from the local Liberal Party perspective, what Charles Fox's candidacy really represented to the people who have been Liberals in this riding for a long time.

Mr. Fox's new found affinity to Liberal values is a relatively recent development in his political career. Over the past several years he has been highly critical of Liberal party policy and platform, always quick to suggest that the party and its member of parliament were incapable of representing First Nations needs and interests. He was on the front line of protests and rallies to condemn Liberal party policy and initiatives.

It may come as a surprise to Mr. Fox and his team that the local riding association includes the real foot soldiers of the party. All of them are volunteers. Many of them have invested years of volunteer time and effort in their local association and election campaigns. These are

not people who delve into the intrigues of power broker politics at the highest level - they are committed, loyal, and have been proud to call themselves Liberals for many years. In many cases, all their lives.

I have held a membership in the local Liberal association for 15 years, have been a monthly financial contributor for most of that time, have volunteered for the past three campaigns, and have helped to coordinate more fundraisers that I can remember. In all this time I cannot remember Mr. Fox taking an active interest in any aspect of the party. Indeed, our invitations to him as the Grand Chief of NAN to attend fundraisers, usually with the offer of a complimentary ticket, were rebuffed. He has never held a membership before he aspired to the nomination, has never made a donation, pounded in a campaign sign, or attended an annual general meeting. In fact, Mr. Fox never approached the local organization for his own membership. He be-

came a Liberal through the auspices of the Aboriginal Peoples' Commission of the party. It is little wonder then, that local Liberals regarded Mr. Fox's sudden interest in Liberalism and the apparent endorsement of the Prime Minister's Office, as both a surprise and an attempt at a hostile take over of the local organization by outside interests.

Buying a brand new membership does not constitute "paying one's dues" politically. Mr. Valley has served for many years as a Liberal volunteer and supporter, in both the federal and provincial wings of the Liberal Party. He has established relationships with the people who form the core support of the party apparatus in the riding. Of the three individuals who sought the nomination, there was no one more qualified to carry the Liberal banner in the upcoming federal election.

Mr. Fox and his team need to reflect on their own motivations before they criticize (again) the Liberal Party in this riding.

The path to power is a long road that requires years of commitment, service, and the successful forging of relationships throughout the riding. Mr. Fox's continual attacks on the sitting Liberal member of parliament hardly ingratiated him to local Liberals. While the alleged blessing of the Prime Minister may count for something in Ottawa, campaigning on the basis of that endorsement showed a fundamental lack of respect for the local Liberals in this riding. That they should ultimately support a candidate who they have worked with for years and who has earned their respect is appropriate.

The real test of Mr. Fox's commitment to the Liberal Party will be whether or not he finally shows during this campaign to make sure that the Kenora riding sends a Liberal to Ottawa. If he doesn't, and all his supporters turn away from the party, then we will know that his candidacy was not sincere.

*Patti Skillen*

# Lynn Lake, Man., mayor begs gov't to clean up toxic mine tailings

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A87

WINNIPEG — A northern Manitoba mayor begged the province yesterday to clean up toxic mine tailings he says are killing the community.

"At this point, we're dying a slow death," said Lynn Lake Mayor Audie Dulewich, who met with five provincial cabinet ministers. "Absolutely nothing lives on the tailings."

Dulewich said 20 people in a three-block area developed cancer, a rate Trent University professor Tom Hutchinson described as "completely off the scale."

The community near the Saskatchewan boundary, 1,100 kilometres northwest of Winnipeg, lost its last active mine several years ago.

Since then, a railway link to the next largest community has shut down and the only bank machine in the region is to be pulled out next month. About 2,000 people have left in the last 15 years and the town's population is now at about 700.

Lynn Lake sits on the edge of 22 tonnes of contaminated tailings covering 212 hectares. Much of the waste dates back to copper and zinc mining in the 1930s and 1940s.

Chronicle - April 16/04

4487

# Kenora district smoking ban issue may still have spark

BY BRYAN MEADOWS  
NORTHWEST BUREAU

The smouldering issue of a smoking ban in the Kenora district may still have some spark.

The Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General has requested a judicial review of a decision made by the Health Services Appeal and Review Board (HSARB) in February.

That decision stated that medical officer of health Dr. Pete Sarsfield overstepped his authority when he issued a smoking ban for district public places.

In an application to the Superior Court of Justice (Divisional Court), the ministry argues the appeal board erred in its final decision on Sarsfield's authority and its interpretation of the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA), the Tobacco Control Act, the Smoking in the Workplace Act and section 115 of the Municipal Act.

Ministry officials noted that the province can't appeal the decision directly to the review board, but does have the right under common law to apply for a review of the case by the court.

The ministry wants the court to toss

out the board's decision and order the appeal and review board to reconsider the case.

Officials with the Northwestern Health Unit weren't commenting on the matter last last week.

"I really can't say anything," remarked spokesman Bill Limerick.

Earlier, the health unit decided not appeal the HSARB's decision after the Health ministry turned down a funding request for \$100,000 in legal fees for an appeal.

In its February decision, the HSARB ruled that Sarsfield's smoking ban was "beyond the scope of his authority under section 13 of the HPPA."

The three-member panel agreed with 19 Kenora-Rainy River district bar and restaurant owners who maintained that Sarsfield lacked the authority to ban smoking in their establishments.

Panel members stated that a medical officer of health's mandate — with respect to general health concerns associated with smoking — is to promote smoke-free living through co-operation and education and assistance in the enforcement of other provincial legislation such as the Tobacco Control Act.



# Snow melts, 'fire concerns' arise in Northwest

BY BRYAN MEADOWS  
NORTHWEST BUREAU

While there is still ice on area lakes and snow in the bush, MNR fire crews have already taken action on four wildfires in the Northwest region.

And the 2004 fire season is only two weeks old.

As the snow melts, "it translates into fire concerns for us," fire information officer Deb

MacLean said Friday.

Dryden and Nipigon districts have so far had one fire each, while the Kenora district has had two grass/brush fires out of control.

"We've had no major size (of fires) yet, but any fire is a concern when they are uncontained," MacLean said.

"(Even) a small grass fire has the potential to inflict harm on people," she said, noting that last year in the Kenora area a small

grass fire started a house fire with tragic results.

MNR fire officials recommend people burning brush and grass use extreme caution.

Ontario forest fire regulations are now in effect, meaning no burning is allowed between two hours before sunrise and two hours before sunset.

MacLean added that people using outdoor wood furnaces should check their equipment to

ensure it's operating properly and that there is no combustible material nearby.

Last year a fire caused by sparks from an outdoor stove in the Fort Frances area cost more than \$100,000 to put out.

Meanwhile, the MNR's fire-fighting force of 114 four-person fire ranger crews is returning in stages, as is the ministry's air arsenal of seven CL-415 water-bombers, and two twin-otter

waterbombers.

The MNR's two fire trucks used to attack brush and grass fires burning along roadways are operational.

Waterbombers will be brought into service as soon as the ice melts off area lakes, officials said.

Last year, 757 fires blackened more than 280,000 hectares in the Northwest Fire Region — an area stretching from about Marathon to the Manitoba border.

Chronicle - Apr 18/04



Chronicle April 20/04

# The doctor is in

## Residents plan to set up shop in Northwest

BY CATHI AROLA  
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

It's not news that more than 30,000 Thunder Bay residents are on waiting lists for family doctors, says the nurses registry, but the fact that two young physicians are preparing to set up practice here is news — good news.

Programs like the Northwestern Ontario Medical Programme aim to reduce the number of people without a doctor by helping to convince resident doctors to practice in the region.

As they near the end of the first year of their residency, Jane Slivchak and Alyssa Boyd are leaning toward staying in Thunder Bay.

Slivchak, who's originally from the city, plans to practice family medicine here while Boyd is becoming more and more at home in the Northwest.

"It's nice to be home — I love this city," Slivchak, 26, said yesterday.

"My family is here, so it's important for me to stay here for those reasons."



fmn.on.ca

Boyd, also 26, hails from Toronto and after spending

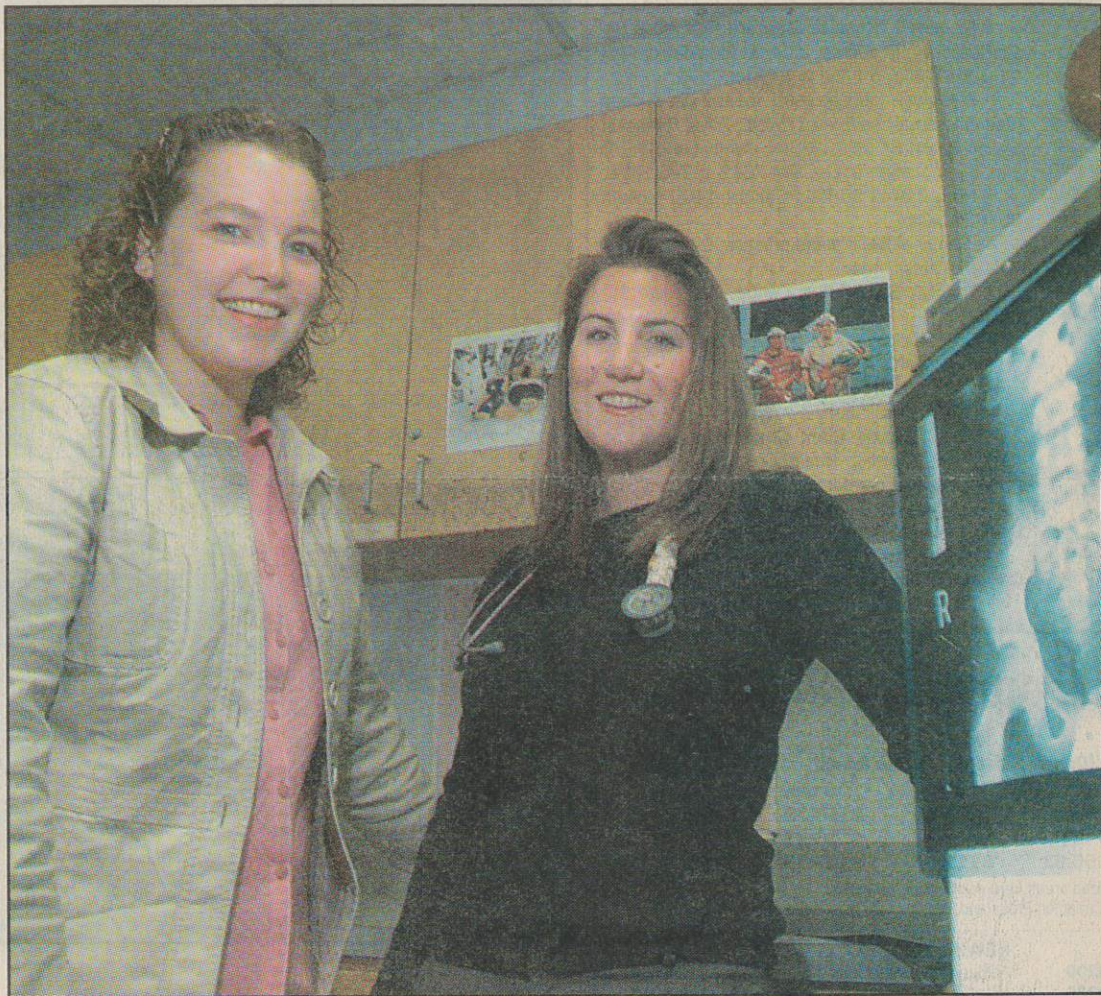
eight months in the region has decided that she wants to practise in a small town.

"The longer I'm up here the more I want to stay," Boyd said.

"There is just so much to do up here and everyone is so welcoming — it's a great place to practise medicine."

The McMaster University's medical school students still have a year to go before they'd be certified by the the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Affiliated with McMaster's family medicine postgraduate program, NOMP offers practical training in family medicine. Educational programming is admin-



BRENT LINTON/THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

**First-year medical resident students Alyssa Boyd, left, and Jane Slivchak look over an X-ray at Thunder Bay's Health Sciences North yesterday.**

istered through Health Sciences North on Lakehead University's campus.

Eleven students from medical schools across the country are in the first year of the program, practising in Thunder Bay, Atikokan, Dryden, Fort Frances, Geraldton, Kenora, Marathon, Nipigon, Red Lake, Schreiber, Sioux Lookout and Terrace Bay.

"Here you have an opportunity to get a lot more hands-on experience than you would in a tertiary care centre," Boyd said, comparing this experience to other resi-

dent settings where students compete with each other.

Boyd said that four-month placements in rural settings can be challenging. While doing a surgery placement in Fort Frances in the dead of winter, she experienced -50 C temperatures and short daylight hours.

She also experienced the warmth of the community, receiving invitations for homemade dinners, for example.

"The communities are so welcoming — everyone knows who you are," she said.

Before the students can practice medicine on their own, they have to complete the second part of their physician licensing board exam and a family medicine exam.

"We're working but we're also still students — we have academic responsibilities as well," Slivchak said.

The Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine says the program is the most successful rural residency program in Canada based on the percentage of graduates working in rural settings.





# Pickle Lake

By Graeme Mackechnie

WELCOME to all the new employees at - Dave Donald, Jeff Hoar, Thomas and Nelson y. We're gaining but losing one. The Svekla is leaving May 1. Good-bye le and remember to

send us CARE parcels.

There is a group in drilling at the Crow. Placer Dome has been encouraged to investigate the possibility of taking the Crow property over and we Pickle Lakers are keeping our fingers crossed - we've been waiting some time now since Noramco was in.

Town Council met with Musselwhite manager Dan Gagnon. Council had lost touch with the mine management since Colin Seeley left and thought it was time to renew old friendships. Many subjects were covered from new promising developments at the gold mine to the chances of opening up summer placements for our students, as well as apprenticeship opportunities.

Hello to Leon Spade - winter road traffic is over for another year. Half ton

traffic is still coming into Pickle from Weagamow. There is good for ice fishing, so reports Mike Menard. Mike lost his Pickle Lake citizenship when he deserted us for Thunder Bay but we welcome him and his wallet back as tourista.

Kelvin and Linda Schmeichel are going on the road to sell for FINE FOODS - they have brought in two new people to manage their store here in Pickle. Welcome to Lela and Morgan.

Abby and Rita Brazeau had a full house for Easter. Armand, Noreen, Mark, Erin and Reese were in to visit and put on the feed bag - Chef Eric?

I see there is lots of action at the former Bud Langley houses. They've been sold and are in the process of being renovated...and yes it is nice to see someone else putting down roots in Pickle Lake.

The Easter supper at the hall organized by the  
*Continued on page 9*

SL Bulletin - April 21/04

# Pickle Lake

By Graeme Mackechnie

*Continued from page 4*

Zabels and Bottles, with a host of volunteers pitching in, was super. More than 140 meals, so I'm told. The supper was organized to provide an Easter meal for those who might not have had one and for those who would have been alone for Easter. Thumbs up to the volunteers and contributors who made this meal possible for the not so fortunates.

There was a shooting down in Osnaburgh last week. The perpetrator was quickly apprehended and the victim medivaced to

Thunder Bay hospital. Get well wishes to Lance who is recovering in the Thunder Bay hospital.

Rachelle will soon be making Danny a proud papa and, of course, Laureen a new grandma - oh how time doth fly.

It's time to get organ-

ized. First meeting of the Summer Blackfly Festival was April 15. There will be more! Is there an event you would like to see or to organize? Watch for postings. There will be more meetings and... volunteers make things happen so come on out.



487

# Taxes, user fees going up

BY BRYAN MEADOWS  
NORTHWEST BUREAU

Dryden ratepayers will be hit with a six-per-cent municipal tax hike and higher user fees this year.

Finance chairman Brian Collins told council that the \$21.8-million budget includes \$6.6 million for capital and \$15.2 in operating expenditures.

"The municipal operations pretty much hold the line on all the traditional programs and operations that we have run in the past," Collins said in his budget address.

"We always have a challenge to maintain these programs to accommodate ne-

## DRYDEN

gotiated wage increases and the outside budget demands from the various boards," he said, noting that levies from agencies such as the Northwestern Health Unit, District of Kenora Home for the Aged Board and Kenora District Services Board account for 5.4 per cent of the tax hike.

The hike means \$114 per year more in taxes for a residential property valued at \$200,000.

"In order to keep budgets for water, sewer and garbage manageable, we have had to pass on increases for these ser-

vices," Collins said.

User fee hikes include: 25 cents more for a garbage bag tag, to \$1.75 each; a 13-per-cent increase in landfill tipping fees; a 10-per-cent water rate hike; a sewer rate increase from 84 to 90 per cent of the water rate; a five-per-cent hike in child care fees; and five to seven per cent more for arena use.

Most user fees hikes kick in July 1.

"(All municipalities) are wrestling with the same problems," Collins said. "There is almost not enough people to pay for the cost of (municipal) services."

Capital projects planned for 2004 include \$921,000 to renovate the public safety building; \$379,000 to resurface east

Dryden roads and Lakeside Drive and to build a sidewalk along Highway 17; sewage treatment plant improvements worth \$388,000; and a new Wabigoon Drive sewage lift station.

To balance the budget, Collins said, some capital projects have been postponed and operating budgets "have flat-lined."

"We are basically squeezing the same dollars to run our programs and services at the same (level as last year)," he said, adding current service levels and programs are intact.

City manager Arie Hoogenboom said Dryden still enjoys the lowest taxes in Northwestern Ontario.



Chronicle  
Apr 29/04

NEWS

A5

# West Nile mosquito trapping project grows

## *Health units set up program in more areas*

**BY BRYAN MEADOWS**  
NORTHWEST BUREAU

The Northwestern Health Unit plans to expand its mosquito trapping program to detect West Nile virus in the Kenora and Rainy River districts.

The health unit will also continue a public awareness campaign and a dead-bird surveillance program this year.

Health unit spokesman Al Mathers said yesterday that staff plan to expand the mosquito trap program to Dryden and Fort Frances.

Last year, the health unit ran the program in Kenora.

Mathers said there were no positive results for mosquitoes in the 2003 study.

Some of that may be attributed to the "low number of mosquitoes we caught last year," he said, adding that with this year being more conducive to mosquito propagation, "it will be interesting to see what comes out of the study."

The health unit's 11-week mosquito trapping season begins the first week in July.

Mathers explained that mosquitoes are trapped at night and sent by courier to Brock University where they are tested for the virus.

Last year, 10 of 71 dead birds collected in Kenora and Rainy River tested positive for West Nile. That 14-per-cent infection rate is roughly the provincial average, Mathers said.

There have been no human cases of West Nile in the two districts.

Likewise, a \$150,000 study by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Lakehead University — assessing the risk of West Nile infection in the Thunder Bay area — showed that nobody contracted West Nile in the region last year.

It also showed that none of the 1.5 per cent of mosquitoes gathered in the region capable of giving the virus to birds were infected. And, of the 95 birds tested for West Nile, only two tested positive.

The province requires health units across Ontario to consider using pesticides to kill mosquitoes only if mosquitoes or humans are infected with the virus.

No pesticide use is planned this year by either the Thunder Bay or Northwestern health units, just as none were used last year.

Like the Kenora and Rainy River districts, surveillance will be expanded near Thunder Bay via more mosquito traps.

There will also be a toll-free phone number for area residents to call to report dead crows, ravens and blue jays.

The number for reporting dead birds will be made public before the Victoria Day long weekend.

The two health units recommend people don't handle dead birds, but call the nearest office to have a staff member pick up the birds.



# Better-looking town one key to future

AA87

BY CARL CLUTCHEY  
NORTH SHORE BUREAU

Initial steps to revitalize Marathon's downtown and struggling small business sector were unveiled yesterday at a packed town-hall forum that attracted retailers, contractors, motel operators and restaurant owners.

At the end of a three-hour session of musings about the town's future, business people learned the municipality has embarked on a minor beautification project that will add new signs for tourists, trees and decorative banners on the main drag.

The town is also encouraging Peninsula Road property owners to do their part by planting flowers and keeping storefronts neat and tidy.

Some business operators at the meeting seemed to agree with the plan, saying the commercial strip immediately following the golf course gives tourists a poor first impression.

"They come into town . . . and it looks like a dump," said Dale Svenkeson.

Town chief administrator Sharon Hacio said the municipality wants to work in co-operation with merchants, but is prepared to invoke the local property standards bylaw to rid streets of eyesores.

"The (bylaw) says you have to keep your property half-decent," Hacio told the meeting, which included town council members.

The town has also launched a busi-

**MARATHON**  
ness retention program to help improve profits at local businesses and develop a strategic economic plan — an initiative that has enjoyed some success in the U.S., the meeting heard.

Other business representatives cautioned the municipality against more grandiose plans, such as the possibility of creating an electrical utility in a partnership with the local pulp mill.

"Now that the town has gotten out of debt, it wants to get into the hydro business," admonished Tom Duhaime.

Duhaime said the municipality should stick to beautification and fixing water and sewer lines.

Hacio said municipally-owned utilities are not unusual.

Coun. Iris Sullivan, who chaired the business session, said after the meeting the beautification efforts are within the town's existing operating budget and won't cause taxes to rise.

There will be public meetings before the town considers getting into the electricity business beyond paying half the cost of a \$20,000 feasibility study, Sullivan added.

Meanwhile, Marathon's proposed smoking bylaw was introduced last night.

The silver bylaw, to be put to a vote May 25, would affect restaurants and doughnuts shops, but not bars and bingo halls.



# News

## Area pet owners flock to Sioux Lookout for veterinary services

Tim Brody  
STAFF WRITER

**D**R. CLAYTON Schneider of Dryden Veterinary Services and his staff were kept busy May 14 and 15 in Sioux Lookout during which time Schneider said 150 people took their pets to his Companion Animal Mobile Unit which was set up in the CN park-

ing lot beside the Bank of Montreal.

He added that many people who came brought more than one pet and he and his staff were kept busy from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday.

Schneider said that he and his staff provided pets with routine preventive care in the form of shots and performed minor sur-

geries such as spaying and neutering.

Schneider said Dryden Veterinary Services has been coming to Sioux Lookout for over 25 years.

Hudson resident June Holmes was one of the visitors to the Companion Animal Mobile Unit Sunday along with her dog Peaches who was there to receive yearly shots.

Holmes commented of the veterinary service coming to Sioux Lookout instead of her having to go to Dryden, "It's great. It's a long trip for the animals to go that far especially if they are sick."

She mentioned that she has been going to see the vet when he is in Sioux Lookout ever since her dog was born two and a half years ago.

Lorraine Lacosse of

Sioux Lookout also went to see the vet on Saturday along with her dog Sammy, so her dog could receive shots and a checkup.

"I think it is wonderful," she commented of the veterinary service coming to Sioux Lookout.

"It's nice not to have to drive to Dryden," she added.

Judy Henrickson of Sioux Lookout who took

her dog Shaboo to receive shots agreed it was nice to be able to take her pet to Sioux Lookout to see the vet rather than have to drive to Dryden.

Dryden Veterinary Services will be back in Sioux Lookout on June 18. Anyone planning to see the vet is asked to make an appointment by calling 223-2484.





# Every time he went back down my heart just stopped

*Continued from front*

Prince both received that recognition for a separate incident, as well as the St. John's Ambulance Certificate of Commendation for the Act of Lifesaving. They assisted in the rescue of an unconscious man who was knocked from his boat. When they heard the sound of a collision and then saw a boat circling with no passenger, they came to the rescue of the man floating in the water, helping to get him to safety.

Sioux Lookout OPP Sergeant Brian McLure was honoured with a 20-year service pin.

"Before I rescued the guy, I'd say about every ten seconds he'd go under the wa-

ter, and I'd just try to encourage him to stay up," Franklin recounted of the incident in Pickle Lake. "Every time he went back down my heart just stopped."

Franklin grabbed a skidoo suit and the only boat available – a 16 foot aluminium boat – and paddled out using only one oar. After struggling to get the drowning victim into the boat, he handed the man a rope and tried unsuccessfully to tow him to shore. It took a second attempt to pull the man on board, which almost capsized Franklin's boat, before finally succeeding to pull him to safety. He took the hypothermic man to shore where paramedics attended

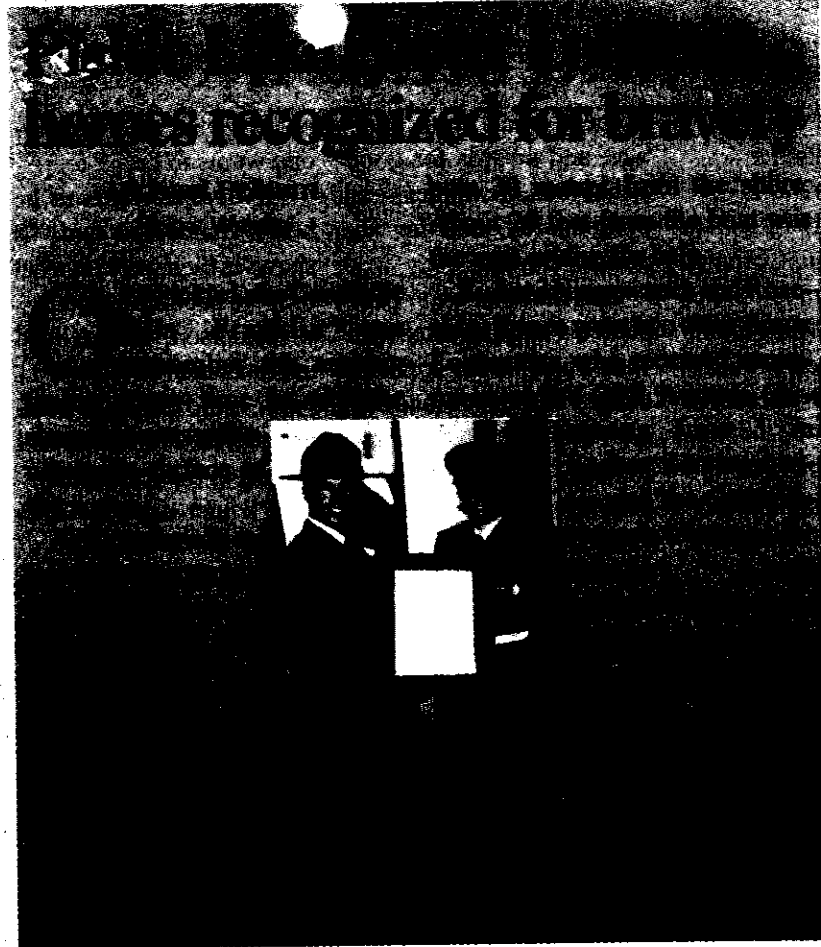
to the man.

"It's something that's expected of us to do," Franklin, who's been an officer for two years, says about the event. "It's something anyone would have done."

From Bourget, a 30 minute drive east of Ottawa, Franklin is serving a two year term at Pickle Lake and said he's already signed up for a second two year term because he is enjoying the position.

Sergeant Brian McLure has been with the OPP for 20 years, and said he was honoured when he received his 20 year pin at the Kenora ceremony. He started his career on the London police force, which was amalgamated with

SL Bulletin - June 16/04



Kincardine in 1997. He's been serving as sergeant with the Sioux Lookout OPP for three years.

"It feels good to be recognized," he said.

Looking back, he said he's had so many experiences it's hard to pinpoint highlights, but mentions helping citizens as one rewarding aspect of the job.

"Now I get to help fel-



# Pickle Lake Celebrate

## National Aboriginal Day

June 21, 2004

AA 87  
The community of Pickle Lake wishes to extend greetings in celebration of National Aboriginal Day.

National Aboriginal Day is an opportunity for all Canadians to gain an understanding and appreciation of the culture of the earliest inhabitants of this country.

We wish to recognize our First Nations residents, on this special day, as an integral part of our community; a part of our community who has contributed significantly to the cultural richness that we all enjoy.

Have a great summer!

Wawatay - June 17/04



AA87

