

Chronicle July 31/04

## ONTARIO A5

# Hospital in third stage of process

BY BRYAN MEADOWS  
NORTHWEST BUREAU

### SIOUX LOOKOUT

Construction of a new \$6.5-million hospital in Sioux Lookout is moving into the design stage.

"We are preparing to begin the third of a four-step provincial government capital planning process — the design development stage," Meno-Yah-Win Health Centre spokesman Roger Walker confirmed yesterday.

Beginning in September, project architects Murphy Higers Architects and Douglas J. Cardinal Architects will develop a set of floor plans and design sketches of what the new facility will look like based on information and data compiled over the past year and half.

"For the past two years, we have been engaging the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care in the development of the hospital and functional plan (which) are now virtually complete," Walker said.

In addition to design development, Walker explained that the health centre board will begin discussions soon with federal, provincial and municipal gov-

ernments for the provision of water, sewer and utility lines to the hospital property.

"Construction of the new facility will begin once basic services are completed and government approval of the final plans is received," Walker said, adding that hospital construction will take about two years.

"That means we should have a new hospital in place by the spring/summer of 2008," he said.

Some clearing of the hospital site was done last winter, after town council approved a land swap with the hospital board.

Under the land-swap agreement, the hospital received an 11-hectare, circular-shaped property north of Seventh Avenue. In exchange, the town received hospital-owned property, about six hectares, located near the Bill George Extended Care Centre and Sioux Lookout Clinic. The municipality will also own the old district health centre when the new hospital is built.



# Poor property maintenance will cost you in Dryden

BY BRYAN MEADOWS  
NORTHWEST BUREAU

Dryden council plans to get tough with ratepayers who don't keep their properties in a "clean and clear condition."

Under a new property maintenance bylaw approved this week, property owners will be fined for not keeping their grass and weeds trimmed, refuse off their lawn and derelict cars out of sight.

Under the bylaw:

- People will have to keep grass and weeds on their property trimmed to less than 20 centimetres (about eight inches) in height.

- No person shall deposit or allow refuse on any land that may create a health, safety or accident hazard.

- No person shall deposit snow or ice on city roads, creating a health, safety or accident hazard, nor dump snow or ice from private lands onto public lands.

- Private landowners shall not grow vegetation (trees and shrubs) that interferes with use of highway, city sidewalks or land.

- No more than one derelict (inoperable) vehicle or parts shall be stored on a property. The vehicle or parts must also be covered or stored in an enclosed building.

- No person shall litter private or public lands.

- All property must be landscaped to prevent recurrent ponding of storm water.

- No person shall allow holes, pits, excavations or trenches on their property that constitutes a health or safety hazard.

For each violation of the bylaw, the set fine is \$105.

City manager Arie Hoogenboom said yesterday that the bylaw allows city bylaw enforcement "to go in and issue a warning, and if the property owner doesn't comply, we will fine them."

He said the city's former minimal property standards bylaw lacked the regulatory teeth to police property owners.

"It was too onerous to deal with," he said, explaining that if the city had to take a property owner to court, they could appeal to the property standards committee, and it could take months.

Hoogenboom said the new bylaw allows the city to issue a ticket on the spot, for each day the property owner is in violation of the bylaw.

The bylaw — "to provide for the maintaining of land in a clean and clear condition" — will come in force once the province approves the fine schedule.

# Province chides mayor

**Miller's fears over transit, housing not 'legitimate'**

**We can talk about specific issues, minister says**

**ROBERT BENZIE,  
KERRY GILLESPIE  
AND CAROLINE MALLAN**  
STAFF REPORTERS

The city of Toronto's fears about a new funding deal for transit and affordable housing being in jeopardy are unfounded, says Municipal Affairs Minister John Gerretsen.

"All I know is that I don't think their concerns are that legitimate," he told reporters yesterday.

Gerretsen was responding to criticism from Mayor David Miller, who does not want the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) representing the city in talks with the province.

"If the mayor wants another relationship ... with the province of Ontario then, you know, that remains to be seen," said the minister, who represents Kingston and The Islands.

"As far as we're concerned AMO speaks for the municipal voice of this province. It doesn't mean that on specific issues ... we shouldn't be speaking to those municipalities (like Toronto and Ottawa) directly," he



TANNIS TOOHEY/TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTO

**Extra money for the Toronto Transit Commission helps to prove that the province is committed to the city, Liberal MPPs say.**

said.

Miller interrupted his summer vacation last week and threatened to withdraw Toronto from the AMO after learning the province would deal directly with the umbrella group, the majority of whose members are villages and towns.

At the AMO conference in Ottawa, Councillor Howard Moscoe, chair of the organization's seven-member Toronto caucus, said it was "regrettable" Gerret-

sen felt the city's concerns were not legitimate.

"That's too bad. We'll have to recommend to council that we do step out of AMO. That will legitimize our concerns and the province will have to decide whether they're going to deal with the largest city face to face or not," Moscoe said.

"We can't stand by and be stepped on. The city of Toronto is too important to Ontario to allow us to be brushed off."

While Gerretsen appeared to be fuelling the rift with Miller, senior Toronto ministers scrambled to offer reassurances the Liberals are looking out for the city.

"We've done a lot for Toronto, we're unabashedly in favour of Toronto being strong, having its own identity," said Education Minister Gerard Kennedy (Parkdale-High Park).

Another Toronto cabinet minister, Attorney-General Michael Bryant (St. Paul's), said the proof of the Liberals' commitment to the city is in programs such as low-income housing and extra money for the Toronto Transit Commission.

At a Star editorial board meeting yesterday, Conservative leadership candidate Frank Klees said there should be no special status for Toronto.

"Toronto is not the province of Ontario. There is more to Ontario than Toronto," said Klees, one of three candidates vying to succeed Tory Leader Ernie Eves on Sept. 18.

New Democrat MPP Peter Kormos (Niagara Centre) said Premier Dalton McGuinty "seems to have blown that relationship" with Toronto.

"The Premier and the cabinet had better get their act together and talk with municipalities, not through AMO, because you've got a diverse range of municipalities, all with special needs," said Kormos.

WITH FILES FROM ROB FERGUSON



## Pickle Lake

By Graeme Mackechnie

Everyone wants the news, including me – not gossip but real fact news. I've been waiting but no one has called with any.

The last time I wrote about Pickle, school was still in. Well here goes. The Crolancia School kids raised \$2506.80 in the Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart challenge, as well as another \$789 in the MS Read-a-thon. That is astounding. Remember, there are only about 400 people in Pickle Lake.

Our Queens U. Medical Outreach Student Community Workers have come and gone. Melinda and Celia are certainly a credit to their school program and two of the best dish washers I've ever seen. The Recreation Commit-

tee held an International Dinner and had one of the best meals and best turnouts ever seen. Thank you to all our hard workers and to the people who made donations. I've been asked when we are going to have another. Special thanks to the tireless workers who aren't even committee members - Georgina Dalzel, Patrick and Lucy Hoffman, Melinda, Celia and Mrs. Deang, another Celia. These are tireless workers that help it happen. More mining activity for our area...and long term too. Metacorp and King's Bay Gold are doing a lot of work around Pickle Lake. Maybe there's gold in them thar hills – still!

Our town workers are

getting the town cleaned up and what a difference – property standards are being enforced. The old Horba's property looks good, although I do miss the old Koval building which was rather a land mark. Then again, we old-timers don't like change in any form. Big dance on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Get there early.

"MNR Special" - Their work period is ending for the season very soon. Big canoe race on the 14<sup>th</sup>, down by the public beach, \$10.00 per team, 10 a.m. start. Air show as well. OPP boat rides – see the island up close. The OPP drug dog was in town and really took a shine to that guy named after the Big Red Dog.

The Blackfly Festival was a roaring success. Debbie Chartrand and Frank Thorton did an excellent job on the horseshoe tournament. I heard the fireworks and free pig roast were

popular they'll be back next year. A 150 pound pig, a barbeque, and chef skills were donated by the Winston Hotel and cooked by our OPP Sergeant. Great community participation and spirit. Even if the sergeant took some heckling about a pig cooking a pig, he didn't flinch or waver from his commitment.

And say, what about that Silent Auction? Thanks to all the businesses that made it so much fun through their generous donations – and Lindsay goes fishing.

Just to remind the kids – summer holidays are almost over. Back to school sales will be starting soon. Oh how I used to hate the thought when I

was a kid.

We have a new principal – Keith Ward. Welcome to Pickle Lake. Our school is being spruced up as well – fresh paint, new carpets and a new gym floor. I believe we will be getting three new teachers. Congratulations Mark Scott on your new position as base manager for Wasaya.

# Lakehead company finds gold in rock

NORTHWEST BUREAU

Thunder Bay-based Metalcorp Ltd. has hit pay dirt in the Pickle Lake area.

The company announced yesterday the discovery of new gold-bearing rock on its Connell Property, eight kilometres northeast of the community.

Spokesman Aubrey Eveleigh said earlier exploration on the property's Jigger zone shows promise but the zone has never been drilled to determine the depth of mineralization.

Prospecting and sampling continue to trace the strike length to new showing, Triple X, which looks promising.

The company is spending more than \$200,000 this summer prospecting, sampling and drilling to determine the extent of the mineralized zone.

Eveleigh said the gold-bearing zone appears to be associated with two other gold properties owned by the company that cover more than 12 km in the area.

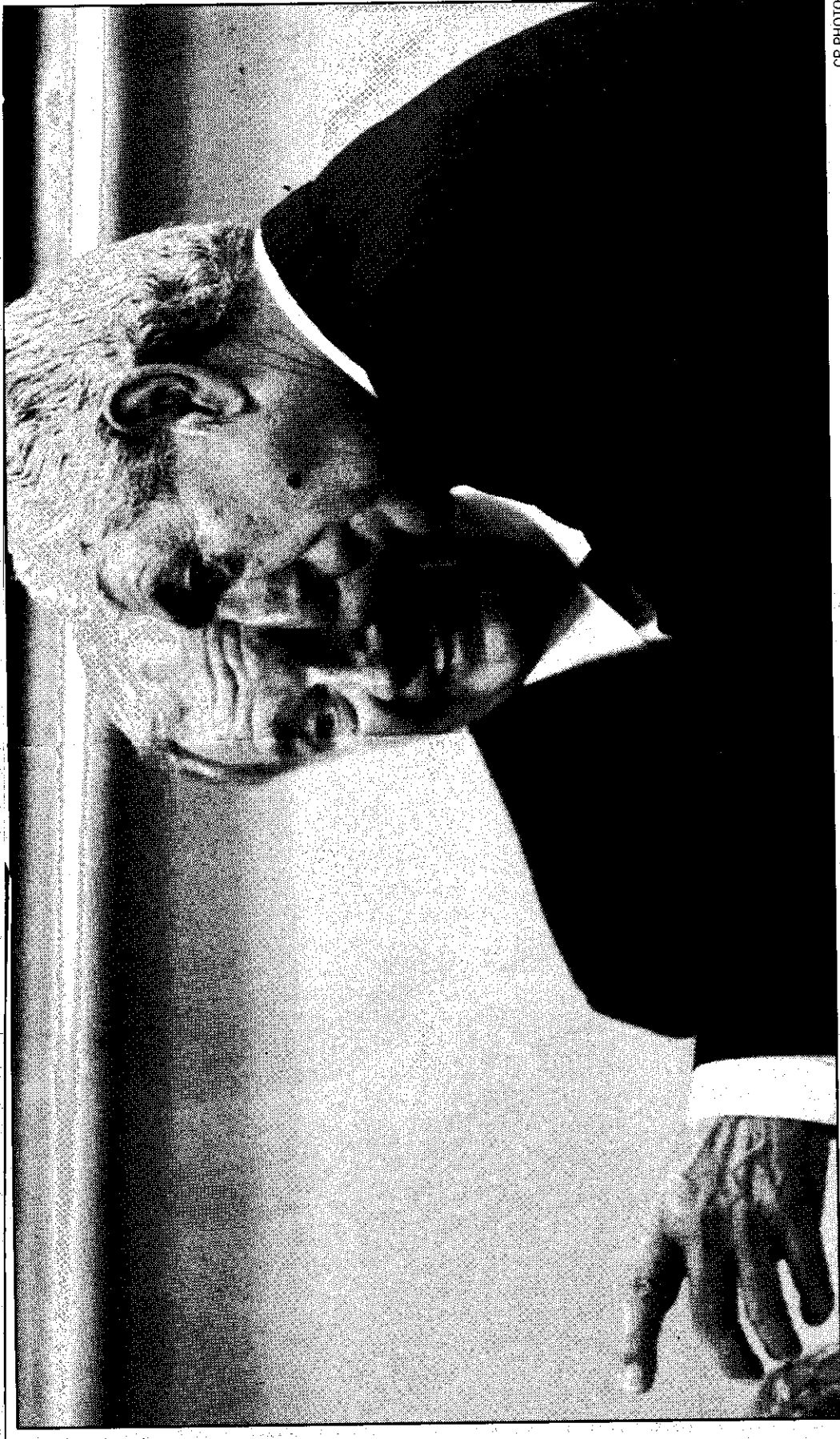
It is the first time in the history of the area's exploration that the company has held the entire bearing structure," Eveleigh said.

The company's land holdings in the Pickle Lake gold camp is 12,000 acres.



## THE CABINET

Paul Martin: Prime minister.  
 Jack Austin: Leader of the Government in the Senate.  
 Stephane Dion: Environment.  
 Ralph Goodale: Finance.  
 Anne McLellan: Deputy prime minister, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness.  
 Lucienne Robillard: Intergovernmental Affairs.  
 Pierre Pettigrew: Foreign Affairs.  
 Jim Peterson: International Trade.  
 Ujjal Dosanjh: Health.  
 Andy Mitchell: Agriculture.  
 Joe Volpe: Human Resources.  
 Claudette Bradshaw: Human Resources (minister of state).  
 John McCallum: Revenue.  
 Stephen Owen: Western Economic Diversification, Sport.  
 Bill Graham: Defence.  
 Reg Alcock: Treasury Board.  
 Geoff Regan: Fisheries and Oceans.  
 Tony Valeri: House Leader.  
 Jean Lapierre: Transport.  
 John Godfrey: Communities and Infrastructure.  
 Irwin Cotler: Justice, Attorney General.  
 David Emerson: Industry.  
 Joe Fontana: Labour.  
 Judy Sgro: Immigration.  
 John Efford: Natural Resources.  
 Liza Frulla: Heritage.  
 Scott Brison: Public Works.  
 Ken Dryden: Social Development.  
 Tony Ianno: Families and Caregivers.  
 Andy Scott: Indian Affairs.  
 Joe Comuzzi: Minister of State (Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario).  
 Albina Guarnieri: Veterans Affairs.  
 Joseph McGuire: Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.  
 Mauril Belanger: Deputy Leader of the Government in the House.  
 Carolyn Bennett: Minister of State (Public Health).



CP PHOTO

FedNor Minister Joe Comuzzi (Thunder Bay-Superior North), right, chats with Prime Minister Paul Martin during yesterday's cabinet swearing-in ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

# Cabinet blend of old and new

## THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA — Prime Minister Paul Martin promised yesterday to "hit the ground running" with a new cabinet that will get to work quickly on a legislative agenda for his minority Liberal government.

The 39-member team, a blend of veterans and rising new stars, is designed "to deliver real progress on the issues that matter most to Canadians," Martin de-

clared in a speech to Parliament.

Among them are health care reform, a national day-care program, a new deal for cities and a better shake for poverty-stricken aboriginal Canadians.

Many of the key initiatives, however, have been entrusted to cabinet newcomers, raising questions about just how fast the promised policy takeoff will be when Parliament meets in October.

Those are eight new faces on Martin's

key issues Martin outlined during the election campaign.

Thunder Bay-Superior North MP Joe Comuzzi kept his FedNor post.

Veteran Bill Graham shuffled from Foreign Affairs to Defence, while Pierre Pettigrew moved from Health to replace Graham as foreign minister.

Tony Valeri, a Martin loyalist, abandoned Transport to take over as House leader, a key post in a minority government — but one at which he has no past

was predictably cool.

"The prime minister has put together a team of weak and inexperienced ministers dominated mainly by his loyalists," said Conservative Leader Stephen Harper.

NDP Leader Jack Layton saw little difference from the pre-election cabinet. "You can't really say that Mr. Martin has heard that Canadians were unhappy with his government."

The addition of Dosanjh as Health

**Water & Sewer Rates set**

Council passed a by-law setting water and sewer rates. The flat per unit rate for unmetered single and multiple residential dwellings is \$240 per year for water and \$336 per year for sewer. Seasonal rates are \$20 per month (with a minimum of two months) plus \$50 for turning it on and off. Seasonal sewer is \$28 per month (with a minimum of two months) plus \$50 for turning it on and off.

Commercial metered water rate is \$2.60 per 1,000 gallons, sewer \$3.16 per 1,000 gallons of water metered.

*Imue Driftwood*

*Aug 25/04*

# Mayor bids for cash

## *Funding sought for infrastructure projects*

NORTHWEST BUREAU

Ear Falls Mayor Jim Desmarais has been hunting for infrastructure cash.

Desmarais met with Minister of State for FedNor Joe Comuzzi and Kenora MP Roger Valley in Dryden during a tour of the new Dryden Regional Training and Cultural Centre.

Desmarais said he told the Liberal MPs that a co-ordinated approach by all three levels of government is needed to fund infrastructure work in Ear Falls.

"Communities such as Ear Falls are not seeing growth (like other centres)," he said, adding that "these are challenging times for municipalities in the North."

"We need more help from the senior levels of government to

maintain infrastructure and deliver services."

Desmarais said Valley told him that the new Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) is aimed at addressing road, bridge, sewer and water problems in small towns like Ear Falls.

Details of the program will be announced later this fall, Valley said.

Not a moment too soon, according to Desmarais.

"Ear Falls is ready to partner with government to get the (township's) long awaited Urban Street resurfacing project on the go," he said.

The \$1-million, multi-year project calls for replacing potholes and hot-patches on town streets

with new asphalt; replacing many ditches and culverts with clean-edged curbs and gutters; and installing new sidewalks.

Council plans to concentrate on reconstructing most of the heavily-used roads first.

Major improvements are planned for Spruce Street from Highway 105 to the Ear Falls Public School; and Balsam Street from Aspen Street to the plaza. Installation of water and sewer lines is also on the work sheet.

Meanwhile, Ear Falls residents face a four-per-cent hike in municipal taxes this year.

The \$3.7-million budget also hikes water, sewer and landfill fees to reflect the town's move toward cost-recovery in those services.

### EAR FALLS



## Provincial ministers visit Mishkeegogamang

by Mark M. Kakegamic

The provincial government will find a way to help the community of Mishkeegogamang garner some much needed funding for the planned centennial Treaty #9 anniversary celebrations scheduled to take place during next year's annual Keewaywin Conference.

Micheal Bryant, the minister responsible for Native Affairs and Rick Bartolucci, minister of Northern Development and Mines, were welcomed into the Ojibway community on Aug. 27.

Chief Ronald Roundhead, along with the community's band councillors, Acting Grand Chief Goyce Kakegamic and chief of police for the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service, Wes Luloff, were among the dignitaries on hand to welcome the provincial ministers.

Heading the discussion table was the topic of the centennial anniversary celebrations to commemorate the

signing of Treaty #9 slated to take place next summer in Mishkeegogamang First Nation. The community, which began organizing the event a year ago, still has a lot of work and planning to do.

Bryant said the provincial government will find the best way to make a contribution.

In addition to the request for help to fund the anniversary celebrations, Coun. Tom Wassaykeesic used the opportunity to raise concerns he had about the increasing costs for electricity on reserve.

"Where is the help from the government for people on fixed incomes?" He asked, "How come on-reserve residents are not eligible for the Energy Assistance Plan?"

"They should be eligible," he added.

Bryant responded by stating, "Our government is committed to trying to find a way to stabilize the consumers on a fixed income ...

"Practically speaking, there may be some stumbling blocks when it comes to Ontario Works and the Energy Assistance Plan."

He acknowledged that "First Nations in northern Ontario are different from those in the South," and that the provincial government "wants to be practical (and) find practical results."

Bartolucci promised to bring any concerns, raised during the discussions, to his fellow members of provincial parliament and added "If we know what the immediate concerns are, we can address them immediately, while long term issues can be addressed in the long term."

# Internet customers angry

from page 1

steinman has confirmed, up until press time, neither the company's owners had filed for bankruptcy proceedings.

In a case like this where there is no current evidence of bankruptcy proceedings, it becomes a question of what details are in the contract between the service provider and the company," says Steinman. "A business can decide at any time in time that they want to be in business more. But it is illegal to do something that you have no intention of fulfilling. In the case that they stop payments while knowing they would have to shut their doors - then they did

break the law."

As for how debts will be covered, that is a slightly more tricky issue, says Steinman.

In the case that the company was incorporated or was a limited partnership, only the assets of the company may be used to pay off the debts of the company. If, however, the business was not incorporated, then the assets of both the business and its owners can be seized to pay off the debt, Steinman explains. The amount paid to each creditor, including subscribers, is determined by taking the total amount raised and determining what percentage of the debt can be paid off. Each creditor is then paid that percent of what they were owed.

While the legality of the shutdown is still up in the air, both the Dryden Police Service and the London Detachment of the OPP have not decided to investigate the circumstances around the closing at this point.

With Dryden Internet Services now out of business, the phones at the DrydeNet have been ringing off the hook, says Scott Coffey, operations manager with Dryden Telephone.

"It's been very busy so far but I think that we have a big enough capacity to handle everyone," says Coffey. "We have a bit of a backlog in the order that we are processing, but we hope we will get everyone running as soon as possible."

## Internet provider closes doors

Josh Johnson

he recent and unexpected closure of Dryden Internet Services (DIS) the Labour Day long weekend has many local residents wondering if they will receive any form of refund from the company. Unfortunately, with owners Bob and Kim McK-

never unavailable for comment and former DIS employees unsure of what prompted the closure, answers are short to come by. A sign on the door at 64 Van Horne Ave. states simply that the business has closed with no explanation of the circumstances of the closure or whether resi-

dents can expect a refund for undelivered services.

While the circumstances behind the closure are unclear, it does appear that the company remained financially solvent until it closed its doors, says Jack Steinman of Industry Canada.

see page 2



# Valley's Dryden office up and running

on

time but Roger Valley is Dryden and open for busi-

of parliament Valley also hopes to be in Red Lake as soon as

governments, the fact we're not sure why we're in Valley. "We're offices open in Sioux, which is the biggest like this has we're going to many people as

of the offices days a week, people will get management.

"We're a little concerned that it will be difficult at first," he notes. "But we're going to stick to our guns and have consistent hours throughout and hopefully everyone will get used to the situation."

There are separate reasons for the delays in Sioux Lookout and Red Lake.

"We're trying to rent from a board in Red Lake and they have to sit and meet and make a final decision. In Sioux Lookout, we're having a little difficulty finding someone to staff the office part-time, but we're hopeful it will be up and running soon," he explains.

Valley's local staff has already met for a one-day orientation session with members of his Ottawa staff and some experienced locals. This makes him confident that everybody is pre-

pared to handle the onslaught of phone calls from constituents that will likely ensue.

"They're all on-side and working as a team. The local offices will deal with constituency and local issues, while the Ottawa people will deal with problems like immigration, more nationally focused issues," says Valley.

Although he does not know exactly what his role will be when he arrives in Ottawa, Valley does know his schedule will be very hectic.

"I'm beginning to realize that my job is on the road, and in many cases it will be difficult for me to get back into the riding," he explains. "With a minority situation, you have to be sure that there's an equal number of Liberal MPs there with the rest

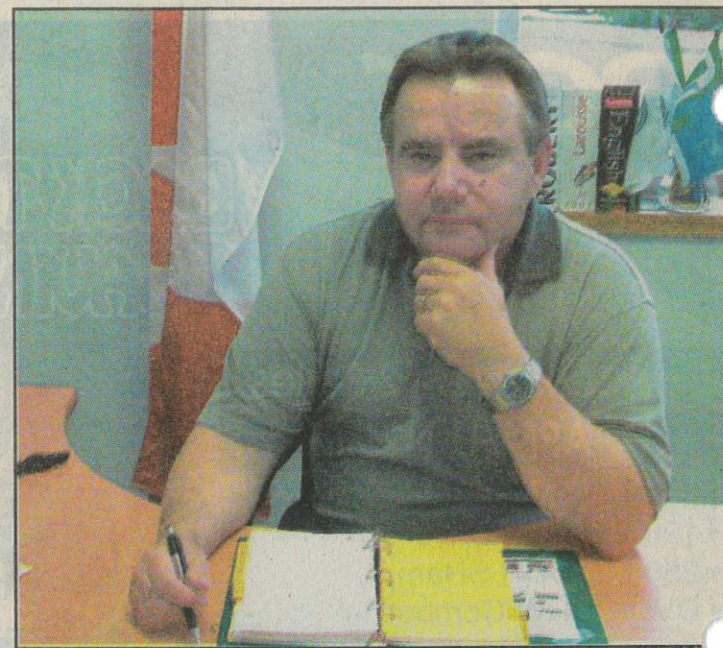
of them."

This means that the grand opening of the offices will likely be held in December when he can be assured that he can be in attendance.

For now, residents should be able to take comfort in the fact that his local office is up and running and there will always be a way to get in touch with him.

"We have a 1-800 number in place, so even if your local office isn't open your call will be automatically forwarded to the right office," says Valley.

Roger Valley's Dryden office is located at 101 Duke St. and will operate Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. - noon and from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. During off-hours Valley's offices can be reached at 1-866-710-0008, locally his phone number is 223-8000.



*Roger Valley, member of parliament for the Kenora riding, now has his Dryden constituency office open for business.*



Chronicle - Sept 24/04

# Shake-up at Sioux Lookout town hall

NORTHWEST BUREAU

Sioux Lookout officials are tight-lipped about the departure of the town's chief administrative officer this week.

Mayor Cathy Kiepek confirmed Thursday that John Baird was "no longer employed with the municipality as of Monday."

However, she refused to elaborate on reasons, saying only that "at this time I can't."

Baird became town manager in February 1999 after serving for six years as the municipality's recreation director.

Sioux Lookout's former mayor, John McDonald, said he was surprised to hear about Baird's departure.

McDonald said he found Baird to be an "excellent" employee during his tenure as mayor.

Baird could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Town clerk Mary MacKenzie will be appointed acting-chief administrative officer during the transition, Kiepek said.



# Current land-tax system unfair, minister says

BY WARD HOLLAND  
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

People who live in unorganized areas should count their loonies, because the tax collectors are looking for more money.

Municipal Affairs Minister John Gerretsen said he was committed to changing the province's tax structure so unorganized areas and organized municipalities could be taxed fairly.

"We're the first government to

do something about the provincial land tax situation," Gerretsen said Friday.

"The issue was brought to my attention as soon as I became minister, or shortly thereafter. I felt the current system is unfair

and needs to be looked at."

One of the topics discussed at the Northwestern Ontario Regional Conference, held at a Thunder Bay hotel on Thursday and Friday, was provincial land tax reform.

Thunder Bay Mayor Lynn Peterson said this issue is "huge" because people in municipalities are paying a high rate for social services, while unorganized territories pay a lower rate.

• Continued on page A4

A4 NEWS

Saturday, September 25, 2004 TH

## Minister: 'It's a matter of fairness'

• Continued from page A1

Peterson said the playing field has to be leveled and people in the municipalities need to be taxed fairly.

"Municipalities are picking up the lion's share of these costs," she said. "It's a matter of fairness."

Kenora Mayor David Canfield gave an example. He said a person who owns a \$1-million cottage that is outside a school board boundary may pay only \$25 a year in property taxes.

Ron Nelson, the mayor of O'Connor Township, said a person living in an unorganized area may pay \$200 in property taxes while a person living in a municipality pays \$800.

There's a difference in taxes, yet both people would get the same social services.

"There has to be a greater equity brought into the whole property taxation system," Gerretsen said. "The provincial land tax situation, the way it exists right now, is simply unacceptable."

At a luncheon on Friday, Gerretsen also said the province's community reinvestment fund (CRF) was also "a big is-

— is whether or not health care and social services and land ambulance costs should be on the property tax roll at all," the minister said.

In most provinces, social services and health-care costs are one or two per cent of the total municipal budget, Gerretsen said, while in Ontario it's closer to 25 per cent.

He said these costs are unpredictable and, as a result, are difficult to budget.

"Every paper that's ever been written agrees it never should have been part of the property tax system in the first place," he added.

Gerretsen also said:

- The government's considering changes to the Municipal Act.

- A new program called the Community Rural Infrastructure Fund would be signed shortly. It's to provide \$900 million in grants over five years to rural Ontario municipalities.

- Low-cost, long-term loans will be available to small communities.

- The government will consider making the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) less legalistic and "more friendly."

### TAXES

System has disparities, municipal leaders claim



SANDI KRASWOSKI/THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL



# 'Get me to the clerk's on time'

## *Municipal clerks empowered to conduct weddings*

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Ontario's municipal clerks now have the power to perform civil marriage ceremonies, a task once left to judges or justices of the peace, in an effort to increase access to the service.

Judges and justices are focusing more on court-related matters, and as a result fewer of them are performing marriage ceremonies, said Julie Rosenberg, Ministry of Consumer and Business Services spokeswoman.

She said Monday that courts no longer schedule time for judges or justices to perform marriages as part of their duties, and if they decide to do it they must do so on their own.

John Hannam, city clerk for Thunder Bay, said the local office does get en-

quiries about civil ceremonies, although there is one justice of the peace in the city who performs them.

Sharon Hacio, Marathon's CAO and clerk, said her town has one justice of the peace who is often called out of town for court-related matters.

Glenn Treftlin, clerk in Fort Frances, said his town's justice of the peace no longer does civil services, and occasionally he hears from residents who have had to travel for a civil ceremony.

A government news release says that about five per cent of the 66,000 marriages performed in Ontario each year are civil services.

Municipalities have the choice to opt out of the clerk program.

Hannam said he'll prepare a report for city council, likely by the end of Oc-

tober, weighing the pros and cons of getting involved, which is the way the province recommends doing things.

"It would be kind of fun to do a few," Hannam said, adding, "I don't anticipate giving up Saturdays to do marriages."

He may not have to because the legislation also allows municipalities to delegate the authority to other personnel if they so choose.

A training module has been completed and will be delivered by the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario, the release states.

The legislation was put in place about a week ago, and the province expects training to be complete and services available by late fall.

Chronicle - Sept 28/04



ON



## MANAGING YOUR MONEY



### Financial Focus

## ing for high income during market lows

investments are maturing. Market volatile and GIC rates low but need to draw an income and preserve for the future.

At first blush, high-income funds may answer to your prayers. High-income funds invest in some combination of yield common stocks, preferred corporate bonds, income trusts, real estate investment trusts (REITs), energy royalty funds. The funds promise promised payouts at pre-established times.

Within promised payouts as much as 10 cents per unit or more, the fund may not offer the value they appear to. The promised income can quickly disappear if a mortgage against your future. The fund investment earnings are made up of both income (interest) and capital appreciation or depreciation of the value of your investment (capital). It is important to understand that theoretically provide income while promised payouts can wipe out returns and erode capital. It is important to look beyond short-term income received from these funds to the total cost - and returns - for your investment.

Alternative for conservative, long-

- When calculating your income needs, be sure to leave room for unexpected expenses.

- Determine how often you need income withdrawn with how often your investment pays out. Money market funds may pay weekly or monthly, bond funds distribute income monthly or quarterly, and mortgage funds pay quarterly.

- Each investment has a separate list of advantages and disadvantages. Consider all of your options before making your choice.

- The option you choose will affect the taxes you pay. Interest income is taxed at your marginal rate; distributed capital gains may be taxed at a lower rate and Canadian dividend income qualifies for the federal dividend tax credit.

- Work closely with your investment professional and tax advisor to determine the most effective way to balance your personal portfolio with your need to draw income today and protect your capital for the future.

In times of turmoil, it is the basics that endure. A balanced portfolio that includes GICs and mutual funds, plus quality stocks and bonds, protects your

# BUSINESS

**Canada/U.S.  
exchange**  
... to press time  
**Buying: \$1.3015**  
**Selling: \$1.2485**

*Community development perspective*

## Cottage lot development in Pickle Lake a success story

**By Doug Pronger**

*Community Development Coordinator  
Patricia Area Community Endeavours  
(PACE)*

Township Superintendent Karl Hopf and his co-workers in Pickle Lake have achieved what few others in northern Ontario have. It took them five years to stick handle through the requirement and regulations to have Crown land released by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) for cottage lot development. Nine municipalities were involved in a cooperative initiative; only Pickle Lake reached the goal.

Hopf traveled to Vermilion Bay Sept. 21 to share his experience with the Municipality of Machin at

the invitation of mayor Barbara Beernaerts. She first heard Hopf present his success story to the Board of Directors at Patricia Area Community Endeavours. Now a sub-committee of Machin Council is looking into the prospect of creating cottage lots in Machin as an economic development project.

"We had two reasons to do it - one was to provide affordable cottage lots for Pickle Lake residents," Hopf explains. "In our neck of the woods, no cottage lots had been approved in 110 years - we live in a hundred thousand square miles of bush and no one could buy a cottage lot. We

also wanted to bring in out-of-town investment."

Each lot was priced at \$7,600. Direct costs to the municipality for the project amounted to \$172,000, so they realized a surplus of \$86,400. The town created 34 lots, within municipal boundaries, at four different sites on Kapkichi Lake, accessible by boat from a municipally-owned boat launch located about a 20-minute drive from the townsite. The first 13 lots were sold through a lottery. Further sales were handled through the township office. By the time the lots were sold, nine months after going on the market, 40 per cent were owned by local residents, the

remainder by Americans.

Hopf cites a long list of issues that had to be dealt with during the course of the project: public notifications at each step, public input, appraisals, surveys, site access, zoning, clearing the project through provincial ministries. The township spent \$16,000 on studies of fish and wildlife, water quality, archeology, road access, hydrogeology and lake capacity.

"The issue of mining claims and mineral deposits delayed the project for a year-and-a-half," says Hopf. "A successful resolution occurred when the township created an acceptable format for the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines by placing a 'statement of fact' which cannot be removed, on the land titles."

Hopf's advice to other

municipalities: "The proponent requires patience, currency and commitment. A serious and mutually respectful relationship with the MNR must be maintained at all times."

The Township is now planning another development of 15 cottage lots, this time on Pickle Lake. Hopf will put his experience to the test, hoping to shorten the project timeline to two-and-a-half years.



Karl Hopf shares aerial photos of cottage lots in Pickle Lake with Machin mayor Barbara Beernaerts.



# Sailors from stricken sub return home to Halifax

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HALIFAX — After a harrowing ordeal on the North Atlantic, about half the crew from HMCS Chicoutimi returned home to Halifax on Friday night, 10 days after their second-hand submarine caught fire off the coast of Ireland.

But the military made it clear that if there were any emotional reunions with family and friends at Halifax International Airport, that would happen behind closed doors with no media present.

The sailors, who boarded a Canadian Forces Airbus in Scotland earlier in the day, were told they were no longer needed by a military board leading an investigation into the fire that killed Lieut. Chris Saunders on Oct. 6.

Cmdr. Luc Pelletier and the remainder of his crew were to remain behind in Scotland to provide information that investigators hope will explain why an electrical fire broke out while the British-built sub was making its maiden voyage to Canada. It wasn't known when they will return to Halifax, the submarine's home port.

## Another man missing after companion reported killed in Chechnya

VANCOUVER (CP) — The mystery surrounding the reported death last week of a Canadian in war-torn Chechnya deepened Friday with word another B.C. man with him apparently is missing.

A Foreign Affairs spokesman confirmed the department has been asked to look into the second man's whereabouts.

"The information has been brought to our attention and the Canadian embassy in Moscow has been instructed to run the information by the relevant Russian authorities," Reynald Doiron said from Ottawa.



Police patrol the debris field of a downed 747 cargo plane near the airport in Halifax on Friday.

## Investigators confirm jet's tail hit runway before crash

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HALIFAX — A Boeing 747 was barely airborne when it rocketed off the end of a runway, broke its back on an earthen mound, then careened out of control into thick woods and brush.

Investigators working in scorched wreckage and driving rain began Friday to reconstruct the final, harrowing seconds of the doomed flight of the MK Airlines Ltd. cargo plane.

What they've already learned is that the tail of the wide-body jet struck the runway twice during takeoff early Thursday, then broke off after hitting a mound, or berm, topped by an antenna.

All seven crewmen were killed in the crash at Halifax International Airport.



Bill Fowler

"The indication is there was prolonged contact of the aft fuselage on and off the runway," said Bill Fowler, a spokesman for the Transportation Safety Board of Canada.

"The aircraft was barely airborne. The scrape trail disappears just before the berm."

The preliminary finding supports an eyewitness account of the crash — the fourth by the Britain- and Ghana-based airline in 12 years.

An airport worker recounted seeing a rooster-tail of sparks trailing the wide-body plane as the pilot tried desperately to lift off.

Fowler said the tail struck the runway for the first time about 250 metres from the end of the 2,700-metre runway, then again with about 170 metres to go.

## CANAD

### Toddler 1 night in

CARNWOOD — A toddler was saved after being found in a country by a sighting of a creek in hours after the porch of his home in Carnwood, Ont.

His disappearance overnight had worried family and friends, and search dogs were sent to find Hill's cousin.

It was Shipton's cousin who found the family in the woods when she saw the eye. She saw the child flashing at the trees.

"I saw this and looked up. I jumped up. I jumped up. I jumped up," she said.

"He kind of took his coat off, and we put the helicopter and went to the hospital."

Shipton's fall coat was so cold she held him. She admitted looking for hope.

She admitted looking for hope.

### Deal in Commo

OTTAWA — The government says there's a preliminary settlement with Paul Martin Monday.

Party's principle v. Tory's principle v. palatable to the public.

Liberal confirm the official deal.

### Welcome to Our Team

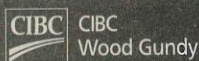


Paul Johnston, Branch Manager of Thunder Bay, is pleased to announce that Jason Hughes has joined the firm as an Investment Advisor.

Jason is a graduate of Lakehead University with a Honours Bachelor of Commerce degree and brings to the firm outstanding knowledge in investing and personal finance. Jason specializes in developing innovative investment, estate planning and tax reduction strategies to meet each client's needs.

Jason Hughes  
Investment Advisor

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# Dryden faces deficit over land ambulance costs

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Dryden's share of that amount is either \$190,114 or \$264,794, depending on if the provincial government chooses to pay the Unorganized Township's portion of the levy.

Heayn points out that the cost is not budgeted for in 2004, but it must be paid. He adds administration is confident the city can afford the lesser amount without incurring a deficit. If the province

refuses to pay the unorganized township's share however, the city could face a \$74,680 deficit.

While the government has yet to establish exactly how many residents of Northwestern Ontario are part of the unincorporated territory, its share of the levy is greater than any municipality. In fact, at \$314,114, it is greater than that of Dryden and

Sioux Lookout combined.

Councillors shake their heads at the notion municipalities in Northwestern Ontario must pay the unorganized territories share of land ambulances expenses.

Coun. Brian Collins stresses he does not blame residents of those unorganized territories. He explains they pay the property taxes set out by the province. However, the

government refuses to pay the additional costs incurred by the KPDSB. Instead, that is divided among municipalities.

Coun. Collins, frustrated by the situation, which is also forced on the Northwestern Health Unit, asked a hypothetical question. What would happen if municipalities refused to pay the greater amount?

"What would happen if we said we were only going to pay our fair share and anymore? Has anyone discussed that?" he asked council.

Mayor Anne Krassilowsky, who sits on the KDSB, says the subject has come up, but at the moment the consensus seems to be to pay what is demanded and continue to lobby the province to reconsider its stance.

*Dryden Observer - Nov 10/04*