

Wawatay - Dec 30/99

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig hires their own doctor

Just in time for Christmas, MSB sent the gift

by Joyce Atcheson

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig has been given access to the services of Dr. Joe Dooley.

Dooley began working in the nursing station on Dec. 20 on a four-day visit and is scheduled for another visit in January.

Chief Donny Morris of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig says, "I appreciate the work of Jim Morris, IFNA, the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority and Janet Gordon, who helped to make this happen. It is

an early Christmas gift for Dooley to be here."

The chief learned Dec. 16 that the alternate physician services arrangement was a go ahead; that Dooley would be permitted into the nursing station.

"MSB is allowing that," he says. But Morris is still concerned about how the federal government came to their decision. "Who are they listening to - McMaster or the community?"

"We don't know."

Dooley, who was contacted at the nursing station on Dec. 21, says he is there on contract through IFNA (Independent First Nations Alliance) and

NAN (Nishnawbe-Aski Nations).

"It's good to be here," he says. "Hopefully this is the start of something on-going. I think the community is grateful."

The doctor whose services were long requested by the community but denied under the MSB/McMaster physician contract now has access to the nursing station equipment, staff and files through Medical Services Branch Sioux Lookout Zone Director, Janet Gordon.

Gordon was not in the office and did not return calls from Wawatay by press time.

Mayor in last lap of political career

RYAN MEADOWS
HWEST BUREAU

Dryden Mayor Roger Valley will call it in the fall, marking an end to nine years in municipal politics.

Valley confirmed rumours Monday he won't be running in the November municipal elections.

"It's been the greatest job in the world, it's time for someone else to take over," he said.

Valley said he plans to spend more time with his family and concentrate on his family minnow business.

Valley began his stint in municipal politics in 1991. He was the town of Dryden's public works chairman during his first term and its finance chairman during his second.

Valley was elected mayor of the amalgamated City of Dryden in 1997, beating out businesswoman Vicki Kurz and

DRYDEN

former councillor Vaughan Cochrane.

In that race, Valley garnered 1,566 votes; Kurz, 1,212; and Cochrane, 413.

Valley said he has no aspirations "at this time" to enter provincial or federal politics.

One of his New Years' resolutions, he said, "is to carry on" the work of council and try to get some of the projects the city has been working on up and running.

Those include proposals for a cogeneration plant, and an auditorium attached to a regional training centre in the city.

There's no word yet on who may step up to fill Valley's shoes as head of council.

Cochrane said he has no inkling to return to municipal politics, "unless something drastic beckons me back."

Kurz couldn't be reached Monday.

Chronicle - Jan 4/2000

New council on the job today

E BUREAU

complicated world, Bill probably would have pre-g leftover turkey Monday the tube like a lot of other who had the day off.

Presentanz, chief administrator of Kenora, was working today's council meeting — for the newly-created city. lot of house-keeping to be Presentanz said Monday from his hall.

arly doubled in size to about when it officially merged the adjacent townships of Jaffray Melick.

council led by Mayor Dave have a full plate making the on function, Presentanz

e priorities are development site management system, de-he city is to be policed, and of a salary structure for mu-employees.

member council also has to chief and fill other city staff eisentanz said.

council is only in effect until when voters will again go to

said he plans to be around a man that, and has decided to

KENORA

"There's no doubt about that," he said Monday.

Each of the former municipalities — including the old town of Kenora — have two seats on the new council.

Canfield, who suggested today's meeting would run for about two hours, said he thinks he'll have the support of his fellow council members and doesn't foresee any infighting coming out of the old municipal boundaries.

"I would hope everyone is here for the same reason, and that's to make this city work," said Canfield, who lives in the former Jaffray Melick — about 25 kilometres from Kenora city hall.

"We're going to act like this city has been in place for the past 100 years," he said.

Whether or not the three former municipalities can by merging save as much as \$1.2 million in administrative costs as earlier predicted remains to be seen, said Presentanz.

Canfield, formerly mayor of Jaffray Melick, became the new city's first mayor in November, after beating fellow front-runners Rory McMillan and Kelvin Winkler.

On the waste management issue, Canfield has said he favours boosting recycling efforts rather than traditional land-

Chronicle - Jan 4/2000

CHRONICLE - Jan 5/2000

DRYDEN

City boosts user fees

BY BRYAN MEADOWS
NORTHWEST BUREAU

Dryden ratepayers, waste generators and motorists have been tagged with no less than three user fee hikes, effective Jan. 1.

Landfill tipping fees, parking meter rates, and water and sewer levies have jumped from between 25 and 100 per cent over last year's rates.

Council approved the increases in a move to make more city utilities user-pay.

The changes include:

- The cost of a bag tag for garbage increases to \$1.50 from \$1.25, while charges for a trunk full of garbage will jump 50 cents to \$5 a load.

The cost of depositing a pickup box of waste rises to \$9 from \$8.25, and the bulk rate for garbage delivered to the Dryden landfill increases to \$45 a tonne, from \$41.25 a tonne.

- The residential water rate will increase by 75 cents to \$20 a month.

The sewer charge is 44 per cent of the water rate — \$8.80 a month for residential customers.

Commercial ratepayers will see a similar increase in their January water and sewer bills.

- The fees for parking in downtown Dryden have doubled.

The new digital parking meters accept all silver change and loonies, and metered times range from six minutes

Firefighters' contract in for a close look

BY JIM KELLY
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Deputy Fire Chief Joe Kaplanis doesn't rule out cuts because an arbitration panel awarded first class firefighters a 13.3-per-cent pay hike over three years.

The raise brings a first class firefighter's salary to \$56,964 when the three-year contract expires at the end of this year.

Kaplanis said the award exceeds the city's standard of six per cent over three years.

"City council has said from the get-go that if there is more than

two, two and two, we'd be required to find savings," Kaplanis said Tuesday.

"We'll be hard pressed to find savings beyond reducing fire protection," he said.

Kaplanis said he didn't want to get into details about department cuts out of fairness to city council members who may have just learned about the pay raise from a story in Tuesday's edition of The Chronicle-Journal.

Kaplanis speculated there would be no pay hikes for firefighters in 2001 considering the boost in the 1998-2000 contract.

"We're already behind the eight ball because of this latest contract," he said.

Kaplanis said the fire service and the city's human resources department would have to examine the repercussions of the pay raise to determine their options.

Earlier, Coun. Robert Tuchen-hagen said savings would have to be found in the fire department because the contract is in excess of six per cent over three years.

Coun. Joe Vanderwees is opposed to fire protection cuts.

"We have to be very careful about cutting services," he said.

"Premiums would go up like heck. Have you seen any of those houses in McIntyre ward?

"They're like cathedrals and the people who own them pay over \$4,000 in taxes," said Vanderwees, adding he's concerned the Mapleward station might be closed.

"We have to sit down with the fire chief and see what he thinks before we make a political decision," he said.

City manager Brian MacRae said the overall cost impact of the

13.3 per cent has to be determined.

"We have to look at the options dealing with the costs (of this contract) over what (costs) a six-per-cent increase over three years would have resulted in," said MacRae.

He said it would be premature to suggest what the end result might be.

"But, it's not premature to say we need to alter operations (within the fire department) so the net impact of the award over three years is not more than six per cent would have been."

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KDSB celebrates first year

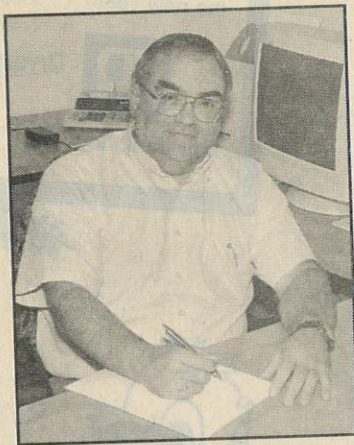
Action plans for new programs

By Reg Clayton

Senora District Services
Board (KDSB) Sten Lif
says he's living in inter-
esting times. However, the
challenges of overseeing
the transfer of provincial
social service programs to
local administration is not
without its frustrations and
rewards.

"It's nice to be in on the
ground floor. It's interesting
trying to build something
that will be of benefit to the
whole district," Lif acknowl-
edges.

The KDSB assumed
responsibility for Ontario
works, the provincial social
assistance program, on
April 1, 1999. The board, in
partnership with member
communities, has enjoyed
considerable success in
placing nearly half of its
10 welfare client caseload
in subsidized workfare,
earnfare and learnfare pro-
grams. The achievement
has made the KDSB eligi-
ble for more than \$200,000



Sten Lif

under the welfare-to-work
action plan announced by
Community and Social Ser-
vices Minister Tim Hudak.
The funding will be used to
further enhance local work-
fare programs.

"The new legislation pro-
vides incentives for more
public and private sector
partners to become
involved and provide train-
ing and opportunities for
clients to increase their
educational requirements,"
(continued on page 2)

Dryden Observer - Dec 28/99

Action plans for new programs

(continued from page 1)
Lif said, referring to the Learning and Earning Program (LEAP) for single mothers on welfare as an example.

Child Care next

The KDSB is now working to implement Child Care services on Jan. 1, 2000 — the second social program the board will assume from the province. The new responsibility will entail an independent review of all provincially licensed child care programs in the Kenora district. The in-depth study will examine existing and potential services at child care centres, nursery schools and toy lending libraries. KDSB directors will consider the recommendation and they will be implemented in 2001, following board approval.

The KDSB and member municipalities must also determine how last month's provincial budget cuts will affect local child care programs. Municipalities will no longer be able to claim parent fees as part of their 20 per cent local share of maintaining child care programs. Critics say the budget cuts will reduce child care subsidies by \$25 million provincially.

Social Housing, with its

\$3.9 million annual budget, is the third provincial program slated for transfer to KDSB management. Current legislation requires the process to be completed by Jan. 1, 2002.

"The devolution of that service is going to take longer than the other two," Lif predicted. The process will involve participation by three levels of government to bring about the merger of local, provincial and federal subsidized housing programs.

However, he believes the transfer will occur sooner than the provincial deadline, possibly as early as next spring.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing hosted initial meetings on the subject in October. In attendance were representatives from the KDSB housing committee, non-profit and local housing authorities. Although, discussions touched on funding and human resource issues, Lif noted the federal and provincial governments must resolve outstanding issues relating to the future funding and program responsibilities for social and subsidized housing.

"Ottawa wants the provinces to take over all federal housing projects which Ontario will devolve

to the municipalities," he explained. "Therefore a significant number of projects must be catalogued and the information passed on the province."

Further complicating the process is the provincial cap on subsidies for social housing. It remains to be seen whether or not the current level of funding is adequate for municipalities to assume responsibility for the ongoing maintenance and operational costs of the properties. ★