

IGNACE

Councillor takes leave over charges

NORTHWEST BUREAU

Ignace township council has granted a leave of absence to a councillor charged with two counts of fraud under \$5,000.

Mayor Andre Tardiff said Wednesday that Coun. Suzanne Smith had requested the leave of absence, from Feb. 1 to April 30.

Smith was charged Tuesday following an Ontario Provincial Police investigation into an allegation that township revenue was used for personal purchases during the summers of 1997 and 1998.

Smith said she has no plans to resign from council.

She is to appear in Ignace court on March 22.

Tardiff said the three-month leave of absence was his preferred choice.

"It's better this way," he said, to keep the court matter separate from the day-to-day operation of the municipality.

Ignace council will be able to conduct business with a quorum of three councillors and the mayor.

Meanwhile, police investigation continues into expense claims made by Ignace councillors and staff between 1997 and

February 3/00
Chronicle

Municipal leaders decry road conditions

BY BRYAN MEADOWS
NORTHWEST BUREAU

The good, the bad, and the ugly... That pretty well sums up discussions Kenora District Municipal Association delegates had about area roads Friday at their annual meeting in Ear Falls.

The good: Red Lake Coun. Rick Smit announced a \$100,000 commitment by Red Lake Mine owners Goldcorp Inc. towards development of an all-weather road west from Red Lake to the Manitoba border.

Smit said it would "be the catalyst" to jump starting a project that has for more than a decade been put on the backburner by government for lack of funding. "I believe this project will become the most significant first step in transforming the economic and social development opportunities in all of Northwestern Ontario," Smit told about 50 municipal leaders gathered at the Ear Falls Legion.

Smit said that plans are to establish a coalition of private, public and political partners to access additional funding and work towards the goal of road construction between Red Lake and Werner Lake.

About 40 kilometres of bush stands be-

tween connecting bush roads to Red Lake and Manitoba.

"This road will serve as a link to the farthest northern regions of the province and provide the infrastructure for the creation and generation of new wealth," Smit said.

Kenora-Rainy River MP Bob Nault, who spoke at the meeting, said he is in favour of an all-weather road west of Red Lake.

Also, City of Kenora Mayor Dave Canfield said he would speak in favour of a Red Lake resolution to build the "Highway to the West."

The bad:

Ministry of Transportation officials told KDMA delegates that while there is more money being spent on highway reconstruction in the region, there isn't any available for expanding road networks in Northwestern Ontario in 2000.

"Our priority for expansion work is zero," Peter Makula, the ministry's region-

al manager of engineering, told delegates. In his address, Nault said he is surprised the province isn't planning to spend money on new roads.

"What we need is a significant increase in road infrastructure in the North," he said, noting that "Ontario has the worse infrastructure" in the north compared to other provinces. "In order for us to grow and develop, we need to change the formula (for highway construction funding) that's based on the number of vehicles using area highways, to one that recognizes the resources and economic potential we have in the region."

• The ugly:

Delegates blasted the Transportation ministry for the poor condition of area highways this winter.

Ignace clerk-administrator Arthur Osborne said there have been a number of accidents along the highways.

and Ignace this winter.

"This is an issue of grave concern for area municipalities... (the road maintenance) is not satisfactory," he said.

The ministry's Makula said there has been no reduction in winter road maintenance standards on area highways.

"It's important to stress that motorists need to slow down and drive to conditions," he said.

NDP Leader Howard Hampton told delegates that "no other issue has resulted in more phone calls to my constituency office."

"Are people just imagining things? ... This winter we've had what I'd describe as a fairly regular, moderate snowfall. Yet, I've never seen the highways so icy and snow covered."

The KDMA meeting continues today.

OPP wants recruits from North

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

A veteran Northerner has been chosen by Ontario Provincial Police to step up recruitment efforts in Northwestern Ontario.

Sgt. Darryl Wilson, who has been the OPP regional manager of community policing and media spokesman, starts his new position as area recruiter in April.

Wilson's job — a first for this region — is to attract applicants from Northwestern Ontario who want to spend their careers in the North.

Currently, most of the OPP's 4,500 uniformed officers come from southern Ontario.

Many are unwilling to commit beyond a couple of years to working in a Northern community.

Nearly 400 uniformed OPP officers work in the Northwest region between White River and the Manitoba border.

Fresh recruits assigned to a remote posting like Pickle Lake can apply to be transferred after two years, and many do.

Having more recruits from the



OPP Sgt. Darryl Wilson becomes Northwest region recruiter in April

North could mean more officers willing to stay here.

"Then we are not constantly having to find replacements (for remote towns), and officers have a better understanding of the North," Wilson, 44, said Wednesday.

Wilson, who grew up in Sioux Lookout, will be able to put his

money where his mouth is when selling the idea of policing in the North.

He began his law enforcement career 25 years ago with the RCMP in remote postings in British Columbia.

He joined the OPP in 1983 and moved to Thunder Bay district headquarters after working for five years out of the Longlac detachment.

OPP Staff Sgt. Wendy Wilson (no relation) said the force usually hires about 250 officers a year, and it's always been tough getting applicants from the North.

"Overall, applications are down (across the province), but we see a lot of that when the economy is booming," said Wilson, manager of the OPP's uniform recruitment section.

Not everyone wants to work erratic hours, and some are scared off by the dangers of being a police officer, she added.

It takes three years for an OPP recruit to reach the rank of first-class constable, which offers a salary of \$56,000.

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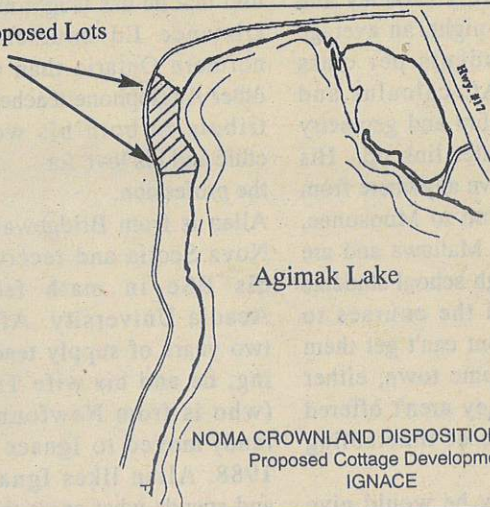
THE
CORPORATION
OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF
IGNACE

Public Notice

PURCHASE OF CROWN LANDS ON AGIMAK LAKE BY THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF IGNACE

This announcement is to notify all property owners on Agimak Lake that The Corporation of the Township of Ignace is intending to purchase approximately 2.5 hectares (6.2 acres) of Crown Land for the creation of residential building lots on Agimak Lake. Please refer to the attached plan for the location of these proposed lots.

Proposed Lots



NOMA CROWNLAND DISPOSITION STUDY
Proposed Cottage Development
IGNACE

This notification is required under the Terms and Conditions of the Environmental Assessment Act (Exemption Order 26/7) and the Disposition Policy of the Ministry of Natural Resources with respect to the disposition of Crown Land.

Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent for release is obtained.

Final Notice of this project will be issued to those who reply to this notice and to those who are directly affected by it. Please provide a complete mailing address with

Leaders want in on merger talks

KDMA sends message to province to address amalgamation rumours

By **BRYAN MEADOWS**
NORTHWEST BUREAU

Municipal leaders want the province to consult with them first before any decisions are made about amalgamating communities in the Kenora district.

Dryden Mayor Roger Valley said Monday that KDMA delegates "have put the province on notice that they should discuss any future amalgamation proposals with us."

"Don't try to pull the wool over our eyes. We're here ... things are working

well," he said.

There has been talk that the provincial government is looking for additional mergers in Northwestern Ontario.

"A motion urging consultation, not arbitration was given the blessing of Kenora District Municipal Association delegates at their annual meeting in Ear Falls on the weekend."

It was one of three resolutions approved earlier by Dryden city council.

Other Dryden resolutions approved:

- That Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Minister Ernie Hardeman reconsid-

er a decision to reorganize ministry field offices.

The Dryden and Cochrane offices in Northern Ontario are two of 32 OMAFRA field offices the ministry plans to close March 31 as part of a restructuring exercise announced two months ago.

In Northern Ontario, field offices will remain open in Thunder Bay, Emo, Echo Bay, Verner, New Liskeard and Gore Bay.

Up to 45 ministry employees will be affected province-wide.

Under its restructuring plans, the ministry will establish agricultural in-

formation call centres and a 1-800 telephone service for farmers. It will also set up business enterprise and agriculture technology centres in southern Ontario.

An open house to explain the changes is planned for Feb. 22 at 8 p.m. in Room B-5 at the Ontario Government building in Dryden.

- That the province provide funding to municipalities to cover the costs of hiring additional school crossing guards.

The Dryden motion said cuts in school board funding have resulted in changes to transportation policies and a corre-

sponding increase in the number of students walking to school.

"We want to make the province aware of how downloading to school boards is affecting the financial resources of municipalities. ... It's a safety issue," Valley said earlier.

It costs Dryden more than \$30,000 annually for five crossing guards throughout the city.

Two new crossing guards, on Highway 601 at Barclay School and on Parkdale Road at St. Joseph's School, were established in the fall.

KDMA meeting

Delegates focus on highways, amalgamations

Snow clearing and highway winter maintenance were hot topics among delegates attending the Kenora District Municipal Association (KDMA) annual meeting in Ear Falls, Feb. 3-5.

Municipal representatives expressed concerns about the high number of road fatalities between Kenora and Thunder Bay in December and January. Ontario Provincial Police attribute at least 13 deaths to motor vehicle accidents on northwestern Ontario highways so far this winter. The delegates believe the level of highway maintenance has declined in recent years. They questioned Ministry of Transportation regional engineer Peter Makula about the need for improved snow-clearing programs to make winter driving safer in the northwest.

Makula contends that the level of funding and service is the same as before, despite the province's

ends on March 31.

Resolution

Provincial government restructuring isn't over and in fact, the process may be just beginning.

City of Dryden Mayor Roger Valley told KDMA delegates that any future discussions regarding municipal amalgamations must be open and include all the players. He shared his concern that some district municipalities and unincorporated townships were not represented at talks concerning possible future amalgamations in the Kenora district.

According to Valley, the informal discussions occurred during the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) annual conference in August 1999.

"We're all in this together and if they're talking about us, then KDMA and

Dryden Observer

Feb 8/00

PACE gets FedNor funding for upgrades

LOUGHEED
WRITER

PACE Area
community
advocates has re-
ceived \$250,000 in FedNor
funding towards op-
erations and infor-
matics up-
grades to a Jan.
base.
The funding will help
PACE continue to assist
medium-sized
business throughout
the region.
PACE operations

funding will enable Patricia
Area Community Endeav-
ours Inc. to enhance the
services they offer to their
clients," said Vicki Kurz,
chairperson of PACE.
"The financial assistance
for informatics upgrades
will also provide PACE
with the tools to effectively
promote and use the
Internet, including the
Strategis, FedNor and other
business information
websites."

PACE is one of 22
Northern Ontario Commu-

nity Futures Development
Corporations (CFDC)
funded by FedNor to de-
velop ongoing economic
development in the region.

The majority of
FedNor's funding
(\$247,000) will go towards
PACE's ongoing opera-
tions, while a total of
\$34,600 will go towards
informatics upgrades.

The organization will also
receive \$20,000 for the
planning of a Junior
Achievement program,
which will help to develop
entrepreneurship in area
youth.

A recent FedNor contri-
bution was also made to
Pickle Lake thanks to
PACE's involvement. The
township will receive \$18,000
for a water bottling facility
feasibility study that will help
the town look for ways of
utilizing its resources.

SL Bulletin

February 9/00

t leaders get tips on acquiring Crown land

ment and Mines in Thunder Bay Thursday to discuss regulations and guidelines for municipal acquisition of Crown lands.

"We're discussing a common set of ground rules of what has to be done before development," said Beardmore Mayor Eric Rutherford, chairman of NOMA's Crown lands development sub-committee.

Handing title of Crown land to

a municipality could raise concerns over mineral rights, native rights and the environmental impact of developing the land. That's why a common set of expectations is important, said Rutherford.

Mike Belcher, manager of the strategic plan initiative for the MNR, said the workshop was worthwhile for all parties.

Belcher said municipalities got

a chance to work with MNR managers to review files and assess what stage they are at.

Ignace Mayor André Tardiff noted his town will most likely be the first NOMA member to complete the process and acquire Crown land on Agimac Lake.

The acquisition is expected in the next few months.

Tardiff said many residents

want to acquire property on Agimac Lake, which is in Ignace on Highway 17.

"The minute (lots) are available they will be gone, probably within a week," he said.

Tardiff said development of the land will mean growth for Ignace, which will increase the municipal tax base and support the local economy.

Chronicle - Feb 11/00

Dryden Observer - February 14/00

City supports KDSB stipends

Dryden city council endorsed a request Feb. 7 to provide the 13 members of the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) with an honorarium as compensation for the unanticipated demands of the job.

In addition to reimbursement of expenses incurred by members appointed by the municipal councils, the proposed honorariums are: chair, \$2,000; vice-chair, \$1,500; secretary-treasur-

er, \$1,500; directors, \$1,000.

Dryden's share of the annual stipend comes to \$2,717.

KDSB members are appointed to the board by local councils to represent the interests of district municipalities and unincorporated townships. They are also involved in discussions with the province regarding the transfer of administrative responsibilities for provincial services

and programs.

Council noted the complexity of these negotiations, as well as demands on time and travel commitments, far exceeds initial expectations.

Mayor Roger Valley is the city's representative on KDSB.

"We originally intended to have a meeting every two to three months but the opposite is true. We're meeting more often," he

said. "The workload is tremendous, especially with issues such as child care, land ambulance and social housing."

Council understands the proposal is supported by the other 12 member municipalities. ★



Pickle Lake

By Graeme Mackechnie

THE winners in the Pickle Lake Mens Bonspiel were: "A" Division - the Halteman rink, "B" Division - the Bileski rink and "C" Division - the Brazeau rink. As usual there was a kerfuffle over the order of prize picking. Perhaps the club should only have prizes for the winner of each division. The Ladies Bonspiel was last weekend. The entries were quite impressive. They even had people come in from out of town, some from as far away as Winnipeg.

Our local township council members were out to Ear Falls for the annual KDMA meeting. The hot issue was the roads and road conditions in North-western Ontario. Of course by the time this issue reaches A.M.O. it will be road conditions in "Ontario." With more and more trucks on the road I guess it is everyone's concern. I did hear that they were work-

longer. Steve is taking the children back to stay with his parents in Winnipeg. During the duration, Dave Marshall has taken on the responsibility of fueling planes at the Pickle Lake terminal.

The saying "You're not getting older only better" is really true. I watched Diane Murray curl every night of the week when curling first started. I think she spared for every team in the league! Her accuracy is truly amazing. I only hope she doesn't burn herself out before the Ladies Bonspiel. Al Gardiner, our local "best man to call in a pinch," has again been volunteered to tend bar for the Ladies Bonspiel. Hats off to Al, a true Northerner in every sense of the word.

We have been called - The Northern Store Advisory Committee will resume having meetings. Ruth Hopf, Mona Koval, Lorraine Lambert and yours truly are the

the hospital in Winnipeg and may not make it back by meeting time however she may have passed her ballets off to Ruth! Get well soon Mona.

Scott Baker an avid, though not accomplished, hockey player and an avid reader of the Sioux Lookout Bulletin would like me to mention the upcoming Pickle Lake Invitational Hockey Tournament Feb 18, 19 and 20. The team will be holding a fund raiser dance on the 19. Come out and cheer Scott and the team on and pick up a smokie at Bob's Canteen.

Donald MacIntyre had a bad fall off a ladder. Donald was medi-vaced to Sioux Lookout but is now back in Pickle Lake and on the mend. With Donald out of commission, so to speak, this leaves his wife Claire to move by herself - however I understand her friends at Wasaya have banded together to help. That's the backbone of Northern towns.

Have you seen anyone kicking around rocks at the curling arena? It's township budget time. We should be kicking these rocks around for some