

Industry Canada selects 'Superior' bid for network

Cellular licence awarded to Thunder Bay firm

By Reg Clayton

Superior Wireless of Thunder Bay has won the licence to extend cellular telephone service to areas of northwestern Ontario where it's not yet available.

The decision means the long wait is nearly over for folks at

Sioux Lookout and Red Lake, among the first communities in the district scheduled to receive cellular service before the end of summer.

Industry Canada awarded the licence May 11, following a competitive review of applications from Superior Wireless and Thunder Bay Mobility, a regional partnership representing municipal cellular telephone companies at Dryden, Kenora and Thunder Bay.

The announcement caused long faces at the City of Dryden, where council and municipal staff have pursued efforts to extend Dryden Mobility cellular services to Sioux Lookout for more than two years. The 'sub-band B' licence would have contributed substantially to municipal coffers, further complementing profits already

Canada, Carl Olsen, director of Spectrum Management for the Ontario region, said both companies submitted "meritorious" applications. However, the Superior Wireless proposal was selected because it covers a wider area and will be up and running in a shorter period of time.

More sites

"Their plan provides for more cellular sites, less gaps in coverage and more complete coverage within the cellular corridor," Olsen said, adding that Industry Canada intends to hold the company to the implementation time cited in its business plan.

"If not, we have another strong applicant who is interested in the licence," he said, referring to Thunder Bay Mobility.

Superior Wireless will install cellular relay switches at 15 locations across the district during the next 18 months, compared to Thunder Bay Mobility's proposal for 10 sites over 32 months.

Superior Wireless already holds a similar

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project is to people."

Wing said the project will proceed in two phases with cellular services going into six communities this summer, followed by the highway cellular corridor coverage. Manitouwadge will be the first community to go cellular in early June.

"Red Lake, Ear Falls, Sioux Lookout and the neighbouring communities are a priority," he confirmed.

In this area, the cellular network will include: Highway 17 west of Thunder Bay from Raith to Dinorwic, including Highway 72 north to Sioux Lookout; and, Highway 105 north from Vermilion Bay to Red Lake.

The company's network east covers: Highway 17 east of Thunder Bay from Rossport to Wawa, including Highway 614 to Manitouwadge; Highway 11 east of Thunder Bay from Orient

already provided by Dryden Mobility and other area telecommunications companies, to eliminate the current gaps in cellular service coverage. As a result, wireless customers will be able to use their telephones in most communities across northwestern Ontario or while travelling along the regional highway system. ★

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THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

The Northwest

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

2 more towns boiling water

BY BRYAN MEADOWS
NORTHWEST BUREAU

The list of communities west of Thunder Bay on boil-water advisories continues to grow.

Residents in the hamlet of Vermilion Bay in Machin Township and Hudson in the Municipality of Sioux Lookout have been advised by the Northwestern Health Unit to boil their water for five minutes.

While no parasites have been found in the water in either community, the health unit issued the warning as a precautionary measure.

Machin Mayor Barb Beernaerts said yesterday that most residents saw the boil-water advisory coming.

"With what happened in Walkerton and the recent boil-water advisory in the Red Lake area, (the advisory) is not a surprise to many," she said.

Machin and Hudson have chlorination systems in their water treatment plants to clean impurities from lake-water sources, but lack equipment to filter out cryptosporidium and giardia.

The parasites can cause diarrhea, vomiting and cramping.

The Red Lake-area communities of Balmertown, Madsen, Cochenour and MacKenzie Island were placed under a boil-water advisory about two weeks ago.

The health unit has determined that the safety of the water cannot be guaranteed due to the presence of parasites in the municipal water source.

So far Balmertown's water system is the only one that has tested positive for cryptosporidium.

Health unit spokesman Bill Limerick could not be reached yesterday.

About 600 people in Vermilion Bay and 450 in Hudson are affected by the latest boil-water advisories.

Red Lake area residents can get drinking water from the Red Lake fire station, and a tanker truck has been set up in Hudson to provide free drinking water.

Beernaerts said she felt most residents in Vermilion Bay will buy filters for their drinking water.

Meanwhile, all three municipalities are after funding for new water treatment plants.

"I've already sent a funding application to the province," Beernaerts said.

Red Lake and Machin are awaiting results of a study into the size of water treatment and filtration equipment needed to ensure potable water.

Sioux Lookout council is looking into the options to improve Hudson's water treatment system.

Machin working through social planning process

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For Bloomfield
Municipality of
now well into the
developing an
Clerk-treasur-
Winchester said
view last week
Council recently
copy of the plan's
an open house is
June 28 to let the
the progress so
second draft is

final draft will
en's Park for
netime in Sep-

noted the offi-
municipality's
represents an
step in Machin's
development. The
shows a commu-
ganize future
an efficient
h can speed up

looking for more
growth as a
social plan pre-
planning. It
look at where you
and where you
develop in coming
explained,
effects against a
for industrial
g built in the
residential sec-
current popula-
people is pre-
rural, divided



Machin's clerk-treasurer Leslee Winchester. Staff photo

different economic focus
which must be recognized.
Minnitaki is primarily an
agricultural region, while
Eagle River is geared
towards the tourist indus-
try with a host of fishing
resorts. Vermilion Bay also
serves the tourist industry,

also updating its zoning
bylaw. First drawn in 1991,
the zoning bylaw must be
amended to recognize the
official plan, Winchester
explained.

Just completing her first
year on the job, Winchester
carried out clerk duties for

Dryden Observer - May 23/00

MAY 23, 2000

Prisoner transport costs remain concern for Dryden police

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Dryden Observer

By Warner Bloomfield

While prisoner transportation continues to be a cause of concern for local police services, little relief seems near.

Recent discussions about the construction of a "super jail" in northwestern Ontario served to highlight the expense that local police services incur in transporting prisoners between court and the remand jail in Kenora.

The Dryden Police Service last week confirmed it spent \$22,800 on prisoner transportation last year and \$7,777, so far this year. In 2000, the number of police escorts includes two to Toronto, for a total of 136 hours.

Dryden Police Services Board chair Bob Gould explains the escorts not only draw on financial

resources, but personnel. Quite often, officers are called in on days off, resulting in overtime costs.

Under the Ontario Police Services Act, municipalities are responsible for the expense of transporting prisoners. In Dryden's case, prisoners are transported to the remand jail at Kenora and when court cases

occur in Dryden, the prisoners must be transported between the two cities on those days.

The provincial government recently announced its plans to build a new prison in Thunder Bay and to close down the Fort Frances holding facility. Ross Virgo, spokesperson

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Prisoner transport costs

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with the Ministry of Correctional Services, confirmed Kenora's remand centre is not slated for closure.

However, two new youth facilities will be constructed, he said, one in Thunder Bay. Location of a second facility in the northwest region is yet to be announced, but it is sched-

uled for construction in 2004. Once it is completed, the present young offender unit in Kenora will close.

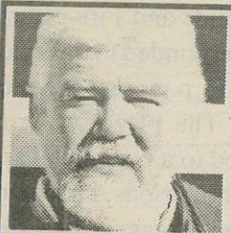
"We want to remove young offender units in general from the adult facilities," Virgo said.

City officials have not

said whether Dryden will make a bid for the youth facility. The City of Dryden has requested information from the ministry regarding the changes in regional detention centres and is currently awaiting that package. ☆

Want Ads/Bulletin Board

Sioux Lookout Bulletin



Pickle Lake

By Graeme Mackechnie

THE PAT Centre has been staffed at long last. Mhari Powell is the new person at the helm - a warm welcome to Mhari. If there is anything I can do for you

just let me know or - attend a council meeting as a delegation.

I saw an old acquaintance in the Northern Store the other day. Dave Stewart comes up to Pickle

Lake regularly now and holds counseling sessions for addictions problems. Dave is a welcome addition to the services we can offer the public. For more information you can contact Shannon at the Town Office.

The Economic Development Committee sent out some info packages along with our new sticker logo to some of last year's campers who used our municipally run campgrounds. We have heard back from some of them already. They were tickled pink to hear from Pickle. When they say, "Reach out and touch someone," do it by mail - otherwise you may be sued.

The NOMA conference

was well attended by most community councils. There were some interesting seminars, especially on recycling. Pickle Lake is so far off the beaten path we have little hope of establishing a cost effective program but...I did glean a little info which may help the Recreation Committee's bottle drive; now all I have to do is sit down and write some letters.

Next week children! Next week the Recreation Committee will be receiving the pool table, air hockey table, ping pong table and foosball. Stand by for a notice announcing the re-start of the rec program at the hall.

The Rec Committee held a very successful dance at

the community hall. I'm guessing, but I'd say we made \$1000.00 profit. Well done, team Rec and John Kendrick for his behind the scenes work!! And to Gary Boudreau bartender par excellence.

Major work was done at our cemetery...what can I say - it looks like a cemetery now. Leveling and grass planting is still to come. I believe individuals can now buy and dedicate trees but check with the

cemetery committee for more information.

Pitch-In Day is coming - gather your teams now - the competition will be brutal. I hope to see the Bob Beliski/Wasaya team at the starting post earlier this year.

Remember to get your X-Ray machine donations in to the Town Office - bring them in personally and meet our new girl Friday Kathy, who is now womaning our front desk.

Opposition to Crown land camping rules

By Chris Marchand

Local outdoor enthusiasts gathered at the Royal Canadian Legion May 24, to oppose the Ministry of Natural Resources enforcement of a land-use policy limiting camping on Crown land to 21 days per year. According to MNR, the changes are in response to a rising number of user conflicts, environmental damage and overcrowding at popular access points in the region.

The Crown land camping rule applies across the province, restricting outdoor users to an accumulated 21 days on all sites in Ontario.

Avid camper and Dryden District Conservation Club (DDCC) member, Rick Bauer, takes exception to the new rules. "I'm pretty concerned," said Bauer. "I do a lot more than 21 days of camping each summer and the restrictions will also affect the time I can spend hunting in the fall."

The ministry is concerned with trailers (often unoccupied) crowding certain access points. This results in less space for day users to launch boats and

"We have always enforced it in terms of complaints. It's only now that the complaints have broadened enough to make it necessary to monitor these sites regularly."

Wilf Burgstaler, conservation club chair, was taken aback by MNR's announcement at the club's meeting. "Where are our enhanced fishing and hunting opportunities that were promised to us by the provincial government?" asked Burgstaler.

The club plans to petition the Minister of Natural Resources to alter the regulations so that campers are only restricted to 21 days per site, instead of 21 days per year.

MNR Conservation Officers will focus most of their attention upon four of the more popular Crown land sites in the district — Gordon Lake, Blueberry Lake, Williams Bay Landing and Amesdale — where most of the complaints have been received. Enforcement options, include warnings and charges under the authority of the Public Lands Act. Those in violation of the camping rules

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Dryden Observer - May 30/00

Northwest delegates pass resolutions

Atikokan's McKinnon elected NOMA president

Delegates to the North-western Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) annual meeting, May 4-6 in Thunder Bay reviewed 43 resolutions for presentation to its provincial counterpart, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), later this summer. Any AMO-approved recommendations are then forwarded to the Ontario cabinet for consideration.

The Kenora District Municipal Association (KDMA), of which the City of Dryden is member, submitted seven resolutions intended to improve services and the quality of life for residents of the region. NOMA delegates endorsed the resolutions which include:

- Any future provincial decisions regarding municipal amalgamations or annexation must include discussions with the municipalities involved;
- Tax benefits for candidates running for municipal election;
- Increase property tax subsidies for seniors;
- Improve the flow of federal/provincial funding for jobs training into north-western Ontario;
- Reinstate the provin-

- cial/federal cost-sharing program for water and sewer infrastructure projects;
- Pursue special rates from Bell Canada for the installation of municipal emergency control centres;
- Seek increased provincial funding for counselling and support services for children and youth experiencing emotional crisis.

Dryden city councillor Bill Brayshaw was the sole municipal representative at NOMA.

Also attending from the area was Kenora District Services Board chair Barbara Beernaerts. She said seminar presentations by regional groups and organizations included one by the Recycling Council of Ontario on waste diversion. "It was very interesting and well attended," she said.

Beernaerts is also KDMA secretary-treasurer and Mayor of Vermillion Bay.

Among other topics of interest were: the regional paramedic program, discussed by Thunder Bay Regional Hospital base hospital program medical director Dr. Andrew Affleck; Northern Academic Network and Community Development, presented by Health Sciences North.

vice-president, Township of O'Connor Reeve Ron Nelson, and second vice-president, Sioux Lookout Coun. Rob MacLendon. The 2001 NOMA is scheduled for May 3-5 at Fort Frances. ☆

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