

Machin councillor eyes mayor's seat

AA:87

A Machin township councillor wants

the mayor's seat.

Coun. Tom Doherty announced his candidacy for the top post yesterday.

Doherty said he "will focus locally on the development of more full-time jobs in the community."

The 31-year-old Weyerhaeuser employee said he would promote the township more and "bring an economic development strategy" to Machin, just west of Dryden.

"I will also work to develop more youth activities," he said.

Doherty, who has a political science degree from Lakehead University, said he also plans to discuss mergers with Machin's unincorporated neighbours.

Machin Mayor Barbara Beernaerts hasn't said yet whether she plans to run for re-election in November's municipal elections.

Chronicle - Sept 6/00

Land ambulance services open to contract bids

By Sylvia Veal

After failing to secure an agreement with its four hospital providers, Kenora District Services Board will advertise for land ambulance program providers after Sept. 21.

The board's administrator Sten Lif said the district has tentative agreements with its two municipalities in the program, Pickle Lake and Sioux Narrows. However, negotiations reached an impasse late last month with its hospital providers, Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital in Red Lake, Sioux Lookout District Health Centre, Lake of the Woods District Hospital and Dryden Regional Health Centre.

"We were disappointed in how things went," reflected Lif. "We wanted to negotiate on an individual basis, but they wanted to negotiate as a group. We weren't prepared to do that."

A further problem was the tight timeline. The board had to submit an implementation plan to the

the ministry for an extension to July 1, 2001. "We were told it couldn't be done; it was required by legislation," he said.

The four hospitals wanted a long-term agreement, he explained, adding the board couldn't go that route. One thing the board needed before such an arrangement was additional program cost support from the government. That hasn't been forthcoming to date.

Consequently, at its Sept. 21 meeting, the Kenora District Services Board will finalize a request for proposals document, which will open the process up to individual and/or group applicants interested in providing the land ambulance programs.

Experience factor

"It's wide open," said Lif. "We could have a private corporation or service, municipalities or even one of the hospitals. Certainly,

Dryden Observer - Sept 12/00



leading for home

ad home after a day in the classroom.

Staff photo

ts, clubs in limbo

meet this fall. Past president Diane Chappell said the teachers, which make up that body, chose not to volunteer at this time.

Keewatin-Patricia District School Board human resources administrator Dan Johnson appeared unconcerned over the situation, stating things were business as usual.

"I haven't heard of any situation where there have been problems," he said yesterday.

Lead negotiator for the school board's Ontario Sec-

ondary School Teachers Federation, Mark Tinkess said district teachers are free to choose whether or not to volunteer for extra-curricular activities.

"It's an individual's decision. They have to look at their timetables and see if they can do it," he said.

He added that loss of preparation time has left most teachers too busy to volunteer for these activities. Last spring, the province tightened the definition of teaching time,

(continued on page 2)

ment proves costly

ed responsibilities are not revenue neutral

pro- pay its share of the 20 per cent of costs. For larger towns and cities such as Dryden or Kenora, this is not that big a problem. Smaller

board, whose funding comes from the member municipalities.

The story is similar for child care costs. The Min-

Ignace municipal administrative services contracted to Dryden

By Barbara McMullen

At Thursday night's special meeting of council, Ignace council passed (three to two) a motion to enter into an agreement with the city of Dryden for administrative services. Costs for the service and final details have yet to be arranged. Patrick Berry, a city of Dryden employee, will be the new Ignace manager and will be the contact person between the two communities. Berry will reside in Dryden.

Services to be provided were spelt out at the meeting by Dryden city staff. Under the agreement, the city will assist the township in day to day operational issues, assist in securing expertise in various fields, combine tenders for contracts to ensure the lowest price is obtained, allow the township

access to their three on staff engineers and assist with financial services.

The agreement also transfers to Dryden, and our new manager, general consulting services, cross training and exchange of staff, planning, human resources, staff management including discipline, hiring and termination, interpretation of the collective agreement, coordination of the needs of the township with those of the city and identification of where additional services can be shared. Tempers flared during the prolonged discussion prior to the vote and it was immediately clear that Councillors Suzanne Smith and Eric Thingstad were opposed to the agreement while Mayor Andre Tardiff and Councillors Hugh Broughton and John Taddeo were in support of it.

Councillor Smith was adamant that council should have met with the municipal staff prior to the special meeting and discussed with them what was happening. She stated her belief that we have expertise on staff now that could handle many of the duties being assigned to Dryden and that the proposal should have had community input. Smith was also concerned that long term needs were outlined in an agreement which was to be in place for only the short term.

Over 20 people attended the meeting and Sue's concern regarding a potential for loss of identity and autonomy if Ignace were to become simply a branch operation for a larger community was echoed by one of the three speakers during question period. Councillor Taddeo stated that, in

his opinion, 90% of council's problems in the last three to four years had come from administrative (township) staff. He said that his dealings with Dryden staff had been positive and they had answers to all his questions.

Councillor Thingstad expressed concern that long term staff shortages had not been addressed and it was not clear that we need a full time manager from Dryden. He also questioned whether Dryden is the best and only choice for assistance.

Councillor Broughton noted that Ignace needs management stability and has not had it in five years. It is the best thing to do for the township, he said, and if you don't see it, you're not facing reality.

Sharing services and cutting costs is what the provincial govern-

ment wants. In response to questioning on how familiar the new manager is with problems facing our community, Broughton replied that he had spoken with Pat Berry for 15 - 20 minutes and the man is knowledgeable and knows the needs of our community. Also, as Broughton pointed out in regards to hiring a CAO for the town "Who wants to come to Ignace when you have a political climate like we have here?" Summing up the discussion, Mayor Tardiff said "The provincial people think it's a hell of an idea."

**Ignace Today* will broadcast this meeting Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. and again on Thursday at 6:00 on Cable TV Channel 9

(*Ignace Today* starts regular broadcasting Wednesday, September 20, with a repeat Thursday)

Ignace Driftwood - Sept 12/00

Agreements are not finalized

Continued from page 12

Two agents from Sioux Lookout will be chosen, however, at press time, the names cannot be announced because agreements are not finalized.

"We should be announcing within the next seven days," Wing said. The two businesses who are chosen will market the service, provide cell phones, accessories and different air time packages.

"They will be available to help meet the needs of the people, answer any questions and sell the service," Wing said.

There will be five or six

different airtime packages, which are based on individual needs. Wing said there are different packages; one for someone who only needs a little airtime; one for the business person who needs a lot of air time; and other packages for different usage needs.

Last Thursday a technician was in town finalizing the switch hardware, one of the last steps, Wing explained.

Service will be provided from two towers in Sioux Lookout. One is located at the old radar base and one is located south of town near Pickerel Arm.

Cellular phone service expected by end of month

LORI BELANGER

STAFF WRITER

CELLULAR SERVICE becoming available in Sioux Lookout is right on schedule and the service should be turned on by the end of the month.

Don Wing, president of Superior Wireless (the company that will provide the cellular service) was in town last Tuesday, conducting interviews with businesses interested in marketing the network's services.

See Agreements on page 15

New ambulance service to take over in the new year

By JAMES ASH
STAFF WRITER

STARTING next year, the Sioux Lookout District Health Centre will no longer provide ambulance service in Sioux Lookout.

Marlene Mymryk, the Executive Director of the District Health Centre (DHC) recently received notice from the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) that they are to cease to be the provider of ambulance services effective December 31, 2000.

"As a result," said Mymryk, "we had to provide notice to the paramedics that we no longer require their services, effective

January 1, 2001."

The KDSB came into being on April 1, 1999 to administer a list of services that the province chose to download to the municipalities. That list of services includes childcare and social housing, and is administered by the KDSB in Kenora, Dryden, Sioux Lookout, Red Lake, Sioux Narrows and Pickle Lake. On March 7, the Province designated the board to also become directly responsible for the delivery and cost of ambulance services in the Kenora district as of January 1, 2001.

Provincial legislation dictated that the KDSB must notify the Ministry of Health by September 3, 2000 on how it would

deliver ambulance service in the district. Right now, ambulance service is administered by the hospitals in Kenora, Dryden, Sioux Lookout and Red Lake; in Sioux Narrows and Pickle Lake the municipalities administer it. On August 18, the KDSB entered into negotiations with these providers to continue to administer that service.

The board managed to reach a tentative agreement with the municipalities of Sioux Lookout and Pickle Lake that will allow them to continue to provide ambulance service in 2001. They were unable to reach such an agreement with the hospitals.

See BOARD page 7

SL Bulletin - Sept 13/00

Board is looking for a new ambulance service provider

Continued from front

Mymryk thinks the date the negotiations began is a sign that the board wasn't bargaining in good faith. "They didn't begin negotiating with us until August 18, with a September 3 deadline," she said. "That makes me think they didn't want an agreement in the first place."

Sten Lif, Chief Administrative Officer for the KDSB disagreed. "That's totally untrue," he said. "If we didn't want the negotiations we wouldn't have even bothered inviting them to the table."

Lif said the reason negotiations began so late was because of the hassles involved with setting up negotiations with so many groups, and because the

Ministry of Health wouldn't share financial information with them. He went on to say that the point is probably moot because the hospital providers didn't even stick around for all the time that was allotted for negotiation.

"They broke off talks Saturday and walked away from the table," said Lif. "We were prepared to continue negotiating until midnight Sunday."

Mymryk said this is because the board wouldn't agree to a contract longer than one year, and the hospitals considered such a short contract unacceptable. "These negotiations are time-consuming, and doing them every year is hard on the staff," she said. "We don't want to have to

go through it every year."

But Lif says a contract of more than one-year could have been negotiated if the hospital providers had shown some flexibility. "We never got near the point where the last stumbling block would be the length of the contract," he said. "If there'd been some progress in other areas we might have been willing to negotiate the term."

In any case, the board is now looking for a new provider. They'll be making public specifications for delivering land ambulance service in the four communities later this month, and will hire the best bidder on those specifications, with the condition that one operator provides ambulance service for all four commu-

nities. Regardless of who ends up delivering the ambulance service, the KDSB guarantees they will maintain the same level of ambulance staffing for the next two years.

Mymryk is concerned that the quality of ambulance service be maintained.

"We just want to ensure that the town of Sioux Lookout continues to have ambulance service," she says. "The hospital doesn't have to provide it, as long as somebody does. The District Health Centre has been providing it for over 20 years, and we feel we have good people who are doing a good job."

The people that are doing the job remain cautiously optimistic. An informal sur-

vey of the Sioux Lookout paramedics suggests they think they'll still be driving the ambulances in the New Year, and Lif says the odds are they're right.

"Paramedics don't grow on trees," he said. "I expect they'll be used." He went on to say that the new providers would be using the equipment and facilities already existing in Sioux Lookout, the ownership of which would pass to the KDSB some time in October.

Lif says whoever ends up providing the service won't be doing it out of the goodness of their heart, and the hospitals were no exception. "The companies responding will be looking for profit in the form of a management fee," he said. "Such a fee was also pro-

posed by each of the four hospital providers during the negotiations. It was a new fee that was never part of the budget before."

Regardless of who ends up delivering it, the KDSB says the same level of service will be maintained; they've gone as far as writing an open letter to the community to promise that. Rob McClendon, who represents Sioux Lookout on the board, hopes the service will actually be improved.

"That's the whole point of this exercise," he says. "The reason it devolved from the province is because they think the municipalities will do a better job because they are closer to the people who use the service."

AA:87
Sept 16/00

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

OMA president prescribes incentives

BY JIM KELLY

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

The president of the Ontario Medical Association has suggested some incentives that should be made to encourage doctors to stay in Ontario.

"We have to make sure we retain the doctors we have as well as the medical students we have in the system," Dr. Albert Schumacher said in an interview yesterday.

Schumacher was in Thunder Bay to attend the 74th annual District 10 meeting and Lakehead Summer School.

"The money and working conditions are better in the United States, and I don't know if we're able to match that," he said.

"It's more important to retain the people we have here."

Schumacher suggested paying doctors extra for being on call, for working at night and for treating older patients.

Schumacher said to attract doctors to Northern Ontario means giving medical students an exposure to this region especially when they are into their training.

"It's better to get to them while they are in medical school and trying to de-

cide where to work rather than when they're three years into their practice."

Schumacher himself was exposed to Northwestern Ontario nine years ago when he was working in Fort Frances. But he didn't stay, preferring to practise in his home town of Windsor.

OMA District 10 director Dr. Ken Arnold said temporary specialists are giving some relief to the shortages in Thunder Bay but the family doctor situation is bleak.

The city is currently short about 20 family doctors.

The \$21 billion in health funding which the federal government plans to return to the provinces over the next five years must address vital areas such as emergency room overcrowding, physician shortages, new medical technology and long-term care needs, Schumacher said.

"Physicians share the frustration their patients experience every day — waiting for emergency care and for surgery and finding a family doctor.

"Stable and sustainable long-term funding is essential to reinforce a strong health care system in Canada," Schumacher said.

Doctor wins another round

BY CARL CLUTCHEY
NORTH SHORE BUREAU

A Manitouwadge doctor has won a second legal battle in his ongoing dispute with the town hospital.

But while a judge has ruled that Dr. Robert Kudlak can remain in the local medical clinic, Kudlak is waiting to hear if he can go back to referring patients to the hospital across the street.

Kudlak's fight to remain in the Manitou Road clinic was upheld Monday after Manitouwadge General Hospital's request to evict him from the hospital-owned facility was denied.

In a 25-page decision, Mr. Justice Lawrence Kozak of Thunder Bay's Superior Court of Justice called Kudlak a "credible witness" who could not be evicted because he had entered into a three-year lease at the clinic that had not expired.

The hospital sought to evict

MANITOUWADGE

Kudlak claiming he was no longer a member of the town's group practice, and that his temporary privileges at Manitouwadge General had been denied.

In July this year, a court reinstated Kudlak into the group.

"Every time Dr. Kudlak has gone to court (over the dispute), a court has ruled in his favour," said his lawyer Chris Hacio, of Thunder Bay.

In his decision, Kozak was blunt in his assessment of Manitouwadge General chief administrator Judith Harris, calling part of her testimony "speculative and short on material facts."

"To me, it appeared as though (Harris) reconstructed the tenancy agreement with Dr. Kudlak to suit the hospital's purposes..."

Kozak said the move by hospital chief of staff Dr. Bill Sutherland to terminate Kudlak's privileges was "somewhat hasty" and

done "without going through the dispute resolution mechanism in the (physician's) group agreement."

Harris said yesterday she would not comment until she had read Kozak's decision.

*"It is . . .
unfortunate that a
dispute as innocuous as
the location of a
computer was not
referred to
mediation . . ."*
Lawrence Kozak
Superior Court justice

Kudlak, in good standing with the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons, is appealing the decision to deny him privileges.

The hospital, citing possible legal repercussions, won't say why it has denied him the privileges.

Hacio claims the reasons "are without merit" and commenting on them would only substantiate them.

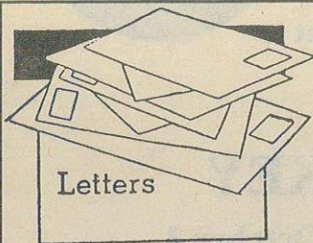
Kudlak also works every other weekend at Thunder Bay Regional Hospital's emergency department.

Kozak said in his decision that relations among the Manitouwadge doctors seemed OK until December, when Kudlak and Sutherland got into a dispute over the location of a new computer.

Shortly after, Kozak said, Sutherland took steps to remove Kudlak from the group practice and the hospital followed by removing Kudlak's temporary privileges.

"It is truly unfortunate that a dispute as innocuous as the location of a computer was not referred to mediation . . . before a termination decision was reached with the costly and disruptive results that have followed," Kozak said.

Chronicle - Sept 20/00



Clarification from Deputy Mayor

Dear Dennis:

I feel the need to clarify a few things for the sake of the community in regard to the report by Barbara McMullen on the issue of a contract with Dryden to provide Administration services to Ignace. I think a little history of how we have arrived at this point will help. First came the Pro-vincial restructuring which left the community with a backlog in Administration. This was not unique

to Ignace as everyone had the same problems. But was aggravated by the resignation of the CAO/Treasurer in March of 1999. The back log at that time included: 1998 & 1999 Financial audits to be completed, 1998 Capped Class Tax Adjustments to be completed, 1999 accounting maintenance to be completed, and 1999 interim and final tax bills to be completed. It grew to include: 2000 Budget to be completed and 2000 interim and final tax bills to be determined and completed. Dryden was contracted to assist us with this work and produced positive results in all areas. In an attempt to provide a more permanent solution a tender was offered to provide financial

services which was unsuccessful. The traditional solution of finding a replacement for the CAO/Treasurer was attempted with the result being another resignation within the year. Leaving the financial duties as well as some of the Administration duties in still a backlogged position. At this point it is very apparent that until the back log of work is completed and the Provincial restructuring has settled, the work currently requiring attention will not be the requirements of the future. This fact alone makes utilizing a team such as Dryden has to offer the best and quickest way to achieve the stability needed at the Administration level. No one man alone could handle both the

day to day ongoing the back log of issues which gets harder to sort out as time goes by. After meetings with both the Town Council and the Finance Committee it became apparent that Dryden was doing an excellent job of assisting us in the Financial area (a 2.5% reduction in taxes for 1999 and a 5% reduction in 2000) that we should consider asking their help in Administration to get the back log accumulating there cleaned up which will allow the Township Council to focus on development. The arrangement with Dryden allows us the availability of expertise in all areas of municipal operations as we need them as well as the opportunity for cross-train-

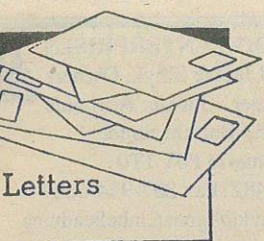
ing and advanced training for our staff. The time to attract applicants to a management position in the municipality without the need to rush a decision. The time to explore various forms of shared services with neighbouring communities and possibly redefining our needs so that Management's job will not be as overwhelming as in the past. And the flexibility of an escape clause should either party wish to terminate the agreement. The Township of Ignace's identity or ability to make its own decisions is not in jeopardy. Dryden has been a presence in Ignace for over a year now with positive results and no loss of identity. The Provincial Government's mandate is

to implement savings across the province and the Ministry appears to be of the opinion that Ignace is pursuing the right direction. Regardless of your views on the Provincial government it is just common sense to gain their approval in a way that can be chosen as opposed to it being forced on us. The contract with Dryden can last as long as it is in the best interest of the Corporation of the Township of Ignace. It is my opinion a win win situation. There is no Amalgamation we are simply purchasing services from Dryden to allow us to move forward.

John Taddeo
Deputy Mayor

Ignace Driftwood - Sept 20/00

Ignace Driftwood, September 20, 2000.



Comments on Special Meeting of Municipal Council

Dennis:

I attached a tape of the infamous Special Meeting of Ignace Township Council and was appalled at the unbusiness displayed by a

couple of Councillors to our guests from Dryden and to each other. I can only say that they must have been in an overwrought state of mind to have displayed so little professionalism as that projected on my television. Even when issues become heated, it is important to maintain a semblance of decorum in order to promote your side of a debate. In being rude to the guests from Dryden these people displayed a childishness which diminishes our community as a whole. In being

rude to other Councillors, it is a slap in the face of all who cast a vote for the targeted Councillors. All five people sitting at that Council table were elected by this community and therefore all five should remember that and show the appropriate respect we

and our elected representatives deserve.

The other point I wish to address is in regard to the mention of the Harbour Park. When I sat on Council I often called projects that I felt strongly about as My project. I was present when our Mayor

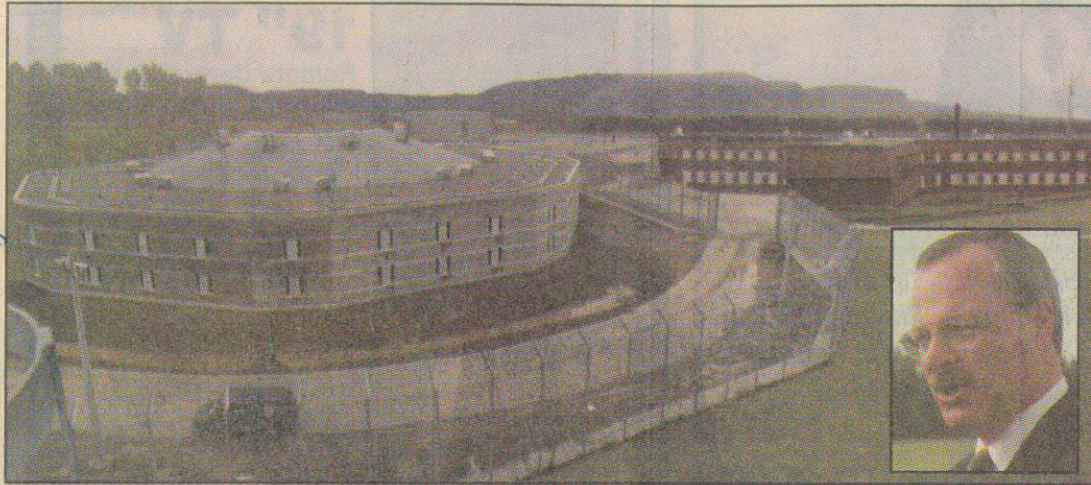
mentioned His Harbour Park and found nothing offensive in his comment but felt that it displayed the depth of his commitment to the project. I feel that the only person who would have a right to be offended by the Mayor's ownership would be Brad Greaves and

I have a feeling he wouldn't mind as long as the project goes forward. Really, to take offence at something so trivial is in itself offensive.

Bye for now,

Brenda Broughton

Chronicle - Sept 20/00



Above is an artist's rendition of what the new maximum-security jail, left, in Thunder Bay will look like when it is completed in 2002. The facility is to be added on to the existing correctional facility on Highway 61, just south of the city. Inset is Ontario Corrections Minister Rob Sampson who was in the city yesterday.

Plans for new jail mean inmates will be put to work

BY DAVE LAMMERS
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Inmates will see the outside of Thunder Bay's new jail more often under a mandatory work program to be introduced by the province, Corrections Minister Rob Sampson said yesterday.

Sampson said "all inmates" staying at the soon-to-be-built \$18-million maximum security jail, as well as the existing medium-security facility, will be included in the program.

He confirmed the new facility will be publicly run — instead of

privately as was feared by union officials and jail guards.

It's not clear what type of jobs inmates would be required to do and how they would be supervised. Farms could be asked to participate in the program, but no jail-job placements have been arranged, Sampson said.

"Inmates should be working very simply to keep in touch with the concept of a hard day's work," Sampson said in an interview at the Correctional Centre yesterday.

• Continued on page A3



Pickle Lake

By Graeme Mackechnie

I AM wincing every time I hear the greeting "Hi! What's New?" It reminds me that I have to dig up something for a newspaper article...so here

goes. On October 11 Cantera Mining will be in to Pickle Crow to start work on another bulk sample. Cantera will be taking three samples with a combined

tonnage of 10,000 tons and shipping it to Marathon (Hemlo) to be milled. If everything goes well they could be in mining from three to five years. Roy Hoffman and Shannon O'Donnell are off on a physician recruitment tour this Friday. The display and information booth they have worked up this year is really eye catching - let's keep our fingers crossed. Dr. Tsianou will be in our clinic this October for the month - this is a reminder to book an appointment now to renew your prescriptions.

Another reminder - set fines for our new Dog By-law have at last been approved by the Province...so license and keep your dog tied up or suffer the consequences.

Garrick Halteman, Roy Hoffman, Eugene Nolet and Keith Sever have all

shot their moose for this year - the early bird gets the moose in this case.

If you missed the "Child Care Needs Assessment" meeting in the community hall, you can contact Linda Lunny at the KDSB office at 1-800-937-2202.

Bill Lomas from the property assessment office (OPAC) was in town last week. The new assessed values will take effect for the 2001 taxation year and notices will be mailed out in November.

Check to see if your name is on the voters list. Elections for Council, Mayor and School Board are on November 13, with an advance poll on November 4. Rumor has it that Jim Dalzell and Roy Hoffman are the two candidates for the Mayor office.

My condolences to Bobby Briskett on the recent loss of his father-in-law.

McDonald will run for another term as mayor

BY DICK MACKENZIE

EDITOR

S.L. Bulletin - Sept 27/00

MAYOR John McDonald says he will run for a second term as mayor of Sioux Lookout. Speaking to the Rotary Club last Thursday McDonald cited encouragement from his wife and support from residents among his reasons for the decision.

McDonald told his audience that he has unfinished work which he would like to continue pursuing over the next three years. Among his goals are: the construction of a new water filtration plant in Hudson, completion of the Boat Bay reconstruction project near Hudson, and continued efforts to bring together all the citizens in the amalgamated town.

Mayor McDonald spoke of projects completed during his current term in office. "The new water filtration plant is operating

very well and certainly we can now enjoy a glass of clear, clean water.

"Plans are proceeding with the construction of a new clinic in the area of the W.A. ("Bill") George Extended Care Facility," McDonald continued. "The cost of the mortgage and upkeep of the new clinic will be paid as rent by the doctors using it. No tax dollars will be required."



John McDonald

McDonald also commented on the many new buildings and construction projects, including 5 new residential subdivisions, occurring here, as well as the

construction of a new public school, renovations at the arena, and the implementation of cell phone service.

McDonald is the only declared candidate for mayor in the November elections. Council hopefuls at this time are incumbent councillor Rob McClendon and newcomer Brad Johnson.

Wasaya Airways now in commercial fuel business

WASAYA Airways is expanding into the commercial fuel business.

The company has formed a partnership with Phil and Richard Lazarenko, the co-owners of Northland Petroleum of Winnipeg.

The new Wasaya Petroleum Limited Partnership will have more than 13 million litres in sales of commercial fuel products in its first year.

"Our mission is to diversify this company. We're taking advantage of this position in the market," said Tom Morris, vice-president of Wasaya Airways, which is

owned by eight First Nations communities.

Northland has been providing petroleum products – approximately seven to eight million litres a year – to First Nations in Northwestern Ontario and Manitoba through offices in Winnipeg and Pickle Lake.

"Having a fuel company based in Northwestern Ontario will mean that Wasaya will be involved in cargo transportation," Morris said.

The financial terms of the partnership are confidential.

The new Wasaya Limited Partnership will be owned jointly by the Lazarenkos and Wasaya Airways, the companies said in a statement.

The partnership will have its headquarters at Fort William First Nation on Thunder Bay and administrative offices in Winnipeg.

The branch office in Pickle Lake will also be maintained.



ALL
BUSINESS

**ANDREW
EHRKAMP**