

## 17-17-87 Kerpogaming will soon have 'retrofitted' pipes

Kerpogaming will soon see money from the province in order to complete plumbing work.

The community is receiving \$168,000 under the Aboriginal Communities Capital Structure Program (ACCIP), a provincial program designed to provide basic service upgrades to First Nation communities in northern Ontario.

Announcement was made in an Aug. 29 release by Northern Development and Minister Tim Hudak and Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs, Jim Flaherty.

Flaherty says, "the communities will use the money provided through this program to purchase materials as well as contract labour for other related costs, benefits are two-fold in that homes in the community are an upgrade and the local economy receives a substantial boost."

Approximately 3,500 homes have been upgraded to date through ACCIP in 15 First Nation communities across northern Ontario. Flaherty anticipated that more homes would be retrofitted because of ACCIP.

Hudak - Sep 7/00

Township of Pickle Lake	
Date <u>Oct 2/00</u>	
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THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

The Nor

# Other towns chlorinate water, Marathon remains a holdout

BY CARL CLUTCHER  
NORTH SHORE BUREAU

Marathon appears to be the odd town out in Northwestern Ontario in its decision not to add chlorine to its well water.

Other Northern rural municipalities like Hornepayne, Nakina and Ignace also get their drinking water from wells but add chlorine as a safety measure.

The water in those towns tastes no better or worse than other area communities, says Gary Oja, acting operations manager for the regional office of the Ontario Clean Water Agency.

"Whenever you utilize chlorine, you will get (occasional) complaints about taste and smell," Oja said from OCWA's Longlac office yesterday.

Marathon town council moved earlier this week to apply to be exempt from new provincial regulations that require municipalities to disinfect drinking water.

The Ministry of Environment can grant such an exemption if there is strong evidence of a history of clean water.

Marathon currently has good water from six wells.

But there are concerns about the long-term health of the town's aquifer: a local garbage dump is located next to the town, and sewage pipes are suspected of leaking.

The ministry says it is aware of about 75 Ontario municipalities that draw their water from wells and don't add chlorine. However, they are still required to take regular samples and have

them tested.

Adding a disinfectant to municipal drinking water supplies has always been MOE policy, but it became a requirement in August under the Ontario Water Resources Act.

That requirement also applies to wells, said MOE senior drinking water specialist Matt Uza.

"You can still apply for an exemption, but you have to jump through a lot of hoops," said Uza. Despite the risk of it causing cancer, chlorine remains the disinfectant of choice because it's strong enough to be effective as water is pumped through a distribution system.

If exemptions aren't granted, municipalities must be adding a disinfectant to their drinking water by December 2002.



## Getting some northern exposure

Lying at the end of the road takes on a whole new meaning when you're in Pickle Lake, Ontario — that's because you are at the end of the paved road.

Your first clue that you're at the end of the pavement is the nearest bear may be in your front yard, while the nearest community that is more than a collection of buildings is three hours away. You know you're isolated when the district seat — Northern Ontario is organized in districts, not counties — is six hours away and an ambulance ride to the hospital is by plane. That's because the hospital is in Sioux Lookout, a four-hour drive.

Taking a gander at the map, Pickle Lake is at the same latitude as Moosonee, but on the other side of the province. It is not the end of the road as the road in the truest sense of the word as the road continues on for another 100 miles — albeit in gravel form — to service a native community and mine.

Northern Ontario is a loosely used term by the Southwestern Ontario population in general basically associated with anything much above the 401. Pickle Lake is real Northern Ontario. Going through Ontario, it takes about the same time to reach Pickle Lake as it does to hit Florida to the south. And you haven't even left the province.

My opportunity for this unique view of northern life came at the hands of my fiancé Karen's father, Bev Hickey. He is a member of the local constabulary through the Ontario Provincial Police's most northerly detachment in Pickle Lake.

Having never been past Sault Ste. Marie, I wasn't really sure what to expect as the car headed north above Lake Superior. One of my first impressions was the terrain around the lake would be called mountainous if it was certain parts of the United States. Beauty and desolation were two other things that stuck out in my mind.

### Our Turn



Jeff Helsdon

Seeing a moose on the way was a goal and bears were a promise. Turning north off the Trans-Canada Highway at Ignace we already had one moose behind us, but unfortunately it was when Karen's dad was driving and we were both asleep. Although I didn't notice it until we were headed south again, the trees shrunk almost in half in size in the three hours between Ignace and Pickle Lake.

Along this stretch of road was one provincial park, two small communities, native villages, but no moose. Of these towns, Savant Lake, where the railway crossed, was the largest. The train station was a rock where passengers stood to wait and the only local businesses were a restaurant/tavern and store.

Karen's dad provided a running commentary on life in the north in great detail once we got into the area the Pickle Lake detachment covered (over 100 miles of road). His stories kept the journey lively as we peered out the window for a moose, or even a measly grouse.

In the morning one of our first stops was the dump. We had heard great stories of how one particular bear waited for Bev at the corner of the dump and then followed him in with anticipation of the supper (or garbage depending on which view you take) that was about to become available. No bears either.

We also had great expectations for fishing. Having wet a line in a few locations over the years, I've heard more than one of those you-should-have-been-here-yesterday stories. The thought crossed my mind that maybe this was going to

Township of Pickle Lake

Date Oct 10 / 00

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AP: 87  
Heather

be another one of those.

After a quick tour of the village in the morning, we readied the boat for fishing after lunch. On the way up the North Road, we stopped at the dump. Rounding the corner and approaching the piles of debris, we gawked in anticipation. Bear! Not just one, but four.

In most northern locations, viewing bears after dark at the local dump is a pastime for tourists. When one is this far north, the bears pay no heed to the time of day and feed in the dump just about anytime.

Thirty miles up the North Road we went to the first lake. It took a while to find the hot spot, but once we did the action was the hottest I'd seen to that time for pickerel and pike. And this was nothing compared to what was to come.

Travelling a total of about 60 miles on the most northern road in Ontario it should be a given to see a moose, or even a grouse, but still nothing.

Spending the next two days fishing on Lake St. Joseph was a definite highlight. A stop the first day was a resort built around Osanburg House, a Hudson Bay Company outpost built in 1784. The store and office for this facility is the original outpost building that is over 200 years old.

Again it took us a while to find the fish, but when we found them in a back bay there was only one lure attracted them. This time it was Karen who had the hot action and caught the pickerel needed to finish our supper that night.

Lake St. Joseph is a large lake about 90 miles long from end to end with many bays and islands. It is the head water of the Albany River that empties in Hudson Bay at Fort Albany. Fishing it in its farther reaches with a local guide the next day, we experienced fishing like never before. Our best estimate (we didn't keep track after our limit as all fish went back) is between the four of us we caught over 40 pickerel that day. These ranged from small fish to up to four pounds. And that didn't take into account any pike caught.

Several bald eagles graced us with their presence both days on Lake St. Joseph, but no moose. We also heard there were quite a few woodland caribou that are often seen along the shore, but again, not when we were there. A showing of the northern lights that lit up the sky with a luminous green as they grew, moved, danced and disappeared was a perfect ending to the day.

Headed south to the airport in Thunder Bay after four days in Pickle Lake, we realized this town may be small, but there were still a lot of things in the area we hadn't seen. Awake for the entire three hours back to Ignace, I intently scanned the roadside for grouse and moose, but still nothing.

Despite no moose, or grouse, it was a fabulous trip. Coming into Thunder Bay we realized not seeing either may have been fortunate as it gave us a definite reason to want to come back.



# or Invests in Northern Rural cal School Proposal

ake

nnouncement by Industry  
Nor to contribute over \$200  
wards a proposed Northern  
al School, has created fears  
Nation leaders that their  
once again being ignored.  
an implication in the pro-  
adian monies will finance  
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their Chief's Assembly in  
in July.

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s "when the resolutions  
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ne proposal after the fact."

ian University, based in  
l Lakehead University,  
proposal is currently  
d by the Ontario Ministry  
MH) and Long Term Care

and a decision on it is expected later  
this fall.

In announcing funding for the devel-  
opment of the proposal, Secretary of  
State (Rural Development) Andy  
Mitchell said that by partnering with  
community organizations, the  
Government of Canada, through  
FedNor, is acting on its commitment to  
support economic growth and diversifi-  
cation in rural communities.

FedNor says the project has the  
potential to address problems identi-  
fied by all provincial Ministers of  
Health in the distribution of physicians  
in rural and remote areas of Canada,  
including the northern areas, and is a  
direct result of recommendations iden-  
tified in the December 1999 report for  
the OMH entitled Physicians for  
Ontario: Too Many? Too Few? For  
2000 and Beyond.

"As Federal Minister of Health, I am  
aware that there are problems with  
access to physicians, particularly in  
rural and remote areas across  
Canada," says Allan Rock.

"Clearly, there is a need to work with  
the provinces, with the medical schools  
and other stakeholders to address  
physician supply issues from a nation-  
al perspective," says Rock.

Beardy has requested a meeting with  
Laurentian University representa-  
tive, Dr. Geoffery Tesson, to address  
the chief's concerns.

Only one aboriginal physician works  
in the NAN area.



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103 Year No. 12, DRYDEN, ONTARIO — TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2000

## Council approves pay increase

Dryden's city council voted its successor members a raise last night.

Councillors approved a report recommending a significant raise for the mayor, while also providing increases in remuneration for councillors.

The mayor's salary jumps from \$11,200 to \$18,000 per year. The new pay structure also provides a salary for the deputy mayor based on 75 per cent of the mayor's pay, or \$13,500 per year. Councillors will now be paid \$8,000 a year.

Councillors failing to attend meetings are penalized at a rate of \$100 per meeting.

The new rates of remuneration will

cost the city an additional \$23,924.

The pay structure is set to take effect Dec. 4, when the next council is sworn in following November's municipal elections. The last increase in council remuneration came in 1996.

Coun. Brian England said the issue of council remuneration was reviewed by a volunteer citizens' committee, which looked at what mayors and councillors are paid in other municipalities in northwestern Ontario. The committee recommended a pay increase following the review.

"This does not put us anywhere near the top of remuneration in north-

western Ontario, but it's not at the bottom either," he said.

Mayor Roger Valley supported the motion, stating the city mayor's job is now full-time and can be a distraction from other work.

"Eighteen thousand is not enough for mayor. But those on council don't do this for the money," he said. He added he was happy to see the city deal with the matter before a new council is elected in November.

Coun. Sid Wintle noted it is difficult to vote oneself a raise, but observed councillors' pay levels had fallen behind their counterparts and were in need of revising.

☆



Oct 5/00

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

The Northwest

# Dryden takes on court role

BY BRYAN MEADOWS  
NORTHWEST BUREAU

The city of Dryden will be responsible for all administration and support functions under the Provincial Offences Act in the Dryden court service area.

City council voted in favour this week of accepting overall responsibility for court administration and to become transfer agent for the municipalities of Pickle Lake, Ignace, Sioux Lookout and Machin.

Effective Feb. 26, Dryden will take over

administration of all minor offences including highway traffic, liquor and fish and wildlife fines.

Under an intermunicipal agreement, the revenue and expenditures will be shared as follows: Dryden 49 per cent; Sioux Lookout, 29.30 per cent; Ignace, 10.69 per cent; Machin 7.75 per cent; and Pickle Lake 3.26 per cent.

Last year, the net revenue in fines for the Dryden court services area was about \$256,000.

Dryden Mayor Roger Valley said the

transfer of Provincial Offences Act responsibility is part of the downloading of services to municipalities by the provincial government.

"It is supposed to be one of the revenue generators for municipalities," he said.

"I hope the revenue figures are correct."

Responsibilities under the Provincial Offences Act have already been transferred to the city of Thunder Bay and Fort Frances to serve their areas.



# City's presence at recruitment tour attracts some interest

By Sylvia Veal

If numbers are any criteria, Dryden's participation in the 2000 Health Professionals Recruitment Tour can be termed a success.

"We spoke to a lot of people," related Dryden Regional Health Centre administrator Andrew Skene. "We were particularly busy in Ottawa, Kingston and Toronto."

The annual tour is part of a provincial government project to help northern and rural communities attract health care professionals to remote and underserved communities. Sponsored by the ministries of Northern Development and Mines and Health and Long-Term Care, the travelling "job fair" visits academic health science centres in London, Hamilton, Toronto, Kingston and Ottawa.

Skene said a follow-up is next for those who left names and numbers at the Dryden community booth.

"You don't expect instant results, but you have to be there to be seen," he said. The hospital's tour strategy was to target a wide range

## Competitive

Dr. Vann said such recruitment efforts must continue. "It's very competitive," she observed, pointing out that many of the communities involved at the tour "have taken on recruitment as a community responsibility."

Commenting on the interest shown, Dr. Vann said, "People, who have taken part of their training in Dryden, have passed on good things about us."

She added that those who were really interested either knew people here (Dryden) or had taken some training here.

Dr. Vann noted that graduating physicians aren't interested in making permanent commitments immediately. She views the visiting locum program as valuable for communities like Dryden.

"It provides a way for physicians to get to know the community and help us out at the same time."

Although the shortage of health care professionals is common across Ontario, it

AA 187

Dryden Observer - Oct 10/00

# City's presence at recruitment tour attracts some interest

*(continued from page 1)*  
loo, but there are other options. In Kitchener-Waterloo or Niagara region, you can call in a cardiologist."

Dr. Vann says the proposed new northern medical rural school will help in the long term. "It will attract specialists to the region, but only half the medical students go into the rural or family medicine program and they can go anywhere in Canada when they graduate," she explained.

"That's why we can't stop recruitment."

This year's community tour was supported by contributions from Weyer-

haeuser, and bolstered by input and assistance from the city's economic development office and the Dryden Cares Committee. ☆



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103 Year No. 13, DRYDEN, ONTARIO — TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2000

## Municipal election apathy

# Few seek council seats as deadline approaches

*By Warner Bloomfield*

If people don't hurry and put their names forward, Dryden could see a very small city council come December.

As of last week, only four people had filed papers, indicating they will seek a seat on council and there was only one candidate for mayor.

The deadline for accepting nominations is 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13. If there are still vacancies on council at that time, city hall can call for further nominations between 9 a.m.

and 5 p.m. the following Wednesday (Oct. 18), city clerk Linda Lemieux said.

Current councillor, Sid Wintle last week announced his candidacy for mayor. Meanwhile, his fellow councillors Bill Brown and Brian England have filed nomination papers declaring their intention to seek another term on council. They are joined by hospital board chair Brian Collins and a former Dryden councillor Vaughan Cochrane.

Mayor Roger Valley said the lack of response to the upcoming elections is alarming.

"It's never been this slow as long as I can remember," he said.

Valley stressed that while he enjoys the duties of mayor, after six years on the job he needs to dedicate more time to his business and his family.

The same situation applies to the city's representation on the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board. Current Dryden trustee Ed Arnold is the only nominee for that seat at the moment. Incumbent Wade Petranik is seeking one  
(continued on page 2)



### Municipal election apathy

## Few seek council seats as deadline approaches

(continued from page 1)  
of two local seats on the Northwest Catholic District School Board.

### More interest

The Municipality of Machin is seeing more

interest expressed in their coming election. As of last Thursday, there were two candidates for mayor. Incumbent Barbara Beer-naerts is once again seeking election, while current councillor Tom Doherty is also vying for the position.

There are four candidates for council. Incum-

bents Chris Rodgers, Bill Wiedenhoeft and Garry Parkes are all standing for election, along with a former councillor, Chris Mallyon.

Incumbent board trustee Bill Dawes is the only nominee for that office, representing Machin and the unorganized townships. ✱



## Region's roads boards may join together for maintenance



# Land ambulance proposals received

Kenora District paramedics mount public information blitz

By Sylvia Veal

As of last week, about eight interested land ambulance providers had responded to Kenora District Services Board's request for proposal (RFP).

Sten Lif, Dryden-based board administrator, said all RFPs will be reviewed after the Nov. 10 deadline and recommendations made to the board.

A "mandatory" meeting for prospective providers was held yesterday (Oct. 16), so that parameters and services could be clarified and questions answered.

The services board reached agreements last month with two municipalities in the district — Pick-

le Lake and Sioux Narrows. However, it failed to secure similar arrangements with the district's four hospital providers, prompting the call for proposals. The four hospitals are: Dryden Regional Health Centre, Lake of the Woods District Hospital in Kenora, Margaret Cochenour Memorial Hospital in Red Lake, and Sioux Lookout District Health Centre.

The district services board is mandated to be the official delivery agent for land ambulance services by Jan. 1, 2001. It is one of four major services under the board's jurisdiction. The others are Ontario Works, child care and shortly,

social housing.

## Campaign

Meanwhile, Kenora District paramedics have mobilized a public information campaign. The group, Concerned Paramedics, with representatives in Kenora, Sioux Lookout, Ear Falls and Red Lake, have delivered flyers to households in the communities. Paramedic Terry Biehn says he and colleagues believe a public ambulance system is more accountable than a private operation and more cost-efficient. The group wants to see the service run by a hospital or

group of hospitals, or a municipal or regional government.

Lif says he understands the paramedics' concerns. "They're not concerned about jobs, but service levels," he said, emphasizing that paramedics will certainly not be out of jobs.

A few weeks ago, Dryden hospital administrator Andrew Skene expressed concern that the region had already lost some paramedics to other parts of Ontario because of the uncertain climate here.

As for quality of service issues, Lif said, "Municipalities are definitely not interested in reduced levels of service." ☆

## Report claims property taxes distorted

A study released Oct. 11 by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) suggests property taxes in the province are "distorted". Since the 1997 reassessment, the gap hasn't narrowed between businesses and residences, says the report.

The special interest group cited properties in Ottawa and Thunder Bay, among others, as having "dramatically different" business/residential tax levels. CFIB examined 25 Ontario municipalities in

its study. One example used shows a \$200,000 home in Ottawa is charged \$4,000 in taxes, as compared to a \$200,000 commercial property, which pays almost \$12,000.

Commenting on the study, Dryden's director of finance and technology, Paul Heayn said Dryden is "probably just as guilty" in that respect.

"Our commercial rates are about 1.8 per cent higher than residential," Heayn said Friday. "Industrial is two-and-a-half times more

and large industrial, four times as high."

Heayn pointed out the differences are rooted in history. "In early days, businesses received street lights, sewer and water services long before residential areas," he explained, adding that now, of course, both categories have such amenities.

"We still plow the downtown first though in the winter," he said.

However, Heayn said, as far as he knew, "the tax reform wasn't to narrow the

gap, but to attach the business tax to the realty tax. The municipalities were charged to keep ratios the same from Jan. 1, 1998."

He concluded that "it is subject to conjecture, whether businesses should be taxed higher than a home," with varying views on both sides of the question.

CFIB has proposed measures for both provincial and municipal governments, for changing property taxation. ☆

Dryden Observer - Oct 17/00

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## al elections

# e assured with dozen city council candidates

By Warner Bloomfield

dates are seeking election to council in the

minations late last week means there will  
or the six council seats available.

ill also have to make a decision regarding  
Lippert put his name forward to challenge  
intle for the office.

dates include a mix of incumbents, former  
citizens seeking their first term in political

Bill Brown, incumbent; Brian England,  
ughan Cochrane; Velma Silver; Don  
Collins; Joe Delaney; John Greer; Al  
Krassilowsky; Murray Nephew; Donald

Skomoroh; and Elva Watts.

There are also three candidates for the two seats on the  
Northwest Catholic District School Board, representing  
the St. Joseph's School in the community.

Ed Arnold was acclaimed as the city's representative on  
the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board.

Northwest Catholic District School Board candidates  
are: Cynthia Bernie-Cossais, incumbent; Wade Petranik,  
incumbent; Joanne W. Kusnick.

Election day is Nov. 13. Since the city will use the vote-  
by-mail system this year, voters should receive ballots in  
the mail in the near future. Residents can then fill in the  
ballots as they see fit and mail them to the returning offi-  
cer, by Nov. 13.

Barb Lyotier, manager of the Dryden District Chamber

of Commerce said yesterday she is planning an all-candi-  
dates debate. While the date is not yet confirmed, it is ten-  
tatively set for Nov. 1 at the Royal Canadian Legion.

## Municipality of Machin

Voters in the Municipality of Machin are being pre-  
sented with several choices for both mayor and council.

Seeking the job of mayor are: incumbent Barbara Beer-  
naerts, councillor Tom Doherty Jr., Roy Anderson and  
Arne Bratland.

There are also 10 candidates for the four council seats.  
Nominated are: Garry Parkes, incumbent; William

(continued on page 2)



Municipal elections

# Race assured for city council

*(continued from page 1)*

Wiedenhoeft, incumbent; Chris Rodgers, incumbent; Chris Mallyon; Brad Munford; Gordon Barker; Lou Murray; Sandra Walkey; Loretta Prosen; and Conrad Musy.

Bill Dawes was acclaimed trustee for the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board, representing Machin and the unorganized townships surrounding Dryden.

## Sioux Lookout

In Sioux Lookout, Mayor John McDonald was acclaimed for another term. There will, however be an

election for council. Nine candidates are running for the four positions of councillor-at-large. They are: Rob McClendon, incumbent; Derek Mills, incumbent; Wayne G. Pearen, incumbent; Bill Bruce; Joe Carbone; Jo Ann Ford; Bradley Johnson; Kathy Poling; and Douglas Switzer.

Three candidates are vying for the Ward 2 (Sioux Lookout) seat. They are: T. James Carroll, incumbent; Dennis Leney; and Lyn Button.

Incumbent Cathy Kiepek was acclaimed councillor for Ward 1 (Hudson).

Incumbents were also

acclaimed to the two school board positions. Barbara Hancock remains the public board trustee for Sioux

Lookout, while Beverley Kondra stays as trustee for the Roman Catholic board.

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*Wayne Langanki & Karen Hearn, Dryden, a girl, October 10, 2000*

*Robin & Christina Wise, Ear Falls, a girl, October 12, 2000*

# Eagle River



# Wasaya partners with Northland Petroleum



*photo by Jolene Davis*

**anding the skies horizon**— Wasaya Airways' Vice-president, Tom Morris and Richard Lazarenko of Northland Petroleum signed the partnership at a ceremony on Sept. 28.

## **Jolene Davis**

Sept. 28, Wasaya Airways Limited Partnership expanded into commercial fuel business.

deal that had been in the making since 1996 was signed with the Lazarenko family of Northland Petroleum Ltd. The deal was signed by Phil and Richard Lazarenko.

Northland Petroleum has been providing seven to eight million litres of fuel per year to First Nations in Northwestern Ontario and Manitoba.

The new Wasaya Petroleum Partnership can expect some 13 million litres in sales of commercial fuel

and spoke of carrying on this relationship which should benefit everyone.

Morris said, "having a Northwestern Ontario based fuel company means that Wasaya will be more involved with cargo transportation."

The petroleum business adds to the air, trucking, float plane, and props businesses already owned by Wasaya.

This new initiative is in line with the mission statement of its parent company, Wasaya Corporation Ltd., to "acquire significant interest in viable business' important to First Nations people for the purpose of generating



Wawatay Oct 19/00

# Hollow Water is perfect fall reading

*Sarsfield's second book seeps into your soul*

**by Molly Mason**

I'd like to live in Pete Sarsfield's brain -- but only for a little while.

His latest book, *Hollow Water*, offers just such an opportunity.

It provides glimpses of the doctor's challenging world-view, simple in it's complexity. But Sarsfield is kind enough to leave the reader to decide how to interpret the subtle edge in his writing -- the nudge towards a more humane society.

That's lee-way that I don't imagine you'd get if you lived in Sarsfield's head, despite his contention in the book that his considerable lay-about abilities continue to sustain (him).

Sarsfield, the medical officer of health for Northwestern Ontario, was heard on national radio last year, admonishing all of Canada to share it's wealth with First Nations or pay the price with the entire country's health.

The travels and stories in *Hollow Water* aren't

nearly as direct as the doctor's press releases, but in ways they are more effective because the stories speak to the heart, more so than the head.

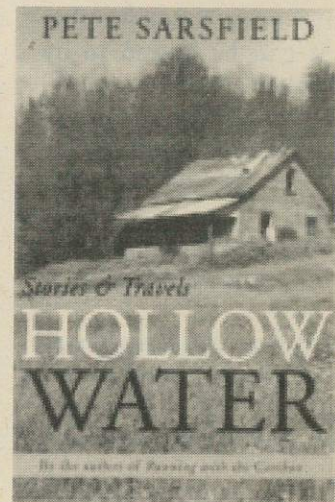
The doctor-cum-author is lauded on the back cover of his new book for taking the pulse of First Nations health care.

And while I think that's over-stating what occurs on the

pages, I would allow that Sarsfield takes the pulse of our whole society, asking whether we care about health, our own mental health and that of the planet.

Sarsfield's understanding and empathy for the state of First Nations people in Canada is more subtle than the book jacket suggests because it

see **HOLLOW** p.18





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Caribou contained many  
more stories specifically  
about the North, but  
somehow, the latest  
book shares much more  
of the North's sensibili-  
ties.

"I'd like to live  
in Pete Sarsfield's  
brain -- but only  
for a little while."

**Molly Mason**

Sarsfield is a  
quiet, non-judg-  
mental observ-  
er in his  
travels, accept-  
ing all humani-  
ty offers while  
saving the bits  
of jest for him-  
self.

Water and  
restorative

a treatise  
Water's suc-  
rather the  
ne first of  
essays on  
begin the

He weaves a  
web of meaning between  
events, chance meetings  
and day-dreams that is  
reminiscent of the  
teaching that all things  
are connected.

I carried Sarsfield's  
book with me for nearly  
a month travelling with

# Speaker promotes native-run college

By Warner Bloomfield

Northwestern Ontario should consider initiating a native-run, post-secondary institution, suggested Georges Sioui to participants in last week's Bridging the Gap between Neighbours forum on aboriginal issues.

Sioui, president of the Institute of the Indigenous Government in Vancouver, a native-controlled educational institution, told forum participants such a school doesn't exist in Ontario.

He said the spirit of communication and co-operation demonstrated at the forum indicates this region would be suitable for a native-operated school.

"I believe every province should have such a school. Why not build it here?" he said.

Sioui said the school would help provide First Nations people with the skills and expertise needed for efficient management of their communities.

"It would give people a start on a bachelor's degree, then they would transfer to another university," Sioui

said.

He noted Canada's native community has, in general, not had a good experience with the country's education system and that has resulted in a lack of trust. For that reason, native-operated, post-secondary institutions are very valuable.

Based on his experience in Vancouver and at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, Sioui has found the retention rates in these schools are high. ☆



*George Sioui, president of the Institute of the Indigenous Government in Vancouver, discusses his presentation to last week's forum on aboriginal issues with host Colin Wasacase.*

*Staff photo*



Chronicle - Oct 24/00

# Amalgamation talk on hold

BY CARL CLUTCHEY  
NORTH SHORE BUREAU

The push to reduce the number of Ontario municipalities through amalgamation appears to be on hold, at least until after next month's municipal elections.

And local politicians residing where coming mergers have been rumoured say they're not worried about potential amalgamations involving their communities.

"We haven't heard boo on this," Thunder Bay Mayor Ken Boshcoff said yesterday in reference to concerns the city might be forced to expand its boundary.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs spokeswoman Amanda McWhirter said amalgamation is still a big part of the government's agenda.

"But with (Nov. 13) municipal elections, the government recognizes that these discussions can take a back seat," McWhirter said.

Since the Conservatives took office in 1995, the number of Ontario municipalities has been cut to 447 from 815.

Last week, a provincial order to merge Beardmore, Geraldton, Longlac and Nakina into the sprawling Town of Greenstone remained intact after the Supreme Court of Canada said it would not hear an appeal by its opponents.

That decision apparently hasn't rattled other Northwestern Ontario communities rumoured to be the focus of mergers.

"We have not been approached

(for an amalgamation)," declared Shuniah Reeve Maria Harding. "We have always maintained that we are a free-standing community."

Marathon Mayor Pat Richardson, who once said remote towns like hers might have to prepare for the worst, said:

"I haven't heard a thing. I don't think we're even on (the government's) wish list."

Terrace Bay Mayor Mike King related a similar story, saying he doesn't feel a lot of pressure from the province for his town to explore a merger with any of its neighbouring communities.

Thunder Bay-Superior North MPP Michael Gravelle said the Supreme Court reaction to Greenstone sent a message that the

province can order mergers even if they don't make sense to many locals.

There are hundreds of kilometres between the four towns to be merged into Greenstone Jan. 1, and it's not clear that the municipality will receive as much new tax revenue as anticipated.

However, Gravelle said he thinks the ministry will hold off for a while to see how Greenstone works out before approving other large-scale amalgamations.

McWhirter said the government continues to encourage locally-driven solutions wherever amalgamations are possible.

Ninety-five per cent of the mergers that have been approved so far have been designed by local politicians, McWhirter said.



# Medical school decision a month away

*Chronicle*  
Oct 24/00

## Some task force members against the facility, Lakehead University president says

BY JIM KELLY  
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Some members of a task force who will decide whether to recommend a Northern medical school are "fundamentally opposed" to such a facility, says Lakehead University president Fred Gilbert.

A decision on the proposed school, to be housed on the campuses of Lakehead and Sudbury's Laurentian University, is expected at the end of November.

"It's our hope (those on the task force opposed to a new medical school) will see the strengths and va-

lidity of our proposal and put their opposition aside," Gilbert said yesterday.

Gilbert said he is confident the Northern and Rural Medical School Liaison Committee, which appeared before the task force at McMaster University in August, made a strong argument for a Northern medical school.

"We were confident we had made the best presentation we could to address all the concerns of the task force," Gilbert said.

The task force, headed by McMaster University president Peter George, is examining the report of Dr. Robert McKendry, the fact-finding commissioner appointed by the province.

McKendry recommended a Northern medical school be based at Lakehead and Laurentian.

The task force will make its recommendations to Health Minister Elizabeth Witmer.

Liaison committee member Anne Pegoraro, a development officer at Laurentian, agreed with Gilbert that the panel's presentation to the task force was strong.

"We had a positive experience," she said from Sudbury.

"Our presentation gave them a credible option to consider during their deliberations."

Pegoraro said she expects the North will get something.

"It might be more graduate and post-graduate medical students.

"It's difficult to say if we will get a stand-alone medical school," she said.

MPP Lyn McLeod (L-Thunder Bay-Atikokan) said the province will have to fund more medical spaces if Northern Ontario is to get a medical school.

McLeod said the school is "absolutely necessary to train doctors in the North."

Thunder Bay Mayor Ken Boshcoff said he hopes the fact that mayors of five major Northern Ontario cities back the medical school carries some weight with the task force.



Chronicle - Oct 25/00

# Shared services may hold off amalgamation, candidates say

BY BRYAN MEADOWS  
NORTHWEST BUREAU

Shared services between municipalities is one way to prevent forced mergers, says Ignace Mayor Andre Tardiff.

Tardiff said yesterday he believes the shared services agreement Ignace has with nearby Dryden will help his municipality avoid future annexation.

"If the province sees this working, there should be no need for further forced mergers," he said.

"By getting along with our neighbours, there is no need for (amalgamation)."

The agreement was approved last month by both municipal councils.

Besides building inspection and accounting services, the agreement allows the communities to share staffing and expertise in engineering and planning; do

## IGNACE

payrolls on a larger and less costly scale; train employees for less; and share contracts for such things as paving.

Ignace council starting looking for alternatives after chief administrative officer Arthur Osborne resigned in July.

"The agreement is a win-win situation for us and Dryden," Tardiff said.

"For us it's some major savings . . . at least \$100,000 a year."

There's no argument from Coun. Suzanne Smith, who is running against Tardiff for the mayor's seat.

"It's in our best interest to have shared services," she said.

However, Smith said, she would have liked more time to review the document.

There are some shortcomings in it, she said, citing the cost to Ignace for treasurer and other administrative services is a flat \$50 per hour plus mileage.

Tardiff said the agreement does not affect the six employee positions at the township office.

"There are no job losses," he said, adding the cost will vary depending on the need for administration services.

Dryden city manager Jamie Umpleby said earlier that the agreement "is a revenue generator for the city in terms of efficiencies and economies of scale."



Chronicle Oct 26/00

# Northerners set for battle

## Equal medical care at heart of possible legal action

BY JIM KELLY

THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

The fight to make cancer care accessible for Northern Ontario residents is being intensified on several fronts.

At the heart of the issue is the Northern Health Travel Grant, Gerry Lougheed, chairman of Ontarians Seeking Equal Cancer Care, said yesterday.

"We presented a 60,000-signature petition (to the Liberal party) indicating the people want this discrimination to stop," Lougheed said.

The Liberals will read the [vianet.on.ca/~funding/travel.html](http://vianet.on.ca/~funding/travel.html) names in the legislature.

Residents of Northern Ontario get slightly over \$400 to travel to southern Ontario for medical treatment while southern Ontarians receive full funding when they are sent to Northern Ontario for treatment.

Ministry of Health spokesman Geoff Bell said the government is reviewing the travel

grant program.

Lougheed is former vice-chairman of Cancer Care Ontario, the agency that oversees the provincial cancer care system.

He said the government did not renew his mandate because of his criticism of the funding inequality.

The government is also constantly being attacked by politicians on the travel grant issue and is being threatened with a lawsuit.

"The government cannot continue to ignore us," MPP Michael Gravelle (L-Thunder Bay-Superior North) said.

In the legislature yesterday, Gravelle told the story of a Thunder

Bay child with leukemia who was sent to Toronto for treatment at great expense to the family.

The child died.

"This (travel grant) is our number one priority and we're going to keep the pressure up," Gravelle said.

"We're going to read every one of those 60,000 names in the legislature until we get some action."

Toronto lawyer Douglas Elliott said the Northern Health Travel Grant program may be in contravention of the Ontario Cancer Act, Canada Health Act and Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Elliott said he interprets Section 5 of the Ontario Cancer Act as stating cancer patients will be provided transportation to and from treatment facilities.

He said he believes the province is contravening Section 12 of the Canada Health Act which says the province, in return for federal transfer payments, must make all health-care facilities available without costs.

Under the charter, all Canadians are to be treated equally.

"The people of Northern Ontario are not being treated equally," Elliott said.

Report awaited/A7



# Cancer report under wraps: MPP

BY JIM KELLY  
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

As a politician, it's natural for MPP Lyn McLeod (L-Thunder Bay-Atikokan) to be suspicious of the government.

McLeod's latest concern is Health Minister Elizabeth Witmer's reluctance to release Cancer Care Ontario's Systemic Therapies Report.

McLeod said the report outlines a pending crisis in chemotherapy treatment across the province.

"The people of Ontario deserve to know why they are waiting for chemotherapy treatment," McLeod said.

"This report should be released imme-

## HEALTH

Cancer Care results might embarrass provincial government, Liberal MPP suggests

McLeod suggested.

She said the report identifies the need for more than 30 cancer special-

diately so that we know the seriousness of the problem and the shortages of cancer specialists and nurses can be addressed."

Parts of the report that have become public are embarrassing for the government,

ists and more than 30 cancer nurses across Ontario.

McLeod said the accepted provincial standard for a reasonable workload for cancer doctors is about 140 patients a year, yet they are seeing about 200 patients each.

She said a radiation oncologist (cancer specialist) should see about 215 patients a year, but many saw up to 260 patients last year.

McLeod said to meet the current shortages in Ontario requires 14 new spe-

cialists a year.

She said only two are graduating this year and none in 2001.

"The government is sitting on another cancer-care crisis," McLeod said.

"They've already been totally unable to meet the crisis in radiation treatment.

"I don't think the premier or the Health minister want to acknowledge they have another crisis on their hands," McLeod said.

Ministry of Health officials could not be reached for comment yesterday.



# No lineups for chemo

*Cancer Care Ontario denies there's waiting time*

BY JIM KELLY  
THE CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

Contrary to what politicians are saying, cancer patients are not waiting for chemotherapy treatments in Ontario, says the vice-president of Cancer Care Ontario.

"There's no doubt doctors and nurses are working very hard, but there is no waiting time for chemotherapy in Ontario," said Dr. Bill Evans, who chaired a task force looking into chemotherapy in the province.

MPP Lyn McLeod (L-Thunder Bay-Atikokan) said earlier this week the Systemic Therapy Task Force Report outlines a



pending crisis in chemotherapy treatment across the province. "The people of Ontario deserve to know why they are waiting for chemotherapy treatment," McLeod said in a news release.

"This report should be released immediately so that we know the seriousness of the problem and the shortages of cancer specialists and nurses can be addressed."

McLeod altered her earlier statement in which she said there were waiting lists by saying there is a concern doctors administering chemotherapy may suffer burnout and "it may not be possible to give chemotherapy to additional patients."

"They are taking far more patients than is considered to be a reasonable workload," she said yesterday.

Speaking from Ottawa, Evans conceded doctors, nurses and pharmacists are working long hours to provide chemotherapy for all patients who need it.

While the report has not been made public, Evans said the main issues in it deal with the pressures faced by the chemotherapy team.

"We need more doctors, nurses and pharmacists, that's the bottom line," he said yesterday.

Evans said he's been assured the Ministry of Health will give funding to Cancer Care Ontario to recruit doctors, hire pharmacists and nurses for the chemotherapy programs. The money will also be used to purchase chemotherapy drugs.



Doctors who are stressed out may not be able to provide the one-on-one interaction that is required between doctor and patient.

In Northwestern Ontario, Evans said Dr. Dimitri Vergidis of the Northwestern Ontario Regional Cancer Centre has set up a network of communities where patients can receive chemotherapy.

The patients come to Thunder Bay for consultation with cancer specialists and then return to their communities where they receive chemotherapy from their family doctors who have been trained in the procedure.

This allows the patients to receive treatment closer to home.

"With the big distances you have up north and the weather conditions plus some of these people have advanced cancers so it makes sense to get chemotherapy where they live," Evans said.



Oct 29/00

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IGNACE

# Mayor faces electoral challenge

BY BRYAN MEADOWS  
NORTHWEST BUREAU

Will Ignace residents stick with experience, or opt for change in the election of the community's next mayor?

Suzanne Smith, a councillor for the past six years, is running against veteran municipal politician Andre Tardiff.

Tardiff has been Ignace's reeve and mayor since 1988, leaving the post for a brief time in 1997 and then returning in a byelection.

Tardiff said his experience as mayor is an asset.

Smith believes it's time for a change, and said she'd "work for change and build a strong team on council."

"I will help develop a vision for the town with the help of residents."

Smith favours more town-hall style meetings in which people can tell council "what they'd like to see happen."

"They will be vital in helping to set council's priorities," she said.

Tardiff said his priorities include: pushing for a new water filtration plant, more paving, and ensuring an administrative agreement with Dryden continues to provide financial benefits to the town.

Tardiff said he would continue to work on expanding the recreation centre and getting better medical services in the community.

Smith said she would push for more programs and services for seniors and teens.

As for future industry, Smith said she felt that the community might be better off supporting small entrepreneurs rather than looking to a big industry to bolster employment.

Tardiff said he would do what he could to help established businesses and lobby for new ones.

Tardiff said the administrative agreement with the city of Dryden is a step in the right direction.

"The agreement is a win-win situation for us and Dryden," Tardiff said, noting that "for us it's some major savings... at least \$100,000 a year."

Besides some building inspection and accounting services, the agreement allows the two communities to share staffing resources and expertise in engineering and planning, as well as do pay-rolls on a larger and less costly scale, train employees for less, and share contracts for such things as paving.

On the agreement with Dryden, Smith said there should have been more discussion and review of the document before it was approved.

There are several shortcomings in it, she said.

Running for the four seats on Ignace council are Steve Baker, Hugh Broughton, Rudy Hulina, George Manchenko, Charlene Ramaga-Fluet, Dennis Smyk, Erik Thingstad and John Taddeo.



AA 87

# The scramble is on

*District services board seeks ambulance service bids*

BY BRYAN MEADOWS  
NORTHWEST BUREAU

It's coming down to the wire for land ambulance service in Kenora District.

The Kenora District Services Board has not received any response to a request for proposals to operate land ambulance services in the Kenora, Sioux Lookout, Dryden and Red Lake areas, effective March 1.

Deadline for proposals is Nov. 10.

The lack of interest and concern about ambulance coverage for the two months after Jan. 1 has hospitals, which operate ambulance services now, worried about the transition.

"Who is going to operate the ambulance services for those months," Dryden Regional Health Centre administrator Andrew Skene said.

"We've notified (and are awaiting a response from) KDSB officials as to what plans they have in place to provide ambulance service for January and February," Skene said.

Municipalities take control of land ambulance services across the province on Jan. 1 as part of a provincial downloading exercise.

In a letter to regional municipalities and First Nations, Dryden hospital board chairman Brian Collins states that "hospitals are very concerned that it's too late for an interim service to be established prior to Jan. 1.

"We are also concerned that should the plan of the KDSB include existing operators ... we would not have sufficient staffing to provide the service."

Skene said some ambulance attendants in Dryden have said they plan to move to new jobs, or to "bump" into hospital jobs.

Layoff notices will go out this week to the Dryden hospital's eight full-time and several part-time ambulance attendants, effective Jan. 1.

Ambulance service employees in



BRYAN MEADOWS/NORTHWEST BUREAU

**Dryden paramedic Andrew Tickner will be among those waiting for results of a Kenora District Services Board meeting Thursday regarding ambulance service in the district.**

Kenora, Sioux Lookout and Red Lake received layoff notices months ago.

"The question is: are we going to have the people for the service?" Skene said.

"Why has this been left to the 11th hour?"

KDSB administrator Sten Lif said board members will make a decision on ambulance services for the two-month transition period at a meeting Thursday.

"Ambulance services will be operational on Jan. 1," Lif said.

He said the board has options if no acceptable proposals for district-wide ambulance services are received by Nov. 10.

"We could deliver land ambulance service ourselves, seek out a service provider in another jurisdiction, or resume negotiations for services with the four hospitals," he said.

"A lot is going to happen between now and then. It's going to be an extremely busy time."

While the KDSB has negotiated land ambulance agreements with Sioux Nar-

rows and Pickle Lake, it failed to get agreements with the four district health centres during talks two months ago.

After talks stalled over the length of an agreement, the KDSB requested ambulance service proposals.

"What's happening is very unfortunate," Lif said.

Meanwhile, hospital officials say they are open to more talks.

Collins states in his letter that "we are willing to negotiate with the KDSB to continue to provide services for the district under current operating conditions for a reasonable period of three years, so that any changes in services can take place in a measured and planned way with appropriate consultation."

Collins said he felt no one hospital is willing to assume the legal responsibilities of a lead agency for district-wide ambulance services as defined in the KDSB request for proposals.

"As written (it) has considerable financial and operating risks," he added.

## HEALTH

Provincial downloading means municipalities have to come up with ambulance service providers



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## Land ambulance services

# Two-month gap concerns Dryden hospital

By Sylvia Veal

Area hospital operators know they are to cease providing land ambulance services as of Dec. 31, when Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) assumes the program's administration. They are just wondering who is going to provide this vital health care service in January and February of 2001, before the new district operator takes over March 1.

Concern for the gap in hospital emergency services stems from the district board's request for proposals parameters for prospective providers. It calls for the successful respondent to begin providing ambulance services on March 1.

In a letter to KDSB, Brian Collins, chair of Dryden Regional Health Centre board, stresses "time is short and

immediate action critical for ensuring that services are in place for January 2001."

While recognizing the responsibility of KDSB in providing land ambulance services in the new year, Collins states, "As a hospital, we also have a responsibility as a stakeholder in the health care system to ensure there are no gaps in service and that public safety is maintained."

The letter also went out to municipal councils and First Nations communities in the district, as well as Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care officials.

At last week's hospital board meeting, Andrew Skene, Dryden hospital administrator, called the situation "alarming".

Collins stated hospitals haven't been told how the gap will be filled, but said KDSB is slated to present a plan at

a meeting on Nov. 2, which leaves less than two months for implementation.

Dryden hospital and the other three current hospital providers of ambulance services (Lake of the Woods, Margaret Cochenour and Sioux Lookout District Health Centre) will not respond to the KDSB request for proposals (RFP), because of "the considerable financial and operating risks" contained in the RFP, Skene stated.

"We were told there had to be one lead hospital responsible for the whole district, if four formed a consortium," Skene explained.

Meanwhile, the hospital is concerned its ambulance staff will not experience at least a smooth transition from one employer to another. Also, other issues such as own  
(continued on page 2)



## Land ambulance services

# Two-month gap concerns Dryden hospital

*(continued from page 1)*

ership and use of ambulance garages and equipment facilities have not been addressed by KDSB.

Collins stated the hospital believes it has been the victim of "incomplete disclosure of information and ultimatums that did not provide an environment for successful outcomes.

The hospital board hopes its letter produces some

response and awareness of the situation from the health ministry and councils.

The Kenora District Services Board reacted in a message released to all parties late Monday. The board said the RFP was not its first choice and that the deadlines were set by the province, not the KDSB. Board chair Barbara Beernaerts accused the hospital boards of acting "in a cavalier manner" instead of providing leadership and direc-

tion to its staff.

"The KDSB does not have the luxury of washing its hands of this matter; it needs to ensure there is viable service," the board letter reads.

"We are at the 11th hour and the KDSB cannot wait for the four hospitals to get their act together. If they are prepared to negotiate seriously, they need to advise the KDSB immediately," the letter concludes. ★

## With the candidates

# Campaign for electorate begins

*(continued from page 1)*

meanwhile named its candidate in the Kenora-Rainy River riding over the weekend.

Ed Prefontaine, a Kenora resident and engineer won the Alliance nomination at a meeting in Dryden, Saturday night.

Prefontaine won over another candidate, Dryden businessman Craig Nut-

Susan Barclay said Nault and the Liberal government are forcing Fort Frances area residents to pay the cost of the new Canada Customs facility there.

"Bob Nault is boasting about a new Customs building, but he's trying to hide the fact that Fort Frances area residents will be paying for it. That's why the

