

Ottawa to pump up to \$1.5 million into job creation in North Simcoe

The federal government could prime the economic pump in North Simcoe over the next five years with up to \$1.5 million in locally administered grants to generate new jobs on the Tiny-Tay Peninsula.

Federal Employment and Immigration Minister Flora MacDonald announced the area has been designated a Local Employment Assistance and Development (LEAD) Program site, following an application earlier this year by the Midland-Penetanguishene Joint Economic Development Committee.

LEAD is designed to foster permanent new employment in selected communities facing ongoing unemployment that is higher than the national average.

On the Tiny-Tay Peninsula, that unemployment rate has fluctuated in recent years from a high of more than 30 percent, to its present level of an estimated 16 percent.

Under the LEAD Program the area has received initial approval for \$69,000 for a planning phase study over the next eight months.

The E.D.C. is now looking for individuals to serve on an independent board to conduct the planning phase, which will prepare an

economic profile of the area and develop an implementation strategy for reducing unemployment.

An information meeting is scheduled for the Highland Inn in Midland next Thursday, Sept. 19, with political representatives from the municipalities in the LEAD area.

These include the Towns of Midland and Penetanguishene, the Villages of Port McNicoll and Victoria Harbour, and the Townships of Tay, Tiny, Matchedash and part of the Township of Georgian Bay.

As a result of the planning phase, three options will be open to the area.

It can lead to creation of a LEAD Corporation similar to ones already operating in Orillia, Collingwood and Fort Erie. Here an independent board of business and professional people receives up to \$220,000 a year from Ottawa for five years to provide seed money in the form of loans to new businesses that are low in capital, or to existing businesses wanting to expand and create new jobs. The maximum loan per company is \$25,000 per year.

In addition a LEAD Corporation has access to up to \$130,000 a year to provide consulting services to small business to make planning,

technical and professional advice available.

A second option is the creation of an enterprise project, in which the board would create a new business or businesses aimed at job creation as part of a defined development strategy. The maximum annual federal contribution here is \$350,000, to a five year maximum of \$1.5 million.

The third option is an infrastructure project, designed to strengthen a community's economic infrastructure and to develop a local economic development plan. Here, the maximum funding is \$350,000 a year for two years.

In addition the planning phase that gets underway this fall could recommend to the federal government that more than one of these options be pursued at the same time.

Midland-Penetanguishene Economic Development Committee begins advertising next week for staff to conduct the planning phase and is seeking input from area municipal leaders concerning the membership of the independent board to oversee this aspect of the program.

This seven-to-nine person body will be representative of the geographic area, as well as the various economic sectors that play a

major role in local employment patterns.

The E.D.C. was formed two years ago to develop co-operative economic development strategies between Midland and Penetanguishene. At the time of its formation, Councils in both municipalities, fresh from the closure of RCA in Midland, recognized the need for a joint effort because of the interdependence of the economies of area communities.

The six members of the E.D.C. include the following: Midland Chamber of Commerce Past-President Ross Heacock; Midland Alderman Dan Herbert; Midland Clerk Fred Flood; Penetanguishene Councillor Don McNee; Penetanguishene Industrial Commission member Jim Park and Penetanguishene Municipal Administrator Yvon Gagne.

Spokesmen for the committee said they are "extremely pleased" with the LEAD designation, saying it represents a clear recognition by Ottawa of the need to reduce the chronic unemployment in the area, as well as a commitment by the federal government to help North Simcoe face its economic future in a practical and creative way.

Nine declared for nine seats - so far

Town clerk Yvon Gagne said Friday most of the people who have made inquiries at the Penetanguishene

municipal office about how to go about running for municipal office have publicly announced their intention

to seek a term on town council. To date, two "newcomers" have said they will seek election to

Penetanguishene town council. They are Bob Sullivan, who announced Aug. 23, and Pa Forget, who announced Sept. 11.

Sullivan is a member of the Planning Advisory Committee and Forget is the recent president of the Penetanguishene Chamber of Commerce.

Seven of nine present members of council have said they intend to seek re-election to council. Councillor Bob Klug has said he won't

be running and councillor Larry Bellisle has said he is undecided.

Municipal elections in Ontario are held Nov. 12.



Spend day fishing in Penetang

Young Jennifer Lo (left) and sister Stephanie of Toronto fish at the Penetang town dock early Sunday evening. They and their parents

visited for the day and joined several other anglers on the dock under mostly sunny skies.

Flos, Elmvale asked to join the dump fight

by KATY AUSTIN

The village of Elmvale and Flos Township were urged Friday night to join in the fight against a new dump site just north of the village.

Thirty-five people attended a meeting in the Elmvale Orange Lodge Hall to protest against the North Simcoe Waste Management Association's proposed plan to establish a waste disposal site on the property of Wayne Johnston, Con. 2 of Tiny Township, one mile north of Highway 27 and east of County Road 6.

The major conclusion drawn during the evening was that concerned citizens must band together soon in order to present a strong case against the dump site at the Ontario Municipal Board hearing scheduled for January.

"We can't afford to sit idly by and watch good farmland be polluted," said Harold Boker, "especially when there are better alternatives."

Boker and Julie Barker, members of a Tiny ad hoc committee concerned with waste disposal, were on hand to discuss research they have done on waste management and to answer questions

Decision on tower height

Penetanguishene's Planning Advisory Committee met last night to recommend whether Inn at Baymoorings owner Albert Melchior should be allowed to exceed the municipality's height restriction bylaw with the proposed construction of a hotel tower at his Fox Street marina.

The six-storey tower is part of a proposed hotel convention centre Melchior unveiled in August. The tower would be 85 feet tall, but the bylaw restricts heights to 35 feet in town. Melchior discussed his proposal at the last Planning meeting and, last Monday night, Planning held a committee of the whole meeting to give it a preliminary look. Four Planning members were present and voted 2-2 to allow increase of the present height.

At press time last night, decision had not been made yet.

about the NSWMA's plans.

Boker, who runs a prosperous mixed farm just south of the proposed new site, is very concerned that a dump could pollute surrounding farms and drinking water in a widespread area. He cited cases in Lucan and Stouffville of contaminated drinking water and loss of cattle caused by dump site pollution.

At his own expense in terms of time and money, Boker has done extensive research into better methods of waste control. He gave examples of modern operations in Germany and in Delaware, where garbage is sorted and recycled as much as possible. Boker feels a scaled down version would be a viable alternative to a new dump site near good farmland in Tiny. But he has been unable to convince the NSWMA or the Ministry of Environment to consider his suggestion.

Both Boker and Barker expressed a lack of trust in the ministry, the NSWMA and their consultants. These feelings were echoed by the majority of the audience. Barker noted that the NSWMA is working under a deadline pressure. The existing Pauze dump in Perkinsfield must be closed by 1987.

Several people at the meeting argued that officials might promise at the start to use the dump for household wastes only, and then five years down the road allow the dumping of toxic industrial wastes.

Several others scoffed at the NSWMA's consultants, whose findings state that waste materials could be safely contained in the clay basin of the dump site and not seep into surrounding ground water. Citing their own experiences over many years, farmer from lands nearby the Johnston property insisted that contaminants in a dump site could very easily get into the ground water.

The Friday night meeting was organized by Dave Wilcox and Grant Archer, both of whom live near the Johnston property. The two men feel so