

# Massive economic development planned

Tourism could be the key to financial prosperity for local Beausoleil Band Indians, under astonishing plans being developed for the band's Christian Island reserve.

The plans include a year-round island resort, run entirely by the band.

Chief Bernard McCue says the natives on the reserve are tired of depending on government handouts.

And, he announces, they are now doing something about it by developing a master plan, a financial blueprint for a solid future.

"We have to address this problem of economic development by creating an economic base that has to do with tourism," Chief McCue said in an interview last Tuesday.

"Tourism, although seasonal, will provide a good base for development of our economic poten-

tial." McCue sees a day when the 750 band members on the reserve stand proud and break the chains of dependence.

"We have always relied heavily on government subsidies - work programs, and various other makeshift programs," said the chief. "We can't rely on this, because of government cutbacks."

"It is for this reason that Christian Island has not a very good economic base."

With help from the North Simcoe Development Corporation and after meetings with high-profile political and industrial leaders, the chief of the Beausoleil Band put the wheels in motion.

When they're done, says Kamran Khozan of the NSDC, the islands will be an economic hot spot.

He says the economic spin-offs for the people of the islands will be fantastic.

"The psychological impact of such a thing is too great to measure," said Khozan, who recently resigned as president of the NSDC after accepting an offer for a job with the government.

"You'll find a whole different attitude will be developed," he said.

Khozan and McCue say they intend to create an atmosphere where private enterprise thrives.

The band quietly began its ambitious program already this past summer by turning part of Beckwith Island (one of three in the reserve) into a beach area for tourists. Campsites were set up and mooring buoys installed for boaters.

"The location is perfect for tourism development,"

said McCue. "We've got beautiful beaches."

"This is part of the short term plan. It's a start, a good start."

In the future, the Beausoleil Band could construct a complete year-round tourist resort on the Beckwith Island beach. The main attraction of such a resort would be "seclusion and beauty of the island," according to the short term plan.

As well, it may count on the Indian way of life. A restaurant would offer local smoked fish, deer and buffalo meat if the demand for such products is proven.

McCue says what is going on here is a new thing for Canadian Indian bands. Most do not have their own economic plans, he said.

And he also said the projects were supported in principle by "98 per cent" of the reserve. "There were just a couple of negative answers," he noted.

"We all agreed something should be done to get us standing on our own two feet, to create employment," he said.

"It's this or nothing. We are so dependent on government programs right now that we must do something else. I can not measure the importance of this because it is very, very important."

But Khozan said there is "always some fear in a

closed-in community such as this that the traditional way of life might change, the value system might change."

"I don't think there's a single sole who doesn't want a permanent job, but not at the price of losing

the traditional values."

Khozan said extensive interviews with band members and a questionnaire will be conducted before the fact, to prevent these things from happening. "Once this is done we will have a very valuable

gigantic database to draw on to see what the band wants."

The chief noted he has addressed concerns of some who think that "by developing a piece of land they may lose what they have."



Chief Bernard McCue

## Changes at HDH

Huron District Hospital has started to implement some of the recommendations produced by a coroner's jury.

Last Friday, following the conclusion of the Edna Weber inquest, Gord Key, HDH's administrator, said that a month ago 15 of the hospital's doctors and 15 of the nurses took an Advanced Cardiac Life Support course.

That course is very similar to the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) course recommended by the jury. Nurses and doctors will take the ATLS course too, probably next spring.

The other recommendations of the jury will be examined in a positive vein. Appropriate changes will be made, he said.

The inquiry into the circumstances of the death of Edna Weber, 68, of Toronto, required four days. More than 20 witnesses gave testimony. The Crown attorney for Simcoe County, John Alexander, was the counsel for Regional Coroner John Strathearn. Each of the hospital and the nurses, the doctors, and the land ambulance and air ambulance crews, were represented by a lawyer.

Several issues remained unexplained at the inquest's end.

Edna Weber was wearing a Medic Alert bracelet

when the car in which she was a passenger collided with another vehicle. The first witness to testify that he saw it was a doctor at St. Joseph's Medical Centre in Toronto.

A tube placed through the wall of Edna Weber's chest while she was in HDH, to relieve pressure on her lungs, stopped working at some point. The doctor who inserted it said he ordered, and examined, a chest x-ray after the tube was placed. The x-ray showed that the tube was not kinked. Another doctor, and an air ambulance paramedic, who subsequently examined the x-ray, testified that the x-ray showed the tube was kinked.

The confusion about the delay in the order to call for an ambulance to take Edna Weber to Toronto was not dispelled.

St. Joseph Medical Centre staff were told that Edna Weber was in stable condition with an isolated chest injury, that the speed at the time of the traffic accident was 60 miles per hour, and that the driver was killed. She was being transferred to be under her doctor's care.

Testimony from Midland witnesses was that the traffic accident was at low speed and that the driver was injured. Dr. Gregory Bailey testified that he learned that Edna Weber

was diabetic and had some arthritis. A nurse said her patient said she had a problem with her blood. The decision of HDH doctors to transfer her was made because a larger hospital was better equipped to control the pain her four broken ribs were creating.

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