

Visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Kettle for the holiday season were their children, Marcia Philipishen from Vermillion Bay, Rosalie from Hespler, Ontario, Charles from Toronto and Frances Cooke from Mississauga.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

BY JIM TRISTRAM



CHILDREN'S SERVICES:

On July 1, 1977 the Children's Services Division of the Ministry of Community and Social Services was created. Its purpose was to co-ordinate and improve many government programs now available for children and to determine what other programs may be needed.

The present programs have been combined from four government Ministries, Correctional Services, Health, Attorney General and Community and Social Services.

To determine what programs are needed in a community and what other programs should be developed a "Thunder Bay District Working Group" was formed.

The Thunder Bay District Working Group has representation from District Communities, Native Groups, Citizens Organizations and others. Communities such as Nipigon, Manitowadge, etc., have formed Study or Advisory Groups or Committees to determine the needs in their particular community.

The Thunder Bay District Working Group reviews the needs which have been determined by each local Study or Advisory Group. It is through the District Working Group that proposals for funding projects are reviewed and possibly recommended to Toronto for funding.

The needs of children are often the needs of parents and families. Surprisingly, one of the most common needs recognized in many communities is for Family or Marriage Counselling. In many cases, behaviour problems of a child may be the direct result of another family problem. To assist the child it may be necessary to recognize why the child has a problem before action can be taken to resolve it.

It is easy to recognize some problems and to find a corrective measure. The old story of locking the barn after the horse has been stolen often repeats itself. For example, if a juvenile steals something and gets caught, depending on the circumstances he may be mildly or severely punished. The act and punishment is easy to recognize. The recognition of WHY the act was committed is often more difficult to determine but may often have an emotional base, perhaps the result of a learning or a home problem.

In some cases these acts are the result of the home or family environment or because the child has too much time available and he is bored and is seeking "something to do".

The Children's Services Division is attempting to recognize some of these problem areas and to find ways of resolving them. Prevention type programs are a major focus of the

Children's Division.

Many areas of "need" have already been identified in most communities. Some of these are as follows:

-Alcohol and Drug Counselling Programs; - Family and Marriage Counselling Programs; - Day Care Centres where children can learn with other children and parents can be provided with some "free" time. - Special Education Programs to assist teachers to identify and help children who have "special needs". - Telecare. - Social Services Directory. - Babysitting Services. - others are recreational such as the building of fitness trails, etc.

Communities, while they have many things in common are also different from each other. Consequently, the needs of communities differ.

If you recognize a "need" in your community pass this along to your Advisory Groups or the Thunder Bay District Children's Working Group at 140 S. May Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario: Telephone 622-9651.

If you wish further information on this or other government programs call the Ministry of Northern Affairs, located on the Lower Floor, Peninsula Building, 2 Gilbert Street, Marathon or telephone 229-1153.

MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Family of Miss Myrna McCuaig are pleased to announce her forthcoming marriage to Mr. Henry Cormier, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Cormier of Thunder Bay. The wedding will take place on Saturday, January 13th at 4 p.m. in St. Andrews United Church, Schreiber.



HOME HUMOUR BY BOB GENDREAU

A dog is nice, but a hot dog is nicer. It feeds the hand that bites it.

Statistics prove locomotives are not afraid of automobiles.

The new income tax form has only two questions: How much did you make? When can you return it?

I can't take surprises. When I was born I was so surprised I couldn't talk for a year and a half.

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