

Letters to the Editor

Trustee imbalance

To the Editor:

Terrace Bay Campus is now getting a \$10,000.00 Music Room, as was originally proposed in June 1984. Nearly a year later, a classroom will now be renovated so that it can be used as such.

If you are concerned enough to achieve something, in the long run you may (in some cases) compromise to keep it. From the start Terrace Bay campus was to have the music room, but one has now been designated to Schreiber campus as well. So one high school will now have two music rooms. Can any high school with 300 students boast this?

In our mind these problems arise due to the fact that the four towns do not have an equal vote in any matter. The 14 members of the Lake Superior Board are elected to serve the entire area, Manitowadge, Marathon, Terrace Bay and Schreiber. When taxes and board representation is so out of whack it appears you have to show real concern for your own interests only.

Terrace Bay High School was built in 1953 and even the new addition is nearly 20 years old. The building could use one million dollars in renova-

tion. The Terrace Bay Public School has two portable classrooms for grades five and six which now accommodate 45 students. In our view portables are totally unacceptable and the Public School needs an addition. If we had access to our own education taxes this work would be done, we could offer our children the best facilities on the North Shore. As it is now three Terrace Bay trustees have to prove our needs are greater than anyone else's — rather difficult when Marathon has eight portable classrooms in their public school and need a totally new high school.

Terrace Bay and Marathon provide 72 per cent of the entire tax dollars used by LSBE, yet have a total of five votes out of 14. Is it possible to have equal representation from each community? This seems a more acceptable arrangement for these four towns which are not only literally miles apart but figuratively miles apart.

Trustee Representation
Manitowadge 5
Marathon 2
Terrace Bay 3
Schreiber 4
Total 14

Taxation by Community
Manitowadge 24 per cent
Marathon 32 per cent

Terrace Bay 40 per cent
Schreiber 4 per cent

Quoting from the Marathon Mercury:
"The inequity has to do with another complicated Ministry formula under Section 63 of the Education Act.

Because Manitowadge's main industry is mining (mines are traditionally assessed considerably lower than pulp mills since they have fewer structures, at least on the surface), residents there pay much higher school taxes. To make up for that they receive more representation. Schreiber's main industry is the railway and the CPR for some inexplicable reason

isn't required to pay any school taxes. Schreiber's residential assessment for school taxes would be staggering except that they are covered by another loophole in the Act which allows them to pay a lower rate. Representation, however, is apportioned on the basis of the assessment which is 300 per cent higher and gives Schreiber 4 trustees. The bulk of the tab for the LSBE is paid by taxes raised in Terrace Bay and Marathon mostly from Kimberly Clark and James River. If it all sounds like mumbo jumbo you aren't alone."

Mary Clare Papineau

music...

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sense to place the instrumental music course at the Schreiber campus.

On the question of the \$10,000.00 grant for the necessary renovations to facilitate a music room; Terrace Bay residents should take note that upon inquiring they will find that the Terrace Bay campus is designated for a large sum of money for renovations in the very near future. We realize renovations are a necessary part of keeping our schools up to the stan-

dards, however, we feel the main concern of trustees, parents, and concerned citizens should be the education of our students.

Keeping that in mind, we have to wonder where all the bickering is really leading us. Are the students in their quest for education not going to be the losers as "well-meaning" parents continue to interfere in the students' best interests?

Sincerely,
Concerned Parents

Stokes supports Austin

The Honourable Leo Bernier
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Mr. Minister:

Further to my letter dated March 21, 1985, it has come to my attention that Austin Airways is prepared to station a Medivac aircraft at Geraldton airport.

Austin claims it has sufficient business in the area to warrant this action and is prepared to do so without a guarantee of so many trips or flying hours per month as demanded by Kyro Airways Limited, the previous carrier who had

this contract.

Terry Deluce of Austin Airways assures me that this aircraft can be made available and can be in position to provide this essential service by April 1, 1985. This seems to be an answer to the problem and would ensure the quick response time that everyone would want.

Anything you can do to assist in making this a satisfactory arrangement would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,
Jack Stokes, MPP
Lake Nipigon Riding

Local volunteers

April 14-20 has been declared Volunteer Week in the Province of Ontario by the Secretariat for Social Development. The Province endorses this campaign as to recognize and honour volunteers who gave their time, energy and talents to help others. The Secretariat is hoping that this week will encourage volunteer participation, particularly among young people, senior citizens and disabled persons. Volunteers serve as Big Brothers and Sisters, deliver Meals-on-Wheels, work in community information centres, coach and referee amateur sports, clean up parks, visit shut-ins, teach hobbies and offer their friendship and assistance to others in their community. Volunteers being honoured from this area are, Mrs. Rosemarie Thrope of Terrace Bay

who has volunteered her services to the Terrace Bay Library for 10 years, Miss Gwen Hadley of Schreiber who has served on the Schreiber Library Board for 41 years and Mrs. Nora McGuire who has volunteered her services to the Schreiber Library for 21 years. The ceremony was held in Thunder Bay Tuesday April 23rd at the Valhalla Inn.

Thank You

To all who sent cards, expressions of sympathy, and donations to the Cancer Society in memory of my sister, Wilma Hutchison.

Alice and Jim Clavelle

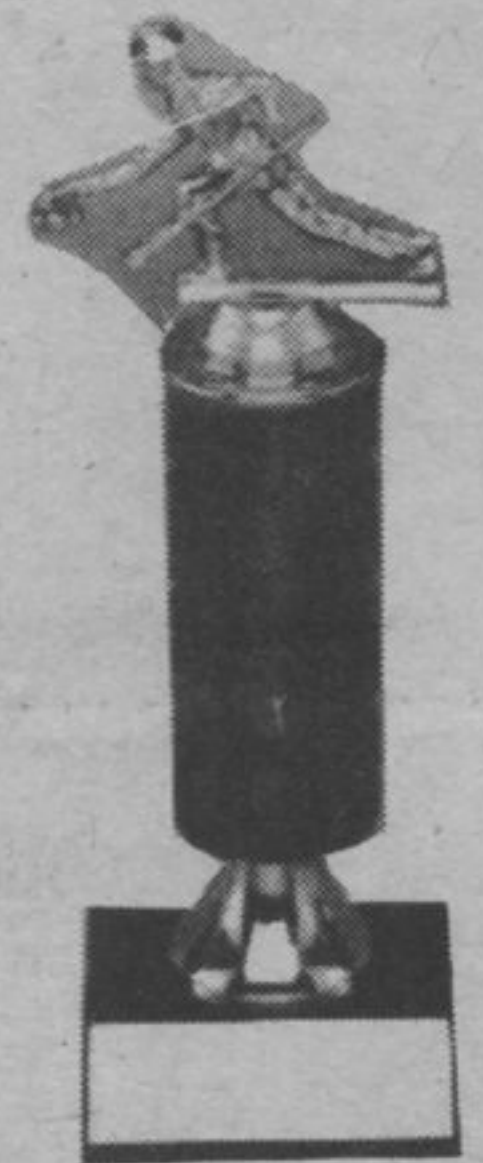


Happy Birthday

"Copper Top"
from the gang

TROPHIES

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Back a Fighter

Northern transportation...

IS being addressed. In many areas of our Riding, roads need upgrading and widening with truck passing lanes. Quicker, lower cost methods of moving goods and materials must be found. JIM FILES IS READY to work towards these goals, and KNOWS where to get the action we NEED.

Help JIM get the job done...

Join the Winning Team

MAY 2nd

Elect - Elire

JIM FILES // PC