

Terrace Bay  
Schreiber

# News

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## Editorial

### Comings and goings

by DAVID CARSWELL

As many of your may have heard, I am leaving the Terrace Bay-Schreiber News. My reasons are mostly financial and personal so I won't take up your time with them, but do feel that I do owe certain people in the community a word or two of thanks.

A special thank you to Gayle and Roger Fournier for their friendship and assistance during my stay here; Jeannie and Ken from across the hall, for their words of wisdom and never ending supply of valuable advice; Helene Ballard, Winnie Campbell and Anne Todesco for their weekly insights into the real world, and for brightening up the office with their unique views of the communities we live in; the countless people, too numerous to name, within the community who have made me feel like a part of the community and made my decision to leave that much more difficult; and of course the newest members of the News staff, Gigi and Marilyn, who have helped make the last few weeks much easier, and have adapted to their new positions with ease, making me believe that I am leaving the News in very capable hands.

While on the subject of the new staff members here, it is my sincere wish that you, the members of the community, offer them the same understanding that you offered to me. Please give them a few weeks grace to work out the bugs in the system, and I believe that you will be impressed with the results.

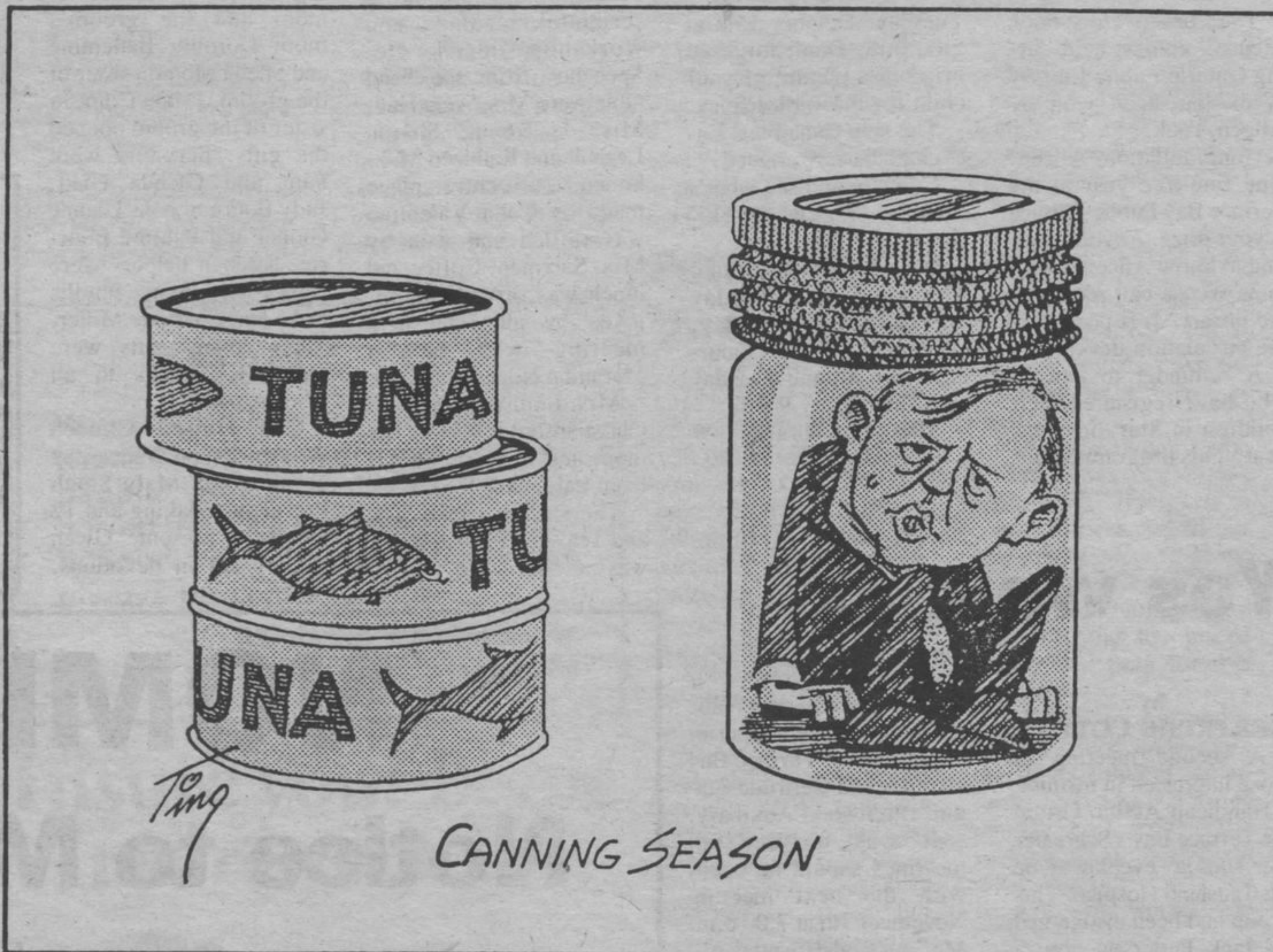
I will miss the community and the people of the Terrace Bay Schreiber area but I feel that I am leaving on good terms and I hope to return someday soon for a visit. In the meantime I will be kept abreast of the activities of the community through the News.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for making my brief stay in your community an enjoyable one and I wish all of you the best, thank you for your support and encouragement.

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This week marks the first installment of weekly submissions from the students of Lake Superior High School. The Student Council appointed a committee consisting of Lisa Heinrich, Tamalea Meister, Derek Boucher and Jeff Pope, to oversee the submissions each week, and we at the News appreciate their interest and involvement. The entire Student Council and these four individuals, in particular, deserve a pat on the back for their attempts to help keep the community up-to-date with events in and around the high school. Well done, folks, and keep up the good work, your participation in the production of the Terrace Bay-Schreiber News is both vital and refreshing.

Thanks again.



### Did You Know

One of the outstanding features of the area surrounding our community, is unquestionably that of Rainbow Falls Provincial Park. The Park is nestled within the Whitesand Lake area approximately 8 miles west of Schreiber. The main attractions are the lookout trail leading to the falls, and the system of scenic hiking trails. The park also features 180 tent and trailer campsites, a boat launch, a beach and picnic area, in addition to several other attractive amenities.

## Arthur Black

### Wrong Party Hurt By Teacher Strike



Well, it's been a pretty easy year so far for public high school students here in Wellington County, where I live. That's because they've been out of school for most of it. Their teachers have been on strike. The students didn't have to attend school to keep in touch with their exmentors, though. Last week there was a full page ad from the teachers that appeared in all the papers in the county. It's addressed to the students, and it reads in part:

**We are concerned. We know that you are upset about the strike.**

The ad offers helpful little tips for the teacherless students in their hour of vacuum. Tips like "Plan your Study Day" and "Work With One or Two of your Classmates."

Swell advice... somewhat akin to showing up at a Mexican earthquake with a box of band-aids. But then, the purpose of the full page ad wasn't to help the students anyway. It was a lit-

tle PR job to convince the public that just because teachers aren't teaching doesn't mean they're not a concerned and dedicated bunch.

Spare us the hypocrisy. If you're worried about the kids falling behind in their studies, then hold classes in your rec rooms, or get your union to rent a few vacant halls or warehouses. Or even more revolutionary -- go back to the classroom and do the job right.

I don't know who's right or wrong in this contract dispute between the teachers and the board of education, and frankly, Scarlett, I don't give a damn. What I do know is that teachers have an implicit contract with students, the parents of those students, and all of us who support the school system with tax dollars. That contract isn't even alluded to in this full page ad. Nor does it mention the obvious fact that some students are going to fail their year -- perhaps

miss their only shot at University or college -- because of this teachers' strike.

A fellow by the name of William A. Ward once wrote: "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." Let's look at what the striking teachers are inspiring/demonstrating/explaining to and telling their students with this strike.

They are demonstrating that the schoolyard bully had it right all along -- that Might Makes Right and it is acceptable in this world to jeopardize someone else's career if it advances your own.

This is not a philosophical stance exclusive to the Wellington County chapter of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation, of course. Over the past few years, dozens of "essential services" have discovered the tactical effectiveness

of holding various sections of the citizenry to ransom. We have seen public health threatened when garbage collectors refused to work. We have seen public transportation break down when bus and subway workers stayed home. We have seen ambulance drivers walk off the job and doctors boycott their hospitals.

No matter what their official professions, they were all teachers, those strikers. And what they were teaching all impressionable minds was that -- hey, there's nothing wrong with a little low level, soft-core terrorism, as long as you get what you want.

It's an old cliché that nobody wins in a strike -- but that's not the point. The point is, when it comes to essential services, it's the wrong party -- the public -- that gets shafted by a strike, no matter what the outcome. Why should an old age pensioner miss her social security cheque because mail sorters are unhappy

with their working conditions? Why should a town be victimized by beer-guzzling hooligans because the town's policemen want more sick pay?

Ah well. To quote the four-word phrase that covers virtually any situation: "This too, shall pass." In a matter of days, or weeks at the most, the strike will end. The Board of Education will surrender more than it wanted to. The Wellington County teachers will gain less than they expected. Lawyers for both parties will waddle all the way to the bank, and the kids will go back to class, facing a brutally increased work load, an uncertain future, and the roughest school year of their life.

But it's not a total loss. It's not as if the kids didn't learn anything during the strike.

They learned plenty.