

Terrace Bay
Schreiber

News

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Editorial

Draw the line now

According to a report in this month's issue of Northern Ontario Business, plans by Falconbridge Copper to develop a base metal mine at Winston Lake near Schreiber were cancelled after the announcement that a long abandoned mine in Yukon was going to be brought back to life with the help of Yukon and federal government money. One can hardly blame Falconbridge for their decision. After all, the reopened Yukon mine will almost surely cause zinc prices to drop, making the Winston Lake zinc and copper mine financially redundant. No, Falconbridge is not at fault here. The accusing finger should, instead, be pointed at the federal and Yukon governments.

As an editorial in Northern Ontario Business pointed out, it is ridiculous to use public money in one place if doing so would end a private investment someplace else. In the Yukon, no doubt, they are cheering the announcement, but the end result for all concerned will almost certainly be bad news.

It is high time that the federal government stopped throwing away the money of taxpayers on rather questionable projects. In effect, the taxes that Falconbridge is paying are being used to help out the competition. To the government, one can only say, draw the line here. Let's have no more government interference.



Conrad Felber

Hello. You don't know me. That's why I carry the American Express Card where ... no, no, just kidding. I don't even have an American Express Card. But I do have a new job. As you may have figured out by now, I am the new editor of this here paper, the Terrace Bay-Schreiber News. I arrived with little if any warning, so you may be wondering what is going on. Come to think of it, so am I. What am I doing here? But seriously, folks, I plan to be here for a couple of months, covering meetings, writing stories, bothering a few of you with my camera, and so on. Now you know what I will be doing, but I'll bet you are still curious about who this Conrad Felber guy is. Well, allow me to enlighten you, as I happen to be an expert on that particular subject.

First of all, I'm from Sudbury. Yes, I was born and raised in that

thriving metropolis far to the east. I have worked in other towns, though, ranging from Cochrane to New Liskeard and many places in between. This is my first real stay this far west, though. Things have been pretty darn pleasant so far. You people are all very friendly indeed, and I look forward to meeting more of you over the next few weeks. To be perfectly honest, I am not sure how long I will be here in the News office. Let's just say I'm here for two months anyway, and if I stick around beyond that depends on both of us, when it comes right down to it.

Let's see ... what else can I tell you. Ah, the old likes and dislikes. That's always good. OK, I like junk food, though I see my chances of getting a Big Mac or Whopper in Terrace Bay are pretty slim. That's fine, because I also like candy bars, which I've noticed the stores in this area

have in abundance. Sudbury shops don't even have Milky Way bars! I can't believe it either. Hmmm ... I don't watch all that much television. I am usually too busy to sit in front of the One-Eyed Monster, but the shows that I do enjoy include "Cheers," "St. Elsewhere," "Hill Street Blues," and "Late Night with David Letterman." I'm also bit of a movie buff, and I'm happy to see that Terrace Bay does have a theatre. You'll probably be able to see me down there from time to time. Something else I like which some of you may find surprising, is comic books. Yes, comic books. I have quite a collection, in fact. If I think of it, I may tell you why I like them so much in a future column.

Of course, there are also a few things that I don't like too much. Being a single guy, I have to do my own laundry and I can't stand that. How

do you homemakers do it? Oh, I get it, you don't like the cleanin' and the ironin' any more than I do! Getting up in the morning is a royal pain in the you-know-where too, but at least I'm slowly getting used to that. Something else that drives me loopy is not being informed when something is going on in town, be it a simple meeting or whatever. Come on, people, let me know if you are involved in something newsworthy! I'd be happy to come down and cover it. But, on the other hand, don't wait until the last minute to let me know, because I may have prior commitments. Ah, but don't let my whining stop you from giving me a call. Remember, we journalists are not psychic. If we don't show up at your event, that's because we didn't know about it! Also, please be patient if it takes a week or two before you see the story in the paper. I have a finite

amount of space to work with, and I won't always be able to put everything in the paper that is available. I know you can understand that.

I also hope you will be patient with yours truly. I do have experience in the field of community weekly newspapers, but I am, I must admit, not entirely familiar with the Terrace Bay-Schreiber coverage area. If I ask a lot of what may seem to you to be dumb questions, it's because I just want to be accurate in my reporting. Eventually I hope to make the News a better paper ... for all of us. It may take a little time (or maybe a lot of time), but I know the effort is worthwhile. I trust you all feel the same way. See you again next week, same time, same page!

(A personal P.S. here: Hi to my family and friends back in Sudbury!)

Arthur Black

Save the Old Publicity Pagoda

This is a column regarding a couple of columns. Well, not so much 'columns,' I guess... more like a couple of towers. Actually, one of the columns is a tower. The other column is a pagoda.

Maybe I ought to start again. As I write this... column... there are two Ontario edifices facing death sentences. One of them, the Bulova tower, just off the Toronto lakeshore on the Canadian National Exhibition Grounds -- is already under assault. The other condemned structure is a whacky little building off Thunder Bay's lakeshore called the Publicity Pagoda. Both buildings got the kiss of death for the same reasons: the experts say it would cost too much to fix them up.

To be honest, however, both are in bad need of repair. The Bulova Tower has been a bit of a wreck for years. When I saw it this summer it was shabby, unkempt, and long overdue for a paint job. Sandwiched in among the garish midway rides and

fast food bars of the Exhibition, the Tower looked like a hobo. The spiffiest thing about it was the 'Closed' sign on its front door.

It wasn't always like that. I remember when the Tower opened back in 1955. It was called the Shell Tower then, and it was a sensation.

Like many *avant garde* buildings that went up in the fifties, the Shell Tower is mostly glass and steel. You could take an elevator to the top of the building, or, if you were feeling young and spunky, you could take the stairs.

I forget how many flights there were -- but enough to leave you jelly-kneed and gasping for breath when you made it to the top. The Shell -- later Bulova -- Tower was the focal point of the Canadian National Exhibition. It was pre-CN Tower after all, and as such, the best place to get an eagle's eye view of the whole CNE and most of downtown Toronto to boot. More important, the Tower could be seen from just about

anywhere on the CNE grounds. This was a great boon to parents. I'm sure every little kid who went to the Ex had to have the same parental mantra that was chanted at me: "Now remember, if you get lost, go to the Tower. We'll meet you there."

The Shell Tower was no Taj Mahal for beauty, and no Empire State Building for height, but it was kind of fascinating to look at. Thanks to the glass walls, you could stand outside the tower and watch the elevators rising and falling. You could also watch crocodile lines of stair climbers undulating up and down.

There aren't many buildings around that seem to move as you watch them.

And Thunder Bay's Publicity Pagoda? Well, it doesn't move, but it sure does catch the eye.

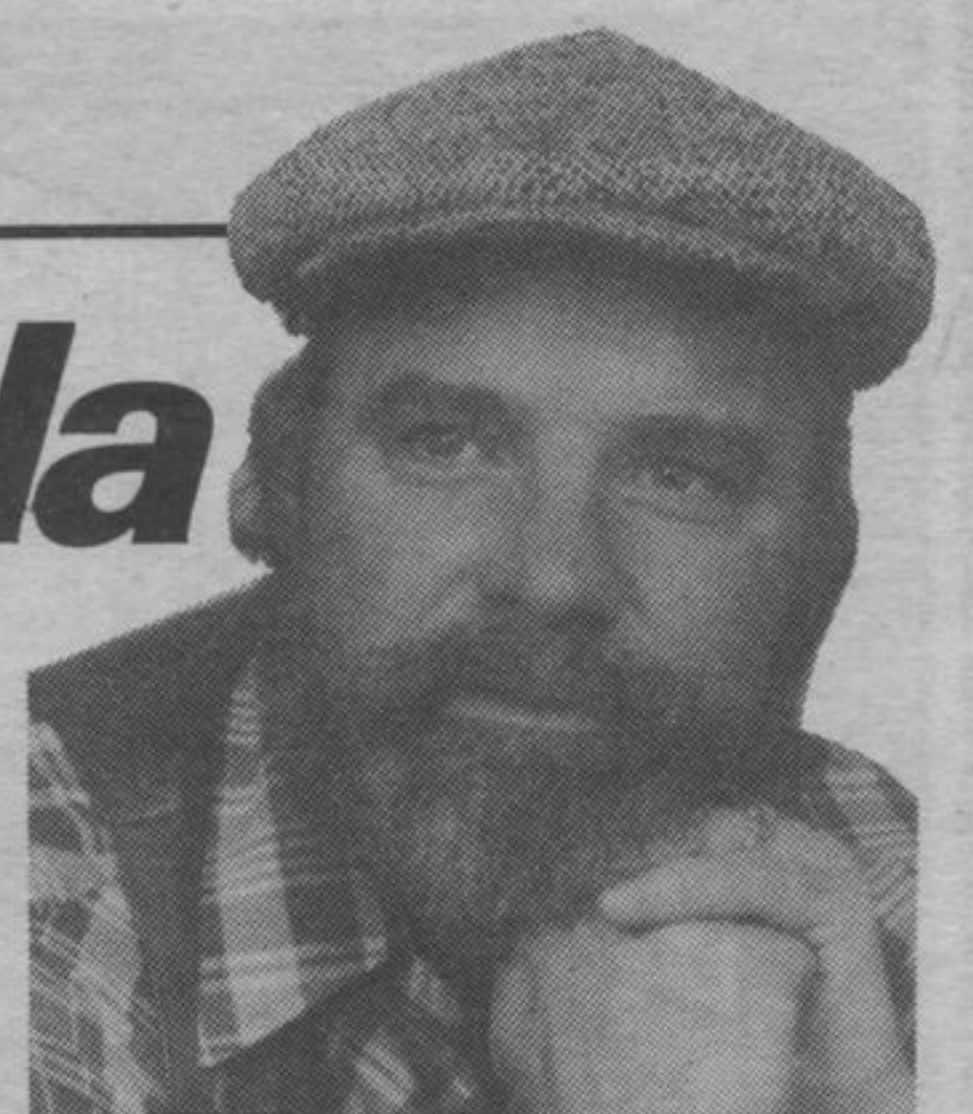
As a matter of fact, it's been catching eyes since it went up. The Pagoda is touted as the oldest municipally-owned PR factory in the entire country, which it may well be,

since it's been helping out tourists since 1909.

Its architecture is as exotic as the name 'Pagoda' suggests. It looks a bit like a large sombrero on stilts... which is ironic, because Mexican is one of the few architectural styles that isn't incorporated in the Pagoda. It does, on the other hand, feature an Islamic-style roof, Greek supporting columns, Scandinavian gable ornamentation and Roman pilasters.

Canadian influence? Oh yes... there's a panel over the front entrance that features a beaver. Despite the oriental moniker "Pagoda," there is nothing of Japanese or Chinese origin or inspiration in the entire building.

How could any city contemplate razing such a marvellous mongrel of a building? Beats me. But then, I've never understood the economics of bulldozing buildings because the heat bills are too high -- a practice that Canadians have performed with relish for as long as I can remember. I lived in Thunder Bay for just 10 years,



but in that time I saw half a dozen magnificent and irreplaceable buildings succumb to the wrecker's ball.

You know what replaced every single one of those buildings? Parking lots.

I suppose it's already too late to save the old Bulova Tower -- it's biting the dust even as you read these words -- but it's not too late for Thunder Bay's Publicity Pagoda. I hope Lakeheaders will rally in time to save it.

If you need any inspiration, folks, come on down to Toronto. We'll meet downtown, where the Bulova tower used to be.

It's easy to find... just look for the spot where the pavement looks brand new.